



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Winter 2015

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 104, No. 1

From the Pastoral Advisor



Greetings from warm and rainy Vancouver, British Columbia!

As for this winter newsletter submission, I am thinking hard of creating an engaging article to all of you subscribers. However,

since my Mom's passing on December 20th, I would like to share my inspiring experience with you. Moreover, I want to add some Biblical movie comments to this article and Shariah taking over Canada. I am encouraging the subscribers to buy the early bird combo in Madison, Wisconsin for International Lutheran Deaf Association on July 23-26, 2015. (Editors note: The early bird combo deadline was Dec. 31, 2014. Prices go up every two months. See the registration form on the website.)

We went to Regina, Saskatchewan where my Mom was distressed for two weeks in the hospital. In fact, we were happy to get together with all of my siblings who were scattered from all over Canada to pay our last respects and love to her on her deathbed. Mom passed away two nights after I administered the rite by using American Sign Language with the use of my brother's voice to facilitate the prayers in front of Mom. We read Mom Readings, Apostle's Creed, Preface, Sanctus, Lord's Prayer, The Words of Our Lord, and Pax Domini from my Pastoral Care Companion book. I licked my right thumb with saliva to draw a cross on her forehead. Mom responded to us, "Most Beautiful Gift" with a gentle smile, so I cried briefly. What a wonderful spiritual moment! At the age of ninety-one years old, she succumbed to pneumonia as well as she died peacefully with family at her side. She was ready to die and looked forward to seeing my Dad and brother David at home. What a beautiful blessing for her to prepare for Jesus Christ! The funeral was held for Mom's

ashes in Holy Family Roman Catholic Church with Father Carlos Jimenez Celebrant during the blustery snow morning on January 2nd.

I would like to share my critique with you on a new Biblical movie, "Exodus: Gods and Kings". We wore a pair of 3-D eyeglasses to view that movie. At the opening, as Moses was a typical soldier leader with his half brother Ramses, the Egyptians battled against the black southerners (Sudanese). It was full of fast-moving action as a chariot was flying high across the line of the black fighters and wheels were carted off as Ramses fell out of the chariot. Obviously, Moses' job was to protect Ramses during the fighting. I was wondering whether that action was applied to the Bible story. In the past, we watched "The Ten Commandments" which Charles Heston played a major role as Moses with much awe because the show production of wall of sea floating upside that the Israelites crossed the sea with wide-open eyes impression. In the "Exodus...", this high tide sea buried the pursuing Egyptian army soldiers with powerful squall, but that did not put us in awe, though because the low-high tide was very natural to the viewers. The ten terrible plights in an older movie are much superior to the newer movie with Moses alone facing the pharaoh. The past movie stressed that Moses confronted the pharaoh with his brother Aaron most of the times. The bottom line is that new "Exodus: Gods and Kings" was somewhat mediocre to the viewers with biblical knowledge.

Finally, we watched a terrible event in Paris, France on the first week of January on T.V. with much disgust. The Muslim extremists have continued to threaten our world of democracy all over the place. Here the fight over shariah law encroachment has been fiercer since 9/11. The Canadian government hold conferences to warn us about how Muslims are secretly infiltrating all level of government in North America. We are kind of afraid that our next generation may one day live in an Islamic theocracy. How do I know that growth of

Muslim establishment here? As a matter of fact, there is the fastest-growth of Muslims and Islamic immigrants in modern Canadian population. There are numerous new mosques in bigger cities across Canada. The extremists have recruited aggressively a number of younger Canadian Muslims to join ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). That is scary to us, but we are keeping the faith in Jesus Christ. That last segment of the Parisian rally of global solitary over one million supporters inspired us democratically, so that won't destroy our true freedom of religion and freedom of the press at home. Keep the shariah law out of Canada. Premier Dalton McGuinty of Ontario read and declared "There will be no sharia law in Ontario. There will be no religious arbitration in Ontario. There will be one law for all Ontarians." Absolutely, I agreed with the premier's warning.

