



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Fall, 2007 St. Louis, MO Volumes 99, No. 3

ILDA 2007 Convention was a Success!



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf and committee's General Chairperson, Jeff Padon, has done a fine job hosting ILDA's 19th Biennial convention. In fact, everyone has done a great job! The convention was held at BWI Airport Marriott Hotel, near the Baltimore BWI airport, Maryland, on June 21-24, 2007. The theme was "Encourage Each Other in Faith." Colossians 2:6-7



Next ILDA Convention ...



JoAnna Rushton,
Chairperson
jrushton@rochester.rr.com

July 23-26, 2009
West Henrietta, NY



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CONFERENCE CENTER

www.ritinn.com

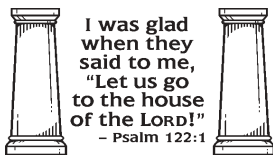


Mark your calendar!!
July 23-26, 2009

The President's Report...



Greg Desrosiers, ILDA
2007-2009 President



I was glad
when they
said to me,
"Let us go
to the house
of the LORD!"
- Psalm 122:1

ILDA President's First Message

Greetings to you, my sisters and brothers in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is the first presidential message I have written to you since I am a new officer in Baltimore, Maryland for a two-year term last June.

As my wife, Linda and I are subscribing an array of Lutheran magazines like *The Canadian Lutheran*, *Alberta-British Columbia Lutheran District Newsletter*, *Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf Newsletter*, and *Thrivent*, I am in search of deaf-friendly biblical editorials or commentaries to link to *The Deaf Lutheran* with relevancy. Writing messages requires me to think clearly and write directly with purpose to serve the Deaf Lutherans throughout North America. From the reliable sources in the Baltimore convention, with much astonishment, I learnt that there are about twenty five present Lutheran pastors in the Deaf churches across the United States. To be truthful with you, it is frightening to see a deteriorating number of pastoral staff with the Deaf Lutherans. Likewise, there are three current fulltime pastors in Western Canada, but the twos are retired beyond the mandatory age. Disappointment is a part of life, but God promises to guide us through the valleys.

For your I would like to borrow a biblical verse from Psalm 25:4-5, "*Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.*" The reason for having that verse is when life hands us a disappointment – whether it be a Deaf Lutheran church closure, a loss of pastor due to transfer to the hearing Lutheran church, decimating Lutheran members owing to death, losing members to different churches, and no emergence of new Lutheran Deaf children as their parents have preferred staying at their hearing churches. As a result, the attendance of international conventioners biennially has been declining since Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 2005. What is happening to the Deaf church community now? To be blunt with my

fellow sisters and brothers, we no longer rely on other Deaf persons to get information. We must get it directly from the Hearing world. The results are that a NEW breed of Deaf persons is emerging. This leads to a changing culture.

Often the Deaf persons prefer to dwell in the past and look back on the "good old days". Also, they wish they could turn the clock back. We fast forward to the present because enrollment in schools for the deaf across North America is declining. Several deaf schools have closed down. The majority of deaf children are being educated in mainstream programs. Please open our arms to welcome the new breed of Deaf persons I mentioned earlier. Many of them may be not be of the "old school" Deaf culture, but they can bring with them a wide variety of gifts and talents that can be invested into the Deaf church community. As you are disappointed, God keeps His promises to be with you, support and encourage you. Talk to God and tell Him your disappointments as though you are at the loss. Be in the Word.

Remember, God's timing is not ours. Please wait with patience as God will open doors for you. God's Plan is always best for us. Looking at the wonderful Ghana and India mission projects with much success, we must continue to invest and support with God's Guidance. As we know, over thousands of Deaf Lutheran-converted natives aboard need our support. Finding a new creativity to move past the disappointments and setbacks is made easier knowing God is with us offering patience and acceptance. God shows us that His plan is always best. God bless all of you.

We would like to say a BIG thank-you to the wonderful host committee in Baltimore, Maryland for their success. The new president-elect Jeff Padon deserves God's blessing for his generous leadership. We are looking forward to the next host convention's planning in Rochester, New York in 2009 with God's Guidance.

Gregory Desrosiers,
ILDA 2005-2007 President
gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca

Looking Ahead...

