



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Spring, 2009

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 101, No. 1

DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Jerold D. Munz, ILDA Pastoral Advisor

Come Follow Me

Some of you know that I have two dogs. Their names are Bernie and Bianca and they are now nine years old (or 63 years old in human years). Bianca is now showing her age as she now is diagnosed with arthritis and needs to take pain medication to control her pain. Bianca is a fighter and refuses her meds and they have to be forced into her throat. Even then, she sometimes fools us and holds the pill in her cheek and at the opportune moment will spit it out. We have tried to hide the pill in peanut butter, ice cream, dog food and so on. She still refuses the pill and spits them out. Bianca probably will never accept her pills gracefully. This causes us great consternation and forces us to try and try again until either we give up or we succeed. Mostly we succeed. She has not learned how to take her pills without complaint. Now my sister's dog accepts pills by opening her mouth and my sister plops the pills into her mouth. That dog is no problem. Not so with my dog Bianca.

If anyone knows how we can get her to accept her arthritis medication without compliant, please let me know. I will be waiting to hear from you. Now there has to be a connection between this daily event and the Scriptures. I think I have found it. It comes in the life of every Christian to hear the Good News and to receive it. The question has to be asked is how do we receive the Good News?

The answer is in the Explanation to the Third Article of Luther's Small Catechism. **The Third Article.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; one holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?—Answer.

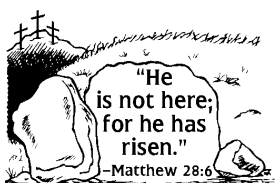
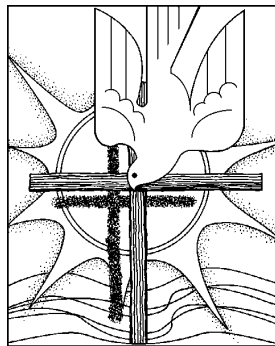
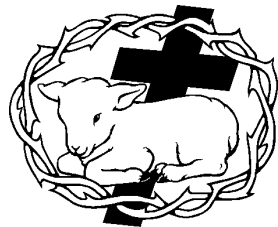
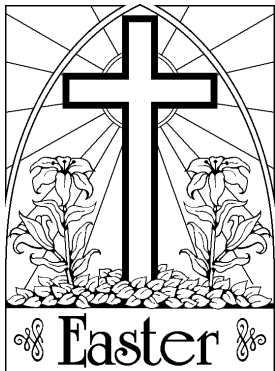
I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.

Note the beginning of the answer: *I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith...*

There is no way we walk up to Jesus and say, "I have decided to join you." Instead, our natural reaction is to say no to Jesus and yes to Satan. [See box on page 7]. We don't really want to join Jesus. Clearly there has to be another way to come and to know Jesus as our Lord. That answer is through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enters our hearts and rids us of all objections to accepting Jesus. In John 1:39 and 1:43, the Holy Spirit prepared Philip, Andrew and Peter's hearts to hear the Good News. When Jesus said, "come...follow Me," the three jumped up and immediately followed Him. The Holy Spirit entered their hearts and prepared them to accept Jesus.

How does God come to us? The same way. The Holy Spirit calls all of us into the whole Christian Church. That is, the Holy Spirit came

Pastoral Devotion continued on page 7...



Alleluia!
CHRIST IS RISEN



The President's Report...



Greg Desrosiers, ILDA
2007-2009 President

President's Spring Ponderings

By Gregory Desrosiers

Greetings to all of you, my beloved subscribers in the name of Jesus Christ!

On January 20, 2009, I used sign language to my Social Studies students from the captioned CNN TV program during Obama's powerfully inspired presidential inauguration and I saw the Canadian students being inspired by the closure of benediction. Acting swiftly on Day One after his inauguration, Obama summoned his economic team to press ahead with plans for rescuing the battered economy at home.

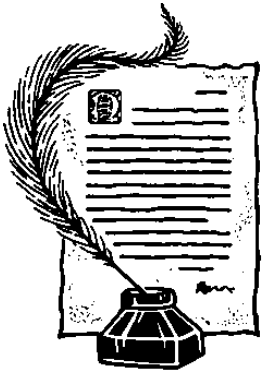
It is nothing new to the Canadians during the economic crisis presently; however, they are looking up at American leadership's economic recovery. As for us, it is **"Economy down; faith up!"** In Dryden, Ontario, Canada, in a time of economic difficulties, the local pastor said, "Do we step forward in faith or do we live in fear that everything is going to collapse around us?" The church members got together to boldly push ahead with ambitious plans for the future. They helped

renovating the church by volunteering.

Have you heard of Vision 2025 and Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT)? Let me explain to you what is that. Only 1500 languages had the Holy Bible translated in full for now. In 1999, Wycliffe Bible Translators calculated the projected time that would be 150 years. This means that every person waiting for the Bible will have died. Similarly, their grandchildren will have the same problem. Wycliffe called the challenge to the churches to end Bible poverty and start every translation by 2025. In 2007, about 4,486 different people groups have no Scripture at all. LBT just needs 115 translators. Please pray with us at LBT that the Lord will provide workers for the harvest. As of the present, Deaf Mission in Council Bluffs, Iowa, some of the Old Testament books and most of the New Testament books are already translated in American Sign Language and sold in DVDs to the public. **Jesus said, "With man this is impossible, but with**

The President's Report continued on page 10...

Editorial...



Greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is ALIVE!

By the time you get this newsletter, Spring has arrived. It has been a long, cold Winter in Ohio. We had a few days of 13 degree below zero which haven't happen in over 15 years and many days of freezing temperature. Also, our January snowfall is just about to break our all time record of January (Blizzard) 1978. Global Warming??? Huh, I don't think so. I have not gone to warmer Florida this January '09 as I did in January '08. I thank the Lord that all my procedures during late December '08 turned out benign (non-cancer or 10% cancer).

We are looking forward to ILDA 2009 Convention in Rochester, New York. We hope that all of you will be there. Visit the web sites that our president, Greg, has listed in

www.lcmsdeaf.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.

his report for registration and hotel in Rochester, New York.

Keep in mind that Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Larry Ginter and I will be ending our jobs of 12 years with The *Deaf Lutheran* newsletter at the end of ILDA 2009 convention. We greatly appreciate all your support for 12 years, look forward to our new Editor and Business Manager announced at the convention. Please continue sending Greg Desrosiers your Resume for these two positions.

He is Risen!

David G. Brown, Editor

The DEAF LUTHERAN

Spring, 2009

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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

Joseph Kindred...

