



ELDA

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION
A MINISTRY OF THE ELCA**

**Volume 16 • September 2021
Issue 62**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARK KOTERWSKI

Greetings!

Hey, Christmas is coming very soon! I read an article about "ADVENT". There are many different reasons for everyone to look forward to ADVENT time. One example, for those people who are struggling, poor, and frustrated with life. The person can look forward to things that can be changed for a better life. Also, another reason to have ADVENT is that we can have hope, to prepare us for Jesus' coming, joy and love. This is a very spiritual way for yourself and other people to feel when ADVENT is around!

We can't wait for our ELDA Conference 2022, very soon. I always enjoy attending the conferences. I am sure it is the same with you. Guess what..... All conference

registrations, the hotel, restaurant, recreation activities, swimming pool (inside and outside), etc are all in the same building. Even much better, we would have a rich experience learning about the Amish culture and lifestyle.



Please register as soon as you can to save money (early bird); for example: If you pay by 2/15 – \$ 180/person, you will save money by \$50 per person or you will pay \$100 more if you don't register by May 15th. For more details, see ELDA conference 2022 flyer (inside newsletter).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!!!
Mark Koterwski
ELDA President

Wishing you a blessed Advent



Inside this Issue



HAITI HAPPENINGS

There are problems and there are blessings in Haiti. Read all about it.



PALMS DEAF CHURCH

Lori Fuller is getting ordained and will be part of a new DEAF CHURCH in Florida! Find out about Palms Deaf Church!



ELDA Conference News

Get excited, The ELDA Conference is coming. Get all the news and information you need.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

PASTOR BETH LOCKARD

Dear ELDA Friends--

Advent hope to each of you! I hope each of you are staying safe as the pandemic surges again around the world. We are realizing our new normal will continue longer and it will help us if more people become vaccinated and are very careful about holiday gatherings.

Lori Fuller has been approved by her Florida-Bahamas Synod and her **ordination has been set for February 27** at Christ the King Deaf Church in West Chester. Both her bishop, Rev. Pedro Suarez, and SE PA Synod Bishop Patricia Davenport will work together to ordain Lori. Your invitation is in this newsletter and we will also livestream for people who cannot attend. It promises to be an exciting historic day! Lori also has an article explaining her **Palms Deaf Church**. Palms waving!

Our \$10,000 gift to **Pr. Ruth Ulea** arrived and she was able to **purchase a used van** ("bus") to transport LCCN Deaf school students and church members in Nigeria. Parts of her letter say this..."When the school did not have a



van, each year we were looking for support to meet others' needs. Transportation became an increasing problem and not everyone could attend our Camp....Arrival of the new van strengthened our relationship with ELDA. Any time in the bus reminds us of ELDA and we are proud of ELDA. I appreciate the contributions of all those who donated. Thank you for the effort and sacrifices. May God bless you richly."



I also wanted to show you pictures of **Samuel Dimas, the Deaf seminarian from Pr. Ruth's church**. The other picture shows him with his wife Blessing and three-year-old son Samuel Jr.. Samuel reports his studies are going well and he is blessed to have an interpreter attend all classes with him (one interpreter all day every day!)

Pastor Michelle Lewis of Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran in



Minneapolis has announced she will take a leave of absence from ministry to focus on her family. Her last day is December 31 and she has served BOLD for five years. Pr. Michelle will be deeply missed and has been a wonderful Deaf ally. BOLD Church Council will work with their synod to find new leadership.

ELM Seeds will be working on an **Easter worship video**. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter.

CHRISTmas BLESSings,

Pastor Beth Lockard



HAITI HAPPENING

“For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ” Colossians 2:5

2021 will be the first year since I joined Haiti Deaf Academy that I will not make it to Haiti. Just as the apostle Paul was hindered on different occasions from visiting and encouraging his partners in ministry so have I been hindered from visiting the precious children and staff I have grown to love so much. None the less God is in control!

With Haiti in the news so much this year many of you are very concerned and wondering how our kids are doing.

