



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

September-October, 1993

St. Louis, MO

Volume 85, No. 5

DOES GOD WANT PEOPLE TO GO TO HELL?

First of all, we must be absolutely sure about one thing: there is a heaven and there is a hell. There is also an almighty God who has the right to decide who goes where. We also know that it is not possible for God to make a mistake about anything, it being Who He is.



REFORMATION DAY

To answer our question, the Bible, which is the inerrant Word of God, makes it very clear that it is not His will that any of His people should be lost in hell. Rather, because of the sacrifice His Son on the cross, His will is that none should perish, but that

all should come to repentance. Because sin cost God the dearest and best thing He had, His beloved Son, the death of Christ shows us that God is very sincere that none be lost.

As people of God, we should not play hazardously with such a precious gift as eternal life. There are people who feel that as long as salvation is assured, it does not matter what they do. God's Word warns such people, "He that believeth not shall be damned." We are to live as a priesthood of believers, carefully living according to His law, remembering that our salvation depends on God's grace in giving us faith to accept His Son as our Saviour.

As we again approach Reformation Day, the question might be asked: "Is the Bible reliable as a guide?" Most people would probably answer yes, although not all will readily admit to leaning on the Good Book for advice in daily living. Many of the Christians of today feel that the Bible was written in a different time and a different age and many of its precepts are not relevant today. As evidence of this way of thinking, we need only look at the proliferation of gambling; decline in morality; the killing of the unborn to name a few.

When Dr. Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses

Please see DOES GOD WANT?: PAGE 2

DOES LCMS WORLD RELIEF REALLY HELP?

If you are one of the many who have shared your bounty with those in need in Somalia, you must have wondered if your gift really did any good after hearing reports of theft of aid shipped to those in that drought ravaged country. So did the editor. The following are excerpts from a reply to that very question from Mr. Al H. Senske, director of LCMS World Relief in St. Louis.

"Your questions regarding the sending of food into Somalia are very important and ones which we ask of ourselves and our partners in this activity. Fortunately this procedure

has been monitored quite closely. The reports we have received indicate that approximately 98% of the materials we have helped send into the country have gotten to the persons in need.

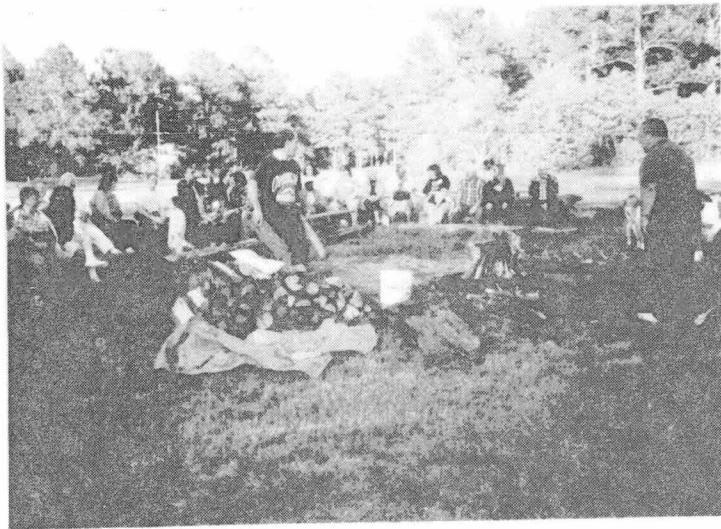
There are a number of reasons for this. First of all, we did not utilize convoys of trucks but airlifted all items into several locations. Each plane load was restricted to the amount of materials that could be loaded onto one large truck at the airport. The people on the plane loaded it directly

Please see LCMS WORLD RELIEF: PAGE 3

MIDWEST REGION GATHERS IN COLORADO WEEK BEFORE CONVENTION

Approximately 57 members of the Midwest ILDA Region gathered at the Baptist Church Retreat at Black Forest, Colo. in view of Pikes Peak and the Air Force Academy on June 18, 19 and 20 for a weekend of devotions, fellowship and prayer just prior to the opening date for the National ILDA Convention in Texas.

