



# ELDA

VOLUME • 10  
ISSUE • 32  
MARCH 2014

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



**Mark Koterwski**  
**ELDA President**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We had a long winter this year with terrible cold, ice storms, blizzards and many other weather issues. I am sure all of you are ready for spring and summer to come!

---

One things that we are excited and looking forward for ELDA Conference 2014.

---

It's in summer, not during Winter!!! It will be at the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center in Chicago, Illinois. It's closer to Downtown Chicago, just five blocks to the Zoo, and few blocks to Lake Michigan with a beautiful view of beach and water (actually it looks like an ocean with clam waves)!

We will have Pastoral Retreat July 27 - 29, ELDA Board meeting July 30 & 31, and then ELDA Conference on July 31 - Aug 3rd. We are excited to have something different this year. We will have Lutherans (ELDA), Episcopalians (ECD), and United Methodist Church of the Deaf (UMCD) together at our conference. This is an awesome example same as Bible verse from Philippians 2:1 - 4 said

*“Christ encourages you, and his love comforts you. God’s Spirit unites you, and you are concerned for others. Now make me completely happy! Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what you think, as if you were only one person. Don’t be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Care about them as much as you care about yourselves and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought.*

ECD and UMCD will have their own meeting as scheduled (TBD by their committee). Everyone is welcomed to join our workshops, field trips, meals,



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ELDA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IN CHICAGO THIS JULY!!!

DON ROSENKJAR: WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

PASTOR SUSAN MASTERS: SPRING CLEANING

PASTOR BETH LOCKARD: TRIBUTE TO ROGER PICKERING

AWARD NOMINATIONS!

AND MORE...

# FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT.)

banquet, and worship. For more information about ELDA Conference 2014 - see flyer in this newsletter or contact Mark Koterwski or Linda Fairbanks (co-Char) [markangela@iw.net](mailto:markangela@iw.net) or [lindafairbanks22@gmail.com](mailto:lindafairbanks22@gmail.com)

Update of our ELDA Board: We had ELDA Booth at Deaf Expo in Chicago on November 2, 2013. It was a good start to show people about our organization that we have ELDA churches around national wide! It's a wonderful experience and meet people from Chicago area. I want to say many thanks to Belinda Panek, Jeff Panek, and Angela Koterwski for their volunteer time to do outreach! Pastor Susan Master, Pastor Beth Lockard, Linda Fairbank, Jeff Panek and Jason Andera have been worked on their different committees that were assigned from ELDA Conference 2012. If you want to learn about their works, come to ELDA Conference to see how much they have done so far. I appreciated for their hard work during the years!!!



This year will be my last term as President, we are looking for a new president as well with secretary and Pastoral advisor. We will have election during ELDA Conference. If you are interested or consider to become one of officer, please contact Jeff Panek, Election committee chairperson at [jeff.panek52@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.panek52@gmail.com) for more information.

God Bless!!!

Mark Koterwski

ELDA President





# LENTEN SPRING CLEANING

This winter, we've had SO much snow here in Minnesota! It really has been a beautiful winter for snow lovers such as myself. But, as lovely as the winter has been, I will be happy to see it all end for this year. The never-ending snow and bitter cold spells have pretty much drained my enthusiasm, and I'm ready for some sunshine and warm temperatures. As a gardener, I'm ready to trade in the brown and white landscape of winter for some color. I need dirt! I need some tomato plants! I need some color! I am ready for spring!

Fortunately, spring is around the corner—and not just in the horticultural calendar, but in the liturgical calendar as well. The word “lent” means “to lengthen” - and, indeed, we watch the short days of winter lengthen into the longer days of spring. A “spiritual spring” is on the way!

Lent is not in the Bible, and its earliest roots are as a time of preparation for new Christian converts to be baptized and to formally join the church on Easter. Most of us tend to think of spring as a time of repentance, a time to give up something we enjoy for 40 days. While this Lenten emphasis on repentance and discipline is absolutely appropriate, I sometimes think it leaves us feeling that discipline and sacrifice are negative things. If we're not suffering in some way, does that mean we are not being faithful to God?