It has been reported there have been some 455 kidnappings in Haiti this year. Gang activity is at a peak, at least in the years I have been ministering in Haiti. This has certainly strained how we conduct ourselves on a day to day basis. With diesel shortages and high gang activity Haiti has ground to a near stand still. It is reported that most all public hospitals have closed their doors due to lack of fuel for generators and the lack of ability to provide life saving services. The common people suffer even more as their children do not have these services.

Haiti is not unique to trials like this as we look around the world today. The more turmoil satan causes, the more the “church” prevails and even prospers. The children of HDA are doing well. While some of our day staff are not able to come to work Badio and his crew continue forward with vigorous effort. We are committed not only to care for our children physically but to keep mentoring them spiritually too. Badio’s efforts to “train up a child” are impressive. When I talked to him about the situation in Haiti he responded **“I am not worried Darwin, I am not depending on me. God is in control.”** I am so very thankful for Badio and our staff as they

continue to serve our children. I am so very thankful for all of you as you lift them up in prayer. Prayer is the catalyst that keeps moving this ministry forward.



Progress of our new campus has been steadily moving forward. We are so pleased. Please pray for the continued progress. We are very excited! It is looking great and we can’t wait to be on this campus.



Many years ago this snapshot was taken of three school girls looking over LeVeque.

Support the children <https://haitideafacademy.kindful.com/>

**SUPPORT
THE CHILDREN**

PALMS DEAF CHURCH

Hello friends!

My name is Lori Fuller. I am a recent graduate from Luther Seminary (St. Paul, Minnesota) in the accelerated Master of Divinity program. Since my graduation in June of 2021, I have been working closely with Pastor Rob Carlson who is Director for Evangelical Mission with the Florida Bahamas Synod (FBS) in developing a new Deaf Church. I am excited to announce the partnership of FBS, Evangelical Lutheran in America (ELCA), and St. Mark's by the Sea Church in Palm Coast, FL, a new establishment called "Palms Deaf Church." The Palms Deaf Church (PDC) site will be housed at St. Marks by the Sea which is a close distance from Florida School for the Deaf and Blind.

I spoke with other ELDA Board members for some suggestions of possible names for the new church. The feedback I received was to keep it simple and something that identifies where the church is located (Florida). St. Marks by the Sea is located in Palm Coast, FL. Therefore, I felt Palms was fitting for our location. See below for our new logo! Keep watch in the future ELDA newsletter for more updates on PDC. God bless, Lori



BREAD OF LIFE DEAF CHURCH

Friday, 12-24-2021 Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Eve Worship Service, 3:30 pm
Birth of Jesus & the Shepherds visit!
In-person worship & Online worship

Sunday, 12-26-2021 John 1:19-34

1st Sunday of Christmas
John the Baptist is a Voice in the Wilderness
In-person worship & Online worship

ELDA

SHARING HANDS

Hi! This is Vae Goeken. Don Rosenkjar retired last summer so now I'm taking his place here at Sharing Hands and I'm looking forward to do this job.

St Matt's Lutheran Church had a 90th birthday party last November 14, 2021 and it is very interesting that they had a wooden box that was buried under this church that was from 90 years ago. On Nov 13 and 14 we had a celebration for 2 days. There were workshops with Sharing Hands about Deaf history and we taught some ASL too. The next day there was a big birthday party after church service. The new Bishop Brenda Bos come to our church.



In this picture left to right are Neil Sprouse, Raffy Luna- Vasquez, Chris Luna-Vasquez, Sylvia Olvera, Bishop Brenda Bos, Khai Nugyen, Don Rosenkjar, Vae, and interpreter Hope Simon

<https://www.dailynews.com/2021/11/20/st-matthews-in-north-hollywood-marks-90th-anniversary-amid-efforts-to-help-unhoused>



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

BY LINDA FAIRBANKS

When I was growing up, I remember learning the song, The Twelve Days of Christmas and I always thought it was a fun song. A few years back, I learned that what I knew about the song was not wrong but had meaning to it. I am sure that some of you believe that the 12 days are prior to Christmas like I did. Let me tell you this story.

It was in early January a few years ago, when I tried to contact Pastor Beth about the newsletter. I don't remember what it was about but that day I learned something. Pastor Beth told me she was busy celebrating the 12th day of Christmas. I remember saying, "what". I actually had no idea what she was talking about, but I kept that in mind and even researched it a bit. Here is what I learned, thanks to my research on the internet.

