



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Summer 2018

St. Louis, MO

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From the ILDA President Gregory S. Werth



Howdy Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I hope the summer has been treating you all well. I heard so many different

areas in our nation have been kind of in ups and downs due to our Mother Nature being bad or good to you all. I just recently arrived back home after the ILDA Executive Council meeting and checking out next years convention at the Capital Plaza Hotel which will be held in Topeka, KS, on July 18-21, 2019. I had the privilege to talk to the chairperson for the 2019 ILDA convention. Boy, it will be an amazing time for you all after hearing what they have planned.

The Executive Council meeting went really well as I expected to be discussing among the officers with a lot of new things to come for ILDA and for its members in the future. I, as your president, will personally be making sure we stay on top of things so that we can get them done quickly in which the future of ILDA will be in a better position to continue for a long time to come.

I will be giving a great report of what has been going on with ILDA at the next business meeting in July 2019. So make sure you all come to the 2019 ILDA convention to learn about God's

Good News and to learn more about Jesus. In other words, save the date July 18-21, 2019.

Here's a really good verse to what I have been using to make ILDA better with improvements and encouragements from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

God's blessings to y'all!

Gregory S. Werth

From the Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tyler Walworth



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace of our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ

be given to you by the Spirit in His living Word.

It is summer time and the living is easy! At least, that's the way most people think. If I could only make it to that island. Or if I could only get that big mansion out on the ocean. What about the weather? People say, "It's too hot!" in the summer. Then, when God turns the temperature down in winter people say, "It's too cold!"

What makes you content? From longing for riches to discomfort in bad weather, our sinful nature is always unsatisfied and discontent. We are not satisfied with what we

have. When we get more, we are not satisfied with what we get! We really are wretched people. Jesus says we are discontent people when he says, "33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' 34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'" (Luke 7:33-34)

Fortunately, Jesus is not interested in telling us what we want or giving us what we want. Instead, Jesus comes to give us the objective gift of life in Him. He gives us life by His conception from the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary, by His teaching and healing, by His dying, by His rising. He does all of this to give you forgiveness, life and salvation. Why should any cross or trial grieve you? Jesus Christ is near you to cheer you and He will not leave you! He says, "Behold I am with you always!"

The next time you complain (about weather or sickness or money or whatever) take a moment to remember what Jesus gave you. Then confess your sinful contempt of the grace of God and His provision for you. Finally, believe that Jesus really was born, lived, died and rose for YOU. Now He gives all of these gifts to you in the proclaiming of the Word of God, in Baptism and in the Lord's Supper. Now be content in every situation because you are united to Father, Son and

Holy Spirit and you will live with God forever. May our Father give you contentment in His Son.

In Christ,
Pastor Walworth



All copies of the *Deaf Lutheran* newsletter since 1909 are now available

online to read! Check out the ILDA website:

www.deafjesus.org/ilda/DeafLutheran/DLhome.html.

All copies of the ILDA minutes/reports/convention summaries, etc. from 1971-2016 are now online to read.

WANTED

Host congregation for the 2021 ILDA Convention. Please send your bid or letter of interest to ILDA President Gregory Werth, worthlesswiz@yahoo.com

NEW OR RENEWAL ILDA MEMBERSHIPS

can be sent to:

David G. Brown
ILDA Treasurer
Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church
360 Morse Rd.
Columbus, OH 43214
brown.dg330@gmail.com

The new membership year begins Oct. 1, 2018 – Sept. 30, 2020. Check the ILDA website for a copy of the membership form. <http://www.deafjesus.org/ilda/membershipinfo.html>

WANTED

If you have copies of the 1973 (Kansas City), 1977 (Spokane), 1979 (Memphis), 1985 (Milwaukee) or 1991 (Toledo) ILDA convention minutes, **PLEASE** contact Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary, at JGehlbach@aol.com. Thank you!

LFD to launch consulting group

Lutheran Friends of the Deaf (LFD), who envisions a world in which the Deaf community participates equally and fully in the Body of Christ, are offering consulting services for church congregations. Through these services, LFD can assist churches in providing guidance in evaluating current Deaf ministries and planning for new missions; teach ministry workshops; train interpreters; lead weekend workshops for Deaf members on a variety of Scriptural topics; guide music ministries in the use of American Sign Language; and more.

LFD can also provide strategies for serving people who have changing hearing ability and need communication tools to access spoken language.

LFD staff and contributors have decades of experience serving in Deaf ministries. Get started today by contacting the Director of LFD, Rev. Thomas Dunseth at tdunseth@millneck.org.

--reprinted from the Mill Neck newsletter, May 2018 issue--

ILDA Officers

International Officers (2017-19)

President – Gregory Werth
Pres.-Elect – John Mason
Secretary – Janet Gehlbach
Treasurer – David G. Brown
Pr. Advisor – Rev. Tyler Walworth

Central Region (2018-20)

President – Albert Moore
V. President – Mike Ford
Secretary – Rebecca Catchpole
Treasurer – Tim Kearney
Pr. Advisor – Rev. Bud Palmer

Midwest Region (2018-20)

President – Sara Hale
V. President – Dorene Sell
Secretary – Nola Gray
Treasurer – Barbara Zimmerman
Pr. Advisor – Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

Northwest Region (2016-18)

President – Richard Sharp
President Elect – Patricia Jenkins
Secretary – vacant
Treasurer – vacant
Pr. Advisor – Rev. David Nielsen

Great Lakes Region (2018-20)

President – Larry D. Ginter
Pres. Elect – Nancy Bergstresser
Secretary – JoAnna Rushton
Treasurer – Karen Beiter
Pr. Advisor – Rev. Edwin Bergstresser

