



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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## CEDAR RAPIDS CONVENTION DRAWS 400 VISITORS, HEALEY RETURNS AS ILDA TREASURER

Most observers were more than a bit surprised to find that Iowa, and a rather small city like Cedar Rapids when compared to other large cities like Los Angeles, could draw a near record attendance during the ninth biennial convention of the 16-year-old association. Visitors could be found from nearly every corner of the United States. With all the handshakes and embraces of old friends greeting one another; pastors intermingling with old and new parishioners, it had all the traditional earmarks of an ILDA convention getting under way.

It was not without some disappointments. ILDA conventions seem to be pre-destined

### Rev. Steven R. Schumacher Installed at St. Phillips, Philadelphia, July 12

After being without a shepherd for eight months since Nov. 30, 1986, the Lord answered the prayers of His flock at St. Phillips Lutheran church, Philadelphia, when a new pastor arrived in the person of Rev. Steven Schumacher, of Concordia, Mo.

Pastor Schumacher received a diploma in machine drafting from Des Moines Area Community college in 1978 and worked for Brown Engineering as chief draftsman in West Des Moines, Iowa. In 1982, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial design technology and in 1983 entered Concordia Theological seminary at Fort Wayne, Ind. After two years of formal education he served a vicarage at Rogate Lutheran church in Clearwater, Fla. On May 15, 1987, he received a Master of divinity degree from Concordia Theological seminary and accepted the call to become pastor of St. Phillips and St. Paul's Lutheran Deaf.

Pastor Schumacher and his wife, the former Cynthia Ann Decker of Chester, Ill., are the parents of two children, Emily, 8 and Joshua, 2.

to have someone injured during its activities, and Cedar Rapids did not prove to be an exception. Mrs. Cecil (Lela Mae) Schladetzký, Des Moines, Iowa, was injured during the tour of the historic Amana Colonies when she attempted to sit in a huge walnut rocker to have her picture taken and it tipped forward unexpectedly, causing her to fall. She was transported by ambulance to a Cedar Rapids hospital, where her injuries were determined not to be serious.

Thursday evening saw a near record attendance sitting down to an elegant buffet style dinner at the Stouffers Five Seasons hotel, the convention headquarters. Opening worship was led by former secretary of LCMS Deaf/Blind Ministry, Rev. Donald W Zuhn, Minneapolis, who spoke on the convention theme, "A Time for Everything."

Following a welcome address by Elaine Miller-White of the Chamber of Commerce and invocation by Mr. Robert Oettel of Omaha, President Ahls addressed the convention on "The State of the ILDA" on Friday morning. Among his remarks, he noted that two former pastors serving the deaf for a total of 133 years between them were two brothers, Dr. Waldemar O. Ferber, now in his mid-nineties and residing in a nursing home in Fargo, N.D., and Rev. Alvin E. Ferber of Kansas City, who despite advanced age, was still doing some pastoral work for a hearing congregation. Letters of commendation and appreciation were ordered to be sent to them.

Also noted in the remarks made by the president were the fact that \$8,500 in missions projects, including \$2,000 for scholarships, had been met the past two years.

Mr. Ahls reminded the convention assembly that the centennial for first worship service for the deaf to be conducted in sign language, which occurred in Chicago on March 4,

CEDAR RAPIDS

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## CEDAR RAPIDS CONVENTION

(continue from page 1)

1894 and also for the incorporation of deaf ministry into the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1896, was only a few years away, and plans should be made to plan a celebration of praise to God for His blessings on us. The consensus of the convention was that we should maintain the present plan of meeting on odd numbered years, with a special convocation in 1996.

A task force of five persons was appointed to work on the implementation of a much needed handbook of guidelines to assist future convention hosts, define rules governing conventions, scholarship awards, elections, to name just a few. Such a book has been delayed several years, and will hopefully, be available by the time the 1989 convention meets in Portland, Ore.

