



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

September 1976

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Volume 67, No. 9

## Anniversary Issue

AN ANNIVERSARY IS A TIME TO REMEMBER THE PAST, TO LOOK BACK INTO IT, STUDY IT, LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT OUR BEGINNING, WHAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE YEARS, AND HOW WE GREW TO BECOME WHAT WE ARE TODAY. IT IS ALSO A TIME TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE. WE HONOR THE PAST BY DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WORK IN THE FUTURE, AND THANKING GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE HAD IN THE DEAF MINISTRY. WE SHOULD NEVER THINK WE ARE LIMITED BY OUR PAST SUCCESSES OR FAILURES. WE THANK GOD FOR THE MANY GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN THE DEAF MINISTRY OVER THE YEARS. WE CAN ALSO THANK GOD FOR THE GOOD TO COME. PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS GIVE US THE ZEAL TO MOVE ALL THE MORE FORWARD, HOPING FOR MORE AND MORE SUCCESS IN OUR WORK SPREADING THE REAL GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST. WHERE WE HAVE FAILED, WE HAVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT TO MOVE US TO GREATER HOLY SERVICE. THIS IS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! *The Editor*

# 1896-1976

## The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Celebrates 80 Years of Christ's Mission to the Deaf!

### Christ Begins His Deaf Ministry

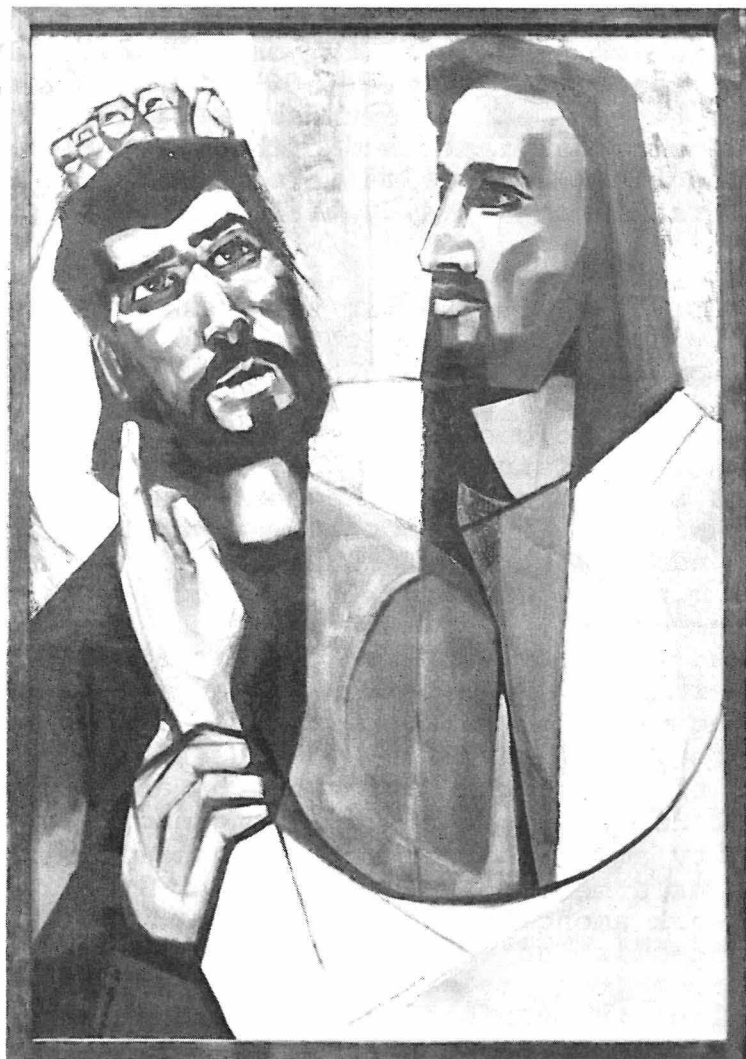
THIS ISSUE BEGINS WITH GIVING THANKS AND PRAISES TO GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, WHO THROUGH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST, PREACHED THE FIRST SERMON TO A DEAF MAN WHO ALSO WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK. JESUS USED THE IMMORTAL WORD "EPHPHATHA" WHICH MEANS "BE OPENED". (Mark 7:37)

NOT ONLY DID OUR SAVIOR CURE THE MAN OF HIS DEAFNESS AND RESTORED HIS ABILITY TO SPEAK, BUT ON THAT VERY DAY JESUS BEGAN HIS MINISTRY TO THE DEAF EVERYWHERE BY BRINGING THEM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE AND SALVATION.

IN AWE AND AMAZEMENT, WE FIND OURSELVES STANDING AMONG THE CROWD AT THE SCENE WHERE JESUS PERFORMED THIS MIRACLE AND SAY: "HE HAS DONE EVERYTHING WELL. HE MAKES THE DEAF TO HEAR AND RESTORES SPEECH".

