



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

November 1979

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Volume 71, No.11

LET'S ALL GIVE THANKS!

-from Sign Waves
Holy Cross Lutheran
Church for the Deaf
St. Louis, Missouri



Thanksgiving Day is a National holiday in the United States to remember the harvest of the Plymouth Colony in 1621 which followed a winter of great hardship. That is the official description of the day.

Did you know that Thanksgiving Day has not always been celebrated in our country? Did you know that when it was first called a holiday only a few Eastern states took part? Did you know also, that it was because of the hard, determined work of one woman that we have this holiday today?

Her name was Sarah Hale, and she was determined that the whole nation join together in setting apart a national day for giving thanks unto Him from Whom all blessings flow. She wrote letters and articles to various newspapers and journals of her time. She pleaded long and hard with three presidents: Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan, from 1846 to 1856. In 1852 there was a small triumph when 29 states united in marking the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day.

Then came the dark days of the Civil War. Who would listen to the plea of this lone woman: "Just one day of peace amidst the blood and the strife"? One man listened. She had won the ear of a great American. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln officially proclaimed the last Thursday of November as the day set apart for the national giving of thanks

unto the Almighty God. Lincoln lived to see only two Thanksgiving Days, but Sarah Hale lived into her late 90's content that her cherished hope had at last become a reality.

By the efforts of one person, the observance of Thanksgiving Day became an important and cherished day in the lives of all Americans.

For the most precious meaning of thanksgiving we look likewise to one person, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Because of HIM, Thanksgiving can be more than a day on a calendar, with more importance than "turkey and trimmings." Because of HIM, we can cry out in praise and worship, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (II Corinthians 9:15).

Thanksgiving Day owes much to the love, grace and mercy of HIM who gave Himself on Calvary. Everything about HIM is marked with the grace of giving.

(please turn to page 7)

RESOLUTIONS Proposed at the 5th Biennial I.L.D.A. Convention

Dear Reader,

Because time ran out on us at the close of the Fifth Biennial I.L.D.A. Convention which was held in Memphis, Tennessee this past summer, it was impossible for the Resolutions Committee to give their report.

Normally, this committee receives proposed resolutions from delegates at a convention and has the responsibility to prepare and read such resolutions during a business session. Then each resolution is either rejected or adopted and acted on.

Since this had not been done then and there, I.L.D.A. President Joseph Kindred asked the Resolutions Committee to circulate the resolutions among the Board of Directors for review, rejection, changes, acceptance and lastly published in The Deaf Lutheran.

We regret this had to happen and hope it won't again at any future conventions. The Board of Directors and Convention Committees are urged to exercise more precise observation and timing of programs on the agenda.

Sincerely,
Lester Ahls, Chairman
Resolutions Committee

* * *

W H E R E A S, Our I.L.D.A. Conventions are for the growth of the work of our Lutheran Church Deaf Ministry among our lay people and,

W H E R E A S, attending these conventions involves much expense and travel and,

W H E R E A S, lay people who attend have a great desire to learn how to become better church workers and evangelists, therefore be it

R E S O L V E D, that chancel dramas, songs and any entertainment be restricted to emphasize the theme of the conventions.

W H E R E A S, the local committee, although handicapped in the number of workers it could recruit for this important convention and the lack of experience within this small working force, did through hard work and persistence has provided everything needful for a successful convention and,

W H E R E A S, Pastor David Bush went out of his way to insure and secure all the needed arrangements for this Fifth Biennial I.L.D.A. Convention. He did so despite the fact that he is a newcomer in the Memphis area, be it

R E S O L V E D, that we extend to Pastor Bush, Chairman Lawrence Fields, his committee members and the congregation of Eternal Mercy Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Memphis our heartfelt thanks for everything they have done!

(Please turn to page 2)

RESOLUTIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

- W H E R E A S, Messrs. Harold Thuve, Marion Van Manen, Harold Rife and Billy Fitzgerald are leaving the Board of Directors having faithfully served out their terms in service to the Lord and to the I.L.D.A. and,
- W H E R E A S, it is always the desire of the officers and members of this organization to express gratitude to those who render such service and stewardship, therefore be it
- R E S O L V E D, that we extend sincere thanks to those fine gentlemen for their endeavors on behalf of the I.L.D.A.
- W H E R E A S, I.L.D.A. Conventions by itself require delegates and friends to travel considerable distances and,
- W H E R E A S, the cost of traveling to these conventions have risen sharply over the years and,
- W H E R E A S, some lay people who are keenly interested in becoming better church workers cannot afford the high cost of fancy accommodations and its accompanying luxuries, be it
- R E S O L V E D, that I.L.D.A. convention committees be urged to always seek the most reasonable and economical accommodations that are available within their area.
- W H E R E A S, the Southern District of Wisconsin has provided us with Bibles for distribution to convention participants here in Memphis as a mission project and,
- W H E R E A S, many of our people have welcomed this new and simplified translation of Scriptures which enables many deaf people to get a better understanding of the Word of God, therefore be it
- R E S O L V E D, that the secretary be instructed to send off a letter of thanks to the Southern District of Wisconsin showing them how much we appreciate what they have done for us.
- W H E R E A S, the Rev. Professor William Houser delivered a most inspiring address to the assembly on our convention theme which is "Evangelism" and,
- W H E R E A S, Pastor Houser has been instrumental in the training of students to serve in the Deaf Ministry at Fort Wayne, Ind. Seminary, be it
- R E S O L V E D, that we extend a vote of thanks for coming and participating in our I.L.D.A. Convention in Memphis.

Teaching The Bible By Hand

- from a newspaper article sent in by Layminister Richard French

The teacher's face is highly animated. She virtually acts out the story about Jesus for the four children who watch her intently.

There is no sound. The teacher's flying fingers are "signing" the Biblical story to pupils who do not hear, but whose rapt expressions indicate they both understand and enjoy.

This intense scene takes place at the annual Vacation Bible School held by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for the Deaf at 210 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle, Washington.

(continue on the next narrow column) (turn to page 3)

Dick French is a lay pastor and directs the vacation school and the church's Sunday School. He volunteers, and his enthusiasm is typical of the staff and some 27 children who gather around in small groups and learn the Bible.

Adele Harmon is one of the teachers. She drives in from her home south of Renton each morning. Now she captivates the four listeners with her story.

"When I asked her some time ago to teach Sunday School she said she could not, that she had never gone to Sunday School," French said. "That had been a problem; there was no place for the deaf. Now with some training she has gained confidence.

The deaf children desperately need an older deaf person to look up to, to emulate. I know one deaf child who thought he'd die when he reached a certain age because he never had seen an elderly deaf person."

Lajun Brighton and her assistant, Scott Griswold, teach children aged 12 to 14.

They are telling the Bible story of David and Goliath, and the children are having trouble visualizing the sling David used as a weapon.

Scott whirls his hands around his head as though he is holding a sling, and then with a finger pointing, he traces the flight of the stone. He signs "Goliath," and tall, bringing up his shoulders and saying and signing, "Big man."

He jabs his finger against his forehead, showing the stone striking, then lets his head drop, his eyes close, and indicates falling. Several pupils hands go up in the air, Scott points and Tem Sexton, who wears a heart

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Thank You for your contribution

LET'S ALL GIVE THANKS (continued from page 1)

He gave up heaven for earth. He gave Himself into the hands of sinful men that He might give out His love to all. He gave Himself for us, that there might be forgiveness for sin. He gave, and gave, and gave, until He had given all, and then cried out, "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

And now on such a day as Thanksgiving, with remembering all He gave, do you know Him personally? His has been the "giving". Where is your personal "thanks" through repentance and faith, so that between Himself and you there can be the blessed bond of true "thanks ... giving"? He offered thanks for you in the very face of death on Calvary. Now, our risen Lord is waiting softly and tenderly for your word of thanks in return by your heartfelt confession, "God be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13).

"Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord" (Isaiah 1:18). Real Thanksgiving is to know the power and blessedness of His salvation for all the days, no matter what the day has in store for us. And remember, it is only the man or woman who walks always in the forgiveness of Christ Jesus who can truly be thankful. Why? Because that person knows that "Every good gift and every perfect present comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning." (James 1:17). Why can that person truly give thanks? Because that person has Some One to give thanks to, who loved them and who has blessed them with all!

--adapted, Pulpit Helps



TEACHING THE BIBLE BY HAND

(continued from page 2)

shaped name tag with the words "God Loves You" lettered on it, signs a quick message to him (Brighton). She smiles and answers.

Another pupil, John Freeman, signs that he does not understand how David could stand up to the giant. Scott answers by signing, "He was not afraid. God gave him strength."

Pastor William Ludwig, whose son Billy works with some hearing children who had accompan- their deaf siblings, gave a Bible reading.

