

## FROM MARK KOTERWSKI

### ELDA PRESIDENT

Summer is getting closer!!! We are excited to have the ELDA Conference 2012 that will be held soon in Sioux Falls, SD which will happen July 12 - 15, 2012.

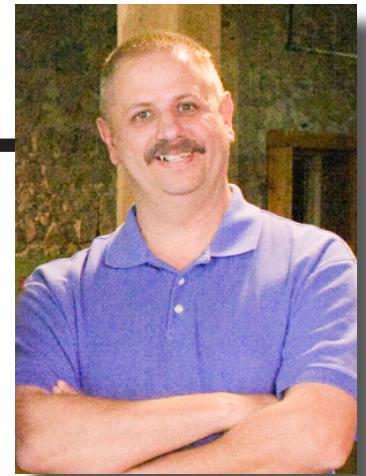
### SOMETIMES, WE FORGET ABOUT GOD AND LEAVE HIS PLANS BEHIND.

We try to manage many things

in our life such as projects, households, people, careers, etc... Sometimes, we forget about God and leave His plans behind. We need to remind ourselves what we can do for God's will. So it's a perfect time for us to get together. Our theme is "Love in Action".

The purpose to have conference is to:

- **Get together** to learn how God can guide our activities (work, support, love, care, etc.).
- To **seek God's inspiration** and guidance.
- **Worship** together and pray for God to direct us. We also invite teachers to help us see what God is doing in the world and how we can participate in that.
- **We gather**, we see families, friends, Lay workers, and pastors.
- We also **meet new friends** and colleagues.

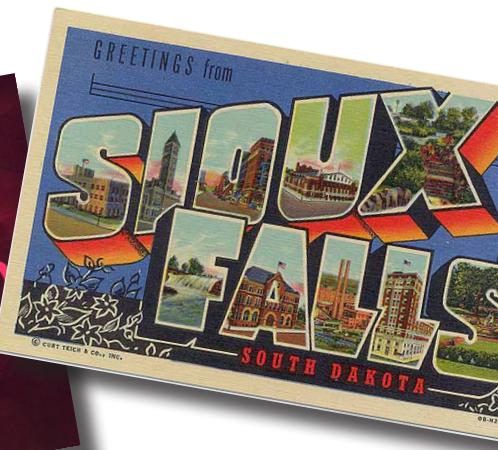
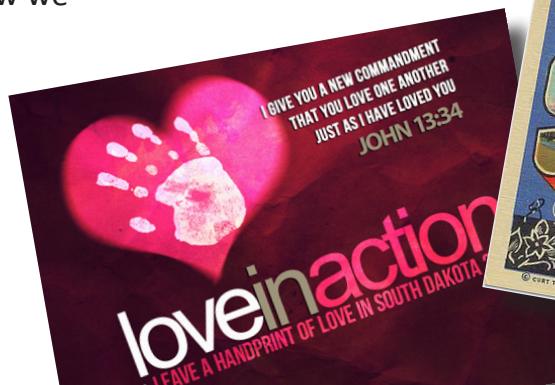


- We **eat together** and visit in the hallways.
- Participate in **workshops**.
- **Enjoy participating** in and watching skits, play games, crafts, chatting, and many more.
- **Renew the relationships** that strengthen our lives and our ministries.

These purposes will guide us to change as we gain a better understanding of where God is leading us in the future.

I look forward to see how God's grace will impact our conferences this summer!

Grace to you all,  
Mark Koterwski





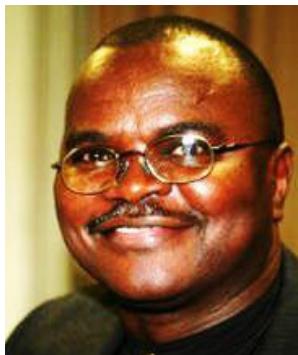
# FROM PASTOR BETH

## ELDA DIRECTOR

Dear ELDA friends:  
Thanks to those of you who contacted ELCA to encourage their keeping Disabilities

Ministries and Deaf Ministries in the forefront. Rev. Jensen Seyenkulo was re-hired full-time and will be focusing on several different areas including overseeing my work with Deaf Ministry. He will be a strong advocate in the churchwide offices and we are blessed.