WE ALSO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE PIONEERS WHO ANSWERED JESUS COMMAND TO "PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATURES, TEACH ALL PEOPLE". IN THE FACE OF THE MOST TRYING INADEQUACIES, CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS, THESE BRAVE MEN TOOK UP THE CHALLENGE AND ANSWERED THE COMMAND - TRUSTING GOD. THE WORK THEY DID OVER THE YEARS LEAVES ONE DEEPLY IMPRESSED, AND AMAZED AND FILLS OUR HEARTS WITH THE UTMOST GRATITUDE AND AWE.

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE AND EVENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEAF MINISTRY IN OUR LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD. IN THIS ISSUE WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON TWO PRIMARY EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD DEAF MISSION HISTORY. THE FIRST IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ORPHANAGE IN DETROIT IN 1873, AND THE SECOND IS THE PAHL LETTER OF 1874. *The Editor*



Richard Caemmerer, Jr. "Conception of Christ healing the deaf man." (Mark 7:31-37) May, 1961

**The  
DEAF LUTHERAN**

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THE DEAF LUTHERAN  
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# The INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION



## HISTORY OF ILDA (1968-1972)

Early in the 30's (1934) and the 40's Pastor Theodore Frederking first proposed a national gathering of the IC-MS deaf. However, his suggestion was not implemented until twenty years later in 1961 at Ephphatha Conference when he, together with Pastors Wayne Bottlinger and August Hauptman, was delegated to serve on a committee which was to study the proposal, provide cost estimates, and suggest ways and means of meeting the cost. They were to report to the Conference in 1962.

Again, nothing came of the study until several years later. In 1965 the convention of the Synod passed resolutions adopting the Mission Affirmations and merging the several Boards for Missions into a single Board. Following these actions (which terminated the old Board for Missions to the Deaf, Jan. 1, 1966) the church's Ministry to the Deaf came under special review with the proposal that the North American Districts of the Synod become responsible for the administration and subsidy of local deaf congregations.

The 1967 convention of the Synod in New York City designated the Regional Advisors as an Ad Hoc Committee to study the matter of administration. Part of the materials produced by the Ad Hoc Committee contained seventeen (17) basic concerns in Ministry to the Deaf. One of the concerns stated was that the deaf congregations remain united. If the North American Districts were to administer the work, the national unity of this ministry would be threatened. Thus, at the November 1-2, 1968 meeting of the Board for Missions, the Secretary for the Ministry to the Deaf, Herbert W. Rohe, proposed several measures resulting from the Ad Hoc Committee study, namely: 1) that the Board for Missions continue to sponsor the Ephphatha Conference as an official pastoral conference (thus assuring and perpetuating unity among the workers in this ministry); 2) that as a means of developing lay-leadership in the work among the deaf, the Board for Missions establish an International Lutheran Deaf Association (thus maintaining and assuring a national unity, visibility, and self-determination among deaf congregations).

Early in 1969 the action of the Board for Missions was announced in The Deaf Lutheran.



New ILDA officers being given the oath of their offices by Rev. Rodney Rynearson, ILDA Pastoral Advisor. From left to right: Rev. Rynearson, President Elmer Francisco, President-Elect Joseph Kindred, Secretary Archie D. Marshall, and Treasurer Russel Healey. This picture was taken at the 1975 ILDA convention at Washington, D.C.

Pastor Rohe also reported this to the Regional Conferences and Ephphatha Conference in 1969. In his report, "What's New for the Deaf in the '70's?", these measures also came before the Denver Convention in 1969.

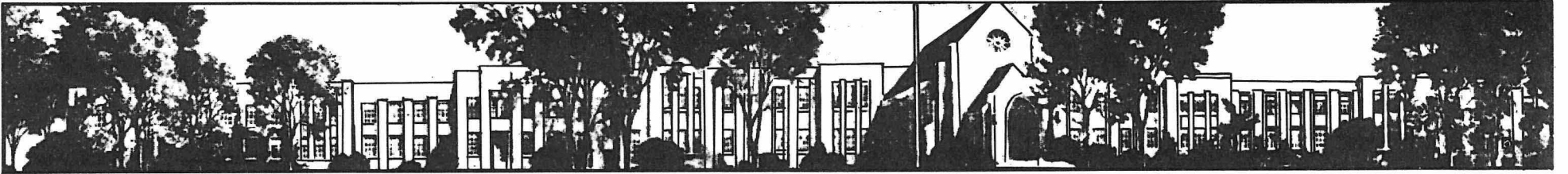
However, when Resolution 1-18 was defeated, the resolution regarding ILDA did not come up for a vote. However, in the following months the Board for Missions steadfastly held to the establishment of an ILDA. The Constitution of ILDA was drawn up and proposed to the Ad Hoc Committee, to the Board for Missions (September 15, 1969), and Ephphatha Conference. The Board for Missions revived the Seventeen Concerns of the Ad Hoc Committee and again proposed the establishment of ILDA. All the regions were urged to study the Constitution of ILDA and in the fall of 1969 the Regional Advisors met to study it. In December of 1969 the Board for Missions' staff again approved for the Board for Missions the policy statement regarding district administration, guidelines for Ministry to the Deaf, and regions and Regional Advisors.