It was decided that there should be a meet-



SITTING AROUND THE FIRE—Chats and devotions were part of the evening as was roasting marshmallows. Men tending the fire are Pastors Kois, left, and Matthews (right).

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

DOES GOD WANT?

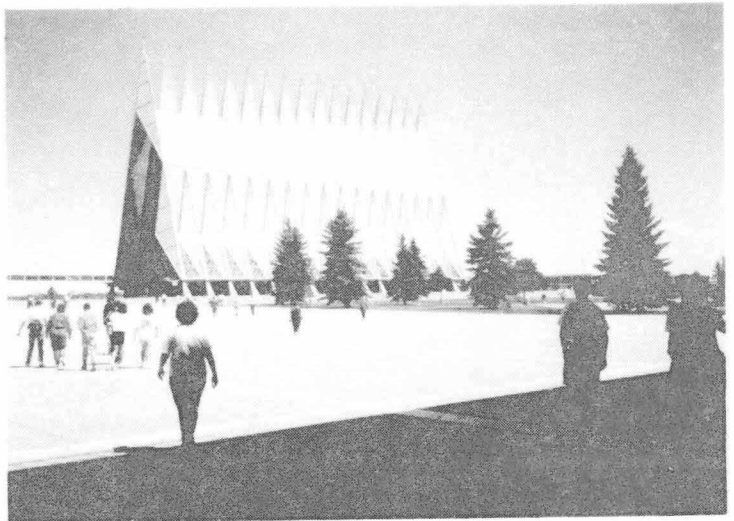
on the church door at Wittenberg, there is no doubt that his trust in the Bible as the true Word of God was complete. Because human nature is basically sinful and not pure, and also that God is unchanging in His condemnation of all sin, it cannot be said that the Bible is outdated for the world of today. Our God is the same yesterday, the same today and He will be the same tomorrow. God still urges us to follow the Ten Commandments that He gave to Moses and to trust in His Son, Jesus, who is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

From Psalms 119:105, we find the words written by David, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." In fact, all of the 119th Psalm points us to the truth of the fact that the Word of God is a reliable guide in all matters pertaining to life.

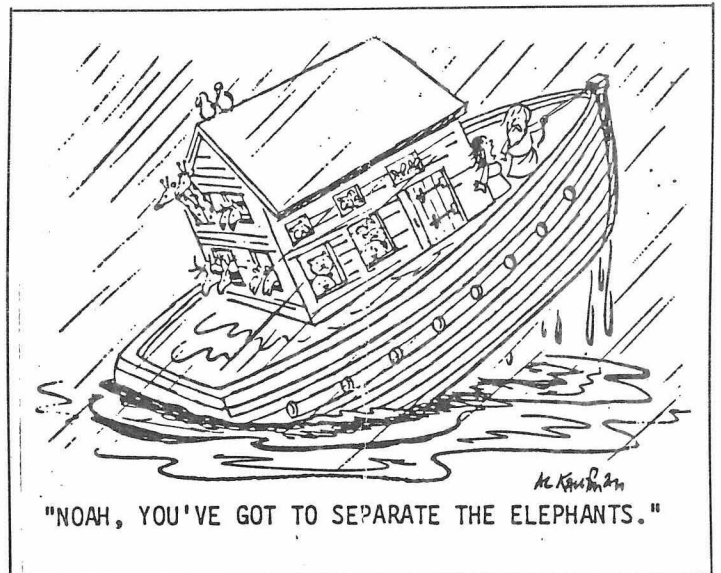
ing of the officers prior to each conference and that the 1995 meeting will be held in northeast Kansas. The Sunday offering was divided equally between the Midwest and THE DEAF LUTHERAN.

A bus tour to the Air Force Academy and the Garden of the Gods were the highlights on Saturday afternoon with a bonfire and devotions in the evening with some roasting marshmallows, too, before the chill sent everyone indoors.

The 1994 meeting will be held jointly by Word of God Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids and Messiah Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls (Iowa) with headquarters at the Holiday Inn in Cedar Falls.



U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY—This photo shows group on the way to visit the famed chapel at the Academy, which was only part of the tour there.



