



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

Fall 2015

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 104, No. 4

From the President

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.



First, to Carol Seeger, thank you for your service as President in 2013 – 2015. You did wonderful job to the International Lutheran Deaf Association. It was an honor to work with and know you.

Second, to Becky Jungklaus, thank you for your effort and time as our Secretary. I know it's not easy but you got it done! It was privileged to meet you.

Last but not least, to Patrick Sell, I know we all, I mean all of us, really appreciate your commitment as Treasurer. You served two terms as Treasurer and one term as appointed Treasurer. You deserved more than just a pat on your back!

To all the people who worked so hard to host the ILDA convention at Madison, Wisconsin. I want to thank you all for your time and commitment to make the convention successful. My hat is off to you all!

Just a reminder from my last report: We have two conventions lined up, Fort Wayne, Indiana in 2017 and Topeka, Kansas in 2019. Praise the Lord! Now I am praying and respectfully asking you to volunteer to host the 2021 convention as soon as possible and submit your bid before our Executive Council meeting next summer before or by June 1, 2016.

In the ILDA Constitution and By-Laws, we should have convention sites selected six (6) years in advance. In other words, at the recent 2015 convention, we should know 2017 and 2019 then bidding for 2021. By the time of the 2017 convention, we should know 2019 and 2021 hosts then expect to bid for 2023.

I kindly request some of you to submit bids for 2021 as soon as possible. I want to see ILDA to be continued! Please discuss within your congregation and submit your official congregational letter to bid before or by June 1, 2016 and submit to our Secretary, Janet Gehlbach.

God Bless!!!
John Mason

From the Pastoral Advisor



Time actually flies as this autumn is already here. Earlier we raked and mowed the dead leaves on the lawn with deep thoughts. This Saturday morning I prepared a sermon called "The Festival of Reformation" for October 25th at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

However, I was captivated by St. Paul's statement on Romans 10:17, "Faith comes by hearing." Struggling with my thinking of that, it is clearly understood that the act of hearing, the ears or the message heard. It is God's will that His word should be heard and that a person's ears should not be closed. To abide in Jesus and His Word to hear the word of God and cling to it in faith and obey it. Martin Luther started the Reformation that in the church gathering the people heard and understood the Word of God, the Spirit of God would work in their hearts. Of course, we, deaf people without our hearing abilities, show faith in Jesus and understand God's Word through reading the Bible. As we know, we are listening actively to God's Word with our eyes, not hearing or using ears.

We know Aristotle's belief that learning cannot function without hearing and Saint Augustine regards the ear as the "gate of salvation." Both intellectuals deemed that all learning must pass through the ear. Augustine's pronouncement that the "Deaf and dumb

cannot attain faith, for faith stems from the sermon.” Obviously, it meant that the deaf were incapable of salvation.

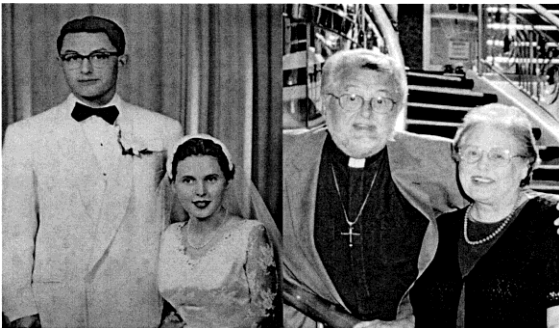
However, God’s Word is still visible as we can be addressed with visible words, signs, and pictures so that we can come to know the Lord of our church, Jesus Christ. The Reformation uncovered faith by Christ, before God we are free, saved by God’s grace for Jesus’ sake through the Holy Spirit’s gift of faith. This is the true freedom as it is a gift from God. We celebrate so that we see again Jesus say to us today: “Go in peace, you are free!” We are free from sin and the power of death to destroy us and free to live joyfully as God’s children and free to live in God’s heaven forever.

Keep the faith. Love in Christ.
Rev. Gregory Desrosiers
gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca

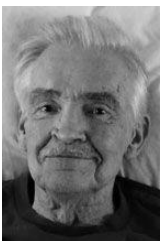
General News

Rev. Mark Hass was installed as Assistant Pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO on October 25, 2015. Pastor Hass will be assisting Pastor Richard Moody in pastoral duties.

Rev. Bob and Ellie Bauer celebrated 60 years of marriage on August 23, 2015.