My relationship with Joseph Kindred goes way back. I was Joe's pastor for 26 years. That was when I lived in Indianapolis. Joseph and his wife were the couple that met us when I came to visit the congregation before I accepted the Call in



1981. But I knew Joe before that. It probably was in 1968 when I first met Joe and Hazel at a church dinner in Indianapolis. I had graduated from Concordia Senior College [now Concordia Theological Seminary] in Fort Wayne and the next day we attended Joe's church. It was the famous gas station church. That was an old Pure Oil gas station converted to a deaf

church. That landmark is now gone along with Joe. My family and I attended that service because my parents were deaf and wanted to go to a deaf church — Joe's Church. So, we did.

Notice I called Peace Lutheran Deaf Church — Joe's Church. And for good reason. For years if anyone talked about the Deaf Lutheran Church, the Indiana Deaf people had a puzzled look on their face. However, if you said "Joe's Church," their faces lit up. They knew who Joe was. Joseph Kindred was an amazing man.

He was born in Gary, Indiana. Joseph Kindred was black and attended the Indiana School for the Deaf and graduated at a time when black people had a hard time in life and when deaf people had a hard time in life: black deaf people had it the worst. Joseph managed to soar above all that. He was a very active deaf person in Indiana. He was elected president of almost every deaf organization in the state in a time when most blacks were thrown out of all-white organizations. Every deaf person in Indiana knew of Joe's strong faith and every Indiana deaf person knew where Joe worshipped. He was a remarkable man.

Joseph also worked. He worked in Indianapolis at Link Belt Company which made metal link-belts which were then shipped to customers throughout the world. Joseph rose up the ranks to become a foreman over twenty men. They were all hearing. Joseph Kindred was black. This was a remarkable person in a time when discriminations, biases and persecutions were the norm in America. He was a remarkable man.

Joseph also served the Lord. Joseph served as ILDA President for two terms. He also served on Synod's Task Force on Deaf Ministry as well as other deaf ministry committees in the District and in Synod. Joseph received the Uriel Jones Right Hand Award in 1993 for his distinguished career. Joe and my paths joined together when I became the pastor of Joe's Church in 1981. Joseph was an integral part of the ministry at Peace. He was president several times while I was pastor at Peace. He served as Elder and Lay Leader in the worship services.

The picture shows my father, Carl Munz, standing between Joe and Hazel. The Kindreds and my parents always enjoyed each other's company. When they met at conventions, Joe and Carl attended the meetings. Hazel and Ruby Munz would visit and go shopping. Joe and Carl were remarkable men and their wives were remarkable women. The four were good friends even though they lived 600 miles apart.

One thing about Joe Kindred is that he never lost his temper. Whenever he was presiding over a meeting, it was a joy to watch Joe. His hands moved as if they were conducting a symphony. His hands flowed as an extension of his body inviting people to come to the dais to speak or sign. His hands flowed to hear a motion, a second, and carried. His hands were hands of peace. Later Joseph contracted Alzheimer's disease and waited the remainder of his years in a nursing home. Then in 2008, Joseph Kindred's work was finally finished and God our Father called Joe home to heaven. Joseph Kindred passed away last year after serving the Lord and the Church from the early 1960s to now in heaven with the Lord. When Joseph entered

heaven, our Lord said to him, "*Well done good and faithful servant... Come and share my joy.*" Matthew 25:21.

Pastoral Advisor Pastor Jerry Munz

I was unable to attend Joe's funeral last Wednesday but I heard that Prentice Marsh helped Alan Rork with the funeral. Perhaps some of you do not know who Joseph Kindred was. Let me share a little of him with you. Joe was deaf and black. He graduated from the Indiana School for the Deaf at a time when blacks were denied entry into Gallaudet. However, Joe was well respected by everyone who had met him. Joe worked at Link Belt Company of Indianapolis and advanced himself to the position of foreman. Not many people knew this. He a deaf man and a black man was a foreman over twenty men at at time prior to ADA. Joe was also a member of many organizations and became president of almost everyone of them: Indiana Association of the Deaf, Indiana Alumni Association, the local Frat, Deaf Lions, Archibald Home for the Aged Deaf, as well as Peace Lutheran. Many deaf people in Indiana during the 60s through the 80s knew Peace Lutheran not as Peace but "Joe's Church." What a tribute to a man and his faith. Joe was also a recipient of ILDA's Right Hand Award. Joe also was a member of Synod's Task Force on Deaf Ministry and he also was president of ILDA for two terms.

Joe served as President-Elect from 1975 to 1977 while Elmer Francisco was President of ILDA. Joe then became President from 1977 - 1981. After his term was ended, I (*Charlie Kotal*) then became President. On July 3rd, 1993 at the 12th Biennial ILDA Convention in Austin, Texas, Joe received Right Hand Award. Unfortunately he could not be present at the convention, the award presented to him at his home church, Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Indianapolis, Indiana by his pastor, Rev. Jerold Munz.

In my lifetime I have never seen anyone preside over a meeting — hearing or deaf — like Joe did. It was like watching a conductor leading the symphony. He never got flustered or upset and meetings were always cordial. Joe was deaf and black but never allowed that to hold him back. He lived in a time prior to the ADA (American Disabilities Act) and endured discriminations which are now deemed illegal. He died the day after the election of a black man to the oval office. He now is in heaven beside his beloved wife, Hazel. It was an honor to know Joe these many years and to know a person of great faith in whom the community knew the church Joe belonged to as "Joe's Church."

He passed away on Nov. 4th, 2008. On Nov. 12th, the funeral service was held at Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Indianapolis, Indiana and was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery. His wife Hazel passed several year ago now leaves his daughter, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. The Rev. Allen Rork officiated the service.

By Charlie Kotal

News from around the Regions...



Midwest Region...

Calvary, Des Moines... our Lord Jesus has called home **Jacqueline (Jackie) (Greene) Kissell** on November 18th. She graduated from Iowa School for the Deaf and is married for 54 years to **Donald Kissell, Sr.**

Central Region...

Our Savior, Madison... our Lord Jesus has called home **Howard Davis** and **Linda Noel**. Holy Cross, Delavan... **The Tscharners** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a long trip to Branson, MO. One thing that they said that has not changed is the Gideon Bible in every hotel or motel that they stopped at.

D.I.T. News...

Good News... Greg Desrosiers, Linda Desrosiers, and Pat Hyncar have been accepted into the EIIT program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. They began classes on December 1st, 2008. Greg will study to become a missionary pastor, and Linda and Pat will be in the deaconess program.