I am signing off for now and please pray God for our freedom away from encroachment. We trust God in the name of Jesus Christ in our heart. God bless you.

Rev. Gregory Desrosiers
gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca

From the President



Happy New Year 2015 from not so warm, but **wintery chilly** (I'm not kidding!) Pflugerville, Texas!

Let me share what I learned from my pastor's (Rev. Knippa) sermon on Sunday, January 4th and the theme of the sermon

was "A Whole New You!" And, I am combining this sermon with my husband's (Rev. Mark Seeger) Bible message to his Youth ministry group on Wednesday night on January 7th. With the celebration of the New Year, both pastors used one of the Bible verses: "if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: 'the old has gone, the new is here!'" (2 Cor. 5:17). Let us make this verse our number one New Year resolution! It is to cast out our old identity and create our new identity with Christ by being reconciled to God completely. In order to become a whole new person, we need to be reconciled to God and become righteous in Him.

How can we do this? In Rev. Seeger's message: Every year on Dec. 31st at midnight, a new year begins. People all over the world celebrate the

New Year. It happens every year. Some people like to make New Year's resolutions. What's a resolution? It's a decision to do something to improve yourself. Examples: 1) Exercise more often; 2) Eat healthier food; 3) Stop smoking; 4) Go out and help less fortunate people; 5) Manage money better; etc. There is nothing wrong with trying to improve yourself. Actually it's good to try to get rid of bad habits and develop good habits. Trying to change from the way you were to the way you want to become is great. You might want to become a more caring person: stop arguing so much and become friendlier or more forgiving, etc.

What is the best way to become the new you? Let God do it! He wants to change you! Read Ezekiel 11:19; Ephesian 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10 and 1 Peter 1:3.

Important note on the Biennial ILDA Convention 2015 in Madison, Wisconsin: Some people have contacted me and inquired about restaurants near the hotel, workshops (the costs, etc.), etc. I am encouraging those who have questions to either contact Dawn Polzin (608-234-4674 VP) or Gregory Werth (713-893-5138 VP). *Note to Java Junkies like myself: there is a Starbucks Coffee shop inside the hotel lobby at the Crowne Plaza!!!*

I want to encourage you to check out the website for the convention www.ILDA2015.org I'm strongly encouraging you all to plan on attending and our prayers are with the host committee that God's blessings may go with them as they work hard to prepare for the convention!

Let us celebrate the New Year with joining together joyfully, Happy New Life! May our Loving Lord Jesus so richly bless you all!

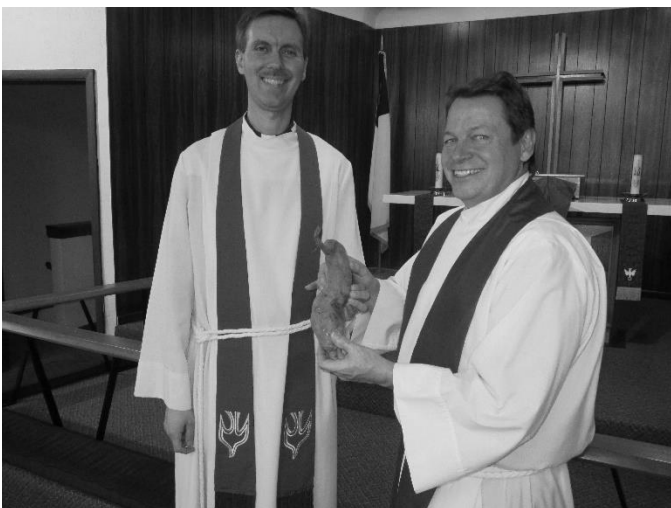
Carol
cseeger@utexas.edu

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
13320 E. Mission Ave. Apt. 252
Spokane Valley, WA 99216-2770



Pictured L. to R.: Rev. Brian Saunders, Iowa District East President, Rev. Tim Eckert and Rev. Mark Larson



Rev. Mark Larson preached the sermon and used a sweet potato as a sermon illustration.