Subscription rates to the **DEAF LUTHERAN** were increased moderately to \$4.50 under the blanket plan and to \$5.00 for individual ones. With the paper barely managing to get by the past few months, members not currently receiving the paper were encouraged to subscribe.

A plan for a Junior ILDA received considerable support and a committee was appointed, chaired by ILDA Secretary Beth Firnhaber of Philadelphia. Such an organization within the ILDA is one of the hoped for goals for 1989.

All of Friday afternoon was spent on a tour of the Amana Colonies about 20 miles from Cedar Rapids. A total of seven 45-passenger buses were necessary to transport all who wanted to go. Dinner was provided in the evening with the visitors being promised "all you can eat" which proved to be extremely popular at the restaurant serving German style meals.

Returning to the hotel in the evening, Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt led a workshop entitled, "The Music Box" which emphasized evangelism and personal witnessing. Small groups were formed later, with leaders selected to lead them.

Business sessions were held all day Saturday, with a 1987-89 budget approved. Mission projects for the coming biennium of \$8,500 were also approved. One project of special interest was ILDA support for a former student from Nigeria who attended the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, who returned home this spring and hopefully will enroll in the Mill Neck School in New York this

fall. Francis Anwana was allowed \$2,000 for transportation costs, making it possible for him to return to school in the fall of 1987.

The election of officers for 1987-89 saw most current board members returned for second terms and the only race of any significance was for that of treasurer, which had seven candidates. Emerging from the race was Russel Healey of Chicago, a former treasurer and business manager of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**, who had relinquished the job several years ago to accept a position at the Pax Natura Ranch at Clyde, Alberta.

For pastoral adviser, the convention choose Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt, Ohio in a very close contest. He succeeds Rev. Ron Friedrich of Dallas, Texas, who will continue assisting the ILDA on the task force committee to draw up a handbook of guidelines for the association.

In the competition for banner awards, first place went to St. Phillip's Lutheran church, Philadelphia and the runnerup was Bethlehem of Omaha. Third place went to the Lutheran Church of the Deaf, West Hartford, Conn.

A large crowd sat down to the festive board Saturday evening, with Curtis Ketelsen, Davenport, Iowa as master of ceremonies. Speaker for the evening was Dr. A. L. Barry, president of the Iowa District East of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The coveted Right Hand Award was presented to Elmer D. Francisco of Spokane, Wash. for his many years of service to both the association and his church, as well as involvement in helping young people. Mr. Francisco and his wife, Millie, had just retired as counselors at the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, and were enroute home, stopping to attend the convention.

Also honored was Mr. Charles J. Kotal of Los Angeles, the immediate past president of the ILDA, for his service to the association. Mr. Kotal introduced his fiancée, Lee Ann McLane of Portland, Ore. The happy couple were married in Las Vegas, Nev. on Aug. 22. President Ahls presented Mr. Kotal with an engraved plaque with a superimposed gavel and the thanks of the association for his service.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Patrick A. Graybill, Rochester, N.Y., who gave an excellent presentation of the Bible

# MARTIN LUTHER: CHAMPION OF THE BIBLE

Martin Luther, often called 'The Great Reformer' was born on Nov. 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany. Deeply religious, a noted priest in the Roman Catholic church, he was also highly respected as a professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg.



**LUTHER**

Despite all these outward appearances and apparent dedication to God, Luther struggled inwardly with what he considered to be a conflict between the mercy and

the wrath of God. It was while he was performing his teaching tasks that he came upon

## **CEDAR RAPIDS** (continue from page 2)

in mime, and kept the audience entranced throughout his performance.

The renowned Son-Shine Signers, which have performed more than 200 times from coast to coast, gave a final performance at this convention. Miss Dorothy Sparks and Karen Dammeyer Blank were present to greet their many friends and to favor the convention visitors with a "one more time." The nearly two-hour program by the two ladies, who are the best known of the troupe, brought an ovation from the large crowd that stayed up late to watch it.

