

## ELDA

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Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association

a ministry of the Evangelcal Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



Linda Fairbanks ELDA President

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Linda Fairbanks

"How Great Thou Art" Verse 1
O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!

Time surely has flown by and soon it will be time once again for the ELDA Conference! Our conference theme is "Bringing God's Love to the Deaf World" and it is a wonderful theme to remind everyone that we need to think about and pray for those Deaf children and adults in developing countries. We are thankful that we have mission teams that are able to go to Jamaica, Haiti and other countries to bring God's love to those who are starving to know more about Jesus.

Once again, we welcome our Episcopal and United Methodist brothers and sisters to join together with us at the ELDA Conference. We will also have a special guest, Pastor Ruth Ulea from Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria who will be with us during the ELDA Conference. She will be spending 6 weeks in America and will have the opportunity to visit different Deaf churches, ASL interpreted churches and some schools, and Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. She will also be going to work with Mark Koterwski at Communication Services for the Deaf, CSD. Thanks for your support to allow Pastor Ruth to learn about the services CSD and all of our ELDA Deaf ministries have to offer.

ELDA has several committees and we have been working to finish up our committee work so we can give reports at the conference. Some of our committees are Bylaws, Interpreted Ministries, ELCA Global, Deaf Lay ministry leader and Ordained Ministry, ELDA Conference, Mill Neck Foundation for Pastor Ruth's trip, ELM, Award Program and Jamaica Mission Trip. Jason Andera continues to work with our website and the newsletters which continue to get sent out 4 times a year.

The ELDA Board continues to meet at least once a month. Our meetings have been through Z Conference and we were recently given our "own" phone number and passcode. We will be able to make conference calls for up to 5 hours any Thursday

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ELDA Conference Approaching

LAY MINISTER Class

DEAF Grassroots Movement

NEWS AND Notes on Churches

AND MORE...

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT.)

evening. We are fortunate to be able to do that and it makes my job easier since I do not have to call Z Conference every time we plan to meet.

The ELDA Board is looking forward to meeting each of our conference delegates. We will hold business meetings, an election, and an award program. There will be several workshops with wonderful presenters, opportunities for devotions, worship and even a day trip to the Mall Of America. I hope that everyone will have the opportunity to attend all the events planned at the conference. For those of you who are talented, there will be skits on Friday evening. There is a church service at the Bread of Life Lutheran Deaf Church (BOLD) on the last day, Sunday the 24th. The church is only 3 ½ miles from St Catherine's University where we will be staying.

If you have any questions about the upcoming conference, please feel free to contact me at lindafairbanks22@gmail.com and I will try to get the answers for you. Thanks! As we get closer to conference time, some of us will be sharing our text numbers. We want you all to have safe travels to Minnesota. We are "Bringing God's Love to the Deaf World"!

Peace, Linda

### NEWS AND NOTES

**WORD OF LIFE DEAF** in Lancaster, Pennsylvania has a worship time change for the summer. The new worship time is 10:00 a.m. WOLD plans to join CTK at their "picnic in-the-park" worship on the last Sunday of August. WOLD's popular Wednesday night bible study will take a summer break. Pauline Johnston will attend the synod assembly as WOLD's delegate. WOLD had a "Meal-and-a-Movie" event on May 7th. Over 30 people attended. Napkins were handed out for the spaghetti lunch, and tissues were handed out at the end of the movie, "Little Boy."

**HEARTLAND EPHPHATHA MINISTRIES** in South Dakota has a worship time change for the summer, at 9:30 a.m. HEM will be serving a meal to the vacation Bible school on June 28.

