



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Spring, 2004

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 96, No. 1

DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Mark Seeger,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

Something to Think About When You are Brushing Your Teeth

Recently in each of our Wednesday and Thursday religion classes for the students at Texas School for the Deaf, we asked for a student who was a skilled artist to volunteer to come to the front and draw a picture for us. Several students are good at drawing, so several were willing to volunteer. We picked one student in each class to come forward, and asked that student to draw a picture, then handed the student a dinner plate. The student waited for us to give a marker, but instead, we gave a tube of toothpaste. The student had to draw a picture on the plate using toothpaste. We had different pictures from different students. The elementary student drew a fish. The middle school student drew a smiley face and the high school student drew a picture of a monkey signing "ILY." After the pictures were done, we asked other students to volunteer, too, but they didn't know what they were volunteering to do. When they came to the front, we told

them that their jobs were to put the toothpaste back in the tubes! Yikes! They tried, they really tried, but as you know, it is impossible to put toothpaste back in a tube after it has been squeezed out of the tube.

What was the spiritual lesson in this? Well, if we say something bad or hurtful to another person, it is impossible to pull the words back. Once the words are out, they can't be brought back. If we gossip about someone, we can't undo the gossip. If we hurt someone's feelings, we can't "unhurt" them. Sure, we can apologize and ask for forgiveness and the person can forgive us, but the words aren't erased from the memory. We need to be so careful about what we say. We need to think before we say something hurtful or negative about someone.

In the Bible, we can see how people often insulted Jesus, said evil things about Him, said painful things to Him. What did He do? He went to the cross. Even on the cross, the insults continued, but because of His great love for us, He took them. As He died on that cross, He was dying for you and me. He was dying to pay the penalty for every evil word we have said, every evil thought we have had, every evil thing we have done.

We need to be careful of the things we say, but if we slip and do say something that hurts another person, we need to ask that person for forgiveness and we need to ask God for forgiveness and ask Him to make us stronger so that we can live without hurting others.

Don't let your words be hurtful, but let them be kind, helpful and loving ... and let your words praise God and share His love with others. Remember what the Holy Spirit instructed Paul to write in Ephesians 4:29 *"Don't say anything that would hurt another person. Instead, speak only what is good so that you can give help wherever it is needed. That way, what you say will help those who hear you."*

Pastor Mark Seeger,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor



April 4, 2004

Coming...

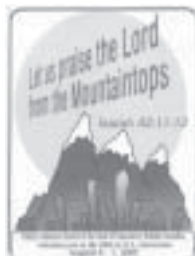
2005 ILDA Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

18th Biennial Convention
August 4-7, 2005

Theme: *"Let us praise the Lord from the mountaintops."* Isaiah 42:11-12



April 11, 2004



The President's Report...



*Pam Kane, ILDA
2003-2005 President*

Greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. To the International Lutheran Deaf Association and to the Readers of the Deaf Lutheran.

Spring is around the corner, we often think about things that are growing new each day, How about us? Are we growing closer to God everyday? This is the time we should look into our hearts and ask how we can serve the Lord better. What can we do to get more young people into our church? Fun social night or Potluck after worship service. There lots of ideas floating around somewhere. Share with them about Jesse's love, Tell them about ILDA and the Mission Project

Goals. These are wonderful ways to witness to them about their Savior.

This year there are several Regional Conferences happening I encourage you all to attend they have wonderful Bible study workshops I find it very rewarding and uplifting. Share ideas with each other how you can serve the Lord better. I guaranteed you the Lord will bless you much.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all always.

Pam Kane, ILDA President 2003-2005

Editorial...



Greeting everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Melissa Eichler. I grew up in Bucyrus, Ohio, an hour north of Columbus. I was a member of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church for all of my childhood life til I graduated from high school. I went to National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester, NY where I obtained two degrees in Accounting and Office Technology in 1993.

I'm married to my wonderful husband, Gerald Eichler, for 6 years and we have two beautiful children, Garrett who is 5 years old and Mallory who is 3 years old. While we lived in Fremont, Ohio, we went to Good Shepherd for the Deaf Lutheran Church in Toledo for two years. We live in Columbus, Ohio for 4 1/2 years. I work two part-time jobs, Production Assistant at Deaf Initiatives and Support Service Provider (SSP) for a Deaf-Blind client.

