



# ELDA

Volume • 8 Issue • 1 January 2010

*Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association*

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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hope you all had a nice Christmas and Happy New Year!!! Now, we are entering a New Year in 2010 with a new FAITH, HOPE and LOVE!!!

I have always admired those words: FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE. We need to keep in mind to use those words if we feel left out, hopeless, or if we have a problem with life. We need to use those wonderful words to remind ourselves that we can have a better life based on your motive in a bright side. How will that help you? Let's look at each word –



**FAITH** – God has a plan for us. He wants us to move from a struggle into a better understanding through experience. We need to believe and follow God's plan. Many people find it easy to say many negative things about ourselves or other people. This will cause more problems and won't improve your life. They do not see FAITH; they only see what they see. You can't become a strong person without faith. Let's use skill with faith, and learn from experiences while we are on the road of God's plan.

**HOPE** – When you have FAITH, you will learn more with HOPE. HOPE is to give you a guide and something for you to look forward to a better life. It's impossible to make a better life without FAITH and HOPE. You need to have both FAITH and

HOPE to be able to have a better life. We need to develop and set up with HOPE to find a way to positive planning. Let's use skill with HOPE, and learn with experience while you are on the road of God's plan.

**LOVE** – When you have FAITH and HOPE, you will learn more with LOVE. LOVE is to give you to get along with everyone. You can't have LOVE without having FAITH and HOPE. FAITH and HOPE is to make a person to have a good LOVE. LOVE can be includes care, support, share, laugh, understand, listen, respect, and accept. Let's use skill with LOVE, and learn with experience while you are on the road of God's plan.

Now, you can have all of those words – FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE! Let's join with us and follow God's plan in your heart!

God's Blessings,

*Mark Koterowski*

ELDA President

# FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings everyone from the ELDA Board! We have been meeting at least once a month online and finally, we had an opportunity to get together on July 19-21, 2009. Our board met in West Chester, PA and had a wonderful and enriching time. All the Board members were present; President Mark Koterwski, Vice President Luanne Bartens, Secretary Linda Fairbanks, Treasurer Connie Wallace, Past President/Pastoral Advisor Don Rosenkjar and Pastor Beth Lockard who is ELCA Coordinator for Deaf Ministries.

We discussed some business and reviewed the motions passed during our last ELDA conference. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and received. We discussed missions and we were able to view the pictures and video sent by Albert Sparks on his mission trip to Haiti. We also visited with Albert by videophone and learned more about the deaf in Haiti.

Our board also visited the Family Life Center in Malvern which is one of the sites for our next ELDA conference in 2010. We discussed changing the date of the conference and after our meeting, the conference committee announced that we will be using the Family Life Center in Malvern for our conference with new dates in August 2010. (see flyer elsewhere in this newsletter)

The Board has set up some goals/plans for ELDA which are both short term and long term planning:

- 1) Kids Camp
- 2) Interpreter workshops
- 3) Parent/youth retreats (directed retreat with retreat master(s))

- 4) Work camp
  - a) Habitat for Humanity
  - b) New Orleans
- 5) Brochures
- 6) Podcast in the ELDA website
- 7) Website upgrade
- 8) Banner/display booth
- 9) Outreach Mission work
  - a) Domestic
  - b) International

The Board will also work on the following: Marketing, ELDA Board restructuring, Spiritual and Outreach Ministries and have assigned Board members to each group. We will also continue to work on a 2 year budget plan.

Our meeting in PA was also a time for prayers, devotions and a worship service as well as social times during our meals and a visit to the home of Pastor Beth for a meal. The time we spent together seemed to go by quickly and we give thanks that it was well spent. Thanks be to God!

Linda Fairbanks  
ELDA Secretary

# FROM PASTOR BETH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As I write this, I know many of you are experiencing a bitterly cold, snowy and icy winter. This reminds us of God's power in and through nature. We cannot control it. We have an awesome God! I hope each of you is safe, warm, and helping others like the homeless who need special care during this winter season.

As you know, our ELDA Board met this past July and had some productive days of meeting and planning in West Chester, PA. Due to some scheduling conflicts, our ELDA Committee agreed to move the conference to August 5--8, 2010. The flyer explains the highlights and we will be meeting in a beautiful spiritual retreat place. There's a special altar background surprise, stations of the cross for personal meditation, and a forest with walking trails. Let's celebrate God's GREEN creation inside and outside as we gather together!