In 1970 the proposed Constitution (dated April 29, 1970) was sent to all congregations. On June 22 and 23, 1970, the Regional Advisors met with lay representatives from each region at Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (prior to Ephphatha Conference) for a planning meeting. Plans were laid for a constituting convention in Chicago, July 16-18, 1971.

Present for this historic meeting were the following:

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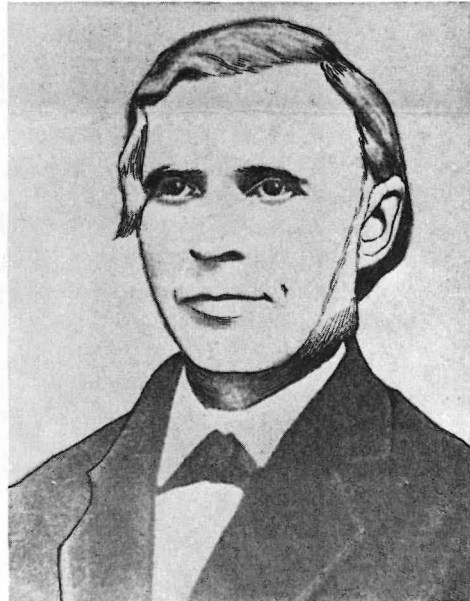
## The Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit



A panoramic view of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Michigan, 1976

The Lutheran School for the Deaf was founded in Detroit, Michigan, March 31, 1873. Originally it was supposed to have been an orphanage where children who had lost their parents could be provided for. Initially pastors and teachers often took such orphans into their own homes. But when the demands became too great, members of various congregations banded together to form societies or institutions to establish homes for orphans. Many stood in the forefront in principle and mode of operation. The idea caught on and one of the new ones was established in Detroit, Michigan in 1873.

Rev. George Speckhard was born in Hesse, Germany. His early occupation was that of a teacher of the deaf. After he married Miss Sophia Schneider, he frequently took deaf children into his home in order to supplement their training. When his first son was born he emigrated to America and became affiliated with the Missouri Synod. He studied at the Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana where he graduated in 1861. He accepted a call to Hillsdale, Michigan (2yrs.) then to Sandy Creek, near Monroe, Michigan (4yrs.) From Sandy Creek, he went to Sebewaing. It was from this parish he received a call to serve the Detroit orphanage.



Rev. George Phillip Speckhard (1821-1879). Called shortly after the founding of the orphanage to take charge of it.



Pastor J.A. Huegli (1831-1904). Father and founder of the Detroit Institution.

When Speckhard accepted the call to the orphanage, he brought with him two deaf girls whose parents had asked him to take along so that he might complete their course of confirmation instruction.

As word reached other parents of Speckhard's care and service to the two deaf girls, within less than a year his class had reached to 15

deaf pupils. Almost immediately, thereafter, the Board of Directors of the Society had to reach a decision whether to continue the work of ministering to the deaf, or concentrate on their work with the orphans.

As early as June 1873, "an institute for the deaf is also to be attached to the orphanage at Detroit." was given in a report to the Northern District which met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

However, when the number of deaf children increased so phenomenally, and the resources to meet both needs were inadequate, a separation seemed to be the only solution.

When the Synodical Conference met in Pittsburg, Pa., in 1874, President J.A. Huegli and Dr. C.F.W. Walther urged that Detroit concentrate on the deaf and that the orphans be moved to the newly founded Addison institution. So it was done. The district president where the "Deaf-Mute Institution" was located was to serve as "inspector" the Missouri Synod with respect to the institution, be responsible for them, and solicit support for it.

Shortly after this major decision had been made, the location and the buildings at the Royal Oak site came under serious debate. Almost providentially, a Mr. Philetus W. Norris offered the institution 20 acres of land just a few miles north of the city limits. The tract contained a barn, fruit trees, and a residence. The society was to assume a mortgage. This property was accepted in August 1874.

A transfer of the Institution from Royal Oak to Norris occurred in February 1875. The Institution then comprising 23 pupils, together with the director, G. Speckhard and family, and Mr. H. Uhlig, who in January 1875 had been called into service as an assistant instructor from the theological seminary at St. Louis, Mo. The ceremony of dedication took place on the following 17th day of May, and was attended by a large concourse of friends and patrons from Detroit and the vicinity. The first building on this new site was completed in 1875 at a total cost of \$20,000. It was a three-story brick structure, 46 by 74 feet, even boasted a belfry. The basement was used for storage purposes; the first floor had classrooms, a dining hall, and kitchen; the second floor provided the living quarters for the staff, dormitories for the girls, and an infirmary. The boys dormitory was located on the third floor, which also provided some classroom space.

