



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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Winter 2014

St. Louis, MO

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From the Pastoral Advisor



As we know, time actually flies through the winter, but I am asking you to observe an important religious season called Lent in the spring. What is Lent for? Let me explain the origins of Lent. Traditionally, it begins on Ash Wednesday, forty (40) days before Easter excluding

Sundays, and ends on Easter Sunday. How does the term Lent come from? Lent comes from the old English word *lencten* that meant springtime. Lent has been practiced in Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Anglican churches.

Many Christians observe Lent by fasting, giving alms, abstaining from amusements, or not solemnizing marriages. The season originated as one of spiritual preparation for Easter in remembrance of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also symbolized the mourning of the Church, the bride, for the departure of Christ, the bridegroom. As I recalled when I was a young Catholic, I noticed that black clothing covered Jesus' cross during the Lent weeks. I would like to add "fasting" to you when I was young. After the priest dotted black ash on my forehead on Ash Wednesday, I was taught to give up my most favorite food like ice cream for forty days in remembrance of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness. Historically, the length of time of observing Lent varied through the ages. In the past, it was considered a 36-day period of fast in Roman Catholic system. By the reign of Charlemagne in France in about 800 A.D., four days were added, making it 40. This may have been done as a reminder of the 40 days that Jesus Christ fasted after his baptism.

That's the reason we observe Lent: take your sins and throw them on Christ. Believe with a joyful spirit

that your sins are His wounds and sufferings. Despite our sin and pride, Jesus loved us anyway. He looked beyond our good works and intentions, fixing our dead hearts with the spark of faith. As we believe in Him as our Savior, we know that we will sin again and again. However, we know that Jesus forgave our sins for yesterday, today, and tomorrow. On Easter Sunday Jesus rose from the dead to defeat sin and death. He gave us the HOPE that we will be with Him eternally. This is very important to realize the final move from our earthly life to eternal life to which we are looking forward.

Thank you in the name of Jesus Christ.
Rev. Greg Desrosiers

From the President



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Pflugerville, Texas in name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior!

Happy New Year! Now, it's 2014! How the time went so quickly with so many things happening in 2013! Every new year, most of us, if not all, make new resolutions, such as going on diet, doing more exercise and eating more healthy food, contributing more to charities, doing more volunteer work, renew friendships, doing more for the Lord and church, making more effort to give our anxieties/burdens to our Lord and put our trust in Him completely, and the like. No matter how much we try to keep our resolutions, we frequently fail at these resolutions, but we need to remember that

Jesus never fails us! As you can recall our 2013 ILDA Convention last summer, the theme was "Jesus is the Cornerstone," based from 1 Peter 2:5a – "You also are like living stones. As you come to Him, you are being built into a house for worship." This also means that Jesus is the firm foundation of our lives that takes our place and obeys the Law, which we fail to obey so miserably. He is our Savior who was crucified on the cross in place of us, shedding His blood in forgiveness of our sins, so that we can live with Him eternally! What a wonderful way to begin our new year. The best resolution we can make is to begin a year and years to come of devotions and focusing God's Word! (Note: Some words taken from the Portal of Prayer, January – March 2014)

Important Note: On the other hand, ILDA regional presidents/officers/chairpersons for regional conferences: Please let me know the dates and locations of your regional conferences during 2014, as I would like to attend your conference as a visiting participant. If you wish to have me present how important ILDA is to us, etc., I am very willing to do so. I can be contacted by email (see my email address below) or videophone – 512-410-6360.

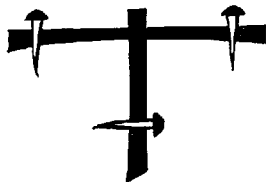
Announcement! On the behalf of the ILDA Executive Board members, ILDA Regional board members and all ILDA members, I, as ILDA president, wholeheartedly thank you, the members of Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Indianapolis, Indiana for being so willing to host the 2017 Biennial ILDA Convention! May God be with you all as you make all the plans and meet all the challenges.

In addition, we are looking forward to 2015 ILDA Convention hosted by the members of Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Madison, Wisconsin (the "Cheese State"). I prayerfully hope many of you plan to attend this convention! May God also be with you as you do your hard work and may it be a big success!

In Christ,

Carol Seeger, ILDA President
cseeger@austin.utexas.edu

Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2014



In Memoriam



Rev. Fred Leroy Leighty, 62, of Fort Wayne, IN, was called to eternal glory on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014. He was born June 25, 1951, in Kansas City, Kansas. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and was ordained in 1996. He served as pastor of Word of God Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and as a missionary to the Deaf in Eastern Iowa (2001-2005). In addition he served hearing congregations in Oklahoma and Colorado. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Debra, his daughter Nancy (James) DeFrain, his son Matthew (Kelli) Leighty, and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014, at Faith Lutheran Church, Churobusco, IN. He was laid to rest at Concordia Cemetery Gardens, Fort Wayne, IN.



