



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Spring 2013

St. Louis, MO

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## 2013 ILDA Convention

The previous issue of *The Deaf Lutheran* had registration forms for the 2013 ILDA convention. In this issue we have the advertising contract and registration forms for the competitions. These and other ILDA convention materials can be found at [www.jesusdeafchurch.com/ilda-2013.html](http://www.jesusdeafchurch.com/ilda-2013.html).

Also we need nominations, especially for both secretary and treasurer. Those who are serving now cannot be reelected.

The ILDA Board is accepting applications to host the 2015 and 2017 ILDA conventions. If your congregation is interested in hosting, please contact Jeff Padon ([jepadon@aol.com](mailto:jepadon@aol.com)).

*From the Pastoral Advisor*  
Rev. Mark Seeger

## “God Is with You!”

Have you ever had the feeling that everyone is against you? Have you ever felt like you are defeated because it seems like you are all alone? I think most people have felt this way at one time or another. It is a common lie of Satan to try to make you despair, but it IS a lie. You are not alone and you are not defeated! Why? Because of God’s promises to you in the Bible. When we look at Romans, chapter 8, the last half of verse 31, we read, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Read, the whole chapter, it’s great! God IS for you! God has chosen you to be one of His children and no one and no thing can separate you from Him.

He also promises us in 1 John, 4:4, “...greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.” God IS in you! His Holy Spirit is living and active in you and Satan and all the demons of hell can’t ever defeat you. Even when Satan throws lies at you, even when Satan works in people to try to make you feel inferior or defeated or lost, God is in you and He has already given you the victory through His Son, Jesus Christ! Romans 8:37 says, “... in all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us.”

In 1 Kings 18, we can read about one of God’s greatest prophets, Elijah, and how when he was facing the 450 false prophets of Baal, said that he was the only one left. It is a fascinating story about how the false god, Baal, couldn’t answer the prayers of his 450 false prophets, but the True God did answer the prayers of His prophet, Elijah! Elijah had the victory because God was with him.

God is with you. You have the victory through your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is with you, He is protecting you, He is supporting you and, one day, He will bring you home to live with Him forever!



## Articles Wanted

Send to the editor,  
Rev. Daryl Gehlbach at  
[dgehlbach@aol.com](mailto:dgehlbach@aol.com)

**Deadline – July 15**

*From the President*  
Mr. Jeff Padon

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. As the 2013 ILDA conference is approaching much faster than we think as it is only three months away from today. If you want to come and have not registered yet, please do as soon as possible if you can. You can check for more information on last two pages. The more people, the merrier.

My president term will conclude after 2013 ILDA conference and our current President-Elect Carol Seeger will become our next ILDA President. The President-Elect position becomes vacant so let us know if you are interested to run for this position. Patrick Sell and Jennifer Ceyannes will conclude their second term as ILDA Treasurer and Secretary. We will need candidates to take their places. Pastor Mark Seeger is currently our ILDA Pastoral Advisor in his first term. He might continue for second term if he elects to serve for one more term.

At the 2011 ILDA conference, we realized that the public relations for ILDA was very marginal in the past. We got ourselves to roll up our sleeves and passed the proposal to have \$9,600 for Exhibit/Booth fund under Mission Projects. The first step was to order an ILDA display for the booth. Pam Kane was involved in selecting the colors and wordings for banner, table cloth and display thru catalog book with some feedback from her colleagues. She had an excellent taste of selecting the colors and wordings.



Pam & Bob Kane were the first ILDA exhibitors at the DeafNation Expo event in Orlando, Florida for one day in March 2012. Patrick & Dorene Sell and my wife Lorrey and I took our turns to handle the booth duty at NAD conference in Louisville, Kentucky for four days in July 2012. I took over to handle the booth duty at DeafNation Expo event near Chicago for one day in November 2012. The members of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Madison helped out to cover for me when I took a break. They had a booth next to ours and they shared their booth with Emmanuel Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Milwaukee area and deaf church in Northern Illinois.