To briefly explain why they are in the EIIT program, we do not have enough DIT students to form a separate deaf class, so they will go through the Ethnic Immigrant program with those hearing students. It is the same thing that Alan Rork did. In our circles, we still refer to them as our DIT students.

Rev. John Reinke and Rev. David Nielsen are their mentors.

Pat Pokorny...

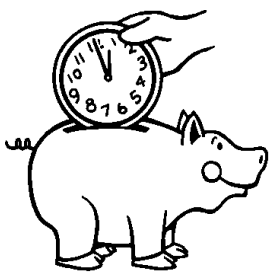
Patricia Louise Pokorny of Indianapolis, Indiana, has joined Jesus in Heaven on November 17th, 2008. She was married to Rev. Daniel Harry Pokorny, her husband of 26 years. She took joy in

supporting her husband's work with deaf congregations in Indianapolis, Washington D.C. and Baltimore and Daniel's post on the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Robert Andrew Bremer...

Robert Andrew Bremer, 69, of Chapel Hill, received his crown of eternal life on Friday, January 9, 2009. He was born on June 1, 1939 in Fairmont, MN. He attended parochial school at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wilbert, MN. He attended Lutheran high school and Concordia Junior College in St. Paul MN. He then attended Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, IN, graduating in 1961. Pastor Bremer received the Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary In St. Louis, MO in 1965.

Pastor Bremer dedicated his life to service to God by service to others. Initially, he served deaf parishioners when he began his vicarage/internship at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Newark, NJ (1963-64). He served as Pastor/Mission Developer for the Flint, MI field of Lutheran Deaf Missions with preaching stations in Saginaw, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Muskegon (1965-70). From 1970 to 1974, Pastor Bremer ministered with Hope Lutheran Church, In LaGrange, IL. While at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind (1974-79), he held the dual title of Chaplain and Director of Community Education responsible for a statewide program of adult and parent education. Returning to Minnesota in 1979, he was Director of College Relations for Concordia College In St. Paul, Minnesota. From 1981 to 1987, he worked at the Spartanburg Regional Medical Center in Spartanburg, SC, as Director of Employee Education. In November of 1987, he was called to start Advent Lutheran Church In Chapel Hill, NC. Pastor Bremer retired from Advent Lutheran Church in the fall of 2001, and in January, 2002, he began serving Resurrection Lutheran Church on a part-time basis.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Turn your clock ahead one hour @ 2 am March 8th, 2009.

Next D/L...

Due to issues and time frame, the Handbook and By-Laws proposals will be printed in the next *The Deaf Lutheran* issue.



Editor



Picture of some of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Minnesota, members who attended Rev. Daryl D. Gehlbach's surprised potluck on November 23, 2008 in honor of his 25th anniversary of his Ordination which was December 4, 2008.



ILDA Regional Conferences...

Northwest Region...

Was held at Camp Luther, Mission, BC, Canada on August 8-10, 2008. New officers are: **Richard Sharp**, President; **Rolph Foster**, President-elect; **Linda Desrosiers**, Secretary; **Gary D. Wilson**, Treasurer; and **Rev. David Nielsen**, Pastoral Advisor. Next NW-ILDA Conference 2010 will be at Big Fork, Montana.



Pacific Region...

Was held at Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf, Fremont, California on October 16-19, 2008. The theme was *"Teach me YOUR way, O LORD, so that I may live in YOUR truth."* Psalm 86:11. New officers are: **Jack Burns**, President; **Mary Ann Laudis**, Vice-President; **Charis Ames**, Secretary; **Lee Ann Kotal**, Treasurer; and **Decon Charlie Kotal**, Pastoral Advisor.

Midwest Region ILDA

Was held at Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center, Indianola, Iowa on September 12-14, 2008. The theme was *"Never Stop Praying"* 1Thessalonians 5:17. New officers are: **Ron Nester**, President; **Bill Zimmerman**, Vice-President; **Glenda Haefner**, Secretary; **Brian Byers**, Treasurer; and **Rev. Mark Anderson**, Pastoral Advisor.

Central Region...

Was held at Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Jacksonville, Illinois on May 15-18, 2008. The theme was **"Jesus Pah!"**. *"With God all things are possible."* Mark 10:27. New officers are: **Albert Moore**, President; **Wayne Kester**, Vice-President; **Dawn Polzin**, Secretary; **Jeraldine Chapman**, Treasurer; and **Rev. Alan Rork**, Pastoral Advisor. Next CR-ILDA Business Conference 2010 will be at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dixie Region...

Was cancelled for October 24-26, 2008.



Great Lakes Region...

Was held at Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio on April 25-27, 2008. The theme was **"Light Shows"** Matthew 5:14. New officers are: **Pam Kane**, President; **Scott Fife**, President-elect; **Larry Ginter**, Secretary; **JoAnna Rushton**, Treasurer; and **Deacon John Rushton**, Pastoral Advisor. Next GLRC Business Conference 2010 will be hosted by Rochester, New York.

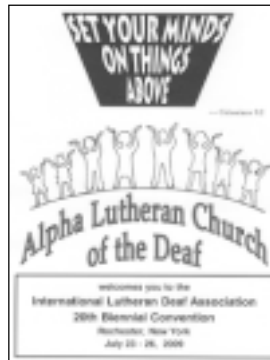
Eastern Region...

Was held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of the Deaf, New York on October 16-19, 2008. The theme was **"The Lord is your strength"** Nehemiah 8:10. New officers are: **Wayne Borngesser**, President; **James Cheese**, President-elect; **Earnestine Harris**, Treasurer; **Gerald Ahrens**, Secretary; and **Rev. Ron Friedrich**, Pastoral Advisor. Next ER-ILDA Business Conference 2010 will be in Maryland.

ILDA 2009 Convention...

July 23-26, 2009 ... Rochester, NY

Info and forms: www.alphadeaf.org/ilda



JoAnna Rushton,
Chairperson
jrushton@rochester.rr.com



R·I·T INN
CONFERENCE CENTER

www.ritinn.com

2007-2009 ILDA Mission Projects Report...



The 2007-2009
Mission Project

Fund has collected the total of \$1,585.00 in celebration of Jesus' birthday. Praise to the Lord! The total of our Mission Project Fund is **\$26,561.82** as of January 30, 2009.