While I was at GLRC conference in October 2003, Larry Ginter and Pam Kane were looking for Deaf Lutheran Editor. I happened to be interested

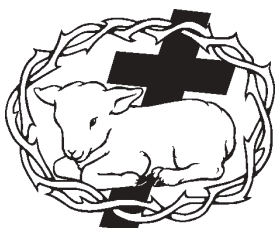
in becoming an editor because I have had experiences in computer for many years and have some free times while my children are in school. I have thought about it for a while then I decided to pay a visit to David Brown's house to observe the duties. I have accepted the position which is not yet official. This is my first newsletter with David training me.

God Bless You!

Melissa Eichler, Temporary Editor



Melissa "Missy" Eichler



ILDA's Web Site...
www.DeafJesus.org

2005 Convocation...

Kaiserhof Retreat Center, Tomball, TX, Martin Luther King weekend. Hosted by Holy Three-in-One Lutheran Church, Houston, TX. Limited to 100 by invitation.



Coming in Fall 2004 Issue...

Registration forms for 2005 ILDA convention and hotel in Vancouver, Canada.

The DEAF LUTHERAN

Spring, 2004

Official publication of the International Lutheran Deaf AsTMsociation and the Board of Mission, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, published quarterly by Adam Pangrace & Sons Division, Fairview Park, OH.

Subscription Fee: \$10.00 per year. Please send all subscription fees and address changes to: Larry D. Ginter, Business Manager, 4134 Sarasota Dr., Parma, OH 44134-6242. FAX: 440-885-1020. e-mail: LarryDGinter@aol.com

Please send articles, stories and pictures to: Melissa Eichler, Editor, 3169 Palomar Avenue, Columbus, OH 43231. e-mail: TheDeafLutheran@yahoo.com

Deaf Youth Service Trip...



Twenty-nine youth and adults from Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Austin, Texas, went to California to perform service projects for those in need. In Lancaster, we worked in the food and clothing banks at Grace Resources. Over two hundred bags of groceries were prepared for families who needed food, and hundreds of items of clothing were sorted and displayed for the people who need clothing and shoes. In the Los Angeles area, we assembled 3,000 duffle bags containing blankets, hygiene items, toys, books and other items for abused and neglected children and we made more than two hundred blankets to be given to children. The trip wasn't all work, as we were able to spend a day at Disneyland and an afternoon at the beach. We worshipped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf, where we also enjoyed a meal and fellowship. The day before we left California, we cleaned the church for them, then slept on the floor for our last night before flying home.

Our next service project will be at the end of June & early July 2004, to Wisconsin, to the cities of Milwaukee, Madison and Delavan. All deaf teenagers are invited to participate, so for more information, please contact Pastor Mark Seeger at: MarkJLCD@AOL.com or at **Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf, 1307 Newton Street, Austin, Texas. 78704.**



Putting together the "My Stuff" bags for abused and neglected children.



The entire group of kids and adults who went to California.



Working in the clothing bank at Grace Resources.



Working in the food bank at Grace Resources. Look at all those Krispy Kreme donuts!

Alaska Cruise...



Bon Voyage!

A few of the members of ILDA have asked about a cruise to Alaska after the ILDA Convention in Vancouver in 2005. A cruise is being planned but we need to know an approximate number of people who may want to go. If you are interested in a cruise to Alaska after the 2005 ILDA Convention, please let Pastor Mark Seeger know. E-Mail him at MarkJLCD@AOL.com or write to him at **1307 Newton Street, Austin, TX 78704.**

Info from Canada...

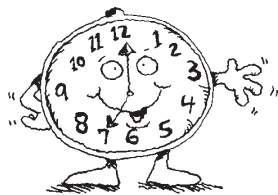
2005 ILDA Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada will be held on August 4-7, 2005. Our theme is *"Let us praise the Lord from the mountaintops."* Mark this date on your calendar!

If you have any questions or ideas, you can send my new e-mail address to: ldesrosiers1@shaw.ca

News from around the Regions...



News about our People



Daylight Saving Time
April 4, 2004

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

Northwest Region...