Jennifer Ceyannes and Richard Norton were the exhibitors at DeafNation Expo event in Austin, Texas last month in March. They had a good opportunity to share the news about hosting 2013 ILDA conference there. Pastor Ron Friedrich and some members from Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Silver Spring, Maryland were the exhibitors at DeafNation Expo at Gallaudet University Field House in Washington, DC on April 20 for one day. We do thank you for your support to make it happen especially the importance of spreading the Gospel to Deaf people.

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*From the Treasurer  
Mr. Patrick R. Sell*

As our financial statement is due to close June 1, 2013, I have to admit to myself that our general fund may be showing very low incomes & too high expenses this year. But the ILDA mission project funds show very

good stable money at least 50 per cent so far. It seems the USA economy is very slow this year. Right now, I am very pleased that the donations received for our previous ILDA mission projects fund from July 2001 to June 2013 has been transferred to Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) to take care of several mission trips recently.

I had reviewed the ILDA membership dues journal of the period of 2010-2012 and 2012-2014 and it showed the loss of letters and we collected less money too. For the period of 2010-2012, I received 105 of 250 letters with very good collections as well as I had collected very low money along with 85 of 300 letters in the period of 2012-2014 so far. Far short of 20 letters, I need more money at least \$1,000-1,200 before July 1, 2013. I appreciate getting more donations from individuals so I can pay a few more expenses for our coming event - the 22nd Biennial ILDA Convention at Austin, Texas (July 17-21, 2013).

I want to let subscribers know that I have been keeping four different funds under our ILDA General Fund which cannot be used to pay these expenses at all. Four different funds are showing the breaks such as closing of ILDA Lutheran Newsletters of 1997-2009 (12 years), ILDA Temporary Newsletters (three time issues for 2012-2013 only), ILDA Exhibit Booth Display (2011-2013) and ILDA Historical Printing (40 years). I will be very happy to inform you during the ILDA Convention at Austin, Texas so the members can authorize us to change from keeping four funds to deposit to pay their trip expenses under ILDA General Fund for the next two years of 2013-2015. This item is a very important priority for us to use if necessary.

I want to remind you that I am not going to make the future budget of our next officer's expenses for the years of 2013-2015 because there are no bids so far to host the next convention. The budget committee depends on the trip expenses where the host city locates for our draft budget except for last minute bids during the upcoming ILDA Convention in Austin.

Again I want to encourage convention attendees, if you are interested in serving on special committees such as Scholarship chairperson, the editor/business manager for Deaf Lutheran newsletter, volunteer writer for ILDA Mission Project fund & etc. to please volunteer and contact Carol Seeger, ILDA President Elect (2013-2015). I did serve these above volunteer jobs for the last four years. Thank you in advance

I cannot wait to see everybody at the 22nd Biennial ILDA Convention this coming summer. Come and join us there. Have a nice spring/summer season.

Patrick R. Sell  
ILDA Treasurer 2009-2013  
531 First Street  
Story City, Iowa 50248-1129



### Mission Projects

Zacharus Fund	\$ 25,000
Deaf-PAH! Training Fund	15,000
Deaf Teen Service Projects	8,000
VBS Fund	2,000
ILDA Exhibit Booth Fund (PR)	<u>5,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 55,000</b>

*Mission Projects Report  
by Dcs. Candidate Linda Desrosiers*

The 2011-2013 Mission Project Fund has collected the total of \$27,026.65 as of April 11, 2013. Patrick Sell, our ILDA treasurer, informed me that five churches and a donor poured donations in total of \$2,285.00 in eight days this month! Praise the Lord!

