



ELDA

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DECEMBER 2019

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



Mark Koterwski
ELDA President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Koterwski

Greetings to everyone!
Christmas is here!!! It is time for Advent! The advent reminds all Christians to wait and prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus during Christmas time and Jesus will come again for the second time. How we do celebrate Christmas? Of course, everyone enjoys decorating the Christmas Tree, Angels, wreaths, etc. Of course those look very beautiful.

The main purpose of Christmas to have a Nativity of Jesus scene. Without the Nativity of Jesus' scene, it has no meaning for Christmas. This symbol is to remind us what Christmas is all about.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL FROM THE ELDA BOARD MEMBERS!!!



UPDATE ON THE ELM CONFERENCE:

The ELM conference is coming soon! I want to say thanks to Lori Fuller for her hard work with the ELM Conference Committee. She works closely with the United Methodist Congregation for the Deaf in Florida. It will be held in Orlando, Florida during the week of July 19, 2020. The Pastoral Retreat will be held either before or after the ELM Conference (TBD either July 17 - 19 or July 25 - 27). The ELDA Board meeting is on July 19 - 21 and the ELM Conference on July 21 - 25. Enclosed in this newsletter is the flyer/registration. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

- Mark Koterwski
ELDA President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MINISTRY UPDATES

ELM CONFERENCE FLYER

SPIRITUAL ARTICLE ON REPENTANCE AND

MUCH MORE!

ELCA DEAF MINISTRIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Advent hope and Christmas joy to each of you!! As part of my ELCA work, I serve on the Board of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations on Long Island, NY which includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, Mill Neck Services for adults, Center for Hearing Health (audiology, CIs),

Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, Mill Neck International, and Mill Neck Foundation. Mill Neck also runs interpreter services.

Recently, when I was on Mill Neck campus for meetings, we witnessed the consecration of the first Deaf LCMS deaconess, Diana Rice, who serves as deaconess and teacher at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf in Dearborn, MI. The picture shows her



standing on the right flanked by Mill Neck Board Chair Rev. David Benke, Kristin Wassilak, the head of the deaconess program at Concordia University in Chicago, and Mill Neck chaplain Rev. Thomas Denseth. LCMS

does not ordain women.

I received word recently that one of ELCA's Deaf ministries at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Reading, PA has voted to discontinue Deaf worship due to the lack of attendance. The church will continue the "I Can" program for Deaf and hearing developmentally disabled adults.

Exciting personal news from my family is that God blessed us with a grandson, Ari Michael Lockard, born to our oldest son Jesse and wife Hillary on Thanksgiving Eve. The little guy weighed 8.14 lb. and was 20.25 inches long. I now add "Grandma" to my other hats!



This brings us to the joy of the celebration of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem almost 2000 years ago, His daily presence in our hearts and lives, and the future anticipation of the coming of His kingdom. His coming changed history past, present, and future. We often forget this in our busy-ness. Take time to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas! Take time to REJOICE!

Pr. Beth Lockard
Director ELCA Deaf Ministries

SPIRITUAL ARTICLE

REPENTANCE

Spiritual Article, by Donald Rosenkjar

Advent is the season for preparing the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The key word here is “preparing”. One important word that comes to my mind is this: Repent. What does that word mean? It means turning around, taking another direction, choosing another course. All of us have



our habits, and some of them are not good, not what God would do. Change is necessary about what we will do differently and expresses our desire for peace and equity for all God’s people, for the whole creation. Preparing yourself is to realize that God is pointing you one way, that



you’ve been going another way, and changing course. There are so many things we could repent.

There are two paths of Repentance, and they are personal and community. Personal path is your actions, your

thoughts, your deeds. We all are sinners, and we have some bad habits. My favorite thought is this: What would Jesus Do? WWJD any of our acts that might not please Jesus, then you know what to do -- repent, or change your way of doing things. Is it easy? No, it can be tough. Some of us love to gossip, and that can hurt other people. Some of us have a hard time to resist temptation — gluttony, sexual, sloth, and the list can be a long one. Make a bold decision to make yourself a better person.

The second path is this: community. How you treat other people, what you do to achieve justice and peace? God put you on earth for a reason. Kindness is so paramount. We see so much violence everywhere. We see them on the daily news on television. Look at the leaders of our government. Kindness,



generosity of our labors, our deeds, can be infectious. When you smile, the person next to you, having his own battles, will feel your smile, and probably will smile back. He, in turn, may smile to someone else and so forth. Show kindness. Get involved with political action, and work for justice. Get involved with homeless projects. Make yourself useful.

Prayers are important in our lives. Each time, you pray, think about what you can do, WWJD. Take an inventory of your actions, behavior, thoughts and repent. Repent! Do it every day. God is a wonderful listener, even though you may not realize it, He does listen. Amen.