"NOAH, YOU'VE GOT TO SEPARATE THE ELEPHANTS."

HOLY COMMUNION POLICY OF CONGREGATIONS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His Words, repent of all sin, and set aside any

refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor, or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23; 10:32; 26:26-29 and I Corinthians 11:17-24.

--From statement of Commission on
Theology and Church Relations,
LCMS, Feb. 23, 1993

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

LCMS WORLD RELIEF

on the truck without utilizing a warehouse or turning it over to others.

The truck, with its paid guards, drove directly to the feeding stations where the raw materials were cooked by hired and volunteer staff for the hungry. Security personnel were hired to organize the people so they would only get into line twice a day, so that children got to eat first, to keep out unwanted individuals, etc. Different types of food were prepared for the variety of health conditions present. For example, the worst of the children were often fed a biscuit rich in sugar for quicker energy and restoration of strength. Later they were placed on a porridge-type drink that was a little more difficult to digest. Most adults received a soup-like materials made from sorghum, rice and beans. Nutrients were usually added.

At no time did we give sacks of grain to a family to carry off to their home. That was a sure way to invite robberies and even death. Water and fuel has been a big problem. In some places water had to be rationed to less than half a pint per day per person. As the rains came the dead were washed up from their shallow graves causing more pollution of the water and bringing more disease.

We pray that the military personnel now in Somalia will be able to restore a more lasting peace. But it will be difficult.

We have a 12 minute video regarding our work in Somalia. If you would like to receive this on a free loan basis give us a call: ask for Barbara at 1-800-248-1930 ext. 1386."

In Christ,
/S/ Al H. Senske, Director
LCMS World Relief

REV. DELBERT THIES DIES

Following a faithful ministry of service to God that spanned a period of over 42 years, the Lord in His wisdom called home His faithful servant, Rev. Delbert Thies on May 4, 1993. Following graduation from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., in 1951 he began work in Memphis that same year with most of his work in the Nebraska field in the years that followed, except for a six year period in Central Illinois from 1956-1962.

Surviving him are his wife, Katherine of Omaha; six boys, four girls and 23 grandchildren. Interment was at Hillcrest Cemetery, Omaha, on May 8.

1894-1995
THE CENTENNIAL OF DEAF MINISTRY
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
and the
25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION
June 29-July 2, 1995
Woodfield Hyatt Hotel
Schaumburg, Ill.
"BEHOLD, I SHALL MAKE ALL THINGS NEW"
Rev. 21:5
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

ROAMIN' THE REGIONS FROM HERE 'N THERE

Mr. and Mrs. Art Allen, Toledo, Ohio are the proud grandparents of Jason, who has been awarded two scholarship, one to the University of Texas at Austin and another to Oklahoma Christian University totaling \$16,250. Both scholarships were awarded in part on the basis of Jason's entrance test score. He is the son of oldest proud daughter, Becky and son-in-law, David of Austin, Texas. He has been named a United States Achievement Academy national award winner, a position of honor that fewer than 10% of all young people can ever hope to attain. Future plans include study to become a doctor of medicine.

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Art Allen will be remembered as the toastmaster and master of ceremonies at the 1991 ILDA convention in Toledo. We extend heartily congratulations to Jason and the entire family on this remarkable achievement and may he have many more with the Lord's help.

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Omaha, Neb. will be celebrating its 90th anniversary this year with events lasting from May through November. Among speakers featured for this celebration of praise are former pastor Bill Lange, now retired; Dr. Rodney Rynearson and Rev. Richard Moody, both of St. Louis. A picnic at Nebraska's beautiful Mahoney State Park 30 miles west of Omaha is also planned for Aug. 29 which will include worship.

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Rev. Steven Schumacher of the northern Wisconsin District has accepted a call to a hearing church in Carrollton, Mo. His last service was on May 29 at Wausau. He formerly served at St. Philip's in Philadelphia before coming to Wisconsin.