Eckert Installation

On Sunday, Nov. 9, 2014 Rev. Tim Eckert was installed as the ninth pastor of Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Word of God, the only congregation for the Deaf in Iowa District East, has its central location in Cedar Rapids with preaching stations in Davenport, Waterloo, Dubuque, Muscatine, Charles City and Burlington. Pastor Eckert replaces Rev. Mark Anderson, who had to leave in 2013 for health reasons. Before this call, Pastor Eckert was called to serve Davenport and several preaching stations. Rev. Ryan McDermott and Rev. Byron Northwick also help serve the deaf in the district.

At the same service, Pastor Eckert was also installed by Rev. Mark Larson as the new executive director of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

(LDMS). He follows Rev. Dennis Konkell, who retired in June, 2014. LDMS is responsible for promoting Deaf mission work and encouraging and training hearing churches to do Deaf ministry. Pastor Eckert is eager to work together with pastors, leaders, and congregations to bring the good news of Jesus to more Deaf.

The congregation gave a warm welcome for their new pastor in the service and in the lunch following the service. Both pastor and members are eager to work together for Christ and His kingdom.

ILDA Mission Project Update

By Pamela Kane, Mission Projects Chairlady

Greetings and Happy New Year 2015 to ILDA members! I would like to announce that we have met our goal of \$28,500 for the 2013-2015 year. Praise the Lord! God is so good to us!

The 2015 ILDA Convention, to be held in Madison, WI on July 23-26, is fast approaching. I need your help. I need ideas for the mission projects for the years 2015-2017. Please let me know if you or your organization is interested in applying for mission project funds. The deadline is June 1, 2015. You are encouraged, but it is not necessary, to develop a slide or power point presentation to show the ILDA Executive Board and ILDA members during the convention so the members can vote for the mission projects.

Please send your letter to: Pamela Kane, 6433 Lockwood Drive, Mentor, OH 44060. If you have any questions you can email me at pkane970@yahoo.com Thanks! God bless you all!

LWML Grant Update

Lutheran Women's Mission League (LWML) approved a grant of \$100,000 (2013-2015) to Lutheran Friends of the Deaf for the Bible Story books in sign language and written text. The recent LWML newsletter announced that this grant has been paid in full! Praise the Lord! Rev. Dennis Konkell, Rev. Steven Schumacher, Rev. Tom Dunseth, Rev. Daryl Gehlbach and Janet Gehlbach worked on this project several years ago. It is so exciting to see the books being printed! You can check out www.millneck.org for more information on this project.

ILDA Officers

International Officers (2013-2015)

President – Carol Seeger
Pres. Elect – John Mason
Secretary – Becky Jungklaus
Treasurer Pro Tem – Patrick Sell
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Greg Desrosiers

Central Region (2014-2016)

President – Dawn Polzin
V. President – Albert Moore
Secretary – Betty Jo Lucero
Treasurer – Paul Lucero
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Tom Phillips

Midwest Region (2014-2016)

President – Ronald Nester
V. President – Janet Gehlbach
Secretary – Dorene Sell
Treasurer – Bill Zimmerman
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

Northwest Region (2014-2016)

President – Richard Sharp
President Elect – Patricia Jenkins
Secretary – Diane Francisco
Treasurer – Gary Wilson
Pastor Advisor – Rev. David Nielsen

Dixie Region

Not active

Great Lakes Region (2014-2016)

President – Deacon John Rushton
President Elect – Stephen Rute
Secretary – Karen Beiter
Treasurer – JoAnna Rushton
Pastor Advisor - Rev. Gary Lawson

Eastern Region

President – Carolyn Mason
V. President – vacant
Secretary – Lorrey Padon
Treasurer – vacant
Pastor Advisor - Rev. Ron Friedrich

Pacific Region

Not active

Please send any corrections or updates to the editors.