ELDA LIST OF DONORS FOR 2019

The ELDA Board thanks our churches and individual donors for their heartfelt donations.

Word of Life Deaf Church, WOLD Lancaster PA
Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, BOLD
Minneapolis MN
Christ the King Church, CTK West Chester, PA
Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading PA
Heartland Ephphatha Ministry, HEM Sioux
Falls SD
Lori Fuller
Dorothy Sparks
Linda Fairbanks
Jeff and Belinda Panek

God has been doing wonderful things in HDA, despite all the protests that are happening. Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Here is a recent newsletter from Haiti Deaf Academy
<http://www.haitideafacademy.com/home.html>

Meredith and Keith Henderson



Haiti Deaf
Academy

CHRIST THE KING DEAF CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES WITH HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 10:30 A.M.
SERVICE, REFRESHMENTS, & CRAFTS
VALLEY VIEW HOME, 111 ELWYN RD., ELWYN, PA 19063

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 2 P.M.
CHRISTMAS SERVICE WITH DESSERT RECEPTION
AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
3101 TYSON AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, 19149

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 7 P.M.
CHRISTMAS SERVICE WITH DESSERT RECEPTION
AT CALVARY LUTHERAN
730 SOUTH NEW STREET, WEST CHESTER, 19382

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28
DEAFBLIND HOLIDAY PARTY, 12—4 P.M.
AT CALVARY LUTHERAN
730 SOUTH NEW STREET, WEST CHESTER, 19382

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
NO SERVICE FIFTH SUNDAYS



JULY 2020 ELM CONFERENCE (ELM General Form)

“Finding the Hero in You”



Clarion Inn Lake Buena Vista, A Rosen Hotel,
8442 Palm Parkway

Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32836

(refrigerator and microwave included in each room)

ELM Conference

Tuesday, July 21 Arrive in the afternoon

Wednesday, July 22 to Saturday, July 25 Closing worship and departing

Saturday, July 25 - Check-Out: Farewell, Closing Worship

REGISTRATION FORM is in the UMCD & ELDA Newsletter

and on www.UMCD.ORG & www.eldadeaf.org

For more information, contact Mary Ann Deters at mary.deters@gmail.com

or

Lori Fuller at lori@fullerfamily.ws

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED:

REGISTRATION FORM (one per participant)

Please print clearly, fill in and mail these two pages with payment to Conway UMC at 3401 Conway Road Orlando, FL 32812:

NAME: _____ Female ____ Male ____

Email: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Text, VP or Phone #: _____

Church or Organization Name (include denomination):

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Text, VP, or Phone #: _____

****Meals: Breakfast for 2 people in each room and one additional meal****

PLEASE FILL OUT

Conference Attendees: July 21 PM- July 25 PM **\$ 345.00 per person** _____

This Cost requires 2 people in a room

Single room additional cost see next page

OR:

Commuters on Wednesday July 22 (Includes Lunch) \$ 30.00 _____

Commuters on Thursday, July 23

(Includes Holyland Experience & Dinner) \$ 80.00 _____

Commuters Friday July 24 (Includes Banquet) \$50.00 _____

(Meal tickets are Non Refundable)

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

**Check made payable to Conway UMC with a note on check for ELM 2020

CHECK WHICH DOUBLE OR SINGLE ROOM

****DOUBLE (2 PEOPLE IN EACH ROOM) WRITE DOWN WHO WILL BE IN THAT ROOM INCLUDES TWO MEALS A DAY AND HOLYLAND EXPERIENCE COST \$345.00.**

Your Name: _____

Roommates Name: _____

****SINGLE ROOM COST INCLUDES TWO MEALS A DAY, AND HOLYLAND EXPERIENCE COST \$510.00. YOUR NAME: _____**

Special Needs:

- 1) Interpreter, SSP, Voice Interpreter: (Please circle)
- 2) Other: Please explain: _____
- 3) Mobility Needs: Wheelchair Y or N
- 4) **Special Meal Needs: Vegetarian, Diabetic etc.** _____

*** DEADLINE MAY 1ST 2020**

*** Hotel Check-In** begins at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21^S. All guests must check-in before 8:00 p.m.

*** Check-out:** Saturday, July 25th. All guests must be checked out by 11:00 AM.

Transportation: Hotel does not have a shuttle. Transportation ON YOUR OWN. It is about 20 miles from Orlando Airport to Hotel. You can use Lyft, Uber, and/or Rental Car.