One of our members, Albert Sparks from Sheridan Lutheran Deaf Ministry in Lincoln, Nebraska, has been



telling us about his mission trips to the island of Haiti the last three summers. His church will be returning again and we are invited to join them. Your cost would be approximately \$1,500--\$1,700 plus airfare. You may get more information by calling Albert on VP at 402-261-2557. The church website is [sheridanlutheran.org](http://sheridanlutheran.org) and the pastor in charge of this trip is Rev. Rhode Bostrom. Their voice number is 402-423-4769. The church people give free medical and dental clinics while Albert interacts with the Deaf students. He will

be showing his DVD and telling about this mission opportunity at our ELDA Conference. Our Board is determining how we might offer support from ELDA. The Deaf students are starving for role models and must leave school after 6th grade. Few jobs are available and higher education is a dream of many. Albert has also gone to El Salvador with his church to work with Habitat for Humanity. He is the sister of Dorothy Sparks from Minneapolis. Let's salute Albert's servant work in other countries!!

I wrote this before the earthquake hit Haiti. I recently contacted Albert again and their church trip is on hold due to the damage to the airport and roads. He encouraged us to go to the website [www.hopeinhaiti.org](http://www.hopeinhaiti.org) which will show us how to support the Deaf people there. Many Lutheran churches are involved in this organization. Our ELDA Board will be in contact with the pastoral workers to alert them of possible ways we can aid the Deaf Haitians. One way is through our mission fund, HOPE. Another is a possible working trip with Albert's church. And still another way is through Lutheran Disaster Relief. We will be back in touch as soon as we can. Meanwhile, our prayers are with all those affected by the earthquake.

This newsletter is now being prepared by Jason Andera of Peace Deaf Lutheran in Sioux Falls. Leslie Riggs is taking a much-needed rest from her years of service as newsletter editor AND website coordinator. We thank Leslie for all her time and effort that went into preparing both and welcome Jason who will now assist the ELDA Board. We look forward to thanking both of them in person at our ELDA conference in August.

May God's Spirit inspire each of you to reach out to others.

Blessings,

Pastor Beth Lockard  
ELCA Deaf Ministries coordinator

# **Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association Conference**

## **August 5 – 8, 2010**

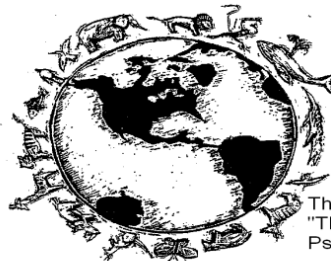
### **McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center**

### **Malvern, Pennsylvania**



- Gather with your Deaf Lutheran friends from all over the United States
- Stay in air-conditioned rooms at the McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center
- Family Rates (two double beds & private bath in each room and wheelchair accessible)
- Exciting Youth Activities (No Extra Cost)
- Inspiring workshops and worship opportunities in God's beautiful world
- Tour historical Philadelphia or the famed Longwood Gardens
- Watch the newest Deaf movie, "Universal Signs" made in Philadelphia

**Hosted by:**  
**Christ the King Deaf Church, West Chester**  
**St. Philip's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Philadelphia**  
**Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, Lancaster**



Theme:  
"The Earth is the Lord's."  
Psalm 24:1

### **ELDA 2010 Registration Form**

Please print clearly, fill in and mail this page with payment to WOLD:

Gordon Bartens  
16 Springcrest Dr.  
Akron, PA 17501  
**Deadline: June 25, 2010**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VP / TTY  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VP / TTY

1. Pastoral Workers (August 1 at 5 pm to August 8 at noon)  
[Retreat Sunday 5 pm to Tuesday pm] \$480.00 Single \_\_\_\_\_
2. ELDA Board (August 4 to 8) \$400.00 Single \_\_\_\_\_  
[Meeting Wednesday and Thursday] \$720.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_
3. Conference Attendees (August 5 to 8) \$250.00 Single \_\_\_\_\_  
[Thursday pm to Sunday am] \$535.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_
4. Commuters (No rooms) \$35.00 a day \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Day(s) x 35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Check out time Noon on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**(Lunch on your own)**

