



PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Greetings from ELDA!

The year 2008 has passed, now we are entering 2009. We will see differences with a new president, new history, government changes, economic ups and downs, employer challenges, cost of living issues, and many more changes. Those will impact on ours, yours, and everyone’s life! What or how can we deal with those? We do not all have answers when those will improve or be resolved. What you do about those? You can send a request for Prayer! I found a good version that fits with this message.

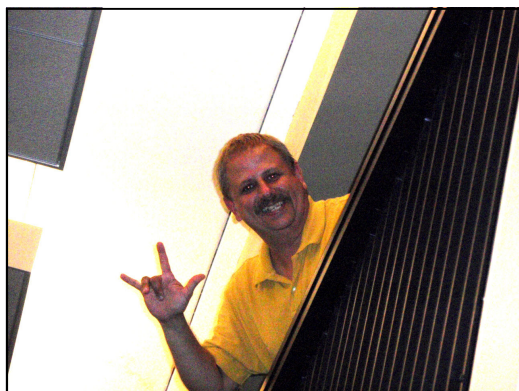
2 Thessalonians 3:3-5 “But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”

It seems that God already knows what the plan is for us, and asks us to follow God’s plan by following your heart!

Again, this is a perfect example: We need to continue taking care of our Green Earth. ELDA passed a resolution last year that ELDA and churches should follow God’s example to keep the Earth clean. Please continue with recycling, keeping clean, and reducing waste on earth. “Green” ELDA says many thanks for your support!!!

God bless you all!!!

President Mark Koterwski



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Resolution of Environmental Awareness

- Ratified at ELDA Conference in Minneapolis, MN July 2008

Whereas, global warming and pollution are having an increasing negative impact on our planet and natural resources (air, water, earth, plants, animals, etc);

Whereas, the earth belongs to the Lord and we are the caretakers and stewards (Genesis 1 and 2);

Whereas, many churches are looking for ways to educate their people and help them to be better stewards of their time, talents, resources and environment;

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) is in a position to distribute information and serve as a role model for its members;

Be it so resolved that ELDA will attempt to serve as a “green” organization by 1) sharing information and tips for stewardship in its newsletter and website, 2) cutting down on unnecessary waste of resources at its meetings and conferences, 3) modeling the recycling and re-using of resources in a variety of ways, 4) attempting to purchase energy efficient and organic products when possible, 5) and urge member congregations to model ELDA’s efforts.

And be it further resolved that ELDA will focus their collective efforts on these issues at their next conference in 2010.

Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association Board Members

President Mark Koterwski, markangela@iw.net

Vice President Luanne Bartens,

gorllu@yahoo.com

Secretary Linda Fairbanks,

eldasecretary@yahoo.com

Treasurer Connie Wallace,

consuewal@verizon.net

Pastor Advisor Pr. Gisele Berninghaus,

hocdeaf@tds.net

ELCA Deaf Ministries Coordinator

Pr. Beth Lockard bethlockardctk@juno.com

Immediate Past President Don Rosenkjar,

donkhai99@aol.com

CORNER: Heartland Ephphatha Ministries *Jason & Sarah Andera*

Heartland Ephphatha has started a new ministry for kids who use ASL. We have a Wednesday night church school called “God’s Signs”. We have had new families visit our church and many new kids come to our Wednesday classes because of this new ministry. We featured these kids in a video where they sign the Lord’s Prayer. You can view this video on our website at www.deaffaith.com. In the next year we are planning on developing a new curriculum for this ASL kids class. Our hope is to produce more videos of Bible stories to use for this class. If any of you have ideas for a kids Sunday School curriculum Jason and Sarah would like to hear from you. Email us at: Jason@peacelutheran.com.



Pity

Written by Joseph Venerose MM

Pity the child that never knew a time when air was clean and waters fresh, oceans blue and fields and forests living green.

Pity the people who can't recall a time when birds and fish and wildflowers freely grew and mottled leaves would yearly fall for autumn's glory and not for toxic soil or rain.

Pity the planet whose plight goes unnoticed or unbelieved, whose noble fight to survive fails not for lack of fund or wide imaginings but for far too many shrugs and jaded yawns.

Pity our Creator God whose handiwork collapses under the strain, whose Eden groans, gasps and finally dies leaving choirs of incredulous angels to chant Earth's requiem.

Pity.

Christian Youth Retreat At Camp Lakodia

Hosted by ELDA – Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association



45156 235th Street
Madison, South Dakota
Aug 3– 6, 2009

Deaf, Hard of Hearing, KODA, & Siblings

(Need to be able to use sign language to communicate and has to attend middle/high school in Fall 2009)



Social activities, structured activities, Swimming, Discovery - Course, community service, worship, devotional, and more.
Limited to 30 youth participants.

