



ELDA

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Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association
a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



Linda Fairbanks
ELDA President

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Linda Fairbanks

Greetings from the President
Galatians 5:22 English Standard Version
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The summer has gone by fast. So many things have happened over the summer. Right now, as I write this, our ELDA Mission team, led by Pastor Beth Lockard and Dorothy Sparks are in Jamaica. This indeed is exciting news. In this issue, you will find the mission trip workers' names and occupations and

it gives you an idea of the diverse team of volunteers.

On July 17-19th, the ELDA Board met at St Catherine's University in St. Paul, MN for our ELDA Board meeting and to tour the campus which will be where the ELDA Conference 2016 will be held. We had a great time and the campus is beautiful. Each room has several bedrooms, a living area, and a kitchen area as well as nice a bathroom area in the dormitory that we stayed in.

Some highlights of the weekend:

1. Held team building activities on Friday evening.
2. Discussed the ELDA newsletter and website.
3. Approved the new Treasurer guidelines.
4. Discussed ELDA Board's purchase of a LED projector that will be donated to Jamaica school.
5. Set up committees to review Conflict of Interest Policy and the ELDA Bylaws before the next conference in 2016.
6. Approved for Mark Koterwski to collect ASL and Deaf Culture information for the ELCA staff.
7. Approved the draft ELDA Mission statement as a final mission statement. The ELDA mission statement will be displayed on the ELDA website and in the ELDA newsletters.

The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) is a national Lutheran organization of Deaf ELCA congregations, interpreted ministries, and their member which supports a core value of ASL and American Deaf Culture. ELDA advocates Deaf spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global missions and youth outreach, interpreter training, and a biennial conference.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT.)

The trip to Dallas, Texas for our ELDA representatives, Pastor Beth Lockard, Mark Koterwski and Don Rosenkjar to meet with representatives from the Episcopal and Methodist groups was a success. The 9 representatives from the three groups were able to agree on how to collaborate as one team. They also agreed to name the group, ELM Seeds. We are still waiting for a press release to be sent out, in regards to this new partnership. However, we do have photos in this issue of the ELDA newsletter. ELDA thanks the representatives for such a successful meeting. We will continue to invite the two groups to the ELDA conference next year. Enjoy the autumn weather wherever you are! God's blessings, President Linda

THANKSGIVING APPEAL

Hello everyone! It is time once more for the ELDA Thanksgiving Appeal. Your donations to the Thanksgiving Appeal help the ELDA Board with its basic functions and any expenses. You can send your check in any amount, made out to ELDA to:

Jeff Panek ELDA Treasurer,
625 S. Mary Drive,
Tea, SD 57064.

We thank you for your support!

Mark Koterwski and I had been working on the ELDA Treasurer Guidelines. The guidelines will help any new treasurer, as well as the Board know when and what to expect when we need to collect monies. The guidelines also help us know how or when we need to pay or send out checks. It is mostly to streamline the process to make the present Treasurer as well as any future treasurers' job much easier.

You may contribute to the HOPE Fund any time of the year. Please, state on your check where you want your money to go.

For those of you who are involved in the Thrivent Choice, you can put your monies towards the ELDA Thrivent Choice. Be sure to contact your Thrivent agent, if you have any questions.

Send your check, made out to ELDA TODAY. Again, thanks!

Happy Thanksgiving,
ELDA Treasurer, Jeff Panek



Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association Conference

“Bringing God’s Love to the Deaf World”

July 21 – 24, 2016

(For pastors – July 17-24, 2016)

at *St. Catherine University*

in St. Paul, Minnesota



St. Paul and Minnesota Capitol



St. Catherine University

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Pastor Beth Lockard

Dear ELDA Friends:

As I write this, there are just a few days left before our mission team leaves for the tropical island of Jamaica to lead a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the 56+ students at Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf. Dorothy Sparks and Mary Edwards are here this week from BOLD to help get ready.

We have packed seven+ suitcases of supplies for the school :

- ***LED projector from ELDA,***
- ***two office phones***
- ***an adding machine***
- ***62 twin sheet sets***
- ***toilet paper***
- ***paper towel holders for their bathrooms***
- ***children's games***
- ***printer ink***
- ***13 flash drives for the teachers***
- ***a pile of school supplies***
- ***VBS supplies, and a dome pup tent.***

We will be able to give JCSD \$800 for purchase of desks and chairs they need.