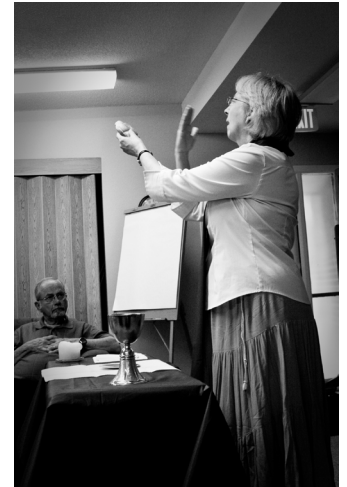
I have often thought of Lent as a time of spiritual spring cleaning—a time to examine the dusty junk hiding in the corners of my heart and mind that might be a barrier to my relationship to God and to the world in which I live. Stuff that maybe I need to gather up and toss out because it only weighs me down and distracts me from what's primary in my life.

New Year's resolutions that are too often too unrealistic (“I'm going to run a 26-mile marathon in one month” or “I'm going to lose 100 pounds by next month” or something equally as silly and impossible). But Lenten spring cleaning—or examining the “rooms” of our hearts—gives us the opportunity to slow down, enter each room one at a time, and thoughtfully examine each “item” that we thought we could never live without. We can ask ourselves: How has this possession/attitude/value/emotion/habit worked for me in the past? How does it improve the relationships with God and my loved ones? What would happen if I put that behavior in a box and move it on out of my life?

As we enter into Lent in the weeks to come, I invite you to regard the time as an opportunity to lighten your load, to begin to get rid of some of the attitudes and behaviors that only fill up space in our lives, and to make space for the new life that might be waiting to fill it.

Blessed Lenten spring cleaning.

by Pastor Susan Masters  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Minneapolis, MN



# WE'RE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

Pastor Beth Lockard's plane, scheduled to leave Philadelphia last Thursday, February 13, was canceled due to freezing, snowy weather. A miracle occurred that she was able to board another plane, and left the airport with a very short window in minutes, other flights after Beth's flight were canceled. Her plane went



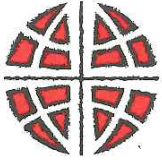
**Don Rosenkjar**

through snow-making clouds with subzero temperature, and headed for the warmth of sunny southern California. It was around 80 degrees, and imagine my chuckle as I saw her wearing warm clothing, and teased her that she looked like a tourist. The purpose of her trip was to officiate a wedding between Khai Nguyen and myself. We were united 25 years ago last June, and since then lived together. That was in June, 1988. In June, 1999, thanks to ELCA's recognition of same-gender union, we were married in the church, at the same one where we continue to attend and worship (and where I continue to work as Deaf Minister). But, in the eyes of law, it was not "legal" until a few months ago the supreme court overturned Proposition 8, and recognize same-gender marriages. Finally, after 25 years, we were able to make our union truly legal. That happened on the day after Valentine, February 15, along with

another couple, a double wedding. According to remarks of just about everyone in attendance, Beth Lockard did an amazing job.

It is interesting to note these tremendous changes. In 1988, our relationship was a secret in general, but known only among our close friends, mostly gay. Our parents were clueless. There was an air of fear and stigma. In 1999, our relationship became public through our wedding, but we continue to feel second class citizens as many rights accorded to heterosexual marriages were denied to us. Public opinion was not too favorable. In 2014, this sense of fear, sense of stigma and shame, sense of inferiority now has evaporated as we feel we are as much children of God as anyone else, as much citizens of United States of America, fully protected by laws of our country and accorded equal benefits and privileges. At last, at last, we feel normal, with dignity.





# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 • www.elca.org  
773.380.1460 or 800.638.3522 • Fax 773.380.2750 or 773.380.2829

Vocation  
and Education

The Rev. Reuben Duran  
ELCA Program Director for New Congregations  
8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631-4101

February 26, 2014

Dear Pastor Duran:

God's grace and peace be with you!

As the ELCA Director for Deaf Ministries, I have been in dialogue with Marquita Jones for more than a year as she discerned her call, vocation, and future in Deaf ministry in conjunction with her degree in Higher Education Administration. Marquita serves as the Coordinator for Deaf Ministry at Luther Place Memorial Church in DC. At the same time, I have been in several conversations with Deaf members and former clergy of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church for the Deaf in DC. All of us have agreed that the Washington Metro area is ripe for evangelism among young Deaf adults and students at Gallaudet University.

As we know, the Church today struggles to be relevant to the younger generation who consider themselves "spiritual but not religious." This is true for Deaf ministry as well. Due to the emphasis of deaf education drifting from state schools to individual school districts, Deaf ministry leaders are no longer able to reach a large segment of Deaf youth for weekly religious education. Hearing parents are not bringing their children to churches that offer services in American Sign Language. The result is a new generation of youth who no longer know the Lord. Many of them pass through the doors of Gallaudet University.