Registration form

Name(s): _____ Parents Name: _____

Cost per person: \$160.00 before Dec 30, 2008 \$190.00 before Feb 28, 2009
 \$220.00 before April 17, 2009 \$250.00 after April 17, 2009

The costs in the list above include lodge, meals, snacks, and registration. You will be responsible for arrangements and expenses for travel. If you need assistance with travel arrangements, please feel free to contact me.

\$ _____ x # _____ = \$ _____ (Money Order or Check)

I will bring my child(ren) to Camp Lakodia on Monday, August 3rd after 3 pm, and pick them up on Thursday, August 6th before 1 pm.

I will bring my child(ren) to the Peace Lutheran Church parking lot (5509 W. 41st Street) in Sioux Falls on Monday, August 3rd at 1:30 pm. We will depart from the church at 2 pm. And, I will also pick them up at the church on Thursday, August 6th at 2:00 pm.

My child(ren) need to be picked up and dropped off at the Sioux Falls Airport.

Arrival at Sioux Falls on Monday, August 3rd at _____ Airline: _____ Flight: _____
Depart from Sioux Falls on Thurs., August 6th at _____ Airline: _____ Flight: _____

Mail Registration, Medical, & Liability Release form with check or money order to:
Mark Koterwski, Co-Chair 225 N. James Ave., Tea South Dakota 57064

Contact me for more info; Voice: 800-340-4508, Videophone: markangela.no-ip.info, email: markangela@iw.net
There will be no refund after April 17, 2009



**ELDA Christian Youth Retreat
Medical and Liability Release Form**
(One form for each youth participant please)

Participant: _____ Birth Date _____ Grade _____
 Home Address _____ School: _____
 City _____ State: _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ (TTY, Voice, Videophone)
 Email address: _____ Alt. Email Address: _____
 Mother's Name _____
 Cell Phone (Text Y/N) _____ Home Phone _____
 Employer _____ Work Phone _____
 Father's Name _____
 Cell Phone (Text Y/N) _____ Home Phone _____
 Employer _____ Work Phone _____
 Emergency Contact & Phone _____ Relation _____
 Insurance Co. _____ Policy Number _____
 Carrier _____ Parent Responsible for Medical Bills _____
 Family Doctor _____ Doctor Phone _____

Hospital: May be admitted to Madison Community Hospital (local) first. If person need more advanced care, he/she will transfer to Sanford Hosp. or Avera McKenna Hosp in Sioux Falls. Please circle your Preference:

Medical History _____
 Medical Conditions/Concerns: _____
 Allergies _____
 Previous injuries: _____
 Physical Limitations: _____
 Diet Plan/Restriction: _____

I give ELDA Staff permission to give my child the following medication(s):

ELDA and Camp Lakodia will make every effort to prevent accidents and injuries. However, We – ELDA will not be held accountable if such should happen.

I, _____, the parent of legal guardian of _____ do hereby consent to any hospital, medical, or surgical care, and treatment and the administration of anesthesia, determined by a qualified physician to be necessary for the welfare of my child while my child is under the care and custody of an adult leader of any activity sponsored by ELDA, and I cannot reasonably be contacted for consent. I understand that I am responsible for and agree to pay all costs and expenses incurred in connection with such medical and dental services rendered to my child pursuant to this Authorization.

Youth Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ Parent Signature _____

Dated this _____ day of _____ 200__.

 I grant my child permission to be photographed, videotaped, or interviewed for the website, publications, or press.

Parent Signature _____ Dated: _____

CORNER: WOLD**A Message from Pastor Russ Rockwell, Word of Life Deaf Church**

Hi! Remember me? I'm Pastor Russ Rockwell from Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pa. Leslie Riggs asked me to please explain about this internet service / IM / chat service called ooVoo.

I've been using ooVoo for the last few months here in my church. Why? Because it has really helped communication to improve and go better between me and church members. That's mainly because I sometimes get stuck typing out long and complicated emails to people; and then, and when my church members get those long emails, it really throws them because they're too long, too hard, and too complicated to read! I sometimes can't stop myself from using BIG WORDS!

So now I'm trying to use ooVoo. I use a webcam and record my video message, and then I send that out to my church members. So, they're not stuck with long, wordy, and complicated email messages anymore -- oh no! Now all my church members receive my messages in ASL!

The response from the church members about this has been very positive, supportive, and a strong YES! They like it very much!

