



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Christmas, 2002

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 94, No. 4

DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Mark Anderson,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth
peace to men who have His good will.
Luke 2:14

During the Christmas season we all have heard and seen those words over and over again in an effort to get ourselves in a festival mood of celebration. Whether you know or not, it is very common to move words around and then cut the Luke version in half to better fit in with the traditional Christmas spirit. For example, as you can note anywhere on highway billboards or store front windows, the words at a shortened version can go like this:

Peace and Good Will to People on Earth.

It is true that the words as shown in the last part of the Luke version and the shortened version can be the same thing; we usually get a wrong impression (wrong idea) when we use the shortened version without any real biblical knowledge and understanding of the Luke version.

If we leave out the first part of the Luke version "Glory to God in the highest," and use the second part only, then it is not a biblical passage anymore. It can badly hurt, not only our Christian faith, but also our Christian witness to others, if we use only half of the verse, not the whole verse. That is because

people get the wrong idea that the jovial Christmas spirit is exactly what the people need to have peace and good will amongst themselves. That is false! That is an outright lie from the vilest (bad) mouth of the Great Deceiver, Satan, who will do anything to get us away from the true peace and good will of the Lord.

Rather, God the Holy Spirit, who uses Word and Sacrament (Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper) to keep us in the true Christian Faith, leads us to boldly use the whole Luke version always. We give glory and praise to the Lord God because of His wonderful love for us sinners that He sent His beloved Son to be born of a virgin woman as a human baby. Yes, Christ became a human just like us so that He can save us sinners. Not only that He became a human, He also lived perfectly under the Law for us, died on cross with all our sins cast on Himself for the full forgiveness and finally arose from the dead in total victory over sin, Satan and hell. So, the Holy Spirit leads us to proclaim boldly: Yes, I believe! That is when our Heavenly Father gives us His peace and good will.

We have His peace because Jesus is the Prince of Peace (*Isaiah 14:27*). Even though we do not have peace with the world, we do have peace with the Lord God. We know by faith that peace with God is much more important than world peace because His peace is forever and ever while world peace is only a moment.

We have His good will because our Heavenly Father smiles on us and see us as His Children as we trust and believe in Christ Jesus for our deliverance and salvation. We strongly believe that Jesus is indeed the One Way, the One Truth and the One Live and we go to heaven only because of Christ Jesus. Come, let us boldly announce our faith in Christ and use the whole Luke version, not the shortened version.

ILDA Pastoral Advisor



"I bring you good news
of a great joy..."

-Luke 2:10



Our Savior
is Born

The President's Report...



James Swalley, ILDA 2001-2003 President

Greetings everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

To the members of the International Lutheran Deaf Association and the readers of *The Deaf Lutheran*, my wife and I had enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Great Lakes Region Conference, which was held in Cleveland, Ohio on October 10 to 13, 2002. The following weekend, October 18 to 20, 2002, there was an ILDA executive council meeting at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The executive council consisted the president James Swalley, president-elect Pam Kane, secretary Tim Johnston, treasurer Jim Spichen, pastoral advisor Rev. Mark Anderson, Deaf Lutheran editor Dave Brown, Business Manager, Larry Ginter and John Krause, the representative of the 2003 ILDA Convention to be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. The LCMS Counselor of Deaf Ministry, Rev. Roger Altenberger was unable to attend the meeting. The meeting was a long one, but very supportive. Also, there are some motions needed to be discussed with the Board of Directors next July and several suggestions for the 2007 Convention if there is no bid to host in their home

town. The 2001-2003 Mission Projects goal is \$47,500.00 is still very behind to attain the goal and try to encourage all of your churches to donate more and more. The Mission Projects really needs your help greatly.

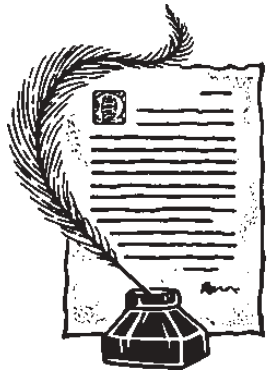
To support your International Lutheran Deaf association, you are to send the names of the deceased members, their ages and hometown to Diane Francisco, chairman of Necrology, the list of candidates for the new officers: President-elect, Secretary, Pastoral Advisor to Richard Norton, chairman of nominating and the list of candidates for the Right Hand Award to Lester Ahls, chairman.

Also, all in your seven regions, there would be an election of officers, I am asking you, all the new presidents in each region that they shall be a delegate to be a member of the Board of Directors to attend the 2003 ILDA meetings next July 3-6, 2003 by contacting Tim Johnston, secretary.

