



ELDA

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MARCH 2016

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



Linda Fairbanks
ELDA President

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Linda Fairbanks

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

Spring is just around the corner. Winter is nearly over and we look forward to warm spring days. I was able to visit Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Faribault, MN a few times while staying in town with my family. Christ through Hands Ministry has been without a director for a long time. However the church continues to hire an interpreter for Sunday morning services. My sister and I went to watch an interpreted Passion play, called "The Promise" at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN. The musical drama about the life of Jesus Christ had a very large cast of actors and actresses of all ages. It was very good and inspiring.

The ELDA Board has been busy with our monthly meetings. We just got three grant applications sent out to the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf Foundation prior to the March 1st deadline. The Board is seeking grants to help with part of the interpreter costs for the ELDA Conference 2016, and to help with Pastor Ruth's air flight and other expenses during her upcoming stay in the USA. We are seeking a grant also to help fund the next Jamaica Mission Trip 2016. Thanks to all who helped with the grants.

For those of you living in Minnesota and the surrounding states, please do stop by and visit the ELDA booth at the Deaf Nation Expo on Saturday, April 2nd in St. Paul, MN. You can register for the ELDA conference at the booth. Take the opportunity to learn more about ELDA and to meet the Board members. Some of the Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church members might be there also. BOLD is the host church for the upcoming ELDA Conference.

On Sunday, March 13th, I had the opportunity to attend an ELDA Conference planning committee meeting at the Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and meet their committee members. They are busy getting ready for the conference and things are looking good. I was able to stay afterwards for the BOLD church service, with Pastor Lisa Jordan and Associate in Ministry Dorothy Sparks. Thank you!

In this newsletter, you will find the two nomination forms for The ELDA Shining Light Award and the ELDA City on the Hill Award. The deadline to submit those awards

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AND MORE...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT.)

is June 1, 2016. Maybe you know of an individual in your church or any of our other ELDA deaf churches or ministries who deserves to receive an award. The City on the Hill award honors a church or organization. Thanks!

If you have not yet registered for the conference, please do so as soon as you can! There will be workshops, worships and devotions and business meetings. We are hoping to bring Pastor Ruth Ulea from a deaf church in Nigeria to our country and she will be a guest presenter. This promises to be an exciting conference and we don't want you to miss it! Our United Methodist and Episcopal Deaf church workers and delegates will be joining us for the conference. The 3 groups will be holding their own business meetings and will join as one large group for the meals, workshops, a tour to Mall of America and the Banquet. This is an opportunity to make new friends from those two groups. Thank you, if you have already registered.

"The Lord is Risen indeed" Luke 24:34
Easter Joy, Linda

EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Easter Service, March 26th at 11 am
St Philip's Deaf Lutheran (in St. John's)
3101 Tyson Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19149

Easter Sunday, March 27 at 10:30 am
Christ the King Deaf Church (in Calvary)
730 South New Street, West Chester, PA 19382

Valley View Easter Service, March 27 at 2 pm
111 Elwyn Road, Elwyn, PA 19363

Easter Worship Services, Sunday March 27th at 8:30 am (Interpreted)
Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Christ through Hands Ministry)
1207 Prairie Ave. SW, Faribault, MN 55021

Easter Day March 27, Breakfast will be served at 8-10 am, Worship service is at 10:30 am
Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church
2901 38th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Interpreted Easter Service, March 27th at 8:30 am
Peace Lutheran Church (Heartland Ephphatha)
5509 W. 41st Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Interpreted Easter Service, March 27 at 10:30am
Holy Trinity Church
Muncie, Indiana

A NEW PASTOR



St. Matthew's North Hollywood California Church Has a New Called Pastor!

This Sunday, February 14, we welcome our new pastor, the Rev. Stephanie Jaeger. Pastor Stephanie has been called to St. Matt's for a 5-year term call with special responsibilities for leading St. Matthew's through the ELCA's transformational ministry process. In addition to this process of renewal and growth, and the common responsibilities of pastoral care and the ministry of Word and Sacrament, Pr. Stephanie will focus on: cultivating and strengthening St. Matt's Deaf ministry, continuing LGBTQ outreach, mentoring a new TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) candidate placed at St. Matt's, assisting with the development of community services such as a weekly drop-in program for homeless persons in collaboration with Lutheran Social Services, and helping St. Matt's become financially sustainable long into the future. We will be popping some corks this Sunday (champagne and sparkling grape juice) to celebrate! Besides-it's Valentine's Day.

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Pastor Beth Lockard

Dear ELDA Friends--

As I write this, we in Pennsylvania are having some unseasonably warm weather. We had several days in the high 70's and one day was even 81 degrees. This early Spring seems to say the earth knows we have an early Easter this year. The trees are budding and the daffodils are coming up quickly and the piles of snow are disappearing.

Easter reminds us of Jesus' promise of new life and eternal life given to each of us who believes. Even though we are daily faced with the darkness of our sin and all its consequences on earth, including death, we do not have the final word. God has the final word of forgiveness and life!! The flowers are reminding us that dead bulbs bring life the same way God brings us through death into life..