We are getting closer to meet our goal of collecting \$40,000 in time of our next convention in the summer of 2009. **We only need about \$13,400 to meet our goal so we can do it in five months!** Let us consider to take some fundraising projects at our local churches such as a garage sale, bake and craft sale, Easter breakfast or spaghetti dinner. Your contribution will be much appreciated especially for the youths to see the part of ILDA convention and also for Starfish Deaf Learning Center and India Leadership Training!

The following list of prioritized projects is as:

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

If you wish to give a donation, please make your check or money order payable to **"ILDA 2007-09 Mission Project"** and mail to **John Krause, ILDA Treasurer, 9905 Madison St. NE, Blaine, Minnesota 55434-4207.**

With God's Blessings,

Linda Desrosiers
ILDA Mission Project Chairperson
lidesrosiers1@shaw.ca



INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

20TH Biennial Convention
RIT INN Conference Center
W. Henrietta, NY

July 23 - 26, 2009

www.alphadeaf.org/ilda.html



Banner, Skit, Choir Competition Application

Banner Competition:

Banners must be approximately 36" by 48". We have banner poles and stands. Convention theme is: "Set Your Minds on Things Above" ~ ~ Colossians 3:2

Skit Competition:

Skits are limited to ten minutes each. Focus on the theme as above.

Choir Competition:

Two categories: solo and groups (2 or more persons). Each participant is limited to one song and no more than 5 minutes in length. Songs must be Christian music or hymns. You must bring your own CD or cassette tape. We will provide CD and Cassette players.

Competition Registration:

Please print all information and mail to

Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Attn: ILDA 2009, 1969 Clinton Ave. S., Rochester, NY 14618

By June 1, 2009

Church Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov/State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____

Phone-TTY/VP/V: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Check only one (duplicate this form for each event):

Banner

Skit

Solo Choir

Group Choir

Song/Skit Title: _____

Name of participants: _____

SEND SEPARATE COPIES OF THIS FORM FOR EACH EVENT YOUR CHURCH IS ENTERING:
BANNER COMPETITION, SKIT COMPETITION, SOLO CHOIR, AND/OR GROUP CHOIR.

Nomination Report...

Past ILDA President Pam Kane has four people running for nomination for ILDA Officers to be voted at this summer ILDA 2009 Rochester Convention. ILDA members will be voting for President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Pastoral Advisor. Nominations for every ILDA officer positions can be made from the floor at our coming ILDA Convention this Summer. The ILDA Nomination Committee greatly encourage everyone to continue serving the Lord in what they like and enjoy. Your continuing association, mission and love with Lutheran Deaf people, pastors and leader is greatly appreciated. Below are brief information about the nominees.



President-elect Brian Grabler of Ohio accepted nomination for President-elect.

Greetings Brother and Sister's in Christ. My name is Brian Grabler. I am currently the Chairperson for Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church in Columbus Ohio. I have been a Lutheran Member for 24 years, which I started in Fort Wayne Indiana. Over the years I have grown to learn more about Lutherans as I have been with several Deaf Lutheran churches. I have been involved with teaching music workshop at several churches in the west, leading a choir, Love to sign music in church.

I was born in Fort Wayne Indiana. I first went to Deaf Lutheran church when I first got my driver's license. Some of you have remembered Dr. Kraus back then; he was the pastor for St. John Lutheran Church. Ever since I met him, I have been a Lutheran.

I was a president of GLRC for 6 years. I have hold several

officials position in several Lutheran churches. Currently I am helping Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran church with remodeling, fund raising, and being involved with our leaders, retreats. Now I am proud to say that we, Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, will host 2011 ILDA and looking forward to this exceptional experience that will take place at Deer Creek State Park. It will be a different experience for all of us and enjoy the nature that God has provided for us.

OmniCare Pharmacy currently employs me as a Picking Technician to a Pharmacist.

Hobbies are signing music, watching movies, hanging around with friends from church, watching my 14 year old daughter grow, spending time with my 2 dogs.

Brian



For Treasurer John Krause of Minnesota accepted nomination for third term as Treasurer.



For Secretary Diane Francisco of Washington accepted nomination for secretary.

My name is Diane (Lindemann) Francisco. I was born in Schenectady, NY and moved to Rochester, NY in 1954 where I attended Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD) from when I was 7 to graduation in 1966. After graduation, I worked as IBM Data Processing. I was confirmed by Rev. Walter Busby on Easter Sunday 1966. I was married to Eugene Clupper by Rev. Rynearson. The late Eugene Clupper passed away after ILDA 1975 convention in Washington, DC. We had two children whom also graduated from RSD. I also worked as RSD's day care teacher assistant and for Apple Day Care in Rochester.

I married past ILDA president and past Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Elmer Francisco in May, 2000.

I have 12 years of experience as

President of Alpha Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Rochester, and long time experience in choir in Rochester and Spokane. I was church secretary for 8 years and am present President of Faith Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Spokane, Washington. I was also secretary for GLRC. I am present ILDA's Necrology

I am grandma to five grandchildren, I love and spoil them!

Diane



For Pastoral Advisor Rev. Jerold D. Munz of Lakeland, Florida accepted nomination for second term as Pastoral Advisor.

Pastoral Devotion continued from page 1...

into our hearts and cleansed us of all distractions. Here we are spiritually fed and we remain strong in our faith. The Holy Spirit points us to Jesus. We hear Jesus say and sign "come...follow Me." We come to Him as did the Wise Men (Matthew 2:11).

It is not easy for the Holy Spirit to do His work. It is as tough as getting a pill down my dog Bianca's throat. In the end, Bianca is grateful that the pill eases her arthritic pain. In the end you and I, daily thank the Holy Spirit for not giving up on us. We now rejoice before Him and worship Him anxiously waiting for the day our Lord calls us home to share in that heavenly banquet without end.

*Pastor Jerry Munz,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor*

We humans have no desire to follow the Ten Commandments. We relish in gossip and in hating and in stealing and in killing. Remember that Scripture says (1 John 3:15, Matthew 5:28 Acts 8:21-22) that if we have thought a sinful act, we have done it and sinned. We think about hating people and wishing terrible things to happen to them. In doing so, we sinned. God has only one punishment for sin. With God there is no little to middle to awful sins. With God there is no little punishment to middle to terrible punishments for our sins. God has only one judicial sentence for sin. God does not have a little fine here and probation there and a jail sentence over there and a life imprisonment further down the road. God our Father has only one punishment for any one sin: regardless if it is an accidental or careless or premeditated sin. The punishment is eternal death (Romans 6:23). But thanks be to God, because blood of Jesus has washed us clean and we have eternal life.