People often think of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" as the days preceding the festival. Historically Christmas is the season of the Christian year for the days beginning on December 25, and lasting until January 6th. January 6 is known as the day of Epiphany when the church celebrates the revelation of "Christ as the Light of the World."

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During that time, someone wrote "The Twelve Days of Christmas" as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without the risk of persecution. The song has 2 levels of interpretation; the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning

which was known only to members of the church. In the carol, there are code words for a religious reality.

The "Partridge in a Pear Tree" is Jesus Christ
The Two Turtle Doves are the Old and New Testaments.

The Three French Hens represent Faith, Hope and Love.

The Four Calling Birds are the four Gospels.

The Five Golden Rings recall the Torah (law)

The Six Geese A-Laying stand for the six days of creation.

The Seven Swans A-Swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit.

The Eight Maids A-Milking are the eight Beatitudes.

The Nine Ladies Dancing are the nine Fruits of the Spirit.

The Ten Lords A-Leaping are the Ten Commandments.

The Eleven Pipers Piping stands for the eleven faithful Disciples.

The Twelve Drummers Drumming symbolize the 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Wow! It is amazing to read of the hidden meanings in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" and now, I take my Christmas tree down on January 6th, the 12th day of Christmas. I enjoy the song even more than I did before.

*some text and song meanings taken from The Lutheran Magazine and the Catholic Register.

12 DAYS OF *Christmas* BIBLICAL MEANING





SPIRITUAL REPORT

DON ROSENKJAR

Blue Christmas?

Covid!
Wear masks!
Vaccinate!
No hugging!
Stay at home!
Oh, no.
Worry! Worry!
Worry!

Well folks, it's now Advent, and we all should be preparing for Christmas. Is it going to be a Blue Christmas? Feeling blue? Are we forgetting something?

Hey, what about faith? And hope? Yes, it is true we are now in a tough time, and yes, it is for all of us all across the globe. Hope is what makes us strong. Hope! And, faith is to remain strong. Faith! If we are fully vaccinated, wear masks in public, keep our distance from others, and wash our hands often, then we should worry less. Yes, we should worry less! It's like crossing the street, we need first to look to your left and then to your right to make sure it is safe to cross the street. Once we know it is safe, then there's no need to worry!

Remember, Christmas is an amazing event. Although we see Santa Claus, Christmas trees, and gifts under the tree, but there's something very important and that is the birth of our Savior, our Messiah, Jesus Christ. It's a wonderful event, really! It is good to put our worries on the shelf, and celebrate Christmas with joy. Focus on the real meaning of Christmas! With hope. With cheer. And, that is faith.

There may be other people, your friends, your family, your neighbors, who may worry, worry, worry. Go, and share your joy with them, and let them know what Christmas should be about. Celebrate with them with love, and with joy. There is an old saying: smile and the whole world smiles with you; cry and you cry alone. And, Jesus upstairs is looking at you—will you smile?





Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association Conference

"WALK IN FAITH"

June 23-26, 2022

(ELDA Board Meeting - June 21-23, 2022)
(Pastoral Workers Meeting - June 26-28, 2022)

at
Eden Resort & Suites
222 Eden Rd
Lancaster, PA 17601
www.edenresort.com

Amish Tour, workshops, meetings, skits, fellowships,
and worship time.

Everyone is welcome!
Better start saving money NOW for this conference.

