



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Summer, 2009

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 101, No. 2

DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Jerold D. Munz,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

Our dog Bernie has developed a new habit. Now for a long time, when we went out we were able to let him and his sister Bianca have free range of the house. However, that now has changed. When we leave, the two dogs have to go into the kennel which sits in our kitchen. The reason is that after we leave the house Bernie has developed a habit of going into our home office. While in the home office, Bernie will pick up a book from the shelves and drag the book into the living room. Now if Bernie would hold onto the book or attempt to read it, we would have no objections.

However, there in the middle of the living room in plain sight, Bernie will begin to eat the book he has chosen. Several of the books he ate were old out of print. One is a book of sermons for the church year printed in 1758. That book came with my great grandparents when they immigrated to this country. Fortunately Bernie never found that one. However after a few incidents of Bernie devouring books, we had to put them into the kennel cage while we are gone and they are left home alone.

This reminds me of a prayer used in Sunday worship. It is called the Collect for the Word: "Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and *inwardly digest* them..." Bernie feels that he needs to *inwardly digest* [eat] the books from our home office. Maybe he thinks if he eats the book, he will learn more. Thank goodness, he has not tried to eat a Bible. But if he did and it helped him to learn more about God, that would be a good thing.

But for most of us, eating a Bible will not help us become instant scholars. Instead, we should not copy Bernie by *inwardly digesting* [eating] the book but copy his joy in reading books. My suggestion for you and for me is to get back into reading the Scriptures on a more regular basis. This summer promises to be a wonderful time for all of us to get back to reading the Bible.

Psalm 68:11 says that God gave us the Word and we are His proclaimers. We are to proclaim that Jesus is Lord. God has appointed some to be [Ephesians 4:11] apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors, and some to be teachers. He has appointed all of us to be proclaimers – people who tell others about Jesus.

On the first Easter morning a group of women went to the tomb and discovered that it was empty. They ran to tell the Apostles and everyone the Good News that Jesus is risen from the dead. They became proclaimers — the first proclaimers after the Resurrection. Others saw the empty tomb. They also became proclaimers. Those humble proclaimers in Jerusalem told everyone about Jesus. For two thousand years proclaimers have re-told and re-told the Easter story that Jesus is risen from the dead. And because of Jesus all of us receive forgiveness for our sins. Therefore our names are written in the Book of Life [Revelation 21:27]. No one can erase our names out of that wonderful book. Bernie knows that and that is why Bernie will not inwardly digest the Book of Life. Why? Because Bernie and also all Creation rejoice in the Resurrection: "Then I heard every living thing in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that are in them. They were singing "Praise and honor and glory and power to the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever." [Revelation 5:13].

Pastor Jerry Munz,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor



NOTICE...

Editor and Business Manager wanted. Search for new Editor and Business Manager are still open. If interested, please contact ILDA President Greg Desrosiers at gdrosiers1@shaw.ca

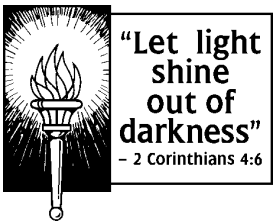
The President's Report...



*Greg Desrosiers, ILDA
2007-2009 President*



May 31, 2009



Greetings to all of you, my beloved subscribers in the name of Jesus Christ!
First, I would like to explain the process of faith since I met a number of Deaf and hard-of-hearing people in Canada regarding my present coursework at Deaf Institute of the Deaf since December 2008. I tend to write "Keep the faith" with God's blessings to every respondent, friend and relative in mail and by email. Let me embellish the process of faith to you following: When a storm blows into your life, one of two things happens: You become bitter or you become better. Often the missing link between getting better and growing bitter is faith. People with a strong faith overcome challenges and rise to a new level while those without faith become discouraged and broken. The Bible tells us faith is the substance of things is hoped for but the evidence of things is not seen. It is believing in something in your own heart you cannot prove with your head. It is known that God helps you overcome any obstacles and endure the storm. The Bible tells us to live by faith. I am borrowing an excellent advice on a four-step process on building faith from the pastor in Winnipeg follows as: 1. Keep God a constant presence in your life; 2. Declare that the mountains in your life will be moved or you will overcome them; 3. Do not doubt in your heart; and 4. Believe what you say. That's significant time to retain the process of faith for the rest of you life.