**International Lutheran
Deaf Association
Executive Council Meeting Minutes
Baltimore, Maryland
June 21-24, 2007**

President Pam Kane called to order the executive council meeting at 9:05 A.M.

1. **Roll call:** Vice-president Gregory Desrosiers
Treasurer John Krause
Secretary Jennifer Bonura
Pastoral Advisor Mark Seeger
Host Chairperson Jeff Padon
2. **Necrology:** Diane Francisco listed names of the deceased ILDA members. It was requested that Pastor Mark Seeger pray for the deceased ones' families for comfort.
3. **Opening Devotion:** Pastor Mark Seeger guided an opening prayer and introduced a devotion in the name of Holy Spirit.
4. **President's Report:**
President Pam Kane commented how speedily time flies to serve her presidential term for four straight years but her throat cancer went through the eight weeks of radiation treatment and two weeks of chemotherapy. However, she was gradually recovered while she cannot eat regular food. She cautioned that it takes time to improve. She listed items on her report follows as:
 - a. She received an official letter from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio for bidding host in 2013. However, she talked with the host representatives to see whether or not they would be willing to host in 2011 since no host-bid church is available for 2011. So, 2013 for hosting is still open. Additionally, she called Pastor John Reinke to talk with the LCMS officials to find out if we could use the convention at Crown Plaza Hotel in St. Louis in the future. She forewarned that ILDA board take over this convention without fund raising drives despite of high cost of meeting rooms. Fortunately, in the past, the host cities came forward to offer to host. The next host should be encouraged to be held in the central region or the far west region of the United States.
 - b. She was confronted with the problem of the past ILDA Treasurer Jim Spichen who turned over the treasury book to the present Treasurer John Krause over a long time of holding. It was found out that there is a shortage of funds, but it was agreed to let John Krause comment his report later.
 - c. She raised a big concern about the fundraiser called Scratch N' Help with the board. The purpose of the fundraiser is to spend the costs of holding the board meetings in the future. Unfortunately, we only raised a few hundred dollars as not everyone was helpful. It was explained that we would have done with full support, so we might have a profit of twelve thousand dollars. There was a stigma that every regional president who got seventeen books apiece would have divided these books to each church by more than three books. She asked, "What happened?" However, the Board of Directors had to pay for these airfare and registration expenses on their own to the ILDA convention. There was another concern about God's 1000 Club Membership due to lack of participation and of contribution. It was agreed that the board needs to discuss how God's 1000 Club Membership is improved to raise funds to help defray the board member's expenses.
 - d. Concerning a couple of Bylaws that need to change, unfortunately, these changes were not printed in the Deaf Lutheran in ninety days before the convention is resumed. So, we cannot do anything related to the Bylaws for this year convention. The Bylaws needed a revision on the past president who is unable to attend to the convention as a nominating chairperson, so who would be a replacement, either past secretary or treasurer? Another Bylaws revision was on the membership due on the card reading September biannually, so September needs to be revised to June because the convention date is stood when it has to be paid before the convention.
 - e. No new business report was submitted to the Deaf Lutheran newsletter before ninety days before the convention starts.
 - f. Erika Sipchen, Mission Project Chairperson resigned effective on June 8, 2007 due to her personal reason.
 - g. Finally, President Kane asked the board to pray frequently for the newly elected officers and Mission Project goals, the host committee of Baltimore convention. Members arrived here safely as well as workshop presenters. Most importantly, we prayed for the soldiers serving overseas in Iraq. The 2007 host convention went smoothly at the beginning.
5. **President-elect's Report:**
 - a. Gregory Desrosiers' report was similar to President Kane's report. However, he did not receive any emails because of his incorrect email address. His correct email address is gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca.
 - b. Larry Gorton, nominating chairman from Spokane, Washington sent his report to Gregory Desrosiers. These nominated names as of printed are Pam Kane, Diane Francisco, and John Manson for President-elect position. Jennifer Bonura and John Krause are nominated as secretary and treasurer respectively for the second term. Pastor Matthew Nix is interested in running as pastoral advisor. Larry Gorton would like to see more names for open positions during the convention.
 - c. Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) is successful in the United States of America, but it has been not successful in Canada due to the scholarship difficulties from the American institutions to Canada.
 - d. The John Beverly Award President Pam Kane mentioned earlier has been passed around to the preceded presidents and it should have been placed in the museum in St. Louis Seminary.
6. **Secretary's Report:**
Jennifer Bonura mentioned that it was with an honor to be a secretary.
7. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Received treasurer's report last June 8 audited by two members of his home church named Ron Aspnes (church treasurer) and Janet Gehlach. They will be here for the convention, so please feel free to ask them for details or concerns. John Krause photocopied 200 pages of report that would be sufficient for the ILDA's meeting. The auditors located some discrepancies in Mission Project funds and suggested that we, ILDA Board take action on that.
 - b. John Krause admitted that it was difficult to reach Jim and Erika Sipchen several times about the Mission Project funds. They did not reply at all. The board will take action to resolve matters with the Sipchens.
 - c. Regarding Scratch N' Help Fund, it was unfortunate to note that there is no successful profit from the fundraising project. However, we got only a sum of \$263.57. It is recommended to discontinue that project due to lot of work with creating small profit.
 - d. Since there is a large amount of ILDA Mission Project fund being left out in the bank, John Krause wondered whether or not it implements a new six-month certificate, which we may get an extra profit of interest. If so, it should be placed into God's 1000 Club. It was agreed that the suggestion was invested, so we ended up by earning \$1,297.82. It was a big assistance to God's 1000 Club.
 - e. Unexpectedly, Erika Sipchen's sudden resignation as Mission Project chairperson was announced. John advised that funds be divided among three different places, but it was decided to have the funds on hold until the problem is solved first. Charles Kotal, Pastor Matthew Nix and Pastor John Reinke asked for the funds from the Mission Project for the missionary work purpose but the priority was to solve the issues in the Mission Project.
 - f. Lester Ahls' and Elmer Francisco's receipts were not located by Jim Sipchen but Elmer let it go but Lester's is still pending.
8. **Pastoral Advisor's Report:**
 - a. Rev. Mark Seeger presented his report regarding Ministry Youth Servant trip and National Deaf Teen Ministry symposium. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet a number of deaf teen ministries from around the country and learn skills and techniques for developing teen deaf ministries in area where you do not think it is possible. Mark Seeger received DVD including deaf actor with the use of American Sign Language, minus voice and captions. There were DVD songs from Deaf Teen Ministry symposium, One of these DVDs called "You are holy" "Need you, ME ME ME" The website is Deafmusic@dtquest.org and www.dtquest.org.
 - b. Rev. Seeger showed Jennifer Ceyanes' clips called Lessons Development Projects with simple American Sign Language, so these projects let the children sign by themselves with the bible stories from the Old and New Testaments. Even with the fund from the Stinger Trust in the amount of \$12,000 will go to Jennifer's project with an additional aid of \$10,000 from the Mill Neck Foundation. It was an excellent deal as well as Jennifer was a fantastic teacher with the children.
9. **Deaf Lutheran Editor's Report:**
David Brown explained that subscription mailing is still declining from 580 to 506 in two years. The main reason could be a reduction of deaf subscribers due to the death of long time senior citizens and more readers might be engaged to free accessibility to the Internet to read the past newsletters. Those newsletters are delayed from nine to twelve months in order to keep our fees floating. It was added that the editor and printer need fees to defray postage and printing expenses. Each newsletter cost

