



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

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St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 85, No. 4

ILDA Adopts Pro-Life Stance . . .

ALL EYES ARE ON CHICAGO IN '95

The threat of hot, muggy weather for which southern Texas is well known in July failed to keep well over 300 enthusiastic ILDA members from attending the 12th biennial convention at Austin July 1 to 4 which was the farthest south yet for the 22-year-old organization of deaf Lutheran.

Much of the excitement of the convention appeared to be focused on plans for the next meeting which will be held in Chicago on the dates of June 29 to July 2, 1995 to celebrate the centennial of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and the 25th anniversary of the ILDA as an organization for deaf Lutherans.

This year's convention theme, "Jesus is the Lone Star" which are found in Rev. 22:16 were the inspiring words for much of the banner, skit and choral competition of the year's meeting and were also the basis for Bible study, workshops and speakers who addressed the convention.

Recognizing that young deaf men studying for the pastoral ministry in our seminaries are often the only students so handicapped on campus, the convention went on record as supporting a new concept in training such candidates in that they would be allowed to study at home using video tapes that would not be considered a "correspondence course." It was also allowed that such a plan would require more time to complete the course of study but would permit such students to remain in their own environment while studying for the ministry.

Noting that for many years the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) has used what have come to be known as "mite boxes"

to raise funds for its missionary projects, the convention decided to try this method as a means of fund raising. Approximately \$14,000 of the \$20,000 earmarked for mission projects voted at the last convention at Toledo, Ohio in 1991 were met and the remainder were ordered paid with a new goal of \$23,000 for the 1993-1995 biennium set.

Four seminary students studying for the ministry and planning to serve the deaf after graduation were recipients of scholarships from the Association's Zacharias Fund, so named because Zacharias is believed to be the first priest to use sign language.

Most convention visitors boarded busses for trips to San Antonio and to the home of former president Lyndon Johnson's ranch on Friday afternoon which took up to eight hours each. The former went to such places as the famed Alamo, old Spanish missions and the Riverwalk in the heart of the city. At the LBJ ranch, visitors were treated to a hearty beef BBQ with all the trimmings. One person from Illinois commented it was the best beef BBQ he had ever had.

The coveted Right Hand Award, given to some individual, who in the judgements of the Association has demonstrated unusual Christian service to his or her church or fellow man

Please see ALL EYES ON CHICAGO IN '95: Page 2

ABOUT THIS ISSUE . . .

Is your paper late this month? In order that we might include all the news from the convention in Texas on a timely fashion, it was decided to hold publication for few days rather than print everything next fall, when it would be "old news." Your understanding and cooperation are sincerely appreciated.

ALL EYES ARE ON CHICAGO IN '95

was given to Mr. Joseph J. Kindred of Indianapolis, Ind., who for the first time in memory, could not attend this convention. Joe, as he is fondly known, as a long time worker in his home church and a former president of the ILDA.

Numerous banners adorned the walls of the convention hall, all of them highlighting the convention theme, "Jesus is the Lone Star." Judging for the most appropriate entry must have been something of a dilemma for the judges to decide. Despite the difficulty, first place was awarded to St. Matthew of New York City and second place to the Northern Illinois District.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio captured first in both skit and choir competition followed by Alpha of Rochester in skits.

The convention passed numerous resolutions most of which praised the leadership of the local committee in charge of planning and other individuals with various responsibilities with thanks. It was noted that while Jesus Lutheran Church had not specifically requested to host this convention due to a misunderstanding, the convention praised the local teams for its willingness to proceed and to endure much hard work irregardless.

One other resolution of note that passed without opposition was the adoption of a pro-life stance by the International Lutheran Deaf Association, despite much controversy nationwide concerning the subject of abortion.

