



ELDA

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



Linda Fairbanks
ELDA President

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Linda Fairbanks

“The Lord is risen indeed” Luke 24:34

Easter greetings to all! Spring will soon be upon us, with green grass, leaves and flowers blooming, and the smell of freshness when windows are opened to let in the outside air. We began to plant the seeds for our gardens. It has been a long winter with all that snow, the winds and record-breaking temps. The earth is made anew when spring finally arrives! The same thing happens when you have observed all the church traditions up to the time of Easter and everything is made anew on Easter morning when we celebrate Jesus

being risen from the dead. He is risen, indeed!

It has been a little over seven months since the elections of the new officers on the ELDA Board and we are moving along nicely. This will be the third newsletter that the Board has sent out. We have held regular Board meetings every month, except for December. Our Board meets through Z Conference and this is quite a change from years back when we met via AIM and had fewer meetings. The face to face conference calls make it so much easier to discuss any ELDA business.

In the last issue, we had updates on the ELDA/ELCA Global Mission group and the Ecumenical Task Force. Right now, the groups are quiet but soon, they should be back in action. We are thankful for the representatives from ELDA who are part of these two groups. I want to say thanks to the ELDA Board members for their work on behalf of ELDA. Also thanks to Jason Andera, our ELDA newsletter Editor and webmaster! See elsewhere in this issue about the upcoming Jamaica Mission Trip. If any of you are interested in going, let Pastor Beth Lockard know.

Your prayers are needed for some of our churches or ministries who are without pastors or directors. Please, also include prayers for the new ELCA Deaf Church in the Holy Land and the Lutheran Deaf Church of Christ in Nigeria. (Elsewhere in this issue, is the link to the full article, “Signs of Faith in the Holy Land”, written by Anne Basye that was printed in The Lutheran magazine.) We rejoice that the Reverend Lisa Jordan is now a part time pastor at the Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, (BOLD) in Minneapolis, MN along with Dorothy Sparks, AIM. BOLD will be hosting the next ELDA Conference in July 2016.

Easter Joy, Linda

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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

PLEASE PRAY FOR ELROY

ELDA readers, I would like to ask each of you to pray for our dear ELDA friend, Elroy Treibel from Word of Life Deaf Church and Trinity Deaf Church, both in Pennsylvania. He has been my wonderful friend and we keep in touch from time to time. I am sharing a picture of us, taken at the 2014 ELDA Conference in Sioux Falls, SD and also his email which I received today, March 14th. May the good Lord watch over you and keep you, Elroy! We love you!



Hello, dear friend or relative;

Week ago Tuesday I suffered a severe seizure during the night, was taken to Ehprata Hospital. I remember being taken in there, but don't remember any more until I woke up in Penn State Hershey Hospital on Thursday, where they have the experts. Unfortunately, they didn't do a CT scan until the weekend; found that I have a small mass in my left frontal lobe which has affected the motor skills of my right side. My right arm is a bit weaker, and I must use more care to perform tasks. Signature is still recognizable. But, I cannot walk. The right leg can be lifted with great effort,

but I have no control over the foot or ankle. Despite not taking the scan right away, they decided I needed a full week off the Aspirin blood thinner, and so the Biopsy will be on Monday morning. From there it will be to decide what action of treatment to take. Noel says it will not be removal because of roots connecting brain and the mass which would affect what motor skills I might retain in my right leg. So, it will be a deliberative decision to be made along with the neurosurgeons, but we will get some actual options depending on the biopsy results, and we will pray about it and make the decisions. Please pray with us also.

Pastor Rockwell of our Lutheran Deaf church was in for the second time this week. I am thankful to see him and receive communion. Our Garden Spot chaplain was also in earlier his week. I am grateful to have prayers being lifted on my behalf.