In Memoriam



Lester Ahls (b. 1926) passed away on August 19, 2015. ILDA is sad to hear of his passing but we rejoice that he has his crown of glory and united with his Savior.

ILDA Executive Council Meeting

Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf
Madison, Wisconsin
Wednesday, July 22, 2015

In attendance: Carol Seeger (President), John Mason (President-Elect), Becky Jungklaus (Secretary), Patrick Sell (Treasurer), Rev. Greg Desrosiers (Pastoral Advisor) and Rev. Tim Eckert (LDMS Representative)

The meeting came to order at 8:50 am by President Carol Seeger. Carol Seeger welcomed everyone for the ILDA Executive Board meeting. President-Elect John Mason will act as Parliamentarian. Rev. Greg Desrosiers led the meeting with an opening prayer.

Carol Seeger praised Greg Werth who was our IT guy. Carol had been working with Greg and Dawn Werth thru VP about ILDA for the past 2 years. Thank you Greg and Dawn.

Read and reviewed the previous Executive Board business meeting minutes from June 20-21, 2014. John Mason moved the minutes to be accepted as corrected, seconded by Patrick Sell. **Passed.**

Break time for five minutes.

Treasurer’s report – Patrick Sell

Patrick Sell reported the balance of \$2,762.25.

Expenses:

Total Loss: \$123.28

The total is \$2,762.25

June 1, 2014-2015 increase growth \$25,018.62

Total expenses: \$19,362.91

Total gain: \$5,362.91

Balance as of June 1, 2015 \$8,125.16 checking account

2011-2013 ILDA Mission Projects \$8,000 left \$17,000 is left over as of June 2014

2011-2013 ILDA Mission Projects \$12,000 left \$13,000 as of June 2015

2013 to 2015 ILDA Mission Projects \$18,001.01 as of June 2014

2013 to 2015 ILDA Mission Projects \$28,500.00 as of June 2015

\$4,000 sent to Rev. Mark Seeger for Deaf Teen Service Projects.

Pahl Training fund sent to Pastor Eckert for LDMS \$6,000

A total of \$10,000 was sent

Left \$18,500.00 as of June 1, 2015

Patrick Sell received donations from churches:

\$13,000 2011-2013

\$18,500 2013-2015

\$14,797.33 2015-2017

\$46,279.33 saving account

\$8,125.16 checking account

\$54,404.49 as of June 1, 2015

Auditors are Jon Holland (Ames Iowa) and Richard Lee (Des Moines, Iowa). Positive comments were given about the auditors. John Mason moved to approve Patrick Sell’s report and that it be referred to the business meeting. Seconded by Rev. Desrosiers. **Passed.**

President's Report – Carol Seeger

- Carol Seeger welcomed everyone to the Executive Board meeting.
- Carol apologized for not attending the ILDA regional conferences the past two years. It was due to two reasons. There was her illness with abscessed pneumonia and the soaring cost of airline fares. She admitted she was really disappointed as she was eagerly looking forward to it.
- Mission project chairperson: Carol regretfully informed the Executive Board that Pam Kane had to resign from her position as chairperson due to her husband's health issues earlier this year, so she asked Dorene Sell to take over this responsibility and she accepted.
- As some of you may notice that there was no Scholarship Fund chairperson at this time. Carol admitted that she did forget to appoint someone for this position. Carol apologized. There is a shrinking number of Deaf churches in USA (about only 12 deaf churches left) and LDMS (Lutheran Deaf Mission Society) is responsible for earning funds for DIT (Deaf Institute of Theology). Carol would suggest that ILDA members discuss this issue of this scholarship position and decide whether or not to keep or eliminate it from the by-law book during new business.
- Carol received one letter dated June 26th, 2015 from Vicar Gerald Bolling requesting a scholarship for a future deaconess, Feletia Spencer, so that she can complete the DIT program, and secondly for himself as he only has one year left of seminary. Shall we fund it or not...how?
- Even though the overall total of all funds for Mission Projects has met the goal for 2013-2015, Patrick Sell (Pro-Tem) treasurer continues to collect extra funds and put them in some kind of special funds in ILDA treasury in order to go into Mission Projects for 2015-2017.
- Upon Carol's meeting with Pastor Eckert, he explained briefly what LDMS did with the remaining funds on foreign countries such as India and Ghana. The project is on hold for now since there are pending government issues.
- ILDA-\$2,261.45 funds from the Deaf Lutheran newsletter have been transferred from ILDA to Deaf Lutheran manager, Jeff Padon.
- There was a \$2,130.18 overage from the convention fund from 2013 ILDA convention in Austin. It went to the ILDA general fund and it is according to the By-Laws book. Carol would like to strongly encourage the executive officers to become familiar with the By-laws book. (see Article XX convention, Section E-Financing ILDA conventions b. Convention Registration Acct. #2).
- Several of us are concerned about the future of ILDA with the shrinking number of deaf churches and ILDA regions. Carol mentioned that if regional leaders support and donate to ILDA then ILDA will be stronger. We want to keep ILDA alive and strong.
- Suggested after receiving Mission Projects funds each recipient should give a report to ILDA.
- Bible Lesson Development: Carol had a meeting with the Texas District Mission Director, Pastor Michael Newman, in March 2015 to discuss this issue and asked him for his advice on how to finalize this project. After a very productive discussion, we came to an agreement to have our ILDA secretary send a letter to Jennifer Ceyanes in a request to finalize our Bible Lesson Development project by Thursday

