



ELDA

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



Mark Koterwski
ELDA President

GREETING EVERYONE!

I would like to share an update of what the ELDA Board has worked on since the ELDA Conference in Sioux Falls. We have set up committees to work on several tasks

1) to develop strategies to best promote our ministry at Churchwide,

2) standing committee to focus on providing training in the following areas:

-Deaf lay and ordained leaders, future Deaf ministry leaders, and church interpreters

3) to increase efforts to connect with existing interpreted ministries and to identify potential sites for new deaf ministries in various models.

4) to work with the ECD Board as we arrange a joint conference in 2014.

5) to set up criteria for screening pastoral workers (we will work with ELCA to set up this guideline).

The ELDA Board will have Board meeting in Chicago, IL during June 20 – 22, 2013. If you have any concerns, questions, or even any idea how we can serve the deaf and hard of hearing from a national perspective, please feel free to contact one of our board members. You can find our board members' contact information via www.eldadeaf.org.

We are excited that ECD and ELDA have started plans to host the conference for 2014. It will be named as "The Deaf Co-Convention of the Episcopalians and the Evangelical Lutherans". We will host this event at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, New York on July 28th– Aug 2nd, 2014. The ECD has started to roll up their sleeves to get ready for our convention. The ELDA will work with ECD to make this progress smoothly as possible. I know it will take two years, but time will go fast! You can join Facebook "The Deaf Co-Convention of the Episcopalians and the Evangelical Lutheran" for update of our plan. I would suggest that you and your church start fundraising to save money for this trip to New York. It will be the first time for us to have two denominations join together for a conference.

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LEARN HOW
TO DEVELOP
YOUR PRAYER
LIFE

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT.)

The Easter is getting closer! Lutheran Churches already plan to get ready for Easter. We are celebrating that Jesus is risen! The dates for those events are:

The ELDA has a HOPE Fund to provide support for Seminary Pastors, Global Missions, Countries' need, etc. We appreciate if you consider a donation for our fund for us to continue to provide for those who are in need of our support. If you have donated for HOPE fund in past please accept our thanks! You can send money to Jeff Panek, Treasurer, c/o Peace Lutheran Church, 5509 West 41st St., Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

If you know anyone who wants to read ELDA Newsletter, please feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and families. If they want to subscribe ELDA newsletter, they can either contact Jason Andera at jason.andera@gmail.com or click ELDA newsletter on www.eldadeaf.org.

Happy Easter!!!
Mark Koterwski
ELDA President

SEDER MEAL AT CTK

As Christ the King members and friends gathered March 15 for our monthly Family Night, we had a new experience--we celebrated a Jewish Passover Seder meal. The round tables were set with white tablecloths, goblets and good dishes. We sat facing a long head table at which



our hosts sat with candles. We had both Deaf and hearing and Gentile and Jewish people together. It was a night to remember.

Mary, an interpreter in the Philadelphia area, and her husband BJ guided us through the meal and explained the connection to the first Passover when the Jews painted their doorposts with lamb's blood and God's Angel of Death "passed over" their homes and killed the firstborn son of the Egyptians which allowed them to escape after 400 years of slavery. You can find this story in the book of Exodus in the
(Continued on page 5)



Close up of the lamb shank, parsley (bitter herbs), egg, and horseradish used in the ceremony plus the four glasses of wine that represent an "I will" promise from God. You can also see the flat matzah bread, the sweet Charoseth, and the bowl of salt water in the background.