Second, I would like to share my grave concern with you about the Nigerian scams via Internet. Almost daily I have received an email message from a total stranger with false identity or impostors, but I deleted each of that all the time. I think that there are fears of impostors increase on Internet and face book which take advantage of everyone's gullibility and vulnerability. The online victims responded to the scams by wiring a lot of money to London, England in installments. Extortion and false impersonation have been common in phony phone calls and fake e-mails across North America. The impostors or hackers found my email address through the www.ilda.com to ask me for kinds of donation, lottery or investment. In the first place, admittedly, I was tempted to reply

to the impostors after I was surprised to claim an attractive international one-million dollar lottery from the deaf British club via internet but I decided to remove that after I felt that it was a clear scam. Attending to the Deaf Institute Theology workshop at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in March, I asked a lady who works as a deaconess in the office concerning the scams. Her simple advice is to remove these scams from her e-mail at once and she did not reply to them at all. After my interpreter's strong encouragement, I have been trying to take measures to reduce impersonations. There are preventative tips for those who want to take security of their online profile as follows:

1. Be suspicious of anyone who ask for money over the internet;
2. Choose a strong password and use credentials for each of you web accounts;
3. Use an updated browser that features an anti-phishing blacklist; and
4. Create more than one contact e-mail address and reset your Internet password.

Finally, please pass the urgent word among your friends and relatives because I already have seen some deaf victims being at unexpected financial loss with the impostors with my broken heart. Also, tell them to keep the faith not to be tempted by such attractive scams.

Third, as for the Deaf Institute Theology (D.I.T.) seminar, Linda Desrosiers, Patricia Hycnar and I attended to an one long week workshop at Concordia Seminary on March 16-20. With much rich learning experience, a series of workshops was conducted by the best facilitators with strong background in leadership and diversity. I will be glad to share such excellent information with you at the ILDA convention in Rochester, New York on July 22-26. The interpreters did a fabulous job at keeping us engaging to the great speakers. All of us are studying two courses namely, first, History

The President's Report continued on page 5...

www.lcmsdeaf.org

Host(s) wanted for 2013 & 2015 ILDA Conventions...

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

Summer, 2009

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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

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

Messages from your **The Deaf Lutheran** Editor and Business Manager...



Memories... 1997-2009



*Editor David G. Brown
with Rev. Don Leber*

We would like to thank all of our readers and member of ILDA for your 12 years of support while I an your editor.

Looking back, I remember that after former editor, Lester Ahls, has announced that he is retiring from editor duties, I have applied for the editor position.

During ILDA 1997 Executive Board meeting in St. Louis, Larry Gorton, Dennis Konkel, Alice Hagemeyer, Russel Healey, Rev. Don Leber, Lester Ahls, Elmer Francisco, Pam Kane, and a few others I have forgotten names, has interviewed and voted for me!

I have worked hard in reformatting the newsletter to computerized graphic format. At that time, I had 8 years of Macintosh computer, Adobe PagerMaker and PhotoShop experience. With Microsoft Words and Excel experience, I have spent many hours helping new Business Manager, Larry Ginter, in his programs.

Over the 12 years, I have enjoyed meeting you folks and traveling to several regional conferences, church celebrations, and attending 7 ILDA conventions plus the 2009 convention in Rochester, NY.

Now is my time to retire and enjoy my time outdoor at my campground and my time with my two adult children and four grandchildren - Hayden 7, Logan 5, Éowyn 2, and Iris 2.

*In Christ,
David G. Brown, Editor*

I would like to thank you all for supporting me as Business Manager for 12 yrs. I enjoyed to works for Deaf Lutheran making the lists and subscriptions.

I remember that our retired Elmer Francisco had announced you all that I become your new Business Manager of Deaf Lutheran at ILDA Conference in St Louis, Missouri (July/1997). I was surprised and said Whoo! Elmer Francisco taught me what to do with Deaf Lutheran.

David Brown did a very good job working with computer. I take care of money for pay bills and folding and putting labels. I take the Deaf Lutheran mailing to Post Office at downtown in Cleveland, Ohio.

We have wonderful meeting with ILDA officers and traveling regional conferences and church celebrations.

I will never forget that what Pastor Bud Palmer preached about "FLAMES". It is the best that I learned about my heart and mind-Strong Faith.

Now is my time to retire. I still am my church leader, go to Bible Class and TLC (Tender Love in Care). God is Love! My wife, Lynn, and I become grandparents last April 8,2009. Our grandson name is Brody Steen Ginter. It is our daughter Joanne's son. We would like to spend more time with our adult children and grandson.

I am looking forward to see you all in ILDA and regional conference.

*God take care of all and smile you all.
Love in Christ,
Larry D. Ginter,
Business Manager (1997-2009)*



*Business Manager
Larry D. Ginter*

News from around the Regions...

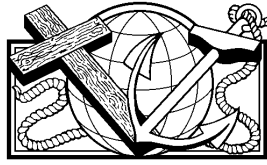


Midwest Region...

Calvary, Des Moines... Our Father in heaven has called home **July Barnard** in January.