**Tour Costs (Friday)** (Pick one)

- A. Historical Philadelphia (<http://constitutioncenter.org>) \$20.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_  
B. Longwood Gardens ([www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org)) \$12.00 per adult \_\_\_\_\_  
(Scooters Available) \$ 3.00 per child \_\_\_\_\_

**Flying in?**

We recommend you fly to Philadelphia International Airport

Arriving: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Departing: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your pager number: \_\_\_\_\_ (so we can be in touch if needed)

**Special Needs?** (Please circle)

**Interpreter/Assistive Needs:** Voice Interpreter: Y N

Other (please explain need): \_\_\_\_\_

**Mobility Needs:** Wheelchair Y N

**Special Meal Needs:** Vegetarian Diabetic

Any questions,  
please call **CTK 484-319-4256 (VP)** or email Connie Wallace at **[consuewal@verizon.net](mailto:consuewal@verizon.net)**

The article below was written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild. I have reduced the article down to fit in our ELDA Newsletter. I hope you will enjoy reading it, and consider giving something extra to your church and ELDA's Thanksgiving appeal. I came across this little story in a book and I would like to share it with you today.

*One afternoon a shopper at the local mall felt the need for a coffee break. She bought herself a little bag of cookies and put them in her shopping bag. She then got in line for coffee, found a place to sit at one of the crowded tables, and then taking the lid off her coffee and taking out a magazine she began to sip her coffee and read. Across the table from her a man sat reading a newspaper.*

*After a minute or two she reached out and took a cookie. As she did, the man seated across the table reached out and took one too. This put her off, but she did not say anything.*

*A few moments later she took another cookie. Once again the man did so too. Now she was getting a bit upset, but still she did not say anything.*

*After having a couple of sips of coffee she once again took another cookie. So did the man. She was really upset by this - especially since now only one cookie was left. Apparently the man also realized that only one cookie was left. Before she could say anything he took it, broke it in half, offered half to her, and proceeded to eat the other half himself. Then he smiled at her and, putting the paper under his arm, rose and walked off.*

*Was she steamed. Her coffee break ruined, already thinking ahead of how she would tell this offense to her family, she folded her magazine, opened her shopping bag, and there discovered her own unopened bag of cookies.*



I like that story - it makes me think about how well God treats me even when I am not treating him well or thinking all that kindly about him.

It speaks of how everything we have is a gift from God, a gift worked upon by our hands, most certainly; a gift perhaps even enhanced by our own strength, but a gift nonetheless, for God gives us the hands we need, and God gives us the strength we have.

Would that I would remember this at all times - it would make my life so much easier, and it would bless everyone around me, and it would bless God.

Not so long ago famous people all over the world were polled by a magazine which asked them the question - "if you could be granted one wish that will come true right now - what would that be?"

There were some very interesting responses - but one response impressed the magazine's editors so much that they commented on. That response was this -

I wish that I could be given an even greater ability to appreciate all that I already have."

It is an interesting answer, an interesting thing to wish for.

What do you think would happen if each one of us suddenly became a more thankful person? If all of us suddenly became a more appreciative people?

I don't know what comes to your minds - but I know for sure that when I was younger my mother would have been really pleased; and now that I am older - well I know that my wife would be very happy if I expressed my appreciation a little bit more than I already do - I know that because she tells me so whenever I am apparently forgetting who she is and what she does.

No one likes to be taken for granted - or to see someone that they love taking things for granted.

All of us like to be appreciated, all of us like to be thanked, and all of us, I believe, like to see those we love live thankful lives, appreciative lives, so much so that we teach our children this virtue

- at our supper tables,
- during birthday parties,
- in the middle of visits from their grandparents,
- and just about anytime that they are receiving something from someone or asking someone for something.

It is a great thing to teach our kids to say please and thank you, it helps them out in this world, and it is a great thing to be appreciated, to be thanked; but as we think with holy and prayerful minds today - as we thank God in our worship service for the harvest we are all enjoying, I ask you - as I ask myself - where is your sense of thankfulness at? How complete is it? How deep does it run in your life?

