



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Summer 2017

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 106, No. 3

## ***Farewell from the 2015-2017 President John Mason***



Thank you ILDA members for voting for me as President-Elect at the Austin, TX, convention and becoming

President at the Madison, WI, convention. It was my honor and privilege to serve you.

Thank you Gregory Werth, Janet Gehlbach, Karen Beiter and Rev. Gregory Desrosiers. It was my privilege to work with you all in the name of Jesus Christ after all we are doing for Him.

Thank you Pastor Eckert for being the LDMS representative and it was a privilege to have you on our board and I was honored to be the ILDA representative to the LDMS Board.

Thank you pastors for being our shepherds for all you do and leading us to the Lord. Thank you to all church workers, deacons and deaconesses as well.

Thank you Dr. Martin Luther for the birth of the reformation for without him we would not be here today.

Thanks to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## ***Hello from the new ILDA 2017-2019 President Gregory Werth***



Howdy y'all,  
Brothers and  
Sisters in Christ.

My name is  
Gregory S. Werth  
and I'm from the  
state of

Wisconsin but formerly lived in the  
state of Texas for many years.

I'm currently an Elder and a member of Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church in Madison, WI. At the 2015 convention in Madison I was co-chairperson of the convention committee. I was proudly elected to be President-Elect for ILDA and now I have just recently became President at the 2017 convention in Indianapolis, IN, on July 16, 2017. I'm looking forward to serving all of you members to ensure that ILDA will continue on for many more years with high hopes to increase our membership numbers.

Let me tell y'all of you members a little bit about me. Originally, I was born and raised in Wisconsin in Milwaukee and the nearby area. I was baptized by my grandma's pastor at my home who spoke in German as well as my family spoke German too. I was confirmed at Lutheran Church of the Living Christ in Germantown, Wisconsin. I was mainstreamed at high school which I graduated, then again

graduated from college and then really moved to Texas right away. I started my own business in Information Technology and traveled all over for my business. I have now retired after 32 years. I am now working part time for Home Depot as a MET (Merchandise Execution Team) associate and thoroughly enjoy my working there.

I am very actively involved with my church at Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church as an Elder and Property Trustee. I help around doing the landscaping, fixing things around the church and etc. I help out whatever I can in many different areas such as cooking, teaching, maintaining the church internet/network and working with members of my church on various projects. Yes, I know they often call me "Jack of all Trades" which God has given me a great gift that I can do just about anything. I have a few hobbies such as stamp collecting, handyman work and being a master gardener.

As you got a little scoop about who I am, I will do my best in serving you as President of ILDA to all of y'all. If you have any concerns about the ILDA convention in Indianapolis or any other concerns as well, please do feel free to let me know at this email address:

[gregoryswerth@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryswerth@gmail.com) or you may contact me at VP: 608-620-7859. God Bless Y'all!

## ***Hello from the new Pastoral Advisor Tyler Walworth***



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I must express my deepest gratitude for my nomination and

appointment as Pastoral Advisor to the International Lutheran Deaf Association. It will be my great joy to serve you in this position.

I will tell you a little more about how I got here. I was born and raised in Kansas City, MO. I have one younger brother. I have gone to Lutheran schools throughout my academic career.

Unfortunately I had no contact with the Deaf community until my vicarage year of Seminary. After marrying my wife Kelsey, we moved to Fort Wayne for the Seminary. At Concordia Theological Seminary, Rev. Steve Schumacher asked if I would like to take Deaf Ministry classes at the Seminary and I decided I would try it.

Then in my last year at the Seminary, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf and the Michigan District partnered to call me into Deaf Mission work. I arrived in Michigan June 21, 2015 and was ordained and installed at Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

During my service in Michigan, the Deaf community, especially the members at Our Savior, have patiently taught me American Sign Language and Deaf culture. I still have a long way to go, but I am deeply thankful for their teaching.

I have three responsibilities in my call. I am Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Missionary at Large to the Deaf in the Michigan District and Director of Deaf Ministry Resources at Lutheran Friends of the Deaf. I

now have two beautiful boys, Luke and James, and am excited to continue my work as Pastor, Missionary and Pastoral Advisor.