May the Lord be with you all and keep you in happiness and good health.

*James Swalley, 2001-2003 ILDA President
e-mail: SWABJJ@aol.com*

Editorial...



Greeting everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am writing part of this editorial while I am waiting for my plane at Bush International Airport in Houston, Texas for my flight back home to Cleveland, Ohio. I was invited to the Dixie Deaf Regional Conference (DDLRC), held on October 11-13, 2002. Martha Malone, Jennifer Bonura, Rev. Larry Leider and Elaine, and members of Holy Three-in-One Church has done a super, super job! They have done a lot of hard work to bring me down to Houston and for the successful weekend conference. I have enjoyed my trip and meeting many people of DDLRC-ILDA and am glad I made the trip. Many thanks again!

The ILDA Executive Board meeting was held the following weekend (October 18-19 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I was invited to this meeting (first time to an Executive only board meeting). We had

a long two day of reports, discussions, and ILDA business. And we were able to get a lot of work done. On Saturday evening, we attended the bible studies lead by Rev. David Bush. And on Sunday, we visited St. John's Lutheran Church for the Deaf for Worship service.

Larry Ginter and myself wish you all a very Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year!

Peace!

David G. Brown, Editor

Booth Tables...

There are free booth tables available at the Minneapolis 2003 convention site. Contact Mark Johnson (**MarkLinda6@aol.com**) for info/reservation/approval.



Important Articles...

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Coming in the Spring Issue...

Deaf Fiesta - Chicago, Oct 26, 2002
Executive Board Meeting

The DEAF LUTHERAN

Christmas, 2002

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Dixie Conference



The Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference (DDLC) was held at Kaiserhof Lutheran Retreat Center in Tomball, TX on October 11-13, 2002. Holy Three-in-One Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Houston, was the host church. Co-chair Martha Malone and Jennifer Bonura did a super job! Around 49 people has registered for this conference. **“All things work together for the good of those who love God”** was the conference’s theme. A group of 15 made a long trip from Memphis, TN in one van with an U-haul trailer!

Friday night devotion, **SUFFERING**, was lead by Pastor Mark Seeger. It is part of the theme that is on the back of our T-shirts:

“We know that
SUFFERING creates **PATIENCE**,
PATIENCE creates
CHARACTER, and
CHARACTER creates **HOPE.**” *Romans 5:3-4*

Early Saturday morning we were awoken at 5:30 am for a morning walk in the dark! Rev. Seeger’s teasing we need to watch out for black cats with white strip painted on back. His famous joke for skunk!

After breakfast, devotion, **PATIENCE**, was given by Vicar Steve Cholak, third year seminary student from Fort Wayne, IN. After the devotion, special guest speakers... members of the Texas Task Force-1 Urban Search & Rescue Team (WTC

Disaster Site)... gave a very interesting speech and slide show about their activities after the 911 WTC attack. They also displayed pictures and samples from the WTC site.

Afternoon DDLC business meeting was lead by President Martha Malone. After the votes, the new 2002-2004 DDLC officers are:

President Jeff McGuire
President-Elect Jennifer Bonura
Secretary Martha Malone
Treasurer Carol McGuire
Pastoral Advisor Rev. Paul Tessaro

The next DDLC conference will be hosted by Dallas in 2004.

Saturday evening devotion, **CHARACTER**, was lead by Rev. Paul Tessaro. Early Sunday morning some of us were again awoken at 5:30 am for an early walk! Bible study was lead by Rev. Larry Lieder and Jeff McGuire. Worship service followed.

Friday arrival many of us found a bag of M&M on our pillows with note **“People Are Like M&M’s...”** attached. Then Saturday, another surprise... a can of 7 up with note **“The 7 Ups...”** attached to it. Then another surprise, a bag of microwaveable popcorn with note **“When you’re all POPPED out and your strength is gone, remember the Lord gives strength to his people...”** pasted on.

David G. Brown, Editor



Left: 2000-2002 President Martha Malone lead DDLC Business Meeting.



Left & below: Christians who has attended the DDLC conference.



DDLC 2002-04 Officers... Jeff McGuire, Jennifer Bonura, Martha Malone, Carol McGuire, and Rev. Paul Tessaro.



Special Guest... Texas Task Force-1 firemens.



News from around the Regions...



News about our People



Wheat Ridge Christmas 2002 Seal.
www.wheatridge.org

Remember to send to the D/L editor your church's newsletters!

Northwest Region...

Cross of Christ, Alberta... **DIT students** has passed and certificates were presented June 16, 2002. **Linda Desrosiers** has coordinate Deaf Kids' Camp Aug. 10-8 at Okanagan Camp and Retreat Centre, Westbank, BC. The 40th Anniversary dedication of the church building was on October 13th.