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Mr. Alvin Heinz and his wife, Clara, former long time residents and members of Alpha Lutheran Church, Rochester, N.Y. and now living in the Tampa, Fla. area have birthdays coming up! Alvin will become a centenarian on Aug. 18 when he reaches his 100th birthday. Clara will become 99 on Oct. 21. The couple has been married for 76 years as of Aug. 1. Anyone wishing to send cards may address them to 155 Second Ave. South, Safety Harbor, Fla. 34695.

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With so many problems and troubles in the world today, the recent floods in the Midwest focused our attention to the needs here at

home. Some people are wondering how they can help. One good way to help those who are faced with catastrophic losses is to make a donation to the LCMS World Relief--Disaster Fund, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, Mo. 63166. Write "Midwest Flood Relief" on your check. Assistance of goods such as food, clothing and similar articles, while well intentioned, are generally not recommended due to warehousing and logistics problems. Your help moves much quicker when the gift is in the form of a check. The American National Red Cross also encourages your help for the needy. A gift sent to the Grant Wood Area Chapter, American Red Cross, 3601 42nd St. N.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402 will be appreciated.

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Rev. Michael MacDonald has declined the call to Silent Lutheran Church, Madison, Wis.

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Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. was the recipient of a grant of \$1 million recently from Japan's Sasakawa Foundation. The money is earmarked to assist foreign students to meet the tuition surcharge mandated by Congress last Fall when the Education of the Deaf act was re-authorized.

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The Lutheran Women Missionary League--Canada had its Founding Convention in Edmonton, Alberta June 17-20. The honor of signing the charter for the Society from Cross of Christ Lutheran Church was given to Ms. Rita Fleming as the alternate delegate following the death of Mrs. Lillian Boychuk who passed away in London, England while visiting relatives.

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Some Canadian visiting at the ILDA convention in Austin, Texas on July 1 reminded us with lapel pins that it was Canada's birthday that day.

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There are plans being drawn up to add 50 more beds to Columbus Colony at Westerville, Ohio. Assuming that all goes well and that present plans move ahead as scheduled, there will be a ground break in the Fall of 1993.

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The United States Postal Service is expected to issue two new "I love you" postage stamps on Sept. 30 featuring the "I love you" in American Sign Language. The two stamps will be in 29¢ denominations joined together as a pair.

WHEN YOU QUIT GOING TO CHURCH

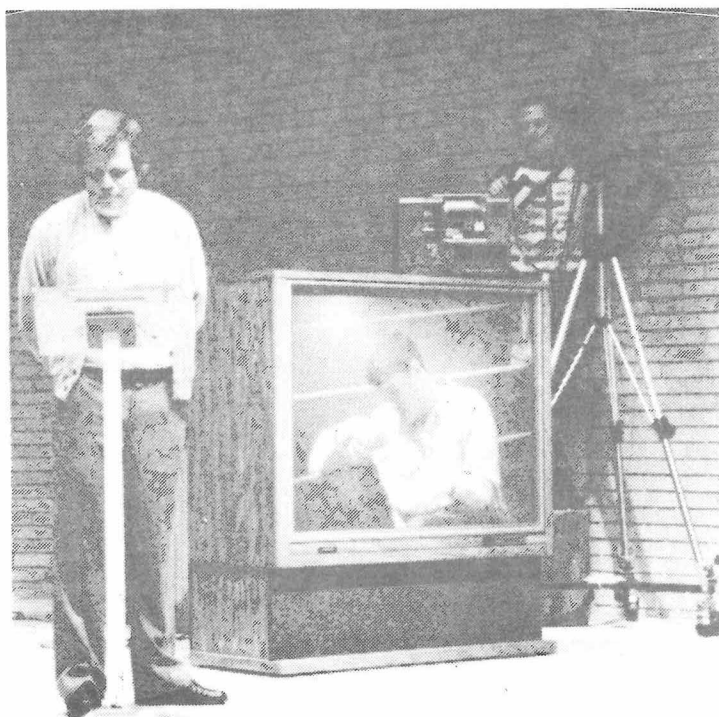
YOUR CONDITION IS A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN TO GOD: Jesus pictured a shepherd whose concern for a sheep away from the fold caused Him to leave 99 sheep in the fold and go out

VIDEO MINISTRY EMERGES AT HOLY CROSS, ST. LOUIS

A devotional video ministry to help deaf Christians continue their worship every day of the week as been developed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in St. Louis. Each daily devotion will be about five minutes in length, consisting of a brief Bible reading, a short song, skit or a meditation. This is an excellent service for shut-ins or deaf Christians who live too far from a deaf church or where regular services are held.