Cross of Christ, Edmonton, Canada... four DIT students have completed and received their Level 1 certificates in September 2003. **Mission Festival:** Special emphasis-bringing the Gospel to more Deaf persons (preparing for the "Ablaze" program starting this summer to contact 100,000,000 people-Deaf and hearing-in the next decade). The Good News of Jesus is that important that we want everyone to have the opportunity to experience his love and forgiveness.

Western Washington, Seattle... **Pastor Roger Blesi** has received a call from Redeemer Lutheran Church in John Day, Oregon.

Midwest Region...

Iowa District East... **Lela Mae Schladetzky** has entered eternal life with her Lord and Savior on Christmas Day.

Calvary, Des Moines... God has called home **Harriet Van Mersbergen** and **Esther Fairlie. Marvin and Patricia Tuttle** have celebrated their 50th year anniversary.

Minnesota... **Julia Hefley** has entered God's Kingdom on October 11, 2003.

Central Region...

South Wisconsin... **Rev. Bud Palmer** has lost his dear grandmother and mother within two weeks in October 2003. Jesus has called **Alice Walsvik** home on November 13, 2003.

Central Regional ILDA... Conference will be held on May 20-23, 2004 in Madison, WI. For more information or questions, contact Dawn Polzin at (608) 222-6509 tty, or email DLPolzin@msn.com.

Great Lakes Region...

Christ, Cleveland... **Doris Moore** has entered the home of Jesus Christ in January. **Mary Mowl** had her triple bypass heart surgery on January 20 and she is doing really well. **Pastor Gary Lawson's** father, William of Richmond, VA, passed away on February 11th and pray for his comfort family.

Good Shepherd, Toledo... Our Lord Jesus has called **Viola Proshak** home on December 4, 2003.

Attention!

Our new editor, Melissa Eichler, would like to receive your church's newsletter so she can look up your church's news for this column. Please send newsletters to: **Melissa Eichler, Deaf Lutheran Editor, 3169 Palomar Ave., Columbus, OH 43231.**
Thank you.

Eugene Charles Hughes

Eugene Charles Hughes, 69, Olathe, KS, passed away on January 11, 2004, at home. Memorial service will be 11 a.m. Friday, January 16, at First Baptist Church of Olathe, 2024 East 151st St. Memorial contributions may be made to OMC Hospice or Deaf Program at First Baptist Church of Olathe, in lieu of flowers. Eugene was born August 13, 1934 in Piedmont, MO. He graduated from MO School for the Deaf in 1954 where he fell in love with his wife, Melba, of almost 50 years. He was ordained as a pastor in 1980 in Virginia. His last devotion serving God on the earth was as the pastor for the deaf program at First Baptist Church of Olathe, KS for six years. Before this, he was the founder and pastor of the Deaf Missionary Program in West Hampton, VA. He also worked in numerous fields as a teacher of the deaf and owner of dry cleaning businesses in Virginia and Missouri. Eugene was very devoted in his work serving the Lord. He touched so many hearts in many places. He talked about the Lord to many strangers on a daily basis. Survivors include his wife, Melba of almost 50 years of the home; daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Lee Kramer of Ijamsville, MD; daughter and son-in-law, Patty Hughes and Mike Culligan of Valencia, CA; daughter, Mary Hughes of Lenexa, KS; son and daughter-in-law, Billy and Rena Hughes of Boyds, MD; grandchildren, Ethan, Jena and Dalton Kramer, Jake and Iris Culligan, Paul and Shana Daniels and Calvin Hughes; brothers, Ronald and Norman Hughes; sister, Debbie Strickland; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

"God's 1,000 Club" ...

Back some years ago it became obvious that if the ILDA Board of Directors (BOD) were to continue as a viable unit, the BOD needs to have funds to operate. The ILDA collected money for mission projects but had no administrative monies of its own. People and congregations donated monies for the mission projects. We do not want BOD expenses to be taken from the mission projects.

What are some of the board expenses?

The By-Laws say that the BOD can meet once a year. The BOD also meets for several days prior to the ILDA convention. God's One Thousand Club (GOTC) monies is used to help pay for the travel, lodging, and meeting expenses for the BOD. The BOD also incurs expenses for communication and other office costs. GOTC helps pay for those meetings also.

GOTC helps to preserve ILDA Mission Projects from being diverted to administrative costs. Any surplus from the GOTC funds is carried over to the next bi-ennium. Again GOTC helps BOD to operate as a BOD and frees the mission projects to be funded by you, the members of ILDA.