TRINITY LUTHERAN DEAF in Reading Pennsylvania hosts an event once per month for Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors in the area. For the past ten years, Deaf Senior Center has been one of our monthly outreach programs. Seniors gather for fellowship in the church social hall. Residents from Valley View Residential Facility For Deaf Senior Citizens travel one hour from Malvern, PA to get here. We are proud to provide an accessible space for our guests. Some individuals come with wheelchairs and walkers. One man is blind. Highlights of each gathering are games, a homecooked lunch, and fellowship. Attendees play a Deaf card game called Dingo and eat a lunch prepared by members of the Deaf Congregation. Several times a year, students in the American Sign Language classes at Reading Area Community College (RACC) Attend. The older Deaf members enjoy signing to and with the students. Many people share their time and talent to this Deaf Senior Center, including Deaf Ministry Coordinator Dee Horst and Interim Deaf Ministry Pastor Rick Chaveas. Sue Shellong is a regular volunteer from the hearing church. Deaf congregation member Barbara Hartman prepares delicious food for lunch, assisted by the Lutz family. -- Dee Horst, Deaf Ministry Coordinator, Trinity Lutheran Deaf Church, Reading, PA

## DEAF GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

The Deaf Grassroots Movement rallies took place on May 4th, 2016 in each state capitol in all over U.S. Several members from Word of Life Deaf Church (Lancaster, PA) and Christ the King Deaf Church (West



Chester, PA) went to the Deaf Rally at Capitol building in Harrisburg, PA to make some noise for Deaf rights. It is not over yet! The current ADA law is still weak in regards to breaking the barriers between the deaf and hearing communities across the country. The goal is to protect Deaf rights and improve equality specifically in three areas: Communication, Education, and Job opportunities. Communication between the deaf and hearing community/ equal access to spoken information needs to be improved— ex: providing interpreters when requested and adding closed captions to public screens. Education for the Deaf needs to improve to reflect the standards that are currently expected from our nation's public schools with a specific focus on a Bilingual program in which deaf students can learn English

through their own native language, ASL. Jobs—About 70-75 percent of Deaf people don't have jobs largely due to the discrimination and ignorance by employers. This is why we are trying to get Legislator attention. We are committed to the resolution of these serious problems within the Deaf community in these different aspects of oppression and discrimination. It is past the time for change. We have to make some noise in order to encourage our government to do something. We pray that God will give us wisdom, grace, and strength not to give up and to endure this battle until we succeed. We need everyone's help to work together: Deaf people, Hearing parents of Deaf child, CODAs/SODAs, Interpreters, Teachers for the deaf, ASL students, friends, or anyone who feels inspired by our cause. ANYONE is welcome to join our fight. Gordon worked hard to recruit enough people to fill the reserved bus for our trip from Lancaster to Harrisburg. The bus held 56 people. On the day of the trip 10 did not show up but he still felt accomplished in the support for Deaf rights. We all wore green shirts to signify our unity in this cause and to distinguish us from the crowds. We marched through the streets of Harrisburg with signs and banners to raise awareness about our movement. Many people looked at us curiously and some even peeked out of buildings to see what was going on. At the rally we heard the personal stories and struggles



of many of the deaf people that came. We were all able to connect to each other through these shared oppressive experiences. We would all cheer and shout following the personal stories and to gain the attention of anyone who might be in the building. I was inspired by all of the loud noise that we were making inside the building. You could feel our shouts bouncing off of the walls and creating vibrations. The noise was thrilling! Over 150 deaf were in attendance at the capitol building in Harrisburg alone! On Facebook we were able to see videos from many of the other state's rallies and see how many deaf and friend's of the deaf came out to be a part of this movement. It was great to see how much support we are generating. We won't give up until we are heard.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Pastor Beth Lockard

Dear ELDA Friends...

Summer is here! Many exciting things are happening for ELDA!

St. Matthew's Lutheran in North Hollywood welcomed a new pastor, Stephanie Jaeger, whom you will meet a the ELDA conference. At her installation May 14, part of the offering taken was given to ELDA. We thank St. Matthew's for their lvoe gifty!