Faith Deaf Congregation (Spokane) celebrate its 75th Anniversary on October 5-6, 2002. Saturday Banquet guest speaker was **Rev. William Ludwig**. About 71 attended.

Pacific Region...

Pray for **Rev. Don and Karen Leber**.

Midwest Region...

Iowa East... 48 people attended the "All Iowa East Lutheran Deaf Worship and Picnic" on August 25th at Wilton City Park in Wilton, IA. Next year it will held again on August 24, 2003.

Central Region...

Peace, Indianapolis... DIT students continuing their studies are **Scott Wilson, Nancy Hicks, Alan Rork** and **Bruce King**. D.I.T. stands for Deaf Institute of Theology. There are two tracks. The first track leads deaf people to become deacons or deaconesses. The second track leads deaf men to become ordained as pastors.

Holy Cross, St. Louis... had their church's decommissioning of the building service. Paula Willig has done a fine job of creating a flash movie of this decommissioning for ILDA's web site. Visit that web site at: www.lcmsdeaf.org/holycross.

Dixie Region...

Jesus, Austin... Pastor Seeger and 11 teenagers from our Wednesday Youth Night went to NYC in July to participate in a "Servanthood Project." The youth met 6 deaf from Trinity LC Deaf, Sioux Falls, SD and 2 from Mill Neck School. They had a great time! Our Lord Jesus has called home **Marian Pallo**.

Great Lakes Region...

Alpha, Rochester... **Deacon John Rushton** has a class to teach. It is called "Strategic Growth for Small Groups (SG)²." The Circle of Growth consists of 4 parts that include **Pray to Build Relationships to Net Fishing to Discipleship**. There are 14 different chapter that would last 14 weeks. For more information, contact John at: AlphaLCD@frontiernet.net.

Holy Cross, Columbus... **Pastor Ed Bergstresser** and family made a 4 week driving trip to California and back to Ohio. They made many stops on their way. Rev. Ed was guest speaker at Pacific Region ILDA. His presentation was "The End from the Beginning," Isaiah 46:10. **Dorothy Chaplin** has entered God's Kingdom on September 11th.

Eastern Region...

St. Matthew's, Clifton, NJ... new address is: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, c/o Grace Lutheran Church and School, 2222 Vauxhall Rd., Union, NJ 07083. Rev. Donald Brand is pastor. October 2002 is our 65th anniversary year.

Ephphatha Conference...

The Ephphatha Conference was held in Breckenridge, Colorado from August 10-14. About 33 pastors, church workers, and deaf missions attended the conference. A number of things happened. Rev. Don Leber make the trip with help of his son, Jim. When Jim returned home, he reported that he was overwhelmed by the love he saw shown to his father.

A number of people were hospitalized due to breathing problems related to high altitude and thin air. Andersons' truck broke a fan belt. Kois' van couldn't make it up the mountains. Boy this must a memorable EC conference year!

Editor



Rear, 1 to r: Robert Oettel, Mack Greer, Eugene Moss, and Gary Peek. Front, 1 to r: Geraldine Greer, Jule Meek, and Carol Oettel.

News from Robert Oettel

Sign Language Worship is now being held on the first, third, and fifth Mondays of each month at 6:30 PM in Rapid City, SD. If you are visiting Mt. Rushmore, the Black Hills, of Badlands National Park you are especially invited to join in worshipping the Lord Jesus in Sign Language. The service are held at Zion Lutheran Church, 4550 S. Hwy. 16. Zion Church is located on top of the hill, near the water tower. They are led by lay minister Robert Oettel, who served as lay minister with Deaf people in Chicago, Cleveland, and Omaha from 1971 until 1988. From 1988 to 2001 Oettel taught English as a Foreign Language in Japan and Slovakia. In December of 2001 Oettel began serving as lay minister at 2 small hearing churches in western South Dakota, First Lutheran in Milesville and Our Redeemer Lutheran in Philip.

Mr. and Mrs. Oettel stated that they enjoyed their time overseas, and are now happy to be able to minister with both deaf and hearing people in a new area. They look forward to visiting with some of their Deaf friends at 2003 ILDA in Minnesota.

e-mail: robertoettel@hotmail.com

Pastor Martin A. Hewitt Retires

By Larry Gorton,
Faith Lutheran Church
of the Deaf, Spokane
via e-mail



On a beautiful Sunday morning on July 31, 2002 at Faith Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Spokane, WA., Pastor Martin A. Hewitt preached his last sermon as a full-time pastor. At the beginning of the summer, he shared with his deaf congregation his decision to retire. He had been ministering in Spokane and the surrounding communities since his arrival in the summer 1978.

