



ELDA

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

VOLUME • 11
ISSUE • 39
DECEMBER 2015



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Linda Fairbanks

*Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
And good will toward men. Luke 2:14*

Let the Heavens rejoice, Let the earth be glad; Psalm 96:11

**Linda Fairbanks
ELDA President**

Greetings! At Christmas, it is a time once again, to be with our families and to celebrate the birth of our Savior. It is also a good time to reflect back on the year, 2015. We think of both the good and the bad events that have occurred. When we think of the good things, we think of new births, new jobs or career changes, new or renewed friendships, new exciting and wonderful events that may have occurred in our lives. They give you good feelings and you rejoice in them.

As much as we want to forget the bad things that have happened to us or to others, we still need to reflect on them. Perhaps you experienced a death of a family member or a friend, or lost your job or/and had to relocate or perhaps you or your loved one had health problems. Out there in our world, we saw firsthand the evilness of the terrorists, who beheaded people and bombed different cities in the Middle East, and in France. There were shootings here at home by homegrown terrorists, some police or criminals or simply the increase in crime in some of our cities. These events can be depressing. We wonder why these things happen.

We hope for a better year in 2016 and the years beyond. What can we do to bring peace and hope to those people in need? We can do some of the following things; invite them into your home for a home cooked meal, bring them to church services, volunteer at a soup kitchen or make/donate items, and go on a mission trip to help those in other countries. The ideas are endless and I want to hear what your churches are doing to help the less fortunate. Share what you have been doing in our newsletter. Don't forget to include pictures.

Our ELDA Board has met on October 25th and again on December 10th. We have a full agenda every time. Our board meets through Z TVM and it is quite convenient. We can see each other on the screens and our board business gets done that way. We have several standing committees and we hope to complete as much of the work that is needed before

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AND MORE...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT.)

the ELDA Conference this summer. In the next issue, I hope to have a listing of all the committees to share with you.

In this issue of the newsletter, we have the ELDA Conference flyer with the prices per person. You can start saving your money for the conference or work on a fundraiser or two at your church to help with the costs of the conference. The nomination forms for "The Shining Light Award" and "The City on the Hill Award" are in this issue also. It may be too early to submit names of individuals or churches or ministries, however it is not too early to think about a person or church/ministry/organization for these two awards. Check out the names of past winners in this issue. Thank you!

Wishing you a joyous Christmas and bringing you the blessings of Peace and Hope throughout the New Year!
-Linda

ELDA DONATIONS

(Donations received as of December 15th)

Linda Fairbanks

Jeff/ Belinda Panek

Dorothy Sparks

Mark/ Angela Koterwski

Word of Life Deaf Church, PA

Lori Fuller

Total amount of donations: \$1,150.00

Any donation made out to ELDA is greatly appreciated. Please, be sure to list where you want your donation to go. We have the Lenten Appeal, the Thanksgiving Appeal, the HOPE and the Zechariah Funds. You can donate in honor of a loved one or in someone's memory.

You can also ask that your donation go towards HOPE for the Jamaica Mission trip. Plans are being made for another trip in September 2016.

Any new donations received will be printed in our next newsletter. Thank you! Make your check out to ELDA and mail to:

Jeff Panek

ELDA Treasurer

625 South Mary Drive

Tea, SD 57064

GROUND BREAKING ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

A history making ecumenical partnership is forming between the Deaf Ministries of the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf, Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association and United Methodist Congress of the Deaf.

Nine (9) clergy and lay representatives of the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD), the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA), and the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD) met July 24-25, 2015, at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas and finalized the proposed partnership which is being called Deaf ELM.

"Our effort goes beyond 'talking and agreeing' and works toward doing and serving together in ecumenical ministry," stated Rev. Dr. Kirk Van Gilder, vice-president of UMCD and newly appointed Moderator of Deaf ELM for the coming year. "As fellow mainline Protestant denominations, our similarities are strong enough to create bonds between us as we envision and create shared ministry and mission."

Don Rosenkjar, ELDA Deaf missioner and out-going Deaf ELM Moderator, remarked about the efforts to develop a Mission and a Vision Statement, "We struggled for a while, then Cass Martensen, an ECD laywoman, noted there was "no heart" in the statement. Don continued, "We broke for lunch and ate in a room with the Lovers Lane church's mission, vision, and dream statement on the wall. We returned with new spirit and in a few minutes we had statements full of mutual love, respect and heart."