The evening ended well past midnight with Pastors Gary Lawson, Donald Leber and Shirrel Petzoldt leading the audience in song and prayer.

Sunday began with an "all you can eat" breakfast followed by Bible study and worship. The offering, which was approximately \$867.00 was divided equally between ILDA mission projects and THE DEAF LUTHERAN.

Throughout the convention, Mr. Donald Mowl of Pittsburgh sold booklets on the history of the ILDA and deaf ministry in the LCMS, realizing about \$280.00, with the proceeds donated to the ILDA. Mr. Mowl is ILDA historian and a member of the board of directors.

The 1989 convention will be held in Portland, Ore. at the Red Lion Lloyd Center on the dates of July 6, 7, 8 and 9. Chairman for the event will be Mr. Ronald L. Madding, 1940 N.E. 57th Ave., Portland, Ore. 97213.

The 1991 convention will meet in Toledo, Ohio.

the answer to his dilemma as we find it written in Romans 1:17, "the righteous shall live by faith." He understood for the first time that faith was not an achievement of man, but a gift of God, which comes through the hearing and study of the Bible.

The truth of this discovery became the motivating force in his life work . . . and behind the entire Reformation movement. In all of the Reformer's writings and teachings that followed, three basic teachings stood out:

### 1. SCRIPTURE ALONE

Martin Luther discovered that glorious truth that Holy Scripture is the sole and final authority in all things. Luther sought every possible means to find the answer to what he so desperately wanted . . . peace of mind from the burden of sin that weighed so heavily on him. He wanted for all time, to come to a settlement in his heart concerning his salvation. He found it in the Bible . . . The cure for the troubled heart is the Bible . . . it gave him peace with God through faith. It was an authority he could not ever question, for he knew that God is not a liar.

### 2. GRACE ALONE

Luther also found in Scripture the great truth that we are saved solely by the grace of God without any shadow of merit or worthiness on our part. Luther also found in Paul's letter to the Romans that this righteous and just God, of whom he had always been afraid, was also his gracious and heavenly Father who loved him and who sent His Son to die for man's sin by dying on the cross . . . "while we were still sinners." Grace, he found, unconditionally guarantees salvation through the Man who hung on that cross . . . the Man, Jesus Christ.

### 3. FAITH ALONE

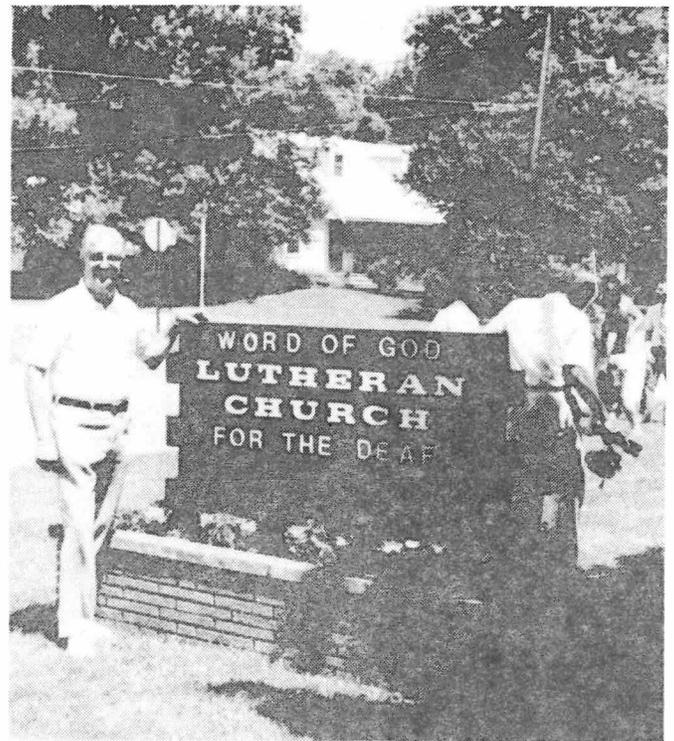
Last of all, Dr. Luther discovered in God's word the truth that salvation comes through faith in Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so no one can boast." Luther realized that this faith puts us in right standing with God and that all believers are members of the royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).