morning on July 23, 2015 before the board meeting begins. In other words, she was to finish as many lessons as possible by July 23, 2015 before the ILDA convention. In addition, Jennifer Ceyanes' church president or treasurer is to send some funds left over from this mission project of \$1,558.23 to ILDA treasurer, Patrick Sell, in order to have the lessons revised, duplicated and distributed. Jennifer Ceyanes will present the finalized Bible lessons at tomorrow's meeting.

- Carol Seeger asked Pastor Eckert if LDMS would be willing to accept the Bible Lesson Development transfer to LDMS from ILDA. Pastor Eckert agreed to accept this project. With this decision, ILDA is no longer responsible for this project. Pastor Eckert will work with the ILDA treasurer on the left over funds.
- Regional presidents: there appears to be lacked of interest among some of the regional presidents or their representatives in attending the ILDA conventions. According to the by-law book (Article V, Section B – Responsibilities, #1 & #5) it says Regional presidents shall attend all ILDA Board of Directors meetings at the expense of the ILDA and if they cannot attend, she/he shall choose another officer in the region to serve as a proxy. She/he must submit a written report at the Board meeting, etc." What can we do to educate and motivate them in order to make ILDA strong again?

12:05 Lunch Break. Pastor Gregory Desrosiers led the lunch prayer. Meeting resumed at 1:45 p.m.

President-Elect Report - John Mason

- It has been a strange, interesting year for me since the last meeting. As you all know I graduated last May. During my senior year, I was overwhelmed and completed all my required art projects. It's part of my Senior Exhibition requirement that every senior must go through in order to graduate. My next step is either find a job or continue to get a Masters of Fine Arts degree. Maryland Vocational Rehabilitation does not cover the postgraduate courses. I am currently seeking scholarships and grants.
- Now, as a president-elect, to be honest with you, I haven't done anything with ILDA because I was so involved with my school work. For that, normally I would apologize but I am not going to. However, in a way I am "working." I am still thinking about each regional's memberships, which lead me to believe that there may be a high chance of consolidating and rezoning the regions. It is easy for me to look at the map and redraw the line, but I have to stop and think of the locations where they are. Some regional churches are close or nearby while other churches are too far apart. I have no answer but all I can do is pray for His help.

Secretary's Report - Becky Jungklaus

- The ILDA website needs to be updated. For example, youth ministry pictures are very old and other ILDA pictures. Some of the regional presidents and other officer's names are not current such as Historian, Right Hand, and three regional leaders.
- Need to focus on young deaf children and teens. Many hearing churches have good youth ministry programs but not for deaf youth ministry. We need to set up events for young deaf youth ministry. Pastor Seeger has his program but it is not enough. It may be the only one deaf youth ministry in Texas.
- Becky has been involved working with St. Paul Lutheran Church. They have a 5 year old deaf boy. His name is Dylan.

I go there every 3 months checking on them. They always ask me, "how do you sign? How do we teach Dylan?" etc. I believe we will need to create new and updated videos for young deaf kids. There are many videos on you-tube available for deaf adults but we need videos for young and teen deaf viewers. I did create some last summer and it was a lot of work to set it up. There are some for young deaf children but it is not enough.

- Patrick Sell received a thank you letter from Peggy Spitzenberg about their deaf ministry and the grant that Patrick Sell gave \$250 for Vacation Bible School.