French said Pastor Ludwig is deaf, has never heard his name, yet has earned a master's degree. The pastor signs the Bible passage to the assem- bled school, with Leann McLane saying the words.

Then a skit about the life of Jesus is per- formed, after which the whole group signs the Lord's Prayer. Jan Cramer, who brings 13 child- ren to the school every day from her North End neighborhood, then plays the piano as the group sings "I Love To Tell The Story."

The school's "band," young children shaking containers of beans to the rhythm of the song accompanies the singers.

The vacation school ended with the summer, having run it's course. It had been growing steadily since its inception six years ago.

French says, "The biggest handicap of the deaf is the hearing public. The deaf need to be accepted by the hearing."

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A DEVICE FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has moved to set aside radio frequencies for the operation of special paging devices for the deaf, blind and physically handicapped.

The decision to issue a notice of proposed rule making centers on a paging system first suggested by the Bell and Howell Communications Company more than seven years ago.

If given final approval after comments are solicited and reviewed, the paging system could ultimately provide new freedom for millions of handicapped persons, the FCC said.

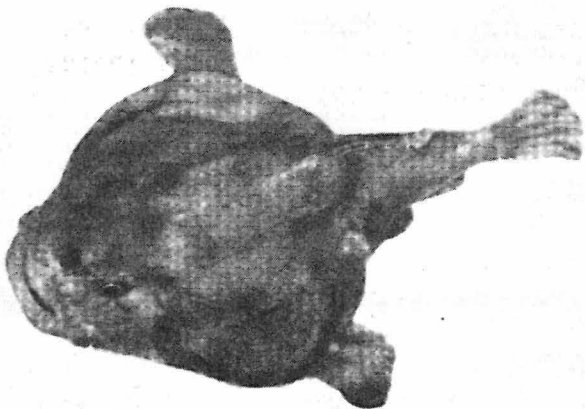


Picture on the left: The Deep Star 4000. It is an underwater craft that was built to explore inner space - the deep oceans of our earth + + + + +

STRANGE VISITOR from
* * * * * **INNER SPACE**

We often hear about strange creatures from outer space. We hear such questions as, "Are they real? Are they human? Or do they even exist?"

But there are new and strange creatures coming in contact with man for the first time. These creatures are



from inner space - deep in the waters of the vast oceans that cover most of the world's surface.

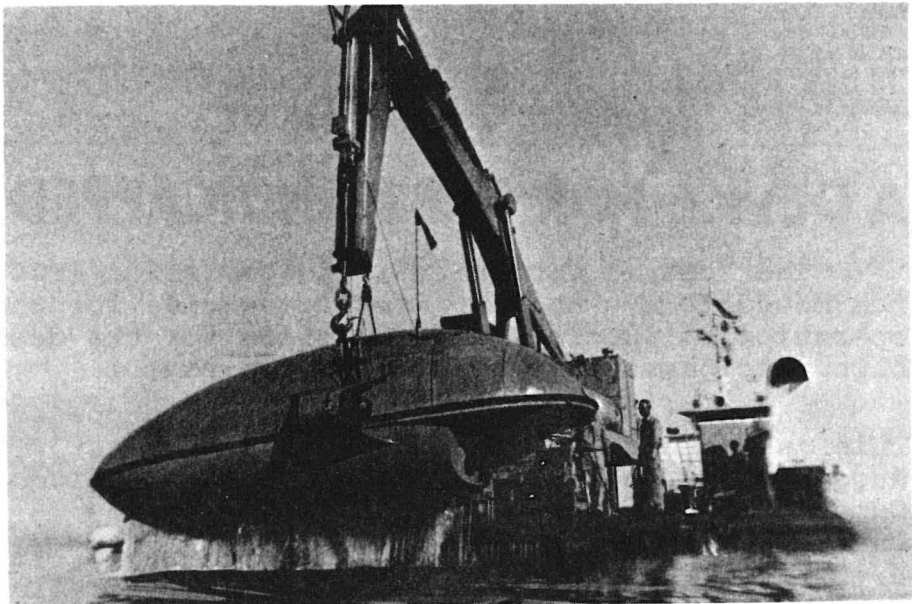
The crew of the underwater craft called the Deep Star 4,000 brought back one of them from an undersea trip off the coast of Miami, Florida.

It was a rare fish which the crew caught with the craft's mechanical arms.