Pastor Hewitt, son of deceased John and Margarethe Hewitt was born on August 1, 1937 in Detroit, MI.

He prepared for the Holy Ministry in 1955 when he entered Concordia Collegiate Institute in Bronxville, N.Y., graduating in 1957. He continued his ministerial training at Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, IN and graduated in 1959. Next he entered Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO and graduated in 1963 with a Master of Divinity degree. As part of his theological training he served a year as vicar at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Vancouver, B.C. during 1961-62 under the supervision of deceased Rev. John A. Beyer.

Upon graduation from the seminary, Pastor Hewitt was called to Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Cleveland, OH where he was ordained and installed on July 14, 1963. His ministry in Ohio included a preaching station in Toledo, where he organized and established as Good Shepherd of the Deaf Lutheran Church. This congregation became the headquarters of a new field of deaf missions in 1968. In 1970, Pastor Hewitt accepted a call to Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf in St. Louis, MO, where he faithfully served eight years. For years, Holy Cross congregation has been a training field for Concordia Theological Seminary students, and under Pastor Hewitt's direction many students have been guided in ministry, many of whom are active pastors among deaf today.

Pastor Hewitt served the Synod as editor of *The Deaf Lutheran*, 1964-1972 and as Synod's representative to the Board of Directors of the Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf, 1969-1972. During the transition period for the change in the Synod's administration of deaf missions, Pastor Hewitt served as Regional Advisor in the Central Region, 1972-1976. He served as member of the Advisory Committee of Family and Children's Services of Greater St. Louis, in which he helped move the agency to offer psychological and counseling service to the deaf community. He was active in the National Registry of Interpreters

for the Deaf and the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association. He has attended several workshops and seminars to upgrade his skills in ministry to the deaf, including the annual Ephphatha Conference and additional seminary courses in pastoral care and counseling.

In 1978 Pastor Hewitt accepted a call to serve Faith Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Spokane, WA. There he helped the deaf people initiate the Deaf Service Center, a non-profit organization through which both deaf and hearing people could obtain access to various services and provide a gathering place for deaf community social activities. He served many years on the Board of Directors and had served as President. For many years, he served the Northwest District-LCMS Office as circuit counselor helping many hearing churches with their vacancies and resolving various church/congregation conflicts.

Pastor Hewitt was married to Janet Natalie Stenke, August 4, 1962, in Syracuse, N.Y. Mrs. Hewitt is the daughter of deceased Pastor and Mrs. Adolph L. Steinke and in 1962 she graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana with a Bachelor of Science degree in teaching elementary education. A few years ago, she retired from teaching at Spokane Lutheran School. The Hewitts are richly blessed with three grown children: Timothy, Julie and Laura and four grandchildren.

Presently and for a short time, Pastor Hewitt is serving part-time at Faith Lutheran Church of the Deaf and preaching once or twice a month. He is helping and encouraging the members carry the work and ministry to deaf people because there is now a reduced subsidy support from the Northwest District-LCMS Office to not being able to prepare a call for a new pastor. Pastor Hewitt plans to spend more time with his growing family, continue enjoying reading and doing his studies.

Pastor Hewitt is well known to many deaf people through whom he had reached, touched and served as God's humble "servant". He is blessed with his excellent signing abilities, his great compassion and his deep understanding of deaf culture and the way the deaf people interact. Also, he is blessed with his gift of writing and telling stories of God's love and salvation to many deaf people.

May God continue to richly bless Pastor Martin A. Hewitt.



46 years in Deaf Ministry...

Right photo shows Rev. Robert & Ellie Bauer of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and Rev. Frank Gyle. During the Ephphatha Conference in Colorado last summer, Rev. & Mrs. Bauer received an award honoring them for 46 years in deaf ministry. Rev. Frank Gyle is a retired pastor who served as a pastor for the deaf for over 50 years.



Great Lakes Regional Conference (GLRC)...

Written by Larry D. Ginter of Cleveland, OH

Our host church of Christ Deaf Lutheran Church were 50th anniversary of GLRC last October 10-13, 2002 in Cleveland, Ohio.

There were 55-60 attendance. Larry Ginter was GLRC chairperson. He said that our host church worked hard for planning GLRC's 50th anniversary. I thanked them very much.

On Thursday October 10, we had devotion by Rev. Edwin Bergstresser of Columbus, Ohio at hotel room. We welcomed them for opening/orientation. We had a good reception.