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.**

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,

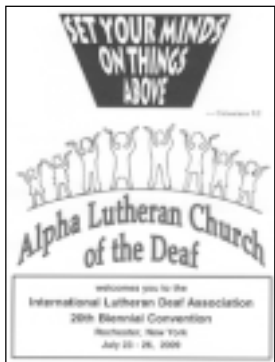
Linda Desrosiers
ILDA Mission Project Chairperson
ldesrosiers1@shaw.ca



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

CR-ILDA...

CR-ILDA Retreat, Report by Dawn Polzin Pat Hycnar, Sandra Schultz, and Dawn Polzin drove down to camp for CR-ILDA retreat near Springfield, Illinois last Feb 13-15. Guess what day that was when we left? Friday the 13th!!! We did pray before we left Pat's home.

On the way to the camp, I noticed that several drivers were driving slowing down so I drove slowly. And there were two cars in an accident in the middle of the road and the police have not arrived yet. I was thinking to myself, boy, it could have happened to us if we got there earlier. We were thankful to the Lord for protecting us on Friday the 13th! .

Upon arrival, we met other people and ate at a Mexican Restaurant before we went to camp. We settled down and relaxed all night. The next morning, we found snow on the ground on Valentine's Day. We spent - discussing the theme "Growing up in Jesus" all morning.. In the afternoon, the CR- ILDA officers had a board meeting until suppertime. After supper, some people played WWI, chatted, or reading books, etc.

Sunday morning, we had a Bible Study till 10 am for Worship. Rev. Alan Rork of Indianapolis, Indiana, gave his sermon on "Best Wash". He shared with us the fact that we all lived with dirt by using such as shopping cart that we pushed with our hands handle after all those people had sneezes, sweats, and kids were picking noses, eeewwwww! Image that! BUT the "Best Wash" {our sin} is washed away, that is much better. We thank God for washing away our sins. Lunch was provided before we all headed home.

Next camp retreat will be on Oct 30, 31, and Nov 1. Come/join and build Christian Friendships!

For the Over-the Eighties...

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and was fitted for a set of hearing aids allowing the gentleman to hear 100%.

The elderly gentleman went back a month later and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect.

Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!" ~~ thanks to Jan Weitz

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

of New Testament and, second, Introduction to Christian Doctrine to date. We passed the first course with flying flags! Presently, we are finding the second course a big challenge due to the strong nature of theology. What a very worthwhile seminar it was for all of us!

Fourth, the International Lutheran Deaf Association convention is just coming to us in July in Rochester. There is an already host website, www.rit.inn.com for lodging and www.alphadeaf.org/ilda for registration. We are anticipating an interesting convention with its theme, "Set Your Minds On Things Above." If you wish to present a workshop with excitement, please advise Chairman Joanne Rushton immediately. I am looking forward to renewing our old and new friendship with many others from over the states and provinces there as your new brother in Christ.

Finally, the election on the officers is coming to Rochester, so please advise us who is interested in running as any officer, editor, publisher or chairman of any committee immediately. Here is my email address: gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca. You will find enclosed copies of interesting events in Rochester in The Deaf Lutheran.

Keep the faith, my fellow brothers and sisters in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

Summer School...

Summer time is here. For some people this is a welcome relief after a long cold snowy winter. For us in Florida, summer is just another day in paradise. Summer is the time for swimming, picnics, reunions, vacations, and the ILDA convention in July in Rochester, NY. Summer is also a time to relax. Many offices close early on Fridays so that the employees can have a few more leisure hours. Many people go away on the weekends. Many places offer a place to relax and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding area.

Summer time is a wonderful time to become closer to our God. Many people take time to read their Bibles. Others take quiet walks in nature. Others find a quiet place to pray. Others take time to listen to the Lord.

Summer time is Psalm 68:11 *"God gave the Word and great was the company of the proclaimers."* Summer is a great time to hear God's Word in the Scriptures and then tell others about what God says in the Bible. However, a great many of us don't feel comfortable talking about Jesus Christ. We are reminded of the verses in Ephesians 4:11 which says that God chose some people to be prophets, apostles, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Perhaps you are one of those who say that you are not any of these categories. So, where does that leave you?

Some people are called to be prophets, apostles, evangelists, pastors or teachers. However, God has called all of us to be witnesses. We are to witness Jesus to everyone we meet. Your answer is probably that you are inadequate to be a witness. For this reason ILDA and LDMS have a program to help you to become a fantastic witness. The program is called **"Deaf Pah."** After studying Deaf Pah, you can study a second program called **"DIT."** For more information about Deaf Pah and DIT go to our website. On your computer, click onto internet and go to Google and type in the word deaf Pah. Read what it has to say and then talk to your pastor. Ask him about taking up a course in Deaf Pah. The courses help you to become a better witness. Psalm 68:11 says that you will become a better "proclaimer" telling others about Jesus Christ our Lord.