Ms. Jones' proposal to reach these students and the Deaf Community who live at and near Gallaudet is exciting and shows much potential to develop into a SAWC that could be supported by both the Metro Washington DC ELCA Synod and the Episcopalian Diocese. *Signs of God* shows promise to think outside the box and develop ministry in a natural discipleship-oriented way..

As a former Mission Developer and current pastor of Christ the King Deaf Church in West Chester, PA, I am encouraging Ms. Jones to develop her own theological foundation and consider seminary studies and/or Mission Developer training along the way. **I am pleased to support this proposal** developed in conjunction with the Metro Washington DC Synod and pray you will consider giving it your own support. The future of our nationwide ELCA Deaf ministry could strongly hinge on this new start and it could prove to be a new model to use near other college campuses with a strong Deaf Community.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Beth Lockard, Director of ELCA Deaf Ministries

cc: Ms. Marquita Jones, Coordinator for Deaf Ministry, Luther Memorial Church  
Rev. Philip Hirsch, Assistant to Bishop of Metro Washington DC Synod  
Mr. Mark Koterwski, president, Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association  
Rev. Cherlyne Beck, Director of ELCA Disability Ministries

---

*Living in God's amazing grace*

**We need your servant hands and hearts!**

## **Travel to Montego Bay, Jamaica**

June 16—25, 2014

to work daily with 54 students in a mountain school

**JAMAICA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

and hopefully a side trip to central Jamaica's

**DEAF VILLAGE**

GroupIST--Regina Tours (NYC) handling group travel

We will stay at Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort 9 nights

### **If you want to go:**

- Confirm your interest NOW to [lockardbeth@gmail.com](mailto:lockardbeth@gmail.com)
  - **\$150 nonrefundable deposit** due when registering
- \$1450 (approximate) for total cost of lodging, meals, round trip airfare, & ground transportation **due April 4**. Those flying from outside Philadelphia may have a different cost
- Have a U.S. passport that does not expire until after October 1
  - Indicate if you want to work with children or teens
  - No visas or vaccinations are needed

### **We would like to bring the following requested by JCSD:**

\***Hand sanitizers, dark blue socks (all sizes) from pre-schoolers to high school age**

\***Batteries (AA & AAA), printer inks (Dell Series 11 KX701/KX703); Canon 40&41**  
(try asking your local office supply store for donations!)

\***Binoculars, permanent markers (large tips), sharpie markers, dry erase markers, jumbo coloring books, coloring and activity books**  
(we suggest no American themes, monsters, or soldiers)

\***Cash gifts from your church or group**

(it costs JCSD \$475 a month for each student and most parents cannot pay anything).

*This will be an annual working trip. If you cannot come this year, please let us know your interest for 2015. + Dorothy Sparks & Beth Lockard+*

Deaf Jamaica Mission Trip, June 16—25, 2014  
Led by Beth Lockard and Dorothy Sparks  
Enrollment Form and Credit Card Authorization

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Cost to enroll in the tour: \$150 non refundable deposit per person  
 Travel Insurance: \$79 due at time of registration. Insurance covers lost luggage, trip delay, medical and dental. (for further information on this check our website [www.regina-tours.com](http://www.regina-tours.com) and click on the insurance link at the bottom)  
 Balance of the tour \$1230 per person due to our office no later than April 4. Additional \$70 for JCSD expenses is due to Rev. Beth Lockard by June 1

If you wish to charge your payment, please sign here \_\_\_\_\_  
 authorizing Group IST/Regina Tours to charge your credit card in this amount.  
 Credit card (Please circle) VISA MASTERCARD AMEX  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Security code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Once deposit is received, you will receive a confirmation/invoice  
**Copy of Passport must be submitted at time of registration.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ #38102 Group Reservation

Emergency Contact Information: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 (please let Pr. Beth know any medical issues you may have. It will be kept confidential)

Please send enrollment form and payment to: Regina Tours, 545 Eighth Ave. Suite 720 New York, New York 10018 Attention: Loretta Calabrese Also send copy of this completed form along with a copy of your passport to Rev. Beth Lockard, M.Ed.; Christ the King Deaf Church; 730 South New Street; West Chester, PA 19382





Philippians 1:27

I will know that you are working together and that you are struggling side by side to get others to believe the good news.