This new and strange fish was given the strange name Chaunax Pictus. It is the first one of its kind ever brought back alive. This unusual fish measures 11 inches and has a pinkish color with a network of yellow lines that make it look very orangelike. With its large mouth, this creature can feed on large fish and, like a snake, can swallow its food whole.

How did this strange creature react to the crew that caught it? It didn't move a bit. It stayed right there and gulped water to puff itself up. Could it be that it thought "I'll scare these earth-creatures away by puffing myself up"?

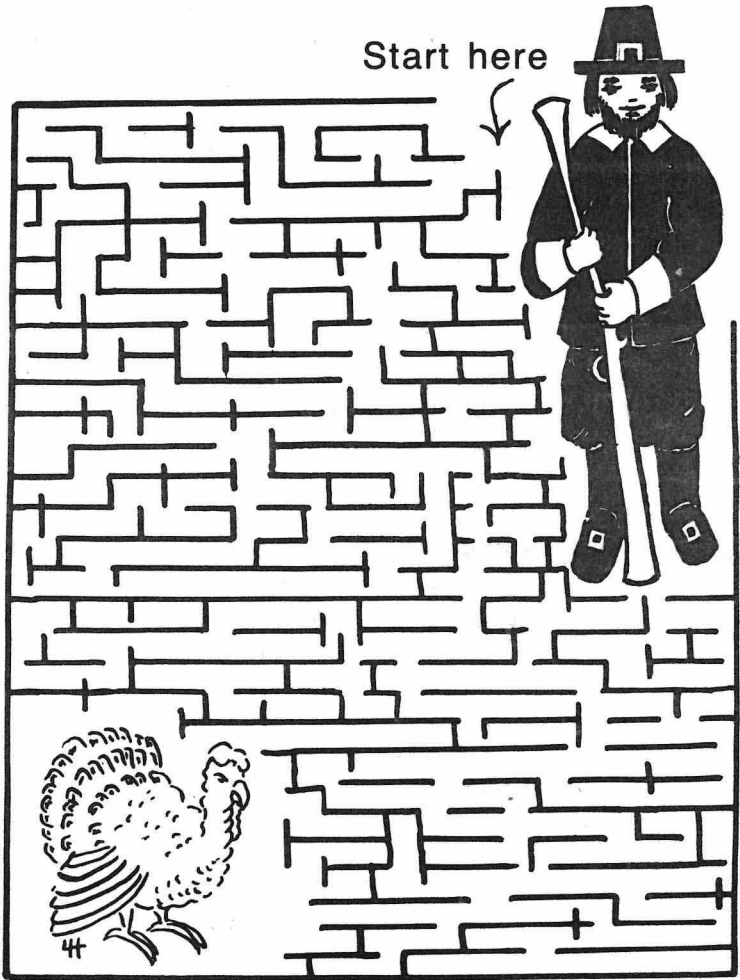
What strange creatures of God do you know? What makes these creatures unusual?



The Deep Star 4000 being raised out of the water by a crane after completing its journey into the deep oceans.

ON THANKSGIVING DAY

Here is a Pilgrim looking for a wild turkey for his Thanksgiving dinner. Can you find the pathway he used to reach the turkey? Do not cross any lines on the way.



* * * * *

PUZZLE FUN! Tricks or Treats

Find the tricks and treats in the puzzle. They may be found by reading in any direction. Even backward!

DEVIL'S TRICKS

- Death
- Hate
- Separation
- Pain
- Sin
- Pride
- Suffering
- Hell

GOD'S TREATS

- Eternal Life
- Comfort
- Heaven
- Hope
- Joy
- Peace
- Salvation
- Love

C A S U F F E R I N G O
A O L I F N E L O V N J
C O M O I V S U F F O H
T O N F O E E E N Y O E
U R M L O T D I P H O O
S C O F O E I H O O F A
O H M E O R R E E M H L
N E A A R R P S O R L V
O A H T A O T C P E I E
I P R I E D E O H D E N
T S A L V A T I O R O R
A E T E R N A L L I F E
R S E P A R A T I O N P
A L E T E H O A P S A E
P I C U T E V L O A R A
E F A A L L S M F O I C
S E E M A O I H E A V N
O D P S C A N E V A E H

* * * * *

The boy listened closely as the rabbi read the Bible. "May I ask a question?" he asked.

"Sure, Go ahead. Ask your question." replied the rabbi.

"Well, the Bible says that the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea - the children of Israel built the temple - the children of Israel did this and the children of Israel did that. Didn't the grownups ever do anything?"

* * * * *