HOPE FUND

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

***Office of the Treasurer
c/o Peace Lutheran Church
5509 West 41st ST
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
jbpanek@iw.net***

DATE: Spring 2013
TO: All ELCA Deaf Ministries
FROM: ELDA Treasurer Jeff Panek

Dear Friends in Christ:

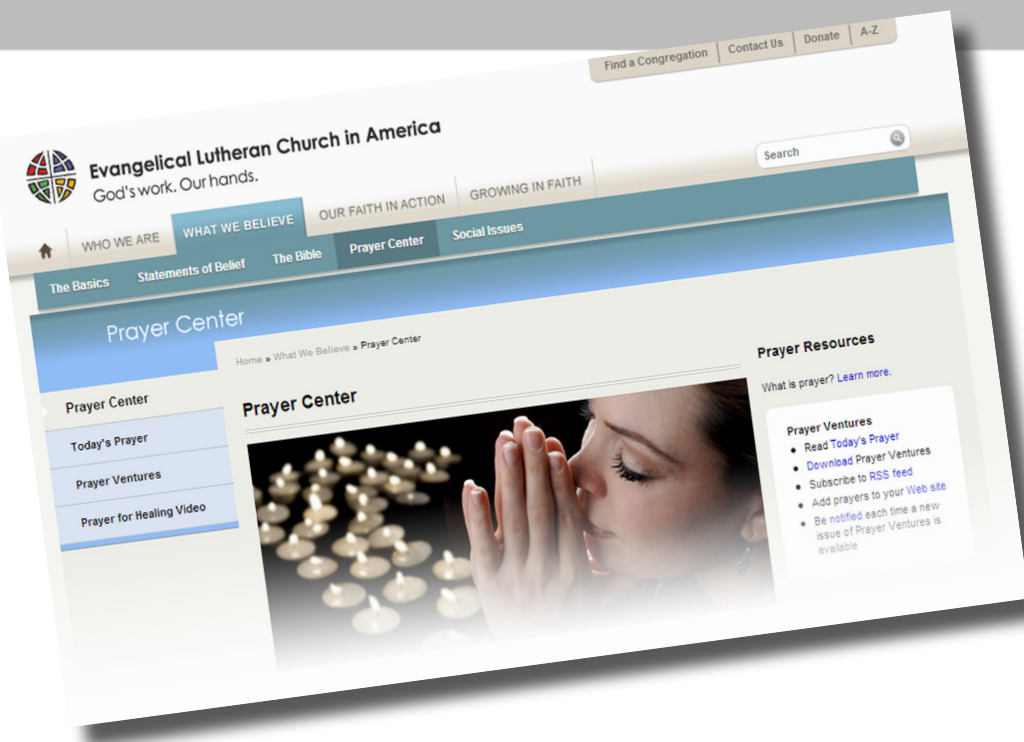
As we approach the spring season, we encourage each church to remember our annual **Lenten Appeal**. Gifts to this appeal go into ELDA Hope mission Fund to help to support the mission to help other people. We give these gifts in lenten for all God gives us each day. **Lenten Appeal** donations will be accepted through April 15.

Thanks to all the Deaf ministries who sent in their 2013 dues. Kindly pay your dues if you have not yet done so. We want to keep ELDA doing "God's work with our hands." All checks may be sent to "ELDA" at the above address on the letterhead.

In Christ,

Jeff Panek,
ELDA Treasurer

PRAYER



If you've never prayed, or don't know how, you'll find that it's easy to begin — and it can bring great peace and joy to your life.

Just go to the ELCA website and go to their prayer center. You will find helpful ways to pray and information about prayer.

It will make a big difference in your day!

ELDA ONLINE

Remember our website is www.ELDADeaf.org
our facebook page is:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ELDADeaf/>

NEWS

Please help our newsletter! Send me your pictures and stories about your ministry. We'd love to put it in our next newsletter.

WORLD IN THE NEWS

Read the article in the Lancaster Online edition last August
[HTTP://LANCASTERONLINE.COM/ARTICLE/LOCAL/716206_THE-SIGN-OF-THE-CROSS.HTML](http://LANCASTERONLINE.COM/ARTICLE/LOCAL/716206_THE-SIGN-OF-THE-CROSS.HTML)

The sign of the cross

With steady leadership and a home base, deaf church growing, reaching out



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Originally Published Aug 17, 2012 22:34

By JOAN KERN
Correspondent

Jeannette Fischer is easy-going and happy

And she's deaf.