As I write this, Pastor Ruth Ulea of Deaf Lutheran Church of Christ, Nigeria is en-route to visit America for six weeks. She will visit different ELDA Deaf ministries, Deaf schools and social service programs, and finish with a week at our ELDA conference. Here is what her schedule is like:

June 11--Arrival in Philadelphia and visit with Christ the King

June 13--14,,,Visit to Mill Neck School for the Deaf, NY; visit ASL class

June 15--Ruth's birthday; visit to PA School for the Deaf and a Deaf refugee class

June 16--Visit to Longwood Gardens

June 17--Presentation at CTK

June 19--Preaching at CTK

June 20--21...Visit to Gallaudet University & Andrew Fsoter Auditorium; visit with Deaf Nigerian students June 24--Arrival at Word of Life Deaf Lutheran in Lancaster

June 25--Presentation at WOLD

June 26-July 1...sightseeing in Amish country

July 2--Arrival at Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran in Minneapolis

July 3--8...Independence Day celebration, Lake Duluth, Synod office visit, etc.

July 9--Presentation at BOLD

July 11--Arrival at Heartland Ephphatha Deaf Ministry in Sioux Falls

July 12--16--visiting CSD social services, presentation at HEM

July 17-24...ELDA
conference;
leads
workshop on
July 22
July
26--Departure
for Nigeria
from
Minneapolis





Then in September, we will send our fourth mission team to lead a Vacation Bible School and help with projects at Jamaican Christian School for the Deaf in Montego Bay. The team is identified on another page in this newsletter. You are invited to purchase items at the ELDA conference which are made by Deaf Jamaicans. You will also be able to sponsor a student in the VBS by "buying" a T-shirt at the conference or by donating money or school supplies. The theme this year is "Diving Into the Depth of God's Love."

Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Travel blessings, Pastor Beth Lockard ELCA Deaf Ministries

#### **Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association/ELM Conference**



"15-minute skit, any topic"

# Skit Contest

*Time*: 8:45 pm to 10:00 pm

Where: St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN

When: Friday, July 22, 2016

Who: Any group or individual who is interested

in drama.

What: Three winners will receive gift cards.



#### 2016 JAMAICA MISSION TEAM

## September 8—17, 2016 Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf, Montego Bay

Lori Fuller—Deaf, Clearwater, FL, vocational rehabilitation counselor Jacob LeVasseur—Hearing, West Chester, computer programmer Nicholas LeVasseur—Hearing, West Chester, carpenter Stephanie LeVasseur—Hearing, West Chester, high school student Pr. Beth Lockard—Deaf, West Chester, pastor & teacher Bill Lockard—Hearing, West Chester, human services director Jeff Panek—Deaf, Sioux Falls, store employee Karen Pugh—Deaf, St. Paul, MN, SSP and ASL teacher Robert Pugh—Deaf, St. Paul, MN, retired printer Amy Schoen—Hearing, Philadelphia, accountant Dorothy Sparks—Deaf, Minneapolis, Associate in Ministry

Some of these team members will be leading a Vacation Bible School while others will be doing handyman jobs around the school. Please pray for a safe and productive trip that helps the school accomplish their goals.

JCSD"s wish list includes school supplies. The team will also accept unwanted luggage with wheels for the supplies, student-appropriate captioned DVDs, and library books for their new library and computer rooms being built with Mill Neck support. Money donations brought to ELDA will be given to the school.

Thank you to ELDA and Lori Fuller & family for their \$\$ donations and to Mill Neck Lutheran Friends of the Deaf for their grant for ground transportation