# 1987 ILDA CONVE



**CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS**--Stouffers Five Seasons hotel in downtown Cedar Rapids.



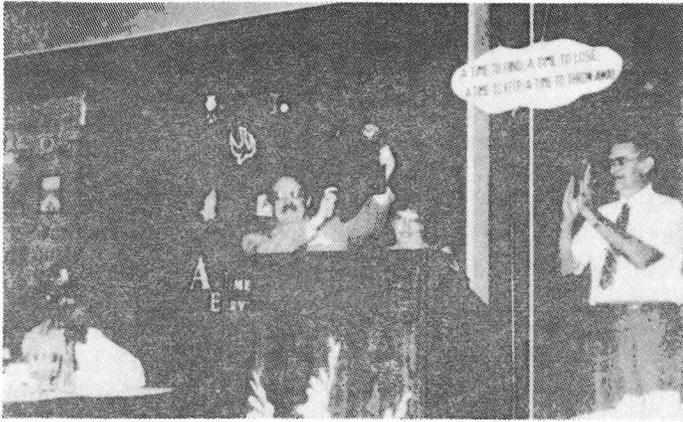
**TIME OUT FOR A POSE AND A SMILE**--Yachtman Sue, Anaheim, Calif. stops to have his picture taken outside the church in Cedar Rapids during the five-hour tour Friday afternoon.



**STEAK AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS**--Visitors sit down to a delicious German-style dinner in the Amana Colonies. Left to right, Nancy Bergstresser, Pittsburgh; Lillian Long, Clearwater, Fla., and in right hand corner, Rev. Ed Bergstresser, Pittsburgh.



**PASTOR SHIRREL PETZOLDT** and Ron Friedrich in action during the workshop, "The Music Box" Friday evening.



**SERVICE AWARD**—Charles Kotal, past president, receives service commendation plaque for past service to association.



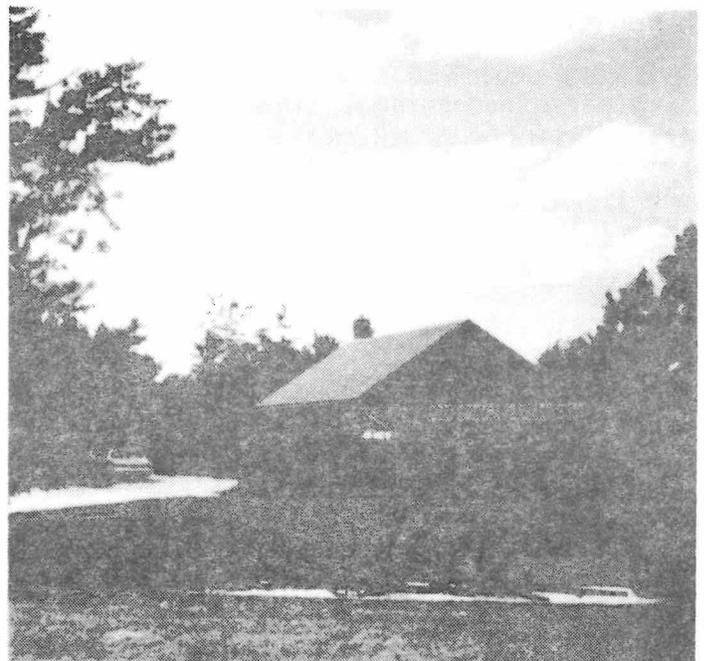
**RIGHT HAND AWARD**—Elmer Francisco, Spokane, Wash., receives award from Don Mowl, committee chairperson, as President Ahls admires plaque.



**ON THE TOUR**—Seven buses were needed to take the large group going on the tour. Here Sam Riege, Milwaukee, and Genevieve Schultz, Cedar Rapids, returns to their bus.