remains at ten dollars yearly as the rate has not increased since the beginning year of 2003 (four and an half years) Inevitably, postage costs continue to raise as there are two postage rate increases since that. As of December 1, 2006, account balance has reached a dangerous low balance of \$868.54. but on May, 2007 at the end balance, it increased to \$3,244.64.

10. **Deaf Lutheran Business Manger Report:**

Larry Ginter admitted that he continued to enjoy working with David Brown in a capacity of *Deaf Lutheran* business. He will submit his letter of resignation to Secretary Jennifer Bonura after ILDA 2009 Convention. It will be twelve years that he has been with the Deaf Lutheran staff with his one-year absence.

11. **2005 ILDA Convention Host Report:**

Linda Desrosiers chaired the 18th Convention that was hosted by the Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Vancouver, B.C. on August 4-7, 2005 at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel in Burnaby, British Columbia. It made history because it was the first ILDA convention held outside of the United States with the theme of the convention, *"Let Us Praise the Lord from the Mountaintops"* from Isaiah 42:11-12. There were highlights for the 2005 ILDA Convention as follows: seven workshops, a new tour option for a community service with "hand-on" helping activities along with a tour at a local food bank after a spiritual workshop, Christian and Native entertainment and shorter business meetings. There were five youngsters who participated in Jr.ILDA program including making memory boxes, swimming, touring in Vancouver, and participation at the Surrey Food Bank. There was a wonderful team of hard-working committee members with fun-filled attitude with their faithful commitment and strong teamwork in Christian Fashion and preparing the convention successfully. The following outcome of this convention is: 188 people registered; 151 for Tuesday Breakfast; 147 for Thursday Breakfast; 166 for Friday Breakfast and Break; 159 for Friday Reception and Saturday Breakfast and two breaks; 28 for God's 1000 Club Luncheon; 194 for Saturday Night Banquet and 166 for Sunday Breakfast. It broke evenly with a total block of 240 rooms. There were many positive factors that contributed to our successful convention: excellent weather, excellent hospitality in Vancouver Metro town Hotel, excellent food, great entertainment, excellent Lutheran history and Deaf mission-oriented workshop presentations, excellent mission opportunities shared and presented to us from Ghana and India and excellent communication among the 2005 conventioners. Before the convention, we made a few tough decisions due to financial issues such as dropping real-time captioning, reducing the honorariums and cancellation of a youth program scheduled for the full week for Jr.ILDA aged 13-21. Also, there was another cost defraying traveling expenses for Rev. David Christodoss from India as the keynote speaker. With much relief, the 90% or more of the total revenue room block met our hotel agreement contract in order to pay \$4,000 instead of \$13,850 for meeting room rental. It was found that \$5,577.61 in Canadian fund after all of the expenses were paid, split into three donations to 2007 ILDA Baltimore \$2,250.00 USD (\$2,623.95 CAD), to ILDA Missions \$1,250.00 USD (\$1,457.75 CAD), and to Deaf Ministry Endowment Fund in Canada (1,457.91 CAD). And the host applied for a self-government refund of GST (Goods Service Tax) only in Canada, paid \$3,765.46 but got only a refund of \$1,882.73. So, that refund went into US dollar at \$1,616.07 to ILDA Treasury.

12. **2009 ILDA Host Convention Report:**

Jo Anna Rushton is the chairperson of that 2009 host convention in Rochester, New York. The theme will be *"Set Your Minds on Things Above"* from Colossians 3:2 on July 23-26, 2009. The hotel will be located at RIT INN and each room costs \$99 per night. Brochure will be sent out onto the table for distribution. Tour arrangements have been unfinished but the committee has been working in search of selective local tours.

13. **Deaf Mission Report:**

Pastor John Reinke emphasized that prayer is always important to start first. He stressed that as for Deaf Pah, there were 162 students at the various levels of study and other two students at Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT); 6 more people applied in February and some from Canada. The new establishment called Deaf L.I.T.E.S. that is a training center for a combination of deaf and hearing volunteers in Deaf Mission. As Alan Rork was mentioned earlier, he will be the first student in the DIT program after his background was revealed since he was interested in DIT with Pastor Dennis Konkel in a capacity of a lay reader. There was an inspiring story about Alan who went to his friend's place with his wife, Diana for Christmas party. Somehow, God tapped Alan's shoulder before he signed out about the Nicene Creed in front of his twenty friends. However, some women tore their eyes, so they signed the song together. As a result, they asked him how he learned about God. He offered to establish the Bible Study at their local church. Next day he told Pastor Munz and Pastor Konkel (formerly vicar) about his friends who want to start the bible study. That's how he admitted into DIT. Praise the Lord!

14. **Scholarship Committee Chairperson:**

Deacon Charlie Kotal explained those two years ago in Vancouver, B.C. during the board of director meeting he requested that the members and the law committee to review the ILDA handbook under the Article XXII: Scholarship. There are some changes that need to be made since a few years ago we had DIT where deaf Lutheran members can be trained to become pastors, deacons, deaconesses and DCE. They could be qualified to receive the scholarship. According to DIT policy, manual dated back to August 2003 for Pastoral Ministry level, each DIT course costs \$1000 at Concordia Seminary. It recommends that the district develop a partnership between the student and his congregation to cover the costs of education; tuition, books, travel, lodging and board. There are a total of fifteen courses for those studying to become pastor or vicar. There was no action taken place at the board meeting that was held last year. And Pastor Reinke is the Director of DIT; he did not think there are any costs for the vicarage program that should be paid by DIT at no extra costs. It is only the local congregation time to support the worker. So, there should be no reason to ask for funds. They are just for the regular class costs. There are just four names following: Vicar Alan Rork from Anderson, Indiana, Vicar Larry Larson from St. Louis, Missouri, Deaconess Pat Monroe from Council Bluffs, Iowa and Debbie Larson who studies to be a deaconess.