The address of Clarion Buena Vista, A Rosen Hotel: 8842 Palm Parkway Lake Buena Vista, FL 32836



The hotel will offer the reduced rates for those wanting to come early Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18 or staying later Sunday, July 26, Monday, July 27 and Tuesday, July 28. Contact the Sales Manager, Keitcha Joseph (407)996-7300 extension 1047013. When calling please refer to Group Name: UMCD Board Members and Group ID Hotel Code: 76832

MINISTRY NEWS-

BREAD OF LIFE DEAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, MPLS, MN

Blue Christmas Worship Service at BOLD

Saturday, December 21, Worship at 2:00 p.m. at

Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church 2901 38th Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55406

Join with us in sharing stories and prayers, scripture. We gather to acknowledge God is present with those who mourn, for those who grieve, and for those who struggle.

God's Word comes to walk with us in our struggles. All are welcome. Come.

You may bring a picture to remember loss of loved one(s).

Light Refreshment will be provided by Deaf Hospice friends after service.

boldpastor@gmail.com / 651-226-6804 (VOICE or text) 612-260-6296 VP at BOLD Church



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."

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.

MINISTRY NEWS-

WORD OF LIFE DEAF, LANCASTER, PA

On All Saints' Sunday in November, WOLD had no candles to light for any of its members, since no one from the congregation had passed away. There were 9 votive candles lit for "friends & loved ones" who are no longer with us – WOLD members commissioned these candles. Three small pillar candles were lit for people whom WOLD's ministry extended to (either the pastor did a funeral or interpreted for one).



WOLD council members had an "in-house" planning retreat in November – they didn't go anywhere, but stayed "at home" and met for 3 days at the church. Council members enjoy the planning sessions; because it gives them a chance to reflect on what God is doing in-through-and-with WOLD. This year's planning retreat was special because we celebrated WOLD's 25th anniversary this year – it gave council members a chance to "take stock" of all the significant events at WOLD, and what more might be waiting for WOLD in the future.

The Bible study, "Bible Stories to Know" continues at WOLD on Wednesday nights (see wordoflifedeaf.org/bible-study). During Advent, Bible study time will become shorter because of midweek Advent services. WOLD joins the Wednesday night services for interpreted worship at St. Peter's, the host site of WOLD's ministry.

Looking ahead to next year, WOLD will make preparations to cover Pr. Rockwell's absence during his sabbatical from May through August 2020. Pr. Russ will use the time to develop Deaf ministry resources. A grant was awarded to WOLD to pay the pastoral staff and interpreters that will be needed during Pr. Russ' absence.

Russell A. Rockwell,
Pastor
Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church
www.wordoflifedeaf.org
check website for worship times!!



MINISTRY NEWS

PASTOR RUTH ULEA

Dear partners,

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS.

Great is thy faithfulness

Oh God my father there is no shadow of turning with thee

Thou change not thy compassion they fail not,

As Thou has been, Thou forever will be'

Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness

Morning by morning new mercies I see

All I have needed, thy hand hath provided

God is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Merry hearts! Merry Christmas proverbs 17:22 states "A merry heart does good like a medicine but a broken spirit dries the bones." This means a merry heart is beautiful, but one completely broken in spirit and dejected will develop many bodily illness. Nothing ruins the health more than grief.

Continually worrying, anxiety, fretfulness, bad tempers, hatred and malice and the end of all these things is death. We would rid ourselves of such health destroying agencies.

It's traditionally to say "Merry Christmas" because December 25 is coming very soon and this is not enough indeed. However, we have to say "Merry hearts" every day because Jesus Christ is in our hearts everyday, according to our faith in His precious blood for forgiveness of our sins. It will influence others spiritually and mentally so we would learn to say "Merry Hearts" as we greet daily even unsaved people who cannot express "merry hearts" because their unavoidable actions that will tell the truth about their personality.

However, they can find it easy to say "Merry Christmas" and we can mention "merry hearts" if we mean to love God with all our heart, with all our

mind,

with all our strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves; love covers all sins according to God's word, Proverbs 10:12.

Time has come to write Christmas letters to friends all over the world. As usual I am slightly behind, but I hope you will be patient with me all the same. Christmas is coming soon and the changing from one year to a new one is also the time that we look back and try to remember the events of the year which is passing away.

All through this past months, I have been very busy with work. Everything keeps delaying after the leadership conference in August 2019. In September we had a new hearing teacher join to assist with the church work and school. He himself is a pastor. In November we had three deaf weddings and it was so great and wonderful. Tomorrow the school is going to close for Christmas break till January 13, 2020.

I have already received the ELDA newsletter and I enjoy reading them. Thank you so much. Our friendship is one of the blessings of the Lord; now I wish everyone of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May the blessing of the Lord follow you in the year 2020.