Rev. Gilbert Bernard Berninghaus, of Harlan, Iowa, was called to glory on Nov. 10, 2013 at the age of 81. He was born August 16, 1932, to Rudolf and Meta (Bierstedt) Berninghaus in West Bend, Iowa. He graduated from the Lutheran Lay Training Institute, at Concordia College, Milwaukee (now Concordia University, Mequon) and was certified as a lay minister. He served the Deaf in Omaha, Nebraska (1968-76) and Great Falls, Montana (1979-92). He colloquized into the pastoral ministry and was ordained in 1994, after which he served hearing churches in Montana. He retired in 1997. Rev. Berninghaus is survived by his wife, Gayle; daughters Gwen (Gene) Ott, Gisele (Tim Van Eyck), Gloria Music; son Garth; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Funeral services were conducted on November 15, 2013, Harlan, Iowa.



Dr. Harry Hoemann was born January 10, 1932, in Port Hudson, Missouri. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He was ordained in 1956 and served the Deaf at Pittsburgh, PA (1956-60), Washington, DC (1960-1967), and Baltimore, MD (1966-1967). In 1969 he earned his PhD from Catholic University, and was immediately hired as an assistant professor in the Psychology

department at Bowling Green State University. He remained there until he fully retired in 2000. He was considered a leading educator in American Sign Language. He published a number of articles and books demonstrating that ASL was a distinct language. He and his wife also produced materials for teaching ASL.

Dr. Hoemann was called from this vale of tears on February 8, 2013, at the age of 82. Funeral services were held February 13, at Bowling Green, Ohio.

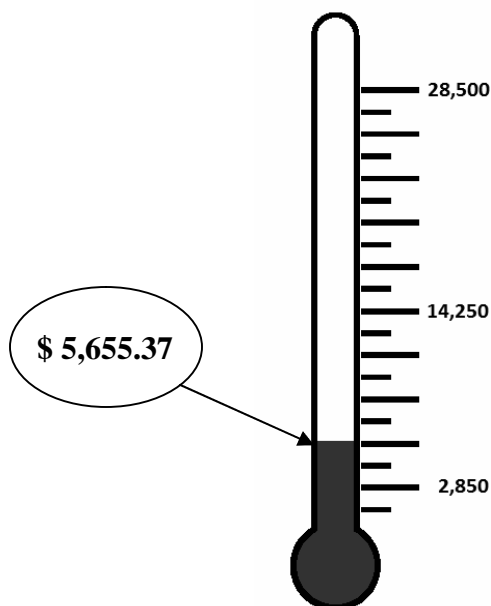
Necrology Report

If you know of any ILDA members who have passed away since the 2013 Austin, Texas convention please send pictures and obituaries to:

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

2013-2015 ILDA MISSION PROJECTS
Goal: \$28,500

Each long line represents 10% of goal.



Mission Project Chairman Report By Pamela Kane

Greetings and Happy New Year 2014 to all ILDA Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Time has flew by so fast since July 2013 and we need your help once more to meet our Mission Project Goal for 2013-2015 of \$28,500. We now have **\$ 5,655.37**. We have 15 months to go till the next convention in 2015. Let's see our thermometer reach the goal. I know we can do this. Why? Because nothing is impossible when we put our mind and heart in giving and receiving God's Blessings. Are you all with me? Let us all pitch in and reach our goal. God bless everyone of you.

Valentine

For God so loVed the world,
that He gAve
His onLy
begottEn
SoN
That whosoever
believeth In Him
should Not perish,
but have Everlasting life.
John 3:16

ILDA Treasurer Report by Patrick R. Sell

The money collected for ILDA mission projects 2013-2015 is \$ 5,655.37. This is about 20%. Most of the contributions have been from individuals. We have 15 months left to raise our goal of \$ 28,500.

2014 Regional Conferences

Central Region, March 19-23, in Cantrell, IL near Springfield, IL.

Midwest Region, August 8-10, hosted by Cedar Rapids, IA

Konkel Receives John of Beverley Award



The Board of Directors of The Mill Neck Foundation, Inc. recently presented the John of Beverley Award to Rev. Dennis Ray Konkel in recognition of his lifelong commitment to service among God's people who are

Deaf in this country and around the world. He is the twenty-eighth individual to receive this award.

In honoring Rev. Konkel with the John of Beverley Medal, the Board acknowledged his contribution to the accomplishments which directly affect and positively improve the lives of those who live in a world of silence.