I tell you all this as a meditation on the life of one of God's children. You also have vocations given by God in which you work and live: Fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, husbands, wives and workers. Christ has redeemed you and you are now free to serve with all of the gifts he has given you in your bodies and minds.

As a part of the Deaf community, you have the very great impact of sharing in a close knit family and through those deep bonds to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. You live the life of a free child of God. You are free from death, sin and Satan. True, you still experience them, but they cannot hold you. You already have the final victory.

Now may our Lord, who crushed Satan and sin by His death on the cross, give you strength through the Holy Spirit to love God and love your neighbor. In the name of our dear Lord Jesus.

## ***The Deaf Lutheran staff news***

Carolyn Snyder-Mason is now the Business Manager for *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter. All subscriptions should be sent to her. The cost is \$10 a year. Her address is on Page 7 of this newsletter. Free color copies of *The Deaf Lutheran* are available on the ILDA website [www.deafjesus.org/ilda](http://www.deafjesus.org/ilda).

It was great seeing everyone at the 2017 ILDA convention in Indianapolis. Many thanks for your support of the *Deaf Lutheran* newsletter and keep those articles and photos coming! They are so greatly appreciated!

## **In Memoriam**

### **Rev. Walter "Mike" Busby**



Born: 4/27/1936  
Died: 6/5/2017  
Rev. Busby served deaf and blind ministries throughout Florida.

### **Marlys Aspnes**



Born: 11/12/1933  
Died: 6/13/2017  
Marlys was a long-time member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Spring Lake Park, MN.

### **Doris Ring**



Born: 10/4/1926  
Died: 6/29/2017  
Doris was the wife of Rev. George Ring and a member of Calvary, Des Moines, IA.

## **Deaf Day at the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter**

The Creation Museum will have a Deaf Day on Saturday, October 14. The Ark Encounter will have a Deaf Day on Sunday, October 15. ASL interpreters and Deaf volunteers will be available as well as video captions. Check out the website for more information. Discounted tickets are available. <https://arkencounter.com/events/deaf-day/>

## Calvary, Des Moines, IA to celebrate 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, October 22, 2017 is the date of the special 70<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA. Special guest preacher will be Rev. Gregory Desrosiers from Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

For more information please contact Deacon Patrick Sell, VP# 515-337-0766.

## CORRECTION

In the Spring 2017 issue of the *Deaf Lutheran* there was an ILDA membership form. The incorrect dates were printed for the membership year. It should be 2016-2018. ILDA membership dues are paid in even years. The editor apologizes for the error.

## Check out these websites:

[www.deafjesus.org](http://www.deafjesus.org)

[www.jesusdeaf.org](http://www.jesusdeaf.org)

[www.jesusdeaf.org/learn](http://www.jesusdeaf.org/learn)

[www.tinyurl.com/LDMSYouTube](http://www.tinyurl.com/LDMSYouTube)

[www.facebook.com/lutherandeaf](https://www.facebook.com/lutherandeaf)

[www.deafjesus.org/ilda](http://www.deafjesus.org/ilda)

The deafjesus.org/ilda website has the ILDA page in there. You can check it out. You can find photos of the ILDA officers and print a copy of the ILDA Constitution and Handbook as well as reading the minutes of the 2017 ILDA convention.

Copies of back issues of *The Deaf Lutheran* are also on the website. Many thanks to Rev. Daryl Gehlbach for scanning the back issues and finding the 1909 copy of *The Deaf Lutheran*! Many thanks to Rev. Ron Friedrich for putting all of this on the website.

Recently added to the ILDA website are copies of ALL the ILDA Convention Books since 1971! Many thanks to Rev. Ron Friedrich for putting them on the website and to Janet Gehlbach for scanning all of the convention books into pdf format.

## Two receive positions

Matthew Bergstresser, son of Rev. Edwin and Nancy Bergstresser, OH, was assigned as vicar at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb, MI.

Pat Monroe received a call to be deaconess at Word of God, Cedar Rapids, IA.

## World Lutheran Deaf Outreach

Rev. Dr. John Reinke will be traveling to Latvia in August and Liberia in November. We pray for safe travels for him and successful workshops there.