Although some churches appeared to be interested in hosting the 1997 convention, none were taken and none were submitted following a new rule on such procedures adopted by the Board of Directors. Future convention bids must be submitted on church stationery and signed by the officers and pastor after a meeting of the membership of the congregation seeking to host such a meeting. It is expected that the next ILDA Board meeting will discuss the selection of the site for 1997 from the requests it may have at that time.

Texas size strawhats were passed among the assembly requesting donations for mission projects with \$332.75 being realized after the "rain" ended.

In his remark to the convention assembly, Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson, Counselor of Deaf

Ministry with the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod said he had found an old picture of the first worship service of the deaf held in Chicago in 1894. The rarity of the find meant it could not be loaned out to anyone, but hopefully this publication will be able to run a copy for the enjoyment of our readers if it can be arranged. There are presently 12 schools in the South American country of Brazil serving the deaf, he announced, with this year's mission effort directed to the one in Recife. Dr. Rynearson told the assembled members that the fastest growing congregation appeared to be the one in Cleveland, Ohio with an increase of 32 new members the past year. Rev. Gary Lawson serves the church there.

The annual Ephphatha Conference was also meeting at the same time as the ILDA convention at Concordia College in Austin. Both the pastors and the ILDA board members attended a joint banquet on Tuesday evening prior to the opening date of the convention, which was made convenient as the ILDA board was also meeting at the college.

The banquet speaker, Mr. Bob Alcorn, professor of America Sign Language (ASL) at the University of Texas at Austin was introduced to the large audience sitting at the festive board by Mr. Clarence Broecker, who acted as toastmaster.

This year's elective process could be noted for its brevity and simplicity. All board members, including the pastoral adviser, were returned to office with the exception of the secretary's position. Mr. Charles Kotal was completing his second term and according to the by-law, was not eligible for another term. Mr. James B. Swalley, president of the Central region from North Manchester, Ind., was elected.

One of the surprises on Sunday morning was breakfast, which was advertised as being "continental" which usually means simply coffee and rolls or just a bowl of fruit or juice. Instead, members found themselves enjoying a fine meal of eggs and most everything you wanted.

Following Bible study and worship on Sunday morning, Pastoral Adviser Rev. Ed Bergstresser was sworn in for a new term of two years. Immediately after, Pastor Bergstresser admin-

EPHPHATHA AWARD PRESENTED

Rev. Clark R. and Louise Bailey of Detroit, Mich. were presented with the Ephphatha Award June 11, 1993. The couple is retiring after 40 years of service in deaf ministry.

Following graduation from Concordia Seminary in August, 1953, he trained under the late Rev. Alvin Ferber for four months at which time he became the first resident pastor in Denver, where he served all of the state of Colorado, Santa Fe, N.M., and western Nebraska. He accepted a call to Des Moines, Iowa in January, 1960 and served Calvary Lutheran Church and nine other preaching stations for four years at which time he moved to Oakland, Calif. to serve the members at Memorial Lutheran Church and the Bay area for 10 years and students at the Cali-

fornia School for the Deaf at Berkeley.

The couple moved to the Detroit area in March, 1974 where Pastor Bailey served the metro area and also Windsor, Ontario and stations in Coldwater and Kalamazoo. He also had confirmation classes at the Lutheran School for the Deaf twice weekly during the years the school had dormitory students. A number of his former students have gone into full or part time work with the deaf.

The couple married on June 7, 1953 and have been blessed with three children and two grandchildren. It must be added that Louise Bailey has been very active in parish and district activities of the LMWL and is currently serving as president of Lutheran Special Education Ministries Women's Auxiliary, the new name given the former Lutheran School for the Deaf.



1993 EPHPHATHA AWARD--Shown are Rev. Clark R. and Louise Bailey with the Ephphatha Award presented to the couple recently. Smiling approval on the right is Roger DeMeyere, executive director of Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Detroit.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 2

ALL EYES ARE ON CHICAGO IN '95

istered the oath of office to the new board members who will be in office through the convention in Chicago.