On Friday October 11, we had nice tours for all day. We had devotion by Pastor Mark Ruppert of Pittsburgh, PA. We had a good fellowship at hotel room.

On Saturday October 12 we went to church downtown of Cleveland. We had french toast, fruit, etc. breakfast and lunch trays, too. We stayed at church for regular meeting and devotion by Pastor Lawson. New GLRC officers elected are: President, Allen Rich of Flint, MI; President-elect, Brian Graber of Toledo, OH; Secretary, Libby Ruppert of Toledo, OH; Treasurer, Craig Majewski of Cleveland, OH; Pastoral Advisor, Rev. Gary L. Lawson of Cleveland, OH; and Historian, Kathy Burt of Cleveland, OH.

Saturday night we had nice banquet at hotel. We had good skits, and memorial GLRC in past years. Don Mowl was surprised and had a nice award from GLRC. He always worked hard and keep GLRC Historical and records. Praise the Lord.

On Sunday we had worship service and devotion by Pastor Shirrell Petzoldt of Toledo, OH. We had a wonderful time.

Theme: **Jubilee: Proclaiming Liberty**" Isaiah 61:1.



New GLRC 2002-2004 Officers, l-r: Allen Rich, President; Brian Gabler, President-elect; Libby Ruppert, Secretary; Craig Majewski, Treasurer; and Rev. Gary L. Lawson, Pastoral Advisor.



Craig Majewski preparing french toast for GLRC Saturday morning breakfast.



Robert Leland, Master of Ceremonies.



Above: Don Mowl (right) of Pittsburgh, PA receiving comments from Terry Cipra as Decon John Rushton (left) look on. Don has receive award for his many year of service to GLRC.



Above: GLRC 2000-2002 President John Rushton leads the business meeting.



Right: Rev. Ed Bergstresser leads the devotion.



Northwest-ILDA Conference and Montana Deaf Camp, Big Fork, MT

Sent via e-mail by Larry Gorton, Faith Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Spokane, WA

This summer was a very hot and dry season and people find time for fun and enjoyable activities. More than 65 deaf and hearing people traveled from different places to enjoy a pleasant four-day weekend camp fellowship during August 14-17 at Trinity Lutheran Camp on magnificent Flathead Lake in western Montana. Two years ago, the members of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Great Falls, Montana hosted the conference and they were happy to host it's own yearly Montana Deaf Camp by including the Northwest Region-ILDA conference again.

Along with the daily devotions and Bible studies, there were enjoyable times for fun in canoeing, swimming, ping pong, etc. One of the most popular activities was playing color Dominos. Both the regional conference and Christ Lutheran Church voters meetings were held at different times.

Retired Pastor William Ludwig, Seattle, WA led an inspirational Bible study on the camp theme, **"End Times"**. The theme helped us to look back at the 9-11 tragic happening in a way the Bible say about living and being threatened with continuing evil on Earth and the second coming of Jesus.

Newly elected regional ILDA officers for 2002-2004 are:

President – Greg Desroisers, Vancouver, B.C., Canada (through President-Elect vacancy and 2nd term);

President-Elect – Rolph Foster, Great Falls, MT;

Secretary – Linda Desroisers, Vancouver, B.C., Canada (2nd term);

Treasurer – Richard Sharp, Tacoma, WA;

Pastor Adviser – Rev. Roger Blesi, Seattle, WA

One of the interesting businesses was the members felt the need of more Bible Studies, workshops and evangelism as stated in our regional constitution should be planned for our future conferences. The next conference site will be searched immediately and announced in the future.

Rev. Hank Drummond and his great volunteers did another wonderful camp planning and preparing the delicious meals during the camp weekend. **"To Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever."** Heb 13:21

Right: Rev. Ludwig leading the Bible study.

Far Right: Sunset at magnificent Flathead Lake!



Above: Men who cooked Sunday morning breakfast. From left: Leo Kanning - Kalispell, MT; Newton Shular - Great Falls, MT; Roloph Foster - Great Falls, MT; Rev. Roger Blesi - Seattle, WA; Larry Gorton - Spokane, WA; Elmer Francisco - Spokane, WA; Dennis Aukett - Spokane, WA; Greg Desroisers - Vancouver, B.C. Canada; and Ron Lamping - MT



Above: Group shot of folks attending the Northwest Region ILDA Camp!

Right: Group playing color Dominos.





