



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Spring 2017

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From the President



Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen! The International Lutheran Deaf Association convention at Indianapolis, Indiana, is just around the corner! I am looking forward to seeing all of you! The amazing host team of Peace Deaf Lutheran Church has been working so hard and getting everything ready for the 24th biennial convention.

The theme is "Focus on Jesus" from the book of Matthew. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27). This beautiful theme is perfect for us.

Today, we mentally focus on so many things happening in our community, our home state, our country, and the rest from around the world. When we watch and/or read the news, we focus on the many happenings that already have been done and sadly, most of the time, they are bad news.

Today, we physically focus on our health, your relatives' health and your friends near and afar. Infectious diseases are spreading among us. Some cured, some are treatable and some cannot be cured. It does not matter how hard you try to avoid them, we all will get something. That's why doctors and researchers are working around

the clock to find medicine to cure. Sadly, we will never cure them all.

Now, with mental and physical, that's just the mind and the body. What about our spiritually need? Every one of us has a spirit inside our body and it's called the soul. Our souls need to be focused. What do we need to focus on? The Holy Bible? To our heavenly Father, God? To God's son, Jesus? Yes all of the above! Our souls need to be forgiven and accept God's free gift of Jesus Christ. He took our sins and died on the cross for us so we can have eternal life. Now our souls need to spread good news about Jesus to other souls who know nothing about him. That's how we encourage others to focus. We focus on embracing the love from Jesus and cherish him.

This coming October, we will mark 500 years of Martin Luther's 95 Theses and the birth of the Lutheran Church. There will be a workshop about him and his works at the convention.

So my brothers and sisters in Christ, let all of us "focus" what Peace Deaf Lutheran Church provides us at the ILDA convention!

God bless you all and see you all there!

-John Mason-

From the Pastoral Advisor



As a historian, I am trying to simplify and briefly explain how the reformation was started by Martin Luther because the 500th year anniversary is happening this year.

Martin Luther faithfully followed Church teachings and practices. However, he could not find peace of mind. He wondered how God judged his actions. While he studied the New Testament, he found the answer to the questions that had been troubling him. He decided that trusting in Jesus Christ, rather than doing good works, would save people from their sins. Luther's ideas brought him into conflict with the Church. In 1517, Pope Leo X wanted money to improve St. Peter's Church in Rome. The pope sent out monks to sell indulgences that Luther opposed. Luther believed the sale of indulgences led people to think they could buy God's forgiveness for their sins.

That night on October 31, 1517 Luther posted a list of 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. In the list Luther stated that only God could forgive sins. He challenged anyone who disagreed to debate with him. He began to attack Catholic beliefs openly. He said that Popes could make mistakes, that the only true guide to religious truth was the

Bible, which every Christian had the right to read; and that every Christian had the right to pray to God without the aid of a priest. Luther's ideas that the Catholic Church must improve, or be reformed, was accepted by many Germans and Europeans. As a result, many new churches were set up in Europe. Luther himself began a new church called the Lutheran Church.

This ILDA convention is just around the corner as Indianapolis will host a special celebration this summer of 2017. Again, I am encouraging all of you to please attend this historic convention as it is a once-in-your-lifetime opportunity because the 500th Anniversary celebration is a rarity. We are looking forward to learning more of God's Word during the convention.

We are strong believers of Martin Luther's belief in that we are liberated by grace. We believe we are called to be responsible citizens in God's world and good stewards of God's creation. We are freed by the grace of God to engage in this Christian ministry. As we celebrate this anniversary in 2017, we see it as opportunities to show family and friends God's love in Jesus Christ through acts of service and in our words.

See you there in Indianapolis with the faith, my sisters and brothers!

-Rev. Gregory Desrosiers-

Please support our LC-MS Missionaries

Rev. Ryan and Emily McDermott, Rev. Steven and Cynthia Schumacher serving in Ghana. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put "McDermott-Ghana" or "Schumacher – Ghana" in the

memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."