Today, we are now coming to the end of the rain of a rainy day of moisture being carried up here from the gulf. Since we were already getting closed roads from the snow melt flooding, it is expected to be worse after this rain. Enjoy the Spring weather. God bless you all. I love you, each one. Elroy Treibel

CHRIST THROUGH HANDS MINISTRY

By Linda Fairbanks
Christ Through Hands Ministry, which is housed in Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 1207 Prairie Ave. SW, Faribault, MN 55021 has been without a Director for the ministry in almost a year. The CTHM Board is now down to two members on the Board. The Board and Linda Mitchell, retired Supt. of the two schools, Minnesota State Academy of the Deaf and Minnesota State Academy of the Blind, (Minnesota State Academies) are planning to hold community meetings to decide the fate of CTHM. Please, keep CTHM in your prayers as they continue to decide the fate of CTHM.

CTHM is still paying for an interpreter for Sunday church services at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. They have interpreted services at 8:30 AM every Sunday. I was able to visit the church in late January. There was one other family there with Deaf twin sons. There will also be interpreted church services during Holy week leading up to Easter Sunday for the deaf people in the Faribault, MN area.

History of the Ministry The ministry began in 1899 when the United Norwegian Lutheran Church decided to establish a ministry for the Deaf and Blind. Professor Olav Lee of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN and the Reverend Gilbert Bakken, a pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, now called First English Lutheran

Church were able to help Ephphatha to open its program among the Deaf and Blind in Faribault MN in 1901. Over the years, the ministry experienced many changes.

Under the leadership of the ministry's first full time pastor, Pastor Bjorlie, the ministry purchased an old school house that served as the church building until 1940. The church had a new brick building constructed, which was named Ephphatha. The name means "Be Opened". The church building, located on the same street that leads to both the Deaf School on one end and the Blind School, on the other end. The lot also housed the parsonage where Rev and Mrs. Bjorlie lived. Later on, the Reverend Long and his wife lived in the parsonage. Rev. Long served as Pastor of the church until sometime in the 80's. Church services for the Deaf and the Blind were held separately. Students from both schools, as well as the Deaf and the Blind adults attended church services. Church services for the Blind were held at 8:30 every Sunday and the church services were held later in the morning for the Deaf community. Many of us remember walking to church from the school for the Deaf every Sunday and sometimes during the week. We had Lutheran League almost every Sunday evening and Religion classes were held at the church every Thursday evening. We walked to church and back to the school in all kinds of weather, even in the rain! We carried our umbrellas and would dunk into garages on our way to avoid the heavy rain and winds. The church building and the parsonage still stand today. The church is now a church

for the Hispanic community in Faribault.

It is not quite clear when the church doors closed and the ministry moved to Our Savior's Lutheran Church Faribault, MN. The information on the CTHM brochure says the year was 1971 but this is an error because both my husband and I attended the Ephphatha Church during the 70's. We believe it was around 1982 and I plan to do a little more research on that. (I hope to update in the next issue of the newsletter.) The ministry changed its name to Christ through Hands Ministry in 1996 when Ephphatha was incorporated. From its past to the present time, the ministry is 116 years old!

CTHM Mission and its Ministry Today

To Reach Out and Share the Word of God is the mission statement for Christ through Hands Ministry. The ecumenical work of CTHM is directed by a Board of Directors, who are elected during an annual meeting of congregations that are associated members. There is a Director or Co-Directors to help with day to day work of the Ministry, in addition to volunteers who help with religion classes at both schools. As mentioned at the very beginning of this article, the position of Director has been vacant. Other services provided

by CTHM, is the printing of large print bulletins or other materials and also Braille materials for the Blind. CTHM aids other congregations in the state of Minnesota, if requested in their search for interpreters for worship services. The CTHM program is fully supported by funds from some of the congregations and synods. ELDA hopes that the CTHM will continue to provide service to the Deaf and Blind communities as well as the students at the Minnesota State Academies. If you are interested to learn more about what is happening with CTHM or are interested in serving as a Director of CTHM, please contact Linda Mitchell at lindalurish@gmail.com and please, put CTHM in your subject line when emailing Linda.



