



# ELDA

Volume • 8 Issue • 26 November 2011

*Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association*

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

Greetings everyone from ELDA!!!

I would like to inform you of the update regarding the ELDA Conference 2012. Since we have several CODA youths who will be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana at the same time as our original dates, Heartland Ephphatha Ministry (HEM) recommended a new date and it was approved by the ELDA Board. The old date of the ELDA Conference 2012 was from July 18 – 21, 2012.

Soup and Pie Supper,  
Potluck by group, and have people from community pay/donate for meal,  
Car wash,  
Rummage sale,  
Games Activities (Tournaments),  
Check with Restaurants to host fundraising evening (they usually donate 10% - need to have group to do clean up and busboy/girl),  
And many more...

If you need help with an idea, please feel free to contact one of the ELDA Board members – see website for more information with contacts.

That reminds me that it is time for our Thanksgiving Appeal which will support our HOPE Mission Fund.

Hope Mission is designed to donate the monies to the deaf community in Vietnam, Haitian Timoun Foundation which helped support a Lutheran Deaf school in Haiti, and Deaf community in Japan during their terrible earthquake. Please consider

an extra donation for this fund. It's a good time to Thank for what God did for us on Earth, and encouraged to sacrifice to share with others in need.

**All checks may be sent to "ELDA", c/o Christ the King Deaf Church, 730 South New Street, West Chester, PA 19382.**

We are encouraging individual donations as you are able to give. Because we honor "angels", we want to recognize the donors with angel categories. Please consider the following gifts in the Angel Circle:

Cherubim (\$5--\$50)  
Seraphim (\$51--\$100)  
St. Gabriel (\$101--\$300)  
St. Michael (\$301 or more)

Soon we will have several holidays come up! We are excited and look forward to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Those holidays remind us to be thankful for what we have on earth, to celebrate Jesus' birth, and to look forward to a new year – 2012 with Joy!

Wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

God Bless you all,  
Mark Koterwski  
ELDA President



**The new dates of the Conference is July 12 – 15. We will have the Pastoral Retreat from July 8 – 10 and the ELDA Board meeting from July 11 & 12.**

I hope you all can attend the ELDA Conference 2012. Here are some ideas of how to fundraise money to cover the cost for Conference and transportation:



# From Pastor Beth

Dear ELDA Friends:

As you know, I serve part time as the ELCA Coordinator for Deaf Ministries. You may remember meeting my boss Jensen Seyenkulo who leads ELCA Disability Ministries when he came to our last ELDA Conference in Pennsylvania. After we met and the pastoral workers revised the ELCA Social Statement on Disabilities, that document was passed by ELCA. However, when ELCA began restructuring in October 2010, they kept my 1/4 time position but cut Jensen and his secretary in December. It has been a rough time for all the different disability groups who need support (blind & visually impaired, mental illness, mobility impaired, etc.). I was unable to get all the proper information from ELCA for my work. Recently, Jensen and his secretary were re-hired as 1/4 time workers. I have been participating in monthly conference calls with about 20 ELCA workers to get some needs met.

Here are some of our goals:

- Establish a stronger clearer website contact for Disability ministries
- Get Jensen's hours increased to 1/2 time and hopefully full time.
- Hold ELCA accountable for passing the social statement on disabilities but laying off the staff
- Work out a way for our group to mentor and advocate for other "disabled" individuals who wish to become rostered church workers in the ELCA (pastors, Associates in Ministry, etc.). Pastor Susan Masters is working on this issue with the Deaf and hard of hearing in our partner denominations (Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, etc.)

Here is what each church/ pastor can do:

- Contact The Rev. Gregory Villalon (Jensen's boss), Associate Executive Directory for Ministry Leadership, Congregational and

Synodical Mission, 773-380-2473 and tell him how much we appreciate Jensen's work and that we need his hours increased. (Gregory.Villalon@elca.org)

- Contact The Rev. Steve Bouman, (Gregory's boss) Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission and challenge the churchwide office to stop putting disability ministries on the back burner and put their actions behind their words. His number is 773-380-2670.

I met each man in person when they came to our area in the past year and communicated our concerns. They and the other disability advocates are very impressed with ELDA's efforts to mobilize and move ahead despite ELCA's mixed support. We need to keep up this good work. I just attended a three-day Lutheran Services in America Disability Network conference and spoke with Jensen in person. We were so happy to see each other and he hopes to attend our next conference in Sioux Falls! His ELCA e-mail address is not yet working.