The peak enrollment during the early years occurred in 1889, when a total of 47 students were present, 21 boys and 26 girls. Thereafter the number declined somewhat. While the enrollment had fluctuated, it reached a new height in 1938. That year had a total of 74 pupils enrolled in the school and it was considered overcrowded. This was because the building had a maximum capacity for a mere 50 students and for the first time in its history there was a waiting list. The Board of Directors decided to proceed with erection of a new building. Funds were solicited, and the cost of all new buildings was set at \$225,195.40. Contributions came from all parts of the United States and Canada and by February 16, 1940, a total of \$217,026.79 had been collected, leaving a balance to still be raised of \$8,178.61. The school was equipped with every

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**THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF IN DETROIT**

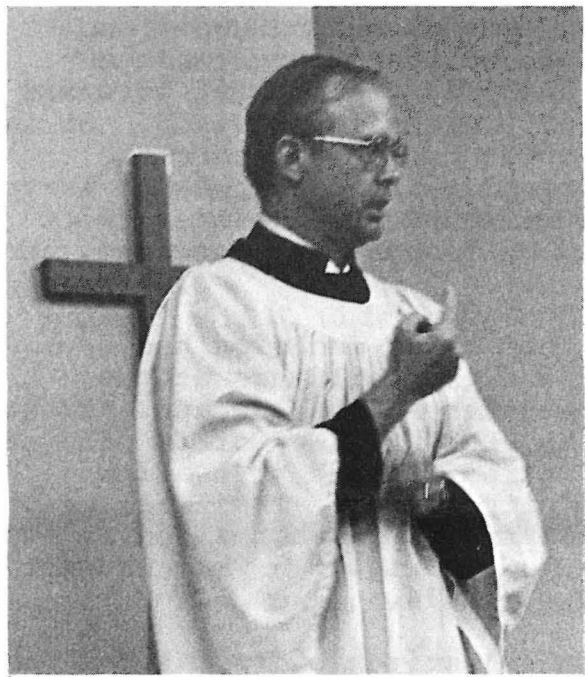
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modern device for teaching deaf children.

Pentecost Sunday, May 12, 1940, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the new imposing and beautiful complex of buildings was dedicated in the service of the Lord. According to the report 10,000 people including about 100 deaf children and 200 deaf adults from Detroit and elsewhere arrived for the festivities. In spite of the deficit announced in February, the entire project, costing \$230,000, was entirely debt free at the time of the dedication.

Directors, superintendents or executive directors of the Institution have been:

George Phillip Speckhard . . . . .	1873 - 1879
Hermann Daniel Uhlig . . . . .	1879 - 1899
H.A. Bentrup . . . . .	1900 - 1902
William Gielow . . . . .	1902 - 1914
John A. Klein . . . . .	1914 - 1962
Walter Bellhorn . . . . .	1962 - 1973
Rodney Rynearson . . . . .	1974 -



Rev. Rodney Rynearson, present director of The Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, Michigan.



Edward J. Pahl (1866-1945). Detail copied from an old photograph dated 1881.

consulted his former teacher, Director H.P.Uhlig. In a letter to Pastor Uhlig, he wrote:

*"Jesus says: Preach the Gospel to all creatures, teach all people. But who preaches to the deaf-mutes? Are they to remain without the Word of God? Are they to be directed only to the Methodists and Baptists to hear a sermon in a sectarian church? Wouldn't a pastor be available, particularly in the larger cities, who could serve the poor deaf-mutes with God's Word?"*

Mr. Pahl addressed his request to Director Herman Daniel Uhlig whom he learned to know while a student at Detroit for six years. Uhlig then wrote to Rev. Augustus H. Reinke in Chicago and enclosed Pahl's letter. Reinke already had some deaf in his congregation, and because he lived closest to Michigan City, he would more easily be able to reach the writer.



Some of the pioneers in the establishment of the Deaf Ministry of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Left to right - Edward Pahl, Jacob Heinold, Teacher Mr. Uhlig (seated), Unknown man standing behind Mr. Uhlig, and Fred Schmitt.

**Deaf Services**

*O Thou who once in Galilee Didst make the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the blind to see, Blest Son of God, be near.*

*O deign to hear the silent prayer Of thine afflicted own; Yea, bid them cast on thee all care, Thy grace to them make known.*

*The speechless tongue, the lifeless ear Thou canst restore, O Lord; Thine "Ephphatha," O Savior dear, Can instant help afford.*

*Meanwhile in them the listening ear Of faith in thee impart, And let thy Word bring light and cheer To every troubled heart.*

*Then in Thy heaven's happy land Each loss will prove a gain; All mysteries we'll understand For Thou wilt make them plain.*

Text; Anna Hoppe (1889-1941)

Edward J. Pahl, the 60th pupil to be enrolled at the Detroit Institute in 1879, was from Michigan City, Indiana. He graduated in 1884, returned to the place of his birth in Michigan City, took up the trade of cigar maker, and remained quietly for about 10 years. There was at that time no Missouri Synod congregation in Michigan City. Then at the age of 30 in 1894, he

What complicates the matter of the Pahl letter to the point of frustration is the fact that both the Pahl and Uhlig letters seem to have disappeared. The son of the Director Uhlig, Missionary N.P. Uhlig, discussed this matter at great length, indicating that he had made a copy of his father's letter to Reinke which revealed that he was forwarding the letter from Mr. Edward J. Pahl with the plea that it be returned to him. Apparently it wasn't, and editor Uhlig surmises:

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**DEAF SERVICES**

(continued from page 4)

We know that Rev. Reinke made great use of the letter, and it was probably literally "used up" as it was not found with the draft among the valuable papers which father had preserved with the notations, and he certainly would have kept Pahl's letter.