## ELDA 2014 CONFERENCE

*(ECD, UMCD and ELDA working together)*

We welcome *all* to the 2014 conference in Chicago, IL. Please fill out the registration on the back to join us.

Dates: July 28 -August 3, 2014

Church Workers and Leaders Meetings:

Monday July 28 -

Wednesday July 30

General Assembly:

Thursday July 31 -

Sunday August 3

**PLEASE REGISTER SOON, FIRST COME  
FIRST SERVE AVAILIBTY AT THE  
RETREAT CENTER!**



Cenacle Retreat and  
Conference Center



Go to the Cenacle Website for directions and details on the retreat center  
<http://www.cenaclesisters.org/chicago-retreat-conference-center/>



# REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly, fill in and mail this page with payment to:  
 ELDA  
 225 N. James Ave.  
 Tea, SD 57064



**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY, FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!**  
 EARLY BIRD deadline: January 31, 2014  
 Payment by Feb 28th – pay \$50 more per person  
 Payment by March 30th – pay \$100 more per person

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

1. Pastoral Workers (July 27th to Aug 3rd) \$570.00/per person in double room \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Retreat Sunday 5 pm to Sunday am) \$710.00/single room \_\_\_\_\_
2. ELDA Board (July 29th to August 3rd) \$431.00 / double room PER PERSON \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2 single beds in double room) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$521.00 / single room \_\_\_\_\_
3. Conference Attendees July 31st to Aug 3rd) \$275.00 / double room PER PERSON \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Thursday pm to Sunday am) (2 single beds in double room) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$325.00/single room \_\_\_\_\_
4. Commuters (no rooms) meals only: \$50.00 a day \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Day(s) X \$50.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
5. Youth Retreat (bring your own sleeping bag) \$150/Person (Thursday pm to Sunday am)  
 Youth must be 13 – 19 years old and they will sleep on the floor in bedrooms

Please list preferred roommate name \_\_\_\_\_

Please check mark: coming by \_\_\_\_\_ car or by \_\_\_\_\_ airplane?

**Special Needs?**

(Please circle) Interpreter/Assistant Needs: Voice Interpreter: Y or N  
 Other (please explain need): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobility Needs: Wheelchair Y or N  
 Special Meal Needs: Vegetarian, Diabetic etc. \_\_\_\_\_

**FIELD TRIPS:** (How many interest to go to one of these tours? These will pay at the tour site)

Science Museum: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (website: <http://www.msichicago.org/>)  
 Adult: \$27.00  
 Sr. Citizen: \$26.00

Archeiture River tour: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (website: <http://shorelinesightseeing.com/cruisestours/architecturecruises2/architecture-river-cruise/>)  
 Adult: \$35.00  
 Sr. Citizen: \$32.00

**TRANSPORTATION:** From O'hare airport use – Go Airport Express  
 (Recommend to have more than 3 people - charge \$29 per person/round trip to Cencale.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

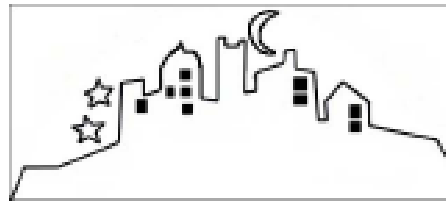
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Text # \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact and Contact Info \_\_\_\_\_

For More information please contact Angela Koterwski (email: [markangela@iw.net](mailto:markangela@iw.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 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:

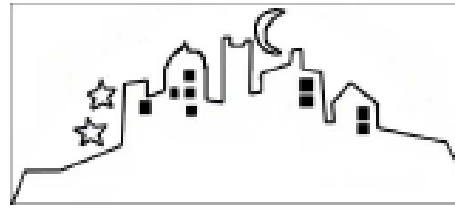
Jason Andera ELDA Secretary  
4401 S. Florence Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Email  
to [jason.andra@gmail.com](mailto:jason.andra@gmail.com)  
to [lindafairbanks22@gmail.com](mailto:lindafairbanks22@gmail.com)





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

Email  
to [jason.andera@gmail.com](mailto:jason.andera@gmail.com)  
to [lindafairbanks22@gmail.com](mailto:lindafairbanks22@gmail.com)

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends--

I think all of us will agree that this winter has been a challenging one with subzero temperatures, wind chills, many snow and ice storms, power outages and even a drought in California! We look forward to our summer conference and time with our Lutheran, Episcopalian, and Methodist sisters and brothers.



