



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Christmas, 2006

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 98, No. 4

DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Mark Seeger,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

Don't Be Afraid!

When you read the story about the birth of Jesus in the Bible in Matthew 1 and Luke 1 & 2, four times you will read the words, *"Don't be afraid!"*

In Matthew 1:20, the angel is talking to Joseph, telling him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife.

In Luke 1:13, he is talking to Zacharias in the temple.

In Luke 1:30, he is talking to Mary.

In Luke 2:10, he is talking to the shepherds.

He talks to different people with different education levels at different times about different situations. But still, the message is the same, *"don't be afraid."*

When the angel says don't be afraid, he means that God is in control, God can make everything work out for the best, God will make things work out for His glory and there is no need to be afraid. Whatever they were facing, God sent the same message, "Don't be afraid!"

God sends the same message to all of His children. He is in control, He is on the throne, we don't need to be afraid.

A good friend of mine is a missionary in Baghdad. He has been there for more than three years, and he has been a missionary in the Middle East for 20 years. He writes a daily diary that he shares online

with his friends, his financial supporters and his prayer partners. Again and again he talks about shootings, bombings, kidnappings, families being chased out of their homes, businesses being forced to pay "protection" money, etc. Is he afraid? Not for himself. He knows where he is going. His wife has the same attitude, she isn't afraid. She knows that she belongs to Jesus and He is in control. They both know that if they die, they are going home to Heaven. But they are afraid for their many Muslim friends. They share the Gospel with them, they tell them about God's great love and about forgiveness that Jesus earned on the cross for us, but until their friends actually believe in Jesus, they are afraid for them. If they die without Jesus, it's just like any of our friends dying without Jesus - they are destined to an eternity separated from God, an eternity in hell.

We might face things that could scare us, but I want to remind you that God is in control, God is on His throne and He tells us, *"Don't be afraid!"* God sent His Son, Jesus, to take our sin and our punishment upon Himself, and He gives us forgiveness and eternal life so that we can live with Him forever. No matter what you are facing... Don't be afraid! Amen!

Blessings to you and yours!
Pastor Mark Seeger,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor



His name shall be called...
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6



They offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
- Matthew 2:11

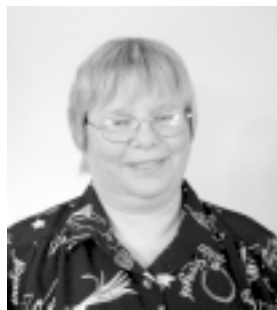


CHRISTMAS
2006



2007

The President's Report...



*Pam Kane, ILDA
2005-2007 President*

To the ILDA members and Deaf Lutheran Readers, Greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus. Wow what a beautiful Fall color. God's hands truly make a beautiful picture of the earth for our eyes to enjoy looking at the awesome Fall colors. I sure enjoy looking at it. It gives me a warm feeling of what awesome God we have!

By now you should all have seen the 2007 ILDA Convention packages in the Website. Do get it because the deadline for first combo is Dec 31st. We only have 7 more months till we meet again. Times sure flew by fast.

You all may have gotten the new Fund Raising called "Scratch N Help". We all need your help with this. It a wonderful and easy way and you don't have to order anything just scratch off a silver and help donate and in return you get a sheet of coupons and yes it is good for all over the United States. Won't you please help us? We appreciate it.

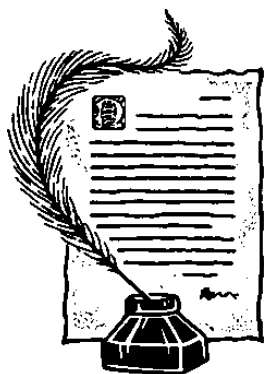
Remember we need help from you all once again it time to Nominated for new 2007-2009 Officers. Will you please let Larry Gorton know who wants to run for officers. Also, for Right Hand Award. And will you please let Mary Tingler know whom you like to nominate for this award. Thank You.

We are still behind in our Mission Project Goal. I know you all are bore to hear me say this again huh? With a smile on my face and the love of our Lord Jesus did so much for us this year can we Thank Him with our donations for Mission Project? Let's try and reach our goals. Bless you!

Now may these Holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year with your love ones and friends be a very happy blessed holidays. God Bless you all.