## 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

#### **ELDA 2016 REGISTRATION FORM**

Please print clearly, fill in and mail this page with payment to: Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, ELDA Conference 2901 38<sup>th</sup> Ave So, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

| NAME:                                     |   | Email: <sub>_</sub>                    |                                 |                 |             |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Street:                                   | VP  |  |                                 |                 |             |
|   |   |  |                                 |                 |             |
| Church or Orga                            | anization:  |  |                                 |                 |             |
| Emergency Co                              | ntact: Name:  |  |                                 |                 |             |
| Text, VP, or Ph                           | ione#   |  | Female                          | or M            | ale         |
| 1) <u>Pastoral W</u><br>(Arrive on Sunday | afternoon, July 17 & leave  | J                                      | •                               |                 |             |
| 2) <u>ELDA Boar</u><br>(Arrive on Wednes  | <del>·a:</del><br>sday morning, July 20 & lea   | ive on Sunday mor                      | ning, July 24                   | ) \$ 400.00     | per person  |
| 3) <u>Conference</u><br>(Arrive on Thursd | <u>Attendees:</u><br>day afternoon, July 21 & lea   | ave on Sunday moi                      | rning, July 24                  | ) \$ 325.00     | per person  |
| 4) <u>Commuters:</u>                      | : (no rooms) (Includes sur<br>(No rooms) (Includes lur<br>(No rooms) (Includes lur<br>(No rooms) (Includes ba | nch and supper on<br>nch and banquet o | Friday) \$ 50<br>n Saturday) \$ | .00<br>\$ 60.00 | <del></del> |
|   | (No   | on Refundable)                         |                                 |                 |             |
|   | n suite apartments (include<br>e four bedrooms on the ca<br>Please list pref                                  |  | the street fr                   | om the ca       |             |
| 2) Other (P<br>3) Mobility                | eter/Assistant Needs: Voice<br>Please explain need<br>Needs: Wheelchair Y or N<br>Meal Needs: Vegetarian, Dia |  |                                 |                 |             |

\* <u>Are you interested in going to Mall of America? - Yes or No</u> (Largest mall in the United States with more than 520 stores)

#### PLEASE REGISTER EARLY, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED:

- \* Early Bird Deadline: February 29, 2016
- \* Payment by March 31 pay \$50 more per person
- \* Payment by April 30 pay \$100 more per person

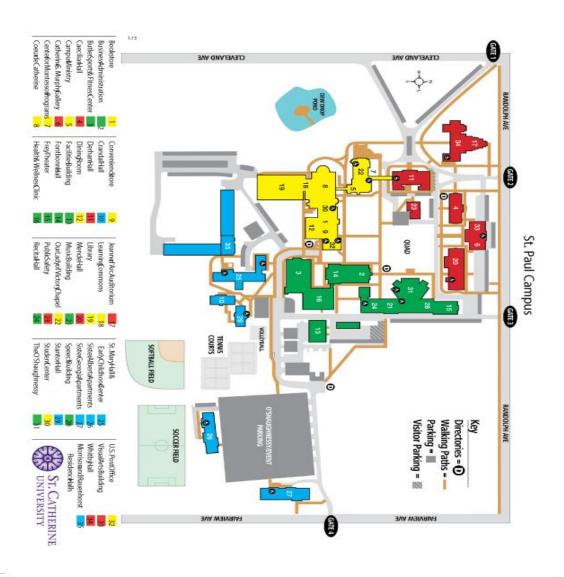
- \* Check-In begins at 4:00 p.m. on July 17. All guests must check in before 8:00 p.m.
- \* Check-In begins at 8:00 a.m. on July 21. All guests must check in before 8:00 p.m.
- \* Check-out begins at 8:00 a.m. on July 24. All guests must be checked out by noon.

**Transportation:** We recommend that you to fly to Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport, Humphrey Terminal. After arriving, please show this map to a cab driver or whoever is the driver.

- Please enter the campus from Fairview Ave on the east side of the campus.
- Then drive to (#8) Coeurde Catherine building
- Walk to this building to register.

