



# ELDA

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

**Volume 17 • Summer 2022  
Issue 65**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### MARK KOTERWSKI

Greetings from ELDA!!!

The ELDA Board is very excited that Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church will host the ELDA conference a couple of weeks from now! Why is it important to have ELDA Conference?

Conferences are a valuable ministry experience and can help us go further in our leadership, so here are five reasons you should attend a conference this year.

- 1) Connect with God - We gather to learn about God's message. We learn and consider what we can do for our Churches, communities, and world, according to God's will.
- 2) Connect with People - We have not gathered for 4 years since (2018) in Las Vegas, Nevada. It's time for all of us to get together (new and old faces)! Is it possible to meet a new friend? We can learn and share our and their experience, such as how we deal with good and struggle in life. It shows that we are not alone in our life! We can learn to make a better positive life! The most important is WHAT? We must have a field trip, social time, play games, and watch or participate skit show!
- 3) Connect with resources - We will have various workshops, field trip, worships, devotionals, etc that would be very helpful. It may benefit for you to bring the good resources that you learn for yourself. And you can bring new resources back to your community.
- 4) Connect with Vision - It is important for you and other people to participate ELDA assembly to discuss what we can do according to God's and ELDA's vision. This will lead the ELDA Board to take action for the next 2 years.



- 5) Connect with Calling - What can you do for ELDA, your church, your neighborhood, or/and your community? You can be a volunteer, leader, follower, Lay worker, or become involved in various meetings, etc. If you don't know-how or are not sure what to do. That's what the ELDA conference is for!!!

Those 5 lists will impact what happens in our homes, neighborhoods, and the community around our churches and ELDA.

If you or anyone are interested to be an ELDA officer - President (4 years), Secretary (4 years), Spiritual advisor (4 years), and Treasurer (2 years). Please contact Lori Fuller at [lorisl95@gmail.com](mailto:lorisl95@gmail.com) or Jeff Panek, the Nomination chairperson at the ELDA conference to put your name or someone on the nomination list.

I can't wait to see you ALLLLLLL at the ELDA conference in a couple of weeks! Come one, Come all!!!

God bless you all!  
Mark Koterwski  
ELDA President

# Inside this Issue



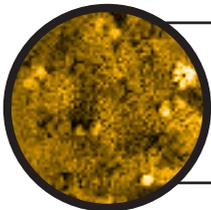
FROM THE DIRECTOR

**FIND OUT WHAT WHY THE LETTER 'C' IS ON PASTOR BETH'S MIND!**



LAST MINUTE CONFERENCE  
DETAILS

**GET YOUR SKIT READY PLUS OTHER LAST MINUTE DETAILS!**



SPIRITUAL ARTICLE  
AND COVID

**COVID IS STILL AROUND US, WHAT DOES JESUS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE VIRUS?**

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## PASTOR BETH LOCKARD

Dear ELDA Friends--

It's summer! The temperatures started warming up before summer started as Pennsylvania and much of the country experienced heatwaves, fires began in dryer regions, and water shortages and rationing are a reality in the West. As I write this, we are closer to seeing each other again and celebrating 30 years of the ELDA at our June conference. We have "Walked in Faith" for 30 years together!

One of my projects is revising the ELDA Directory of Deaf churches and interpreted ministries. Much has happened in four years. With the pandemic, less people worshipping in-person, and funds changing, many churches have stopped paying for interpreters or Deaf people have stopped attending. This means less interpreted ministries. The Trinity Lutheran Deaf ministry in Reading, PA closed but the new Palms Deaf Church in FL is beginning. We have several retired pastors who sign and a few new ones

who were interpreters and are now pastoring hearing congregations. Our ELDA conference will include a town hall discussion of our ELDA Deaf ministries and what could be done to strengthen our outreach to the Deaf Community and make our resources more Deaf-friendly. **YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT.** If you cannot be at the conference, please share your ideas with me at [lockardbeth@gmail.com](mailto:lockardbeth@gmail.com) or contact the new ELDA president who is elected.

As I look at my own summer, I see it filled with Cs!

- **CONFERENCE**--I am looking forward to gathering, learning, and laughing with many of you! Thanks to the members of Word of Life Deaf Lutheran for planning and hosting this event!