*Pam Kane,
ILDA 2005-2007 President
PK1974BK@sbcglobal.net*

Editorial...



Greeting everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We hope many of you have received the Fall 2006 issue of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter. In that newsletter are pages registration form and information on the coming 2007 ILDA convention in Baltimore, Maryland. (On page 11 of this issue is a revised registration form.)

The Deaf Lutheran has printed 200 extra copies of the Fall Issue and were mailed to all deaf Lutheran churches and interpreted Lutheran churches. We wanted to promote *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter and to try to encourage our Lutheran Brothers and Sisters out there to register for the 2007 ILDA convention in Maryland and to subscribe to the newsletter.

The Great Lakes Regional Conference (GLRC) has donated \$200 to help cover some of our expenses. Many, many thanks to the voters of GLRC.

Larry Ginter and I have visited and attended the Midwest ILDA conference in July and the GLRC conference in August. We had a good time at both conferences. We plan and hope to visit some of the other regional conferences in 2008. Donations to our travel fund are greatly appreciated.

A reminder that November and December are *The Deaf Lutheran* subscription renewal months. The rate is still \$10 a year. Business Manager Larry Ginter has mailed out invoices. You can also renew by using the form on the back page of this issue. Thank you for your support.

Our prayers are with ILDA President Pam Kane (and her husband, Bob) as Pam try to fight and recover from recent Stage 4 cancer.

Peace, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

David G. Brown, Editor

PEACE
ON EARTH



Reminder...

2007 Uriel C. Jones "Right Hand" Award...

See Fall issue of *The Deaf Lutheran* or contact **Mary Tingler** at rmtingler@adelphia.net or write to 60 Bashore Drive, Martinsburg, WV 25404. **The deadline is April 30, 2007.**

Business Manager...

We would appreciate help with support to our travel fund. This fund shall help us travel to future Regional Conferences that we dream to attend and to report on.

Please send any donations to:

Larry D Ginter, D/L Business Manager,
4134 Sarasota Dr., Parma, OH 44134.

Thank you.

Donated by: _____

Address _____

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Donated \$ _____ to Deaf Lutheran
Travel Fund

The DEAF LUTHERAN

Christmas, 2006

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Please send articles, stories and pictures to: David G. Brown, 4134 Sarasota Dr, Parma, OH 44134-6242. FAX: 440-886-2906. e-mail: TheDeafLutheran@yahoo.com



Host(s) for 2011 ILDA Convention

As stated in ILDA's Handbook, six (6) years is suggested for properly planning for a convention. Future host(s) are asked to submit their request on their church's letterhead. 2007 convention will be in Baltimore, Maryland and 2009 convention will be hosted by Rochester, New York. Hopefully a midwest or western location would host. Contact ILDA President Pam Kane for more information at: PK1974BK@sbcglobal.net.

2005- 2007 ILDA Mission Projects Report...

Ending October 31, 2006, **\$18,846.32** has been collected toward 2005-2007 Mission Project Fund. The Board has adopted \$27,300 as ILDA's 2005-2007 mission project goal and to date; it is **69%** of the goal.



**SUPPORT
OUR
MISSIONS**

In celebration of our Savior's birth, it is a perfect time to share the Gospel. You can help by making a contribution toward Mission Projects and your donation will support the missions to share the good news of Jesus Christ among the children and adults who don't know Him.

If you wish to give a donation in celebration of Savior's birth, please make your check payable to **"ILDA 2005-07 Mission Project"** and mail to: John Krause, ILDA Treasurer, 9905 Madison ST NE, Blaine, MN 55434.

Jesus is the reason to celebrate Christmas! I wish you and your family a "Christ Filled" Christmas.

May God bless you,

Erika Sipchen, Mission Project Chairperson

Central Region ILDA...

Highlights from CR ILDA Conference

By Carol Ann Pickell, Our Savior Delegate

Our CR-ILDA Conference was held in Crystal Lake, Illinois on May 19 to 21, 2006. The theme was **"BLESSED IS THE KING WHO IS COMING."** Luke 19:38.

The host of Holy Cross Committee did a wonderful planning for the weekend even though we had a small number of people.

We had a surprise 50th birthday party in honor of Rev. Bud Palmer on Friday evening.

