



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Summer, 2003

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 95, No. 2

## DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



*Rev. Mark Anderson,  
ILDA Pastoral Advisor*

### Our Future belongs to Christ!

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

The past few years have been very interesting for us to observe on how all those events have been going on, job-wise, economy-wise, family-wise, nation-wise, world-wise, etc., etc. and so on and so on. King Solomon says: Nothing under the sun is new. Whatever seems to be so new to us is actually very old as such had been happened already in the past ever since the Fall when Adam ate that forbidden fruit. True that Eve took the first bite, but actually the ultimate blame is on Adam, not Eve, as far as the Holy Word is concerned.

As history shows over again and again, as each time when a new generation replaces an old generation, it seems that all things which this new generation sees for the first time are considered as "brand new and had never occurred before in their lifetimes." Such can be very nervous and cause us to fear with lots of negative thoughts popping up in our minds on whether those "new" events can create tremendous changes in our lifestyles to which we are so used. Thus, fears for our future.

Yes, many of us could say that we could not do anything about our future and hope for the very best that all things could work out just fine at the end. Still, many others could say in a very convincing and bold manner: "Have faith! The Lord God has everything under control" whenever they talk with someone in public; yet when they get alone at home, they usually become very nervous and nibble on their fingernails in fear.

The Lord Jesus Christ our King understands our fears – He experienced all those fears when He was a man on earth, yet He totally trusted in His Father when things went "all wrong" for (against) Jesus at the end. The Word says that He lived in perfect

obedience of the Lord God, even to death. Furthermore, Jesus says to us: Do not worry about what you will eat or drink – do not worry about tomorrow as we live day by day. He will take care of us day by day.

If we are not that convinced enough that our Heavenly Father takes care of us as His Children, the Holy Spirit encourages us to read chapters four and five in the Book of Revelation that He does just that as He stays true to and faithful with His Word! He makes it very clear that His Word will, and does, not ever be returned to Him in vain. After all, Christ Jesus is not only our King, but also our High Priest. He faithfully and fervently prays from His eternal Throne of the Universe for us, as His brothers and sisters, that we remain strong in faith to the end that He does indeed knows perfectly each of our future. Jesus walks with us and keeps us on the path all the way to the Gate of Heaven, no matter how things are happening with us here on the earth. He says: Be at peace for I am the Lord.

I end this article with the same words of divine assurance we hear at the end of our worship:

The Lord blesses you and takes care of you.

The Lord's face shines upon you and shows mercy to you.

The Lord pays attention on you and gives you His peace.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

*ILDA Pastoral Advisor*

*Announcement from Rev. Anderson... I have submitted my letter of resignation as the Missionary-at-large in the NID Deaf Ministry effective April 30, 2003. I am to begin my new job with the Office of Rehabilitation Service of the Illinois Department of Human Services on May 1, 2003. However, I do plan, and so desire, on continuing as a guest pastor for the three Deaf congregations.*



**PENTECOST**

June 8th, 2003

# 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, this is my last report to you all as my term as president will expire next July. I want to express my deepest thanks to God for my lasting health. I am pleased that at my age that I have been able to fulfill my duties as President of the ILDA for the last two years. As President, I am blessed that I am a part of ILDA. The process of being a leader is challenging and rewarding experience. I am learning to be a better leader. Thank you for being supportive and patient with me.

The great news to announce to you all is that ILDA shall have hosts for the 2007 and 2009 conventions to be held in Baltimore, Maryland and in Rochester, New York respectively. Of course, both bids will have to have their applications approved by the general meeting in Minnesota next July.

There shall be several sad moments to announce in the board of directors meeting. We shall have hard decisions to accept or not. You, all the readers, know that the local deaf

churches will be separate from the LCMS and be on their own. The national church body, LCMS seems will no longer offer any support to ILDA. Rev. Roger Altenberger's position as Counselor for Deaf Missions will end as of June 1, 2003. This is in conjunction with the necessary budget cuts and the restructuring of the entire missions department. There will be no more specialized counselors is their understanding. He and his wife shall not attend the 2003 convention and there is a task force chairman who shall tell all the facts of the deaf missions being cut in the board of directors and general meetings.

