



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

September-October, 1986

St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 78, No. 5

## TAKING A VACATION FROM GOD

By Ronald J. Schlegal  
Bringing Christ to the Nations, LLL

The pastor was tired. It had been a very difficult year for him. There had been too many sick people and far too many funerals.

After five years of preaching almost every Sunday, it was becoming more and more difficult to prepare a sermon every week. Leading the worship services was almost routine, and in his Bible classes he felt he was droning endlessly without much interest and enthusiasm.

"I need a vacation," the pastor decided. "I need to get away from everything and

everybody. In fact, what I really need is a vacation from God." The next morning he got into his car and began to drive.

"I'm not going to mention God on this vacation," the pastor promised himself, "or even think about Him!" Soon the pastor saw the mountains in the distance, and again, as he

always was, he was awed by their magnificence and majesty. "Lord, you set the mountains in place by Your strength," he exclaimed, "showing Your mighty power."

"This isn't working," the pastor said to himself, "this is no place to take a vacation from God." By now he was in the mountains. He did not stop, but immediately drove down to the valley. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me," he said out loud. This is no good, either, the pastor thought, as he headed for his favorite fishing stream. "There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God," his heart sang.

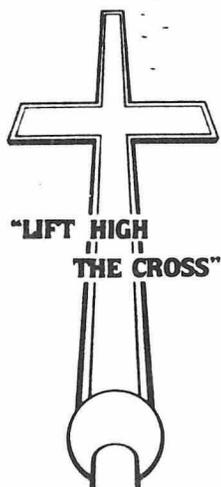
"Blast, there it is again--the God connection!" he said. He drove toward the ocean. "I am not going to think about any Scripture passages that talk about how God made the oceans or how He rules the seas," the pastor promised himself. But as he saw the ocean in the distance, he found himself thinking, "How wonderful our God is! There is no other God like you, O Lord . . . You will be merciful to us once again. You will trample our sins underfoot and send them to the bottom of the sea."

Shrugging his shoulders, the pastor turned his car around and headed for home.

TAKING A VACATION (continue on page 3)

### \$2,000 Available for Scholarships

The International Lutheran Deaf Association has \$2,000 available for scholarships for students planning to enter the pastoral and teaching ministries and to serve the deaf following their graduations. The grants are made through the financial aid offices of the various LCMS colleges and seminaries. Interested applicants should contact Ms. Jacqueline S. Kemper, ILDA treasurer, 1343 Graham St., St. Louis, Mo. 63139 through the financial aid office of their respective schools.



## RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Meta Luetzow  
13454 Second Street S.W.  
Seattle, Wash. 98146

Sunday, May 11, 1986 Julie Grayson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Grayson was confirmed by the Rev. William A. Ludwig, pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran church, Seattle, Wash.

Mr. Morris Iseley, president of Aid Association for Lutherans, Branch 2710, presented Julie with a gift of a wall cross.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION (continue on page 2)

## ILDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONVENES IN MINNEAPOLIS MAY 30-JUNE 1

Meeting for the first time since 1985 convention at Milwaukee, the ILDA executive committee comprised of President Lester Ahls, President-elect Ronald Byington, Secretary

### **Rite of Confirmation** (continue from page 1)

Julie was taught by Mrs. Alvin Luetzow, a hearing member at the church for the deaf who also adapted the catechism for Julie's understanding through the use of word cards, symbols, pictures and objects. (Mrs Luetzow says Julie was a joy to teach and feels privileged to have been the person to prepare her for this special day. Ed.)

A luncheon reception given by Julie's parents was held after the worship service for members and friends of the confirmand.



**NEW CONFIRMAND**--Julie Grayson sits beside her pastor William Ludwig following her confirmation May 11.

Beth Firnhaber, Treasurer Jacqueline Kemper and pastoral adviser Ronald Friedrich along with LCMS missions representative Rev. Donald Zuhn met at Prince Peace Lutheran church, Minneapolis. The full board will meet in the latter part of October at St. Louis.

The meeting was convened by President Ahls to discuss stalemated mission projects, the need to update public relations and increase membership awareness of ILDA's many needs, a review of the Milwaukee convention report, discussing the vacancy in the position of executive secretary to the deaf/blind in St. Louis, future Leadership Training Programs (LTP's) and other matters.

Action to get a videotape of the ILDA's many and varied activities as an effort to improve its public relations got a boost at this meeting. Creation of the tape will be a joint effort of several board members and may become available to churches and other interested groups in the future.