2009 Uriel C. Jones "Right Hand" Award...



Deacon Donald Mowl has agreed to take care of the Right Hand award at ILDA 2009 convention in Rochester, NY. Any question, contact Don at: mowlds@pulsenet.com or Fax/TTY/VP him at 724-225-8867.

Seminary Hosts EIIT & DIT Students During Urban Leadership Seminar...

(4/2/2009)

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, hosted students from the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) and Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) on March 16-20 during an Urban Leadership Seminar. Originally from Liberia, Haiti, Southeast Asia, Sudan, Eritrea and Canada, 24 students heard presentations on outreach, pastoral and deaconess preparation, and cultural affairs.

"By all accounts this seminar did address quite a wide range of topics including leading families in the context of urban ministry, as well as cross-cultural," commented Dr. John Loum, director of the EIIT. "The wide representation of EIIT students is a testimony to how Concordia Seminary in the 21st century is tackling theological education through modern technology. Hence we are intentionally reaching the world following our Lord's command."

EIIT is a specialized program of theological education and formation for effective pastoral and deaconess leadership within immigrant-based churches. DIT provides an alternative route to ordination for deaf and hard of hearing members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The Urban Leadership Seminar is one of three residential seminars that EIIT and DIT students are required to attend prior to program completion. For more information on EIIT, call 314-505-7764 or e-mail eiit@csel.edu. For more information on DIT, call 314-505-7120 or e-mail signschool@csel.edu.



Row 1, left to right: Khai Lee, Moua Vang, Soun See, Linda Desrosiers, Patricia Hycnar; Row 2, left to right: Greg Desrosiers, Saron Woldehaimanot, Lusenie Fofana, Vincent Paul, Dietrick Gladden, Dr. John Loum, Valbrune Saintelus; Row 3, left to right: Rev. John Reinke, Rev. Matthew Tooman, Justin Jean Francois, Rev. Daniel Bartley, Augustus Soko, Mercidieu Auguste, Negro Prevalus.

GLRC 2009 Columbus, Ohio...

The Great Lake Regional Conference has met at Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio on March 27-27, 2009. The theme was "**Total Forgiven.**"

On Saturday, we watched the three hours long DVD movie titled "**Joseph.**" This was an emotion filled movie enjoyed by about 40 of us.



Above: Pastors and Deacons at GLRC 2009: Rev. Shirril Petzoldt of Toledo, Deacon John Rushton of Rochester, Rev. Gary Lawson of Cleveland, Deacon Donald Mowl of Pittsburgh, and Rev. Edwin Bergstresser of Columbus.



Saturday Lunch... yum!



Roberta Fife lead the dance during banquet music by her husband.



Sunday Morning Worship Service.



Friday Evening Choir.



Saturday Evening Banquet at nearby Ramada Inn.

25th Anniversary Celebration for Rev. Gary L. Lawson...

On April 18, 2009, members, friends and families of Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio, has given a surprised 25th anniversary party for Rev. Gary L. Lawson. The celebration was held at Manor Party Center in Euclid, Ohio, with a buffet luncheon with 101 people attending. Rev. Edwin Bergstressor of Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio, was guest Preacher.

Rev. Lawson was ordained and installed as Pastor of Christ Deaf on April 15, 1984. He was born and grew up in Virginia, graduated from Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and served as vicar for one year at Zion Lutheran Church in Petoskey, Michigan. He is married to Carlene, has two children, Nelson and Angelica, and has two grandchildren, Elijah and Naomi.



A surprised Rev. Gary L. Lawson arrived with his wife, Carlene, and daughter Angelica with her husband, Michael.



Cake!



Rev. Gary L. Lawson



Rev. Lawson's family: son-in-law Michael, daughter Angelica; son Nelson; wife Carlene; grandson Elijah, granddaughter Naomi, and daughter-in-law Charlotte.



Above: celebration chairperson Pam Kane; Master of Ceremonies Robert Kane; and Interpreter Jennifer Majewski.



Far left: Rev. Gary and Carlene Lawson; and Nancy and Rev. Ed Bergstressor. Left: Rev. Lawson, with certificate, and Christ Deaf Lutheran Church President Robert Kane.

Constitution & Handbook...

Proposed changes to the *ILDA Constitution & ByLaws* and to the *ILDA Handbook* to be voted on at ILDA's convention in Rochester, New York on July 23-26, 2009.

Strike thru typeface is location of old and boldface typeface is new proposal change.

Visit ILDA's website <http://www.lcmsdeaf.org/ilda/Board/ILDAboard.html> for full view of our current Constitution & ByLaws and Handbook documents.

CONSTITUTION...

ARTICLE III

LOCATION

(old) The ILDA shall have as its primary address, ~~1333 South Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63122-7295~~, and such other places as the ILDA Board of Directors may designate.