- ILDA Minute reports will be published in the Christmas 2007 Issue.
- ILDA Board of Directors meeting.

www.deafjesus.org



Host(s) wanted for 2013 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. 2009 convention will be hosted by Rochester, New York, and 2011 convention will be hosted by Columbus, Ohio. Hopefully a midwest or western location would host. See www.lcmsdeaf.org/ilda/Handbook/Article20 and scroll to "Section C-Time and Place of Next Convention" for information. Or contact ILDA President Greg Desrosiers for more information at: gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca.

The DEAF LUTHERAN

Fall, 2007

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

Subscription Fee: \$15.00 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. VP: 440-885-5479. e-mail: LarryDGinter@aol.com

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ILDA 19th Biennial Convention

Baltimore, Maryland June 21-24, 2007

As was reported during ILDA Board of Directors meeting, estimate 154 people has registered for the ILDA convention.

The Baltimore host committee, led by Jeff Padon, has done a wonderful job of hosting the convention. Truly all on committee has worked very hard for this successful convention!

The staff at BWI Marriot Hotel has done a fine job.

Our workshop topics and leaders were:

- DeafPah!/DIT - Rev. John Reinke
- Mormonism & JW - Rev. Bud Palmer
- Can a church be a church without a pastor? - Deacon John Ruston
- Martin Luther, The Reformer - Greg Desrosiers
- Zero District Money? Can Deaf Ministry Grow? Yes! - Rev. Mike MacDonald
- Ministering to deaf children, parents, and families. - Rev. Mark Seeger

Workshops that drew Standing Room Only crowds were Palmer's and Rushton's

2007-2009 ILDA Officers

- President **Greg Desrosiers**,
Cloverdale, BC Canada
- President elect **Jeff Padon**,
Severn, Maryland
- Secretary **Jennifer Bonura**,
Houston, Texas
- Treasurer **John Krause**,
Blaine, Minnesota
- Pastoral Advisor **Rev. Jerry Munz**,
Indiana/Florida



Baltimore ILDA 2007 host shown below.



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

Fred Waltz... God's Right Hand

Fred Waltz of Cleveland, Ohio was awarded the Uriel C. Jones Memorial "Right Hand" Award during the recent ILDA convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

Unfortunately, Mr. Waltz wasn't present at the convention so one of his church member, Robert Kane, has taken the plaque home to present to him at a later date. See page 11 of this issue for photos of the award being given to Fred.



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

Mary Tingler, chairperson for 2007 Uriel C. Jones Memorial "Right Hand" award, shows the plaque which was given to Robert Kane, Christ's Vice President, to be delivered to Fred Waltz.



ILDA 2007-2009 Mission Projects Goal... \$40,000

1. Christian/Bible Lessons for Deaf Children \$7,000
2. D.I.T. (training materials) \$6,000
3. Africa Leadership Training (materials) \$6,000
4. Rev. Leber's Deaf Camp \$3,000
5. Youth Service Project \$7,000
6. Starfish Deaf Learning Center \$5,000
7. India Leadership Training (materials) \$6,000

Linda Desrosiers of Canada is our new mission project chairperson. She can be reached via email at: ldesrosiers1@shaw.ca.

Write checks to: ILDA 2005-07 Mission Project.
Mail to: John Krause, ILDA Treasurer, 9905 Madison St NE, Blaine, MN 55434-4207

News from around the Regions...



Northwest Region...

Western Washington... Last April **Pastor William** and **Sigrid Ludwig** flew to Orlando, Florida to join more than 2,000 other deaf there for the Deaf Seniors of America Conference. They stayed with their cousins, **Rev** and **Mrs. David Ludwig**.

Last April the congregation of Western Washington Lutheran Association of the Deaf has received the DEAF PAH notebook with 24 DVDs. Visit online <http://www.dafpah.org> for more info about the DeafPAH programs and how to receive the notebooks and DVDs. These DVDs are part of the Deaf Institute of Theology Training (D.I.T.).

Last April 10th, 2007, the Chizek family celebrated the 100th birthday of **Mrs. Agatha Chizek** in Custer, South Dakota. She may be the oldest living graduate of Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit.

Midwest Region...

Calvary, Des Moines... **Dale Harris, Arnold Krause** has joined Jesus in Heaven.

Quad Cities... If you haven't seen our website recently, home.revealed.net/deaflutheran, check it out! We are making a lots of additions and changes. **Waterloo is moving** back to Christ Lutheran Church, 234 S. Hackett Road. Meet Wednesday 7 PM. The **Rev. Mark Anderson** family are still looking at houses.