We only need \$27,973.35 to meet our goal of collecting \$55,000 in time of our next convention in the summer of 2013. Donations will be only counted for this project by June 1<sup>st</sup> so that means we have only about six weeks. Let us pray altogether to accomplish the goal of collecting \$27,973.35 by June 1<sup>st</sup> so that the last four projects would be able to use the funds in the near future. The Zacharus Fund had met the goal of collecting \$25,000 and this amount had been well spent. Your contribution will be much appreciated especially for the short time to meet the deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>. But you can donate for the future mission projects in the next two years after June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to give a donation, please make your check or money order payable to "ILDA 2011-2013 Mission Project" and mail to Patrick R. Sell, ILDA Treasurer.

Linda Desrosiers  
ILDA Mission Project Chairperson  
ldesrosiers1@shaw.ca



Elmer D. Francisco (1924-2012) was an active member of ILDA and served as president-elect and president (1973-1977) and as treasurer (1977-1983).

He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Spokane, Wash., where he served as congregation president and elder.

He was employed as a linotype operator at the Spokesman Review, and later worked (together with his first wife Millie) as a houseparent at the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich. Upon retirement they returned to Spokane. Millie passed way in 1992, and in 2000 he married Diane Lindemann.

In addition to Diane he is survived by his children Donna Olson (Jim) Spokane, Patty Woodworth (Roger) Hayden, Idaho, and Ron Francisco (Becki) Dallas, Oregon. He has 7 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Elmer passed away December 16, 2012. His funeral service took place on December 21, and he was laid to rest at Riverside Memorial Park.



Marion J. Van Manen (1937-2013) was elected president at the first ILDA convention held in 1971. He served one-term. He later served as secretary (1977-1979).

He was a 1957 graduate of the Iowa School for the Deaf and attended Gallaudet University (then College) in Washington, DC. There he met his first wife, Janice Sperring. They were married November 26, 1960. After living in Iowa and California, Marion and his family moved to Milwaukee, Wis., where he attended the Lutheran Lay Training Institute at Concordia College, Milwaukee. He graduated in 1970 and accepted a Call to St. Luke Lutheran Church, Sunnyvale, Cal. In 1975 he and Janice served as houseparents at the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich. In 1978 he accepted a Call to Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Following his and Janice's divorce, Marion moved to Des Moines, where he found employment with the Post Office. There he met fellow worker Jacqueline Minor. He and "Jackie" were married December 1, 1984. They both retired from the post office in 2000.

In addition to Jackie, Marion is survived by his two sons Mark Walter (Lena) of Indianapolis, Ind., and James William of Chicago. He has four grandchildren.

Marion passed away on February 14, 2013. His funeral took place February 23 at Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Des Moines, and he was laid to rest at Sully Cemetery, Sully, Iowa.

### NECROLOGY REPORT

If you know of any ILDA members who have passed away since the previous convention, please send pictures and obituary to:

Diane Francisco  
10004 E. Mission Ave.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206-3938.

*DIT Continues to Look Forward  
by Rev. Timothy Eckert*

Did you know the Deaf Institute of Theology has five graduates so far? Can you name them all? See if you can name them before you continue reading the rest of this article.

God has blessed the church with these workers who are all dedicated to serving Him. Rev. Alan Rork and Pat Monroe led the way in the DIT program. Rev. Rork was the first man to graduate from DIT and become a pastor in Indianapolis, Indiana. Pat was the first woman to graduate from the DIT deaconess program and serves



in Western Iowa. More recently, Pat Hycnar graduated and was installed as a deaconess in Delavan, Wisconsin, on Nov. 28, 2012. Greg and Linda Desrosiers, who graduated with Deaconess Hycnar in October, will be installed as pastor and deaconess on June 15 in Surrey, BC, Canada. We thank God for all of them and how they serve the church now and will continue to serve in the future.

**Learn more about DIT by contacting Rev. Tim Eckert, DIT Project Leader for the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society.**

**Rev. Tim Eckert  
2550 E. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Davenport, IA 52807  
(563) 359-7105 (V/TTY)  
(563) 424-7141 (VP)  
DeafLutheran@q.com**

Our three current students, Dawn Polzin, Loreena Stennes, and Rebecca King, are all deaconess students in Wisconsin. You can probably see a pattern – most of the students have been from Wisconsin, and most of the students have been women. What about the men,

and what about the rest of the country? Remember – deaf all around the U.S. and the world need to learn about Jesus. We also need men to serve in God's church as pastors, too.