I Thessalonians, chapter five, verse eighteen says

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

and in Ephesians, chapter five, where Paul is telling new Christians how they should live, it says:

"Give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Give thanks in all circumstances.  
Give thanks for everything.  
Give thanks at all times.

This is a step beyond remembering God and thanking God for all the wealth that we enjoy in this our promised land.

This is a step beyond remembering God and obeying his commands because he has given us fine houses and filled our bellies.

This is even a step beyond thanking God, as the leper thanked God, for healing him through Jesus of his disease.

How about you? Do you have a faith that is thankful in everything?

It's something to think about especially it is something to think about when you consider the power of thanksgiving and of how not only are we blessed or rewarded for it, but so is God and all those around us.

Giving thanks blesses the person who is thanked and it transforms the person who gives thanks.

It works the same way everywhere, with everyone, even with God --when we remember..

When we forget - hard things get harder.

God wants us to celebrate his love. God wants us to give thanks in everything.

- Don Rosenkjar  
Pastoral Advisor

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

This is the part of the newsletter where you can help! We want to know “what’s happening” in your ministry. Send us stories, pictures, articles or anything of interest. Please email to [jason@peacelutheran.com](mailto:jason@peacelutheran.com)

St. Matthews (CA) [www.stmatthewsnoho.org](http://www.stmatthewsnoho.org)  
Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry (WI) [www.hocdeaf.org](http://www.hocdeaf.org)  
Christ the King Deaf Church (PA) [www.ckdeafchurch.org](http://www.ckdeafchurch.org)  
Bread of Life Deaf Church (MN) [www.breadoflifedeaf.org](http://www.breadoflifedeaf.org)  
Heartland Ephphatha Ministries (SD) [www.deaffaith.com](http://www.deaffaith.com)

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Hello from Word of Life Deaf Church!

We want to share our exciting news about a special worship service we had on Sept. 27, 2009. It was very special because our synod bishop, Rev. B. Penrose Hoover came and preached at our church. This is the first time that any Bishop visited our congregation and preached in worship!! We did a Vespers service, which is also called Evening Prayer. I helped lead the liturgy with Pastor Russ, which was a great honor to do. Before the worship, I was so nervous, but when I met Bishop Hoover, I felt his warm welcome and comfort which gave me some peace. Many people - both hearing and deaf - came for worship (before the worship, there was wonderful fellowship with light refreshments.) It was a great opportunity to increase awareness of Deaf ministry and to build bridges between the Deaf and Hearing worlds. Many hearing people told Pastor Russ later that they were touched by the service.

WE THANK GOD for the unique opportunity we had for worship. We truly felt blessed!

Peace,  
On behalf of WOLD  
Luanne Bartens



Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry  
[www.hocdeaf.org](http://www.hocdeaf.org)  
HOC Choir



Heartland Ephphatha Ministries put together a video of their sign choir. You can view it at [www.deaffaith.com/videos.html](http://www.deaffaith.com/videos.html)



Bread of Life  
[www.breadoflifedeaf.org](http://www.breadoflifedeaf.org)  
 Sharing the peace at  
 Bread of Life until flu sea-  
 son is over.



Bread of Life  
[www.breadoflifedeaf.org](http://www.breadoflifedeaf.org)  
 Bread of Life has a new website. Go  
 check it out. It has a great photo gallery  
 and lots of information.

# FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Friends in Christ:

We have received some generous gifts to Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association these past six months. I would like to spread the word and thank each of you for your love gifts which will enable ELDA to continue its mission and ministry in many different ways.

A heartfelt thank you to:

- Word of Life Deaf Lutheran (2009 Annual Dues - \$100.00)
- St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (2009 Annual Dues - \$100.00)
- Christ the King Deaf Church (2009 Annual Dues - \$100.00)
- Christ Through Hands Ministry (2009 Annual Dues - \$100.00)
- Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry (2009 Annual Dues - \$100.00)
- St. Philip's Lutheran Church of the Deaf (2009 Annual Dues - \$100.00)
- Heartland Ephphatha Deaf Ministry (2009 Annual Dues- \$100)
- Jason & Sarah Andera, Sioux Falls, SD (Thanksgiving Appeal, \$100)

Please remember your 2010 dues which are \$100.00 for each ministry and are due immediately. We still need your annual support so that we can keep ELDA doing God's work with our hands. The earthquake in Haiti just happened and they need our prayers and financial support. That reminds me that it is time for our Lenten Appeal which will support our HOPE mission fund. Please consider an extra donation for that cause.