A new missions brochure/pamphlet outlining the ILDA's mission program for the 1985-87 biennium has been drawn up and submitted to the printers. It will be distributed among the various pastors and regions encouraging support for the projects.

The board set an Oct. 1, 1986 deadline for receiving scholarship applications for the current biennium.

Also discussed were the ILDA's tract project which is one of its mission projects voted at the last convention, subject to the availability of funding.

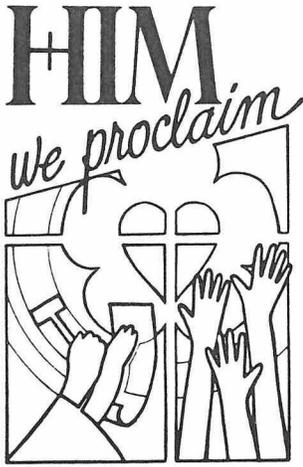
The board for missions standing committee members were all renominated for new terms. Among those include Pastors George Natonick and William Ludwig; one deaf lay person (Ronald Byington); one professional (Keith Tolzin). Added to this were Beth Firnhaber and Pastors David Mueller and Ronald Friedrich.

The members of Prince of Peace prepared a delicious potluck supper for the board, which was deeply appreciated and allowed time for getting acquainted.



# REFORMATION DAY

On Oct. 31 Lutherans all over the world will celebrate Reformation Day, remembering the day in 1517 when Martin Luther nailed



the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany. This action began the Lutheran Reformation of the church. Today, 469 years later, the Lutheran Communion is the third largest Christian body in the world; Roman Catholics are the largest, followed by the Eastern Orthodox.

On Oct. 31 we celebrated our heritage and history as Lutheran Christian. We give

thanks to God for giving Luther the courage to stand up to the powers of his day and proclaim the wonderful free Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. What is this Gospel of our God? It is that salvation is God's free gift to all people. We cannot work for salvation, or buy it, or become good enough to earn it. No! God gives us His grace **freely** through faith in Jesus Christ. God loves and saves us because God **wants** to love and save us. The cross of Christ is the proof of our faith; God our Father has shown us His love

and made us His friends through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is what the Bible tells us. This is what our beloved Lutheran church teaches us. This is what we celebrate on Oct. 31.

On Oct. 31 we also celebrate that our Lutheran church is part of Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. We are not in a corner by ourselves; we are joined together with people of all denominations who name the Name of Jesus into one holy church. Our Lutheran Confession (Beliefs) state that our Lutheran faith "is based clearly on the Holy Scriptures and is **not** opposed to that of the universal Christian church, or even of the Roman church." At another place they say that "we know that our confession is true, godly and catholic." Genuine (true), evangelical (Gospel proclaiming), confessional Lutheranism IS genuine, evangelical, catholic Christianity. And so Lutheran Christians joins together with all Christians of every time and every place to praise God for the wonder of His grace and love in Jesus Christ.

To God alone be all the glory!

## TAKING A VACATION FROM GOD

(continue from page 1)

"What's the use?" he said. "I just can't take a vacation from God. Where could I go to escape from You? Where could I go to get away from your presence? That could be frightening, but now I find it comforting. For now I know that nothing can separate me from the love of God that is mine in Christ Jesus, my Lord. I can't take a vacation from God, but thank God, He never takes a vacation from me."

\* \* \* \*

"Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."



## SIFTING THE NEWS FROM HITHER AND YONDER . . .

IN MEMORIAM . . . Dale D. Paden, long time ILDA supporter and former member of the board of directors, passed away in Omaha, Neb. on April 16. Christian burial was performed by Lay Minister Robert Oettel and Rev. Delbert Thies.

The well-known SON-SHINER SIGNERS of Omaha filmed their third video program during May. It will be shown during the Missouri Synod convention at Indianapolis. The video was funded by The Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, Mill Neck, N.Y.

Law makers in Maine, Wyoming and Michigan are planning to introduce bills recognizing American Sign Language (ASL) as a language. Such legislation would permit ASL to be taught to both deaf and hearing impairing students. A similar bill was passed in Texas in 1979.

Many ILDA members will remember Doris Myhre, the energetic lady who many times led the songs and mime at some of our gatherings, notably from Milwaukee. She is moving to Florida.

On March 23, Rev. E. J. Otto from the Southern Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, presented the deed to Silent Lutheran church, Madison, Wis. to congregation president William Binn. At the service were 10 members who attended the

first service in the building.