Rev. Konkel, born in Pontiac, Michigan, became Deaf at the age of 4. After graduating from high school, he attended Gallaudet University in Washington, where he studied to become a chemistry researcher. It was at this time that he also joined the Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf — LCMS.

Following his graduation from Gallaudet, Rev. Konkel worked as a chemist at the National Institute of Health in Maryland. He then held positions at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Washington, DC and FIDIA-Georgetown Institute for the Neurosciences at Georgetown University, working as a brain scientist and associate researcher, respectively. In 1997, Rev. Konkel began studying at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to become a Deaf Lutheran church pastor, or Missionary-at-Large. Upon completion of his academic studies, graduation and subsequent ordination, Rev. Konkel served as Missionary-at-Large and pastor for a number of Deaf church groups, eventually becoming the Executive Director of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society — LCMS. Currently, he works with project leaders for various Deaf activities and also serves as a board member for the Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry.

The award which Rev. Konkel received was named for John of Beverley, an English clergyman who lived at the close of the seventh century and has been recorded as the first to teach a Deaf person to speak. In commissioning the John of Beverley Medal, created in 1958 by renowned sculptor-artist Donald DeLue, the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf wished to call attention to individuals who serve the



needs of those with hearing impairments and thus help broaden the understanding of the public, in general, to the need for better and more effective means of communication.

To date, twenty-eight persons and two organizations have received the award.

This article was adapted from a press release issued by Lutheran friends for the deaf

Please send photos, articles and items of interest for future issues of The Deaf Lutheran to:

Rev. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach
305 Liberty St. NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Voice: 612-386-4824
VP: 612-424-4747
TTY: 763-561-0767

The following article was written by Rev. Ray Spitzenberg from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wallis, Texas. It appeared on a Facebook page of an ILDA member and is reprinted here with permission:

January 21, 2014

I'm sure you've heard this story before, but I am still going to tell it. Two friends were walking along the beach at sunset, and there were thousands upon thousands of star fish washed upon the beach. As they walked and talked, one of the men would stoop down and pick up a star fish and toss it back into the ocean. Finally, the other man said, "Why do you do that? You can't save them all, they're going to die." Picking up another creature and tossing it back into the sea, his friend replied, "No, but I saved that one!"

Of course, as Christians, we can't save anybody; only God can do that, but we can help them and we can share the Gospel with them. And we can do it only one person at a time, and maybe it's only one person we are able to help. As a small rural congregation, we are not like those mega-churches in Houston, nor even like the larger churches near us. But God has called us to be who we are one

lonely person and help him or her to feel that SOMEONE cares about them, or if by our smiles and our hugs, we can make one person feel that he belongs and is loved, or share a Bible verse with one person – just one, then we have done what God expects of us.

People may laugh that we talk about our “Deaf Ministry” when we have only one deaf person in our congregation, and that person is a child.

Some may wonder why we would spend so much time with just one person.

Well, we can't help everybody in the world, but God expects us to help the one He sent to us. Locked inside that precious little deaf child is a very bright human being and a very sweet and loving human being. Have you noticed now as more people are signing to Dylan how his bright little eyes are lighting up, as the world is opening up to him in a way it never did before. Jesus went about the countryside healing the deaf so that they could hear again. We are not empowered to do that, but we can help Dylan, this baptized child of God whom God brought to us, and by communicating Jesus to him, we can change his life in wondrous ways.

I was so impressed by the large number of people who stayed Sunday January 19 to be instructed by Becky Jungklaus in the language of the deaf, giving their time and energy to our Deaf Ministry. I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart.

And that is who we are, — just a very small group of believing Lutherans, reaching out to this person or that person with a special need. Each of us lives with our own special problems or hurts or weaknesses, but, even in our smallness, and with our own afflictions, we help one another in so many ways, especially in caring and loving and doing what we can.

Mark Larson Ordained & Installed St. Louis

Sunday, August 11, 2013, was a day of great joy and thanks to God by the members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf, St. Louis. Candidate Mark Lawson was ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry and installed as the assistant pastor of the congregation. Senior pastor Richard Moody performed the rites of ordination and installation. Pastor John Reinke of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, delivered the message based on Ephesians 4:6-11.



Pastor Mark Steven Larson was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1954. His parents are Russell and Isabel and he has three brothers and two sisters. One brother and one brother-in-law are also Lutheran Pastors. Additionally, Mark has four nephews that are LCMS pastors.

Mark served in the United States Marine Corps as a Radar Technician in an Artillery unit. It was during this service in the Artillery Unit in Marines that caused the damage to his hearing that finally resulted in his deafness!

Mark attended the Lutheran College, St John's, Winfield, KS., and, during that time in College met his wife, Debbie (nee: Otte) Larson. They have two children: Scott Matthew and Christine Joy who was recently married to Brian Andrews-Larson.