The theme for the centennial observance in Chicago will also come from the Book of Revelation, Chapter 21:5 where we read, "Behold, I shall make all things new."

Dear readers, plan NOW to be in Chicago for this important event! With the large crowd expected and so much excitement to look forward to, it will be the best ever. See you there!!

MARVIN S. ROOD DIES

Marvin S. Rood, a long time instructor in graphic arts at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf at Delavan was called home by our Lord about June 1, following a brief illness. Funeral services were held on June 3 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church with Rev. Steven Schlund officiating.

Mr. Rood, a long time member, Bible class teacher, and as Pastor Schlund remarks, "His right man" had been in somewhat precarious health for some time, but his passing was unexpected.

Pastor Schlund's sermon, "Difficult Choices Made Easy in Christ" are based on the words found in Philippians 1:21-24. A fond farewell to a good and faithful servant.

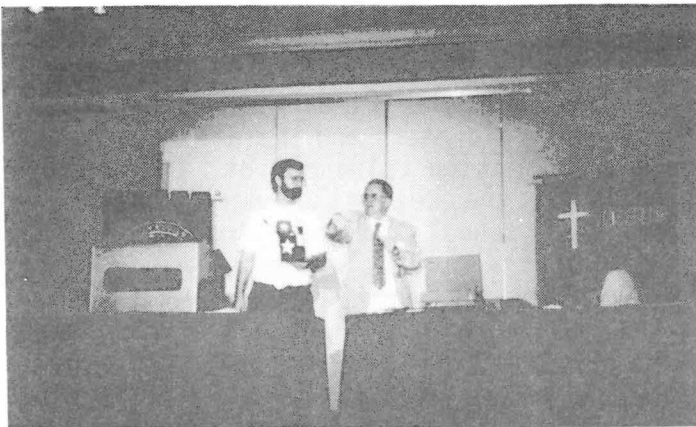
CENTENNIAL AWARDED \$25,000 GRANT

Aid Association for Lutherans announced on May 12 a grant of \$25,000 to be used to develop historical documentation and commemorative events in conjunction with the centennial observance of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

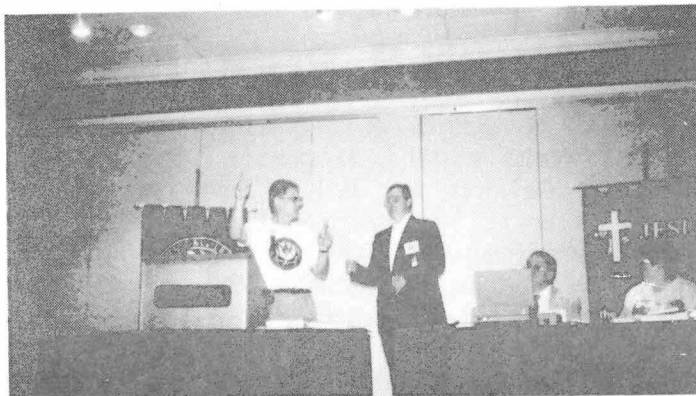
The grant is part of a \$75,000 fund raising effort announced earlier by Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson, Counselor of Deaf Ministry with the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. The work of locating funding has taken the better part of two years and is expected to be successful. Produced will be a 60-page written history book, a videotape and a celebration packet documenting the 100-year ministry for all LCMS districts.