Holy Cross Lutheran church, Delavan, Wis. has made pledges amounting to \$2,400 towards "Alive in Christ," the special offering to enhance the work of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

According to the summer issue of "Holding Hands," official publication of the churches in Milwaukee, Madison and Delavan (Wisconsin), Emmanuel, Milwaukee, has its church building up for sale.

Ann L. Browning, a spry lady of 81 who resides in Tacoma, Wash. has written the editor a letter in which she wants to warn readers against using a drug known as Timoptic (eye drops) which caused her many health problems which she believes were caused by its use. If any of our readers are having unexplained health problems after starting on eye drops, it might be a good idea to check it out before continuing to use the product.

Some members of Christ Lutheran church joined in the "Hands Across America" on May 25, joining at Howard Road in Beltsville, Md.

### Deaf Parents Keep Their Son, Florida Agency Withdraws Suit

(Gallaudet Newsletter)

The Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services has voluntarily dropped its suit to retain custody of a hearing child of the deaf parents.

Joe and Shirlene Timmons of Okeechobee, Fla. have been fighting HRS for more than two years for custody of 3-year-old Joey, whom HRS claimed was neglected. The agency had taken the child from the parents twice, contending that because the Timmonses are deaf, the child would not receive enough oral and auditory stimulation. The couple has another hearing son, Jimmy, 1, whose custody was not contested.

The court agreed to dismiss the case and ordered HRS to stop "harassing" the parents. Joey has been reunited with his parents and the case closed.

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It sure makes the day long when you get to work on time!

### HELP!! HELP!!

THE DEAF LUTHERAN needs your help! According to recent information from our business manager, Elmer Francisco, we have enough funds to pay operating expenses until the end of this year.

The problem could be averted if some of our churches would pay up their blanket plan subscriptions, some of which have been in arrears two years or even longer. And about 300 subscribers' are delinquent.

What we would like to see happen is to have the mail man dump a flood of letters in Elmer's lap. If all those accounts were paid, there would be no crisis looming and both the editor and the business manager would sleep better.

How about it, folks? Let's show Elmer!!

# Hope Lutheran Church Marks 60 Years of Service to the Deaf in Oregon and Washington

Hope Lutheran church, Portland, Ore. observed its 60th anniversary as a congregation with a three-day celebration May 16-18 which included a boat ride on the Columbus river, a banquet on Saturday evening and a reception on the opening day for former pastor and Mrs. George C. Ring of Des Moines, Iowa who enjoyed the second longest tenure as pastor in the church's long service to the deaf in the northwest.

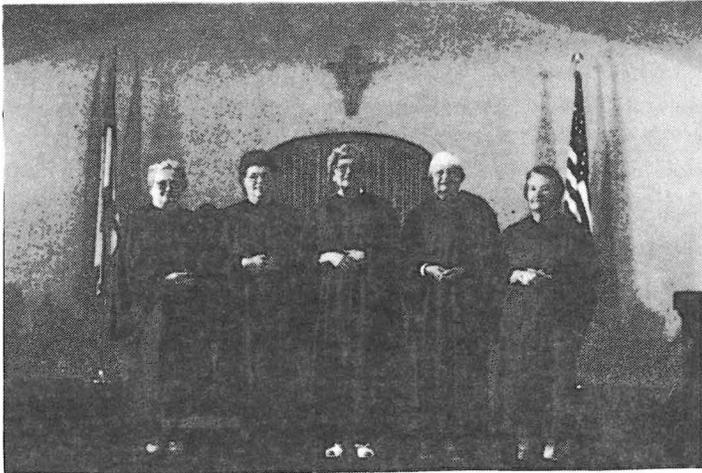
Work among the deaf in the Portland area was started in 1912 when Rev. Arthur Reinke, a son of the first pastor to conduct services

to the deaf of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, came to the area and surveyed its needs and met with 28 people to form the first congregation. Currently, Rev. David Carstens, who accepted a call to serve the congregation from North Carolina on April 15, 1984, ministers to the church as well as stations in Longview, Wash., Canby, Salem, Eugene and Medford in Oregon. Membership at Hope numbers about 120.