Pastoral Advisor's Report – Rev. Greg Desrosiers

- Rev. Desrosiers apologized for not being able to attend the June 2014 Executive Council meeting due to the teacher's strike for 4 months. He had to face global reality as a number of Christian churches has been declining from time to time. He continues to pray for God's answer to his concerns.
- At his home church, he has not had VBS (Vacation Bible School) since 2004. But he mentioned very few responded to VBS. He has faith in ILDA because last month Linda, his wife, and he attended a wedding in a Lutheran church for the deaf in Copenhagen, Denmark. There was a full congregation in the church. The deaf church is owned by the deaf Lutheran with government.

LDMS Director Report – Rev. Tim Eckert

- Rev. Eckert reported that he was installed as the new Director of LDMS in November 2014 since Rev. Dennis Konkel retired on June 30, 2014.
- In 2014, the ILDA Board said the Deaf ministry directory needed to be updated. Rev. Eckert and Janet Gehlbach did a lot of work on it. The updating of the congregations is done and is on www.deafjesus.org. All the information still needs to be formatted for printing.
- LDMS is beginning to do more work in encouraging interpreted ministries. Rev. Eckert will continue to encourage deaf congregations and provide resources for them. Districts have cut support for deaf congregations. Debbie Larson is our new project leader for Interpreted Ministry Support.
- LDMS continues to work on revising Deaf Pah. Work is slow since some pastors are not finishing their classes and Rev. Jerry Munz resigned as project leader of Deaf Pah. Bill Zimmerman, Monticello, Iowa, has a suggestion for a leadership/evangelism class that could be part of Deaf Pah or something separate. Bill requested Rev. Eckert to bring his idea to the ILDA board.
- DIT deaconess Becky Catchpole will graduate next spring and she has received her call. It will be here in Madison, Wisconsin.
- A new deaconess student from St. Louis will start her classes in the fall of 2015 and more new students will start.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion #1: Patrick Sell moved to transfer \$1,500 dated 2013-2015 to the checking account from the saving account for ILDA exhibit booth fund for public relations this month. Rev. Desrosiers seconded. **Passed.**

Motion #2: Patrick Sell moved to transfer \$1,000 from Zacharias fund pay to Feletia Spencer per quarter starting in September 2015. Rev. Desrosiers seconded. **Passed.**

Motion #3: Patrick Sell moved that Gerard Bolling from St. Louis receive \$1,000 from Zacharias fund, quarterly from 2015-2016 period. John Mason seconded. **Passed.**

Motion #4: Carol Seeger moved that newly elected ILDA officers/ILDA regional officers be trained to get familiar with the by-laws in the ILDA handbook in order to strengthen ILDA. Rev. Desrosiers seconded. **Passed.**

Motion #5: Carol Seeger moved that after receiving and using Mission Projects funds, each recipient gives a report at ILDA conventions. Rev. Desrosiers seconded. **Passed.**

New business closed. John Mason seconded. **Passed.**

Announcements: none

Adjournment at 3:45 pm. Rev. Eckert led the prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Jungklaus, Secretary 2013-2015

ILDA Board Meeting minutes

Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf
Madison, Wisconsin
Thursday, July 23, 2015

In attendance: Carol Seeger (President), John Mason (President-Elect), Becky Jungklaus (Secretary), Patrick Sell (Treasurer), Rev. Greg Desrosiers (Pastoral Advisor), Rev. Tim Eckert (LDMS Executive Director), Jennifer Bonura (Right Hand Award), Diane Francisco (Historian), Dorene Sell (Mission Projects), Rev. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach (The Deaf Lutheran Editors), Jeff Padon (The Deaf Lutheran Business Manager), Richard Sharp (Northwest Region), Joanna Rushton for Deacon John Rushton (Great Lakes Region), Ronald Nester (Midwest Region), Albert Moore for Dawn Werth (Central Region) and Carolyn Mason (Eastern Region)

Jennifer Ceyanes demonstrated her Bible Lessons Development power point presentation for 25 minutes. Her work displayed stories with subtitles, quotes, answers and questions sessions and discussion sessions.

The Board Meeting started at 9:05 a.m. Rev. Eckert led an opening prayer.