Did you know that part of my work is serving as an ASL consultant for The Little Lutheran monthly storybook for young children? I work with the editor and artist. Each month the storybook



**Rev. Jensen Seyenkulo was re-hired by the ELCA to continue his work with us.**

magazine has one song and shows several ASL signs for kids to learn. The storybook also includes stories about children around the world, Bible stories, missionaries, "green" crafts, nature stories, etc. The storybook is printed

with two different titles: The Little Lutheran and The

**Pastor Beth serves as a consultant for the Little Lutheran**

Little Christian. Think of your young children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. This adds to their spiritual education in a fun format and teaches a bit of ASL! The cost is \$24.95 for 10 issues a



## REMEMBER TO SEND IN NOMINATIONS FOR SHINING LIGHT AND CITY ON A HILL AWARDS

year, \$45 for 2 years, and \$59 for three years. These storybooks are timeless and can be

used over and over through the years. Check out [www.thelittlelutheran.org](http://www.thelittlelutheran.org) or call 800-328-4648. I have just decided to send my 18-month-old grandson a subscription!

I am eager to see you all again this summer. Please make sure you send in your nominations for Shining Light and City on the Hill awards. ELDA Board wants to honor people and organizations who put Love in Action!  
Pastor Beth+

# FROM PASTOR SUSAN

## ELDA PASTORAL ADVISOR

### What Does “Lent” Mean to You?

by Pr. Susan Masters  
ELDA Pastoral Adviser

What do you think about when you think of the season of Lent? Many people think that Lent is a time:

- 1) to give up something they really enjoy (chocolate, bowling, beer, etc.);
- 2) to feel guilty and to try and make some changes in their lives (go to church more often, stop smoking, not swear so much, etc.).

Both of these ideas are true. Lent is, indeed, a time for us to confess our sins and to try to improve our behavior toward God and to one another. And many people like to “give up” something as a way to become more disciplined and less distracted during Lent – NOT to earn God’s love, but as a way to focus more on God. In the Lutheran tradition, we also like to focus on prayer, fasting, and service to our neighbor during Lent. These are all very good things to do!

But Lent is not only about guilt and sins and giving up things. Hundreds of years ago, early Christians used the season of Lent as a time to prepare new Christians for baptism on Easter Sunday, which is something many Lutheran churches still do today. The word “Lent” means “spring”. Gardeners like myself jump for joy

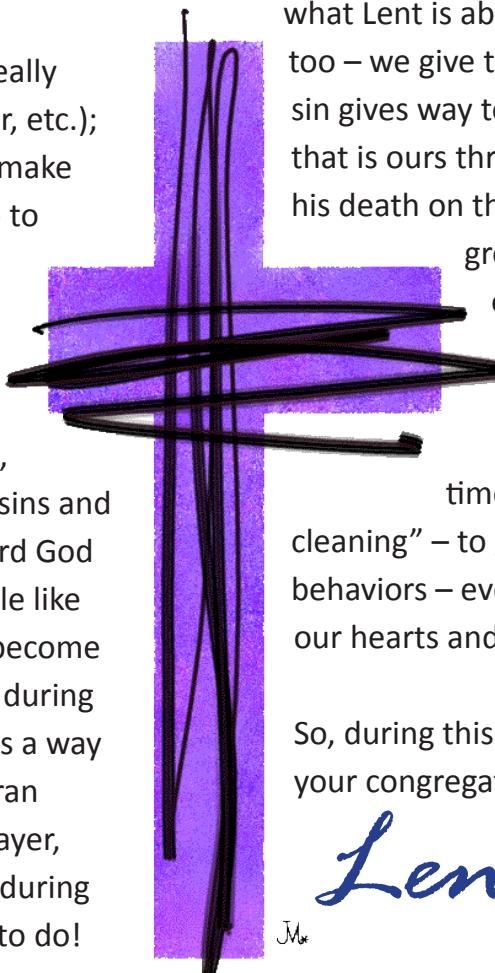
as we watch the dark, bleak, cold days of winter give way to the warm sunshine and beautiful flowers of spring! And that’s what Lent is about, too – we give thanks that the bleakness of our sin gives way to the forgiveness and new life that is ours through Jesus Christ because of his death on the Cross. Finally, spring is also a great time to do spring cleaning – of our houses, garages, offices. We get rid of our old stuff and organize what’s left. For Christians, Lent can also be a time of doing some spiritual “spring cleaning” – to get rid of attitudes, thoughts, behaviors – even possessions – that clutter up our hearts and minds.