Look around you at the need. Do you have a pastor? Can your pastor serve the whole state where you live? Certainly he could use some help! Many people don't have a deaf pastor or deaconess. Maybe God is calling you to be a pastor or deaconess. You can have the joy and honor of bringing God's word to His people and also to unbelievers. Think about it and pray about it. God's kingdom needs more workers to bring in the harvest!

I also want to thank ILDA for their financial support. Each DIT class now costs \$2244.50. One student takes four classes each year. That means DIT costs \$8978 for one year for each student. DIT is not cheap. But it is a very good program, and worth it. So we thank God that ILDA has been giving \$850 for each class to help pay for the students' education. When you give to the ILDA Mission Projects, DIT Scholarships is one of the projects you are giving to. THANK YOU for your gifts and support! DIT is the future for the church. Please continue to support your church by taking DeafPah classes and encouraging other people to take them, and then going on to DIT. Please also continue giving to ILDA to support all DIT students.

*Christ Deaf Online Academy  
by Rev. Ron Friedrich*

Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Silver Spring, Maryland, has a new outreach tool on the Internet Christ Deaf Online Academy is a Bible school for Deaf adults who want to better understand God's Word. The Academy opened with a choice of three courses:

- *Faith Basics*
- *Old Testament Tour*
- *Introduction to the New Testament*

Each course comes with a notebook and worksheets which students send back, either by mail or by Email. A Deaf Christian mentor checks the worksheets and offers feedback. Students receive a certificate of completion at the end of each course.

You can download the notebook before you decide whether or not you want to enroll. The notebooks and classes are all free. After you enroll, you will receive a password that will let you log into the online worksheets.

The web address is: [christdeaf.org/academy](http://christdeaf.org/academy)



**Mrs. Bertha Sweezo, member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Spring Lake Park, Minn., was honored on Sunday, April 28, 2013, for her 50+ years of service in the choir.**

*Bible Study on the Internet  
by Rev. Ron Friedrich*

There is a lot of great stuff on the Internet. Every day we receive Email from Deaf friends who share interesting stories, videos, and pictures which they have found, while others share their discoveries on Facebook. With all the watching, reading, texting, and emailing that we do today, it really would be great if we could also study the Bible through the Internet? We can!

What do you like -- ASL Video? Text in clear English? Bible studies? Sermons? Bible research tools? One website which links you to many different resources is [christdeaf.org/bible](http://christdeaf.org/bible). Here is a sample of what you will find there:

**Daily Bible Reading Guides** to help read through the whole Bible in one year.

**ASL Devotions & Bible Story videos.** These include:

- Signed Bible studies by Pastors Richard Moody and John Reinke;
- "Deaf Pastor's Vlog" by Rev. Dennis Konkel;
- Mobile apps for ASL Bible translation

**Bible study guides** by Pastor Tim Eckert on many different topics. These are good for individual Bible study and group Bible classes.

**Christ Deaf Online Academy** -- an Internet Bible school, offering structured study in Bible history, doctrine, and ministry.

**Deaf Pah!** -- Video training courses for training Deaf Christians in leadership and ministry.

**Signed Videos** which demonstrate and explain:

- The Apostles' Creed
- The Nicene Creed
- The Athanasian Creed
- The Lord's Prayer

**Luther's Small Catechism for Deaf Christians**

**Deaf Evangelism Resources** to help you share Jesus with non-Christian friends

**Frequently Asked Questions** about the Bible, Christian doctrine, and social issues  
...and much more.

Click on the links and browse many different topics that help you understand God's Word and know Him better.