Other services where a video taping would be helpful and useful are weddings, drama play, local, state or national conventions or any private affairs needing video coverage.

Additional information may be obtained by writing Son Sign Productions, 101 North Beaumont St., St. Louis, Mo. 63103.



NEW VIDEO MINISTRY—Rev. Richard Moody, pastor of Holy Cross, St. Louis, is shown during a taping of service.

and painstaking search for the one which was missing. See Luke 14:4.

YOU ARE DEPRIVING YOURSELF OF SPIRITUAL HEALTH: The failure to worship and serve God results in the shriveling of the soul. Your spiritual nature cannot survive if you do not feed it. Your absence from church diminishes and weakens you.

YOUR TALENTS AND ABILITIES ARE BEING WASTED: Jesus taught that we have all been given the opportunity and ability to serve God in some way (see Matthew 25:14, 15). When you fail to do your part as a member of God's work force, then the cause of Christ suffers. You are needed.

YOU ARE LETTING YOUR INFLUENCE WORK AGAINST GOD AND HIS CHURCH: Although you do not intend it so, your example says to all who observe your life that the church is not important and that God may be safely ignored. It is especially tragic that those who read this message in your example are often your own children and grandchildren.

OTHERS NEED YOU AND YOU NEED THEM: We need the mutual encouragement of one another in living the Christian life. By your absence from church you deprive yourself of the strength which they could share with you.

YOUR SEPARATION FROM GOD MAY BECOME A PERMANENT ONE: Life is uncertain. We have no guarantee of what the future holds. Though you intend to come to God, life may end too soon. The emphasis of the Bible is always upon now. Read your Bible. II Corinthians 6:2.



THE CONFLAGRATION AT WACO

By Rev. Mark W. Seeger
Jesus Lutheran Church
Austin, Texas

"Understand this first, that no one can explain any written Word of God as he likes, because it never was the will of a human being that brought us God's Word, but the Holy Spirit moved holy men to say what God told them. But there were also men who preached lies among the people, just as there will also be among you those who teach lies." II Peter 1:20-2:1

Recently, we saw a terrible thing happen just 100 miles north of Austin. Up in Waco, we saw a group of people called the "Branch Davidians" die in a terrible fire. For nearly two months they had been having a "stand-off" with law enforcement agents. Finally, it all

ended in a terrible blaze. There isn't even a definite count of the number of people who died. The news reports give us different numbers.

What happened? Why did all these people, some of them children, have to die in such a terrible, preventable way?

There are lots of different views about what happened and who is to blame for this, and I can see that there are good arguments for all the different views. However, the biggest problem that I see, is that one man decided to interpret the Bible in his own way, and by doing that, led his followers to death.

I can't find any place in the Bible that tells us to get guns and fight against the government. When Jesus was arrested, one of His followers took a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's slave. Jesus told him to put away the sword and "all who live by the sword, die by the sword."

Be careful of false prophets. They are out there and they are willing to lead you to hell with them. They will take God's Word and teach it any way they want. That is why it is important for you to study God's Word. His Word is your sword. You can defend yourself against Satan and the false prophets if you use God's Word.

SYMBOLS OF DEAFNESS IN THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

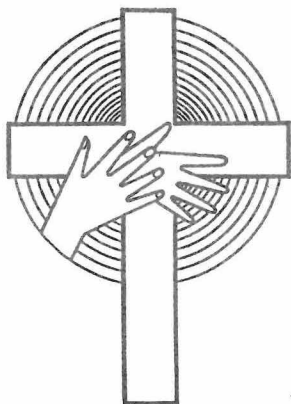
These interesting symbols were clipped from a periodical published by the German Lutheran Church very similar to THE DEAF LUTHERAN and show a variety of symbols referring to different districts (or churches) in Germany where there are ministries for the deaf.