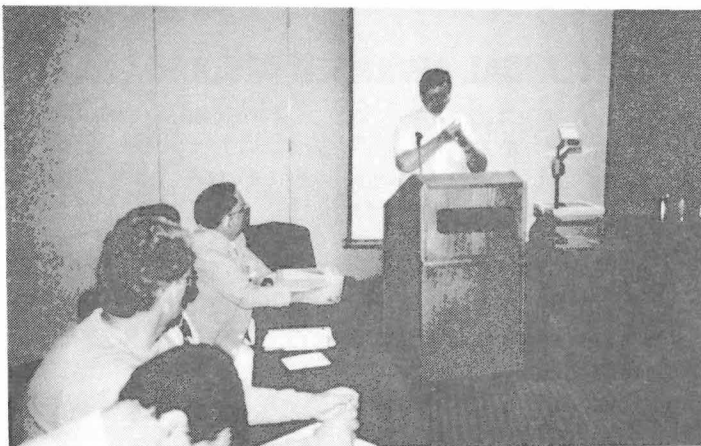
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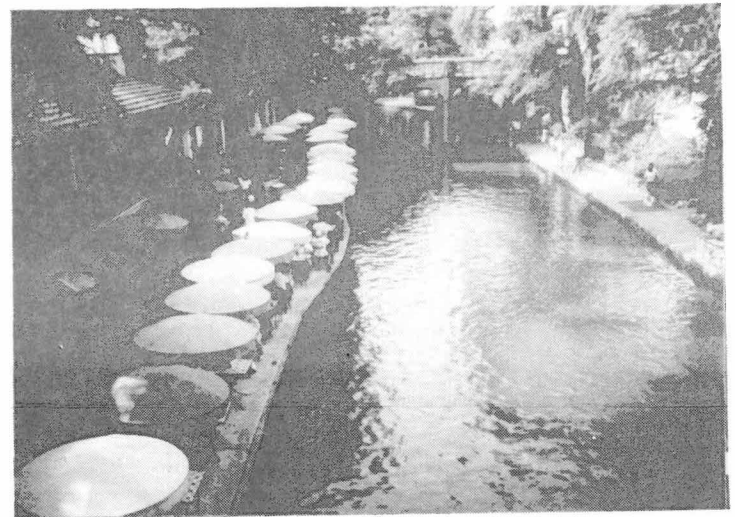
ON THE FLOOR DURING THE CONVENTION—Secretary Charles Kotal seems to be raising a point with General Chairman Richard Norton. Subject of the dialogue escaped the editor.



HOW'S THAT AGAIN?—ILDA President-elect Larry Gorton (in T-shirt) appears to be in deep discussion with President Ron Madding as Secretary Kotal keeps busy recording the minutes. That's Lee Ann Kotal assisting her husband on the far right.



OFFICERS' TRAINING SEMINAR—Shown are (Counter clockwise) are President Ron Madding, Charles Kotal, Larry Gorton and pastoral adviser, Rev. Ed Bergstresser (partially hidden).



BEAUTIFUL RIVERWALK IN SAN ANTONIO—Visitors can stroll leisurely along the canals as boats drift lazily by. Europe has nothing finer.



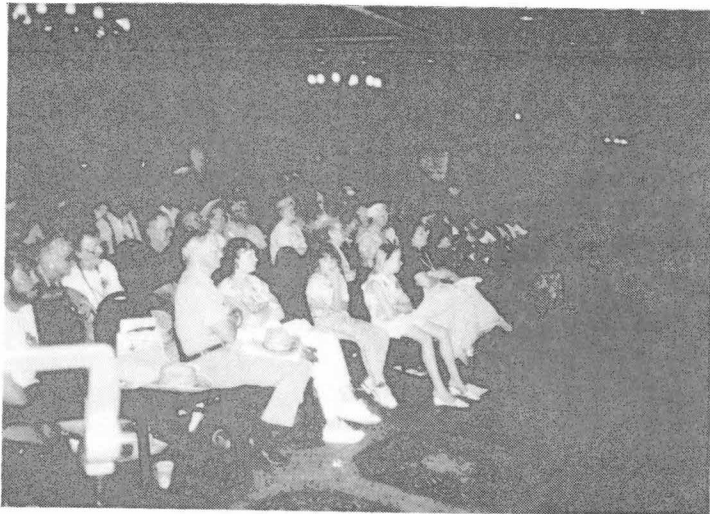
ON THE RIVERWALK IN SAN ANTONIO—Facing the camera is Doris Ring, Des Moines, Iowa, wife of retired pastor, George C. Ring. Lady carrying her granddaughter is Betty Ahls, Cedar Falls, Iowa.