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.*

Among some of the immediate areas of shared ministry that Deaf ELM is collaborating on are

- ~lectionary resources in American Sign Language available on Youtube and videos.
- ~joint Cursillo/Walk to Emmaus/Retreats
- ~international Deaf ministry Mission trip to Zimbabwe and Kenya June 2016

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to each of you this holy-day season! The new Church year has begun and we celebrate Advent with the lighting of a new candle on the Advent wreath each week and the sharing of Bible prophecies. It is a time of preparing our hearts and minds to welcome the Christ who brings light, life, and salvation.

ELDA has been kept busy with the mission trip to Jamaica, the planning of the ELDA conference next July, and efforts to bring a Deaf Lutheran pastor from Nigeria, Rev. Ruth Ulea, to America to join us for a couple months next summer. Some of our Deaf ministries will have an opportunity to host her in their areas.

Our ELM Seed (Episcopal--Lutheran--Methodist) group has met once on line and will be developing ways we can work together. More on that in another article in this newsletter. We are invited to join the Methodist mission trip to Kenya and Zimbabwe next June. This is something you won't want to miss!

Thanks to Rev. Dayton Williams for once again coordinating the accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing youth at the national ELCA youth gathering. He has told us he is "retiring" from this job. We will miss him and appreciate his many years of service. This ministry focuses more on mainstreamed youth in hearing churches and we hope to



Pastor Beth Lockard

introduce them to ELDA.

I also wanted to share that two of our Deaf Lutheran churches, St. Philip's (Philadelphia) and Christ the King (West Chester, PA) are merging together. After a few years of discussion and investigating the possibilities, these two churches will vote on December 23 and send the proposal to the SE PA Synod Council for final approval. They will continue to keep two worship sites but merge the assets and liabilities under CTK name. Please keep them in prayer as they go through this process. I will continue to pastor both churches. We hope the merger will build on our strengths and give us more opportunities to grow. Classes are already in place at both churches for Deaf refugees and immigrants. We also already share a newsletter.

As we celebrate Christ's birth, may we be reminded of God's greatest GIFT to each of us--Himself. May we copy His Way and give ourselves as GIFTS to each other in peace, love, joy, and forgiveness. You can't buy this gift --- it is priceless!

Christmas joy!
Pastor Beth Lockard
ELCA Deaf Ministries

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULES

Christmas Services

You are welcome to attend any of the church services, which are listed below:

Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN

2901 38th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN

Christmas Eve worship service will be at 3:00 pm at Lyngblomsten Care Center on December 24.

Christmas Eve worship service will be held at 7:00 p.m. at BOLD on December 24.

There will be no service on December 25th.

St Philip's Deaf Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA

3101 Tyson Ave. Philadelphia, PA

Christmas services will be held on Wednesday, December 23rd at Noon, followed by luncheon. (\$5 donation)

Christ the King Deaf Lutheran Church, West Chester, PA

730 South New Street, West Chester, PA

Wednesday, December 23rd Christmas services will be at 7 pm, at CTK Deaf Church, followed by a dessert reception.

Sunday, December 27th Christmas services will be at 10:30 am, at the Valley View Home, Elwyn, PA.
No church service at CTK.

Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, Lancaster, PA

10 Delp Rd. Lancaster, PA

St. Peter's Lutheran is located between Lancaster and Lititz on Rte. 501.

WOLD joined the midweek interpreted Advent services of the Hearing host church, St. Peter's. (The services are short.) Bible study follows the midweek service and the topic is "Practical Christianity".

WOLD will have its own Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 5:30 pm. (no sign choir for St. Peter's this year.)

WOLD will also have a New Year's Eve service at 5:30 pm.

*note: WOLD uses the small chapel at St. Peter's Lutheran. The large sanctuary is used for weddings and funerals when the attendance is much larger.

Christmas Eve worship with Pastor Dayton Williams:

7 PM Saint Michael's Lutheran Church

500 East 31st Street

La Grange Park, IL 60526

11PM United by Faith Lutheran Church

3240 West 98th Street

Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries, Sioux Falls, SD

Peace Lutheran Church 5509 W. 41st Street, Sioux Falls, SD

Christmas Eve worship service will be interpreted at 4:15 pm

There will be no service on December 25th.