(new) The ILDA shall have as its primary address, **9907 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63128**, and such other places as the ILDA Board of Directors may designate.

ARTICLE VII

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(old) The Executive Council shall consist of the president, who shall be chairman; the president-elect; the secretary, who shall be secretary of the Executive Council; the treasurer; ~~the representative of the Board for Mission Services~~; and the pastoral advisor. The Executive Council shall be responsible for the management and administration of business and activities of the ILDA as delegated by the ILDA Board of Directors, exercising all powers of the Board, within the policies of the Board and under the provisions set forth in this Constitution.

(new) The Executive Council shall consist of the president, who shall be chairman; the president-elect; the secretary, who shall be secretary of the Executive Council; the treasurer; **the Director of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society**; and the pastoral advisor. The Executive Council shall be responsible for the management and administration of business and activities of the ILDA as delegated by the ILDA Board of Directors, exercising all powers of the Board, within the policies of the Board and under the provisions set forth in this Constitution.

HANDBOOK...

Article IV

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES AND/OR FIELDS

(old) The LCMS Counselor for Blind and Deaf Missions (~~1333S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis MO 63122~~) can be contacted for the directory of deaf churches and or fields.

(new) **The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society or the ILDA Board of Directors** can be contacted for the directory of deaf churches and/or fields.

Article V

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS

Section B - Responsibilities

13. The regional president shall inform the ILDA president of special travel expense requests and/or lodging needs at least 30 days prior to a board meeting. Airline reservations should be

made as early as possible to obtain the lowest cost.

[Delete Section B - 13]

Article X

~~BOARD FOR MISSION SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE~~

LUTHERAN DEAF MISSION SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE

Section A - Representation

(old) The Board for Mission Services of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod shall be represented on the ILDA Board of Directors by the ~~Counselor for Deaf Mission~~ or another person whom the Board for Mission Services may designate as their representative.

(new) **The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society** shall be represented on the ILDA Board of Directors by the **LDMS Director** or another person whom the **Lutheran Deaf Mission Society** may designate as their representative.

Section B - Responsibilities

(old) 1. This representative shall be responsible for efforts to coordinate the international ministry with deaf persons of the LCMS, its districts and the ~~Board for Mission Services~~ with the ILDA efforts in carrying out our mutual purpose and achieving our goals.

(new) 1. This representative shall be responsible for efforts to coordinate the international ministry with deaf persons of the LCMS, its districts and the **Lutheran Deaf Mission Society** with the ILDA efforts in carrying out our mutual purpose and achieving our goals.

Section C - Special Privileges

(old) If this representative from the ~~Board for Mission Services~~ is not an ILDA member, this representative shall enjoy the privileges of proposing at Board of Director meetings; however, this representative shall not be permitted to vote.

(new) If this representative from the **Lutheran Deaf Mission Society** is not an ILDA member, this representative shall enjoy the privileges of proposing at Board of Director meetings; however, this representative shall not be permitted to vote.

Article XII

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

~~Section C - Expenses~~

~~1. The ILDA shall pay all expenses of the Executive Council members during Executive Board meetings, Board of Directors meetings and the ILDA conventions~~

[Delete Section C]

Article XIII

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section B - Meetings

3. ~~On alternate years, the Board is encouraged to meet in connection with the Ephphatha Conference for the purpose of coordinating efforts and the Board shall also:~~
- ~~Give attention to work on the annual budget.~~
 - ~~Give annual reports on all (of) the ILDA activities and on-going operations.~~
 - ~~Plan programs and projects as defined in the Purpose.~~

d. Receive from the host committee and evaluate their plans for the ILDA convention which shall include site, theme, date, program and time schedule.

[Delete Section B - 3]

4. When the Ephphatha Conference has an open session scheduled for the ILDA, those designated by the Board of Directors shall remain at the ILDA expense for the purpose of participating in these general open sessions.

[Delete Section B - 4]

(old) 5. At the regular annual meetings of the Board, action shall include:

a. Presentation of the annual budget and a report on the ILDA financial condition by the Finance Committee.

(new) 1. At the regular annual meetings of the Board, action shall include:

a. Presentation of the budget and a report on the ILDA financial condition by the Finance Committee.

6. The Board shall meet at the expense of the ILDA, two (2) days prior to the ILDA convention near the ILDA convention site for the purpose of coordinating efforts with the convention committees and completing unfinished business.

[Delete Section B - 6]

Section C - Expenses

1. All expenses incurred in calling and holding a Board of Directors meeting, including the costs of the members' travel, lodging, meals and ground transportation shall be paid by the ILDA:

a. Board of Directors, President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Pastoral Advisor, Regional Presidents or their representatives, Editor and Business Manager of *The Deaf Lutheran*, and LCMS Deaf Ministry counselor.