So, during this season of Lent, I hope you and your congregations will use this season as a

*Lent*

JM

time to confess your sins to God, and to make commitments to live your lives in a way that will be pleasing to God. And I also hope you will think about the joy that comes from knowing your sins are forgiven in the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Amen.





# FROM LUANNE BARTENS

## VICE PRESIDENT

Hello from Word of Life  
Deaf Lutheran Church!

We didn't mind cold winter -- we were too busy to think about that as we turned our mind to this fantastic 10-week session of the ALPHA course that Vicar George from St. Peter's (our hearing church) is hosting.

It's a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn more about Christian faith. First, we meet together (both WOLD and St. Peter's and several from outside) for meal, then we

watch great speech by Nicky Gumbel in video sharing his experiences and some stories along with bible verses. Each week with 10 different topics: Who is Jesus?, Why did Jesus die? How can we have faith? Why and how do I pray? Why and how should I read the Bible? How does God guide us? How can I resist evil? Why & how should I tell others? How does God heal today? What about the Church? Every speech is always interesting. Afterward, we - deaf and hearing - divide into small groups for discussion. Roxanne Lehr is our host and Pr. Russ as a helper. We share our personal thoughts, feelings, experiences related to that topic on video shown. It was always "feeling



## Alpha

good" after discussion each week. Wonderful group.

A neat thing is last Fall, WOLD bought a new big movie screen. St. Peter's is using our screen for the ALPHA course! It truly shows great partnership. We feel good to share our resources with St. Peter's, because they share so many things with us!



On April 21st, WOLD will be hosting another ASL film event again. The movie has very well-known deaf actors Rosa Lee Timm and Russell Harvard and is titled, "Versa Effect". There will be egg decorating contest. It should be a great time for all who attend.

We will raise funds for ELDA Conference 2012 to help with travel expenses. We are enthustastically working to make it happen. Hope we will succeed with great support from the deaf and local community.

Luanne Bartens

# FROM CONNIE WALLACE

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## TREASURER

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION  
Office of the Treasurer  
c/o 730 South New Street  
West Chester, PA 19382  
ConSueWal@verizon.net

March 2012

Dear Friends in Christ:

News flash! I noticed that we have spring flowers blooming early here in Pennsylvania. So that means Spring is right around the corner before we all know it. The weather has been so good for us adults, not for children wanting to play in the snow in Pennsylvania. And I hope it was the same for you in your home states. It is wonderful to see God's work here on earth.

A heartfelt thank you to Trinity Lutheran Deaf Church (Reading, PA) for their gift of \$100.00.

Please remember your 2012 dues which are \$125.00 for each ministry and are due immediately. We still need your annual support so that we can keep ELDA doing God's work with our hands. That reminds me that it is time for our Lenten Appeal which will support our HOPE mission fund. Please consider an extra donation for that cause.

All checks may be sent to "ELDA" at the above address on the letterhead. Or even better, we now have a paypal feature that you can submit. Just go to [www.ELDADeaf.org](http://www.ELDADeaf.org) and click on "Donate" at the bottom right part of the screen. You don't have to be a paypal member to use this.

We hope to see you all in South Dakota this coming summer for ELDA's 2012 Conference. It is fast approaching.

In Christ,

Connie Wallace



# ELDA

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

ELDA  
National Conference  
**JULY 12-15, 2012**  
Good Samaritan Society  
Jerstad Center  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota



Our theme for the 2012 ELDA conference is  
**"Love in Action"** based on John 13:34:

**"I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another  
just as I have loved you"**

Those are bold words from Jesus. His love is active in service and in sacrifice. The Bible is full of "Love Stories" from God. We will try to learn about Jesus' love and how to share his love through serving one another. We invite you to leave your handprint of love in South Dakota!

Get ready to serve with service project by packing meals that will be sent to kids who are hungry. We will also come up with several small service projects that you can do individually.