TRAINING

ELDA PROVIDES TRAINING FOR ELCA STAFF

Former ELDA president Mark Koterwski traveled to the Lutheran Center (ELCA Headquarters) in Chicago on November 11, 2015 to give a presentation on “Deaf Culture” to ELCA employees. He was amazed that there were about 20 employees from various departments who attended this lunch and learn event.. After his presentation, they asked him many good questions. Mark felt it was a very positive training. Two interpreters from Chicago did an excellent job!

One workshop participant mentioned that he did not realize that only 8% of the deaf and hard of hearing community actually attend church in America which is a very small percentage. This reflects inaccessibility in our American churches, lack of clear communication, and a need to do outreach.

After the training, Rachel Bouman, Program Director of Disability Ministries, invited Mark to join her for lunch to chat for over an hour. They had a discussion of some ideas on how ELCA and ELDA can work together as partners.

Mark said, “Before I came to Chicago, I was not aware that, my daughter Kayla Koterwski would be in Chicago too for

the Churchwide Council meeting. We were thrilled and surprised that we were able to spend time together on Thursday evening. On Friday afternoon, I had an opportunity to observe the Churchwide Council meeting. I am very proud that Kayla serves on this Council. Then, a couple days later, Kristina, Sunitha, and Dina from the Global Ministries Committee contacted me to provide a proposal for Synods to consider having ELDA provide workshops during their Glocal events for young adults.”

Mark continued, “Board members and I want to say many thanks to Rachel, Sunitha, and their ELCA team for inviting me to provide a workshop for them! We are looking forward to working with them in partnership in the future.”



Mark and daughter, Kayla Koterwski in the Lutheran Center at ELCA headquarters in Chicago, IL. Kayla is a student at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

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 38th Ave So, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406**

NAME: _____ Email: _____

Street: _____ VP _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Church or Organization: _____

Emergency Contact: Name: _____

Text, VP, or Phone# _____ Female _____ or Male _____

++++++ All Meals and Housing are included in the price ++++++

1) Pastoral Workers:

(Arrive on Sunday afternoon, July 17 & leave on Sunday morning, July 24) \$ 650.00 per person _____

2) ELDA Board:

(Arrive on Wednesday morning, July 20 & leave on Sunday morning, July 24) \$ 400.00 per person _____

3) Conference Attendees:

(Arrive on Thursday afternoon, July 21 & leave on Sunday morning, July 24) \$ 325.00 per person _____

4) Commuters: (no rooms) (Includes supper on Thursday) \$40.00 _____

(No rooms) (Includes lunch and supper on Friday) \$ 50.00 _____

(No rooms) (Includes lunch and banquet on Saturday) \$ 60.00 _____

(No rooms) (Includes banquet only on Saturday) \$ 50.00 _____

(Non Refundable)

We will stay in suite apartments (include kitchen, bathroom, living room and a twin bed) with a bed in each of the four bedrooms on the campus. It is across the street from the cafeteria and meeting rooms.

Please list preferred roommates' names here:

Special Needs?

1) Interpreter/Assistant Needs: Voice Interpreter: (Please circle)

2) Other (Please explain need _____)