THE ILDA CONVENTION



ENJOYING LUNCH ALONG THE RIVERWALK—Facing the camera are Alice Walsvik, Madison, Wis., Russel Healey, Olive Branch, Ill., and Marion Van Manen, Des Moines, Iowa. This is just part of two bus loads of visitors who choose the San Antonio tour.



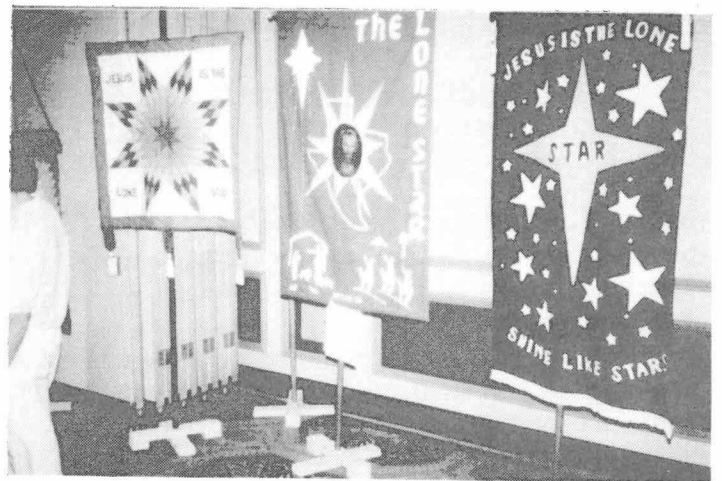
THURSDAY NIGHT PROGRAM—Part of large audience paying rapt attention during the skit, banner and choral competition. There was standing room only for some folks.



CHORAL COMPETITION—This scene shows the group from Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas performing during the contest for first place in choral competition.



SKIT COMPETITION—This scene played by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio has the devil, played by Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt, plying his wiles on Art Allen, who remains unconvinced.



BANNER CONTEST—Three of the numerous entries are shown here with the one on far left taking first place. Laborious work and exquisite design were no doubt factors in its selection.

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1993 ILDA Convention
Austin, Texas

Resolution No. 1

Whereas; The Board for Missions, Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod has supported and encouraged a study council for deaf missions through ILDA's standing committees and,
Whereas; It has been very helpful that our standing committees have been useful in adding our input to the Board for Missions regarding deaf culture, ethics, language and other needs as we work together to bring the Good News of Christ Jesus to deaf people,
Be it resolved; that we thank the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and the Board for Missions for permitting and encouraging this exchange of ideas, programs and plans through our standing committees,
And be it Further Resolved; that ILDA encourage every Lutheran Deaf congregation to send letters to LMCS thanking them for their fine cooperation and encourage them to continue their support of our standing committees.

Resolution No. 2

Whereas; Pastor Mark Seeger and his congregation, Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Austin, Texas in preparing for this convention worked more than two years. They took extra pains in selecting this wonderful Red Lion Hotel, planning programs, tours, registrations and 1,000 other things, including printing and mailing,
Be it Resolved; that pastors, delegates, and other visitors give Pastor Seeger and his congregation a standing ovation of thanks for making this ILDA convention one of the best ever, and
Be it Further Resolved; that we all thank God for His many blessings to us for Pastor Seeger and Jesus Lutheran Church for the deaf, and
Be it Further Resolved; that this convention be set as an example for ILDA conventions in the future.

Resolution No. 3

Whereas; Richard Norton, convention chairman, has successfully directed the various committees preparing for this convention and,
Whereas, his wife, Natalie, was very active and helpful to her husband along the way. They all spent hours away from their homes day and night,
Be it Resolved; that everyone at this convention give a standing ovation to this one

wonderful couple and their committees, and
Be it Resolved; that we ask God to continue His blessings on all those fine Christians, Jesus Lutheran Church and their pastor.