As I am writing this, I am also preparing for the funeral of A. Donald Roppelt, who died recently at the age of 96.5. Don was very active in both church and community, locally,

regionally, and statewide. He joined All

Souls' (Episcopal) Church for the Deaf in Philadelphia in 1949 and when it closed, he attended St. Philip's Deaf Lutheran. He and his late wife Peggy raised two daughters and he worked 32 years for the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper as a printer. I mention him because of our relationship with the Episcopalians and Methodists which we will celebrate at the ELDA Conference. We are all brothers and sisters in God's grand family. So now Don has his Easter promise!

The SE Pennsylvania Synod Council approved the merger of St. Philip's with Christ the King. The legal paperwork is now being filed in the state and Christ the King Deaf Church now covers the five county area of SE Pennsylvania. They will show you the new name sign at the ELDA Conference. CTK has worship sites in West Chester, Philadelphia, and a nursing home for the Deaf and deaf-blind called Valley View.

St. Matthew's Deaf Ministry in North Hollywood now has a new pastor. See Don Rosenkjar's article in this newsletter. This is a miracle as the interim pastor is not normally allowed to be called to the church he or she serves.



Bread
of Life
Deaf AIM
Dorothy
Sparks and
I have been
working
hard to
get Pastor
Ruth Ulea
here from
Nigeria for
our ELDA
Conference
week and
much of June

and July. We want to show Pr. Ruth some schools for the Deaf including Gallaudet University and Mill Neck Manor on Long Island. We want her to visit various Lutheran Deaf ministries. We hope some of our churches can host her and allow her to do fund raising for her Lutheran Deaf Church and deaf school in Jimeta, Nigeria.

Ruth must get her visa approved by her consulate and we are writing letters to different authorities. We already received a \$500 grant from Mount Calvary Foundation through the hard work of Jay Johnson (MN) who runs a non-profit to help with water and engineering projects in Nigeria. I have written a grant proposal to Mill Neck and ELDA has pledged \$1000 from our HOPE

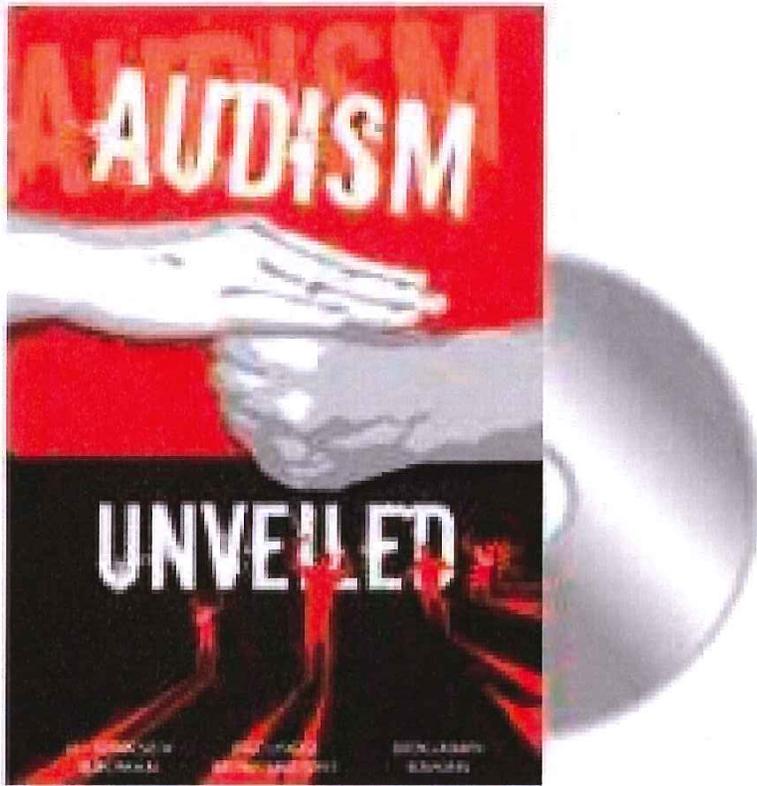
Fund. This will help with her visa, round trip airfare and other travel costs in the USA.

Dorothy, I, and Lori Fuller are also planning our fourth Jamaica mission trip in September 2016 to once again lead a Vacation Bible School at Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf. The theme this year is "Under the Sea." If you would like to join us, the approximate dates are September 15--24 and the cost will be around \$1500. I have not had time to make a flyer. You MUST have your passport that expires after March 2018. And, you must be able to work in tropical heat.

Because of our early Easter, ELDA did not have time to send out a Lenten Appeal. YOU CAN HELP! Your individual and church gifts to HOPE Fund can be used both to help bring Pastor Ruth here and to help fund our VBS in Jamaica. All gifts may be sent to Treasurer Jeff Panek, 625 South Mary Drive, Tea, SD 57064. Every penny will be put to good use!!