President's Report – Carol Seeger

- Newly-elected ILDA officers/ILDA regional officers need to become more familiar with By-law book in order to strengthen ILDA.
- Regional presidents or their representatives shall attend ILDA convention and represent their region.
- Regional presidents shall attend all ILDA Board of Director meetings and if regional president cannot attend a Board meeting, he/she shall choose another officers in the region to

serve as proxy. She/he must submit a written report at the meeting.

The Deaf Lutheran newsletter editors report – Rev. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach

- The ILDA secretary has 60 days (deadline Oct. 1) to send our ILDA report to Janet for printing on our newsletter.
- Janet Gehlbach and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach have been The Deaf Lutheran (DL) co-editors for three years. They have enjoyed putting together the layout and hopes everyone enjoys reading it.
- The DL is printed 4 times a year in February, May, August and November.
- Postage for the DL has been reduced to \$.49 each newsletter. We saved money by folding the newsletter in half and mailing it that way. The full page newsletter previously used two \$.49 stamps.
- The Mission Project thermometer showing the progress of donations was a great idea that Pam Kane suggested a couple years ago.
- The minutes of the 2015 Executive Council and Board and Business Meeting will be printed in the November 2015 issue.
- Janet helped update the LCMS Deaf Ministry Directory. So far 70 hearing churches with interpreted ministries were removed off the list.

Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Report – Jeff Padon

Jeff Padon said Rev. Ron Friedrich and Mark Friedrich take care of the labels for the Deaf Lutheran (DL). When Janet emails him the file for the issue to print he emails it to the printer. It is a small world that the printer is a member of an LCMS church. If Jeff cannot pick up the copies from the printer then it is mailed to his home. Funds for the DL were sent from Patrick Sell to Jeff Padon. The balance is \$1,927.94 as of June 30, 2015.

A full page ad for the DL was put into the 2015 ILDA convention program book. Bulk mail cannot be used for sending the Deaf Lutheran because it requires a minimum of 200 addresses. Right now it is around 100 addresses being sent first class mail. When a subscription is expired, a “last issue” label is put on the back page of the newsletter. Some older people do not have computers and they prefer a paper copy of the DL. A question was asked if the DL can be sent via email. The answer is yes but it is too risky to do it that way. Due to time constraints ILDA attendees were asked to talk to Jeff Padon after the business meeting if they had any more questions.

\$1,794.00 balance as of Jan. 30, 2015
 +\$320.00 – renewals
 +\$487.45 – P/R Fund
 -\$403.83 – newsletters
 -\$136.11 – stamps & shipping
 -\$100.00 – P/R
 - \$3.57 – supplies
 -\$30.00 – maintenance fees
 \$1,927.94 balance as of June 30, 2015

Historian/Necrology report – Diane Francisco

- Diane explained that her book on necrology back to 1971 to the current year has not been completed.
- Rev. Mark Seeger led a prayer for those who passed away since the last ILDA convention.

Regional Presidents/Officers/Representative reports: Central Region – Vice President Albert Moore

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 I, as Vice President Albert Moore, is taking Dawn Werth's place due to her ILDA duties today.

I would like to inform that Dawn got married recently; therefore, she changed her last name to Werth.

Let's take a moment for a prayer...Heavenly Father, thank you for all the blessings you have given to the ILDA officers in the last two years. I pray that the new ILDA officers will give wisdom and knowledge in the next two years. Thank you Jesus for being with us and continue to stay with ILDA longer with God's help. In Jesus name. Amen

Our current Central Regional – International Lutheran Deaf Association officers are:

President: Dawn Werth
 Vice President: Albert Moore
 Secretary: Betty Jo Lucero
 Treasurer: Paul Lucero
 Pastor Advisor: Rev. Tom Phillips

All officers are second term.

Last March 2014, CR-ILDA was hosted by the CR-ILDA officers because no one wanted to host it. It was held at Camp Central Illinois Lutheran Camp in Cantrall, Illinois near Springfield, Illinois. The theme was “In God We Trust.”

We will have a fall (October-Nov 1, 2015) and a spring (CR-ILDA) retreat for everyone to enjoy their escape to listen and learn God's Word.

Next April 28-May1, 2016, Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Indianapolis Indiana will host the Central Region at Camp Central Illinois Lutheran Camp in Cantrall, Illinois. Their theme will be “Having the Mind-Set of Jesus” – Matthew 21:9

We have not bid for CR-ILDA yet. We will have CR-ILDA meeting in the near future.