ILDA 2001-2003 Mission Projects Goal... \$47,500

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. DIT / Zacharus | \$11,000 |
| 2. ILDA PR Video Project | \$5,000 |
| 3. Sao Paul Lutheran Church
of Brazil | \$2,500 |
| 4. Republic of Madagascar Schools
for the Deaf | \$2,500 |
| 5. Summer Camps (California,
Nebraska & Texas \$3,000 each) | \$9,000 |
| 6. Ghana | \$2,000 |
| 7. Macau (missionary) | \$2,000 |
| 8. New York West Camp | \$2,000 |
| 9. Concordia School for Special
Education (Macau) | \$1,500 |
| 10. India Parsonage Improvement | \$3,000 |
| 11. Nyandarua School of the Deaf | \$3,000 |
| 12. Pax Natrua Ranch (Canada) | \$1,000 |
| 13. Starfish Learning Center | \$3,000 |

ILDA Historian and Publicity Committee...

Alice L. Hagemeyer, Chair

DeafWayII in Washington, D.C
July 9-11, 2002

Glenda Haefner and Alice L. Hagemeyer shared information with people from all over the world about our ILDA history and library resources at the LCMS booth. We also showed them how THE RED NOTEBOOK: Deaf Awareness Begins @ your library can benefit people who seek information about sign language, deaf culture, communication accessibility and other topics. Most importantly, ILDA and its history should be exposed to the deaf community all over the world. Libraries in all parts of the world are expected to have this copy of THE RED NOTEBOOK, which has the endorsement of the World Federation of the Deaf and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. ILDA, as a partner of the Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action, is now selling them. Monies realized from this sale will go to ILDA 2001-2003 Mission Projects. If you are interested to help sell copies to individuals, libraries and organizations please let me know. My email address is: alicehagemeyer@aol.com. The cost is \$25 each plus \$3.00 for delivery PLUS a free lifetime access to FOLDA website (under construction).

ILDA 2001-2003 Mission Projects...

As of this writing, our 2001-2003 Mission Projects goal has reached around **\$12,000.00**.

We now have only one year left to reach our goal of \$47,500. During the ILDA Convention in Cleveland, Ohio back in 1999, the 1997-99 goal was \$50,000. And you know what? Donations to the mission projects went over the goal with a total of \$54,550.76! So for 2001-03, why not we all try to go over our present goal of \$47,500 and even break the \$54,551 record! Your supports are really greatly appreciated!

Please send donations and money to the ILDA Treasurer and mark it for 2001-2003 Mission Projects.

2001-2003 Mission Projects

Inclosed, please find our donation of \$_____ for ILDA's 2001-1003 Mission Projects Goal.

Please make your check or money-order payable to: **ILDA 2001-2003 Mission Project** and mail to: **Jim Sipchen, ILDA Treasurer, 11911 N. Centaurus Place, Oro Valley, AZ 85737-3456.**

Your Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone/Fax/e-mail: _____

Thank you for your support.

Brochures...

ILDA 2001-2003 Mission Project

The ILDA 2001-2003 Mission Project brochure has just recently been printed and mailed. Your churches should by now have receive the new brochures. If you do not have the brochures and want some to distribute, contact Jim Sipchen, ILDA Treasure for some. His address on the form above.

ILDA Brochures

The newly revised ILDA brochures has been printed and shipped early last summer to your regional presidents or regional

conference hosts. The brochures has been passed out during each region conferences. For anyone who need more ILDA brochures, please contact the Deaf Lutheran Editor... DL1997ILDA@aol.com. Use subject line: **ILDA Brochure....**



ILDA Publicity Video Project

We plan to cancel our contract with the video producing company in Pittsburgh that was supposed to complete our project three years ago. Greg Desroisers has recommended one company in his hometown, Vancouver BC Canada and we are now working on a new contract.

Archival Papers

I have three large boxes full with ILDA old papers and publications. One of them is an original copy of ILDA Minutes of 1971, which Mr. De Meyere gave to me a few years ago. If you have any old ILDA letters, please send them to me. My address is: **Alice Hagemeyer, 2930 Craiglawn Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904-1816**. ILDA indeed has a very interesting history we all should cherish AND share with the public.

2003 ILDA Right Hand Award...

By the time you dear readers receive this issue of the DEAF LUTHERAN, less than a year will remain before we gather again for the 17th biennial convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association in Minneapolis, MN.

Since 1977, the ILDA has awarded its prestigious RIGHT HAND AWARD to no fewer than thirteen individuals who have demonstrated meritorious service to their congregations, regions and the national organization which is in keeping with the wonderful Christian example of Mr. Uriel C. Jones, an Educator at the Tennessee School for the Deaf, for which the award has been named.

The ILDA is requesting that nominations for this award to be presented at the 2003 convention at Minneapolis be received no later than June 15th, 2003. Next year's winner will be chosen with the board in executive session and the name of the recipient will be a closely guarded secret until the announcement on Saturday evening during the banquet.