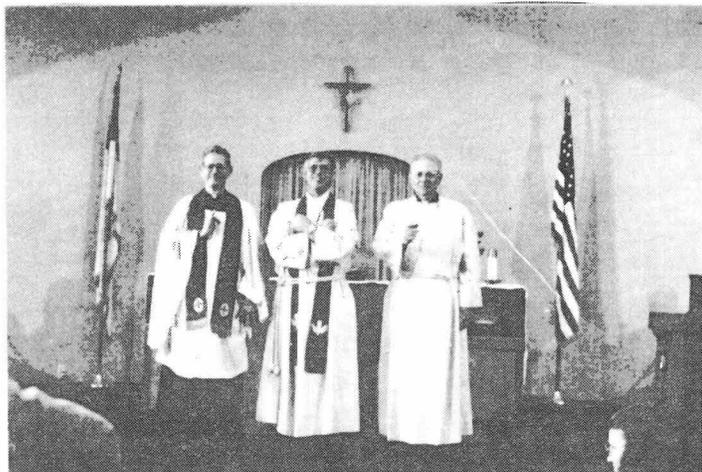
Hope Lutheran church was established in 1926 under the leadership of Rev. Erich Eichmann. The church has moved several times and is presently located at 4936 N.E. Skidmore Street.

Theme for the three-day event was, "Hope Is Remembering With Praise." Preaching the service on Sunday morning as guest speaker was the honoree, Rev. Ring, who dwelled on the theme, "Hope, Remembrance and Praise."

Banquet speaker on Saturday evening was Rev. William Ludwig, former vacancy pastor in 1974-75 from Seattle.



**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHOIR**—(Left to right) Helen Drake, Kate Skalicky, Louise Van Roekel, Fern Rife and Phyllis Hatton.



**I LOVE YOU**—Pastors William Ludwig, David Carstens and George Ring sign the words. Rev. Carstens, center, is currently pastor. Rev. Ludwig, (left) was vacancy pastor in 1974-75; Rev. Ring (right) served 15 years from 1948-63.

O Give Thanks  
to the Lord...  
His Love endures  
Forever!



**HOPE REMEMBERS**—This group picture of the members of Hope Lutheran church was taken following services on Sunday, May 18.

# EASTERN REGION CONFERENCE MEETS AT TOWSON, MD. JUNE 6-8

By Rev. Ken Schnepf  
40 E. Burke Ave.,  
Towson, Md. 21204

The 1986 Eastern Region ILDA conference was held at the Quality Inn, Towson, Md. during the weekend of June 6-8. St. Mark Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Towson, was the host congregation. The conference theme was, "Sow the Seed," based on the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-9).

A total of 80+ participants were in attendance representing various Lutheran (LCMS) pastors and members of 10 congregations serving the deaf population.

The theme of the conference, "Sow the

Seed," encouraged the participants to share the good news of Jesus Christ to their respective communities. This was supported through individual Bible groups and a dramatization of the parable of the sower by a clown named "Rainbow" (Carol Kreek, a member of the First Lutheran, Towson).

The conference included a wine and cheese reception for participants on Friday evening, a bus trip to the inner harbor on Saturday afternoon with a banquet that night, culminating with Bible study and eucharist service on Sunday morning.

Members of St. Mark comprising the conference committee were: Victor Krohn, chairman; Gladys Krohn, assistance; Galen Adams, registration; John McKenny, tours; Lydia Waters, mistress of ceremonies; Helen Adams and Mildren McKenny, hostesses, and Pastor Ken Schnepf, worship.

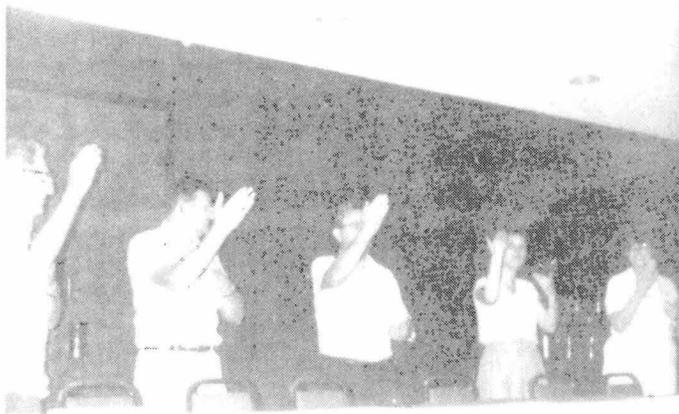
## ER-ILDA ELECTS

By Dan Glenney, President  
3109 Derry Road,  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19154