2. Non-Board members, who receive a written invitation from the ILDA president attend part of a Board meeting will receive one day's lodging and meal expenses paid by the ILDA:

a. Non-Board Members, Chairpersons, Historian, Past Officers, Advisory Council Members.

3. Meal expense is limited to \$15 per day per member.

[Delete Section C]

Article XIV

THE LAW COMMITTEE

Section D - Meetings

2. Law Committee meetings shall be at the expense of the ILDA and shall include travel, lodging, meals and ground transportation costs of the members.

[Delete Section D-2]

Article XV

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Section D - Meetings

2. All expenses for committee members including travel, lodging, meals and ground transportation while attending these meetings shall be paid by the ILDA.

[Delete Section D-2]

**Article XVI
DUES**

1. All memberships expire on ~~September 30~~ of each biennial year.

1. All memberships expire on **May 31** of each biennial year.

2. Membership dues shall be sent to and made payable to the ILDA.

2. Membership dues shall be sent to **the ILDA treasurer** and made payable to the ILDA.

3. Dues are ~~\$20.00~~ every two years in any of the three categories: active, associate, or supporting.

3. **ILDA in convention shall vote on the Due amounts. The** Dues are every two years in any of the three categories: active, associate, or supporting.

Article XVII

GOD'S 1000 CLUB

e. A chairman will be appointed by the ILDA president to oversee the God's 1,000 Club. This chairman will coordinate publicity, keep a current list of membership, and give lapel pins at the ILDA convention registration table.

[Delete Section 2-c]

Article XIX

THE PAST OFFICERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section A - Membership

The past officers Advisory Council shall be composed of all past ILDA presidents, presidents-elect, secretaries and treasurers.

The past officers Advisory Council shall be composed of **the immediate past ILDA president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and pastoral advisor.**

Section B - Responsibilities

(old) 1. They shall be encouraged to continue in all ILDA activities and fellowships as advisors.

(old) 2. One or several may be chosen by the current president to train the newly elected officers.

(old) 3. All past officers are encouraged to participate, and a day's lodging and meals expenses incurred in training the newly elected officers shall be paid by the ILDA.

[Delete Sections B - 1 thru 3]

(old) 4. Training of the new Officers is to happen within the period between the ~~approve~~ of new officers and ~~new officers~~ install service at convention.

(new) 1. Training of the new Officers is to happen within the period between the **election** of new officers and **the installation of the new officers at the final Sunday worship.**

Article XX

CONVENTIONS (Guidelines for Conducting a Successful Convention)

PART II - HOST COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section D - Preparing for Conventions

1. b. Pastor and assistants

4) Worship Service at the End of a Convention

(new) **d) Any and all offerings collected at an ILDA biennial convention shall be deposited into the ILDA treasury and used to meet our Mission Project goals that had been voted on at the convention.**

c. Tasks that are part of committee activities.

(old) f) Have the LCMS Meeting Planner give advice prior to signing a contract about hotels, and other contracts. Contact Counselor for Deaf Missions.

(new) f) Have the LCMS Meeting Planner give advice prior to signing a contract about hotels, and other contracts. Contact **the LDMS Director and the ILDA Pastoral Advisor.**

7) Child care

(new) **c) Parents must sign a liability waiver form.**

Section F - ILDA Board of Directors Meeting Prior to Convention

(old) The host committee is responsible for arrangements for this Board meeting, including lodging, meals and meeting room(s). The necessary equipment for this meeting consists of: typewriter or computer, access to a copier, overhead projector, blackboard, and any other things that the Board may request. The cost of this meeting will be paid for by the ILDA. These accommodations should be as economical as possible.

(new) The host committee is responsible for arrangements for this Board meeting, including lodging, meals and meeting room(s). The necessary equipment for this meeting consists of: typewriter or computer, access to a copier, overhead projector, blackboard, and any other things that the Board may request. . The cost of this meeting will be paid for by the ILDA. These accommodations should be as economical as possible.

The cost of the lodging will be the responsibility of each member of the ILDA Board of Directors and his/her regions.

Section G - Convention Headquarters

(old) 3. Reserve rooms for the Board of Directors, committee chairpersons, and/or staff as requested by the ILDA president. ~~These costs shall be paid for by the ILDA fund.~~

(new) 3. Reserve rooms for the Board of Directors, committee chairpersons, and/or staff as requested by the ILDA president. **The cost for the rooms shall be borne by the various individuals.**

(new) **4. Reserve rooms for the Executive Board of the ILDA. The costs will be paid for by the ILDA fund.**

Section L - Availability of Booths at Conventions

(old) Individuals or organizations with plans to solicit or to use floor space or to set up booths to display at an ILDA biennial convention, must apply in writing to the Board of Directors six (6) months in advance of a convention.