Whether you like political action or not, this is a time to speak up! Please let me know you contacted these men.

In Christ,  
Beth Lockard  
ELCA Deaf Ministries liaison



# ELDA on Facebook

Susan Masters, the pastor of Bread of Life in Minneapolis, MN has started a facebook page for ELDA.

If you have a facebook account you can search for Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association or go to our website [www.ELDAdeaf.org](http://www.ELDAdeaf.org) and click on the facebook logo.

Please check this page often for event announcements and to share information about our churches.



**Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA)**  
Open Group  
34 Members · Photos · 1 Doc

Write Post · Add Photo / Video · Ask Question

Write something...

**UPDATED POSTS**

**Susan R. Masters**  
In a couple of weeks we will begin the Advent season. I'm curious how folks - in congregations and individually - mark this season. Do you have any specific traditions, practices, etc. that help you mark Advent? Also, I'd like to hear what Advent means to you.  
Like · Comment · Follow Post · Saturday at 4:57pm

**Dayton Alan Williams** One thing I've learned over the years is that, in addition to advent songs, people enjoy some Christmas carols as a way to prepare for the coming Christmas.  
Saturday at 5:19pm via email · Like

**Ric Neubauer** True. In virginia we met each Sunday of Advent to sing carols. As a dad, we try to play a game together each day of Advent, as a means of spending family time together. As the children scatter, text messages to remind them of those days are special.  
Sunday at 7:11am via mobile · Like · 1

Write a comment...

**Ric Neubauer**  
Would love to hear from fellow believers that do not have a deaf church close by  
Like · Comment · Follow Post · Saturday at 3:10pm via mobile

**Ric Neubauer**  
Two weeks ago the church food pantry served twice the number of families as usual. It is getting rough out there folks. Please look in your cupboard and donate that unused canned food to a good cause  
Like · Comment · Follow Post · November 11 at 6:40pm via mobile

**Jason Andera**  
More on the ELDA conference here  
<http://www.eldadeaf.org/events.html>

**Events**  
[www.eldadeaf.org](http://www.eldadeaf.org)





# ELDA

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

ELDA

National Conference

**JULY 12-15, 2012**

Good Samaritan Society  
Jerstad Center  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Sioux Falls  
SD

Our theme for the 2012 ELDA conference is  
**"Love in Action"** based on John 13:34:

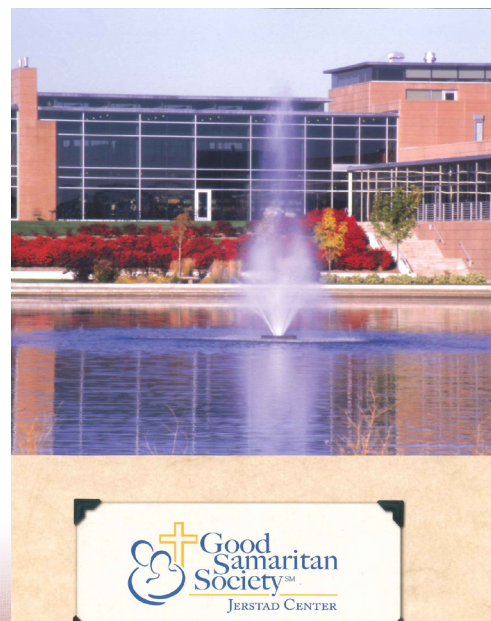
**"I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another  
just as I have loved you"**

Those are bold words from Jesus. His love is active in service and in sacrifice. The Bible is full of "Love Stories" from God. We will try to learn about Jesus' love and how to share his love through serving one another. We invite you to leave your handprint of love in South Dakota!

Get ready to serve with service project by packing meals that will be sent to kids who are hungry. We will also come up with several small service projects that you can do individually.