Dorothy has designed the Deaf-friendly VBS curriculum which revolves around Mt. Everest, base camps, Bible heroes, and Deaf Jamaican heroes. Together, the students will follow in Abraham's footsteps and learn to trust God's provision for their lives. The theme is "I (God) am with you always." (Matthew 28:20)

We will visit the Deaf Jamaica Village and hope to see the Deaf adults in action making furniture, art work, and sewing. Mill Neck School (NY) is sending a team of four to visit the school and village as we explore future possibilities of empowering their government to educate their deaf-blind community.

We appreciate the quick and generous response from all of you when we received JCSD's wish list.

Blessings, Pr. Beth+
ELCA Deaf Ministries

2015 JAMAICA MISSION TEAM



September 11—20, 2015

Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf, Montego Bay

Mary Edwards—Deaf, St. Paul, MN, community health worker

Lori Fuller—Deaf, Clearwater, FL, vocational rehabilitation counselor

Jacob LeVasseur—Hearing, West Chester, computer programmer

Nicholas LeVasseur—Hearing, West Chester, carpenter

Pr. Beth Lockard—Deaf, West Chester, pastor & teacher

Yvonne Treibel Mazzulo—Hearing, Coatesville, realtor

Peggy Scherling—Deaf, Nebraska, farmer

Amy Schoen—Hearing, Philadelphia, accountant

Dorothy Sparks—Deaf, Minneapolis, Associate in Ministry

And part time Mill Neck team: President **Mike Killian**, wife **Susan**, Board member

Rudy Auslander, and interpreter **Bill Lockard**

Thank you to all who provided money gifts, sheets, & supplies for the trip:

Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry, Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (LED projector), Trinity Lutheran Deaf Ministry (Reading, PA), Word of Life Deaf Lutheran (Lancaster, PA), St. Joseph on the Hill Lutheran (Boyertown, PA), West Chester Church of the Nazarene, Calvary Lutheran (West Chester), Chicago Deaf Lutheran Ministry, Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran (Minneapolis), Christ the King Deaf Church, Anonymous, Elaine & Dan Burgess, Ed Carrigan, Mike Gray, Kathie Gray-Plotkin, Ray & Bev Groff, Jane Hender, Peggy Hughes, Bishop Peggy Johnson (UMC), Pr. Lisa Jordan, John Markowitz, Terri Marple, Stephanie Merchant, Belinda & Jeff Panek, BJ & Mary Reff, Barbara Schmidt, Barb & Rich Simpson, Dorothy Sparks, Carol Stevens, Evey Thomsen, Ed & Evy Williams, Marion Worrell, and each mission team member

Your giving allows us to bless the school in many ways!

We received exactly what we needed to fulfill JCSD's wish list.

DEAF RIGHTS MOVEMENT

GREETING from WOLD

There was a Deaf Protest in Washington DC at the Ellipse Park near the White House on September 5th and 6th. There were 3 purposes in goals:

- 1) to fight for Deaf rights for communications access equality (Provide interpreting, better system in Video Relay Interpreting (VRI), Keeping ASL, not S.E.E. nor cued speech), more captioning in public places
- 2) Better education (Keep all deaf schools open, Using ASL methods. English can be taught through ASL)
- 3) Job opportunities (60-75% Deaf have no jobs in USA)

My husband, Gordon and I went there on Saturday morning. At first, the crowd was small but it grew larger later in the afternoon. Looked like there were about 1000 supporters. We listened to great speakers on the stage sharing their feelings and thoughts on frustration, oppression, discrimination, being too passive for many years until they got tired of being "nice". They felt enough. We all knew those feelings. It was time for us to speak up and make some noises at the protest rally. We know there is ADA law for the deaf but felt it is too weak and need to change it. We want better solutions! We want better quality life for all the deaf now as well as children in the future, too. We encourage everyone to write letters to their hometown senators, congressmen, legislators and the President about our problems that need to be heard and fixed.