By Rev. Jerry Munz

We have moved...

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Minneapolis, MN has moved to a new location. The new address is: **3245 New Brighton Road, Arden Hills, MN 55112**. The new phone number is 651-633-6778 (tty only), 651-633-2402 (voice). Many ILDA Board members are familiar with this location because the Board meetings were held there prior to the ILDA convention in July 2003. We are sharing space with Trinity Lutheran Church of Lake Johanna. Our worship services are now at 11 a.m. with Fellowship Hour/Bible Study at 10 a.m.

The members of Prince of Peace are very happy to be in their new location. Although the congregation became vacant when Pastor Daryl Gehlbach took a call to Trinity (same church named above) the members of Trinity graciously gave permission for Pastor Gehlbach to serve Prince of Peace as their vacancy pastor. Deaf Ministry continues in the Minnesota South District with preaching stations in Faribault, Waconia and the new location in Arden Hills.

If any of you are visiting in the Minneapolis/St. Paul MN area, we welcome you to join us for Sunday worship at Prince of Peace.

New Call of Duty...

I have accepted the call to Redeemer Lutheran Church in John Day, Oregon and 1st. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burns, Oregon.

I want to thank each and every one of you for giving me an opportunity to minister to you. Even though, I am going to a different congregation, God still continues to love you and He is with you. Perhaps I succeeded in some ways, and perhaps I failed in other ways. But we know that the seeds that I sowed while I was with you were not wasted. The Lord himself will bring them to fruit in his time.

We all have some hurdles to overcome. I have to overcome the transition from Deaf ministry to hearing ministry. You have to overcome the fact that I won't be here for you starting in mid-January. But neither you nor I are alone because the Lord is with us.

My prayer for you is that you build strength from one another. That you would make every effort to continue as a congregation. Deaf ministry in the LCMS is becoming more precious every day. Don't be afraid to be a leader. Always treat visitors the way you would want to be treated if you were visiting. Always keep Jesus Christ the center of your faith. Have a heart of a servant, both to one another and to those outside the church. Pastor Ludwig has taken my place at least for a while.

It has been a pleasure to serve you as your Pastor. I had many, many joys while I was with you. The disappointments have been few. I will keep you all close to my heart! Deaf ministry will always be with me where I go. I will do what I can to keep Deaf ministry alive no matter where I go. Thank you for many wonderful years.

Pastor Roger D. Blessi

By-Law Change...

Section B - Changes

1. The Board of Directors, by an affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority may add, delete, change, modify or alter any of the articles in the Handbook as they believe necessary **without convention approval**.

2. Each section cannot be changed more than one time in any calendar year and all changes shall be printed in *The Deaf Lutheran*.

Surprise Engagement!

Tim Johnston, ILDA 2003-2005 Secretary, on December 1st, 2003 has announced his engagement to Katie Breedlove. Wedding date has not yet been announced.

Convocation on Deaf Ministry III...

"Moses, My Servant Is Dead, " and That Leaves You and Me. Vision Beyond 2000: Looking in the Future With Jesus

Anyone who has been active in Deaf ministry in the LCMS will know what the two titles above mean. The first title is the theme for the first Convocation on Deaf Ministry, held in 1981 in Madison, Wisconsin. The second title is the second Convocation on Deaf Ministry, held in Kansas City, Kansas in 1997. Our next convocation will be January 14-16, 2005, near Houston, Texas. One possible theme for the next convocation will be *Passing the Baton: The Next Generation Takes Hold*, based on the Bible verse from 2 Timothy 2:2, *"What you heard me say before many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others."*

Because we are limited to 100 people, Convocation participants are by chosen by invitation only. Letters will soon be going out to all the Deaf ministries in the LCMS, asking the congregations to nominate "faithful people" to be participants in this convocation. What is a convocation? It is a meeting to plan the future and set goals. We will be setting goals for the future of Deaf ministry in the LCMS. For more information, contact Pastor Paul Tessaro at RevPT@juno.com or Pastor Mark Seeger at MarkJLCD@AOL.com.



Mission Project Goal...

2003-2005 Mission Project Goal

The Board has adopted \$26,000 as ILDA's 2003-2005 mission project goal. Erika Sipchen will continue to serve as mission project chairperson.