Resolution No. 4

Whereas, the ILDA Board of Directors and their pastor/advisers, Rev. Ed Bergstresser worked many hours with this 1993 convention committee in their planning to make this convention so great,
Be it Resolved; that we give ILDA Board of Directors, Pastor Bergstresser and his family a standing ovation of thanks.

Resolution No. 5

Whereas; Mr. Lester Ahls, Editor of the DEAF LUTHERAN has performed his duties so well for many years and have us a fine newsletter full of interesting news,
Be it Resolved; that we give Mr. Ahls a standing ovation and ask God to continue blessing him and his work.

Resolution No. 6

Whereas; Mr. Elmer Francisco has served as Business Manager of THE DEAF LUTHERAN newsletter along the same number of years Mr. Lester Ahls was Editor, and
Whereas; Mr. Francisco kept accurate records of subscribers, financial records of the newsletter, faithfully paying all bills when due, and
Be it Resolved; that we give Mr. Francisco a standing ovation and ask God to bless him and his family with good health.

Resolution No. 7

Whereas, Mr. Donald Mowl, ILDA Historian, has struggled hard to preserve our history, our conventions, photos and records in his archives, and
Whereas; Don has shown his love for ILDA and for each member individually, being helpful and accommodating whenever anyone was in need of information in his files,
Be it Resolved; that we give Mr. Mowl a standing ovation with encouragement and prayers to God for His continuing blessings on Don and his family.

Resolution No. 8

Whereas; Red Lion of Austin, Texas has opened its doors and its wonderful staff have whole

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 6

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

heartily helped in meeting all our needs and comforts,

Whereas; Because of this, this convention has been one of the most beautiful, comfortable and enjoyable,

Be it Resolved; that ILDA secretary, Mr. Charles Kotal be instructed to write a letter of thanks to Red Lion Hotel of Austin, Texas, asking management to convey our thanks and love to their staff.

Resolution No. 9

Whereas, President Ron Madding, ILDA Board of Directors and Pastoral Adviser Ed Bergstresser have guided ILDA throughout the last two years, some board members and outgoing secretary, Charles Kotal, serving more than one term

Be it Resolved; that we thank President Madding, Board members and Pastoral Adviser for their love, labors and skills in leading our association to greatness,

And, be it Further Resolved; that we give them a standing ovation and ask God's blessing on all of them.

Resolution No. 10

Whereas; because there are obvious needs of our convention goes when we have ILDA conventions and board meetings,

Be it Resolved; that we urge future ILDA Convention Committees to make sure that hotels/motels to install flashing light smoke detectors, have TDD's available and other assistive devices that will protect and help deaf guests.

Resolution No. 11

Whereas, there is a serious controversy concerning the right to life of newborn babies and fetuses, and

Whereas; there is much concern about women's rights to choose as it pertains to abortions, Be it Resolved; that ILDA give its whole hearted support to the preservation of life of the unborn.

Resolution No. 12

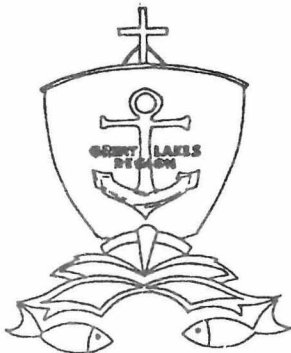
Whereas; Mrs Susan Konkel has performed her duties of the Mission Project exceptionally well during the years of 1991 to 1993, and Whereas; she has done the ILDA an important service during these trying times to meet our Mission commitments at a large time away from family and children,

Be it Resolved; that we give Susan a standing ovation and wish her continuing success in her endeavors concerning ILDA'S Mission Projects.