The 2001-2003 Deaf Mission Project Goals is very embarrassing and I am asking you one more time to ask your churches, organizations and clubs to contribute more to reach the goal of \$47,500. We have only three months (one and half after this newsletter is mailed) to go before the big ILDA convention. I wish to welcome all of you and invite you to enjoy the good times and fellowship.

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

*James Swalley, 2001-2003 ILDA President*

## From the Missions Counselor



*Rev. Roger Altenberger,  
Counselor for Missions*

March 13, 2003

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I want to thank everyone for their prayers during the time of my mother's illness and death. We rejoice that God has given her the full promise and that she is now joined with her Lord forever and reunited with her husband of 51 years. She was able to be independent to the end and remained in the house she and Dad built.

This information was originally sent out via EC-Deaf, but I'm repeating it here on paper for the benefit of those without email.

I am reporting here that the national position of Facilitator for New Deaf Missions will end on or about June 1st this year. The Task Force was notified of this last month and they met here in St. Louis to discuss the future direction of Deaf Missions. There will be no "specialized" facilitators—or "counselors" as they used to be called—here at the synodical office. The Task Force will have responsibility for the EC conference and any other items that might affect everyone. Dr. Scudieri, Director for North American Missions, and I will meet again in May with the task forced to help them determine future directions. I am not certain at this time, how this change will affect the Deaf Institute of Theology since the institute is a joint venture with the St. Louis seminary.

While it is sad to see this come to an end, we must remember that God remains in charge and that He has a great plan for the future. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve in this capacity and hope that in some way I have been able to encourage the continued proclamation

of the Gospel to the Deaf in North America. I do not at this time have any specific plans as to my future but I am confident that God has a plan. God will continue to bless each and everyone of you as He leads you to serve Him in many and various ways. Thanks to all of you for your support, prayers and encouragement over the past two years and I know that we will continue to have contact as we move into whatever God has planned for His Church.

Because of Christ,

*Rev. Roger K. Altenberger,  
Counselor for Deaf Missions*

## The DEAF LUTHERAN

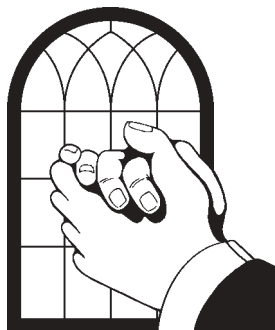
### Summer, 2003

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# Our 75th Anniversary

## Faith Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA...

We had 79 people at Quality Inn in Spokane, Washington on October 5th, 2002. Mr. Lester Ahls, Iowa, was our Master of Ceremonies.

Rev. William Ludwig from Seattle was our Guest Speaker. Also he preached on Sunday too. Mary Mowl and Don Mowl from Pittsburgh, PA gave us beautiful song and speech. I was chairperson and Joan Wilson was my assistant chairperson and others did. Larry Gorton gave us awards for long members of our Faith Lutheran.

We had nice buffet and drama and awards. We did a good job as our team work. Gary Wilson has been long serve for his 14 years of treasurer.

*By Diane L. Francisco  
of Chairperson 75th Anniversary*

"For us the Lord has done great things and we are filled with joy." Psalem 126:3



*75th Anniversary Committee...  
Back row l-r: Mr & Mrs Aukett, Nancy Case, Karen Barr, Elmer Francisco, and Joan Wilson.  
Front row l-r: Larry Gorton, Harriett Wyese, and Gary Wilson. Foreground: Diane Francisco.*

## ILDA Mission Project goal has reached only \$16,064.55.

We still need \$31,435.45 to reach our Mission Project goal of \$47,500 before the convention in MN!