We had 9 interesting workshops. There were:

- What's wrong with Mormons?
- Easy to read sign for Bible Reading
- How to use a "Spider" Web
- What's wrong with Jehovah's Witnesses?
- Is it true? Da Vinci Code? Judas Gospel?
- Ablaze - ideas how can we renew our churches?
- Together - Technology for you/DIT
- Outreach
- Surprise - color witness bands

On Saturday evening we had a nice banquet with the entertainment by Karen Hale and Linda Zoiss. They showed the slides of Ghana.

The new CR-ILDA officers were elected for the year of 2006-2008: President - Janice Mancill of Illinois (Cary); Vice President - Albert Moore of Illinois (Jacksonville); Secretary- Dawn Polzin of Wisconsin (Our Savior); Treasurer - Geraldine Chapman of Missouri (St. Louis).

Rev. Palmer's Trip to Ghana...



Our trip to Ghana West Africa September 6th to the 16th 2006 was a different kind of trip than normal. Normally, Pastor Reinke and I don't go together anymore... we lead our own separate mission teams. Most often we go for 21 days instead of 10 days, also we usually go to teach and train but this time was a bit different. This time we went to do mostly administrative stuff. We wanted to check on the village land in Adomrobe, the building, and corn-milling machine. It was nice to see the corn machine on premises and not long from being set up for use. Hallelujah, The building is up... the roof, wooden windows, and door are the only things that need to be added. Amen!

However, we still don't have the official documents for the land but in Ghana once you build on the land... the land is yours! Praise the Lord!

After our visit to the village we headed up North to Kumasi to look at the land and talk with the chief and his elders there. The chief has given the deaf about 30 acres but is upset because nothing has been built. Pastor

Reinke and I are not sure what to do but we said we will help as much as we can. We pledged to buy two brick building machines which are about 2 million cedes each (2 hundred dollars each), some sand, and cement. They will build a lean-too shed to cover the newly made bricks. They need to make about 5,000 bricks before they can start building the church and other buildings there.

We really need your help! Our vision is to one day have a LUTHERAN deaf high school, deaf university, and deaf seminary. This will take about 2 million USA dollars. There has never been 1 deaf person go to college or university in Ghana. Ugh! Hopefully, all the deaf of Africa might want to come there for training. So, we did some teaching and training (We couldn't resist. Smile!) with the evangelists and four of them have now become vicars but we still have far to go!

Please help us and pray for us! Contact either Rev. Palmer (wpalmer182@aol.com) or Rev. Reinke (RevReinke@yahoo.com).

News from around the Regions...



Northwest Region...

Cross of Christ, Edmonston... **Pastor John Reinke** of Wisconsin has been appointed D.I.T. director. He will continue to serve as missionary at-large to the deaf in the South Wisconsin District.

Western Washington... on September 24th, the children of **Duane and Jolene Florence** hosted an open house in observation of their parents' 50th Wedding anniversary. Our Lord has called home **William Edward Martin** on August 17th. **Pastor and Mrs. Ludwig** spent almost the entire month of July in Tallinn, Estonia and Russia. **Sigrid** was able to visit with members of her family and old schoolmates. Pastor Ludwig traveled to Russia with some other Deaf from the Puget Sound area. They had many interesting experiences and were able to meet other Deaf and learn about the food and culture of the places they visited.

Midwest Region...

Calvary, Des Moines... **Robert Hulan** recently completed an independent study course and received a certificate of completion at Calvary in August. His next class in the DeafPAH series will be the study of the Old Testament. Visit www.deafPAH.org for more info in joining the studies. See page 5 of Fall 2006 issue of *The Deaf Lutheran*. Praise God for 65 years marriage for **Arthur and Alberta Ring**, also for **William and Deloris Rogers** 51 years of marriage. **Pastor Dennis Konkel** has been invited to go to India sometime in March 2007 as part of a deaf mission team. He will be the first pastor to go there. **Donna Tiffin** has joined Jesus in Heaven.

Words of God/Quad Cities... Jesus has called home **Roberta Neely** on August 31st.

Central Region...

Jacksonville, IL... on October 15th, our Lord has called **William R. Adkins** to come home to Heaven. He was a Deacon and a former treasurer for the Jacksonville Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

South Wisconsin Deaf... **Dennis Ross, Ed Eicksedt, Tim Wilde**, and **Alice (Riegert) Klein** has joined Jesus in Heaven.

