



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

Winter 2013

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 102, No. 1

The Deaf Lutheran Returns!

It has been over three years since the last issue of *The Deaf Lutheran* was printed. A number of attempts have been made to restart this publication. A few weeks ago Jeff asked Janet and me to put together this issue.

This was very last minute, and because we need to get this issue out as soon as possible, the format is very simple and there will be editing mistakes. We apologize for them in advance. As future issues are prepared, the quality will improve.

It is our pleasure to help relaunch this historic and important publication.

Praise be to God!

Daryl & Janet Gehlbach
Editors & Layout

From the Pastoral Advisor

“The Future of Lutheran Deaf Ministry”

Near the end of the 19th Century when Lutheran Deaf Ministry was in its infancy, who could have predicted the future? Who could have predicted that the LCMS would open deaf missions in the entire country and in many other countries? During the 20th Century, we saw many pastors become trained in deaf ministry and then spread out to start deaf congregations wherever they could find a group of deaf people. The circuit riding pastors would often preach to just one or two people at the various preaching stations they served. The LCMS was very supportive of deaf ministry

and was willing to pour a lot of money into it so that deaf people could also learn about

and believe in their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At that time, who could predict what would happen decades later?

Here we are in the 21st Century and deaf ministry looks much different than it did 30, 40 or 50 years ago. There are far fewer professional workers in deaf ministry, far fewer dollars given in subsidies to deaf ministry, far fewer people identifying themselves as deaf Lutheran Christians. *The Deaf Lutheran* has far fewer subscribers/readers, the ILDA has far fewer members and fewer people attending the conventions.

Regardless of numbers, deaf people still need salvation. Deaf people still need the Gospel. Deaf people still need Jesus!

That's where we come in. That's where we can make an eternal difference in the lives of our friends. We can share with them the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Good News that promises us and them that, through faith, we will live eternally in Heaven with our awesome God.

It doesn't matter what age someone happens to be – whether child, teen, adult – they ALL need salvation. Every deaf person you meet will live for eternity, but where? Heaven or hell? Because of the love that God has shown to us and has put into us, we should do all we can to make sure as many deaf people as possible go to Heaven. Don't leave it up to someone else to share the Gospel, because there are many

In this Issue:

2013 ILDA
Convention Materials

cults out there actively sharing their false gospel with the deaf, leading them astray. We have the truth, we have the Word of God, we have the true way of salvation - Jesus Christ - so let us joyfully share Him with all!

Blessings!

Pastor Mark Seeger
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

From the President

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. We are very excited to have *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter back after three years. Thanks to Pastor Daryl Gehlbach and his wife Janet who are willing to be our editors. Also, thanks to Pastor Ron Friedrich and his son Mark for taking care of the mailing address database.

You can send articles through email to me (jepadon@aol.com) or to Daryl Gehlbach (dgehlbach@aol.com).

After the Gehlbachs edit the articles and prepare an electronic version of the newsletter they will send it to me. I will forward it to a print shop in the Beltsville, Maryland area. Two members from our church will pick up the newsletters rotating every three months. Probably, it's different process from the past but at least we get *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter back once again after the long wait. Hand waving to Pastor Daryl and Janet Gehlbach, Pastor Ron Friedrich and his son Mark.

I would like to give you a summary of the International Lutheran Deaf Association convention at Deer Creek State Park resort in Mt. Sterling, Ohio last year. The convention was hosted by Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Columbus, Ohio. Nancy Bergstresser was the chairperson for this convention. She and her husband, Pastor Edwin Bergstresser, as well as the committee worked very hard to make the convention a success. Everyone was delighted at how beautiful the Deer Creek State Park resort was,

<p>The deadline to submit articles for the next issue is April 15, 2013.</p>

especially with the lake front lodge where most of us slept. We saw plenty of wildlife animals at the resort.

As for the election of ILDA officers, I was willing to repeat as President because the President-Elect position was vacant. Carol Seeger accepted to become the new President-Elect, and she will become President at the end of the 2013 ILDA convention. Jennifer Ceyanes accepted to be our Secretary for the second term. Patrick Sell accepted to be our Treasurer for the second term. Pastor Mark Seeger accepted to be our Pastor Advisor. The next ILDA convention will be held by Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Austin, Texas and the convention will take place at Concordia University near Austin on July 17-21, 2013.