After finishing at St. John's, Mark attended and graduated from Southwestern College in Kansas with a degree in Accounting. As an Accountant, he worked for 20 years at the Wolf Creek Nuclear Co. in Burlington, Kansas, promoted to Manager of Accounting and then to Vice President Administration.

In 2005, Mark retired from Wolf Creek and moved to St. Louis. Mark is now Profoundly Deaf (bilateral sensorineural hearing loss) with tinnitus. He learned ASL at Florissant Valley Community College and also attended Concordia Seminary St. Louis, graduating in 2013 with a Masters of Divinity (M.Div.). He was called as Assistant Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf.



*Rev Mark Seeger Installed as Youth Pastor
Houston, TX*



Rev. Mark Seeger was installed as Youth Pastor at Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church, Houston, TX on January 26, 2014. Pictured is Rev. Mark Seeger (left) and Rev. Larry Lieder, Pastor of Holy Three-In-One. Rev. Seeger will be responsible for youth activities at Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) and young adult activities on Mondays in Austin, TX. He also will serve the youth of the Houston area as well as leading worship services there two or three times a month.

India Deaf Missions

(The following was posted to the Ephphatha email list by Pastor Christudoss. This is a general email list for posting news on LCMS and partner Deaf Missions. If you want to learn more, please contact Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, dgehlbach@aol.com. Ed.)

Greetings of joy and peace to you in the name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, from India Deaf Christians.

I thank you all for your prayer and support to India Deaf Ministry. I like Rev. Konkell and his team visit India for training the Deaf and the volunteers. Hope this will happen soon.

I am herewith enclosing the photographs of our Deaf school children actively participated in

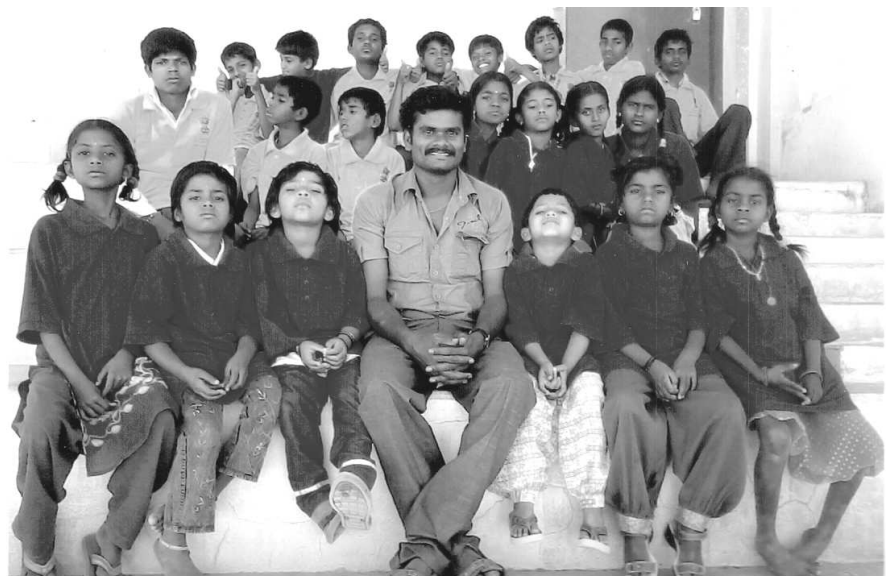
Christmas and District Level Sports meets. The first series of photographs are from Ephphatha Lutheran school for the deaf Hosur, established by the generous support of ILDA in 1997 and 2000. This is a primary school needs more supports. This photos includes the Christmas function on 20.12.2013 and District sport meet on 03.12.2013 [International Day of Persons with Disabilities] display the participation of children in sports and receiving prizes from the collector.

The second series of photographs display the Christmas play by the Deaf children from Ambur Higher Secondary School for the Deaf.

Please pray for this work among the Deaf in India.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. D. S. CHRISTUDOSS,
DIRECTOR
India Deaf Ministry.



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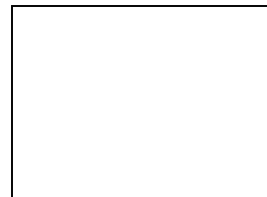
Mail to: **Patrick Sell, ILDA Treasurer, 531 First Street, Story City, IA 50248**

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The DEAF LUTHERAN

7910 Severn Tree Blvd.
Severn, MD 21144



Inside This Issue:
John of Beverley Award
A Letter from India



March 4, 1894

Pastor Augustus Reinke
conducts the first
Lutheran Deaf Worship
Service at Bethlehem
Lutheran Church, Chicago.