(new) **All exhibitors shall contact the host committee to obtain exhibit booth at least two months prior to the convention.**

Section M - Sale of items

Only ILDA itself or the host committee has the right to sell items. Anyone else must get written permission from the Board of Directors at least 6 months in advance.

All exhibitors shall contact the host committee to obtain exhibit booth at least two months prior to the convention.

PART III - ILDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Section N - ILDA Board of Directors Meeting Prior to Convention

(new) **3. The cost of the lodging will be the responsibility of each member of the ILDA Board of Directors or his/her region.**

New Students Begin DIT...

February 2009

The Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) has three new students! Greg and Linda Desrosiers, from Vancouver, B.C., and Pat Hycnar, from Delavan, Wisconsin, began classes on December 1, 2008, and have now successfully completed their first class. The four year program will train Greg to be a pastor and prepare Linda and Pat to be deaconesses in the Lutheran Church. All of them are excited about the program and at the same time a little nervous, but ready to step forward in faith that God will bless their studies. The classes will challenge them to learn and grow in faith and in their ability to serve God's people.

DIT is a distance education program of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Regular seminary students have to move to St. Louis for two years of studies, move away for a year of vicarage, then come back to the seminary for another year of studies. Students enrolled in DIT do not have to move. All of the classes are in a special section of the seminary's web site. Greg, Linda, and Pat will all study from home, as well as serve their vicarage and deaconess internships in their home congregations. Their home pastors, Rev. David Nielsen and Rev. John Reinke, will serve as their mentors and supervisors. When they graduate, they will receive calls to the same areas where they currently live.

Before enrolling in DIT, all three students completed the DeafPah classes. DeafPah provides an important foundation in Biblical knowledge, service, and leadership. All Deaf Christians are encouraged to take the DeafPah classes, either to grow in their personal faith and service, to develop as church leaders, or as preparation to become a pastor or deaconess. For more information on DeafPah, talk to your pastor or go to www.deafleaders.org.

Rev. Alan Rork blazed the trail for DIT. The first graduate of DIT in May, 2008, he now serves as the Missionary-at-Large to the Deaf in Indiana. We thank God that we have gone from one to three students. How will God bless our next classes? Ten students? Fifteen? We pray for Greg, Linda, and Pat, and ask that God will lead many more Deaf Christians into this ministry. Are you the next one God is leading to serve Him in this way? Pray and ask God to lead you and use you the way He wants. Talk to your pastor to discuss the different ways you can serve. If you are interested in learning more about DIT, you may contact Kara Simmons, DIT Coordinator at Concordia Seminary, at:

Kara Simmons
Deaf Institute of Theology
Concordia Seminary
801 Seminary Place
St. Louis, MO 63105
(314) 505-7120 (V/TTY)
simmons@cs.edu



Or contact Rev. Tim Eckert, DIT Leader for the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, at:

Rev. Tim Eckert, 2550 E. 32nd St., Davenport, IA 52807
(563) 359-7105 (V/TTY) DeafLutheran@q.com

**International Lutheran Deaf Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
St. Louis, MO
August 22-23, 2008**

1. **Present:** President Greg Desrosiers, President-elect Jeff Padon, Secretary Jennifer Bonura, Treasurer John Krause, ILDA Pastoral Advisor Jerry Munz, LDMS Director Pastor Rodney Rynearson. Convention Host Chair JoAnna Rushton arrived later.
2. The meeting began at 9:24 with Pastor Munz leading us in a devotion based on Luke 1: 76-77
3. President Greg welcomed Pastor Rynearson to the meeting.
4. The Agenda with one addition by John Krause was accepted.
5. A motion was made to suspend the approval of the minutes as it was still in draft form. **Passed.**
6. **a. President's Report:**
 1. The Mission Projects Chairperson Linda Desrosiers reported that since the 2007 ILDA Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, the fund is now at \$21,929.91 Treasurer John Krause will have more information in his report.
 2. Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT): Rev. John Reinke of Wisconsin has resigned as the DIT liaison. Rev. Tim Eckert of Iowa is the new DIT Liaison. President Greg and his wife, Linda, have contacted Rev. Eckert to take the DIT course.
 3. The Deaf Lutheran business manager Larry Ginter will resign as the Deaf Lutheran business manager effective July 2009 after the ILDA convention in Rochester, New York. Also, the Deaf Lutheran editor David Brown will resign his position after the end of the ILDA 2009 convention. We need to find a new business manager and a new editor. A story in the December 2008 Deaf Lutheran magazine advertised for these two positions. However, we have not received any responses for these two positions.
 4. Mary Tingle has joined another church in West Virginia. She has resigned as chairperson of the Right Hand Award Committee last winter. In new business we will discuss her replacement.
- b. President-elect's Report**

In new business, we will discuss the forum at Gallaudet University (Washington, D.C.), Rochester Institute of the Deaf (RIT), and CSUN (California).
- c. Secretary's Report:**

The minutes from Baltimore, Maryland are suspended, as Jennifer's flash drive was lost. Jennifer is in the process of resurrecting those minutes.
- d. Treasurer's Report:**

Currently, as of August 11, 2008, the ILDA general fund balance is \$77,236.86. The God's 1000 Club's balance is \$1,823.47. \$13,000 has been disbursed for Christian/Bible Lessons for Deaf Children and for DIT.
- e. Pastor Advisor's Report:**

The ILDA Constitution and Handbook needs to be updated. This will be discussed in new business.