15. **Central Region President's Report:**

Janice Mancill gave her report following: The 2006 CR-ILDA Conference was held in Crystal Lake, Illinois by Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf. Pastor Jerry Munz announced that he will retire on July 31, 2007 and plans to move to Florida. Both Pastors Palmer and Reinke are still going to Ghana and India annually like they did in the past. Also, Pastor Reinke was appointed to be a director of DIT in St. Louis Concordia Seminary.

16. **Great Lake Region President's Report:**

Jo Anna Rushton replaced Brian Grabler as a representative since Brian regretted for not being able to attend. The next host, Columbus, Ohio started to have servant trips for teenagers on July 16-20 to several houses to do some fix-ups; children will go to King's Island and will go to Deaf Nursing Home to help anything. Columbus will host ILDA in 2011 unless nobody wants to host. Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church approved to host 2011. There is still an annual Men's retreat in Pioneer Camp, Rochester, New York.

17. **Eastern Region President's Report:**

Wayne Borgmesser gave his report: He shared about the events at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf, New Jersey. The church celebrated the 5th year with the hearing church at the invitation of special guest Rev. Bill Wrede.

18. **Midwest Region President's Report:**

Ron Nester presented his report. It was explained that 2006 Midwest ILDA Region conference was held by the Word of God Church for the Deaf, Cedar Rapids, Iowa at Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, Iowa on July 28-30. Its theme was *"Bountiful Harvest"* (Matthew 13:23). As Rev. Matthew Nix from South Dakota, Rev. Dennis Konkel, Rev. Mark Anderson and Rev. Tim Eckert in Iowa, and Rev. Darrel Gehlach in Minnesota are present, there are no other pastors in Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri and Kansas. The next conference will be held in Iowa on October 19-21, 2007 with special speaker, Pastor John Reinke from Madison, Wisconsin.

19. **Dixie Region President's Report:**

Martha Malone presented her report. Unfortunately, there was no regional conference because of lack of contacts among all churches. There is no pastor in Memphis, Tennessee and Pastor Robert Case still works as a part time pastor at John of Beverly Chapel in Dallas, Texas. There are only two active churches in the area. Rev. Mark Seeger leads Jesus Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Austin, Texas with 200 children in educational programs from ages 3 to 20. Every child who came was given a t-shirt reading *"These are My Church Clothes"* on the front and *"Come as you are to Jesus Deaf Church"* on the back. It was great to see so many children at Texas School for the Deaf wearing those shirts. God blessed with over 80 children at their last Vacation Bible Summer (VBS) but there were 30 more than they expected! Holy Three in One Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Houston, Texas (Rev. Larry Leider) is still a blessing in many ways. Even though the Texas District has discontinued supporting Deaf Ministry in Texas, we still continue to praise and worship our Lord in regular worship services with the sacrament of Holy Communion twice a month. Pastor Larry Leider had to go back to work full time in his family's business but the members have stepped in and taken up more of the responsibilities for the work of the church.

20. **Pacific Region President's Report:**

Lee Ann Kotal presented her report following: She commented that Pilgrim Lutheran Church of the Deaf goes on steady despites of its ups and downs. Deacon Charles Kotal has reached his fifth year serving as deacon last

May 15 and would continue his work for a few more years if his health permits and God's will. There were other ASL interpreted church services in Burbank, Carpenteria and San Diego. In Fremont, CA Rev. Roy Dahmann still continues his preaching at Memorial Lutheran Church for the Deaf as well as another church in Sacramento. His wife Becky has worked as Church worker and recently had a heart surgery. She is now improving and doing well. Pacific Region of ILDA conference was held in Carpenteria last October. There is still the Rev. Don Leber Deaf Youth camp, which will be held on August 12-17, 2007. It had about 80 campers last year.

21. Mission Project Proposal:

As ILDA needs to organize mission money better, there was a series of discussion to prioritize projects and pay each project fully as the donations come in or all donations are kept until the end of the second year mission project period and then divide it evenly by percentage, so each project gets a fair percentage. If more donations come in, it is necessary to meet all mission goals and finally the extra donations will be accounted into the next two-year period. Now we agree to prioritize the list as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Christian/Bible Lessons for Deaf Children | \$7,000.00 |
| 2. DIT (training materials) | \$6,000.00 |
| 3. Africa Leadership training | \$6,000.00 |
| 4. Rev. Leber's Deaf Camp | \$3,000.00 |
| 5. Youth Service Project | \$7,000.00 |
| 6. Starfish Deaf Learning Center | \$5,000.00 |
| 7. India Leadership Training | <u>\$6,000.00</u> |
| Total Mission Project Goal | \$40,000.00 |

22. Resolution Committee: 2007 resolutions were carried.

Resolution 07-01 – 2009 ILDA Convention

Where the International Lutheran Deaf Association convention will be held during the biennial year

And

Whereas the next 20th biennial convention will be hosted by the Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Rochester, New York

And

Where as the Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf would like to recognize Don and Ruth Peterson for artwork and advertising printed on the back cover of the program.

Be it resolved that the ILDA and the Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf to show our appreciation with much thanks for their dedicated service for ILDA.

It was moved to adoption by Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf and Deacon John Rushton.

Resolution 07-02 – President Pamela Kane

Whereas President Pamela Kane has served two terms for the ILDA presidency

And

Whereas President Pamela Kane is so dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ for her dedicated service and appreciation

Be it resolved that the ILDA give President Pamela Kane a standing ovation.

Clapping, clapping, clapping, hand waves.

Resolution 07-03 – 2007 ILDA Convention Committee

Whereas the 2007 Convention, held in Baltimore, Maryland

And

Whereas it was hosted by Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf

Be it resolved that the ILDA recognize with sincere appreciation of dedicated service to the convention committee for their hard work and planning this convention

And be it resolved that the ILDA give them a standing ovation to show our thanks.

22. Unfinished Business: None

23. New Business:

- a. Martha Malone moved that *The Deaf Lutheran* raise dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00 annually effective December. Ron Nester seconded. **It was carried.**
- b. Pastor Charles Kotal moved that the scholarship for Pat Monroe, Alan Rork, Debbie Larson and Mark Larson to get \$2,000 each. David Brown seconded. **It was carried.**
- c. John Krause moved that free ILDA logo pins and God's 1000 Club be distributed to the members. Wayne Borgmesser seconded. **It was carried.**

Wayne Borgmesser moved to close new business. Gregory Desrosiers seconded. It was carried.