I'm telling you about this because maybe you'll want to try using ooVoo in your church as a great way to communicate between the pastor, leaders, and the different members of your church. Use it for more clear communication. I hope some of the ELDA Board members can make recorded messages and broadcast them for all the other ELDA church members to view for themselves.

Sure, you can use video blogs, or VLOGS to do the same thing, but then the whole rest of the world can view them -- and that's fine because maybe you want to do that. But, with ooVoo, you can have more private, more focused, more directed communication to the person you want to communicate with. That person can get a notice in their email that a video message is waiting for them, and all they have to do is click, and their web browser automatically up comes up for them to view the video message. It's more clear in ASL!

I enjoy using ooVoo, and I find that it helps my church members to understand how important some messages are, how good things are, or whatever, because the ASL is much more clear communication!

I don't have a Sorenson VP -- as a Hearing person, I can't have one -- so how can I communicate clear video messages to my members? With ooVoo! That way, I can leave a message for anyone -- straight from me, and not through an interpreter. Interpreters are fine and great, but many times I prefer myself to communicate directly to my members, because they know me!

Anyway, I hope that's enough encouragement, advertisement, and enough explanation about ooVoo. Maybe Leslie Riggs will be satisfied with this (for the newsletter). But... I do agree with Leslie Riggs -- it's important for us in ELDA to think about trying this service, OK!

I wish you all well, and God's peace!! ILY!!!

Editor's note: See what Pr. Russ is talking about - view this message in ASL! If you're reading this newsletter on your computer, [click here](#). Otherwise, type (copy/paste) the following address into your web browser:

<http://www.oovoo.com//fplayer/fplayerns.aspx?p=nj3buQXZuV3YIBEsV2drN2by5yczVnc9QWaIzidsZmL9ZEO0gzQ3YURyIDNEICR2MUQtADMwATL2QUQy0CREdzM0EUMwsXPk9md>



*Annual ELCA
Lenten Appeal*



The Lenten Appeal is an offering given by churches or individuals that represents the "sacrifice" of Lent. It's not too early to think about Lent.

During the 40 days of Lent when Christians traditionally fast, pray, and give beyond the normal offerings, we are asked to give an extra gift to ELDA beyond the annual dues to reach out to other Deaf people around the world. This year, the 40 days of Lent run from February 25th through April 12th.

Lenten gifts received are added into the HOPE (Helping Other People Empower) Fund which will go towards our next mission project.

Please be generous... send your check to:

*Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association
Office of the Treasurer
c/o 730 South New Street
West Chester, PA 19382*



*Annual ELCA
Lenten Appeal*



CORNER: HANDS OF CHRIST DEAF MINISTRY

At HOC, we had a challenging year in 2008. Changes are coming. We don't know what the changes will be yet, but we've worked hard to be ready for it. That means we depend on God to guide us through everything. It's been a good year, too. Receiving the City on a Hill Award at the last ELDA Conference was a huge surprise to us, and a major encouragement. The HOC Choir had an amazing experience in our first visit to lead Deaf Worship at the prison in Oshkosh. We were surprised and inspired by the faith of the inmates, and now we're looking forward to more opportunities for prison ministry in the coming year. In fact, we will have TWO opportunities for prison ministry in 2009!

Pastor Beth spent time with us last fall, and taught us about Stewardship. It was a wonderful weekend. We learned so much from Pastor Beth. She also had the opportunity to see our HOC Choir at Deaf Worship.

UPDATE:

We recently learned that Pastor Gisele has received a call to serve as full time interim pastor for a hearing church in Marion, WI. While we share her joy in receiving her long-awaited call, we love Pastor Gisele dearly and will always remember her twelve years of untiring work in Deaf Ministry at Hands of Christ. God has closed a door, but new doors are opening for Pastor Gisele and for Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry, and with faith, hope and trust in God, we know that He will give us all that we need.

A Special Delivery

Stefan and Connie (ELDA Treasurer) Wallace are proud to announce the birth of their baby daughter, Lucy Ann Wallace.

She entered into the world on Tuesday, November 18th, 2008 at 9:17 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs, 5 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long.



CRABBY OLD MAN

In the geriatric ward of a nursing home in North Platte, Nebraska, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value.

Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found this poem.

Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital.

One nurse took her copy to Missouri .

The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas edition of the News Magazine of the St. Louis Association for Mental Health.

A slide presentation has also been made based on his simple, but eloquent, poem.

And this little old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet.

Crabby Old Man

What do you see nurses? .. . What do you see?

What are you thinking when you're looking at me?

A crabby old man, . . . not very wise, Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes?

(Find the rest of this poem on ELDA's website, www.elcadeaf.org - go to ELDA Documents, then ELDA Newsletters, then Newsletter Extras.)