3) Mobility Needs: Wheelchair Y or N

4) Special Meal Needs: Vegetarian, Diabetic etc. _____

*** Are you interested in going to Mall of America? - Yes or No**

(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**

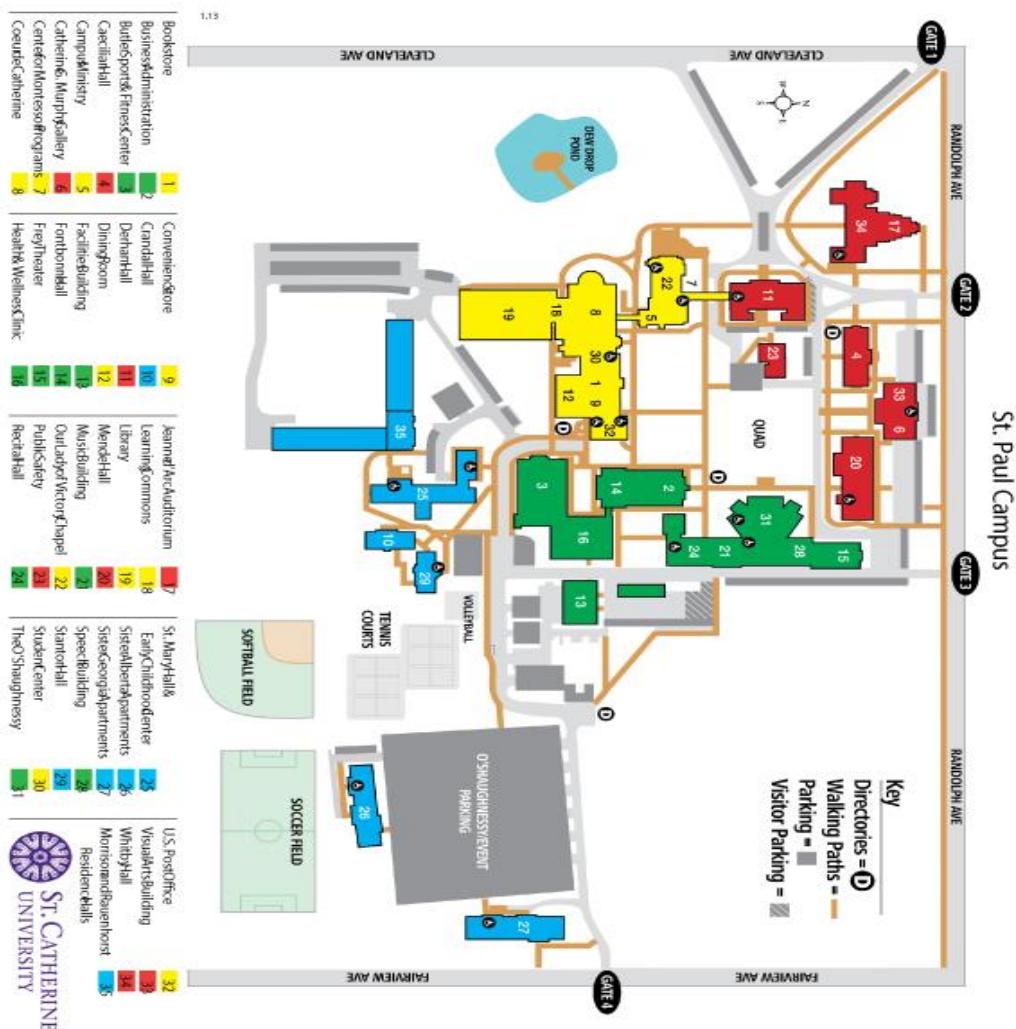
- * Check-In begins at 4:00 p.m. on July 17. All guests must check in before 8:00 p.m.
- * Check-In begins at 8:00 a.m. on July 21. All guests must check in before 8:00 p.m.
- * Check-out begins at 8:00 a.m. on July 24. All guests must be checked out by noon.

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 (sparksd31@yahoo.com)



"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 38th Ave S. Mpls, MN 55406** - 3 ½ miles away from CSU)

* **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.



Evangelical
Lutheran Deaf
Association

ELDA SHINING LIGHT AWARD

"Make your light to 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: _____

Email Address: _____

Please explain why this person is being nominated:

Who is nominating this person: _____

Contact E-Mail Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ circle one: VP Voice or text

NOMINATIONS ARE ACCEPTED THROUGH JUNE 1, 2016.

Please send your submission to:

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Deaf
Association

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 or Ministry Nominated: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please explain why this church or ministry is being nominated:

Who is nominating this church or ministry: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ circle one: VP, Voice, or Text

NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH JUNE 1, 2016.

Please send your submission to:

Jeannie Fischer

301 Weaverland Valley Rd.

East Earl, PA 17519

Jeannie@frontiernet.net

SPIRITUAL SIDE:

By Dorothy Sparks, Associate In Ministry



Resolution 2016

President John Kennedy's famous quote is "Ask Not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

How does it apply to our faith for 2016?

Shortly after Herman Ostry bought a piece of property in Bruno, Nebraska, a nearby creek flooded his new barn with 29 inches of water. Herman's son Mike started thinking about the problem. Mike counted the number of boards, timbers, and nails, estimating the barn's weight at 19,000 pounds. Mike figured that 344 people would have to lift only 55 pounds each to carry the barn to higher ground.