With so many good examples of Christian service, the selection process is never an easy one and next year's task is expected to be just as difficult. Nevertheless, the cooperation from our churches and regions is deeply appreciated and expected.

Completed nomination forms should be submitted to **Lester Ahls, Chair, 1004 Cherrywood Dr., Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1614.**

Right Hand nomination forms can be found on ILDA's web site: <http://lcmsdeaf.org/ilda/UCJones/UCJones.html>



ILDA Necrology...

Greeting in our Lord!

The 17th Biennial convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association is coming up fast! It seems like it was only yesterday we were meeting together in Indianapolis. Next year's convention will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota on the dates of July 3, 4, 5, and 6 at the Minneapolis Airport Hilton.

This letter is a request that you provide me with the names, ages, and dates and locations of ILDA members who have passed away since the last convention in Indianapolis. As Chairperson of the ILDA Necrology Committee, this information will be shared with our membership during a brief memorial service during the convention to remember our friends whom have been called home by our Lord.

I would appreciate receiving your responses no later than June 15th, 2003 so that I may prepare my report to the convention body. It is also possible that a Necrology list may be included in the Convention Proceedings, so the report should be as complete as possible.

Blessings on your work for our Lord and many thanks for your anticipated cooperation in this important project.

In Our Master's Service,
Diane L. Francisco, Chairperson, ILDA Necrology Committee
10004 E. Mission, Spokane, WA 99206-3938
TTY: 1-509-922-3380 FAX: 1-509-922-5026
e-mail: sweetmummie@hotmail.com

New ILDA Officer Nominations...

Please submit names for new 2003-05 ILDA officers to: **ILDA Officer Nomination, Richard Norton, 5801 W Fitzhugh Rd., Dripping Springs, TX 78620.**

Any questions about nominations, please contact Richard at: RENTEX@hotmail.com.

Visiting Beverley: LCMS Reverend Bill Wrede Travels to Beverley Minster

Approximately 1300 years ago, Englishman John of Beverley became the first man in recorded history to teach the Deaf to read and speak. Today, his important work and his legacy are carried on in Deaf schools and churches all over the world. Paying tribute to this man and his work, Reverend William Wrede, Deaf minister of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Atlantic District and Mill Neck Manor Chaplain, spent a day in the small town of Beverley, in northeast England, during his recent respite to Great Britain and Scotland earlier this year.

Beverley is home to the Beverley Minster, a place of worship and parish of grand gothic design founded by John of Beverley, once the Bishop of York, circa 700 AD. Aside from being the first recorded Deaf educator, John of Beverley also developed a manual alphabet for use in Deaf work. He used the Minster as a retreat for periods of prayer and is buried in its nave. John of Beverley's works and miracles were recorded by the Venerable Bede, an Anglo-Saxon historian, in 734 AD.

This was Rev. Wrede's second trip to Beverley Minster. Familiar with the Mill Neck Manor connection to John of



Beverley Minster is a place of worship and prayer of grand Gothic design. A John of Beverley Chapel, named in honor of this patron saint of the Deaf, is located on the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf campus.

Beverley through its chapel and the medal awarded to distinguished workers with the Deaf community, Rev. Wrede first visited Beverley in 1998 to explore its history. "It's a great little village - very peaceful and quiet. There are unlabeled statues of John of Beverley all over the town. The Minster is beautiful, huge and so old and well kept. They work very hard on keeping the place preserved," said Rev. Wrede. The current building, built in 1170, is the third church built on the original site.

On September 14, 1958, a chapel inside the Mill Neck Manor House was dedicated and named to honor the work of John of Beverley. Also in 1958, the Mill Neck Manor Board of Trustees commissioned internationally renowned sculptor-artist Donald DeLue to create the John of Beverley Medal, awarded in recognition of accomplishments which directly affect and positively improve the lives of the Deaf.

As a member of the Friends of Beverley Minster, Rev. Wrede traveled to Beverley to literally "pay his dues" to the organization. He also met with the Vicar, attended the Choral Evensong service, had "fish and chips" and spent some time with the congregation's youth group on his way back to York.

Each Spring, the Minster hosts a festival in honor of John of Beverley. In Spring 2003, Rev. Wrede hopes to bring a small delegation of Deaf Americans to visit with Deaf English parishioners. "The Vicar invited me to come back and bring people so that the Deaf of two countries can meet," said Chaplain Wrede. He said that there would be a special translated service, but also noted that the British use a different sign language than Americans. Nevertheless, given its historical context, the meeting and continued relationship between Mill Neck Manor and the Beverley Minster will be significant in uniting Deaf across the world.