Fischer, 52, of East Earl Township, grew up in Lutheran Church, where she serves as its c

SEDER MEAL (CONTINUED)

Bible.

Mary and BJ are Christians and explained the connection to the Last Supper Jesus gave His disciples the night before He died. This helped us to better understand the Lord's Supper we share in our Christian churches today. Everything has deep meaning that we discovered together.

While the Jewish people all over the world remember their suffering as slaves in Egypt and celebrate God's gift of freedom from slavery, we remember our suffering as slaves to sin and how God sent Jesus to set us free.

Two of the kids in our group asked five questions: Why is this night different from all other nights? Why on other nights do we eat bread with yeast but tonight only matzah? Other nights we eat vegetables and herbs of many varieties but why do we only eat bitter herbs tonight? Other nights we never dip herbs in water. Why do we dip the green herbs in salt water tonight? Other nights we eat sitting up so why do we lean to the left tonight?

Four glasses of wine symbolize four promises God gave Israel: Sanctification, Judgment, Redemption, and Praise.

During the Cup of Sanctification, we dipped the parsley in salt water to

remind us of the bitterness and tears of slavery. During the Cup of Judgment, ten drops were taken out of the wine to represent the ten plagues used to punish Egypt.

Each table had three matzah pieces representing unity (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob). The middle was broken and hidden. For Christians, they represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So the breaking of the middle one is the death of Jesus. It has holes which remind us Jesus was pierced in his hands, feet, and side. It is striped as Jesus was whipped ("By His stripes, we are healed"), It is wrapped in white cloth as Jesus was buried in white linen and hidden.

We then ate sweet Charoseth to remind us of the hope of deliverance. We enjoyed a baked chicken dinner and then continued with the Seder.

During the Cup of Redemption, the kids searched for the middle broken matzah bread called Afikomen which means "I have come." Jesus came for us! The lamb shank bone reminds us Jesus is the Passover Lamb who sacrificed His life for our sins.



Our hosts, Mary and Bobby Joe Reff who guided us through the Seder.

We finished with the Cup of Praise. God has promised to make us His people, He sanctified us, broken our bondage, redeemed us, and wants us to be His people. That is why we praise Him!

We ended with more prayers and dessert. It was a night to remember and celebrate!

SPIRITUAL ADVICE

THE PRODIGAL SON : LUKE 15

11 Jesus also told them another story:

Once a man had two sons. 12 The younger son said to his father, "Give me my share of the property." So the father divided his property between his two sons.

13 Not long after that, the younger son packed up everything he owned and left for a foreign country, where he wasted all his money in wild living. 14 He had spent everything, when a bad famine spread through that whole land. Soon he had nothing to eat.

15 He went to work for a man in that country, and the man sent him out to take care of his pigs.[a] 16 He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating,[b] but no one gave him a thing.

17 Finally, he came to his senses and said, "My father's workers have plenty to eat, and here I am, starving to death! 18 I will go to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer good enough to be called your son. Treat me like one of your workers.'"

20 The younger son got up and started back to his father. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him.



21 The son said, "Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son."

22 But his father said to the servants, "Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. Give him a ring

for his finger and sandals[c] for his feet. 23 Get the best calf and prepare it, so we can eat and celebrate. 24 This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life. He was lost and has now been found." And they began to celebrate.

25 The older son had been out in the field. But when he came near the house, he heard the music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants over and asked, "What's going on here?"

27 The servant answered, "Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father ordered us to kill the best calf." 28 The older brother got so angry that he would not even go into the house.

His father came out and begged him to go in. 29 But he said to his father, "For years I have worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you. But you have never even given me a little goat, so that I could give a dinner for my friends. 30 This other son of yours wasted your money on prostitutes. And now that he has come home, you ordered the best calf to be killed for a feast."

31 His father replied, "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but he is now alive. He was lost and has now been found."



Our Pastoral advisor Susan Masters has put together a video message about the "Prodigal Son". Please take a few minutes to watch this at

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=Rff3I-TXVRM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rff3I-TXVRM)