All checks may be sent to "ELDA" at the above address on the letterhead.

EXTRA, EXTRA, Please save the date!! Our next ELDA conference date will be August 5 – 8 in Pennsylvania. Please see the flyer. The flyer and registration form are in this newsletter. We hope to see you all in Pennsylvania next summer.

In Christ,

Connie Wallace

Jan 8. 2009

Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association, office of treasurer  
730 South New Street  
West Chester, PA 19382

Dear Friends in Christ,

More than 12 years ago, the Hands of Christ Ecumenical Deaf Ministry (HOC) was formed, made possible by the visionary leaders, pastors and lay persons of five denominations – ELCA Lutheran, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, and Episcopal – in northeast central Wisconsin. HOC's mission is *"To serve and spread the Good News of Jesus in church and beyond in sign language."*

For the last several years, financial support from the five judicatory leaders has regretfully diminished as other ministry needs have taken precedence. With the departure earlier this year of HOC's part-time, ASL-fluent pastor, Gisele Berninghaus, for a full-time call, the HOC Administrative and Spiritual Boards began praying about and planning for HOC's future. On the advice of the five judicatory leaders, the board members began searching for a hearing congregation as a home for HOC.

God led us to a new home and future for HOC. In 2010 HOC will continue its ministry from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Neenah. Our Savior's pastor, Catherine Mode, wrote recently,

"I am pleased and thankful to announce that our council is very happy to welcome Hands of Christ into our ministry and we know that no doubt we will be blessed by their presence with us. Of course there are many details that we need to address, which will take a little time but for now I just want to pass on a heartfelt Welcome!"

Your support of HOC and its Deaf Choir over the years has been truly appreciated. We are grateful to God for your generosity. Although HOC brings with it to Our Savior's funds that we believe are sufficient to support HOC for three to four years, HOC has not been, nor will it be a self-supporting ministry. HOC will rely on support from Our Savior's, from individuals, and *from other congregations like yours.*

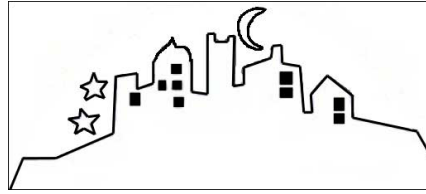
HOC is a much needed ministry in our communities and its outreach to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will continue from Our Savior's. We pray that your support of HOC will also continue.

God's Blessings on The Way!  
HOC Administrative and Spiritual Boards

C: Pastor Catherine Mode, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial St.,  
Neenah WI 54956, (920) 725-3956, [www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org)



Evangelical  
Lutheran Deaf  
Association



ELDA SHINING LIGHT AWARD

“Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in Heaven.”  
(Matthew 5:16)

This award is for any individual in recognition of his or her outstanding Christ-like ideals demonstrated through his or her work.

Individual Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why this person has been nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is nominating this person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

TTY \_\_\_\_\_

VP \_\_\_\_\_

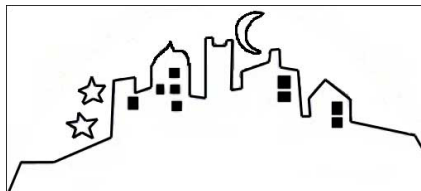
Voice \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your nomination to:  
Linda Fairbanks ELDA Secretary  
1083 280th St. Mahnomon, MN 56557

or to [eldasecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:eldasecretary@yahoo.com)



Evangelical  
Lutheran Deaf  
Association



#### ELDA CITY ON A HILL AWARD

"You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14)

This award is for any congregation or organization in recognition of their donation of resources, programs, or ministries that strengthen the Church's outreach to Deaf people with the Gospel anywhere.

Church Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why this church or ministry has been nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is nominating this church or ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

TTY \_\_\_\_\_

VP \_\_\_\_\_

Voice \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your nomination to:

Linda Fairbanks ELDA Secretary  
1083 280th St. Mahnomon, MN 56557

or to [eldasecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:eldasecretary@yahoo.com)