With lots of love,
Pastor Ruth Ulea,



MINISTRY NEWS

HEARTLAND EPHPHATHA, SIOUX FALLS, SD

Heartland Ephphatah in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They celebrated their annual “Deaf Awareness Sunday” at Peace Lutheran Church. Events included presenting the Gospel in ASL, showing our sign choir video (Link here)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1RUPM3hbeBUkjPUji0rlhj-GqIWIHmIUJ>

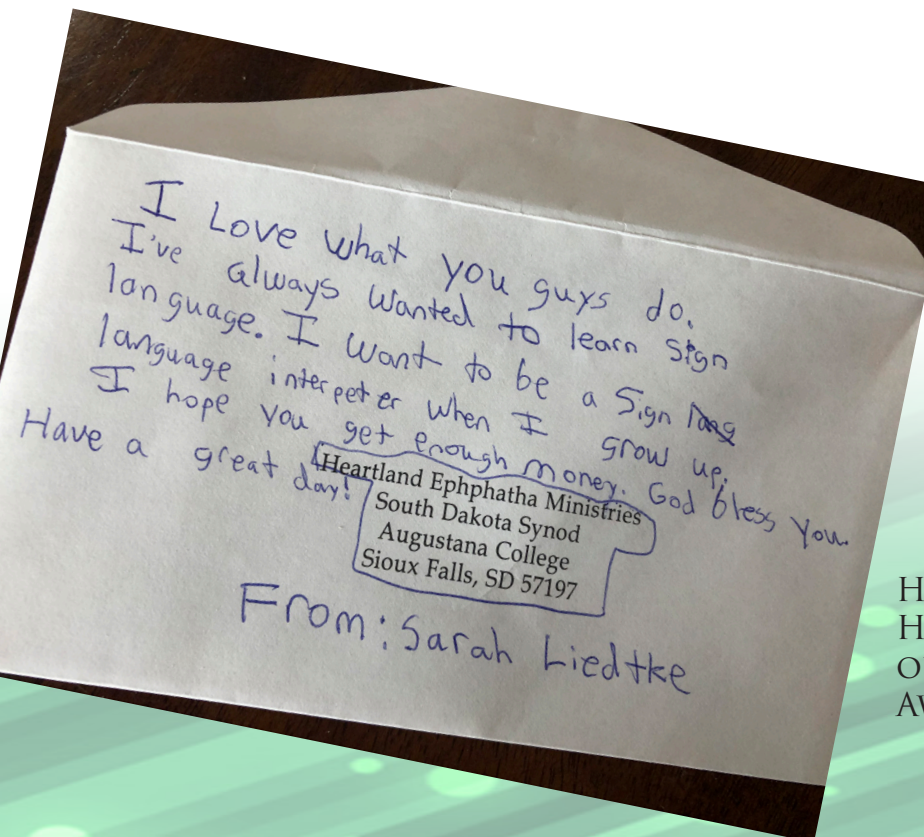
Presenting to our congregation the mission trip to Red Bird; offering ASL classes, taking a special offering, and giving a special Bible Study to the group on “What is the Bible?”



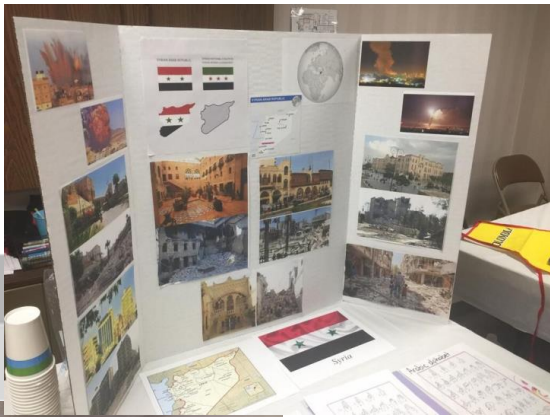
SIGN CHOIR VIDEO BY HEM FOR DEAF AWARENESS SUNDAY IN S.D.



JEFF PANEK AND MARK KOTERWSKI PRESENTING ON THEIR TRIP TO RED BIRD MISSIONS AT PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



HAND-WRITTEN NOTE TO HEARTLAND EPHPHATHA FOR OUR SPECIAL OFFERING ON DEAF AWARENESS SUNDAY.



80 guests enjoyed the booths from Liberia, Syria, Colombia, Cambodia, Philippines, Nepal, Bhutan, Deaf Refugee Advocacy & DeafCAN!



DEAF INTERNATIONAL FEST...10/19/19

(above) Leslie Wildermuth & Heather Pringle are two of the awardees. Also honored were Deaf Refugee Advocacy of Rochester, NY & Walaa Abdulsalam & husband Said. Bill Lockard was honored with a yellow scarf designating king or chief



Above right, Bill greets the guests in ASL while Bhutanese CDI Bhawani Dangal interprets. (right & below) Int'l potluck enjoyed after panel of refugees & immigrants



Deaf job coach & interpreter Monu Chhetri & husband came from Syracuse



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.

September, December, March and June

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 Linda Fairbanks, lindafairbanks22@gmail.com Thanks!