Great Lakes Region...

Trinity, Pittsburgh... **Deacon Donald Mowl** attended the Eastern District Convention for pastors and lay delegates the week of June 16th-18th. Jesus has called home **Donald Regiso Sapko, Edwin Cupps**, and **James Disanto**.

Alpha, Rochester... retreats were held at Camp Pioneer in New York... October 27-29th "God's Deaf Women's Retreat" with **Suzan Graham** from Toronto as speaker and November 10-12th "God's Deaf Men Of Inegrity Retreat" with **Rev. Gary Lawson** of Cleveland as speaker.

Good Shepherd, Toledo... **Pershing Burford** (26 days after sister, Elsie Davis, has died) and **Robert Harris** has joined Jesus in Heaven.

Eastern Region...

Christ, Silver Spring... **Pat Pokorny**, the widow of one of our former pastors, and her son **David** were seriously injured in a single car accident in Kansas. She is home now, but with broken ribs, sleeping flat is a challenge. **Ward and Mallory Pettis** took a trip of a lifetime riding their motorcycles over 12,000 miles to Alaska and back. Rides were for 12 to 18 hours daily! Story can be found in Oct 2006 issue of *The Mustard Seed* or visit www.AlaskaBikeRun.com. Our Lord Jesus has called home **Joan Bates**.

St. Augustine, FL...

Deaf Lutherans in the St. Augustine, FL area come together to worship every Sunday afternoon at 3 PM. We worship at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 21 Milton St. This is across the street from the Florida School for the Deaf and Milton Street runs east to west on the south side of the campus. Our pastor is the Rev. Walter "Mike" Busby, retired missionary with the deaf. Regular worshipers include Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schneck, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Walker, James Gibson and Terry Bement. Visitors are welcomed.

Please note if you are coming south for the winter: We welcome you to come and worship with us at 3 PM on Sundays. For more information, call 904/797-2093 (v/tty).

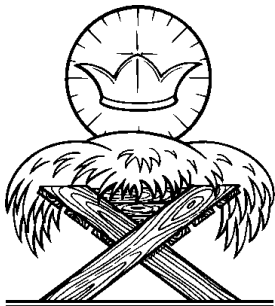
(Submitted by Pastor Busby)

Minister to the deaf not the retiring sort.

After 50 years in the pulpit, Robert Bauer has touched many lives...

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Edmonton, Canada has honored their pastor on June 30 and July 2, 2006.

Photo from Edmonton Journal, Monday, July 3



For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given ...
Isaiah 9:6



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

ILDA Regional Conferences...

Northwest Region...

2006... August 25-27, 2006 conference election results: Richard Sharp, WA, President; Rolph Foster, MT, President elect; Linda Desrosiers, BC Canada, Secretary; Gary Wilson, WA, Treasurer; and Rev. David Nielsen, BC Canada, Pastoral Advisor.

Pacific Region...

2006... October 19-22, 2006 conference election results: LeeAnn Kotal, CA, President; Jack Burns, CA, President elect; Charis Ames, CA, Secretary; Curtis Barker, CA, Treasurer; and Rev. Roy Dahmann, CA, Pastoral Advisor.

Midwest Region ILDA

2006... July 28-30, 2006 conference election results: Ron Nester, President; Cynthia Byer, Vice President; Glenda Haefner, Secretary; Wilma Phillips, Treasurer; and Rev. Mark Anderson, Pastoral Advisor. 2008 host will be Calvary of Des Moines.

Central Region...

2006... May 18-21, 2006 conference election results: Janice Mancill, President; Albert Moore, Vice President; Dawn Polzin, Secretary; Jeraldine Chapman, Treasurer; and Rev. Tom Phillip, Pastoral Advisor.

Dixie Region...

2006 regional conference has been cancelled until future notice.

Great Lakes Region...

2006... August 25-27, 2006 conference election results: Brian Grabler, President; Anand Raj, President-Elect; JoAnna Rushton, Treasurer; Robin Fife, Secretary; and Deacon John Rushton, Pastoral Advisor. Next GLRC hosted by Pittsburgh, PA.

Eastern Region...

2006... June 23-25, 2006 conference election results: Wayne Borngesser, President; Darius Dunham, President-elect; Gerald Ahrens, Secretary; Tony Munoz, Treasurer; and Rev. Mike MacDonald; Pastoral Advisor.