## Interpreted Ministry Conference (IMC)



The Interpreted Ministry Conference was held at the Hilton Garden Inn, at the same time as the ILDA convention. About 15 interpreters attended. ILDA is encouraging those interpreters to go back to their congregations and share news of ILDA and encourage their deaf members to attend the ILDA conventions.

## Please support our LC-MS Missionaries

**David and Barbara Bush** will be serving the deaf in Macau, China. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put "Bush" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."

**Rev. Ryan & Emily McDermott** are serving in Togo and **Rev. Steven & Cynthia Schumacher** are serving in Ghana. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put "McDermott" or "Schumacher" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."

## Church workers recognized at ILDA Banquet

The following pastors and deaconess were recognized for their years of service in Deaf Ministry in 2017: Bob Case and Jerald Munz (45 years), Larry Leider (30 years), Paul Tessaro (25 years), Alan Rork (15 years), and Pat Hycnar (5 years).

For the year 2016 the following were recognized: Robert Bauer (60 years), Larry Larsen, Sherril Petzoldt and Ron Friedrich (40 years), Prentice Marsh (35 years), Mike MacDonald and Darrel Kois (30 years), Tom Phillips (25 years), Timothy Eckert (20 years), Dennis Konkell and Deacon John Rushton (15 years).

Congratulations to all!

## Thank you.....

Many thanks to the following people for their photos of the 2017 ILDA convention: Karen Beiter, Janet Gehlbach, Larry Ginter, David Hale, Linda Johnson, Becky Jungklaus, Lutheran Deaf Mission Society and Dorene Sell.



## ILDA Officers

### International Officers (2017-19)

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

### Central Region (2016-18)

President – Mike Ford  
 V. President – Wayne Kester  
 Secretary – Becky Catchpole  
 Treasurer – Donna Madewell-Smith  
 Pastoral Advisor – Rev. Bud Palmer

### Midwest Region (2016-18)

President – Sara Hale  
 V. President – Dorene Sell  
 Secretary – Nola Gray  
 Treasurer – Barbara Zimmerman  
 Pastoral Advisor – Rev. Paul Tessaro

### Northwest Region (2016-18)

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

### Great Lakes Region (2016-18)

President – Larry D. Ginter  
 Pres. Elect – Nancy Bergstresser  
 Secretary – Diane Francisco  
 Treasurer – Karen Beiter  
 Pastoral Advisor – Rev. Gary Lawson



## 2017 ILDA Convention Report

By Janet Gehlbach, Co-Editor



The 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial ILDA convention was held July 13-16, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Indianapolis, IN, hosted by Peace Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN. The theme was "Focus on Jesus" (Matthew 14:27).

The committee members were: Mike Ford, Chairman; Vernita Joe, Norman Wilson, Donna Madewell-Smith, Diana Rork, Donne Bower, Gil Boesenberg and Rev. Alan D. Rork. Many thanks for a job well done! Waving hands!

The convention opened on Thursday evening with an opening devotion by Mike Ford and President John Mason. Indiana District President Dan May also welcomed the ILDA attendees with words of encouragement. He said that God is calling us to focus



Rev. Alan Rork and  
 Rev. Dan May

on Jesus. Jesus saves us, He helps and listens to us. Keep studying your Bible,

fellowship with one another, have fun and laughter.

There were no skit, banner or choir competitions this year. However, the sign choir (Becky Catchpole and Dawn Werth) from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Madison, WI, presented their song



Becky Catchpole and Dawn Werth

"Do Not Be Afraid" by Tanner Clark and led by Rev. Bud Palmer on Thursday evening as well as during the Sunday morning worship.

A movie "Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed The World" was shown on Thursday evening. Wow, a great movie and it was closed captioned! Many thanks to John Mason for contacting the company to get it captioned!

On Friday morning a group of ILDA attendees left early in the morning to go to the Ark Encounter tour in Williamstown, KY. A good time was had by all and many enjoyed themselves.



