



# The Deaf Lutheran



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

Summer 2019

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## 2019 ILDA convention report

By Janet Gehlbach, Editor

The 25th Biennial ILDA convention was held July 18-21, 2019, at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka, KS, hosted by KansaSEED. The theme for the convention was "God Above Gold" Psalm 119:127.

Sara and David Hale and their committee did a wonderful job planning the convention and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves! For the first time there were service projects planned for Saturday afternoon. Fleece blankets were tied together for the homeless and mesh bags were prepared for the Harvesters Food Bank. (See photos on Page 5).

Daily convention prayers and devotions were given by Rev. Paul Tessaro, Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, Rev. Mark Seeger, Rev. Tim Eckert and Rev. Edwin Bergstresser. The Saturday night banquet speaker was Rev. Bill Wrede, who gave a



very moving and powerful power point presentation of photos from his experience ministering and witnessing to

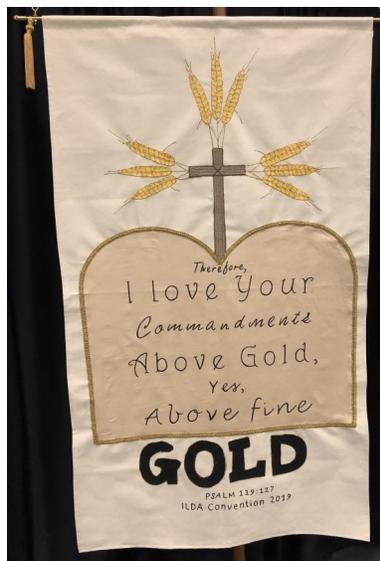
those people affected by falling of the Sept. 11 Twin Towers in New York City. His theme was "Remembering: Noticing the Past

and Building a Future."

There were no skits competition this year. The song competition was presented by Joanie Murdoch and Becky Jungklaus (Texas), and a video song presentation from Cindy Fenger (Pittsburgh), Winner of the song competition was Joanie and Becky (see photo below).



The banner competition awarded a first place prize to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS.



Workshop presentations were given by Rev. Ron Friedrich (in absentia) and John Mason on "Deaf People in Prison." Rev. Mark Seeger presented on "Fundraising for Missions" and Rev. Dr. John Reinke presented on "How to Do Outreach Ministry." All three workshops were well received and the attendees learned a lot of these presentations and by being active participants during the presentations.

Michelle Tessaro did a wonderful job setting up a photo booth with different kinds of hats, sunglasses, props, etc. that attendees could choose from to get their picture taken. Thanks Michelle for doing this! A monetary gift was presented to Rev. Paul Tessaro by Gregory Werth during the banquet to thank Michelle for all her hard work and to off-set the cost of printing out the photos. Photos can be seen on the ILDA Facebook page.

Missions Projects were voted on for 2019-2021. The list on Page 8 of this issue will be paid out in the order listed as money is received from donations.

Barbara Zimmerman (Cedar Falls, IA) received the Right Hand Award in absentia. Rev. Tim Eckert was live videophone chatting with her when the award was presented.



She thanked everyone in attendance for this honor. Rev. Eckert presented her with the actual plaque a few days after the convention was over. Barbara is pictured above with her son, Bill Jr. and daughter-in-law, Susie.

Rev. Daryl Gehlbach gave a

power point presentation of all pastors celebrating anniversaries in 2021. The list is on Page 6 of this issue.

Sunday morning Bible Study was led by Rev. Mark Seeger. Worship was led by Rev. Paul Tessaro and assisted by David Hale, Rev. Mark Seeger (mystery box) and Sara Hale with assistance by Steve Hale (music) and Rebecca Gerhardt. For the final hymn, Lisa Erickson led a mass choir of everyone in attendance signing "Go My Children With Thy Blessing" which was videotaped as a surprise to be shown at Rev. Rodney Rynearson's 60th Anniversary celebration in Frankenmuth, MI, on July 28.

What a surprise it was for him!

Installation of officers for 2019-

2021 was done by Rev. Bill Wrede (see the photo below). At the end of the worship service the ILDA banner was passed from Sara Hale to Gregory Werth to John Mason to Janet Gehlbach, Chair for the 2021 ILDA convention.

The Sunday offering total was \$ 627.00 and was applied to the mission project goal as set at the convention.