ASL interpreting during church service at Our Savior's Lutheran, Faribault, MN. CTHM has its office in the church.



North side of the old Ephaphatha Church for the Deaf and Blind. It is now a church for the Hispanic Community in the Faribault area. (Photos taken by Sonny Wasilowski)

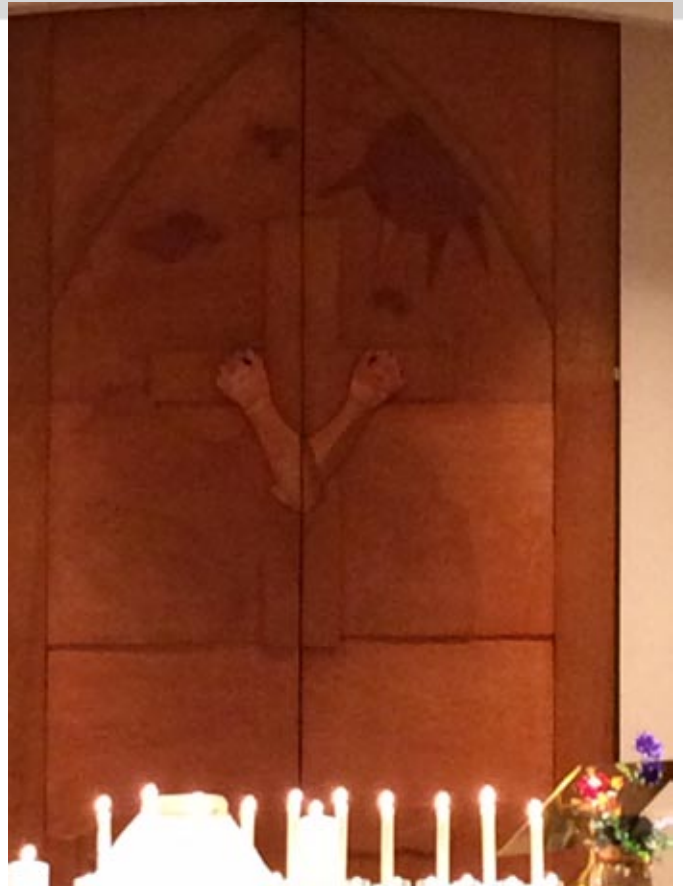
DOORS AT WORD OF LIFE DEAF

By Luanne Bartens

Two years ago, Jon Winkelspecht felt there was something missing in the WOLD chapel. He didn't know what it was until he went to Christ The King Deaf Church and saw a large beautiful wooden plaque of the cross with grapes on a vine hanging on the wall behind the altar. He really liked it. That's when an idea popped into his mind. He wanted something like that for WOLD to cover the chapel's stained glass window.

He started thinking about what kind of picture should be on the covering – something to do with the WOLD logo because it uses the sign “love” and also something to remember WOLD members who have passed away. He went to several different places for some design ideas and then he met Joe Almoney, a member of St. Peter's (Hearing church). Jon and Joe started to brainstorm – they came up with two thick carved wooden sliding pocket doors that they can close when needed during worship and then open when the service is over. The carvings are of a simple sky background and the WOLD logo in the center.

Joe started to work on it last fall. He worked hard for several months to finish it for WOLD's 20th anniversary. He did a beautiful job – even better than expected! It matches WOLD's front entrance doors perfectly since they are stained the same color. We appreciate his hard work and give thanks to Jon for his wonderful idea. The window doors are beautiful; there is a cool message during closing and opening the doors! When it is closed, it looks like it is signing “love”, but when you slide it open, the doors sign “saved.”





HOPE APPEAL



“In God’s Eyes”

By Dorothy Sparks, Associate In Ministry

Make A Difference!