Immediately after receiving the Uhlig-Pahl correspondence, Reinke undertook to prepare a sermon in the sign-language. Director Uhlig's letter to Reinke was dated Wednesday, February 14, 1894. It was just 18 days later, namely on March 4, 1894, at 2:30 P.M., Pastor Reinke stood before 16 deaf and signed his first sermon on the text "God is Love." This first sermon took place in the school room of Bethlehem congregation in Chicago, Illinois. Thus the date, March 4, 1894 becomes an extremely important one in the history of the Missouri Synod deaf work!

In preparation for this event, Mr. Pahl assisted and instructed Pastor Reinke in every way possible. It should be noted that at this time the German oral method of communication was employed at the Detroit School. It wasn't until later, when a Miss Thompson was secured as a teacher, that the regular sign language was introduced as a part of the curriculum.



Rev. Augustus H. Reinke, Sr. (1841-1899). Graduated from the St. Louis Seminary in 1864. He was almost 53 yrs. old at the time deaf work was impressed on his conscience.

From there the work branched out. Already in April 1896 Reinke reported:

The undersigned felt his heart glowing for the deaf-mute fellow redeemed to render service to them, even if of a very minimal character. Thus compelled, I have served the deaf via the sign language by God's grace in Cincinnati, Louisville, Monroe, Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Peoria, Galesburg, Lincoln, Sheboygan once or more often and in Chicago and Milwaukee on a monthly basis and in St. Louis every two months. (The Deaf came both in the intense summer heat and in the midst of the violent thunderstorms from a distance of ten to fifteen miles. Their age span was from 15 to 75 years.

A master of the descriptive, Reinke continued his appeal to the Synod:

Truly spellbinding is such a service, conducted in the sign language for these pitiful people. Not one word is audible. A deathly stillness prevails in the assembly. With fixed eyes they are glued to all the movements of the fingers, hands and arms as the sign language demands. The deaf-mute do not miss the minutest sign as we who read do not miss a word. His eyes are often much sharper than those of the people who can hear. If only the ears of the hearers of the Word would be as attentive on the sermon as the eyes of the deaf-mute.

Reinke then directed an appeal to the Synod to establish a mission among the deaf, commenting that the spoken language, such as the Ger-

man, English, Swedish, Norwegian, Polish, Bohemian, Slovak and French do not pose any hindrance if the deaf know the sign language.

Because of its intense importance, I shall incorporate the document in its entirety by which the Synod adopted its deaf mission program:

The undersigned (Pastor A. Reinke) permits himself with all respect to direct the honorable Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, through its delegates assembled at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the year 1896 to a missionary enterprise, which the honorable Synod hitherto has not conducted, but which is of such importance that it ought rightly to be a part of its work. This is the mission to the poor deaf-mutes.

The number of deaf-mutes in our land is estimated at more than 40,000. In St. Louis there are 300 adult deaf-mutes, in Chicago 1,000, in Milwaukee, 240. One may easily expect to find one deaf-mute for every 2,000 inhabitants of almost any sized city, large or small.

These poor, spiritually neglected people have in some of the larger cities only the services of sectarian preachers available to them for the preaching of the Word. A minimal number belong to them. The majority of these poor people are without spiritual care.

Approximately two years ago the undersigned was requested to take care of the Lutheran deaf in Chicago, who had prayed for the preaching of the Gospel. The wish was fulfilled. Soon it became pronounced that a vast mission should be carried out among these neglected poor people. During the last two years we preached one or more times in the following cities: Cincinnati, Louisville, Fort Wayne, Monroe, Elkhart, Peoria, Lincoln, Galesburg, Sheboygan; while we preached regularly for a longer period of time in Chicago, Saint Louis, and Milwaukee. Repeatedly these people have given evidence of great joy that the Word of Life should be declared to them also. Often they pleaded that the pastor return quickly and often. A single announcement in the newspaper in the larger cities is always sufficient to ensure an attendance at a divine service of 30 to 50 deaf-mutes.

In view of this, the honorable Synod is petitioned to begin this important, God-willed task in His name, because of Christ's command that the Gospel be preached to all creatures, because the spiritual neglect of the poor deaf-mutes, and because of their desire for the Word. God grant it!

The floor committee then presented the following resolution:

The undersigned committee recommends that the general Synod utilize this compelling opportunity and carry on this task in its name and under its supervision since there can be no doubt that it is God-pleasing and will benefit the poor, lamentable fellow humans to their temporal and eternal blessing. - Since God Himself has opened the door for good, we ought to utilize this given opportunity. Most assuredly, God will give His blessing and increase on this work.

Thereupon it was Resolved:

That the Synod assume and pursue the deaf mission begun by Pastor A. Reinke;

That, for the conduct of this mission, a standing commission of five persons, of whom Pastor A. Reinke shall be one, and whose base of operations is Chicago, formulate a plan for the conduct of this mission and thereafter place it into operation.