- **CAMPS**--I will be working again for two weeks this summer at two different Methodist Camps set up for special needs Deaf adults in both Maryland (eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay) and Pennsylvania (near a

river). I serve as a chaplain and we will be learning the Moses story. This is a good Lutheran--Methodist collaboration. Watch for a repeat of the Red Bird mission camp in 2023 for family volunteer work together.

- **CITIZENSHIP**--As we celebrate Independence Day, think about what makes the United States a country we love. I will be helping several Deaf people prepare for their citizenship tests and becoming new Americans. DeafCAN! has worked with Deaf people from almost 30 countries. I learn from my students, too, and they enrich my life!

- **CATARACTS**--In between all of this, I will have cataract surgeries on both eyes.

- **COVID**--We wish we were finished with this pandemic but it still attacks us. Even if we feel safer with vaccines, we need to take care of ourselves and those around us. People pick up COVID faster in crowded indoor places like planes, cruises, restaurants, and community events. Let's be kind to each other. Summer is here and will be gone quickly. May we see our great God in the beautiful world He made. May we care for creation, our community, and ourselves.

Pastor Beth Lockard  
ELCA Deaf Ministries  
Director





**Don't forget!!-  
The Church Skits competition is  
Friday night at ELDA!  
Bring your best skit.  
Bring your worst skit.  
Bring your only skit!!**



**Bring a skit!  
Make us cry.  
Make us learn.  
Make us laugh.  
Bring a skit!**



# PASTORAL ADVISOR'S COLUMN

## JESUS CHRIST AND THE MASK

Covid-19 is still spreading, and with each new wave, a new variant. We are now entering 5th wave of Covid-19. More than one million people have died, yes, here in USA. People have started to take off their masks. People have started to attend baseball or football games where there are thousands of people, most of them not wearing masks. Sure, we all would rather not to wear masks. It's not comfortable.

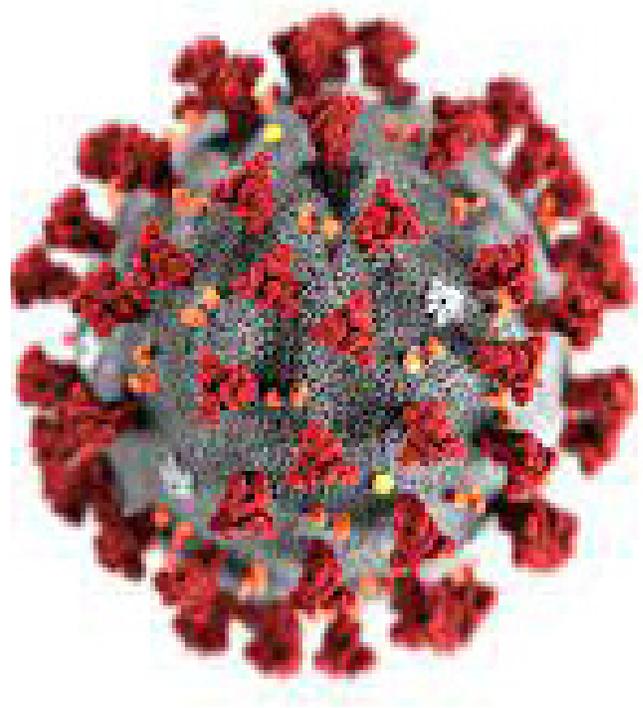
Our church has taught us this:  
***"Love your neighbor as yourself"***.

**Your first thought:** This is our relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ. We believe in Jesus' teachings and we want to follow them in our daily lives. We do want to be good Christians.

**Your second thought:** Healthy relationships with other people. By wearing masks, we not only protect ourselves from Covid-19, but protect others too. Many people who are infected with the virus has no symptoms and they may be not aware of it, so it is very important that we both protect ourselves and others. This is an important sign of being a good Christian.