#### The address of St. Catherine University is 2004 Randolph Ave. St. Paul, MN 55105

For more information, please contact Dorothy Sparks (<a href="mailto:sparksd31@yahoo.com">sparksd31@yahoo.com</a>)



#### "Bringing God's Love to the Deaf World"

## ELDA sponsored Deaf ELM 2016 Conference St. Catherine's University, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Sunday. July 17** – Arrive in the afternoon Monday, July 18 – ELDA church workers meeting (9—5) ECD & UMCD meetings Tuesday, July 19 - ELDA church workers meeting (9--5) ECD & UMCD meetings Wednesday, July 20 - ELDA Board meeting (all day) ECD & UMCD meetings Thursday, July 21 -7:30 am - 8:30 am - Breakfast 9:00 am - 11:00 am - ELDA Board meeting ECD & UMCD meetings 11:30 am – 12:30 pm – Lunch for church workers and Board members only 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - participants arrive & register 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm - Lay Ministry Class (PLEASE pre-register!) 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Supper 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Opening Worship Service (led by ELDA) 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Introductions/Fellowship/ Welcome to Deaf ELM Friday, July 22 -7:30 am - 8:30 am - Breakfast 9:00 am - 9:15 am - Devotion (led by UMCD) 9:15 am -11:30 am - Workshop (led by Dr. Amy Wilson, Mill Neck Ministry) 11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Lunch 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Free time, Trip to Mall of America/Aquarium 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Supper 7:00 pm - 7:15 pm - Devotion (led by ECD) 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm - Global Deaf Ministry panel and Prayer 8:15 pm - 8:45 pm - ELDA Board Reports (ELDA Business Meeting) 8:45 pm - 10:00 pm - church skit competition (sign up in advance!) Saturday, July 23 -7:30 am - 8:30 am - Breakfast 9:00 am - 9:15 am - Devotion (led by ELDA) 9:15 am - 11:30 am - ELDA Business Meeting 11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Lunch 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Workshop (led by Rev. Ruth Ulea of Nigeria) 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - ELDA Business Meeting 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Banquet /Awards/BOLD's 60th Anniversary 7:00 pm - Group pictures 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Closing Worship service (led by UMCD & ECD) 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm - Fellowship

**Sunday, July 24** – 7:30 am - 8:30 am Breakfast & Leave for home!

\* Welcome to **Worship Service at Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church** at 10:30 am **- 2901 38<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Mpls, MN 55406** - 3 ½ miles away from CSU)

<sup>\*</sup> Red = ELDA pays for interpreters. Black = ELDA, ECD, UMCD share cost; Green = no interpreters

\* Any questions, contact AIM Dorothy Sparks (Sparksd31@yahoo.com)

## THE ELDA MISSION STATEMENT

The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) is a national Lutheran organization of Deaf ELCA congregations, interpreted ministries, and their members 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.

### SPIRITUAL SIDE:

By Dorothy Sparks, Associate In Ministry



Milton Hershey had two favorite loves: children and chocolate. Believing that the two go together, he began a small chocolate factory in 1903. Mr. Hershey knew how to make good chocolate bars, but he did not know much about selling them. He figured, "<u>If my product is as good as I believe it is, people will tell others about it."</u> And that's exactly what happened. For several decades the Hershey bar was the only nationally enjoyed product that wasn't advertised. News spread simply by word of mouth.

The point of this message is sharing a story with others.

I remember my late Deaf father loves to tell a story about his boyhood on the farm. Even though I had heard it many times but I still enjoyed listening his story.

Many of the little children love to look at the book with pictures and listen a story.

All culture has a story differently.

Many Deaf people love to share stories with each other for many hours. I am sure that many of them had talked until sunrise. (I must admit that I am one of them. Smile!)

Storytelling is the most powerful. Why are we so attracted to stories? When people share stories about experience in their life, we get wisdom and understanding.

"Our wisdom comes from our and other's experience."

"Understanding is meaningful of learning."