ILDA's Fund-raising...

During the April 2006 Executive Board meeting in Austin, TX, ILDA President Pam Kane introduced a fund-raising project called **Scratch & Help Put The FUN In Fund Raising**. Your regional presidents should by now have distribute all the booklets to your groups/churches. If you haven't gotten a booklet to help, please contact your regional president or your church.

This fund raising is to help with ILDA's board expenses—meetings, meals, travels, lodgings. Each booklet will raise \$100.00. God's 1000 Club normally support the expenses but for several years, the club has not raise enough money to meet the bills. At the April meeting, God's 1000 Club's fund balance was less than \$400. This is **NOT ENOUGH** to cover the Board's expenses in Baltimore 2007.



Please help us. Thank you.

Reminders...

**To renew your 2007-2008
ILDA Membership Due.**

**To renew your 2007 *The Deaf Lutheran*
subscription due.**

Forms are found on the back page of this issue.

Thank you.

Please send me all information on your region's next conference.

Next ILDA ...

Visit ILDA's website for more information & registration on the next convention... www.ChristDeaf.org/ilda2007

BWI Airport Marriott Hotel





Midwest Region ILDA...

MW-ILDA was held at beautiful Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on July 28-30, 2006. Quad Cities Lutheran Deaf Ministry was the host congregation. **"Bountiful Harvest"**, Matthew 13:23 was the theme. There were 60 people attending from Iowa, Dakotas, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, and Kansas. **The Deaf Lutheran** staff David G. Brown and Larry D. Ginter from Ohio drove over 1,200 miles to attend. Group from Kansas drove a borrowed church school bus with a non-working air conditioner in 90+ degree temperature, Whew!!

DIT presentation were given by Rev. John Reinke and Paula Willig. Devotions and Workshops were given by Rev. Mark Anderson, Deacon Pat Sell, Rev. Dennis Konkel, Rev. Matthew Nix, and Rev. Tim Eckert.

Saturday afternoon free time was spent at Amana Colonies but with the temperature in near 100 degree, most of us stayed inside. Super good Saturday evening banquet was held at Ox Yoke Inn in Amana, Iowa. Guest speaker was Rev. Dean Rothchild of Iowa District.



MW-ILDA 2006 attendees show right.



MW-ILDA 2006 host committee.



Elected 2006-2008 MW-ILDA officers l-r: Wilma Phillips, Treasurer; Glenda Haefner, Secretary; Rev. Mark Anderson, Pastoral Advisor; Cynthia Byer, Vice President; and Ron Nester, President.



Top row: Reverends Darrel Ghilbach, Mark Anderson, Matthew Nix, Tim Eckert and Dennis Konkel. Bottom row: Deacons Pat Sell, Pat Monroe and Marion Van Manen.



Sunday morning worship service by Rev. Tim Eckert.



Devotion by Rev. Dennis Konkel.



Saturday business meeting by MW-ILDA President Glenda Haefner.



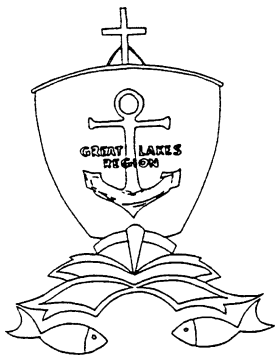
Saturday evening banquet at Ox York Inn.



2006 CR-ILDA Chairman, Bill Zimmerman at banquet.



Friday evening bonfire.



Great Lakes Region ILDA...

GLRC met at Camp Pioneer and Retreat Center, Angola, NY, on August 25-27, 2006. Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf of Rochester, NY, was the host congregation. There were about 20 people attending from Rochester, Cleveland, Columbus, and Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh will host the next GLRC (non-business) gathering in 2007.



Deacon John Rushton lead the devotion.

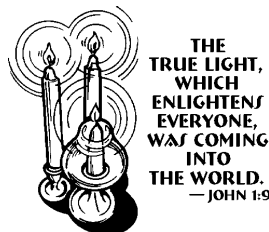
GLRC 2006-2008
officer pix here
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GLRC 2006 host chairperson JoAnna Rushton announces the activities plan.



GLRC president Brian Grabler and GLRC business meeting attendees.