The rest of the group were able to attend three workshops. The first one was "LWML/Leadership" given by Emily Rogers, President of the Indiana District LWML, Becky Thibodeau, Heart to Heart Indiana District Leader and Donna Madewell-Smith, LWML member of Peace, Indianapolis.



Donna Madewell-Smith, Becky Thibodeau and Emily Rogers

Emily gave a power point presentation on the mission of the LWML. Donations are collected through MITE boxes and brought to the next convention when the money goes to missions. The LWML national goal was \$2M where monies were given out as grants to different groups that were voted on during the convention to receive LWML funds.

Becky presented on the Heart to Heart program that encourages multicultural women in the LWML to celebrate their uniqueness and encourage unity among each other. There is a need for ladies to work with women from other cultures and make new friends. Serve the Lord with Gladness! (Psalm 100:2). Check out the LWML website: [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

In the afternoon Rev. Ron Friedrich presented a workshop "Martin Luther's 500 years



Reformation." This year, 2017, we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. On Oct 31, 1517,

Martin Luther nailed "95 Theses" (statements) to his church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther complained that the church was *selling forgiveness for money!* Luther's complaint became like a hot spark on dry grass. Without

his knowledge or permission, someone copied Luther's theses, and published them. Half of Europe quickly joined his protest.



What motivated Martin Luther? He was afraid of dying as a lost sinner.

None of his religious works were good enough. He finally found his answer in the Bible. None of us can save ourselves. Christ alone saves us through His death on the cross, in our place, which we receive only by faith.

During the workshop we watched dramatic portrayals of Martin Luther's life in clips from classic movies about the Reformation.

Rev. Daryl Gehlbach gave a presentation on the history of the



International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA). He traced the history from the founding of the Lutheran Deaf

School in Detroit in 1873 to the beginning of ILDA. He showed the steps that led to the first convention in 1971. He explained that although the journey was long and sometimes not easy ILDA was God's work. Just as our past was in God's hands, so is the future. Rev. Friedrich and

Gehlbach's presentations are available on the ILDA website under "ILDA Conventions."

On Saturday morning the Business Meeting began. Election of officers for 2017-2019 are: President Gregory Werth, President-Elect John Mason, Secretary Janet Gehlbach, Treasurer David G. Brown and Pastoral Advisor Tyler Walworth. Congratulations to all.



L. to R.: Pres.-Elect John Mason, Pastoral Advisor Tyler Walworth, Treasurer David G. Brown, Secretary Janet Gehlbach and President Gregory Werth

Mission Projects were voted on and those are listed on Page 8 of this newsletter. A surprise announcement was made by President John Mason and Treasurer Karen Beiter. ILDA received a donation of \$120,000 from St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Woodside, NY, (formerly of Queens, NY). They sold their church building and decided to give some of the proceeds to ILDA. Many thanks to the members of St. Matthew for this generous gift! The photo below shows ILDA members saying "Thank you" after the Sunday worship service!





God's 1000 Club enjoyed a luncheon on Saturday noon. It was well attended with supporters of God's 1000 Club donors.

In the evening the banquet was held with a buffet dinner. Afterwards the Uriel C. Jones Right Hand Award winner was announced by Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Chairperson. It was given posthumously to William "Bill"



Rev. Tim Eckert and  
Carolyn Snyder-Mason

Zimmerman, Monticello, IA. Bill passed away in March of this year and was a great supporter of ILDA and a long-time officer of the Midwest Region. The award was accepted by Rev. Tim Eckert and will be given to Bill's widow, Barbara at a later date.



Sara Hale (pictured above) gave a presentation on the 2019 ILDA convention to be held in Topeka, KS, on July 18-21, 2019 at the Capital Plaza Hotel. She explained the logistics of the next convention and encouraged everyone to come to Kansas!

Diane Francisco presented the Necrology report of those ILDA members who passed away since the last ILDA



convention in 2015. Many thanks to Janet Gehlbach and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach for preparing the power point presentation of obituary information and photos.

Church worker recognition was presented by Rev. Daryl Gehlbach to those celebrating anniversaries in 2016 and 2017. See Page 3 for the full list of names. Those in attendance and pictured below are: (L. to R.) Deaconess Pat Hycnar, Rev. Ron Friedrich, Rev. Tim Eckert, Rev. Tom Phillips, and Rev. Alan Rork.