David and Barbara Bush will be serving the deaf in Macau, China. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put "Bush-Macau" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."

Higher Things 2017 Conferences

Higher Things is excited to announce that there will be two Deaf Friendly conferences for "Here I Stand 2017." The first will be June 27-30 at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. The second will be July 25-28 at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN. Interpreting will be available for worship services, plenaries, breakout sessions and activities.

There will also be breakout sessions taught in American Sign Language (ASL) by pastors active in Deaf Ministry. Registrations are filling up fast. We encourage you to register and let your local Deaf Communities know. Here I Stand in ASL! The website is: <http://higherthings.org/conference/s/hereistand2017>

Nominations Needed for ILDA Officers

Important notice!! The 2017 ILDA Convention in Indianapolis is approaching real rapidly and will be here before we all know it! If any of you are interested in running for office or a position as an officer (President-Elect, Secretary or Treasurer) for 2017-2019, please contact Carol Seeger (ILDA President 2013-2015) as soon as possible. I can be reached at carolseeger1947@gmail.com.

Hope to hear from you!

Blessings,

Carol Seeger, Nomination Chair

The Deaf Lutheran staff news

Carolyn Snyder-Mason is now the Business Manager for *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter. Carolyn is a member of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Silver Spring, MD. She is responsible for the subscriptions, depositing of the checks and paying the expenses of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter. Welcome aboard Carolyn!

At the ILDA convention in Indianapolis we will have copies of older issues of the newsletter available to anyone who wants to take one. We have too many extras and want to offer them to ILDA members first before sending them off to recycling.

Interpreted Ministry Conference (IMC)

will be held July 13-16, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn, same time as the ILDA convention. Do you want new ideas for outreach? Want to see other models of interpreted ministry? Need to improve your religious sign vocabulary? Desire to increase your understanding of Deaf culture? This is the place for you!

Perfect for pastors, interpreters, Deaf, and all interested members! The workshops include interpreter-specific skill development and ministry-focused presentations by experienced interpreters, Deaf leaders, and pastors for the Deaf. Attendees will divide their time between ILDA and IMC activities.

RID CEUs applied for. The cost for CEUs is \$30.

This conference is presented by the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society. See the website for more information.

www.DeafJesus.org

Diana Rice begins internship at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf

Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS) recently became an internship site for the Deaconess Program at Concordia University in Chicago. Diana Rice began in January of 2017. She is Deaf and it is her hope to be a deaconess to the Deaf Community. Diana, her husband and her 4 children moved to Michigan back in September. Currently she is teaching an ASL class to the hearing children of Emmanuel Lutheran School, attending outreach opportunities in Deaf community events, caring for Deaf shut-ins and helping with the ELMS tutoring program.

In Memoriam

Donald Peterson



Born: 7/24/1929
Died: 2/23/2017
Don Peterson was a long time member of Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD and ILDA member.

William Zimmerman Sr.



Born: 7/15/1943
Died: 3/4/2017
William Zimmerman Sr. was a long-time ILDA member and Midwest Region officer. He helped

found Word of God Church, Cedar Rapids, IA.

World Lutheran Deaf Outreach In Australia

Rev. Dr. John Reinke and his wife, Dacia, traveled to different parts of Australia during the month of January to lead workshops in how to share Jesus with deaf people. You can check out their blog

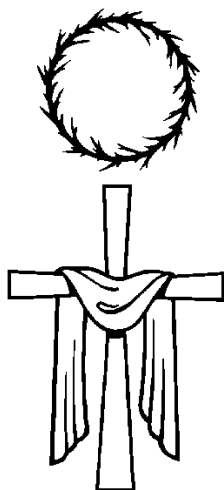
www.WLDORoadSigns.com.