The Deaf Mission Commission consisted of Pastor Augustus Reinke, Pastor Ludwig Lochner, Pastor W. Barthling, Mr. H.C. Zuttermeister, and Mr. Sigismund W. Sievers. The new board met within two months of its election. It set salaries of missionaries to the deaf. Most interesting, in

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## DEAF SERVICES

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this connection, in our day of centralization is the fact that no regulations, not even simple guidelines were adopted at this convention for the New Commission. These were not to come until the major Synodical Handbook revisions of 1947.

What happened after the Synod took over the work? With almost unbelievable rapidity, the new commission called two candidates of theology into the work. They were Herman A. Bentrup and Traugott Wangerin. The former was called to Louisville, Kentucky, and the latter to Milwaukee-Wisconsin. The following year, in 1897, the newly established First Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Church of Our Savior of Chicago called the son of the pioneer deaf missionary, Arthur L. Reinke. Both Wangerin in Milwaukee and Reinke in Chicago in a short time confirmed their first classes. Bentrup branched out from Louisville to Cincinnati, Dayton, Indianapolis, and Evansville. Wangerin, with Milwaukee as his base, branched out to Sheboygan, Racine, and Oshkosh.

From Chicago, Reinke served Fort Wayne and St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Board sent another man to the Twin Cities soon afterwards. He was John Salvner who was sent in 1901.

The Commission's report to the 1902 convention emphasized that after it began its work there had been only three workers among the deaf; now this number had been increased to seven, serving a host of stations. Those reported were:

1. Chicago - Arthur Reinke
2. Milwaukee - T. Wangerin (including also Racine, Oshkosh, Sheboygan and Neenah, Wisconsin, Saginaw, Michigan, and Winona, Minnesota)
3. Louisville, Kentucky - Arthur Boll (serving also Dayton, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Indiana)
4. South Bend, Indiana - Theodore Claus, who served this station in addition to his hearing congregation, taught school, and served in addition deaf congregations in South Bend, Indiana and Toledo, Ohio.
5. St. Louis, Missouri - H. Hallerberg, who also (probably since 1901) taught the sign language to the students at Concordia Seminary. In addition, he served Quincy, Jacksonville, and Springfield, Illinois, and Hannibal, Missouri. In May 1902, he made a mission trip through Kansas and preached to the deaf in various cities.
6. Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota - John Salvner, who wanted to begin missions also in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Rochester, Mankato, New Ulm, and Faribault, Minnesota.
7. Englewood (Chicago) - W. Gielow, partially replacing Arthur Reinke, who had accepted the call as assistant pastor at Bethlehem as successor to his father. Reinke had already made exploratory tours in Cleveland, Ohio, Buffalo, New York, and even Denver, Colorado.

Truly an amazing record six years after Synod officially adopted the work!



## Vignette of History

### EPHPHATHA CONFERENCE

The "book of minutes of the Lutheran Ephphatha Conference" records only that the conference was "organized at Chicago, Illinois, May 13, 1903"

The first minutes record the sessions of the second meeting in Chicago on May 3, 1904. Chairman of the conference was Reverend T. Wangerin of Milwaukee. Six other pastors were present; Reverends Arthur Reinke (Chicago), A. Boll (Louisville, Kentucky), J. Salvner (Minneapolis), N.F. Jensen (Omaha), Th. Claus (Elkhardt-South Bend) and H. Hallerberg (St. Louis). Later that year, Rev. Hallerberg accepted a call to a hearing church in Jacksonville, Illinois, where he also served the deaf till 1909. Rev. Arthur Reinke was the son of Rev. Augustus Reinke, founder of Ministry to Deaf Adults, who died in 1899, four years before the first conference was held. Rev. Claus served a hearing congregation but also served the deaf in Indiana.



EPHPHATHA CONFERENCE, OMAHA, NEBRASKA, 1924  
How many of those ministers can you identify?



EPHPHATHA CONFERENCE, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, 1974  
How many of those servants of God can you identify?

Rev. Wangerin served as chairman of the conference till 1910, elected each year at the opening of conference. Rev. Hallerberg was the first secretary and was succeeded by Rev. Salvner in 1905 who was re-elected each year till 1913, when Rev. L. Jaegels was elected. After 1913 the officers were elected to two-year terms.

In 1905 two new members were named in the minutes, Otto C.A. Boecler and William Gielow. Rev. E. Duemlin was invited to join the conference. Yet in 1906 only seven members were present. In 1907 five pastors attended who welcomed Rev. Bentrup of Holgate, Ohio as guest. Rev. Bentrup was the first St. Louis Seminary graduate called by the Board for Missions to Louisville, Kentucky (1896) and later became superintendent of the Detroit School in 1900. By 1907 he was serving a hearing congregation but kept up his interest in the deaf. He left the work among the deaf in 1902 because of poor health.

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**E P H P H A T H A   C O N F E R E N C E**

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Ten years later, by 1917, there were only ten members present. New names appearing in the record by that year were; O.C. Schroeder, N.P. Uhlig, G. Gaertner, and Schubkegel. Ten years later, in 1927, there were 18 pastors listed as members of the conference. Elsewhere in this issue you will see a picture of an early conference around this time.