- Gather with Deaf Lutheran friends from all over the country.
- Stay in the beautiful Jerstad Center
- Inspiring workshops, worship and service projects
- Separate events and rates for youth age 13-19
- Tour fun places in Sioux Falls, SD



Hosted by Heartland Ephphatha Ministries of South Dakota

**loveinaction**  
► LEAVE A HANDPRINT OF LOVE IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2012

# ELDA 2012 REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly, fill in and mail this page with payment to HEM:

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries  
c/o Jason Andera  
5509 W. 41st Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

**Deadline: May 18, 2012**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VP / TTY

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VP / TTY

**\*\*\*\*\*All Meals and tours are included in the price \*\*\*\*\***

**1. Pastoral Workers** (July 8 at 5 pm to July 15 at noon)

[Retreat Sunday 5 pm to Sunday am] \$480.00/Person \_\_\_\_\_

**2. ELDA Board** (July 11 to 15 at noon) \$400.00/Person

[Meeting Wednesday and Thursday] \$720.00/Family \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Conference Attendees** (July 12 to 15) \$250.00/Person

[Thursday pm to Sunday am] \$535.00 Family (2queen beds) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Commuters** (No rooms) \$30.00 a day

\_\_\_\_ Day(s) x 30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Youth Retreat** (bring your own sleeping bag) \$50/ Person

[Thursday pm to Sunday am]

Youth must be 13-19 years old and they will sleep on the floor of our church.

Check out time Noon on Sunday, July 15th (Worship 9am and Brunch 10:15 at Peace Lutheran Church)

Flying in?

We recommend you fly to Sioux Falls (FSD) Airport

Arriving: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Departing: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your pager number: \_\_\_\_\_ (so we can be in touch if needed)

**Special Needs?**

(Please circle) Interpreter/Assistive Needs: Voice Interpreter: Y N

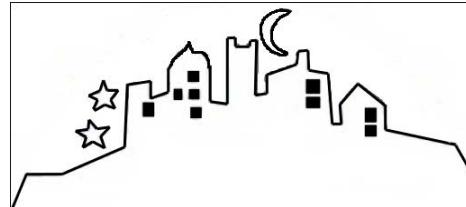
Other (please explain need): \_\_\_\_\_

Mobility Needs: Wheelchair Y N Special Meal Needs: Vegetarian Diabetic





Evangelical  
Lutheran Deaf  
Association



**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)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why this person has been nominated:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is nominating this person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

TTY \_\_\_\_\_

VP \_\_\_\_\_

Voice \_\_\_\_\_

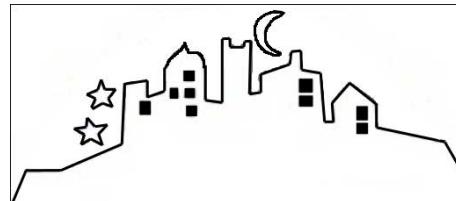
Mail your nomination to:

Jason Andera ELDA Secretary  
4401 S. Florence Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

or to [jason@peacelutheran.com](mailto:jason@peacelutheran.com)



# 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 Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why this church or ministry has been nominated: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is nominating this church or ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

TTY \_\_\_\_\_

VP \_\_\_\_\_

Voice \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your nomination to:

Jason Andera ELDA Secretary  
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# DEAF MISSION TRIP TO JAMAICA

Even though the United Methodist Church does not have many Deaf ministries in the Untied States, they are active with global mission work with the Deaf. They have done mission work in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, Turkey, and other places. Jamaica is a poorer country just south of Cuba with a population of 2.6 million and 150,000 Deaf people. They have several Christian schools which follow the government curriculum and are located in Kingston, Knockpatrick, and Montego Bay.. Many of the teachers cannot sign well and leave the schools to go to better paying teaching positions. The children travel for hours to get to the schools, spend the week in dorms and then return to their villages.