Rev. John Hoopmann and Rev. Dr. John Reinke leading worship in Australia

Church Interpreters Training Institute (CITI)

Will be held June 25-July 3, 2017 in Fort Wayne, IN. For more information send email to: citi@ctsfw.edu



ILDA Officers

International Officers (2015-17)

President – John Mason
Pres. Elect – Gregory Werth
Secretary – Janet Gehlbach
Treasurer – Karen Beiter
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Gregory Desrosiers

Central Region (2016-18)

President – Mike Ford
V. President – Wayne Kester
Secretary – Becky Catchpole
Treasurer – Donna Madewell-Smith
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Bud Palmer

Midwest Region (2016-18)

President – Sara Hale
V. President – Dorene Sell
Secretary – Nola Gray
Treasurer – Barbara Zimmerman
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Paul Tessaro

Northwest Region (2015-17)

President – Richard Sharp
President Elect – Patricia Jenkins
Secretary – vacant
Treasurer – Gary Wilson
Pastor Advisor – Rev. David Nielsen

Great Lakes Region (2016-18)

President – Larry D. Ginter
Pres. Elect – Nancy Bergstresser
Secretary – Diane Francisco
Treasurer – David G. Brown
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Gary Lawson

Christ is Risen!

**Chairperson**

Mike Ford
1110 N Indiana Street
Mooresville, IN 46158
317-542-3260

Pastor

Rev. Alan Rork
10139 Raven Cove Circle
Indianapolis, IN 46236

Secretary

Vernita Joe
2958 Hillside Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46218

Treasurer/Registration

Norman Wilson
5334 N. Bosart Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Program Book

Donna Madewell-Smith
438 Cool Evening Road
Cloverdale IN 46120

Host

Peace Deaf Lutheran
6404 East 46th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-202-1542

**International Lutheran Deaf Association
24th Biennial Convention
Hilton Garden Inn, Indianapolis, IN
July 13-16, 2017**

**Thursday, July 13, 2017**

8:30 AM – Executive Council Meeting/Board meeting (Decatur room)
12 PM – Lunch (on your own)
3:00 – 8:00 – Registration (Lobby)
5:00 – Dinner (on your own)
6:00 – Opening Devotion by Mike Ford and John Mason (Earhart/Yeager room)
Welcome ILDA committees/ILDA officers
6:30 – Welcome – Rev. Dan May, President of Indiana District
7:00 – Banner/Skit/Solo Choir/Group Choir Competition
8:00 – 10:00 – Reception/Social Night

Friday, July 14, 2017

6:00 AM – Breakfast
8:30 AM – 8 PM Ark Encounter Tour (lunch and dinner on your own)
10:00 – Workshop (LWML) Marion room
Lunch (on your own)
1:00 – Workshop (Martin Luther and 500 years of the Reformation)
3:00 – Workshop (ILDA History)
5:00 – Dinner (on your own)

Saturday, July 15, 2017

6:30 AM – Breakfast
8:15 – Opening Devotion (Lindberg/Yeager room)
9:00 – Business Meeting
10:30 – Break
11:00 – Business Meeting
12:00 PM – Lunch (on your own)
God's 1000 Luncheon (Lindberg room)
1:30 – Business Meeting
2:45 – Break
3:00 – Business Meeting
4:30 – Free time
6:00 – Evening Devotion/Banquet/Announcement (Lindberg room)
9:00 – Fellowship Time

Sunday, July 16, 2017

6:30 AM – Breakfast
8:00 – Bible Study (Lindberg room)
9:00 – Fellowship
10:00 – Worship/Prizes/Installation of ILDA officers
12:00 PM – See you in 2 years!

24th Biennial ILDA Convention
“Focus on Jesus”
July 13-16, 2017
Hilton Garden Inn, Indianapolis, Indiana

The following forms can be found on the ILDA website:

<http://www.deafjesus.org/ilda/ILDAconv.html>

- Right Hand Award nomination form
 - Nominating form for election of officers
 - ILDA 2017-2019 mission project application
 - Skit/banner/choir competition application and rules
- Noah's Ark flyer
 - Registration form
 - Hotel information form
 - Booster form

Combo ticket cancellations will be accepted but refunds are given in full with a Doctor's note, 50% refund before May 31, 2017 and no cancellations and/or refunds will be given after June 1, 2017. There will be no refund given for any individual day tickets.