- Gather with Deaf Lutheran friends from all over the country.
- Stay in the beautiful Jerstad Center
- Inspiring workshops, worship and service projects
- Separate events and rates for youth age 13-19
- Tour fun places in Sioux Falls, SD

Hosted by Heartland Ephphatha Ministries of South Dakota



# love in action

► LEAVE A HANDPRINT OF LOVE IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2012

# ELDA 2012 REGISTRATION FORM

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

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries

c/o Jason Andera

5509 W. 41st Street

Sioux Falls, SD 57106

**Deadline: May 18, 2012**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VP / TTY

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VP / TTY

## \*\*\*\*\*All Meals and tours are included \*\*\*\*\*

### 1. Pastoral Workers (July 8 at 5 pm to July 10 at noon)

[Retreat Sunday 5 pm to Tuesday pm] \$480.00 Single \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. ELDA Board (July 11 to 12)

[Meeting Wednesday and Thursday] \$400.00 Single \_\_\_\_\_

\$720.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_

3. Conference Attendees (July 12 to 15) \$250.00 Single \_\_\_\_\_

[Thursday pm to Sunday am] \$535.00 Family (2queen beds) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Commuters (No rooms) \$30.00 a day \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_Day(s) x 30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

5. Youth Retreat (bring your own sleeping bag) \$50 single \_\_\_\_\_

[Thursday pm to Sunday am] \_\_\_\_\_

Youth must be 13-19 years old and they will sleep on the floor of our church.

Check out time Noon on Sunday, July 15th (Worship 9am and Brunch 10:15 at Peace Lutheran Church)

### Flying in?

We recommend you fly to Sioux Falls (FSD) Airport

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

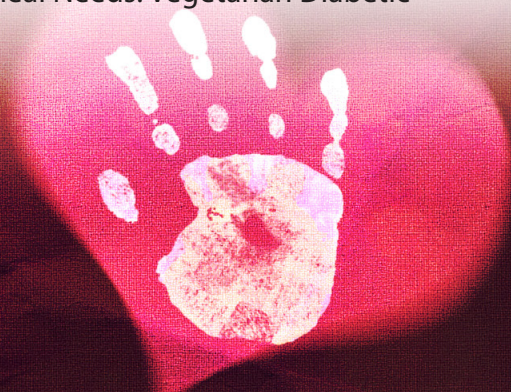
Departing: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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): \_\_\_\_\_

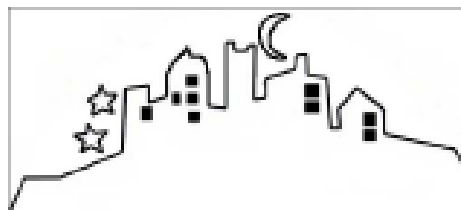
Mobility Needs: Wheelchair Y N Special Meal Needs: Vegetarian Diabetic







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:

Jason Andera ELDA Secretary  
4401 S. Florence Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

or to [jason@peacelutheran.com](mailto:jason@peacelutheran.com)



Evangelical  
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#### 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** \_\_\_\_\_

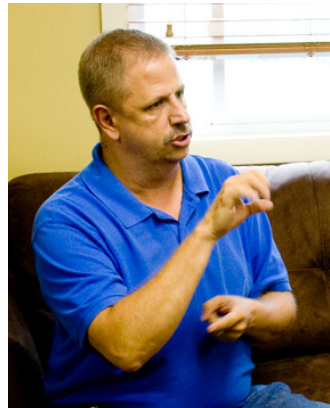
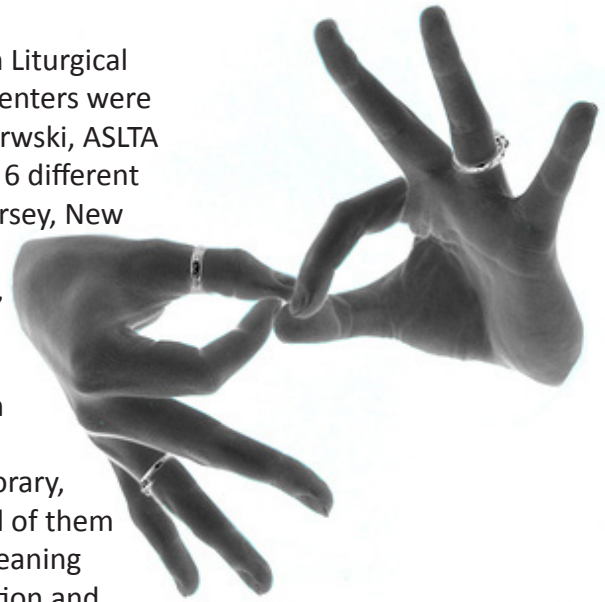
Mail your nomination to:

Jason Andera ELDA Secretary  
4401 S. Florence Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

or to [jason@peacelutheran.com](mailto:jason@peacelutheran.com)

# ELDA Interpreters Workshop

ELDA hosted America Sign Language Interpreting in Christian Liturgical Settings in West Chester, PA on Oct 21st and 22nd. The presenters were Pastor Susan Masters, MDiv, MSW, and CI/CT and Mark Koterwski, ASLTA Certified. We had 19 participants with 21 registrations from 6 different states included Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania. Their religions varied such as Friends Society, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Mennonite, Non-denominational. Some interpreters served in other professions instead of being full time intprteters. We discussed and practice interpreting included Liturgical frozen text, scripture, and Christian music. They are involved with very depth studying how to interpreting in hymns, contemporary, theological and biblical concepts. It was wonderful to see all of them to share each other how to interpreting that fit with their meaning in the Bible. Overall, we had a wonderful exchange information and teamwork!!!



**Presenters Mark Koterwski and  
Pastor Susan Masers**



# ***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION***

***Office of the Treasurer  
c/o 730 South New Street  
West Chester, PA 19382  
[ConSueWal@verizon.net](mailto:ConSueWal@verizon.net)***

**DATE:** Fall 2011

**TO:** All ELCA Deaf Ministries

**FROM:** ELDA Treasurer Connie Wallace

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thanks to all of your churches who have paid their 2011 membership dues.

As we approach the fall season, we encourage each church to remember our annual **THANKSGIVING APPEAL**. Gifts to this appeal go into ELDA General Fund to help us pay for the many costs of running our organization. Expenses such as Board meetings, office supplies, awards, interpreters, and other items are covered by the General Fund. We give these gifts in thanksgiving for all God gives us each day. Thanksgiving donations will be accepted through December 31.

In the spring, our Lenten Appeal will collect your gifts for our **HOPE Fund**. We have already received a generous gift of \$700 from St. Matthew's Deaf Ministry (North Hollywood, CA) to be used with Deaf Japanese victims of the tsunami & earthquake. Any gifts you want to send to this or other Deaf mission work, should be marked "HOPE Fund."

We want to keep ELDA doing "God's work with our hands." All checks are tax deductible and may be sent to "ELDA" at the above address on the letterhead. You will receive a letter for tax purposes.

In Christ,

Connie Wallace,  
ELDA Treasurer

# Focus on Ministry

Due to funding cutbacks I am presently working 1/4 time in Deaf Ministry. In addition to that I have a 1/2 time call to a hearing church, Saint Michael's in La Grange Park.

We meet for ASL worship on the first/second Sundays of the month. Interpreted worship is done (by me using sim-com) there at 8AM and 10:45 AM. every Sunday. ASL worship is at 1PM. Several other congregations offer interpreted worship and Sunday School/confirmation classes as needed.

At Saint Michael's we also offer interpreted worship (with an interpreter and me) on Special services such as Thanksgiving or Christmas Eve. We are in early stages of conversations with ecumenical partners about doing Deaf Ministry together.

I continue to offer my services when congregations have weddings or funeral services, confirmation, etc to make those occasions accessible. For example I interpret or arrange for others to interpret for marriage counseling or pre-baptismal meetings when pastors with deaf members want my to interpret for them. Sometimes the pastors just ask me to do those things for them. The ball is always in their court to use my services in the way that they and their

deaf members want to use them. So, I continue to be a resource for congregations in the synod and chief cook and bottle washer for the bishop :-)

I also do some social ministry and advocacy work and keep contacts by going to meetings with people who work professionally as social workers and other agencies who work with deaf clients. There is a lot of that in the Chicago area.

Since I am not full-time in ministry I do some "tent ministry" interpreting on the side. I am RID certified and jumped through the hoops to be licensed to terp in IL.

I am in the early stages of planning for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July. (Thanks, Russ for agreeing to be one of the terps.)

I pray for you all and ask God to bless you and your ministry.

Peace,

Dayton Williams



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**Facts about  
Deaf Ministry in Chicago**  
**ABOUT:** Dayton Williams is doing  
1/4 time Deaf ministry in Chicago.  
St. Michael's is a hearing church that offers interpreted worship on special services (Thanksgiving or Christmas Eve.)

**LOCATION:** Chicago, IL

**MINISTER:** Dayton Williams