Central Region...

South Wisconsin... **Ted and Denise Pulfer** has become Foster Parents for Ben Townsend. He is 22 months old and deaf. On August 5th, **Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church** celebrate their 5th Anniversary of their church with a picnic.

Our Lord, Jesus, has called home **Dennis Bingham** and **Ray Barter**. **Howard Davis** has turned 80!!

Great Lakes Region...

Alpha, Rochester... **Deacon John and JoAnne Rushton** has traveled some 8 hours on their motorcycle to ILDA Baltimore.

Eastern Region...

Christ, Silver Spring... Ruth Peterson was honored at the recent 50th anniversary banquet of the Eastern Deaf Women's Bowling Association. She was inducted into the Hall of Fame for her early efforts in Rochester, NY, in getting the EDWBA started.

Mark Erlichmann asked us to check out his website at: www.freewebs.com/embracinglambs. He is looking for life experiences to share on his Life Education

page about living in a world of difference and about the positive and/or negative impacts in your life.

Our Lord has called home **Jon Casterline** on April 8th after courageously fighting a brain tumor for 6 years.

Our Deaf Vicars...



Rev. John Reinke, Director, Deaf Institute of Theology; Mark Larson, Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf, St. Louis, Missouri, Missouri District; President Kieschnick, President LCMS; Mark Winkelman, Bethany, St. Paul Lutheran & Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran Churches, Omaha, Nebraska, Nebraska District; and Adam Filipek, St. John Lutheran Church, Chester, Illinois, Southern Illinois District (with Rev. Mark Willig as his supervisor)

The seminaries had their vicarage placement and call service last April 25th. Photo captions above explain where Mark Larson, Mark Winkelman, and Adam Filipek will serve at. Congratulations!

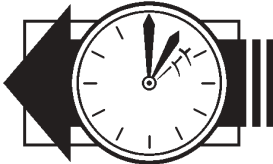
ILDA 07 News...

The Mustard Seed, Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Silver Spring, MD, July/Aug 2007

The 19th Biennial ILDA Convention is now in the history books. Things did not always go as planned, but overall things were good. We thank God for His support throughout this weekend. We had 154 registered, with a few visitors. While lower than we hoped, it was a good number and there was excellent participation in all of the events. It appears that we will wind up in the "black" and be able to pass on some money to the 2009 Host Committee at Alpha Church in Rochester, NY. Chairman **Jeff Padon** did an wonderful job of leading the Host Committee in many months of preparation. Pastor **Ron Friedrich** was the contact man with the hotel (among many other things) and he did an outstanding job. (According to wife **Georganne**, Ron was running on adrenaline the last few days.) Big hand waves to both Jeff and Ron.

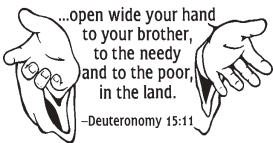
Of course, while chairmen oversee things, it is the individual members of committees that carry

SET YOUR CLOCKS



BACK

November
4th, 2007



...open wide your hand
to your brother,
to the needy
and to the poor,
in the land.

-Deuteronomy 15:11



Next Deaf
Lutheran
deadline is
November
1st, 2007.

out the plans. They all did a wonderful job. Check the Program Book for their names. One person not mentioned in the Program who deserves to be recognized is **John Mason**. He works for a large printing company, and they agreed to print our book free if John would do the actual printing. So he did that (plus his regular workload) and even printed everything possible in color!! Thanks a million, John.

At the Saturday business meeting, **Jeff Padon** was elected President-Elect. That means he will become the ILDA President in 2009, just as **Greg Desrosiers** (Can) became president this year. Re-elected were **Jennifer Bonura** (Tex) as Secretary and **John Krause** (Minn) as Treasurer. **Pastor Jerry Munz** was selected as the new Pastoral Advisor. He retires (hahaha!) on July 31 and moves to Florida. There he will serve part-time at Rogate Church in Clearwater.

We counted 11 Pastors and 6 Deacons at the Convention. DIT is doing a good job of preparing these Deacons, and their number will be going in the coming years. They are invaluable in relieving pastors of a heavy workload, and even taking over a congregation if they are unable to get District support.

The workshops were interesting. Best attended: Bud Palmer's "Mormonism and JW", and John Rushton's "Can a church be a church without a pastor?" "yes!"

www.deafPAH.org

ILDA Regional Conferences...