MANY Deaf people in the world do not know that there is hope for them. There are many barriers to effective communication, education, God’s Word, job skills, and achieving personal dreams and visions.

How can we make a difference in the Deaf World?

ELDA has made a difference in many different countries through the HOPE (Helping Other People Empower) Fund.

Here is a list of your gifts through ELDA’s HOPE Fund:

- *Money gifts to Deaf schools in Vietnam and a Catholic Deaf Center in Cambodia
- *Abiding Hope Haitian Timoun Foundation for special education students, including Deaf children
- *Partial scholarships for two Deaf students who took the Deaf Ministry courses at St. Thomas University (through the Zechariah Fund)
- *Partial scholarships for four Deaf ELDA volunteers to work at Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf one year and a money gift for JCSD a second year.
- *A money gift to finish building the Lutheran Church of Christ Nigeria, the Synod’s first Deaf Lutheran Church pastored by Deaf pastor Rev. Ruth Ulea.
- *A money gift was sent to Bishop Jensen Seyenkulo serving in Liberia, which is battling the Ebola virus.

If you are interested in making a difference in the Deaf World with us, you may donate to the HOPE Fund. Mail a check, made out to ELDA and send to the following address:

Jeff Panek, ELDA Treasurer
625 S. Mary Drive
Tea, South Dakota 57064

Here is some fundraising ideas for the HOPE Fund:
Ask your church to collect amounts from the Lenten Soup Suppers.
Ask your congregation to collect coins for few weeks, months or whenever.

The Lord enjoys people who worship Him and trust in His faithful love.
Psalm 147:11

2015 membership dues are now due.

Dues are \$125 a year for each church.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear ELDA Friends:

As I write this, we are hoping that our winter is over and spring is truly coming to stay. I can't imagine living in the Boston area and coping with their record snowfall! I'll see if any of it is left when I fly there for a meeting April 8...

Speaking of warmth, Dorothy Sparks and I are once again planning a mission trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica to work with the 55 students at Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf. This year, we will be going in September for several reasons.

In June, the students are busy and distracted by final exams which they must pass to move to the next grade. In September, they are just starting a new school year. We hope to have slightly cooler weather. The rates go down in September and hotel rooms are more available.

This year, we hope to be in the classrooms with the students during the school day and each team member will have a chance to connect with a specific group of students. Later in the day, we will run our Vacation Bible School and hopefully have a faster and stronger connection with our groupings.

This year we also will lead Sunday morning worship on campus. This will probably be the first DEAF worship most students will attend, although some will not be on campus until Monday morning. We hope the JCSD dance troupe will also perform.

Our Vacation Bible School will focus on Bible "heroes" and Deaf leaders in Jamaica as well as Deaf black leaders in other parts of the world. We want these students to connect the Bible with daily

life and to be empowered to develop personal godly values and leadership skills.

Our team will once again travel to the Deaf Village in central Jamaica. We will stay at a safe hotel on the beach. We will work hard but also take time to relax a bit. This experience allows us to interact with the Jamaicans and model Deaf leadership, use of interpreters, and the fact that both hearing and Deaf team members use ASL. Jamaica still does not see the Deaf or disabled as equal citizens and many students are neglected and abused at home.

Dorothy and I would love to have YOU join our group. Please pray about it and see if God is tapping you to go. Please check out the flyer in this newsletter for more information and get your passport quickly! You will return with a new understanding of life outside America and what it means to live in poverty.

We are collecting children's shoes (students aged 3 to 21). Each student has only three pairs of shoes (black for school, play shoes and church shoes). We are also collecting twin sheets and pillow cases for their dorm bunk beds. Money gifts will be accepted towards a Bible curriculum and school/VBS supplies. We thank Trinity Lutheran (Reading, PA), for their recent gift of \$125 which will be used for JCSD. ELDA Board hopes to purchase a LED projector for use with showing Power Point and movies. Most of all, we need your prayers for a safe journey and a fruitful mission. Our email addresses are below if you have any questions.