On June 30, 1988 Mike ingeniously designed a grid of steel tubing to serve as the barn "handles". Herman counted "one, two, three, lift!" The barn rose up off the ground like it weighed nothing at all. The 344 townspeople carried the 9-ton barn 50 yards up a hill in just 3 minutes!

The teamwork is amazing. Let's think about this new quote for resolution 2016. "Ask not what your church can do for you, Ask what you can do for your church." Here is a tool for the teamwork.

T: Trust
E: Energy
A: Accountability
M: Management of Mistakes
W: Worship
O: Open Communication
R: Recognition
K: Keep On Learning

Dorothy Sparks

INTERESTED IN THE ZIMBABWE MISSION TRIP?

Jambo (swahili for HI)

We are planning for our next Deaf Ministry mission trip to Zimbabwe and Kenya with a Kenya Safari for animals. Attached are flyers. **Please read and send to anyone that you think might be called by God to go on this trip.**

If someone really, seriously wants to go, **I need to know by Nov 15** so that I can plan about tickets and transportation, rooms, etc. The cost will be about \$5000. First payment of \$1000 will be due on Jan 1, 2016.

The dates for the trip will probably be from Sun June 19 to Sat July 9. We will probably be leaving from Dulles Airport near Washington DC.

Even if you told me you think you want to go, Please tell me again. Then I will put you on a special list. Then I will send you more information. NOV 15, 2015

If you tell me yes but you change your mind in a few months and decide you can not go, that is ok.

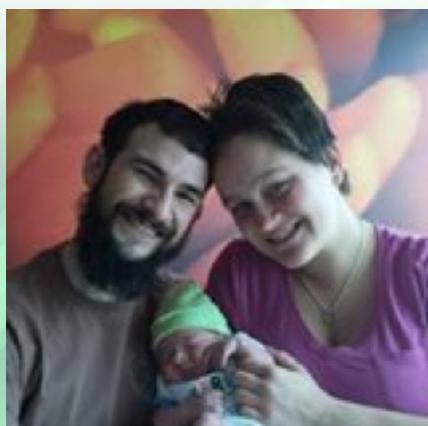
Please pray for all of us and for our partners in Deaf Ministry in Zimbabwe and Kenya

Tatenda (Shona the Zimbabwe language for thank you)
Asante (Swahili for thank you.)

Love in Christ

Carol

[443-794-6499](#)

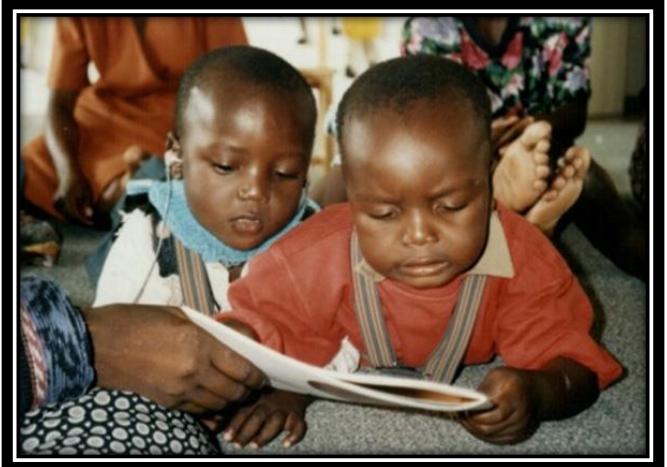


Justin Barlow, president of Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church and Janie Barlow, secretary of the church council, had a baby boy on December 6th. The baby weights 8 lb and 8 oz and is 20.75 inches long. They decided to name this sleepy boy Elijah Thomas Barlow. Congratulations!!!

African Deaf Mission Team

Are you being called to go?

HERE'S SOME INFO!



Sponsored by
United
Methodist Deaf



LIFE TRANSFORMING!