Rejoicing in Easter promises,
Pastor Beth Lockard
ELCA Deaf Ministries

AUDISM UNVEILED AT CTK



FAMILY NIGHT

April 8, 2016

3101 Tyson Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa 19149
(in St. John's Lower Level)

**6 p.m. Taco salad
dinner & dessert** (\$10
adults, \$5 youth 5--12)

**7 p.m. film &
discussion:** *What is
audism and how has it
hurt the Deaf
Community? How can
we change this?*

Audism Unveiled will help educate and spread the knowledge that the oppressed are not alone, and share a common bond with many others who have experienced it. It is also beneficial to educate yourself, by seeing the many faces of audism, and the deep emotional scars resulting from this discrimination.

Ben Bahan, H. Dirksen Bauman, & Facundo Montenegro directed this one-hour movie which will be followed by discussion. For anyone who has experienced audism first-hand, this is YOUR story!

Please let us know you are coming by contacting lockardbeth@gmail.com or calling Barbara Simpson at 215-259-5936 VP by April 6 so we have enough food.

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

"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.

SPIRITUAL SIDE:

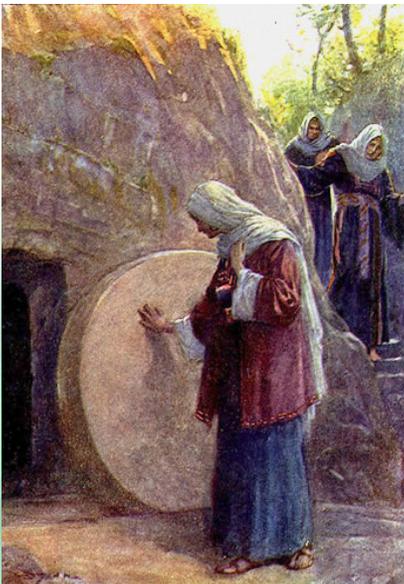
By Dorothy Sparks, Associate In Ministry



“Who will roll the stone away from the tomb?”



The picture shows that road is blocked. You may think, “ There is no way to move the stone away.” Two thousands years ago, women thought the same thing.



Very early in the morning, the women walked on the way to Jesus’ tomb. They said, “Who will roll the stone away from the tomb?” The stone was large. It was heavy and blocked their way. Then

they found the stone already rolled away from the tomb. Why did God move the stone? It is not because Jesus can walk out from the tomb. Jesus could walk through the rock. The reason to move the stone is that women and disciples can see that the tomb is empty. God did move the stone away.

You have ‘stone’ in your life. The devil wants the stone to stop you from knowing God’s plan for your life. The devil wants your job to be a burden to you. The devil wants to stop you from sharing Jesus with someone else. The devil wants to stop you from worshipping and praising God. The devil wants to stop you from supporting the people in the developed countries. The devil wants to stop you from going to Bible class.

Lets’ take a look at the ‘Stone’ stories here:



WHO WILL ROLL THE STONE AWAY?

Martin Luther

About 500 years ago, the devil put the stone to stop Martin from a relationship with God. Martin had struggled to find peace with God. He was so afraid of Him. He thought that God is mad at him and not satisfied and happy with him. He tried many different ways to satisfy God. For example, Luther would scrub the floors. he climbed up many steps on his knees. He hopes that God will accept him but he still felt not peace with God. One day, he read a Bible verse about faith. (Romans 1:17, "As the Scriptures say, "The one who is right with God by faith will live forever." He finally understood that he does not have to work hard to push the stone away. All he need is faith in God. God did move stone for him. He finally feels peace with God. His heart becomes shine. With God's help, he did work hard to remove stones from the people who are suffering from oppression.



"Sail On In Christ"

I usually wear an engraved cross necklace on Sundays. It says, "Sail On In Christ". It applies to my life. Years ago, I had many questions, ("How? Why? What? Where? Who? When?) In my mind. I felt like I tried to row a boat but it kept going around. The devil put a stone like a dam to prevent me from flowing forward. I finally gave up and gave my oars to God. All I do is to sit in the boat and let God lead it. Then I noticed that my boat is sailing forward. Of course, sometime I face 'wave' (challenge) in my life but I have to remember to trust God instead of trying to row the boat. I have lifted my sails up and let the Holy Wind of God to lead my boat. I feel peace. I know that God did move the stone. Everything God does flows from His love and grace.

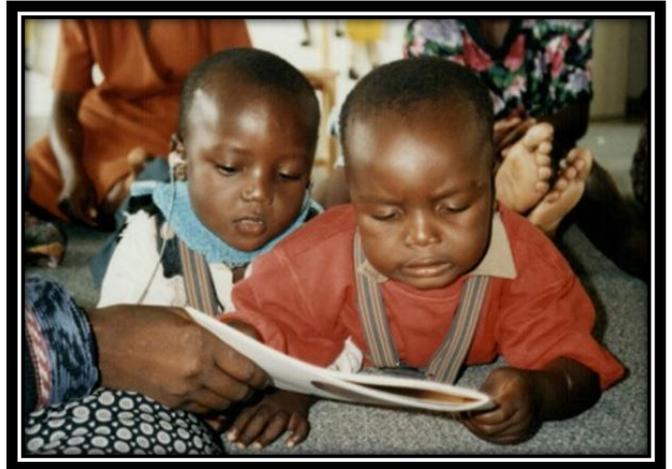
God did not just move a stone 2,000 years ago.

God Still Moves Stones Today!!

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

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

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!