When Jesus got off from a boat, a man, who lived in the buried cave, run to him. Many times people had put chains on his hands and feet, but he broke the chains. No one was strong enough to control him. Day and night he stayed around the burial caves and on the hills. He would scream and cut himself with rocks. He bowed down at Jesus' feet. Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" The man answered, "My name is Legion because there are many spirits inside me." Jesus commanded the devil spirits out of this man. Then the healed man begged Jesus to take him along with him but Jesus said, "Go back home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you." So the man went to Decapolis and told a story. Everyone was amazed.



Point of this story is that Jesus asked him to tell others a story.

#### Many times, Jesus taught with stories.

Before Jesus was taken up to heaven, he said, "You will be my witnesses, telling people about me



everywhere." Acts 1:8b)

When you see a word 'witnesses', you may feel tense. It does NOT mean a person stand on the sidewalk and preach to others or ask others if they are saved or not.

For example, if you saw a car accident, then you are a witness. All you do is telling police a story.

A woman had felt that God encourages her to share her story with others. God kept whispering to her heart, "I love you" over and over again. One day, she decided to obey God and share her story with others. She felt that the shame of childhood abuse and rejection was nothing compared to the shame of her choice to abort her child. She wept over that choice. She went to God hundreds of times and asked for forgiveness. She still felt guilty. Till this moment God asked her to tell a story. When she shared her story, she kept her head down. She expected the ladies rejected her. When she finished and dared to look up, tear-stained faces were looking back at me. Mouth were whispering, "Me too. Me too." In that moment, she felt victorious – not in her own power, but in the Lord's strength and ability to use all things for good. She was finally breaking free from Satan's chains of shame. Burdens were lifted. It's a beautiful to see when women say yes to God.

Stories help us to see the "bigger picture" of God in our life.

You are encouraged to tell others a story what God has done in your life.

WE DON'T KNOW HOW POWERFUL
OUR STORY IS...
UNTIL WE SHARE IT

#### We need your servant hands and hearts!

### Travel to Montego Bay, Jamaica

**September 8--17, 2016** 

To work daily with 55 students in a mountain school **JAMAICA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF** 

And take a side trip to central Jamaica's **DEAF VILLAGE** 

We will stay at Holiday Inn Resort, Montego Bay for 9 nights Cost approximately \$1400 includes round trip airfare, lodging, meals, Room tax, shuttle, and travel insurance

#### If you want to go:

- Confirm your interest NOW to <a href="lockardbeth@gmail.com">lockardbeth@gmail.com</a>
- Find a roommate to travel with you (we may have someone)
- We will help you book your flight & room (need \$1400 now). Those flying from outside Philadelphia may have a slightly different cost.
  - Have a U.S. passport that does not expire until after March, 2017.
    - Indicate if you want to work with youth or do building repair
      - No visas or vaccinations are needed

#### We would like to bring the following requested by JCSD:

\*school supplies (dry erase markers, craft supplies, glue sticks, markers, etc.)

\*Cash gifts will pay for additional supplies like printer ink

\*a Bible story curriculum for the school & books for their new one-room library

\*some student tuition grants (\$500 a year for each student)

Old luggage <u>with wheels</u> will be used to carry the gifts to the school. We fix up buildings and lead a Vacation Bible School. We need a teacher to train staff in current Deaf Ed trends (especially reading and writing)

This will be an annual working trip.

If you cannot come this year, please let us know your interest for 2017.

+ Dorothy Sparks & Beth Lockard+



#### Everyone Is Welcome to Lay Ministry Class!

Thursday, July 21 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm at St. Catherine University

Many of us help lead worship...How can we improve our signing so that people can understand us better and we can give God glory?

Come and find out how to sign Bible lessons and parts of the worship liturgy together.

(led by Mark Koterwski, worship assistant at Heartland Ephphatha Ministries, Sioux Falls and ASL teacher)

(No interpreter will be provided in this class)

If you are interested in attending the class, please inform Dorothy Sparks, (<u>sparksd31@yahoo.com</u>) by June 30.



Remember our website is www.ELDADeaf.org our facebook page is:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ELDADeaf/

### NEWS

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

#### 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!