At the present time, there are 56 pastors in the conference who with 11 lay ministers and two lady lay workers bring the total membership of the conference to 69.

In 1977, conference will be held at Camp Lutherhaven, Cour d'Alene, Idaho, June 26-30. Over 100 persons, workers and wives are expected to attend. Workers among the deaf from the ALC and the LCA attend and participate in Ephphatha Conference.

**Chronology of  
LC-MS Mission for the Deaf**

**1873** — An association of Detroit Lutherans, led by Rev. J.N. Huegli, Pastor of Trinity LC, founded an orphanage and engaged G. Speckhard, a former teacher of deaf children in Germany, to be headmaster. More deaf came than orphans.

Dr. C.F.W. Walther said: "God wants you to have a school for the deaf. Teach them, and send your orphans to the Orphanage in Addison, Illinois. Thus began THE DETROIT LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

**1893** — Mr. Edward J. Pahl, a deaf graduate of the Detroit school, wrote a letter: "Who preaches to the Deaf?"

**1894** — March 4th - Rev. Augustus Reinke, Bethlehem LC, in Chicago, Illinois, conducted the first Lutheran worship for 16 deaf; the sermon: 1 John 4:8, "God is Love."

**1896** — Synod elected a Board of Missions to the Deaf (32 communicants).

**1908** — Synodical resolution that the 12th Sunday after Trinity be designated as Deaf Missions Sunday (1911 and 1923) The Deaf Lutheran magazine for the deaf began.

**1951** — Lutheran Deaf Mission Society organized to promote foreign mission work among the deaf. . . to support Lutheran Missions to the Deaf with loans. (LDMS paper, Mission Hands).

Mill Neck Manor Lutheran School for the Deaf opens in Mill Neck, New York.

**1960** — The LDMS sponsored a survey made by Rev.W.F.Reinking of the Deaf in the Far East.

**1963** — Rev. Reinking called to become a full-time counselor for work among the Deaf in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao, Japan and the Philippines.

Home for the Young Deaf, Ibadan, Nigeria, opened by Mr.& Mrs. J.Oyesola. Mrs. C.Yunghans served as a teacher.

**1965** — Survey of Africa for Deaf Mission work, sponsored by The Lutheran Friends of the Deaf and the LDMS.

**Today** — We serve the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Deaf-Mentally Retarded in 321 cities, in the U.S.A. and Canada by 52 Ministers.

**Vignette of History**

**THE DEAF LUTHERAN**

The minutes of May 1-3, 1908, Ephphatha Conference in Mineapolis record the first reference to The Deaf Lutheran. It was "resolved that with the Board's permission, we publish a paper as soon as possible - and that we ask the Board to appropriate \$100.00 for this purpose." (Minutes May 2, AM, 1908).

It was also resolved that Rev. T.M. Wangerin of Milwaukee edit the paper and that its name be "The Deaf Lutheran."

Prior to that time the deaf news had been published in another religious paper called "The Lutheran Pioneer" with which the Board for Missions had a contract. The contract was due to expire in 1908.

At the next Ephphatha conference in 1909, Editor Wangerin gave his first report as editor of "our paper, The Deaf Lutheran." (May 17, 1909). By the next conference, Rev. Wangerin reported 450 subscriptions had been secured. All pastors at the conference promised to make it each one's aim to increase the number of subscriptions. (June 13, PM, 1910). At the conference in 1911, the editor reported that many had failed to renew their subscriptions and asked the Board to "cover the deficit." (May 15, PM, 1911).

Ten years later, in 1920, when missionary Schumacher was editor-business manager, the Board decided to have all subscription receipts sent to the treasurer, Mr. W. Ellinger, in Minneapolis each month so that the treasurer could "pay all operations" for the paper. (July 7, 1920). In October of the same year the Board was "compelled to increase the subscription to \$.35 a year instead of \$.25 a year and a dollar for three years instead of a dollar for four years." (October 11, 1920).

In December, Editor Schumacher "was empowered to close a contract with the Northwestern Publishing Company in Milwaukee to print The Deaf Lutheran in 1921." (Minutes of Dec. 8, 1920)

Today it is published by Concordia Publishing House. There are nearly 5000 subscribers and an estimated 12,000 readers. The magazine also goes to more than fifteen overseas countries. It is one of the leading religious publications for the deaf in the world.

**Editors have been...**

1. Traugott Wangerin. . . . .1909 to 1914
2. N.P. Uhlig. . . . . June 1915 to February 1918
3. E.G. Nachtsheim. . . . .March 1918 to Sept. 1918
4. J.L. Salvner. . . . . Oct. 1918 to Jan. 1926
5. O.C. Schroeder. . . . . Feb. 1926 to Jan. 1951
6. F. Gyle & M. Kosche. . . .Feb. 1951 to Aug. 1953
7. H.W. Hoemann. . . . .Jan. 1959 to Sept. 1964
8. Martin Hewitt. . . . . Oct. 1964 to March 1972
9. U.C. Jones. . . . .April 1972 to August 1974
10. A.D. Marshall. . . . .September 1974 to the present



The LCMS Ministry to the Deaf is cooperating with the ALC and LCA in a joint LCUSA sponsored project to develop a registry of all Lutheran deaf persons in the U.S. and Canada.