We all marched around the White House with some police cars guiding us. We were looking at long sea of people in front us and also behind us while several police in cars and motorcycles around us flashing their lights, blocking the traffic. We looked around and saw many outsiders clapping and waving "I love you" signs filled with heartfelt support. It was truly amazing. We felt so good to be part of this first deaf protest. Although it is not over yet, there will be more protest every year. We are expected to keep on protesting until they improve the ADA law. We want to see more people become involved actively, stand together unity and support each other for Deaf rights. Please pray for this to succeed. May the Holy Spirit help us all with God's guidance, wisdom and grace.

Luanne Bartens
Word of Life Deaf
Lutheran Church,
Lancaster PA



NEW BOLD NAME

Bread of Life Lutheran Church for the Deaf is no longer the true name of our church. It is now called Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church. We will do a dedication of the new name sometime in the fall.

We have an exciting year this year. We now have a new pastor. Her name is Lisa Jordan. We will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary next year when we host the next ELDA Conference.



TRIP TO DALLAS

Here are some pictures on the recent collaborative meeting between the denominations involved in the ELDA conference.



Rev. Marianne Stuart, Lee Holland, Cass Martenson, Don Rosenkjar, Rev. Beth Lockard, Mark Koterwski, Rev. Tom Hudspeth, Carol Stevens, and Rev. Dr. Kirk VanGilder.

ELDA BOARD MEETING

The ELDA Board at a Family Style Restaurant



The ELDA taking Jesus with them wherever they go.



The ELDA Board went to attend the potluck breakfast and church services at BOLD on Sunday, July 19th. Shown in this photo are Dorothy Sparks, AIM and Pastor Lisa Jordan at the BOLD church services.

SPIRITUAL SIDE:

By Dorothy Sparks, Associate In Ministry



His Eyes Is On The Sparrow

Jesus said, "Look at the birds. They don't plant, harvest, or save food in barns.

Your heavenly Father feeds them. Do you know you are worth much more than they are?" Matthew 6:26

One day, I visited Deaf people in the nursing home. There has an enlarge cage with glass. It has many different kind of birds. I can see that birds keep moving around all the time.

It makes me to think about birds in the sky. We don't know where they come from and go to. God only knows where they come from and go. Even though sparrow is small but God does not forget them. He cares of them.

Do sparrows worry about food tomorrow? I don't think so. If they do, they would storage food in their nest. They just focus on food for today only.

Let me tell you the story.

A man, who is a business manager, flew to an island in Greece. He walked on the beach. He was called up on his mobile phone by his secretary, wanting some help. He gave her some instructions and told her to call him back when he had finished.

Then he noticed that a fisherman sat on the beach by his rowing boat He slept lightly.



The manager asked him, "The weather is great and there is lots of fish. How come you are sitting around here? You could be out there – catching more fish?"

The fisherman replied, " I caught enough this morning!"

The manager said, "If you went out twice a day, you could bring home twice as much fish. Do you know what could happen?"

The fisherman was puzzled. He shook his head. The manager said, "Well, you could buy yourself a motorboat. In few years, you could buy a second one. One day, you might be able to buy a freezing plant. Then you could go on to get your own helicopter to help you trace shoals of fish for your fishing fleet."

The fisherman replied, " and then what?" The manager said, 'You would not have to worry. You could then sit down calmly on the beach, and looking at the beautiful ocean."

The fisherman replied, " What do you think I am doing now?"

The point of the story is to focus on today instead of focusing on tomorrow.

God is with you **today**.

God provides you what you need for **today**.

God wants you to enjoy with His creation **today**.



**God takes care of your yesterday and tomorrow.
He gives you a new chance today to make your life better.**

Trinity Lutheran Deaf Church pitched in to buy school supplies for a Deaf school in Jamaica. Members were very happy to help when Pastor Beth ask for supplies. Trinity Deaf is pleased to be a part of this mission. Dee Horst, Deaf Ministry Coordinator



Chris Kissinger, a member of Trinity Lutheran Deaf Church-Reading, PA, packs supplies for Jamaica.

September, December, March and June

Read through this issue and let us know what you think. This is your newsletter; we want to know what topics and articles that you want to see in the newsletters. If there is a person, a church or something of interest that you want us to spotlight on, let us know! Feel free to send your feedback to President Linda Fairbanks, lindafairbanks22@gmail.com and I will share with our Newsletter Editor. Thanks!