**OLD FRIENDS MEET**—Henry Walls, Pittsburgh stops to greet Charles Doerring, Omaha, during height of the convention.



**HISTORIC AMANA COLONIES**—Some of the farming machinery of a bygone era on display as seen during the tour.

## SWING AROUND THE REGIONS . . .

The editor has a report before him that says an incredible 72 per cent of the people in southern California are not, for one reason or another, a member of Christian church. Some have never seriously considered the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some have fallen prey to the many cults we see nowadays and other pseudo-religions. Some just don't have any Christian friends to lead them. The bible teaches that people are equal in God's view. Everyone has but one route to eternal salvation: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me." Those are the words of Jesus as we find them recorded in the Gospel of John 14:6. They are just as true and relevant today in the year 1987 as they were when Jesus spoke them!

SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES!! WEAR YOURS WHEN YOU ARE DRIVING! How many times have we heard this warning? It surely saved the lives of two of our ILDA members recently, who departed for a vacation in Alaska after the convention ended in Cedar Rapids. Donald and Augusta (Gussie) Haines of Sioux City, Iowa, who usually can be found at all of our conventions, had the misfortune to have a bad accident in Montana when their new Ford truck and camper left the road, and overturned in the ditch. Except for a neck injury for Gussie and being shaken up rather badly for Don, they survived the mishap without anything worse happening to them, thanks to the seat belts. The truck was a total loss. Following a short hospital stay in Billings they were flown home.

Rev. Del Thies, Omaha, has retired from the ministry. He began his work serving the deaf in Memphis and Jacksonville, ILL. and has served Mt. Calvary Lutheran church, a hearing congregation in Omaha, since 1981. Pastor Thies also faithfully served the stations in Hastings and Grand Island, Neb. for many years. We wish the pastor and his wife many happy, blessed years of retirement.

St. Phillips Lutheran church, Philadelphia, Pa. will observe its 60th anniversary with a banquet Friday, Oct. 16, 1987 with Rev. Mark Anderson, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran church, Newark, N.J. as the speaker. The celebration will take place at Fisher's Tudor House, Regency Room, 1858 Street Road, Bensalem, PA. Time: 7 to 11:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by "Quiet Noise." Donation, \$25.00.

The good news to come out of Des Moines

is that the attendance at Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf has jumped from a weekly group of about 20 to 45 to 50, with the average being about 41 since Rev. Darrel Kois became pastor just over a year ago. About 85 per cent of the members stay for Bible class.

Two new vicars will begin their work this summer for the coming year. . . John Reinke, who has been assigned to Alpha in Rochester, N.Y., and Tom Novak to Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio. John and his wife, Dacia, recently became the parents of twin boys born prematurely, with one, Caleb, going to be with Jesus after 13 hours and the other boy was still in the hospital. Vicar Tom and his wife, Jeanne do not have a family.

Pastor Don Leber of Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio was the recent recipient of the Sertoma Club's "Service to Mankind" Award, something that was wholly unexpected by the good pastor! The award was given for his extensive involvement in community service work.

A letter from Mr. Alva C. Ford, secretary of the Christian Deaf Centre in Calgary, Alta., informs us of the resignation of Mr. Harold Ziprick on Feb. 15, 1987. A farewell for Mr. Ziprick was held on the same day, with 88 people present to wish him well. As this goes to press, a successor for him has not been found. Your prayers the vacancy may be filled soon are requested by our brothers and sisters in Calgary.

### **FAREWELL DINNER FETES THE ELMER FRANCISCOS AT DETROIT JUNE 12**

Former ILDA President Elmer D. Francisco and his wife, Millie, were the honorees at a surprise farewell dinner at Puzzle's restaurant in Warren, Mich., Friday evening, June 12. After nine years of service at the Lutheran School for the Deaf as counselors, they were retiring and returning to their home in Spokane, Wash.