Northwest Region...

2008... Dates & Host:

Pacific Region...

2008... Dates & Host:

*Spiritual
Enrichment* 

Midwest Region ILDA

October 19-21, 2007... At Grace Lutheran Camp in Dewitt, Iowa. Theme: "LITE". Everyone will learn how to become "LITES". Contact: Shirley Hampton. Info and form found on <http://home.revealed.net/deaflutheran/docs/julaug2007.pdf>

Central Region...

May 15-18, 2008... At Christ Lutheran church of the Deaf, Jacksonville, Illinois. Theme: "Jesus Pah!" Romans 8:37-39

Dixie Region...

2008... Dates & Host:

Great Lakes Region...

2008... Dates & Host:



Eastern Region...

2008... Dates & Host:

I have returned the ILDA Regional Conferences column. Please send me all information on your region's next conference.

LWML Grant...

LWML has voted and granted D.I.T. \$50,000 at its recently convention that was held the same week as ILDA. The Deaf Institute of Theology submitted a grant request to the LWML for \$50,000. Ours got the most votes! It is the #1 Mission project!

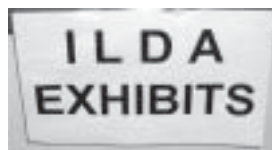
History Web Site...

For those of you interested in history and like to see the big picture, visit this cool website that lays out a timeline of people and events in history, including some Biblical figures.

http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html

Choose the category of what you want to see on the left, pick your time period on the right.

www.lcmsdeaf.org/ILDA



ILDA Baltimore Booths



Larry Ginter, The Deaf Lutheran Business Manager and The Deaf Lutheran newsletter booth.



Mrs. Mark Erlichmann mans their booth of Christian deaf items and Embracing Lambs Ministries.



Ed & Gary Wireless booth.



Thursday afternoon registration table.



Above: 2005-07 ILDA Treasurer John Krause gives his report.



2007 ILDA Baltimore Chairperson, Jeff Padon.



Right: 2005-07 ILDA President Pamela Kane gives her report.



Diane Francisco gives her reports on Necrology and Historian.



Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Larry Ginter gives his report.

Above two photos shows ILDA members watching Thursday evening choir and skit competitions.

Below: ILDA 2005-07 President-elect Greg Desrosiers watch Deaf Lutheran Editor David G. Brown gives his report.



ILDA members attend Friday morning 1st Business Meeting.



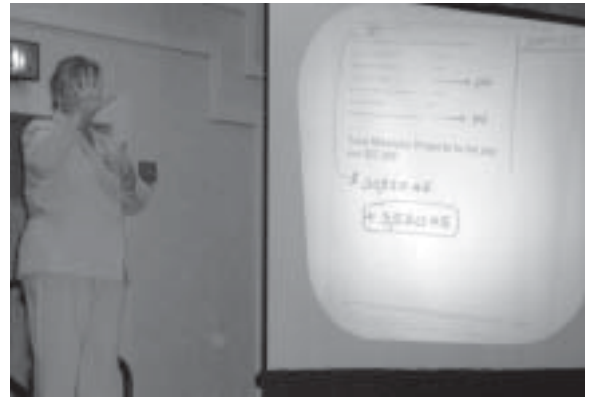


Retired Pastor Ludwig of Washington preaches Friday morning Devotion.



Friday morning breakfast.

Mission Project Goal...



ILDA President Pam Kane, in place of Erika Sipchen, explains about our 2005-07 Mission Project Goal. Our project goal has gone \$3,520.45 over our goal! Praise our Lord!!

Workshops...

Our workshop topics and leaders were:

- DeafPah!/DIT - Rev. John Reinke
- Mormonism & JW - Rev. Bud Palmer
- Can a church be a church without a pastor? - Deacon John Ruston



Rev. John Reinke explain about D.I.T. programs funded by our 2005-07 Mission Project.



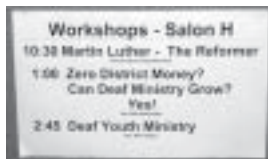
- Martin Luther, The Reformer - Greg Desrosiers
- Zero District Money? Can Deaf Ministry Grow? Yes! - Rev. Mike MacDonald
- Ministering to deaf children, parents, and families. - Rev. Mark Seeger



Rev. Mark Seeger of Austin, Texas explains our Mission Project's Youth Service Project programs.