Please send all mission project donations to:
Erika Sipchen, ILDA Mission Project, 11911 N. Centaurus Place, Oro Valley, AZ 85737-3456.

Make checks payable to:
ILDA Mission Project 2003-2005.

Ghana Evangelism Trip...

Around January 7th, 2004 Rev. Bud Palmer and Rev. John Reinke has traveled to Ghana, West Africa for their mission to Deaf there.

You feel Africa! You feel Ghana in that heat! That blast of stovetop and oven heat! That prickly instant and massive sweat! That sweat begins pouring out of your forehead and body! Ugh! That blast of heat that almost knocks you off your feet. Whew! Ghana is hot and IT AIN'T A DRY HEAT!

The heavy jungle dampness hung in the late night air. The first step into the Accra International Immigration Building as I (Rev. Palmer) walk through the opening double doors, I could feel, smell, and taste it...Ghana. Ghana is on the gold coast...one of the old time slaver ports for the Dutch, Portuguese, and English until it was outlawed. Ghana, a colonial haven that gained her independence in 1957 from England. Ghana is the "Land of Gold" and formerly ruled by the powerful Ashanti tribe. Ghana is a country located under the underbelly of the African Continent. Her southern border kisses the coast rich in frothy Atlantic seas with thousands of gulls, fishing boats, and shantytowns. You can hear the sounds of the seaport gulls in the name her capital city, Accra. Ghana reminds me of what the pioneer days of America must have been like. She is bustling with business...her streets are jammed with commerce...everyone is on the hustle.



Gretel the Parrot.



Girl wearing Pastor Reinke's hat.



Pastor Reinke with some of the Deaf students.



Little girl being shy from white men.



Pastor Palmer with some of the Deaf students.

During the daytime we have two classes – the Pastor Class and the student story classes – teaching them how to teach the stories.

Then at night we have the Pastor Class and we have started an Evangelist class. 7 students were here tonight studying the Large Catechism with the TEE material.

Classes have begun at the Deaf Schools, so some of our students from last time (late summer 2003) have already gone back to school. Some will leave this Friday to begin classes. We have average of 21 who are coming regularly for the classes.

Our goal is to have these Deaf work together. They will teach the others on Sunday mornings, teach at the schools where they are attending, and travel to teach the younger students at other Deaf Schools.

In one class we have begun teaching the group of Evangelists and 1 or 2 of the leaders with the Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) Ordination tract Classes. The ELCG President, Dr. Fynn, has agreed to Ordain the men after they have finished the DIT classes. We have taught the classroom sessions while we were here, then they have done the weekly homework and have send it to us via email.

Rev. Bud and Rev. John have arrived safely home to the good old USA around January 23rd, 2004. Smile!



The new baptized Christians with the Deaf Evangelists, Ernest and George.



Pastors Reinke and Palmer with the Deaf men who are in the DIT program in Ghana.



Above: group photos.



left: Deaf Fellowship.



right: Classroom.



left: Learning God's Word.



right: Electric wirings hanging from ceiling.



left & right: Playing basketball/taking a break.



Storage boxes for Bibles.



The DEAF LUTHERAN

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH
PERMIT NO. 1471

Larry D. Ginter, Business Manager
4134 Sarasota Drive
Parma, OH 44134-6242



Spring is coming!

**For D/L
Subscription**

Please select: Renewal New

Cut out and fill in this coupon, enclose your check or money order of \$10.00 for one year's subscription payable to *The Deaf Lutheran* and mail to:

**Larry D. Ginter
D/L Business Manager
4134 Sarasota Drive
Parma, OH 44134-6242**

Attach mailing label or fill in:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
e-mail: _____
Phone/Fax: _____

Thank you for your subscription.

ILDA Membership Due

Membership for two years.

Please select: Renewal New
Please select: Active Member Associate Member Supporting Member

Open to any communicant members in a congregation or field of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or The Lutheran Church-Canada.

Membership Due @ \$20 per person. Qty. _____ x \$20 = \$_____.00

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

Please make your check or money-order payable to: **ILDA TREASURER** and mail to: **Jim Sipehen, 11911 N. Centaurus Place, Oro Valley, AZ 85737-3456.**

Your Name _____
Spouse Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone/Fax/e-mail: _____

Thank you for your support.

Total enclosed \$_____00