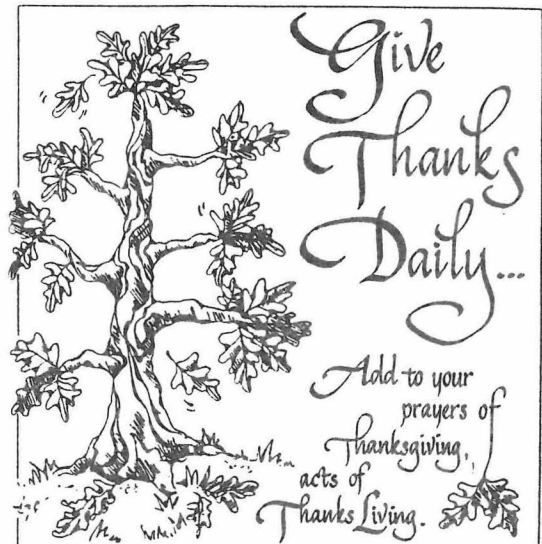
NOTE: All resolutions were passed by vote of the convention.

Submitted by: James Swalley, Chair
Archie Marshall
Warren Burford, Sr.

CORRECTION, PLEASE



It appears that the persons who did the work on the logo for the Great Lakes Regional Conference were not correctly identified in the Jan./Feb. issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN. It should have read Marye Anne Emerson, Elyria, Ohio and Lynn Ginter of Parma, Ohio. Larry Ginter did the outline work with a marker on hard board. The editor apologizes for the misprint.



RECENT CHANGES IN DEAF MINISTRY

Rev. Donald Leber, who has been a fixture in the ministry to the deaf in Ohio for 16 years, has accepted a call to southern California where he will become the resource pastor for Arizona, southern Nevada and southern California. Cities he will be surveying are the greater Los Angeles area, San Diego, Las Vegas, Flagstaff and Phoenix. With an estimated one million deaf people in the area, the challenge is, indeed, a formidable one. But we are reminded by God's Word that nothing is impossible for Him and also He promises that His Word shall not come back to Him with nothing. We pray for this work.

The Siouxland Lutheran Church of Sioux Falls, S.D. has a new pastor in the person of Rev. Matthew Nix, who was installed on

Sunday, July 18. Rev. Nix succeeds former Pastor Paul Consoer, who moved to Arizona several months ago.

Rev. Steve Schumacher, formerly of St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia and more recently of the Northern Wisconsin District at Wausau has accepted a call to a hearing parish in Missouri.

The North Dakota District, without a pastor to serve the deaf for eight years, is unquestionably the district without services for the deaf the longest. The North Dakota District has decided to assist with the problem by calling a vicar who can sign and again begin work in the area.

BITS OF INTEREST . . .

So you don't like bats? You probably don't like mosquitoes, either. A single gray bat can eat 3,000 insects in a night. Contrary to their bad reputations, bats are beneficial to humans. They are a major predator of night flying insects.

o-0-o

Have you ever wondered how a bird manages to hang onto its perch, even when sleeping, without falling off? Even if the perch is swaying in the wind, the bird isn't easily dislodged. The secret is the unique structure of the tendons in its legs provided by the Creator. When bent at the knees, the claws closes like a steel trap, until unbent again.

o-0-o

Shortest verse in the Bible is "Jesus wept."

BELATED OBITUARY

Miss Hilda M. Kaercher, 96, a long time friend of St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia and sister of the late Rev. Edward F. Kaercher died on Feb. 22, 1993. Her brother was the first Lutheran deaf pastor in the USA, and one who pioneered work among the deaf on the eastern seaboard, including St. Philip's.

Miss Kaerchar served as a missionary for 40 years in India from 1928 to 1968. During World War II she served as a visitor and evangelist for the national Lutheran Council in Bellevue, Neb.

**Sing unto
the Lord a new song!**

Psalms 98:1

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July-August, 1993

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