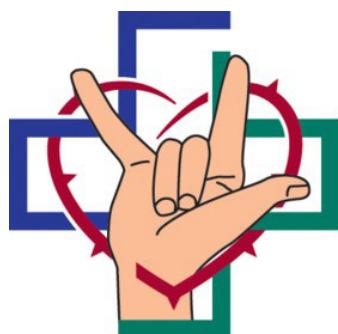
A year ago, the UMC Deaf Ministries visited the Christian School for the Deaf in Montego Bay which has 40 Deaf students. They collected information and will be leading a team of 8 Deaf adults, 8 hearing adults, and three CODA youth to the school for ten days in the end of June. Carol Stevens is coordinating this trip. Part of the team will be training teachers (Pastor Beth Lockard), part leading a Vacation Bible School (Dorothy Sparks, Mike Gray, and Micah Lockard). We will also be traveling to a Deaf village three hours away from Montego Bay during the weekend.

Dorothy and I will be updating you about this

mission trip at the ELDA Conference this summer. If you would like to help with this trip, we are taking a gift of new or gently used youth underwear (girls and boys: panties, briefs, boxers, socks, bras, etc.).



You can send a check to CTK Deaf Church, 730 South New Street, West Chester, PA 19382 by June 1 if you want to help with the underwear collection. If you are interested in traveling to Kenya with UMC next July 2013 for two and a half weeks, the cost is \$4,000.



## THIS AND THAT

Check out CTK member Bev Groff's collage "Wired for Sunshine." She has other works at this store. Congratulations, Bev. This was mentioned in CTK February newsletter.



The Deaf Community also mourns the loss of Deaf artist Chuck Baird from cancer. You can google his wonderful ASL art.



# FAITH IN ACTION MINISTRY

## Christ the King Deaf Church

Many of us hear in Sunday worship that we should be putting our faith into action when we leave the church. But we go home, have jobs, school, family activities, church responsibilities, and we run out of time. Christ the King Deaf Church also wondered how to pull more community people into our church family. The Church Council thought about this challenge and decided to take one Sunday a month and use it to actually go out in the community and serve other people in need. This resulted in a new program for 2012 called Faith in Action (FIA) Sundays which are the fourth Sundays of the month. We will do this instead of worship although we may have a prayer time together and sometimes follow up with lunch.

We have used the first two months to gather information about community organizations and are trying to also let the organizations know about our interest as we want to work especially with Deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind clients they may have. In January we had a speaker from Habitat for Humanity that builds low cost homes with the help of volunteers. In February we have speakers from Aid for Friends which makes and delivers meals to elderly homebound residents.

Our other speaker represents Good Works which does small home repairs for those in need. We are also working through our social services program, DeafCAN!, to identify people who can use volunteer help.

In January, we had the opportunity to help a homeless deaf woman living in her broken down car move into an apartment. One family and one individual cleaned and repaired the apartment. Nine other families and individuals donated furniture, household items, food, and art supplies (the woman used to be an artist). The woman was thrilled to finally have her own place after living in her car since summer. We felt good to get her out of the cold weather. One family and one individual helping with this project are not church members. Now she is starting to come to church.

We hope others in the community will be interested in joining us for future projects. We hope our church members enjoy working together to serve the community and learn about other organizations and the work they do. And, we hope the community identifies Christ the King as a church that puts their faith into action. We will let you know near the end of the year how successful this program is. This fits with ELDA's theme this summer: "Love in Action."

# CONGREGATION OF THE YEAR



On February 4, at annual Lutherans Looking Forward Breakfast in Woodland Hills Country Club, north of Los Angeles, Lutheran Social Services named St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Hollywood as Congregation of the Year for its outstanding work, among other things, with Deaf ministry for its global missionary efforts.

# ELDA ON FACEBOOK

ELDA now has a facebook page. Check out what's new.

Please check this page often for event announcements and to share information about our churches.



A screenshot of the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) Facebook group page. The page shows 49 members and 2 public events. It features a news feed with posts from Russell Rockwell, Joseph Varsanyi, and Mark Kotewski. A comment from Susan R. Masters is also visible. The interface includes standard Facebook navigation elements like 'Write Post', 'Add Photo / Video', and 'Ask Question'.

## ELDA WELCOME VIDEO

Watch this video as Heartland Ephphatha Welcomes you to South Dakota for the 2012 ELDA conference.

Please show this video during your worship services to encourage people to come this summer!

Here's the link:

<http://youtu.be/Ilusm7wR7Gc>

Please join us!