Deadline for the Fall issue of the Deaf Lutheran is October 15, 2018

Please send photos, articles and items of interest to:
Rev. Daryl & Janet Gehlbach
305 Liberty St. NE
Fridley, MN 55432
Voice: 612-386-4824
Videophone: 612-424-4747
dgehlbach@aol.com
jgehlbach@aol.com

Great Lakes Region Conference

was held July 13-15, 2018 and hosted by Good Shepherd Deaf Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH. The theme of the conference was "Advertising Jesus." (Romans 10:14). Thirty-three people from Toledo, Cleveland, Columbus, Rochester, and Maryland attended (since Eastern Region-ILDA has become inactive, Christ Lutheran of Silver Spring, MD has merged with GLRC). The host congregation did a great job with this conference with celebration, games and the business meeting. GLRC started a new way by having a short two hour business meeting and several hours of presentations led by Rev. Shirrel and Janet Petzoldt, Rev. Gary Lawson, Rev. Ron Friedrich and Deacon John Rushton, focusing on the theme of evangelism – introducing people to Jesus. Rev. Edwin and Nancy Bergstresser were the banquet speakers explaining about their recent trip to Japan.



Pastors and wives attending GLRC



Rev. Chip Lawson



GLRC officers: Karen Beiter (Treasurer), JoAnna Rushton (Secretary), Rev. Edwin Bergstresser (Pastoral Advisor), Nancy Bergstresser (President-Elect) and Larry Ginter (President). Congratulations to all!



GLRC Business meeting



Rev. Shirrel and Janet Petzoldt

Midwest Region Conference

was held July 27-29, 2018 in Austin, MN, at the Holiday Inn and was hosted by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Spring Lake Park, MN. The theme was “His will...His way” (Jeremiah 29:11). Twenty one adults and four children were present from Minnesota, Iowa and Kansas, as well as special guests Rev. Dr. John and Dacia Reinke from Texas. On Saturday afternoon, everyone was able to go to the SPAM Museum in downtown Austin and they enjoyed themselves there, especially the Hale kids. In the afternoon a workshop was led by Rev. Reinke who really challenged everyone to “go and make disciples.” Rev. Daryl Gehlbach led devotions/worship assisted by Rev. Reinke. Rev. Reinke also gave a presentation on his World Lutheran Deaf Outreach (WLDO) travels to Australia, Liberia and Latvia after the banquet. Dane Hawk and Rev. Gehlbach enjoyed trying on some clothing from Liberia (see photo below).



Dane Hawk and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach



Midwest Region officers: Sara Hale (President), Dorene Sell (Vice President), Nola Gray (Secretary), Barb Zimmerman (Treasurer) and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach (Pastor Advisor). Congratulations to all!

Deaf Youth Service

Rev. Mark Seeger and his youth group traveled to Minneapolis, MN in July for their youth service trip. They stayed at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Spring Lake Park. Some of their service projects were: putting together care packs for the homeless, an environmental project stenciling storm drains in Burnsville, helping at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids, helping a deaf-blind woman clean up her property and several painting projects at Prince of Peace. For more information on the youth service trips contact Rev. Seeger at: MarkDYMT@aol.com.



ILDA Executive Council meets in Topeka

The Executive Council met in Topeka, KS, on July 20-21, 2018 at the Capital Plaza Hotel to conduct business and plan for the 2019 ILDA convention to be held in Topeka. The Council was pleased with the plans that Sara Hale, Chairperson, presented. A tour of the hotel was given.



Capital Plaza atrium



ILDA officers: Rev. Ron Friedrich (LDMS representative), David Brown (Treasurer), Janet Gehlbach (Secretary), Gregory Werth (President) and John Mason (President-Elect). Missing from the photo is Rev. Tyler Walworth (Pastoral Advisor).

SAVE THE DATE

2019 ILDA Convention

will be held July 18-21, 2019 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, KS. The host congregation is KansaSEED. The registration form and hotel information will be printed in the November issue.

Check out these websites:

www.deafjesus.org

www.jesusdeaf.org

www.jesusdeaf.org/learn

www.tinyurl.com/LDMSYouTube

www.facebook.com/lutherandeaft

www.deafjesus.org/ilda

The deafjesus.org/ilda website has photos of the current ILDA officers and you can print a copy of the ILDA Constitution and Handbook.

In Memoriam

Ruth Fangmeier



age 69

died 4/24/18

She is remembered fondly by many people involved in Deaf Ministry in the LCMS.

LDMS chooses new director

Rev. Ron Friedrich was chosen as the new director of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) at the annual Board meeting on May 4 in Davenport, IA. He succeeds Rev. Tim Eckert who resigned his position.

Rev. Friedrich serves Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD, and serves as the LDMS representative to the ILDA Executive Council.

Welcome aboard Rev. Friedrich!

More photos from the Central Region conference held in May



Church Interpreter Training Institute (CITI) was held in Fort Wayne, IN, in June. Pictured below are some of the participants. For more information about the CITI program check out the website: Lutheranfriendsofthedeaf.org/citi



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RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

Mission Projects for 2017-2019

Deaf Youth Service Project	\$ 8,000 (paid)
Missionary Support	
Rev. Ryan McDermott	\$ 2,000 (paid)
Rev. Steven Schumacher....	\$ 2,000 (paid)
David Bush	\$ 2,000 (paid)
India	\$ 8,000 (unpaid)
Kenya	\$ 8,000 (unpaid)
World Lutheran Deaf Outreach ..	<u>\$ 4,000 (paid)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 34,000



Donations for the ILDA 2017-2019 Mission Projects can be sent to ILDA Treasurer, David G. Brown, c/o Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, 360 Morse Rd., Columbus, OH 43214. Make your check payable to "ILDA" and put "Mission Projects 2017-2019" in the memo line. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.