# ILDA



# PAGE

## HISTORY OF ILDA (FROM 1968 TO 1972)

(continued from page 2)

Region:  
 Rev.Wm.Ludwig & Mr.Clarence Schulz- - Great Lakes  
 Rev.W.Bottlinger & Mr.T.Brighton- - - Northwest  
 Rev.Clark Bailey & Mr.M.Van Manen - - Pacific  
 Rev.W.Lange & Mr.Bob Baker- - - - - Midwest  
 Rev.M.Kosche & Mr.W.Ridge - - - - - Central  
 Rev.D.Leber & Mr.B.Fitzgerald - - - - Dixie  
 Mr. Gary Schlub - - - - - - - - - Eastern  
 Rev. H. Rohe represented the Board for Missions.

Two days were spent revising the proposed Constitution for ILDA. Each region was given specific assignments in preparation for the Constitution Convention that was held the next year. Pro-tem officers were elected for ILDA as follows:

Mr. Clarence Schulz, Detroit, Michigan, Chairman  
 Mr. Ted Brighton, Seattle, Wash., Vice-Chairman  
 Mr. Bob Baker, Kansas City, Mo., Secretary  
 Mr. Warren Ridge, Milwaukee, Wis., Treasurer  
 Mr.M.Van Manen, Milwaukee,Wis., Parliamentarian  
 Mr. Gary Schlub, Washington,D.C., Nominations  
 Mr. Billy Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., Displays

Each congregation was asked to support ILDA with a contribution of \$125.00 in 1971.

On July 16-19, 1971, the first convention of ILDA was held at O'Hare-Hyatt House in Chicago, Illinois. The theme of the convention was "Forward with Christ". The ILDA convention emblem was adopted at this meeting via a contest sponsored by the Midwest Region. The winning emblem design was submitted by Mr. Archie Marshall of St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Wm. Kohn, Executive Secretary of the Synod's Board for Missions, was the keynote speaker at the opening sessions of the convention. Mr. Robert O. Lankenau, president of the National Association of the Deaf, was the guest speaker at the banquet. Dr. J.A.O. Preus, president of the LC-MS, was the guest preacher at the Sunday morning closing rally service.



View of the Banquet Hall of Stouffer's National Center Inn, Washington, D.C., Site of the 1975 ILDA convention.

Officers elected at the convention were as follows:

President - Mr.Marion Van Manen, Sunnyvale, Cal.  
 Pres-Elect - Mr. Uriel C. Jones, Knoxville, Tenn.  
 Secretary - Mr. Bob Baker, Kansas City, Kansas  
 Treasurer - Mr. Gary Schlub, Lanham, Maryland  
 Ephphatha Conference Rep.- Rev. Rodney Rynearson  
 Board for Missions Rep. - Rev. Herbert W. Rohe

Seven Regional Vice-presidents were also elected to the Board of Directors of ILDA.



A recent meeting of the ILDA Board of Directors in St. Louis, Missouri. Seated left to right: Joseph Kindred, August O. Beyer, Harold Rife, and Rev. Herbert Rohe. Standing left to right: Beverly Willet, Harold Thuve, Clarence Schulz, Ronald Nester, Russel Healey and wife Bettye, Elmer Francisco, Archie Marshall and Jackie Kemper. (Mrs. Healey and Mrs. Kemper were visitors).

Seven Regional Advisors were also elected at the 1971 convention.

On November 11-13, 1971, the first meeting of the ILDA Board was held in St. Louis, Mo. Plans were made for the 1973 convention to be held in Kansas City, Mo. The theme, "Sharing Love in Christ", was selected.

In 1972, due to lack of funds, it was not possible for the ILDA Board to meet. However, on November 3-4, 1972, the Executive Committee of ILDA met at the Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, Mo.

On February 10-12, 1972, the Board for Missions passed a resolution requesting ILDA to assume responsibility for LC-MS membership on the Board of COSD.

In September 21-23, 1972, the Board for Missions passed a resolution asking ILDA to consider becoming responsible for the publishing, editing, and business management of The Deaf Lutheran with subsidy from the Board for Missions on a declining scale until ILDA could pick up on its own. The first deaf layman to become editor of The Deaf Lutheran was Mr. Uriel C. Jones. He accepted that position on April 12, 1972.

IT IS NEVER TOO SOON TO JOIN THE ILDA.....  
 Rejoice with us in Christ's love...Join Today

### ILDA Membership Application

Type

(Check One)

Fill in your name and address on the spaces below. Use as many names and addresses as desired. Clip and mail to:  
 Mr.Russel Healey, 737 Cumberland Drive  
 St. Louis, Missouri 63125  
 Make checks or money orders payable to:  
 ILDA Treasurer, Russel Healey  
 Do Not Send Cash. Enclose \$2 per name.

1. Active.....	2. Associate.....	3. Sustaining.....
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(Please Type or Print Plainly)