The Hilton Garden Inn is the convention site in Indianapolis. Room cost is \$114 per night plus tax. **This rate also includes breakfast in the morning for those staying at the Hilton Garden Inn. Those staying at other hotels will not be able to eat breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn.** The group code is: PEA. The cut-off/release date for the room block is June 17, 2017. Should anyone need a reservation after that date and if they still have rooms available they will honor the \$114 rate. The room cancellation policy is 24 hours (1 day) prior to arrival date. Any questions on the hotel should be directed to: deafpeace@att.net.

Workshops:

Fri. July 14, 10 a.m. "LWML"

Fri. July 14, 1 p.m. "Martin Luther and 500 years of the Reformation"

Fri. July 14, 3 p.m. "ILDA History"

PLEASE fill in the Right Hand Award nomination form ASAP and return to Carolyn Snyder-Mason. Her address is on the bottom of the nomination form. The deadline is May 31, 2017.

Booster forms should be returned to Peace Deaf Lutheran Church, Attn: Donna Madewell-Smith, 6404 East 46th St., Indianapolis, IN 46226-3550. Please send payment by check (no cash) payable to "2017 ILDA Convention." Deadline is May 31, 2017.

Hope to see you all there in Indianapolis!



2017-2019 ILDA Membership Enrollment Form

Please fill in the information needed, print this form, make check payable to "ILDA" and in the memo line put "ILDA membership dues" and mail the form & payment to:
Karen Beiter, ILDA Treasurer, PO Box 218, West Henrietta, NY 14586.

Type of Membership (please circle one)	<u>Active</u>	<u>Associate</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Your Membership dues \$30	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Spouse membership dues \$30 (if applicable)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Your God's 1000 Club, add \$20 (optional)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Spouse God's 1000 Club, add \$20 (optional)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Contribution-ILDA Mission Projects Fund-2017-2019 (optional)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Title (Mr I Mrs / Ms I Miss I Rev I Etc.) _____

Name _____

First

Middle

Last

Subtitle (Sr, -jr, II, Etc.) _____

Spouse's full name _____

Street Address Apartment No. _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

State/Province _____ Country _____

Phone _____ TTY Voice VP (circle one)

Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Active members are deaf Lutheran lay people of an LCMS congregation.

Associate members are Lutheran deaf or hearing people of an LCMS congregation.

Supporting members are non-Lutheran Christians and have no voting privileges.

Thank you for your support!

The Deaf Lutheran Subscription (Print Edition)

One-Year Subscription – \$10.00

Please Select: _____ Renew

_____ New

=====

All subscriptions should be sent to Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Business Manager of *The Deaf Lutheran*, at her address below. Make your check or money order payable to "ILDA" and put *Deaf Lutheran* in the memo line. Thanks!

Attach mailing label or fill in:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone/VP/Fax _____

Mail to: **Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Business Manager, 6721 Deep Run Parkway, Elkridge, MD 21075**

(cut on the dotted line)

Can you help?

--Does anyone have copies of ILDA minutes from 1973, 1977, 1979, 1985, 1987 and 1991? **Please** contact Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary, and let her know! Thanks! jgehlbach@aol.com



Did you know?

You can receive free copies of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter by going to the website: www.deafjesus.org/ilda and read the issues there. If you want a paper copy of the newsletter then please fill in the subscription form above and send it with your \$10 to Carolyn Snyder-Mason.

Deadline for the next issue:

Summer issue – August 1, 2017

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
Videophone: 612-424-4747
dgehlbach@aol.com
jgehlbach@aol.com

ILDA Membership Dues

See page 6 for the membership form

**See you all at
ILDA in July!**



Janet Gehlbach, DL Co-Editor
305 Liberty St. NE
Fridley, MN 55432

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Spring Issue 2017

In this Issue:
ILDA Convention News



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.