Missionaries David & Barbara Bush



David and Barbara Bush serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as career missionaries in Macau. In this role, David serves as the director of the Concordia English Center in Macau. As the Center's director, he supervises and creates curriculum for the program and oversees the staff and enables them so they are able to be as effective as possible. He also works to raise funds for the Center and its programs. In addition to his duties at the Concordia English Center, David provides guidance and assistance to the Macau Lutheran Deaf Outreach, utilizing the knowledge gained and skills developed when he served more than 25 years in various areas of deaf mission ministry within the LCMS. If you would like to support Pastor Bush's ministry in Macau you can send a donation to: LCMS, PO Box 790089, St. Louis, MO 63179-0089. Make a check payable to "LCMS" and put in the memo line "David Bush."

.....**SAVE THE DATES**.....

LWML Convention

June 25-28, 2015

Des Moines, IA

Website: www.lwml.org

ILDA Convention

July 23-26, 2015

Madison, WI

Website: www.ILDA2015.org

Houston Deaf Teen Lock-In

August 7-8, 2015

St. John Lutheran Church

Cypress, TX

Contact: Beckyjungklaus@sbcglobal.net

Pr Mark and Debbie Larson Consecrated

Pastor Mark Larson and Debbie Larson were consecrated on November 23, 2014 at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, MO. They will serve Concordia as part-time volunteer ministers to the deaf. Pastor Mark became profoundly deaf as a result of his service to our nation in the military. The newly-formed Mission Action team – Deaf (MAT-d) at Concordia is very thankful for the Lutheran Foundation gift which makes it possible for each 9:30 a.m. worship service to be sign language interpreted. Pastor Larson leads Bible studies on Sunday mornings. Every 4th Sunday the deaf enjoy a fellowship lunch with an expanded Bible study after lunch. Weekly Bible studies are offered in ASL on Thursday evenings.

ILDA Banner/Skit competition forms ILDA Program Book ads

Please go to the convention website and print the forms you need.
www.ILDA2015.com

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming ILDA convention (i.e. hotels nearby, restaurants, campgrounds etc.) please contact Dawn Polzin (608-234-4674 VP) or Gregory Werth (713-893-538 VP).



Pictured L. to R: Pastor Scott Seidler (senior pastor at Concordia), Ralph Giesler (Mission Action Team), Anita Geisler, Anand Raj, two visitors, Sharon Schwarz, Melissa Geisler, Greg Geisler, Debbie Larson (interpreter), Pastor Mark Larson, Michelle Johnson (interpreter), Sharon Dilks, Linford Dilks and Karen Hanske (Mission Action Team)



On January 18, 2015 the Northern Illinois Deaf Worship group met for their 1st Anniversary Celebration. The Deaf community gathers together at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Elgin on the third Sunday of each month for worship, Bible study and fellowship. We thank God for this wonderful opportunity. Pastor Mark Winkelman from Morrison, IL leads worship with Paul and Betty Jo Lucero assisting in many ways. We pray that God continues to work through us to increase His kingdom to the glory of His holy name.



23rd Biennial Convention of

International Lutheran Deaf Association

July 23-26, 2015

in

Madison, Wisconsin

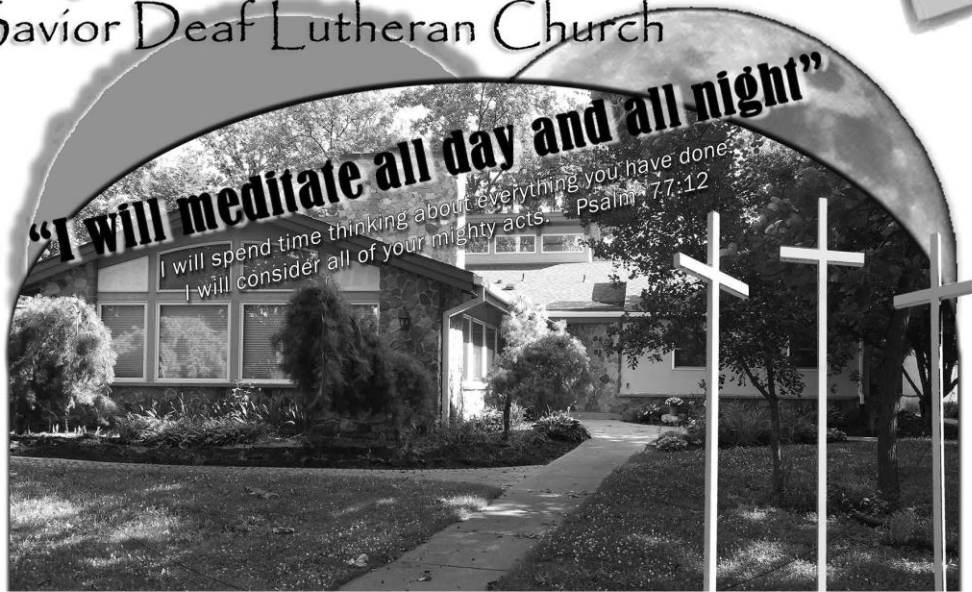
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Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church