ELDA 2022 Tentative Schedule

ELDA BOARD MEETS			ELDA CONFERENCE			PASTORAL WORKERS MEET			
	Tuesday 6/21	Wednesday 6/22	Thursday 6/23	Friday 6/24	Saturday 6/25	Sunday 6/26	Monday 6/27	Tuesday 6/28	
7:30a - 9:00a		breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	7:30a - 9:00a
9:00a - 9:15a				Devotion (15 min.)	Devotion (15 min.)	Worship at hotel or WOLD; TBD			9:00a - 9:15a
9:15a - 10:00a				Free Time?					9:15a - 10:00a
10:00a - 11:00a		ELDA Board Mtg	ELDA Board Mtg	AMISH TOUR (10:00 - 3:00)	ELDA Town Hall (Free Time after)	Room Check-out by 11:00 a.m.; Travelers Leave for Home	Pastoral Workers Meet	Pastoral Workers Meet	Pastoral Workers Meet
11:00a - 12:00p								Closing Worship	11:00a - 12:00p
12:00p - 1:00p		lunch	lunch	lunch: incl. w/ Amish Tour (lunch on your own if not joining tour)	lunch	lunch		lunch	12:00p - 1:00p
1:00p - 2:00p	ELDA Board Arrives	ELDA Board Mtg	Arrival, Registration & Free Time -or- Lay Ministry Class and/or Free Time?		Workshop?			Travelers Leaving for Home	1:00p - 2:00p
2:00p - 3:00p						Pastoral Workers Meet	Pastoral Workers Meet		2:00p - 3:00p
3:00p - 4:00p			&						
4:00p - 5:00p	Free Time	Free Time	Room Check-in at 4:00 p.m.; Free Time	Free Time?	ELDA Bus. Mtg.? Free Time?	Free Time	Free Time		4:00p - 5:00p
5:00p - 6:00p									
6:00p - 7:00p	supper	supper	supper	supper	Banquet / + Awards / Closing Worship	supper	supper		6:00p - 7:00p
7:00p - 8:00p	ELDA Board Mtg		Opening Worship	Workshop? -or- Pandemic Worship Experience? Church Skits competition		Pastoral Workers Meet	Pastoral Workers Meet		7:00p - 8:00p
8:00p - 9:00p	Free Time	Free Time							8:00p - 9:00p
9:00p - 10:00p	Free Time		Intro's, Icebreakers, & Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship		9:00p - 10:00p

download & print at www.wordofflivedeaf.org/elda-2022-conference

ELDA 2022 INFORMATION

ELDA 2022 Conference Schedule:

ELDA Board meets:	June 21-23 (Tues. afternoon – Thur. morning)
ELDA Conference:	June 23-26 (Thur. afternoon – Sun. morning)
Pastoral workers:	June 26-28 (Sun. afternoon – Tues. morning)

Hotel Info:

The Eden Resort & Suites is an award-winning, locally-owned, independent hotel. See their website: www.edenresort.com. Features of the hotel include:

Heated outdoor pool & Kidz Water Zone • Outdoor recreation area • Heated indoor pool & whirlpool • Fitness center • Sauna • A 24-hour gas/convenience store with made-to-order hot food is mere steps from the hotel

Rooms are 100% smoke-free with 2 queen beds. Room features include:

Free high-speed wireless internet (WiFi) • Refrigerator • Microwave • Coffee maker • Large flat screen TV(s) with cable television and pay-per-view movies • Hair dryer • Full-size ironing board & iron • Free in-room safe

ELDA Board Info:

The ELDA Board will meet **BEFORE** the Conference, from **June 21-23** (Tues. afternoon – Thur. morning). Make your hotel reservations ASAP, under the group name: “ELDA Conference.” You must make your own reservations; *remember to make your reservations for the whole time you will be there*. Also remember – the ELDA Conference Registration fee (paid to WOLD) only covers meals during the Conference, not during ELDA board meeting dates.

Pastoral Workers Info:

The Pastoral Workers will meet **AFTER** the Conference, from **June 26-28** (Sun. afternoon – Tues. morning). Make your hotel reservations ASAP, under the group name: “ELDA Conference.” You must make your own reservations; *remember to make your reservations for the whole time you will be there*. Also remember – the ELDA Conference Registration fee (paid to WOLD) only covers meals during the Conference, not during Pastoral Workers’ meeting dates.