THE TROUBLE TREE

- Author Unknown

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one-ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied. 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children.. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.

'Funny thing is,' he smiled,' when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.'

Message from ELCA Deaf Ministries Coordinator

- Pastor Beth Lockard

Dear Friends:

Where has the time gone? We are in the midst of a big chill and I hope everyone is staying warm! This fall, I have had the opportunity to visit Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry (HOC) in Appleton and Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran in Minneapolis (BOLD) and enjoyed talking with many of you. Both times it was below freezing and snowing but your WARM hospitality was very much appreciated.



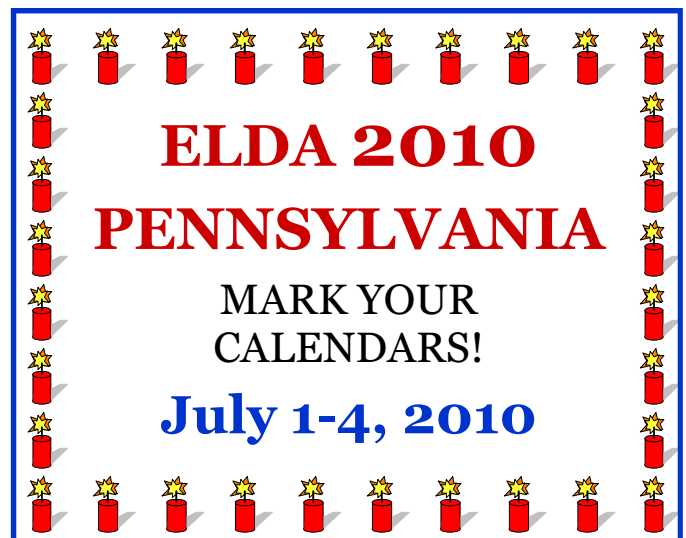
In October, I was honored to participate in the funeral for Elsie Johnson of BOLD. She had been a member there for over 50 years. I also led the funeral for Daniel Glenney (age 78), a member of St. Philip's Lutheran Church of the Deaf (Philadelphia), who died December 9th after a short illness. Dan was active in ELDA and president of his church for 30 years. We know these faithful members are resting in God's arms.

Lay Pastor Dorothy Sparks (Minneapolis) has recovered nicely from her heart surgery but has decided to resign from pastoral ministry and focus on other gifts. During this time of change, BOLD is using different supply pastors and members are leading lay services. Our prayers are with BOLD as they search for a new pastor.

This year, I understand HOC has the opportunity to team with Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent to build a house for a Deaf family! This is an exciting opportunity to do hands-on mission work. Recently, St. Philip's and Christ the King teamed up to help an 87-year-old Deaf Jewish Deaf woman whose apartment burned down in a fire. They were able to gather furniture, clothing, TTY, and many things for her place. How are you reaching out to those around you with God's love? Share your stories with ELDA.

I hope by the next newsletter that the conference committee will have a rough flyer ready for the next ELDA conference. Continue to save the dates July 1--4, 2010.

A blessed New Year in Christ, Pr. Beth+





Evangelical
Lutheran
Deaf
Association

WE'VE GOT A QUESTION

***How do you teach Bible studies?
What has worked for you?
Why?***

*Share your ideas, comments, suggestions -
what works at your church, what doesn't
work, and why.*

*Your responses will be shared in the next
issue of ELDA's newsletter.*

*Please send your comments to the [ELDA
Newsletter Editor](mailto:skyeyes@new.rr.com) at skyeyes@new.rr.com.
Prefer to mail? See below for the mailing
address.*

Please Contribute!

SUGGESTION: Send me your church newsletters!
I'll even pay postage. I can use excerpts from your
newsletters OR submissions from you. I've started
receiving newsletters from some churches - thank
you!!

Here is the DESIRED Publishing Schedule, established
by the ELDA Board:

January 15
May 15
October 15

Your news and pictures need to be emailed or snail
mailed to me **at least one month before** the next
issue:

before December 15 (for January 15)
before April 15
before September 15

POLICY:

**If I get your news too late for one issue, it will
appear in the next one.**

SEND ME STUFF!!

To email me: skyeyes@new.rr.com

I can handle email attachments of your articles as well as pictures. PDF, Word, pictures, etc. are fine.
HINT, HINT: **EVERYBODY LOVES PICTURES!!**

To mail to me:
ELDA Newsletter
c/o Leslie Riggs
407 W. Foster St.
Appleton, WI 54915

If requested, I will mail your "stuff" back. Don't forget to tell me which church or ministry you are
"reporting" news from! **THANK YOU !**