Elected 2006-2008 GLRC officers: Brian Grabler, President; Anand Raj, President-elect; JoAnna Rushton, Treasurer; Robin Fife, Secretary; and Deacon John Rushton, Pastoral Advisor.



Saturday evening banquet.

Pacific Region ILDA...

By Deacon Charlie Kotal

The PRILDA Conference was held on Oct. 19-22, 2006 at Faith Lutheran Church in Carpinteria, Ca. located next to the City of Santa Barbara. The weather was warm which is unusual for the month of October. Theme for this year conference was **"Encouragement With Hope"**.

On Friday and Saturday, Deacon Charlie Kotal led the devotion and Rev. Roy Dahmann led the bible study in connection with our theme. Deacon Kotal also led a workshop on Deaf Institute in Theology (DIT) encouraging them to learn so that they can become better church leaders. Lee Ann Kotal led the Pacific Region meeting.

On Friday, the LWML from Faith Lutheran Church served us delicious lunch and dinner. We went on a tour at Orchid

Growers, Old Santa Barbara Courthouse, Santa Barbara Mission and a small Danish town of Solvang. On Saturday evening a banquet was held at Anderson's Split Pea Restaurant. John and Charis Ames, former deaf missionary worker gave us a video presentation of their ministry at Brazil.

The PRILDA officers were elected as follow:

President: LeeAnn Kotal-Westminister, CA
Vice-President: Jack Burns-Gardena, CA
Secretary: Charis Ames-Santa Barbara, CA
Treasurer: Curtis Barker-Fremont, CA

Pastor Advisor: Rev. Roy Dahmann-San Lorenzo, CA

On Sunday, we had our worship service along with the hearing congregation. Faith Lutheran Church has interpreting service twice a month. Rev. Dahmann preach the service and the deaf sang in sign language. The hearing congregation really enjoyed the deaf worship service.

Northwest Region ILDA...

The Northwest Region ILDA Conference was held at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah, WA on August 25-27, 2006. The Western Washington Lutheran Church of the Deaf from Seattle, WA was the host. 30 people registered and 5 pastors. Theme was *"Know the Love of Christ"* Ephesians 3:19.

By Rolph Foster of Montana

Below: Elected 2006-2008 NW-ILDA officers l-r: Richard Sharp, WA, President; Rolph Foster, MT, President elect; Linda Desrosiers, BC Canada, Secretary; Gary Wilson, WA, Treasurer; and Rev. David Nielsen, BC Canada, Pastoral Advisor.



NW-ILDA Regional Conference 2006 pastors (l-r): Rev. Orlin Anderson, Calgary, Canada; Rev. Bud Palmer, WI; Rev. David Nielsen, BC, Canada; Rev. William Ludwig, WA; and Rev. David Carstens, OR.



News from India...

We recently received this email update from David Christudoss in India updating us on what has been happening with the India Deaf Mission. We wanted to share it with you. Feel free to pass it along to anyone who might be interested.

Hello! My Dear Brother Reinke; Greetings to you to your good wife Dacia your sons Joshua and Joseph. I am very sorry that I could not be in the touch with you for so many reasons. I had been busy in meeting the people who attended the something Big.

I hope God will make it possible. Your presentation and training of the deaf members initiated them to think creatively to present the word of God and a new mission wave is moving around the deaf community. In a couple of months I am planning to visit the deaf in North India.

The teachers who participated in the training program last March have become more interested; involving in spiritual care for the deaf. I too was much encouraged and motivated to think and present. God's word with very unique way. Almost all your teachings were very good. But I can mention some. Ten Commandments, Baptism, Holy Communion, Sermon on the Mount, prayers etc.

I thank you so much for your excellent contribution to

India deaf ministry through India mission Training program by training so many deaf. The IELC deaf ministry extends its very sincere thanks to those who were behind Rev. John Reinke's visit to India. Many of the Pastors, lay leaders in LCMS have been extending their prayerful support, very special thanks to ILDA members and officers.

For their concerns and love towards India Deaf work. I am much thankful to Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, Rev. Gray Lawson, Rev. Shirred, Rev. Mark Seeger. I am also thankful to Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran church OHIO and brother Rev. Ed, for the gift parcel to deaf children in India.