JUNE 19-JULY 9, 2016

Share with our Deaf partners in Zimbabwe and Kenya in Deaf Ministry, Deaf schools and income-generating projects. AND a Kenyan safari

Let us know if you are interested by Nov 15, 2015

For more info contact

Carol Stevens at carolstevens100@hotmail.com



AFRICA DEAF MISSION TRIP 2016

To Zimbabwe and Kenya Deaf communities June 19-July 9, 2016
Leaving from Washington DC area. Cost approximately \$4500-\$5000
Partner with Deaf people in Ministry, in Deaf schools, in work projects.
Includes Kenyan Safari

Is God calling you to this international mission trip?

Contact Carol Stevens carolstevens100@hotmail.com 443-794-6499

JAMAICA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

By Pastor Beth Lockard

As the ELDA September newsletter was being prepared, our mission team was preparing to leave for Jamaica to lead our third Vacation Bible School for the students at Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf. Our mission team included two guys and seven women and we came from the states of Florida, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania. Five of us were Deaf and four hearing. We brought seven suitcases of supplies for the school in addition to our own luggage. The guys also brought tools in their baggage to use with the carpentry projects one of them did.

Some crazy things happened but God took care of us along the way.

The first thing that happened at the Philadelphia Airport was that our plane developed engine trouble and the flight was canceled! We all had to get off the plane but staff and a couple team members with phones got us re-routed. The good thing was that we now had a DIRECT FLIGHT to Jamaica! The bad thing was that the luggage all went to North Carolina except



Deaf Students at the school



for that of the people coming from Florida and Nebraska. It took a couple hours to register all the missing luggage. Jamaica time is so SLOW!! We got the luggage back the next day..

The weather was hot and humid but we used the first

day to adjust our bodies and get the lessons ready for the VBS. Dorothy Sparks taught us some skits and we also made up a theme song in ASL. We wanted to start on a Sunday so we could introduce the kids to Deaf worship. When we arrived, we used the new multipurpose room that Jeff

Panek and Bill Lockard sanded, primed, and painted in 2014. It had fans and bathrooms and we were more comfortable.

The children who were at the school for the weekend were excited to see us and were still talking about the 2014 VBS focused on Psalm 23. We led worship, introduced the theme (mountains, Bible heroes and Deaf heroes) and song, and took pictures of each student "climbing" a mountain. We played several games and became connected to the group. We



*The man on left side is a Deaf pastor in the Deaf Village.
The tall man in the middle is Michael Killian. He is the president of Mill Neck School for the Deaf in NY.*

were so thankful to Pastor Lisa Jordan of BOLD for loaning us her photo printer. We used it all week! Peggy Scherling used her photography skills.

Sunday afternoon, the Mill Neck team arrived from New York and the next day we all went to the Jamaica Deaf Village, a three-hour drive through the mountains. We met with the Deaf residents and viewed their beautiful handicrafts and furniture and bought things to support their program. We had a good chat with Pastor Damion and Felicia Campbell (both Deaf) and viewed their church in the Village. We then went briefly to visit the Caribbean Christian Centre of the Deaf school in Knockpatrick. We wanted Mill Neck to see what other schools had because JCSD struggles to survive.. Our ride back to the hotel was a bit crazy driving on the left side on narrow roads in the dark. We were thankful to have hired a driver and van for the week.

Tuesday--Friday we were at the school leading VBS and using the wonderful LED projector gift from ELDA. One of our team members, Nick, was a carpenter and installed our gifts of toilet paper holders and paper towel holders in the bathrooms all over the school and built cupboards. Another team member, Jacob, trained two students and two teachers to use the projector. We all had stories, skits, crafts, games, and activities to do each day and prep work and meetings each night. We enjoyed the beautiful island resort for a couple hours daily before dinner. On Friday, the JCSD dance team gave us a program.

Each afternoon, we were hit with a heavy thunderstorm lasting 30--60 minutes. Lightning flashed very close to our building and thunder boomed. The students turned off the lights and we all felt the building rumble but God was with us. On our last day, we had to drive down the mountain during a thunderstorm and the dirt roads were roaring streams of water. Thank God for the driver's skill! That night, the team dressed up and surprised Pr Beth with a birthday celebration!

Mill Neck team left on Tuesday but they were impressed with our work and the Board just voted this month to build a library and computer room on campus. JCSD Board voted to accept their



The mission team (volunteers)

generous gift. Extra money will pay for computers and library books. We hope this will help the students with their education and prepare them for life after graduation.