Dixie Region – Jennifer Bonura

As far we know, there are 15 deaf ministries in the Dixie Region. Two of them are Holy-3-in-1 and Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas in Austin have pastors who sign. All other ministries are either interpreted or lay-led.

Florida:

- Clearwater – Our Savior Lutheran Church – Interpreted
- Orlando – Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – Interpreted

Georgia:

- Kennesaw – Living Hope Lutheran Church - -Interpreted
- Savannah – Trinity Lutheran Church – Interpreted

Mississippi:

- Jackson – Christ Lutheran Church – Interpreted

Tennessee:

- Memphis – Eternal Mercy Lutheran Church of the Deaf – Interpreted

Texas:

- Austin: Bethany Lutheran Church – Interpreted
- Austin: Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas – Signed by pastor
- Austin: Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf – Lay led or Interpreted
- Cypress: St. John Lutheran Church – Interpreted
- Dallas: - John of Beverly Lutheran Church of the Deaf – Interpreted

- Houston:- Holy 3-in-1 Deaf Lutheran Church- Signed by Pastors
- San Marcos: Grace Lutheran Church – Interpreted
- Tomball: Zion Lutheran Church – Interpreted (starting in fall of 2015)
- Wallis – St. Paul Lutheran Church – Signed Sunday School

Eastern Region – Carolyn Mason

My husband, John Mason, was the president for the Eastern Region but he had to resign his position and appointed me as ER-ILDA president. Let me give you little history of the Eastern Region. We used to have 5 churches that are members of the Eastern Region. We did have a biannual conference until 2010 which was the last conference. Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf was the host. We did have some people from New Jersey but the people from Manhattan, New York and Queens, New York didn't come. The president was supposed to come but couldn't due to his health. The president-elect couldn't come either for some unknown reason. I don't remember if the treasurer came. We did have the Secretary because she is the member of the host church. So the majority of the people at the conference asked my husband to preside at the meeting as interim president because he was once a president in the past. Ever since the president-elect did not make any effort to come to the meetings and no other churches wanted to host the conference in 2012.

John and I learned that there are no churches in Manhattan and Queens so they either dissolved or move on to a non-Lutheran church. The church in New Jersey has interpreted services and the deaf membership is declining. No word from Charlotte, North Carolina and they consider themselves inactive. The only active member of ER-ILDA is Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf had their semi-annual voters' meeting and they voted to resign the membership of ER-ILDA and will write letter to ask the Great Lakes Region to let us to join. So as far I am concerned we no longer have a president-elect and treasurer. The treasurer passed away some time ago and I receive the treasurer's paperwork. I think the funds were transferred to LCEF for safeguarding. I talked with Rev. Ron Friedrich, our pastor advisor, about this fund and determined we can get them back if we ever have ER-ILDA but it is not going to happen. Once I hear from the Great Lakes Region for approval to join them, I will see the fund transfer to their account. When the transfer is done, I will terminate my position as ER-ILDA president and send an official letter to ILDA for the dissolution of ER-ILDA.

Great Lake Region – JoAnna Rushton as rep for Deacon John Rushton

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am sorry I am unable to come to ILDA due to my new job as USPS Mail Carrier. I just started work last June. Many thanks to my wife who is willing to take my place for GLRC report.

GLRC still have five active churches. It is Alpha (Rochester, NY), Christ Deaf (Cleveland, OH), Good Shepherd (Toledo, OH), Holy Cross (Columbus OH) and Trinity (Pittsburgh, PA).

Ohio churches are facing their budget cut from the Ohio District. Their pastors are now working as a part time ministry. Christ Deaf church (Cleveland) sold their building last May and moved to St. John Lutheran Church for Bible study and worship. Rev. Lawson is still preaching and teaching every Sunday. They

have about 40-45 worshippers. Good Shepherd (Toledo) pastor has reached retirement age but he decided not to do so. He is still preaching and teaching every Sunday. He also continues his ministry part of Northwest Indiana, southwest Michigan and northwest of Ohio. Good Shepherd is blessed with increase of attendance and love offerings. Holy Cross (Columbus) building was renovated by the members last year. They are grateful that they have church chartered bus which it brings at least 14 people to church every Sunday. Pastor also serves the deaf at their retirement and nursing home. They still continue with Bible study and worship every Sunday. They received love offering and gifts from several hearing churches.