Minneapolis 2003 ILDA Convention Update...

We have been very busy getting our things in order to plan our convention at the Hilton Airport Hotel near the Mall of America and are making great progress. Ads and booster contributions for the program book have been starting to come in, so a reminder for all of you and your churches to please help support our program book for the 2003 ILDA convention.

We are adding the new JR ILDA registration form and an information sheet in this issue. The JR ILDA theme is **"On My Cross."** It will have many great programs/activities for the age 7 - 18 group. We are fortunate to have Sara McKinney, who was the mission volunteer at Macau, as our JR ILDA coordinator.

We will have the daycare program for the age 0-6 group. Be sure to check the line on your ILDA registration form if you need more information or registration forms for the daycare 0-6 group. We will send you the specific forms to fill out.

Please remember that all of the information and forms are available on the convention website: hometown.aol.com/ildamp1/home/html Check it regularly for the most up-to-date information.

Many of you have concerns about the tour and transportation. We made plans easy for you. The tour and the shuttle bus service to the Mall of America is FREE, except for your meals, selections of attractions and shopping there. Also the hotel shuttle bus service from and to the airport is FREE!

Please do not use the Hilton Hotel registration form that was printed in the last issue of the Deaf Lutheran. We had to make some changes to it. **Please use the hotel registration form that was mailed in a packet of information to all the deaf churches in September.** Please ask your pastor or congregational president for a copy of that form or get a copy of it from the website. Thanks!

We have made arrangements for those who fly Northwest or Continental Airlines to receive up to a 10% discount.

Information is available in the last issue of the *Deaf Lutheran* or on the convention website.

Our host committee wants to thank you for your generous donations to support our convention expenses. For those who haven't yet given a donation, please consider making one to ensure a good turn out to make our convention a success. Now we are awaiting your ILDA registrations. You know that time is fast approaching because the convention is coming soon. More to come in the next issue.

Mark Johnson, Chairman (MarkLinda6@aol.com)

*Hilton
Minneapolis/
St. Paul
Airport*



2003 Jr. ILDA Information...

(11/01/2002)

Jr. ILDA Coordinator We are pleased to have Sara McKinney as our Jr. ILDA coordinator. Many of you may know her with her mission work at Macau, a project that is part of the ILDA Missions Project. Sara will bring her wealth of experience to provide a great program and activities for your child.

Registration Please fill out the registration form for each person. The deadline to send the 2003 Jr. ILDA Registration form is May 30, 2003. Make check/money order payable to "2003 ILDA/Prince of Peace". Include a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want a receipt. Mail Jr. ILDA registration forms to: **Linda Johnson, 8510 Cedar Lake Ct., Morristown, MN 55052.** Any questions? Call Linda Johnson at 507-685-4433 TTY or e-mail: MarkLinda6@aol.com

CANCELLATION POLICY (new for the 2003 Jr. ILDA convention)

After June 1, 2003 no refunds will be given for any reason except illness (must have letter from your doctor), hospitalization (letter from your doctor or hospital), death (send obituary notice), or death in the family (send obituary notice)

30 days or less..... no refund 61-90 days 50% refund

31- 60 days..... 25% refund 91-120 days..... 75% refund

Child's meal prices will be 2/3rd's the price of an adult meal. The price for age 5-11 is already fixed on the Jr. ILDA Registration form. For age 0 - 4 the meals are free. If you need more information please contact Linda Johnson at 507-685-4433 TTY or e-mail: MarkLinda6@aol.com

T-shirt information Please check the size of T-shirt for your child. It is free.

Special Outings are planned for all age 7 - 18 children. The outings will have chaperones to supervise the groups:

Valleyfair = admissions are free for the age 12-18 group. The schedule will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on the Fourth of July. Please bring extra money for meals, games and souvenirs.

Mall of America = The tour will be for the age 7-18 on Saturday, July 5. Please bring extra money for meals and other expenses. The Mall of America has nice food courts, Camp Snoopy (an indoor amusement center), Underwater World, Legoland, and hundreds of retail stores.

Nature Walk and more = This is for the 7-11 age group. On Friday, July 4, there will be exciting Bible Study projects, craft activities, movies, a nature walk overlooking the Minnesota River Valley across the hotel.

Surprise Outing = This will be an exciting moment that we will not tell you for the 7-18 age group. It will be a fun night while the parents are at the banquet.

Swimming at the Hilton Hotel It would be best to be supervised by parents at anytime.

Web page for 2003 ILDA convention

hometown.aol.com/ildamp1/home.html

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