We would like to hear news from our regions. Our goal is to have *The Deaf Lutheran* be no more than eight pages. Try not to write the articles too long, so we can share as much as possible.

Keep our faith in the name of Jesus Christ.

Jeff Padon
ILDA 2009-2013 President

From the Treasurer

First of all, I am very pleased to receive the names and addresses of 160 subscribers who paid \$10.00 for the ILDA temporary newsletter for the period of 2012-2013. Our current officers have agreed to pay first class mail for a while, instead of bulk rate which requires 200 names or more. We know the subscribers are really interested to have newsletter. Jeff is trying to work out a way to inform our members about current news for next ten months.

For your information, our checking account shows the balance of \$11,913.87 as of June 1, 2012 and our savings for the Mission Projects Fund (2011-2013) shows the balance of \$18,858.95 as of June 1, 2012. The total of both accounts is \$30,772.82 as of June 1, 2012. Right now, it seem our monies are pretty

stable within the weak economy of United States this year.

I want to remind you that we need \$55,000 our mission projects for 2011-2013. The 2011 ILDA convention at Mount Sterling, Ohio, approved these projects. I encourage congregations and individuals to donate more offerings to fund our mission project for the period of 2012-2013. Thank you very much for past contributions again.

If you do not already know the 21st Biennial convention will be held in Austin, Texas, July 17-21, 2013.

According to the updated ILDA Handbook (August 2009), my second term as Treasurer will be completed on July 20, 2013. I will not run again as I am limited two terms. If you know of one or two people who would like to serve as Treasurer for next two years (2013-2015), please contact me anytime. My email is prs_djs@yahoo.com. I would like to talk with them about the position. I would also be able to assist the new Treasurer as a mentor for the next year.

Patrick R. Sell
ILDA Treasurer 2011-2013
531 First Street
Story City, Iowa 50248-1129

From the Great Lakes Region

Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf hosted the 60th Anniversary of the Great Lakes Regional Conference (GLRC) which was founded in Cleveland in 1952. There were 46 people attending the conference from Sept 14-16, 2012. The theme of our conference was "Holy Spirit Lead us to Truth." We had the board meeting Friday afternoon, while the members were socializing. Later we had dinner and a devotion. Our Saturday morning business meeting lasted only two hours, which was very short for a meeting. We had lunch and then free time all afternoon. We played several games, and everyone enjoyed themselves. Our banquet was held Saturday evening, and it was decorated in Fall colors. It was awesome. The conference ended Sunday

morning with a Bible study and worship service.

Our new officers were installed. They are President Scott Fife of Columbus, OH; President-elect Todd Altaffer of Toledo, OH; Secretary Karen Bieter of Rochester, NY; Treasurer Johanna of Rochester, NY; and Pastoral Advisor, Rev Ed Bergstresser of Columbus, OH.

After worship service we had potuck dinner. Everyone had a blessed weekend.

Pam Kane
Past President of GLRC

From the Central Region

"Put on the Full Armor of God" Ephesians 6:10-18

This was the theme for the Central Region-International Lutheran Deaf Association convention which was held August 2-5, 2013, and hosted by Emmanuel Lutheran Church of the Deaf, West Allis, Wisc. Johanna Palmer was chairperson assisted by several committees. They worked, planned and met for a year to prepare for the convention.

The convention started Thursday with an ice-breaker and jumping into the water park. On Friday there were workshops on the "Armor of God." In the evening, we all went to Emmanuel Church for supper. We played a game "Bible Family Feud." We all enjoyed playing the game, and it was good for us to refresh our knowledge. Everyone received a prize with a picture of God sign with love.

Then on Saturday morning, we all joined with a DIT workshop led by Loreena Stennes from Duluth, Minn. She gave a presentation about DIT, also Becky King from Madison gave a presentation. This was the first conference Becky and Loreena attended! They both enjoyed themselves, gaining experience and meeting new friends. Saturday afternoon was a business meeting.

We elected new officers for 2012-2014. President: Dawn Polzin of Madison, WI; Vice President: Albert Moore of Jacksonville, IL;

Secretary: Jane Cerutti of Stoughton, WI; Treasurer: Paul Lucero of Palantie, IL; and Pastoral Advisor, Pastor Tom Phillips of Jacksonville, IL. Congratulations to all of them!