\$165.00
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2.28.15

Workshops

Devotions

Fellowship



Prayer

Worship

**Meditate
for God**

Join us for the conference at



From
**CREATION
MUSEUM**

Our Keynote Speaker

Bryan Osborne is passionate about reaching the lost with the gospel! As an expert in the use of exciting, apologetics-based evangelism and chronological Bible teaching, this former athlete connects with audiences through real-life stories and facts that confirm the truth of the Bible.

Here are some of his workshop lectures below:

- "Why Study Genesis? Why it is important in Today's World"
- "Dinosaur Delusion: Dragons, Dinosaurs and the Bible"
- "One Blood One Race" - "Do Animals Evolve? Evolution Defined"



1:1

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Email: ILDA2015Madison@gmail.com

Website: www.ILDA2015.com

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Deadline for the next issue
Spring 2015 – April 15, 2015

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 (Sorenson users)
651-964-3124 (Purple users)

TTY: 763-561-0767
dgehlbach@aol.com
JGehlbach@aol.com



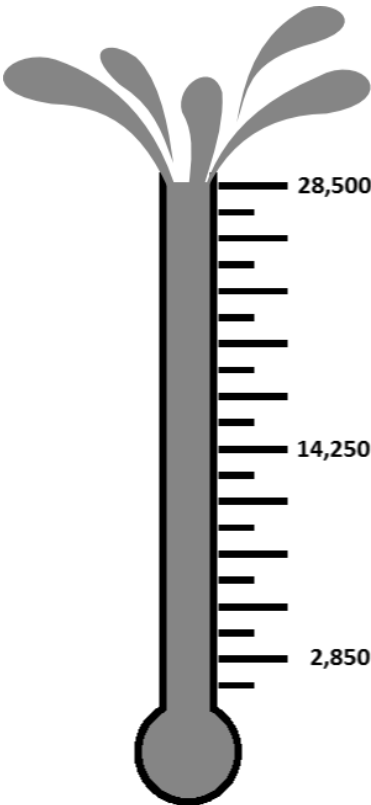
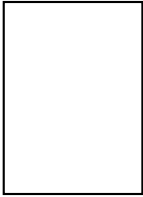
Dylan is signing the word "angel." Dylan is 5 years old. He and his family are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wallis, TX. Becky Jungklaus, ILDA Secretary, has been teaching him sign language.

Any Deaf churches, organizations or ministries getting Thrivent Choice Dollars? The editors would like to make a list of churches or other organizations serving the Deaf in the LCMS accepted to receive Thrivent Dollars. Please let the editors know! We will print the list in an upcoming issue.

**Seek Ye
MATTHEW 6:33
First.**

The DEAF LUTHERAN

7910 Severn Tree Blvd.
Severn, MD 21144



ILDA Treasurer Report *by Patrick R. Sell, Treasurer Pro Tem*

The money collected for ILDA mission projects 2013-2015 met its goal on October 31, 2014. Any donations from now until June 1, 2015 will be put into a savings account for the 2015-2017 mission projects. You can also donate to the ILDA General Fund if you wish. Put "General Fund" in the memo line of your check. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.