See you all in 2021 at the next ILDA convention in the Chicago area! Watch the ILDA Facebook page or the next issue of the Deaf Lutheran for announcements! Start saving your money too for the next two years! This will be a special celebration because it will be the 50th Anniversary of ILDA!



**2019-2021 ILDA Officers**

**John Mason (President), Gregory Werth (President-Elect), Janet Gehlbach (Secretary pro tem), David Brown (Treasurer), Rev. Tyler Walworth (Pastoral Advisor-not pictured). Rev. Bill Wrede (left) conducted the installation of the officers.**



## From the Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tyler Walworth



### What Is Sin and Why Does it Matter? What is sin?

Whatever is contrary to the law of God as it is revealed in the Bible (meaning against the 10 Commandments), not only what is done in thought, word and deed, but also whatever is in our nature that is contrary to the Law of God. Sin is not a human invention, nor does it change over time. The Law of God is eternal and will never change. The 10 Commandments are permanent and will always say the same thing. The Law of God is like the Law of Gravity, no matter how much you try to avoid it or change it, it still brings everything back to the earth. Therefore, throughout time what is good and evil has not changed. Sin is evil. (Genesis 3; Romans 3; 1 John 3)

### Why does God's Law define what is good and sinful or evil?

In short, because God is God and we are not. Or rather, because God alone claims authority to decide what is good and what is evil and to command and forbid all of His creation accordingly. Just like a father and mother make rules for their children, so our heavenly Father makes rules for us (Exodus 20, Ezekiel 20).

### What does God think about sin?

God hates sin and punishes sins in body and soul with temporal

and eternal punishments. (Psalm 5; Romans 2; Mark 9)

### What kinds of sin are there?

There are two kinds: original and actual. Original sin is the sin received in our nature from Adam, who committed the first sin in the garden. Now all people are born with three things: 1. without righteousness; 2. a total corruption that desires evil; 3. with guilt that deserves everlasting punishment (Genesis 3, Psalm 51). Actual sin is what is done by the sinner in thought, word and deed against God's law (Mark 8). Original sin is corruption of the tree. Actual sin is the evil fruit that comes from the corrupt tree.

### Why do we need to know this?

Jesus came to save sinners. The Holy Spirit uses the Law of God to convict you of your sin. Much like a man that does not realize what he looks like until someone holds up a mirror, so the Holy Spirit shows us our true reflection of sin in the law. Then, the Holy Spirit proclaims to you the comfort of the Gospel, that Jesus Christ died to take away your sin and give you everlasting life in its place. Christians actually rejoice in the Law, because it helps us see clearly the evil that weighs us down and the Gospel which shows us where to put our guilt and shame and evil deeds. Jesus died for your sin, so do not hide it, but confess it so that He can take it from you and in its place give you righteousness.

## From the President John Mason



Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Well, within two years, we just finished one of two milestones in

ILDA. First one was in Topeka, Kansas, for the 25th Biennial convention. Wow, we all met 25 times since in the beginning. Now we all are looking forward for the second milestone, ILDA's 50th Anniversary—1971 to 2021!

We will celebrate the 2021 ILDA convention in Chicago near the O'Hare airport. Date is to be determined and will be announced in the Fall issue of the *Deaf Lutheran* or earlier.

I am honored to be your president again for the second and final term. We are glad we have the same people on our Executive Council with all the same dreams: to preserve our ILDA to continue on.

We all agreed to suspend our plan of re-zoning the regions and let them try to merge between two regions together themselves. Just like Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Silver Spring, Maryland, joined with the Great Lakes Region since the Eastern Region is no longer active.

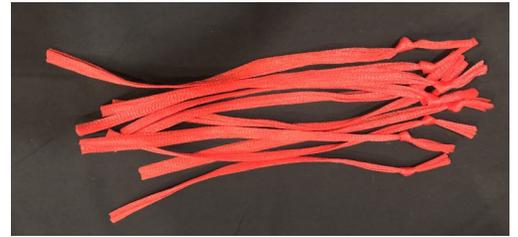
Keep your eyes out for my future vlogs in the ILDA webpage and/or in YouTube. I will keep you all up to date on the status of ILDA, convention news, parliamentary training and region news.

It is good to be back in the saddle again! Thank you and God bless you all!