On Saturday evening we had a banquet and a Deaf magic show. Matt Morgan was familiar to Wisconsin because he was born and raised there! Everyone really enjoyed his show very much!

On Sunday we had a question-and-answer time with five pastors. Pastor Richard Moody from St. Louis, MO, was the guest preacher for our worship service. His sermon was about the Armor of God. He explained that we all must "stand firm" with the full armor of God. Our thanks to Rev. Moody for his wonderful sermon.

None of the churches has made a bid for next two years. If one of you is from Central Regional area, let Dawn Polzin know. Her email address is DLPolzin@sbcglobal.net.

From the Midwest Region

The Midwest ILDA conference was held in Abilene KS on August 3-5, 2012. The theme was "Come and See (The Light)" based on Isaiah 9:2. On Friday evening there was a cookout with food prepared by members of Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene KS. A "Western Dress Up Contest" was won by Wilma Phillips (KS). Rev. Paul Tessaro (Clay Center KS) gave the welcome and the evening devotion). Rev. Mark Seeger (Austin TX) gave a workshop the same evening.

The Saturday morning devotion was given by Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, Prince of Peace, Spring Lake Park MN. The General meeting was held in the morning and part of the afternoon. The evening banquet was catered by the Brookville Restaurant and featured a chicken dinner. Social time in the evening had attendees competing for prizes using cowboy hats thrown on a horseshoe stand or a lasso being tossed over a toy pony rocker.

On Sunday morning the conference attendees worshiped with the members of Faith Lutheran Church. Rev. Daryl Gehlbach presented the Sunday morning Bible Study.

KansaSEED also gave a power point presentation to the hearing congregation at the same time as Bible Study. At noon both groups had a potluck luncheon.

New officers elected for 2012-2014 are: President David Hale (KS), Vice President Sheri Johnson (CO), Secretary Doreen Sell (IA), Treasurer Ron Nester (CO) and Pastoral Advisor Rev. Daryl Gehlbach (MN).

Special Report

Deaf Youth Perform Service Projects in Denver, Colorado

Seven deaf teenagers from around Texas went to Denver, Colorado in July to serve others. This is an annual trip for deaf teenagers and the first trip to Denver. Some of the projects that they did included two days of working at the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store, one day of creek/greenbelt clean-up and one day of painting a Lutheran church that is in the process of "re-birthing" itself to better serve the changing community. The teenagers always look forward to helping other people and it gives a satisfaction knowing that we are giving rather than receiving. Whenever we go on a service project, we also try to meet together with local deaf Lutherans. In Denver we were able to worship with some of the members of Bethel Lutheran Church for the Deaf. Next summer we hope to go to the Seattle, Washington, area to serve there.

Throughout the years, ILDA has helped to support these service trips as one of the mission projects voted on at the Conventions.



ARTICLES WANTED

Send to Jeff Padon (jepadon@aol.com) or to Rev. Daryl Gehlbach (dgehlbach@aol.com).

Deadline April 15, 2013

Deaf Youth Ministry is Alive and Well

Many places in the Lutheran Church the youth ministry is small or doesn't exist at all, but that isn't the case in Austin, Texas. Jesus Deaf Youth Ministry (JDYM) has been blessed with an active, growing, vibrant ministry. Located right across the street from Texas School for the Deaf, it is easy for the students to come to the church. They do come! Every year more than 200 deaf teenagers attend the programs at JDYM. A typical Wednesday evening will start with more than 30 Middle School students showing up at 6:00 for Youth Night. They stay for an hour, and after opening with prayer, they might watch short videos, sign music, have a Bible lesson, possibly perform a skit and then, after closing with prayer, enjoy cakes, brownies, popcorn and punch for snacks. The whole thing repeats at 8:00 when more than 80 High School students arrive for the High School Youth Night. Each week we go through 7 to 9 cakes and pans of brownies. Teenagers can sure eat!