24. Closing Prayer: Pastor Mark Seeger led the prayer to close the board meeting.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Bonura
ILDA Secretary*

The President's Report continued from page 2...

God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26.

As you know ILDA's 20th biennial convention in Rochester, New York on July 23-26, 2009, please check on www.rit.inn.com for lodging reservation and www.alphadeaf.org/ilda for registration. As for optional tour plan, check on www.alphadeaf.org/ilda.tour. If you would like to peruse convention schedule, just link www.alphadeaf.org/ilda. If your church is interested in bidding the future convention host, please advise the ILDA board as soon as possible. We are looking forward to that convention in about an half year! Let's get together to convene and to pray together for the betterment of our world with its theme, **“Set Your Minds On Things Above.”**

Spring is coming more quickly and shorter than we are thinking. I was aroused by an interesting article, **“It's the real deal.”** by Ian Adnams in *The Canadian Lutheran* in March 2008. Let me paraphrase his writing to you in brief and concise manner. Ian was appalled by such email scams and hoaxes, so he decided to do the research and discover the truth. Do you remember a year ago the documentary, *The Jesus Tomb* which tried to say Easter and Christ's resurrection were a hoax. People would rather believe there are bones and descendants than forgiveness and eternal life! You already know all of the gospel accounts about Joseph of Arimathea and

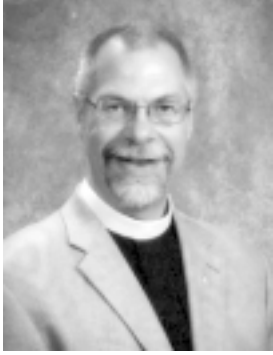
Nicodemous taking care of Jesus' burial, the four gospels records followers finding the tomb empty, seeing Jesus alive, and eating with Him. This is no hoax. Paul noted that but if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised and if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith” (1Cor.15:12-14). Out of interest he googled four founders: Buddha grave; Muhammed grave; Abraham grave; Jesus grave. Each founder died in each certain location respectively: the bottom of the Himalayan Mountains; Medina, Arabia in 632; Hebron to the hills above the Dead Sea; and in either Japan or India for Jesus. It is absurd! Indeed, we know that Christ is risen with his pierced flesh side and holed hands and feet. Don't let detractors or sensationalists discredit our Christian faith. That empty tomb is the clear message of our faith with exciting news.

However, any replacements for Brother David Brown and Brother Larry Ginter are open, so please email Gregory Desrosiers at gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca.

Have a Happy Easter in the light of Jesus Christ's victorious resurrection. Keep the faith.

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

Mill Neck Foundation Appoints New Director of Deaf Ministry...



**Reverend S. R.
Schumacher**

Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry is pleased to announce that Reverend S. R. Schumacher has accepted the call to serve as Director of Deaf Ministry. In his new role, Rev. Schumacher, who was the Associate Pastor and recently Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Bristol, CT for the past nine years, will research and report on Deaf ministry, travel around the world to meet with leaders from related organizations, develop comprehensive work plans, represent Mill Neck Foundation at various conventions and conferences and serve as Chaplain to the Mill Neck Family of Organizations.

First on his list at Mill Neck Foundation is to research what is being done in Deaf ministry on a global perspective. "I'm excited...I feel like a little cloud in God's vast, blue heaven. I'm anxious for the wind of God's Spirit to lead me in the direction I'm supposed to go," shared Rev. Schumacher. Hoping to one day make hearing churches more accessible to the Deaf, Rev. Schumacher would like to "reach out globally and ask, 'how can Mill Neck assist the Deaf on an international basis?' This may include training, construction and education."

Rev. Schumacher's interest in Deafness began when he attended the seminary. It was there that he met Dr. George R. Kraus, a former chaplain of Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf and Mill Neck Manor Board member. Dr. Kraus has since passed away, but Rev. Schumacher holds memories of his mentor close to his heart, as it was Dr. Kraus who helped the pastor-to-be cultivate a fondness for the Deaf and sign language. "Back then, I assisted Dr. Kraus with a workshop on Deaf Ministry in a hearing congregation and signed the Worship Service for the Deaf. He, in turn, helped instill in me the need and the desire to continue on this path," said Rev. Schumacher.

Prior to becoming a pastor, Rev. Schumacher received a bachelor's degree in Industrial Design Technology and worked for an engineering firm. After graduating from the seminary in 1987, he ministered at churches in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Missouri and Illinois. In 2000, he accepted the call to be the Associate Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, and then became the sole Pastor in 2007. His children, Emily, Joshua and Jacob, have followed in his footsteps, as all are involved in Lutheran education.

Although he is no longer at Immanuel, Rev. Schumacher's wife, Cynthia, is a first grade teacher at Immanuel Lutheran School. Together, they have seen many children grow and learn through the years. Kids are ubiquitously referred to as "the future," but Rev. Schumacher sees it differently. "It's all about the kids. They are the children of today and the adults of tomorrow," he believes.

At Immanuel Lutheran Church, over the years, Rev. Schumacher lead full sign Worship Services and Bible Studies for the Deaf Lutheran congregants, many of whom travel great distances for services because of a lack of available places to gather. On a mission to develop a more Deaf-friendly church experience for these parishioners, as well as the many others out there, Rev. Schumacher remains hopeful that "we'll also be able to reach them through the media and technology."

Reaching out to the Deaf worldwide has been a long-term goal for Rev. Schumacher, who in 2005 was asked to represent the New England District and the Missouri Synod (Founded in 1847, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is the eighth largest Protestant denomination in the United States) on a fact-finding trip to Kenya, Africa. Since then, contributions from Immanuel Lutheran Church and School are facilitating the construction of a school in Kenya. He has also helped in developing a plan to start a Deaf ministry there for locals.

Accomplishing such a feat has proved to be quite an undertaking, as are his current responsibilities, but the Pastor takes each assignment on wholeheartedly. "In Africa, many Deaf children are shunned, so they tend to develop their own language. So how do we get the words of Jesus to them? What a task...but it would be an enormous gift, whether here, in Africa, or anywhere in the world, to bring 'an openness' and the love of Jesus to their lives," said Rev. Schumacher.

Part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry 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, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.



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Deacon Alan Rork of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Indianapolis, Indiana was our first D.I.T. graduate.

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