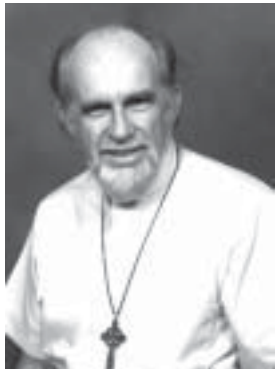
## Rev. Donald Leber

Former ILDA Pastoral Advisor, Rev. Donald Leber, age 65, went home to Jesus on April 12, 2002. He was born in Weehawken, NJ, baptized on October 24, 1937 and confirmed on May 28, 1950 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in North Bergen, NJ. He attended Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Springfield, IL and graduated in 1963.

He has served deaf people his entire career in Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Ohio, Southern California, Nevada, and Arizona. He helped produce a deaf lectionary, hymnals, Bible study materials, video lessons and devotions used by deaf in their churches. He served on national and international boards and committees with the deaf. He established summer camps for deaf children throughout the USA. He promoted deaf awareness with the east and west coast, "Signs of Christmas" signing Christmas carols at various malls as well as Disneyland.

He has served as ILDA Pastoral Advisor for eight years.

He is survived by his wife, Karen and five children, three sons and two daughters, and two grandchildren.



*Rev. Donald Leber,  
1995-99  
ILDA Pastoral Advisor*

## Neal Shockman

Neil A. Shockman, age 71, of Coon Rapids, Minnesota, has entered God's Kingdom on February 17th, 2003. Neal was the catalog or brochure chairperson for ILDA Minneapolis 2003 Convention. The day before he died, he has turned over his brochure duty to another member of the committee. He knew of God's plan and he was ready.



## Lutheran Deaf Ministries, Nebraska District-LCMS...

The Lutheran Deaf Ministries of Nebraska District has closed effective February 28, 2003. This has left three full time workers searching for new employment.

"But more important is to know we will continue to pray for you. And most important is that you know that Jesus will never leave you, and we would want you to always stay close to Jesus."

Pray for Rev. Cory Eckstrom, Rev. Darrel Kois, and Pat Monroe, professional worker.

## Sandstorms...

I am sure that all of you heard about the sandstorm in Iraq (the worst in 100 years some say) and the drenching rain that followed the next day. Our troops were bogged down and couldn't move effectively. The media was already wondering if the troops were in a "quagmire" and dire predictions of gloom and doom came from the left wing media. What they didn't report was that yesterday, after the weather had cleared, the Marine group was mired the worst looked out at the plain they were just about to cross. What did they see?" Hundreds if not thousands of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines had been uncovered by the wind and then washed off by the rain. If they had proceeded as planned, many lives would have been lost. As it was they simply drove around them and let the demolition teams destroy them. Praise be to God's mighty name for protecting our troops. One person once asked George Washington if he thought God was on his side. His reply is reported to be, "it is not that God should be on our side, but that we be on His." P.S. In God we Trust!

*From Seattle, Everett, Tacoma Newsletter May/June*

## News from around the Regions...



## News about our People



### Northwest Region...

Cross of Christ, Edmonton, Canada... **Mr. Fred Klingbeil** has passed away early week February. He designed the church building and the master plan for the Ranch.

Western Washington... Jesus has called home **Victor B. Lyon** on January 29th. He was active in the Church of the Deaf in Montana and Seattle for many years. **Lutheran Deaf Camp - 2003**, Trinity Lutheran Camp, Bigfork, Montana will be held on August 14-17, 2003. Contact Rev. Drummon, 3340 11th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405 for information and reservation.

### Midwest Region...

Calvary, Des Moines... **Ron Merschbrock** and **Ray Houdeshelt** has passed away. Rev. Konkel, Gary Thies, and IDW District working hard to expand their missions. IDW District to begin six ministries (Ames, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Mason City, Osecola, and Red Oak). Visit [www.iowamissions.org](http://www.iowamissions.org) for more information.