A plaque of appreciation was given to Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf for hosting the 2017 convention.



John Mason (Pres. 2015-2017), Gil Boesenberg, Norman Wilson, Donna Madewell-Smith, Diana Rork, Rev. Alan Rork and Mike Ford

After the banquet, clips of movies with Martin Luther were shown for those who missed the workshop on Friday afternoon.

Sunday morning Bible Study was led by Rev. Alan Rork with the theme: "Jesus Walks on the Water" (Matthew 14 22-33). Worship with Holy Communion was led by Rev. Rork and Rev. Gregory Desrosiers. Bible readers were: Deaconesses Linda Desrosiers, Pat Hycnar, Dawn Werth and Becky Catchpole. Hymn leaders were Donna Madewell-Smith, Deaconess Dawn Werth and Becky Catchpole. Serving as ushers were Norman Wilson and Mike Ford. Deacon Patrick Sell was the Acolyte.

The new 2017-2019 ILDA officers were installed during the service. President Gregory Werth and President-Elect John Mason passed the ILDA banner to the next host congregation, KansaSEED, Topeka, KS. Those receiving the banner were Nola Gray, Peggy Gott and Esther Zimmerman (pictured below):



The Sunday offering total was \$ 664.00 and will be applied to the mission project goals as set at this convention.

See you all July 18-21, 2019 in Topeka, KS!

**More pictures of the ILDA convention and the Business Meeting minutes will be printed in the November issue of the Deaf Lutheran.**

## The Deaf Lutheran Subscription (Print Edition)

One-year Subscription - \$10.00

Please Select: \_\_\_\_\_ Renew  
\_\_\_\_\_ New

All subscriptions should be sent to Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Business Manager of *The Deaf Lutheran*, at her address below. Make your check or money order payable to "ILDA" and put *Deaf Lutheran* in the memo line. Thanks!

**Carolyn Snyder-Mason**  
**6721 Deep Run Parkway**  
**Elkridge, MD 21075**

Attach mailing label or fill in:

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/VP/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

## Can you help?

Does anyone have copies of ILDA convention minutes? We are looking for:

1973 (Kansas City)

1977 (Spokane)

1979 (Memphis)

1985 (Milwaukee)

1991 (Toledo)

**Please** contact Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary, and let her know! Thanks!  
[jgehlbach@aol.com](mailto:jgehlbach@aol.com)

## Did you know?

You can receive free copies of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter by going to the website:

[www.deafjesus.org/ilda](http://www.deafjesus.org/ilda) and read the issues there. If you want a paper copy of the newsletter then please fill in the subscription form above and send it with your \$10 to Carolyn Snyder-Mason. Her address is listed above.



## Deadline for the next issue:

**Fall issue  
October 15, 2017**

**Please send photos,  
articles and items of  
interest for future issues  
of *The Deaf Lutheran* to:**

Rev. Daryl & Janet Gehlbach  
305 Liberty St. NE  
Fridley MN 55432

Voice: 612-386-4824  
Videophone: 612-424-4747  
[dgehlbach@aol.com](mailto:dgehlbach@aol.com)  
[jgehlbach@aol.com](mailto:jgehlbach@aol.com)

# The DEAF LUTHERAN

Janet Gehlbach, DL Co-Editor  
305 Liberty St. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer Issue 2017

### In this Issue:

ILDA Convention  
Report and photos



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### Mission Projects for 2017-2019

Deaf Youth Service Project .....	\$ 8,000
Missionary Support	
Rev. Ryan McDermott .....	\$ 2,000
Rev. Steven Schumacher.....	\$ 2,000
David Bush .....	\$ 2,000
India .....	\$ 8,000
Kenya .....	\$ 8,000
World Lutheran Deaf Outreach .....	\$ 4,000
TOTAL	<b>\$ 34,000</b>

Donations for the ILDA 2017-2019 Mission Projects can be sent to ILDA Treasurer David G. Brown, 1467 Bradshire Dr., Columbus, OH 43220. Put "Mission Projects" in the memo line. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.

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