May God continue to grant you good health, continue to enrich your knowledge to train many deaf people for the ministry with your mission group. I thank the Deaf Task Force, LCMS for their support and encouragement. I also thank Brother Rev. Bud Palmer, who is supporting with Rev. Reinke. I thank Rev. William Palmer, the chairman of Deaf Task Force.

God Bless LCMS Deaf Task Force, ILDA and all the deaf brothers and sisters who remember India deaf work in their prayers.

*Yours in Christ,
Rev. D. S. Christudoss Director,
India Deaf Ministry IELC*

Youth Servant Trip 2006...

New Orleans, LA
Hurricane Katrina clean up
By Pastor Matthew Nix

Every year the youth from Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Sioux Falls, SD take a week out of their summer to do something few others their age do, they help others. This summer was no different. The morning of June 3rd they packed into a fifteen passenger van and headed out for Minneapolis. That was not the final destination, no, it was only the first stop on the way. In Minneapolis they traded their van for a plain, destination New Orleans, LA.

Upon arrival in New Orleans, we found the group from Wisconsin, got our rental vans and cars and headed for Salem Lutheran Church and school (this would be our home base for the week). That evening we organized our sleeping arrangements, went out to supper and went to bed.

Sunday morning began with worship lead by pastors Palmer and Nix. That afternoon we had nothing scheduled so we decided we would go to the Gulf and swim. That trip allowed us to begin to see the level of devastation that had occurred.

Monday through Friday were spent gutting houses that had been flooded. To do this work everyone was required to dress in coveralls, heavy breathing mask, surgical gloves covered by leather palmed work gloves, safety glasses and steel shank rubber work boots. To say the least we were hot and sweaty and it was hard to breathe. The reason for this work attire was the great amount of mold and sharp objects in our work area. Gutting the houses meant just that, we took everything out of the house then we ripped the carpet, cabinets, kitchen and bath fixtures (including the tub). Next we tore the sheetrock out and finally the entire house was sprayed down with a heavy bleach mix to kill the remaining mold. It was wonderful to interact with the people of New Orleans. They were very quick to thank us for giving up our free time to help them.

We used some of our free time to tour the areas that had been most heavily hit by the storm and the following flood waters. One of the members of the Wisconsin group had live there and got out of town in time to miss the storm, this was his first time to go back. He showed us his apartment (that had not been touched yet) and his deaf church that was in the process of being fixed. One thing I noticed was that the storm and the flood waters did not play favorites. Neighborhoods of all economic levels were destroyed.

Saturday found us packing, doing a little more sightseeing and heading to the airport. After waiting an extra 1 to 2 hr for our plain we boarded and headed back to Minneapolis, found our van and arrived back in Sioux Falls early Sunday morning.

This was the sixth servant trip our youth have participated on. Each time we go it is a new opportunity for our youth to put into action the faith they have been learning about in our Bible studies. One major difference on this trip was that we invited adults to go with us. This was a nice addition and we will probably extend the invitation for future trips.

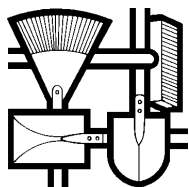
If anyone is interested in participating with future trips please feel free to contact Pastor Mark Seeger in Austin, TX (MarkJLCD@aol.com) or Pastor Matthew Nix in Sioux Falls, SD (mw_nix@yahoo.com).



*Above: the Sioux Falls,
South Dakota Group.*



*Right photo: Rev. Matthew Nix of South Dakota
and Rev. Bud Palmer of Wisconsin.*



Hands on Deaf Ministry Church at the Citigroup Center...

"Where do you go to church?" is a common question. Most people will identify their church by the name of the congregation where they attend Sunday worship. It wouldn't be surprising to hear someone say, "I go to Saint Matthew's" or "I'm a member at Trinity Lutheran." But, suppose someone said, "I go to church at the Citigroup Center." It would be tempting to think that this individual worships their job, or at least the building where they work. Odd as it may seem, Deaf people have been worshipping at the Citigroup Center in Midtown Manhattan . . . in the food court!