### Central Region...

Evangelical Emmanuel Deaf, West Allis, WI... threw a surprised 40th birthday party for **Pastor John Rienke** in January. Many in CR-ILDA region went to **Deaf Ministries Spring Retreat** at Walcamp in Kingston, IL on March 21-23, 2003, hosted by the Northern Illinois Deaf Church. Next retreat will be held on September 26-28, 2003.

### Great Lakes Region...

Christ Deaf, Cleveland... Our Lord, Jesus Christ has called home our faithful **Richard "Dick" Brill**.

Holy Cross, Columbus... **Glenna Case** and **Melissa Seely** has been called home by our Lord, Jesus.

Trinity, Pittsburgh... **GLRC** 51st Annual Conference will be host by Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf on August 29-31, 2003. A weekend of fellowship and Christian Growth.

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## Don't forget...

- ...to get your ILDA registration forms mailed in and hotel reservations made.
- ...to pay your ILDA membership dues.
- ...to pay your Deaf Lutheran newsletter fee.

## Web sites...

ILDA 2003 conventon...

[hometown.aol.com/ildampls/home.html](http://hometown.aol.com/ildampls/home.html)

LCMS Deaf Missions...

[www.lcmsdeaf.org/ilda](http://www.lcmsdeaf.org/ilda)



## 2003 ILDA Convention - Minneapolis, MN Update...

Greetings from Minnesota! Counting down the days until we meet! We are so excited that many have registered to our convention! There are two friendly reminders to those who wish to attend. First, the deadline to register and mail your ILDA registration is on June 1st. If you mail it on June 1st or 2nd, that is fine. Second, the deadline for the Airport Hilton Hotel is on June 12th, midnight, Central Standard time (CST). After that, the hotel room block ends and the price will go up. Room sharing with your friends is cheaper, because many are doing that.

We will have about 8 wonderful booths to learn more about the Lord's work, prayers and devotions, deaf mission projects by Deaf Mission Task Force, Deaf Mission Fund, 2005 ILDA Convention in Canada. Mill Neck Foundation, convention t-shirt sales, and others. The t-shirt will have a state shape of Minnesota with ILDA printed inside on the top left side of the shirt.

A new visual experience will be added with nice real captions and computer/powerpoint presentations with two very large screens. So it will help everyone to see better on what's happening.

We need more sign-ups for the banner, choir, and skit competitions. The deadline has changed to June 15th, not June 1st. There will be cash prizes, ribbons and certificates. This will give you more time to join. No last minute entries are accepted.

For JR ILDA, it only cost \$27.00 to register for children age 7 to 18. The children will have lots of fun activities like free admission for age 12-18 to Valleyfair, an amusement park like Six Flags, free breakfasts on Friday and Saturday, social activities at the Mall of America and in the hotel suite, Bible Studies, and hands-on projects for all ages. If parents bring their children the hotel rooms are free for children age 0-18. However, in order to be prepared with enough staff we really need to know how many children are coming. Please don't register at the last minute at the registration table. Don't miss this great opportunity! It saves parents money, except for shopping and meals at the Mall of

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

# Across the Miles, Pastor Reaches Out to the Deaf

The phrase "all in a day's work" takes on new meaning when you consider the work of Reverend William Wrede. As the Mission Field Developer for Deaf Ministry for the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Wrede splits his week between two New York City churches for the Deaf and Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry, the organization on Long Island's north shore which funds his position. In this role, he provides Deaf people in the metropolitan area with an opportunity to be involved with the church, though Bible study, workshops, counseling and worship. Every other Sunday he visits Lutheran churches in the area to educate parishioners about Mill Neck and to ask for their support, a tradition called "Mill Neck Sundays."

But that's just part of what Wrede does. As he often does, Wrede recently brought his commitment to the local Deaf community to another level. In February, he and 10 parishioners from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Queens visited several towns and villages in England. On a 10-day trip, the group visited the town of Beverley and St. John's Church, founded by St. John of Beverley' the patron saint of the Deaf, who is believed to have healed many people including a Deaf boy.