*Gehörlosen-Seelsorge der
Ev. Kirche im Rheinland*



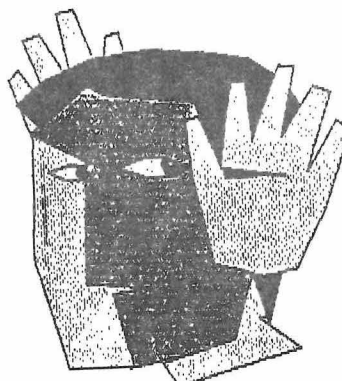
*Evangelische Gehörlosen-
seelsorge in Köln*



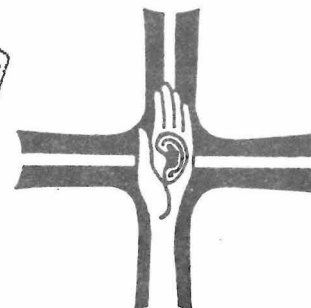
*Gehörlosen-Seelsorge der
Ev. Kirche in Mecklenburg*



*Gehörlosen-Seelsorge der
Ev. Kirche von Westfalen*



*Gehörlosen-Seelsorge der
Ev. Kirche in Bremen*



*Gehörlosen-Seelsorge der
Ev. Kirche in Baden*

ITEM: HOW MANY LANGUAGES ARE THERE

While an exact figure of just how many languages there are in the entire world is a matter of conjecture, a recent estimate made had the number at 6,528.

The Bible has been translated in 2,009 languages so far in the past year with people speaking 31 languages receiving God's Word for the first time.

Statewide Relay Service Directory

The following are the statewide relay services available 24-hours/day, 7-days/week and 365 days/year. Please immediately inform TDI of any additions, deletions, or corrections:

Alabama	800-548-2546 800-548-2547/V	Louisiana	800-846-5277 800-947-5277/V	800-522-8506/South
Alaska	800-770-TYPE 800-770-TALK	Maine	(instate) 1-955-DEAF 1-955-DPRS/V (outstate) 800-437-1220 800-457-1220/V	Oregon 800-735-2900
Arizona	800-367-8939 800-842-4681/V 602-231-0961/Phoenix 602-275-5779/Phoenix/V	Maryland	800-735-2258	Pennsylvania 800-654-5984 800-654-5988/V
Arkansas	800-285-1131 800-285-1121/V	Massachusetts	800-439-2370	Rhode Island 800-745-5555
California	800-735-2929 800-735-2922/V	Michigan	800-649-3777	South Carolina 800-735-2905
Colorado	800-659-2656 800-659-3656/V	Minnesota	800-657-3529 612-297-5353/Minneapolis	South Dakota 800-877-1113 605-339-6464/Sioux Falls
Connecticut	800-842-9710 800-833-8314/V	Mississippi	800-582-2233	Tennessee 800-848-0298 800-848-0299/V
Delaware	800-232-5460 800-232-5470/V	Missouri	800-735-2966 800-735-2466/V	Texas 800-735-2989 800-735-2988/V
District of Columbia	202-855-1234 202-855- 1000/V	Montana	800-253-4091 800-235-4093/V	Utah 800-346-4128 800-298-9484/Salt Lake City
Florida	800-955-8771 800-955-8770/V	Nebraska	800-833-7352 800-833-0920/V	Vermont 800-253-0191 800-253-0195/V
Georgia	800-255-0056 800-255-0135/V	Nevada	800-326-6868 800-326-6888/V	Virginia 800-828-1120 800-828-1140/V
Hawaii	808-643-8833 808-546-2565/V	New Hampshire	800-735-2964	Washington 800-833-6388 206-587-5500/Seattle
Idaho	800-377-3528 800-377-1363/V	New Jersey	800-852-7899 800-852-7897/V	West Virginia 800-982-8771 800-982-8772/V
Illinois	800-526-0844 800-526-0857/V	New Mexico	800-659-8331 800-659- 1779/V 505-275-7333/Albuquerque 505-275-2444/Albuquerque	Wisconsin 800-947-3529
Indiana	800-743-3333	New York	800-662-1220 800-421-1220/V	Wyoming 800-877-9965 800-877-9975/V
Iowa	800-735-2942 800-735-2943/V	North Carolina	800-735-2962 X00-735-8262/V	
Kansas	800-766-3777	North Dakota	N/A	
Kentucky	800-648-6056 800-648-6057/V	Ohio	800-750-0750	
		Oklahoma	800-722-0353/North	