Trinity (Pittsburgh) and Alpha (Rochester) have no pastors. Both churches have deacons whose serve the church. Don Mowl decided to step down as deacon. David Barnett is now serving Trinity as deacon. They still worship every Sunday. They have about 15 regular worshippers. They are doing some fundraising to help the cost of the church budget. Alpha is now in the process of selling the church. It has not been sold yet. Deacon John had been serving Alpha for 14 years as deacon. We have about 7 to 10 regular worshippers. Alpha is like an energizer bunny that keeps Alpha going. Deacon John is preaching and teaching every Sunday. May God bless you and thank you.

Midwest Region – Ronald Nester

- Ronald explained that it is sad to know that the Midwest has lost a number of pastors. He noticed that the Midwest congregation has been dwindling to date, but it stays well.
- No churches in Nebraska
- Midwest has conference yearly and alternatively, the first year is business meeting and the second year is retreat.
- Rev. Matt Nix of Sioux Falls, SD has three different job roles, pastor for the deaf, pastor for the hearing and chaplain. He is working from 8 am to 9 pm.

Northwest Region – Richard Sharp

- Big Fork, Montana Camp in August 20??
- Pastor Ludwig is still preaching at Seattle, WA.
- ILDA Host Regional – 30 people last summer and the guest speaker was Rev. Alan Rork in Canada

Pacific's Report: None

Rev. Daryl Gehlbach reported there is an intern pastor in training.

Mission Project Chairperson – Dorene Sell

- Dorene received a request from Pastor Mark Seeger for \$5,000 for the Deaf Teen Service Trip.
- Pastor Eckert reports about two new seminary student funds and may request for two more new students in the future. \$7,000
- Dorene received a request from Patty Woodworth for Sigatoka Special Education School (special needs/deaf students) in Fiji. \$5,000

Right Hand Award report – Jennifer Bonura

Jennifer Bonura handed 2 forms to Carol Seeger for the vote.
(continued on Page 7)

**The Deaf Lutheran Subscription
(Print Edition)**

One-Year Subscription – \$10.00

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Jeff Padon is the Business Manager for The Deaf Lutheran. All subscriptions should be sent to him at the address below. Make your check or money order payable to "Deaf Lutheran." Thanks!

Attach mailing label or fill in:

Name _____

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City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone/VP/Fax _____

Mail to: **Jeff Padon, Business Manager, 7910 Severn Tree Blvd, Severn, MD 21144**

(cut on the dotted line)

(continued from page 6)

Jennifer Ceyanes reported 2013 ILDA has some money left over and will give a check of \$2,762.25 to Patrick Sell.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Mission Projects for 2015-2017

- Deaf Teen Mission Trip-\$5,000
- FIJI Project- \$5,000
- Two Seminary Students- \$7,000

Jeff Padon moved all three projects. Seconded by John Mason. Rev. Desrosiers requested to amend each new student \$16,000. Seconded by Jeff Padon. **Passed.**

Rev. Desrosiers moved that New Business be closed. Seconded by Jeff Padon. **Passed.**

Announcements: none

Adjournment: 12:05 pm.

Rev. Desrosiers led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Jungklaus, Secretary 2013-2015

ILDA Business Meeting minutes (Friday, July 24, 2015) will be printed in the next issue of *The Deaf Lutheran* in February 2016.

Deadline for the next issue

Winter 2016 – January 15, 2016

Please send photos, articles and items of interest for future issues of The Deaf Lutheran to:

Rev. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach
305 Liberty St. NE
Fridley MN 55432

Voice: 612-386-4824
VP: 612-424-4747
TTY: 763-561-0767

dgehlbach@aol.com
jgehlbach@aol.com

Can you help?

Does anyone have any copies of *The Deaf Lutheran* from 1920 – 1950? Please contact Rev. Daryl Gehlbach and let him know! Thanks!

dgehlbach@aol.com

The DEAF LUTHERAN



7910 Severn Tree Blvd.
Severn, MD 21144

In this Issue:
ILDA Executive Council
Meeting Minutes



Mission Projects for 2015-2017

Deaf Youth Service Project.....\$ 5,000
Fiji Special Education Center.....\$ 5,000
DIT students\$ 7,000

Amended for each new DIT student...\$ 16,000

Donations for the ILDA 2015-2017 Mission Projects can be sent to ILDA Treasurer Karen Beiter, PO Box 218, West Henrietta, NY 14586. Put "Mission Projects" in the memo line. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.

**The Deaf Lutheran Staff wishes everyone a very Blessed Thanksgiving,
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**