Approximately 120 guests sat down to an elegant dinner with a number of out of town visitors in town to help celebrate the occasion with the happy couple, among them being ILDA president, Lester Ahls and Treasurer Russel Healey and their wives.

Rev. Clark R. Bailey, pastor of our Savior Lutheran church offered grace and later addressed the gathering. Serving as master of ceremonies was Millie Petrowske, who called upon a number of people for impromptu remarks.

# CROSS OF CHRIST LC, EDMONTON, ESTABLISHES THE E. B. FOX MEMORIAL LIBRARY ON DEAFNESS

As a special segment of its 25th anniversary service on Sunday, June 21, Cross of Christ Lutheran church, Edmonton, Alta. de-



Rev. E. B. Fox  
1914-1977

icated a new library on deafness to the memory of one of the pioneering pastors in ministry to the deaf in western Canada, the late Rev. E. B. Fox, who passed away in Port Coquitlam, B.C., Canada on March 19, 1977 following a ministry that spanned 37 years. Pastor Fox, a native of Lodz, Poland, was the first Canadian to serve the deaf with the Word of God, in western Canada.

Present for the special service was Mrs. Kay Fox, widow of Rev. Fox and some family members.

The library will include rare and important books, journals and magazines on deafness as well as films, video and audio tapes and later, electronic media. The church invites inquiries and additions to its collection.

## Roger DeMeyere New Executive Director of Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit

Mr. Roger DeMeyere was named executive director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich. on July 1, 1987, succeeding Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson who had resigned to accept a position as counselor for the deaf and blind ministries of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in St. Louis on Jan. 1.

Mr. Roland M. Wilkening had been interim director since Jan. 1.

Mr. DeMeyere and his wife, Linda, are the parents of two children, Kimberly, 16 and David, 12, and resides in Detroit suburb of New Baltimore. He is the son of well-known ILDA memers, Emil and Evelyn DeMeyere of Detroit.

Mr. DeMeyere brings considerable experience to his new position, having graduated from Concordia college, River Forest, Ill. in 1970 and following two years of teaching, left the vocation to pursue a master degree in social work, which he obtained from Wayne State university in 1974. He has held various positions in public education and community mental health. He was named director of special education at Lake Orion community schools. He is a member of the Michigan Schools Social Worker association and Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education.



**NEW LIBRARY DEDICATED**—Winston Youngs, congregation president, Mrs. Kay Fox, widow of the late E. B. Fox and Rev. R. A. Bauer, pastor of Christ Lutheran church, Edmonton, Alta.

# Emmanuel, Milwaukee, Begins Services in New Building May 17

A building formerly owned by the Jehovah's Witnesses group has become the center of worship for members of Emmanuel Lutheran church, Milwaukee, Wis., following closure of a deal on May 4 and its first service in the new location on May 17.

The new building at 98th and Lincoln Aves. in West Allis, a suburb, has many advantages not available at the former location, including parking for 25 cars, air conditioning, good freeway and bus line access, and perhaps best of all, a much better neighborhood.

Much remains to be done in the way of improvements. Since the building was formerly used by the Jehovah Witnesses, an altar, crosses, lecterns are needed. A kitchen is also being planned. Pastor William "Bud" Palmer tells us things just take time, but will eventually be completed.

In the accompanying picture, the members stands gathered in front of their new church.



**HAPPINESS IS A NEW CHURCH HOME**—Members of Emmanuel, Milwaukee, in front of their new church at 2306 South 98th St., West Allis, Wis.



**FIFTY YEARS TOGETHER**—Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Boldt posed with their pastor, Rev. Bud Palmer (center) on their 50th wedding anniversary.

A second picture shows Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Boldt on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on June 27, 1986. Harvey suffered a massive heart attack exactly a week later and almost did not come through the serious by-pass surgery that followed. We are happy that Harvey is now recovered. The gentleman in the center is their pastor, Rev. Bud Palmer.

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Praise the Lord for He is good to us.

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