Workshops that drew Standing Room Only crowds were Palmer's and Rushton's.



Rev. Gary L. Lawson and Lynn Ginter of Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio, explain about our Mission Project's Starfish Lutheran Deaf Learning Center programs.

ILDA Competition Awards...

1st Place Banner Winner -



2007 host Jeff Padon and competition chair Diane Munoz presents award to Pam Long of Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, Cary, Illinois.



Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, Cary, Illinois.

2nd Place Banner Winners (tie) -



Joy Rader of Wisconsin and Diana Rork of Indiana accept award for their churches.

1st Place Choir Winner -



Mark Friedrich, Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Silver Spring, MD



Emmanuel Lutheran Church of the Deaf, West Allis, Wisconsin



Peace Deaf Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

1st Place Group Choir Winner -



Above: Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio performed signed song.
Right: Elaine Tolbert accept award.

2nd Place Group Choir Winner -



Above: Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin performed signed song.
Left: Dawn Polzin accept award.



1st Place Skit Winner -



Jennifer Bonura and Martha Malone of Holy Three-in-One, Houston, Texas perform skit and accept award.

2nd Place Skit Winner -



Dawn Polzin accept award for her team. Dawn Polzin, Al Moore, and Pat Hycnar of Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin perform skit.

Saturday Evening Banquet...

"Baltimore Buffet" entries.



Professor Snip the Clown (Paul Dymoke)

D.I.T./DeafPAH! ...



Pat Hycnar of Wisconsin and Deacon John Rushton of New York accept their awards from Rev. Jerry Munz (left) and Rev. John Reinke (right).

Anniversaries...

During the banquet, it was announced the anniversaries of: Deacons Al Roke & Charles Kotal, 5 years; Rev. Mark Rupert, 10 years; Rev. Paul Tessero, 15 years; Rev. Larry Leider, 20 years; Rev. Omar Mark, 30 years; Rev. Robert Case & Rev. Jerry Munz, 35 years; and Walter Busby, 45 years. Lord Blesses you all!

Retirement...

It was announced that Rev. Jerry Munz of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Indianapolis, Indiana, retires at the end of July 2007, after 35 years of preaching for the deaf. He and wife, Joyce, will "semi-retire" in Florida. Right photo shows Janice Mancill (IL) and Carol Ann Pickell (WI) with Rev. Jerry Munz.



Friday afternoon tours...



Three choices of tours were provided... 1) Washington DC tour; 2) Baltimore Harbor tour; and 3) Servant Project. Above two photos show ILDA members line up in hallway and boarding the busses.



Baltimore Harbor Tour...

Members who chose this tour saw historical sites around the Baltimore harbor, including the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, Edgar Allen Poe's grave, the Battle Monument, Little Italy, Fell's Point, and many more. We rode the Ducks sightseeing tour bus that is a land and water vehicle. After the Ducks boat, we shop and ate in the Inner Harbor Mall. Seven photos on this page tells the stories.





On July 8th, 2007, ILDA 2007 Right Hand Award was presented to Fred Waltz at Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Left photo shows the surprised Fred Waltz. Center photo shows Bob Kane giving the Award to Fred. Right photo shows Fred Waltz with Christ Deaf's Vice President Robert Kane and Christ Deaf's 2007 Delegate to ILDA Robert Leland.

Servant Project...

We went to a low income apartment building on the north side of Baltimore, originally built for deaf residents. Both deaf and hearing people live there. We prepared and shared a picnic lunch with them. After lunch we sanded the picnic tables and benches, preparing them for the apartment maintenance staff to stain. We also worked on repairing broken equipment inside. Article and photos submitted by Rev. Ron Friedrich.



Washington, DC Tour...



Washington Tour photos submitted by Barry Dischinger of New York.

ILDA Membership Due

Membership for two years.

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

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

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

God's 1,000 Club @ \$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.)

Total enclosed \$____.00

Please make your check or money-order payable to: **ILDA TREASURER** and mail to: **John Krause, ILDA Treasurer, 9905 Madison St NE, Blaine, MN 55434.**

Your Name _____ Spouse Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Thank you for your support.

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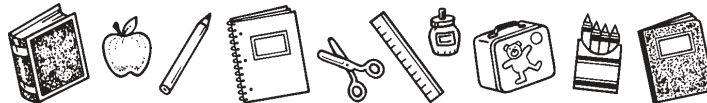
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