• • • **You are responsible to contact the hotel and make your reservation. • • •**
Make your reservation under the group name: “ELDA Conference.”
Eden Resort & Suites: 717-569-6444

download & print at www.wordoflifedeaf.org/elda-2022-conference

ELDA 2022 TRANSPORTATION FORM

(send to WOLD when you have your tickets!)

note:

Plan your arrival by 3PM Thursday (hotel check-in is 4PM)
Plan your departure anytime after breakfast on Sunday (hotel check-out is 11AM)

Your Name: _____

Flying:

Choose Destination, EITHER:

Lancaster Airport (LNS), Harrisburg Airport (MDT), or Philadelphia Airport (PHL)

ARRIVAL

Airport (circle): LNS MDT PHL

Airline: _____

Flight Number: _____

Arrival Date: _____

Arrival Time: _____

Need Picked Up? _____

DEPARTURE

Airport (circle): LNS MDT PHL

Airline: _____

Flight Number: _____

Departure Date: _____

Departure Time: _____

Need Dropped Off? _____

Your Text Number: _____ (so we can be in touch if needed)

Train:

www.amtrak.com

Choose Destination: Lancaster, PA (LNC)

Date Train Arrives: _____

Time: _____

Train Number: _____

Need Pickup? _____

Date Train Leaves: _____

Time: _____

Train Number: _____

Need Drop-off? _____

Your Text Number: _____ (so we can be in touch if needed)

Drive / Commute:

Expected Date & Time of Arrival: _____

Address of Hotel:

Eden Resort & Suites
222 Eden Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Your Text Number: _____ (so we can be in touch if needed)

download & print form at www.worshipcenter.org/elda-2022-communications

ELDA 2022
Award Nomination Form:

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 (CEV)*

**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: _____

Please explain why this person is being nominated:

Who is nominating this person: _____

Contact E-Mail Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Please, circle one: VP, Voice, or Text Msg.

NOMINATIONS ARE ACCEPTED THROUGH MAY 1, 2021

Return Nomination form with Registration -OR- Send your submission to:

Jeannie Fischer
301 Weaverland Valley Rd. East Earl, PA 17519
jeannie@frontiernet.net

download & print form at www.wordoflifedeaf.org/elda-2022-conference

ELDA 2022
Award Nomination Form:

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 (CEV)*

**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 or Ministry Nominated: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Please explain why this church or ministry is being nominated:

Who is nominating this church or ministry: _____

Contact E-Mail Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Please, circle one: VP, Voice, or Text Msg.

NOMINATIONS ARE ACCEPTED THROUGH MAY 1, 2021

Return Nomination form with Registration -OR- Send your submission to:

Jeannie Fischer

301 Weaverland Valley Rd. East Earl, PA 17519

jeannie@frontiernet.net

download & print form at www.wordoflifedeaf.org/elda-2022-conference

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

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 (CEV)*

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| 2006 | – Donald Rosenkjar | – St Matthews Lutheran Deaf Church, CA |
| 2008 | – Dayton Williams | – Lutheran Deaf Ministry, IL |
| 2010 | – Daniel Glenney | – St. Philip’s Deaf Lutheran Church, PA |
| 2012 | – Dorothy Sparks | – Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, MN |
| 2014 | – Barbara Schmidt | – Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, MN |
| 2016 | – Mark Koterwski | – Heartland Ephphatha Ministries, SD |
| 2018 | – Jay Johnson | – Citizens Into Action, MN |
| 2020 | – <i>no award given due to pandemic</i> | |

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 (CEV)*

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| 2006 | – | Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry, WI |
| 2008 | – | Christ the King Deaf Church, PA |
| 2010 | – | Heartland Ephphatha Deaf Ministry, SD |
| 2012 | – | DeafCAN! Social Services, PA |
| 2014 | – | Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, MN |
| 2016 | – | The Jamaica Mission Team, PA/MN |
| 2018 | – | Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, PA |
| 2020 | – | <i>no award given due to pandemic</i> |

download & print at www.wordoflifedeaf.org/elda-2022-conference

ELDA

MISSION STATEMENT

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.



ELM

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement: “In the Presence of Jesus Christ, with mutual love and respect, the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD), the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) and the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD) partner together to inspire and transform the lives of Deaf people.”

Vision Statement: “Together as one, with God’s help we strive to build a spectrum of ministries with Deaf people, passionately engaged in creating and supporting diverse ministries, outreach, communication, worship resources, and leadership development that show the love and grace of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet.”



Bethel Lutheran church in Mpls, Mn had an event of the Halloween - Treat or Trunk. There were 15 cars with the decorations. Dorothy Sparks joined it with a costume. More than 100 children were there. Thanks to MaryJo and Gary Duncan for creating the ark. It was fun. Deacon Dorothy joined it with a detective costume.