**Leviticus chapter 19 verse 18:**  
**I am the Lord, and I command you to love others as much as you love yourself.**

-Don Rosenkjar



# ELDA 2022 Schedule

---

**ELDA Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 21 thru Thursday June 23**

---

## **ELDA Conference**

### **Thursday, June 23**

- 2:00p - 6:00p - Arrival, Registration, & Free Time  
*(Room check-in at 4:00p)*
- 6:00p - 7:00p - Supper
- 7:00p - 8:30p - Opening Worship
- 8:30p - 10:00p - Intro's, Ice-Breakers & Fellowship

### **Friday, June 24**

- 7:30a - 9:00a - Breakfast
- 9:00a - 9:15a - Devotions
- 9:15a - 10:00a - Free Time until Amish Tour
- 10:00a - 3:00p - AMISH TOUR *(lunch is included with tour, but on your own if you don't go on tour!*
- 3:00p - 4:00p - Break / Free Time
- 4:00p - 5:30p - ELDA Meeting
- 6:00p - 7:00p - Supper
- 7:00p - 8:00p - Lay Training Workshop
- 8:00p - 9:00p - Church Skits competition
- 9:00p - 10:00p - Fellowship
- 10:00p-10:15p - Compline

### **Saturday, June 25**

- 7:30a - 9:00a - Breakfast
- 9:00a - 9:15a - Devotions
- 9:15a -12:00p - ELDA Town Hall (free time after)
- 12:00p - 1:00p - Lunch
- 1:00p - 2:30p - Will & Estate Workshop
- 2:30p - 4:00p - Break / Free Time
- 4:00p - 5:30p - Elections & 2024 Site Selection
- 6:00p - 7:30p - Banquet & Awards
- 7:30p - 8:00p - Group Picture
- 8:00p - 9:00p - Closing Worship
- 9:00p -10:00p - Fellowship

### **Sunday, June 26**

- 7:30a - 9:00a - Breakfast
- 9:00a -11:00a - Worship & Goodbye's  
*(Room check-out by 11:00a)*

---

**ELDA Pastoral Workers: Sunday, June 26 thru Tuesday, June 28**

---

# ELDA CONFERENCE AT WOLD

## WORD OF LIFE DEAF PREPARES FOR AN AWESOME CONFERENCE

WOLD is excited to see everybody (soon!) at the ELDA Conference! If you are wondering how many people are coming, we can say about 45 people are registered (the exact attendance will be announced at the conference).

Some are concerned about the currently rising trend of Covid. At this writing, our planning team is actively discussing the issue with both ELDA leadership and the Eden Resort, site of the conference.

We encourage you to read the “Frequently Asked Questions” page on the Eden Resort’s website, which is found at this url: <https://edenresort.com/faqs/>

On that page, see especially the questions:

- What are your cleaning protocols throughout the resort?
- What is your housekeeping policy for a multiple-night stay?
- Are face coverings / masks required?

If you are unable to access the hotel website, here is a “cut-and-paste” clipping of that first question:

Although we have always had robust cleaning processes in our rooms, public spaces, kitchens, and other areas, and we use only hospital-grade disinfectants, we have revised our cleaning protocols to continue to reflect industry-leading cleaning practices:

- o All of our cleaning practices follow the latest in CDC disinfection guidelines

- o We have increased the frequency of cleaning in our public spaces, including increased disinfection of high-touch areas
- o We use electrostatic sprayers to disinfect public spaces
- o We have increased access to hand sanitizing stations throughout the resort

Because the rise in Covid cases is still an emerging trend, WOLD cannot (at this writing) announce decisions on the specific precautions we may take. Rest assured, our planning team intends to be proactive on this matter. Along with joy in their hearts, we ask that people also come filled with a sense of love, patience, and understanding.

See you all very soon!!

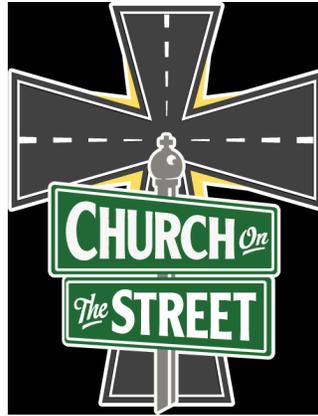
WOLD’s ELDA Planning Team



# MINISTRY REPORT

## HEARTLAND EPHPHATHA - CHURCH ON THE STREET

Jane is a Deaf woman in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She doesn't have access to a lot of comforts in life, but she does have access to Jesus! She attends the newest church in Sioux Falls and it doesn't have a building. Every month a group of ELCA churches provide worship and a meal at a park in downtown Sioux Falls. Jane is one of those who shows up faithfully. Heartland Ephphatha is a ministry for the Deaf in South Dakota that helps provide access for worship. Recently we helped by providing interpreting services for church on the street.



# **EASTER CAMP**

**PASTOR RUTH ULEA**





# 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.”