Our next trip will be in September 2016. Several of our mission team members will return and we hope YOU will go with us! We will have a booth at the ELDA Conference in July 2016. We are so thankful for your many gifts of cash and supplies to help make this a successful trip. We were able to give \$800 to JCSD to buy more desks and chairs. Through you, God provided everything on the JCSD wish list. Through your prayers, 55 kids were blessed. Through God's grace, we were kept safe through our crazy adventure and worked together well as a team. We are thankful for each team member working hard and giving of their time, talents, and treasure to make this a successful VBS!

Co-leaders Pr. Beth Lockard (PA) & AIM Dorothy Sparks (MN)

Mary Edwards (MN), Peggy Scherling (NE), Lori Fuller (FL), Yvonne Mazzulo, Amy Schoen, Jacob & Nicholas LeVasseur (all PA)



Many people donated school supplies for Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf

POPE SIGHTING

- *Jeannie Fischer*

On September 26th, my husband John, our third son Travis and I got up at 4 am to go to Lititz, PA to get on a bus at 5 am to go to Philadelphia. We arrived there at 7:30 am. It took us 2 hours to get through the security system with so many people.

We found a good spot to put our lawn chairs to sit and wait from 9:30 am till 3 pm, the Pope finally came past our area waving in his Pope mobile at little fast speed and I managed to get a very good picture of him. Another person from John's Church took another picture from the opposite side of the road.

It was really so special "once in life" experience for us to see Pope in Philadelphia, because the last time the pope, John Paul II came here in Philadelphia was in 1979. That was when I graduated from my high school (36 years ago) We were extremely thrilled and it really lasted on our mind for a while. After, the Pope's mass was broadcast on the big screen with closed captioning , so I didn't miss a lot. We left abruptly to get on a subway to the bus, but it seemed like it took



forever to get on the bus, and we were the last people to get on a bus. We did get lost for little when we went to the wrong side of parking lot to find the bus. We got home after Midnight. It was a very exhausting day, but it was really worth it after all after hearing a woman from Scranton, Pa., who got there 2 hours after me, and didn't make it through the security system and missed seeing the pope. We were really so grateful that we made it and at same time we felt bad for that woman for missing



the Pope after making a long trip for nothing. The people around us there were really so nice, friendly and good rapport especially the lady from Chicago, yes she came to Philadelphia from Chicago just to see the Pope. Wow.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR A SUFFERING WORLD

Our spiritual advisor, Dorothy Sparks found this inspirational article on the internet.

In Africa, Rosina attended a Sunday school class. She was asked to write a story explaining the meaning of Christmas to a suffering world. Here is Rosina's reflections to encourage those who are suffering.



“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel which means ‘God with us’ [Matthew 1:23]. On Christmas day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This is the day when

God showed His love to this world by giving his only Son – Immanuel. So each and every time we celebrate Christmas we should know that it comes with Good News – good news especially to the suffering world. It is a time to remind everyone that God is with us. No matter the suffering you might be in, don’t run away from it. You have to embrace it. Jesus was brought into this world to suffer for our iniquities. He never ran away from his suffering because he knew that His Father was, is and will be always be with Him. King Herod tried to kill Jesus as a small baby, but did he succeed? The same applies to us.

Suffering may discourage us and destroy our faith if we don’t focus on the meaning of Christ’s coming into this world – ‘God with us’. Christmas is therefore there to remind us that God is with us. Whatever situation you might be in, perhaps it is the loss of a loved one, just know that it’s a matter of time. God is with us. God knows the plans he has for us. Through Christmas we are encouraged to continue believing for God is with us. No weapon against him shall prosper. No-one or power can thwart His plans. God is with us. – Rosina

PAST ELDA AWARD WINNERS

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

Past Winners:

- | | | |
|------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2006 | Donald Rosenkjar | St Matthews, CA |
| 2008 | Dayton Williams | Lutheran Deaf Ministry, IL |
| 2010 | Daniel Glenney | St. Philip's, PA |
| 2012 | Dorothy Sparks | Bread of Life Deaf Church, MN |
| 2014 | Barbara Schmidt | Bread of Life Deaf Church, MN |

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.”

Past Winners:

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 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 Church, MN |

Go to Page 10 of the Newsletter to nominate someone this year!

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 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!