Interestingly enough, there is a congregation, Saint Peter's Lutheran Church, on the ground floor of the Citigroup Center. Still, members and friends from Saint Matthew's Lutheran

Church of the Deaf, located in Queens, had a different approach in mind. Instead of their midweek Bible study being held at their church building in Queens or at Saint Peter's, they meet in the food court of one of Manhattan's most recognized skyscrapers. Beneath the roof that is cut at an angle, many stories below, is a food court where a faithful group has been meeting since last fall. "We call our group 'Fishers' since our purpose is to reach out to others who are Deaf with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Instead of inviting people to our church in Queens, we decided to locate ourselves in a spot that is convenient, easily accessible by subway and bus, and close to fresh coffee," shared Pastor William Wrede, Mission Field Developer for the Deaf and Chaplain of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations.

The Fishers group meets each Wednesday, from 6 to 7 pm, at the Citigroup Center, located at 53rd Street and Lexington Avenue in Manhattan. "Fishers" found their new home among a group of ladies who gather to knit, men playing checkers, and individuals having their afternoon coffee and a break before heading home. "No one seems to mind us being there, and we've actually had more than just Deaf individuals express interest in what we are about," said Pastor Wrede. "From the group of ladies knitting, we've come to know a young lady who is studying to be a sign language interpreter. From the first week, we've met a variety of Deaf and hearing people. Through regular email announcements to the Deaf community in the New York City area, we continue to reach out to new people."

When asked about the goals of this group, Pastor Wrede explained, "Sure, we would love to think that these people would become part of our family in Queens. For now, and this is absolutely wonderful, they are part of God's Church and His family in this place. ***'For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.'*** (Matthew 18:20)."

Pastor Wrede is the Chaplain for the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, the Pastor at Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Queens and at Saint Mark's Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Manhattan. For more information, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>. To contact Pastor Wrede, call (800) 264-0662, ext. 217.



The Fishers group meets each Wednesday at the Citigroup Center in Manhattan, to reach out to others who are Deaf with the Gospel of Jesus.

New Orleans Mission Trip...

By Denise Pulfer

We couldn't hear the hope and gratitude expressed by the people of Jefferson Parish in New Orleans. To us it didn't matter. Our team of four deaf with a pastor/interpreter are used to the world being silent. You didn't need to hear the words because you could see it on their faces and feel it in their smiles.

From the air New Orleans looked like any other city I have flown into. The reason for this is because New Orleans survived the onslaught of Hurricane Katrina unlike Miss and Alabama.

What destroyed the city is the flooding afterwards. Most of the damage cannot be seen outside, you must go inside to view what happened. You can see some of the scars but it isn't until you go inside the houses that you see the chaos and mold.

We met up a team of 9 other deaf adults and youth from South Dakota. Everyday, we worked with Lutheran Disaster Relief, which has set up a tent city on the lawn of a church, to get our daily work assignments. The leader for our group was a man from North Carolina who has volunteered for 7 months in New Orleans. For one week we worked on a house and a duplex gutting both of the residents. Our day started by putting on coveralls, latex gloves, leather gloves, rubber boots, breathing masks, and goggles in 96-degree heat. It was both interesting and heartbreaking to do the work. Throwing out pictures and toys was not easy to do but we did have fun breaking the porcelain tub so it could be removed. EVERYTHING from inside the house had to go. Walls, ceiling fans, carpet and even the kitchen sink. By the end of the week all that was left was the frame of house showing what is really important in life.

For one member of my team going down to New Orleans was a homecoming. He was born and raised in New Orleans, one day before Katrina hit he fled wait out the storm with friends. Like most from New Orleans he expected to return home in less than a week. Now, nine months later he stood outside of his apartment for the first time. His apartment complex has been condemned, so could not go inside. Everything was destroyed. As we looked around the complex all we saw were things abandoned— baseball gloves, computers, Christmas decorations, police car— showing lives left behind. For my team member, he could finally have closure and move on with his life.

Coming back to Madison I could see the changes in my team. They are now closer than they were before. You can also see the pride knowing that they went to help other people. Maybe we are deaf but that doesn't mean that we can't do something. There is much left to be done in New Orleans and around the world. My question is— where should we go to next?

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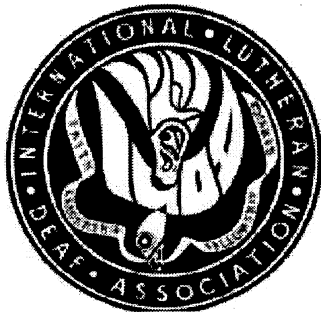
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