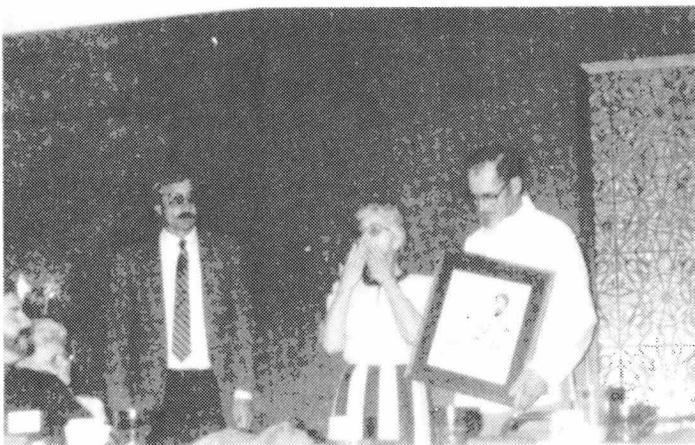
New officers were chosen at the just concluded Eastern Regional Conference. President-elect is Donald Wetzel, Newington, Conn.; Alice Hagemeyer, Silver Springs, Md, secretary, and for pastoral adviser, the conference choose Rev. Joseph Varsanyi. The latter two were incumbents.

The conference voted to support two projects out of five considered: the Hong Kong Lutheran School for the Deaf and an interpreter fund for deaf/blind participants at the next ILDA convention at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The next meeting of the ER-ILDA will be held in North Carolina in 1988. A race between New York and Philadelphia for the 1990 conference was won by New York.



**PRAISING THE LORD**--Rev. Donald Zuhn (center) leads the choir in the song, "Jesus in the Morning."



**GERHOLD RETIRES**--Dr. C. Roland Gerhold and his wife accept a framed mural of "The Good Shepherd" in honor of his retirement. Rev. George Natonick looks on.

### DIXIE REGIONAL ILDA CONFERENCE

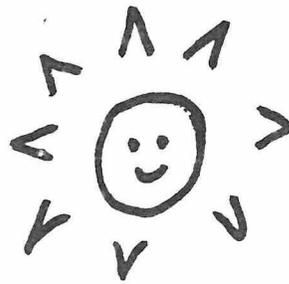
Camp Lone Star  
LaGrange, Texas

**Oct. 10, 11 & 12, 1986**

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of

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# HIGH MARKS IN RECENT SURVEY

With only a fraction of 1 per cent of the readers returning the questionnaire in the May/June 1986 issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN, it was, nevertheless, a good cross section study from most parts of the country as how respondents felt about their paper.

The survey confirmed the belief of most of the members of the ILDA board of directors that readers wanted to keep abreast of developments in the various regions with reports from same. However, getting those reports in to the editor has been difficult, as have been reports from our various regional conferences, most of whom convene at least an-

nually, or at the latest biennially.

Only a few get the paper late any longer, and in most instance, it is due to post office rules for handling bulk mail. Also, the great majority felt the cost of the paper was reasonable, easy to read, they liked the format.

However, as with any endeavor, it is not always possible to please each and every individual and THE DEAF LUTHERAN is no exception. There is always room for improvement, as was noted by one lady in the east, and we agree.

## MARK ANDERSON ORDAINED MAY 25

Mark A. Anderson was ordained into the holy ministry at Holy Cross Lutheran church, St. Louis, Mo. on Sunday, May 25. Graduation from Concordia Seminary occurred two days earlier.

He spend his vicarage at Alpha Lutheran church, Rochester, N.Y. during the 1984-85 school year.

He has received a call to St. Matthew Lutheran church, Newark, N.J. and installed there on Sunday, July 13.

Rev. Anderson and his wife, Pam have one son, Seth and are residing at 510 Parker St., Newark, N.J. 07104.

## IOWA RECEIVES TWO NEW PASTORS

Iowa, with two vacancies in its mission fields simultaneously this year, one in Des Moines and the other in Cedar Rapids, had both filled this spring with the arrival of Rev. Darrell Kois and Rev. Mike McDonald.

Rev. Kois will serve Calvary, Des Moines.

Rev. McDonald will serve Word of God, Cedar Rapids.



ALL SMILES--Rev. David Mueller begins work in Jackson, Miss. Shown (left to right): Rev. Richard Meyer, Southern District president; Pastor Mueller and his wife and daughter; Rev. Robert Kerekes, district missions executive.

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