During their visit in Beverley, the travelers stayed with parishioners of St. John's, who were not Deaf Wrede says that this was an especially fun part of the trip for both the Deaf individuals and the people who were housing them. Both enjoyed each other's company and many stayed up late each night, sharing notes back and forth to communicate.

Next on the itinerary was Harpham, where St. John was born in 640. In Harpham, the group visited another church named for and dedicated to John of Beverley as well as St. John's well, which is believed to date back to the 7th century. It has been said that even in the severest drought, St. John's well never runs out of water.

Visiting Harpham and Beverley was especially meaningful for Wrede. Every three years, Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry awards the John of Beverley Medal, created in 1958 by the internationally renowned sculptor-artist Donald DeLue, to a person or organization in recognition for accomplishments that directly affect and positively improve the lives of Deaf people.

The group was received with a warm reception everywhere they went, Wrede said. In addition to Beverley and Harpham,



*Reverend William Wrede, Mission Field Developer for Deaf Ministry for the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (far left), with parishioners of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Queens at Beverley Minster in Beverely, England. At far right is the Vicar of Beverley Minster, Reverend David Bailey. Wrede and 10 Deaf parishioners from St. Matthew's visited the area in February.*

the group attended services with Deaf parishioners at Lutheran churches in London and Cambridge, and Wrede remarked about how gracious all of the parishioners and church leaders were. "The people were so incredibly accommodating, even when plans had to be changed along the way," Wrede said.

Wrede, who likes to travel, has been to England twice before. This was the first trip, however, in which he traveled with Deaf individuals. "Travel is one of the best classrooms," Wrede believes. "The more we understand the rest of the world and how we are not the center of our universe, the more hope there is that we can all live together in peace."

His travels also taught him to appreciate even more the spiritual resources Deaf people receive here at home. "Deaf people in the United States have more access to religious services and other opportunities than seemed to be the case in England," Wrede said. "We are truly blessed here in the United States."

One organization that understands the need to provide Deaf individuals with an opportunity to experience these services is Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry. Part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, the Foundation provides funds for a variety of ministries with the Deaf throughout the United States and the world in the areas of education, technology and ministry. For more information about Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry, please call (516) 9223880.

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America and Valleyfair. We love to have children with us.

There will be exciting workshops. We hope you will learn and enjoy new ways and experiences to spread God's Word and help your home church. Rev. Bill Wrede will give a wonderful presentation about his work and involvement with 9/11 in New York with picture slides. Rev. Rodney Rynearson will give a great workshop about leadership. The workshops are free to participate.

We can't wait to see all of you July 3-6. We will have a wonderful time to meet new and old friends again! There is also free shuttle service to Mall of America from the Hilton Hotel and free shuttle service from the Airport to the Hilton Hotel. Follow the "Hotel Shuttles" signs from the baggage claim area. If you have any questions, feel free to email us - MarkLinda6@aol.com

See you soon!

## GLRC Winter Camp...

On February 14-16, Great Lakes Regional Winter Camp at Camp Pioneer, Angola, NY brought refreshing experience to many people that needed rest from their work stress and others. The devotions, songs, and the praise and worship service brought the people closer to the Lord. The theme was "Walking in the Snow." fun afternoon activity got the people to be Unstressed out by playing in the snow. Snow games created a lot of laughs as we played. It was a sweet refreshing. Even for one person forgot his medication, God took care of him the whole time. Praise God for His goodness and cares. We, three drivers of Columbus got home safe in the snow storm Sunday night. Praise God again for His protection. God is GOOD!!

*From The Victory of Christ, Feb-April 2003*

# The DEAF LUTHERAN

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This Club is open to any member who wish to help with the operating expenses of the ILDA Board of Directors. Add \$20 per person per 2-year. (This is an addition to membership due.)

**God's 1,000 Club @ \$20 per person.** Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$\_\_\_\_\_.00

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