January 13, one of our nation's Deaf pastors, the Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering, went to his heavenly home a month before becoming 83. He was a well-known leader both in the Philadelphia area and nationally and an important fixture of the Episcopalian Conference for the Deaf. Roger befriended me when I moved to Philadelphia 31+ years ago. He and his wife Sandra were important mentors for Pastor Joe Varsanyi and myself. After he retired and they relocated to Lancaster, PA, we kept in close touch.

Both Pr. Joe and I were honored to participate in his funeral along with Pr. Virginia Nagel, Pr. Barbara Allen, and Thomas Hattaway from ECD and other clergy from the Episcopalian Diocese. The funeral was live streamed and Roger was buried in the historic cemetery of St. James Episcopal Church in Lancaster, PA. I was surprised to see a plaque on the church wall honoring a Rev. Muhlenberg, who I believe was related to (son?) the first Lutheran pastor in America, The Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. That Lutheran--Episcopal connection goes way back!

Roger grew up in Detroit, Michigan and

attended the school for the Deaf in Flint as well as Western PA School for the Deaf in Pittsburgh. I believe he was working on his doctorate in Chemistry when God called him into the ministry.

Roger was the founding Vicar of the Mission of the Holy Spirit Church (Berkeley, CA); the long time Vicar of All Souls' Episcopal Church of the Deaf (Philadelphia); the first Deaf president of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf Board of Trustees, serving for many years, a four-term president of the ECD (Episcopal Conference for the Deaf); the founder or co-founder of many agencies, organizations and advocacy groups working for full access for the Deaf; Board member of many local and national groups; a mentor, friend, and leader in both the Deaf and hearing communities.

Roger is survived by his beloved wife Sandra of 51 years, his son Gordon (& Maryann Pickering), and daughter Kirsten (& Wayne Houseknecht). In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to ECD, PSD, or St. James Episcopal, Lancaster. See [www.KaSnyderFuneralHome.com](http://www.KaSnyderFuneralHome.com) for the full obituary and to leave a message for the family.

I would like to end my column with a prayer of thankfulness to God for Roger (and Sandra's) ministry among us and the many lives they touched. We join with ECD in remembering this beloved Deaf pastor.

Blessings,  
Pastor Beth Lockard  
ELCA Deaf Ministries



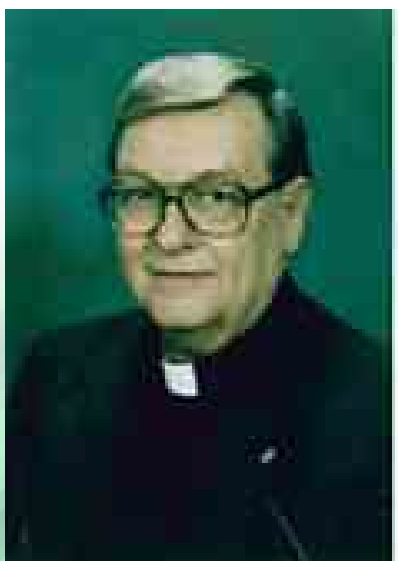
**CTK Family Night, January 17** was attended by 30 people of all ages who enjoyed some hot pizza, three exciting games of “CTK” Dingo led by Terri Marple, and gift card prizes to a variety of places.



## February 2014



**Sheryl Coady & Nathan Smith** tied for the first game and **Terri O'Neal** won the second game with many runners up. But **Joe Johnson** was the **BIG winner** with no competition! Cheers!



### **In Loving Memory...The Rev. Dr. Roger Alan Pickering February 18, 1931—January 13, 2014**

Roger was the founding Vicar of the Mission of the Holy Spirit Church (Berkeley, CA); the long time Vicar of All Souls' Episcopal Church of the Deaf (Phila.); the first Deaf president of the PSD Board of Trustees, serving for many years, a four-term president of the ECD (Episcopal Conference for the Deaf); the founder or co-founder of many agencies, organizations and advocacy groups working for full access for the Deaf; Board member of many local and national groups; a mentor, friend, and leader in both the Deaf and hearing communities. Roger is survived by his beloved wife Sandra of 51 years, his son Gordon (& Maryann Pickering), and daughter Kirsten (& Wayne Houseknecht) In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to ECD, PSD, or St. James Episcopal, Lancaster. See [www.KaSnyderFuneralHome.com](http://www.KaSnyderFuneralHome.com) for the full obituary and to leave a message for the family.

# ELDA ONLINE

Remember our website is [www.ELDADeaf.org](http://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.