Jesus Deaf Youth Ministry started with one boy several years ago. That one boy started inviting his friends, and by the end of the first year, 48 deaf teenagers had attended. By the end of the second year, 180 deaf students had attended, and it has never slowed down! The



Some of the Middle School students showing off their new t-shirts given to them by JDYM. The shirts say, "Be a reflection of God to the World." 2 Corinthians 3:18

students come from more than 80 towns and cities around Texas and represent more than a dozen different religious backgrounds or, for many of the students, not church background at all. How many of these students are Lutheran? Usually less than 5 per year. It doesn't matter, we want ALL deaf youth to learn about their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mark Seeger, the full-time youth pastor, says that if it wasn't for the volunteers who help out, we could never serve this many



High School students enjoying the snacks after learning about how we should reflect God's love to the world.

students. The volunteers mostly come from ASL classes at various colleges and high schools around that area, with a few adults helping out, too. One man, a retired veterinarian, drives to Austin every week from San Antonio (70 miles) to help out!

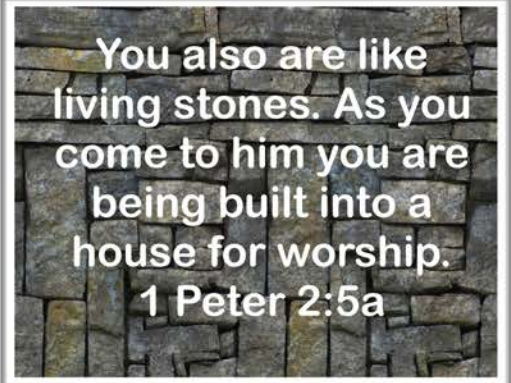
Jesus Deaf Youth Ministry is supported 100% by outside donations. There is no congregation or district support for this ministry.

International Lutheran Deaf Association



Austin, Texas

July 18-21, 2013



Email:
ILDA2013Austin
@gmail.com

Website:
JesusDeafChurch.com

Videophone:
512-410-6667

Address:
1307 Newton Street
Austin, TX
78704

At Concordia University



Join us for the 22nd biennial conference of
International Lutheran Deaf Association!

Jesus is the Cornerstone

How is Jesus the
Cornerstone for
our church and
our ministry?
Come and learn
more, get tools,
and share!



Workshops
Devotions
Fellowship
Prayer
Worship

If you register by ~~January~~ ^{March} 15, 2013, you pay only \$175!
This includes all meals (3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners),
workshops and materials, and special events.

International Lutheran Deaf Association

Austin, Texas

July 18-21, 2013



Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Church: _____

Email: _____

Videophone or phone: _____

Bringing children under 18 years old?

- Yes
- No

Check what you need:

- Tactile interpreter
- Low vision interpreter
- Special Diet

I am

- Driving
- Flying

If you want to stay at an hotel in the area, get more information from Concordia's website at www.Concordia.edu. You will be responsible for your own transportation between hotel and conference.

Tours will be announced at www.JesusDeafChurch.com.

March

If you register by ~~January~~ *March* 15, 2013, you pay only \$175! This includes all meals (3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners), workshops and materials, and special events.



CHECK ONE:

- Before January 15 - \$175
- Before March 15 - ~~\$200~~ \$175
- Before June 15 - ~~\$225~~ \$200
- After June 15 - \$250

LODGING:

Concordia dorm- \$56 per room, per night. Each room has two beds with linens, microwave, fridge, and full bathroom. Up to 4 people are allowed with two on floor with sleeping bags. Choose One:

- one night, \$56
- two nights, \$112
- three nights, \$168

TOTAL: _____

Make Checks or Money Orders payable to JLCD - ILDA 2013

Refunds given in full before April 15th
50 percent before June 15th
No refunds after June 15th

Hosted by
Jesus Lutheran
Church of the
Deaf

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ILDA2013Austin@gmail.com

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Videophone:
512-410-6667

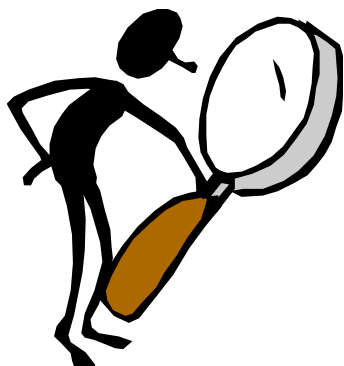
Address:
1307 Newton Street
Austin, TX
78704

The DEAF LUTHERAN

7910 Severn Tree Blvd.
Severn, MD 21144



2013 ILDA Convention
Registration & Information



WANTED!

Host Congregations for 2015 &
2017 ILDA Conventions

If interested or have questions,
contact
ILDA President Jeff Padon.