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*Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Pittsburgh Anniversary Celebration*  
by Larry Ginter

On Sunday, April 17, 2013, Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Pittsburgh celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its church building, which was dedicated on March 31, 1963. The worship service included special guests Pastor Edwin Bergstresser, Columbus, Ohio, and Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher, President of the Eastern District (LCMS). About 70 people attended the service of praise to God. Mr. Don Mowl, church historian, gave an interesting report on the history of Trinity and its building.



**David Barnett, Don Mowl, Rev. Dr Chris and Rev. Edwin Bergstresser of Columbus, Ohio.**



**Anniversary Cake**



**Donald and Mary Moll**

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*An Invitation*  
from Rev. David Nielsen

I am very pleased to announce to all of you that Greg's ordination, Linda's consecration and their installation services will take place at St Luke Lutheran Church in Surrey, BC, Canada at 11 am on Saturday, June 15, 2013. You all are invited to witness the occasion with us. We all will be very pleased to have you with us on this BIG event day. The president of ABC District will be the preacher of the day. We will invite all of the pastors within our circuits as well as all of you in the Deaf ministries and outside of the Deaf ministries.

Moreover, Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf is very pleased to have a team of 2 pastors and a deaconess to serve the BC Deaf communities all around BC. The Harvest is very ripe for Him. We thank God for His help through DIT preparing Greg and Linda for this ministry in BC.

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# 22nd Biennial Convention of International Lutheran Deaf Association ILDA Program Book Advertising Contract Form

## Ad Space Reservations/Payment Policy

Advertising Contract Forms will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. All forms and camera-ready ad /digital copies must be accompanied with payment in full prior to **June 15, 2013** for space reservation in the ILDA-2013 program book. Please do not fold ad copies or attach paper clips. Mail in flat envelope with cardboard or rigid inset or you may email the digital ad copy. The preferred file type is PDF. If you want us to create one for you, it will cost \$50 extra. Please provide a rough sketch of the ad you would like us to design. Paid supporters and advertisers will get a free copy of the program book.

Make checks payable to:      JLCD – ILDA 2013  
    1307 Newton Street  
    Austin, Texas 78704

May send digital copy to:      llda2013austin@gmail.com

<b>Person or Family</b>	
Please check your choice to support.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor	\$15

**OR**

<b>Organization or Business</b>	
Please check your choice to place ad.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Full page ( 8.5" by 11" )	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page ( 8.5" by 5.5" )	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 page ( 4.25" by 5.5" )	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/8 page ( 4.25" by 2.75" )	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Business card size	\$20

**Deadline: June 15, 2013**

**Complete below for one person/family or organization/business only. Please print information.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Prov., Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

VP / Voice: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

22nd Biennial Convention of International Lutheran Deaf Association  
**Banner, Skit, and Song Competition Application**

Convention Theme is "Jesus is the Cornerstone." 1 Peter 2:5a

**Banner**

Banners must be approximately 36" by 48". We have banner poles and stands. Focus on the convention theme as above.

**Skit**

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

**Choir** (Solo or Group)

Two categories: Solo and Group (two or more persons). Each participant is limited to one song and five minutes or less in length. Songs must be Christian music or hymns. You must provide your own CD. We will provide CD player.

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code/Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone VP / V: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: July 1, 2013**

**Send separate copies of this form for each entry: Banner, Skit or Solo Choir and/or Group Choir.**

Please check only one (duplicate this form for each entry)

Banner     Skit     Solo Choir     Group Choir

Song / Skit Title: \_\_\_\_\_

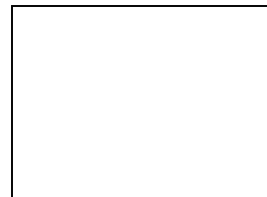
Name of participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Send separate copies of this form for each entry. You may mail them together in one envelope.**

**Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf – ILDA 2013  
1307 Newton Street  
Austin, Texas 78704**

# The DEAF LUTHERAN

7910 Severn Tree Blvd.  
Severn, MD 21144



2013 ILDA Convention  
Information



**WANTED!**

Host Congregations for 2015 &  
2017 ILDA Conventions

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