A tic-tac-toe game was played on Friday night. It was led by Rev. Paul Tessaro and Sara Hale





These are the mesh strips that were cut from the large roll in the picture to the left then a knot was tied on the end. They open up and are used for fruit or vegetables at the Harvesters Food Bank.



**ILDA Officers**

**International Officers (2019-21)**

President – John Mason  
 President-Elect – Gregory Werth  
 Secretary pro tem – Janet Gehlbach  
 Treasurer – David G. Brown  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Tyler Walworth

**Central Region (2018-20)**

President – Albert Moore  
 V. President – Mike Ford  
 Secretary – Rebecca Catchpole  
 Treasurer – Tim Kearney  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Bud Palmer

**Midwest Region (2018-20)**

President – Sara Hale  
 V. President – Dorene Sell  
 Secretary – Nola Gray  
 Treasurer – vacant  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

**Northwest Region (2016-18)**

President – Richard Sharp  
 President Elect – Patricia Jenkins  
 Secretary – vacant  
 Treasurer – vacant  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. David Nielsen

**Great Lakes Region (2018-20)**

President – Larry D. Ginter  
 Pres. Elect – Nancy Bergstresser  
 Secretary – JoAnna Rushton  
 Treasurer – Karen Beiter  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Edwin Bergstresser



Matthew Bergstresser (left), son of Rev. Edwin and Nancy Bergstresser, was installed as pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, on June 30, 2019. Congratulations Matthew. He is serving a hearing congregation.

**Church Workers recognized for their years of service at the ILDA convention were:**

- Mark Winkelman (10 years)
- Deacon Patrick Sell (15 years)
- David Nielson (20 years)
- William Knaack (25 years)
- John Reinke (30 years)
- John Fritz (35 years)
- Edwin Bergstresser (35 years)
- Gary Lawson (35 years)
- William Palmer (35 years)
- Richard Moody (40 years)
- Mark Seeger (40 years)
- Louis Jasper (60 years)
- Rodney Rynearson (60 years)
- William Ludwig (60 years)
- Augustus Reinke (125 years)



Rev. Ron Friedrich (left) is interpreting for Rev. Rodney Rynearson's 60th Anniversary celebration on July 28, 2019, in Frankenmuth, MI.

**2019 ILDA host committee**

Not pictured:  
 Rev. Paul and Michelle Tessaro



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## In Memoriam



### Sonja Leonhardt

Born: 3/12/37

Died: 5/16/19

Sonja was the widow of Rev. Roger Leonhardt, North Dakota



### Marilyn Owens

Born: 1/17/26

Died: 5/19/19

Marilyn was a member of Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio



### Pamela Anderson

Born: 3/8/46

Died: 6/6/19

Pamela was the wife of Rev. Mark Anderson, Illinois.

### In the next issue...

- more news and photos of the ILDA convention
- God's 1000 Club luncheon photos
- Interpreted Ministry Conference update and photos
- information on the 2021 ILDA convention in Chicago

### Photography credits...

Photos taken on Pages 1-6 in this issue are courtesy of David G. Brown, Rev. Tim Eckert, Mark Friedrich, Rev. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach, Tim Kearney, Michelle Tessaro and Dawn Werth.

### Deadlines for future issues of the *Deaf Lutheran*:

Fall issue....October 15, 2019

Winter issue...January 15, 2020

Spring issue...April 15, 2020

Summer issue...July 15, 2020

Fall issue...October 15, 2020

Please send photos, articles and items of interest to:

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**RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**

**ILDA Mission Projects for 2019-2021**

1. Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry	\$ 1,000
2. LCMS Int'l Missions ELCG Ghana	\$ 2,000
3. Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas	\$ 10,000
4. David and Barbara Bush—LCMS (Macau)	\$ 2,000
5. Ryan McDermott—LCMS (Togo)	\$ 2,000
6. John Reinke—World Lutheran Deaf Outreach	\$ 10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 27,000</b>



Donations for the ILDA 2019-2021 Mission Projects can be sent to: ILDA Treasurer, David G. Brown, c/o Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, 360 Morse Rd., Columbus, OH 43214. Make your check payable to "ILDA" and put "Mission Projects 2019-2021" in the memo line. These mission projects will be paid out in the order listed above. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.