The meeting was recessed for Lunch at 12:15 p.m.
The meeting was resumed at 1:37 p.m.

- f. Host Chairperson's Report (Rochester, New York):**

Alpha Lutheran Deaf Church of the Deaf will host the 20th biennial ILDA. The convention will be on July 23-26, 2009 at the RIT INN in Rochester. The guest room will be charged at the group rate of \$99 plus taxes. The plans for the tours will be finalized in early 2009. JR ILDA schedule will depend on the registration.
7. Unfinished Business – NONE
8. New Business
 - a. Create Fundraising drives for ILDA budget:**

Tabled to the next meeting.
 - b. Replacement for the Right Hand Award Committee Chairperson:**

It was moved and seconded to ask Don Mowl from Pittsburgh.

Motion carried.

- c. Locate Replacement for the Deaf Lutheran newsletter editor and manager, effective next year after ILDA 2009:** It was moved and seconded to ask Annette Krause (business manager), and Janet Gehlbach (editor) to be the next business manager and editor for the Deaf Lutheran. Also to ask Pastor Ron Friedrich to be the Website Manager. They will be asked to fill out an application. **Motion carried.**
- d. It was moved and seconded to ask each of the directors from Gallaudet University (Washington D.C.), RIT (New York), and CSUN (California) for an Open Forum sponsored by ILDA. **Motion carried.**
- e. A motion left over from the last ILDA Convention was discussed at length. The motion was regarding motions from the floor. The motion would require a change in the Constitution and By-laws. The change needs to be presented and approved by the Convention. After a lengthy discussion, it was moved and seconded to rescind the motion. **Motion to rescind carried.**

The meeting was recessed at 4:00 p.m.

August 23, 2009

The meeting resumed at 9:28 a.m. with a prayer by Pastor Munz.

The meeting resumed with New Business:

- f. A motion was made and seconded to move the remaining balance in the Baltimore (2007) Convention ILDA Host Account, \$6,680.00 to the God's 1000 Club Account. **Motion carried.**
- g. Synod's Liaison's Report:**

Pastor Rynearson reported on the efforts to maintain a deaf presence on the campus of Concordia Seminary St. Louis. In order to do this, it will require a legal entity. Therefore, an organization with an ongoing budget will need to be formed. This afternoon he will meet with an attorney who represents the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). The attorney will help establish the new organization. This process will include: 1. Name, 2. Partnerships, 3. Office, and 4. Loan or Grant. Pastor Rynearson reiterated the various organizations that the deaf interact in Synod: District, Donors, Millneck, CSL (Concordia Seminary-St. Louis), CTSFLW (Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne), LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League, LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod), BFMS (Board for Mission Services) and LDMS (Lutheran Deaf Mission Society). Such an organization will have seven components: 1. District, 2. Hearing church (Deaf Lites), 3. Interpreters, 4. Deaf Pah!, 5. DIT (Deaf Institute of Theology), 6. EC (Ephphatha Conference), and 7. ILDA (7 regions). Pastor Rynearson asked our permission about using the name of Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS). Pastor Rynearson wishes to use the name of LDMS as it has a history. The LDMS existed from the 1940s-1950s as a missionary organization. The LDMS was folded into the ILDA and ceased to exist when the ILDA was established in 1971. The ILDA owns the name LDMS. Pastor Rynearson wishes to re-establish the organization. He asked the Executive Council to loan the name LDMS to the new organization.
- h. It was moved and seconded to loan the name LDMS. **Motion carried.**
- i. It was moved and seconded to partner ILDA with LDMS. **Motion carried.**
- j. It was moved and seconded to award a Zacharias Fund Scholarship Grant to John Rushton for his DIT studies. **Motion carried.**

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:50 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 1:24 p.m.

- k. After an extensive review of the ILDA Constitution and Handbook, the motion was made and seconded to revise the Constitution and Handbook. The suggested revisions are to be printed in the *The Deaf Lutheran* prior to the ILDA Convention in July 2009. **Motion carried.**
- l. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m. with a closing prayer by Pastor Munz.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Bonura,
ILDA Secretary*

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ILDA 20th Biennial Convention July 23-26, 2009