Irony Part

To date 49 out of 50 states have statewide 7-day, 24-hour toll-free telecommunications relay services (TRS)! It all started in - guess where? South Dakota in 1975. Today, 18 years later, the only state that has yet to start such a service is - guess where? A neighboring state, North Dakota! Irony, isn't it?

—reprinted from *TDI GA-SK Newsletter*,
Vol. 24, Winter 1993.

"PROTEST" DISRUPTS SERVICE IN WASHINGTON JUNE 13

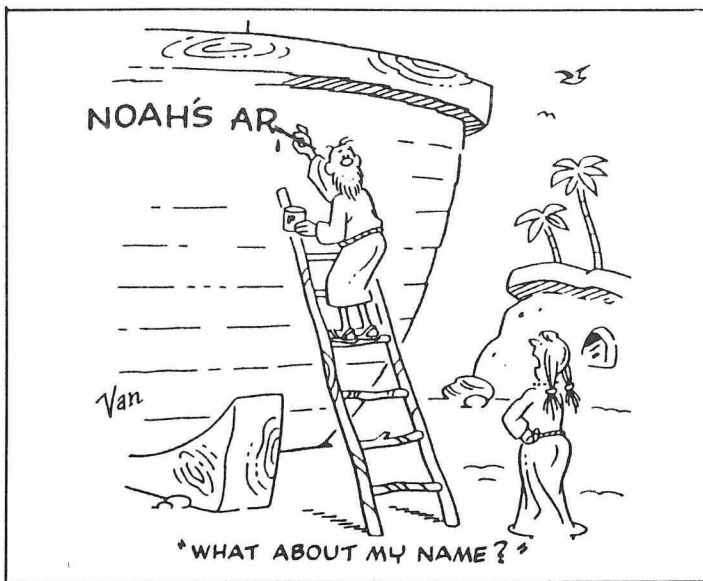
Pastor George Natonick was the subject of a most unusual protest during church services Sunday morning June 13 at Christ Lutheran Church. Just after welcoming everyone, he was interrupted by Donald Peterson who announced that there was a "L.P.N." protest (Liturgy for the People Now) and went on to explain that Pastor George was 'lax in developing a third liturgy for use at Christ Church' and that the people had been working on their own liturgy and would be initiating it this morning. After ordering the Snyders to remove the communion vessels from the altar and telling Gerald Ahrens to extinguish the candles, and Pastor George to follow him last as everyone filed out of the chapel.

The carefully orchestrated "protest" was

in joyful remembrance of the 25th anniversary of Pastor George's ordination with a worship service at Calvary Lutheran Church. The same text used 25 years earlier from Isaiah 52:7, "How beautiful are the feet of him who brings good news" was the theme for the day's worship led Rev. Larry Schmidt, pastor of Calvary. The service was followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Congratulation, Pastor George!

ILDA MISSION PROJECTS 1993-1995

Zacharias Fund (Scholarships).....	\$ 5,000
Recife, Brazil.....	3,000
Deaf Church in Ghana.....	3,000
Deaf School in Macau.....	1,000
Silent Word Video Project.....	1,000
Child of Nazareth Deaf School.....	1,000
Together in Mission.....	6,000
Pax Natura Ranch, Alberta.....	1,000
Deaf School in Lebanon	1,000
Lutheran School for Deaf, India.....	1,000
Total.....	\$23,000



LUTHERAN WHEAT RIDGE CHRISTMAS SEALS 1993

The DEAF LUTHERAN

September-October, 1993

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