Joy, Pastor Beth Lockard+
ELCA Deaf Ministries
lockardbeth@gmail.com sparksd31@yahoo...com

NEWS AND NOTES



John Teleya recently was ordained. He is now serving at two parishes in Altoona, PA. (Right) Dorothy Sparks signs at John's ordination.



Congratulations to Rev. Lisa Jordan! She is the new Pastor at Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, BOLD.



New pictures from Rev Ruth Ulea on their new church building in Nigeria. It looks Great!!



DANAE HUDSON/ELCJHL

Signs of Faith in the Holy Land from the Lutheran Magazine, Worshipers attend a deaf ministry service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Here's the link to the entire article.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12438&key=154703842

SPIRITUAL SIDE: IS THE WORLD MOVING TOO FAST?

By Dorothy Sparks, Associate In Ministry

Some people feel that the WORLD is moving too fast. Many people feel stress. The Center for Disease Control said that many people had not gotten enough rest or sleep every day. Many people are more tired than they think.

During Lent season, it is a good time to rest and think about your life and faith.

Have you thought about this question? "Who is running the world?" New York City has a statue of man hold world on his shoulder. You may feel like a burden like this statue. The Saint Patrick's Cathedral

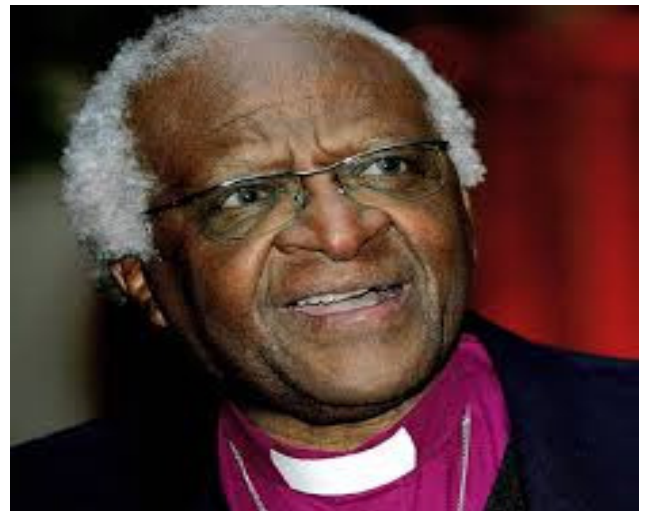


Church is across the street from this statue.

This church has a statue of Jesus hold the world in his hand. It reminds us that we are not running the world. God is running the world.

Once I read an article about Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Capetown.

In 1978 Desmond Tutu was appointed general secretary of the South African Council of Churches and became a leading spokesperson for the rights of black South Africans. (The White and Black people separated from each other at anywhere – Medical, Beaches, Public Servant and etc..) He was a leader to fight for justice. He was in the parade with 30,000 people. He was in jail for short time. During the 1980s he played an unrivaled role in drawing national and international attention to the iniquities of apartheid, and in 1984 he won the Nobel Prize for Peace for his efforts.



How did he do that ? He could be getting tired and worn out.

He must follow three steps daily:

- 1) REST.. (Sleep enough and rest enough)
- 2) PRAYER (Talk with God)
- 3) WORK (Action, Ministry)

During Lent, it is good time to review your priority. Thank God for running the world for us.

Jesus says, "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:2

JAMAICA TRIP

We need your servant hands and hearts!

Travel to Montego Bay, Jamaica

September 11 – 20, 2015

to work daily with 55 students in a mountain school
JAMAICA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
and take 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
- **\$150 nonrefundable deposit** due when registering
- \$1550 (approximate) for total cost of lodging, meals, round trip airfare, & ground transportation **due June 11**. Those flying from outside Philadelphia may have a different cost.
- Have a U.S. passport that does not expire until after March, 2016.
- Indicate if you want to work with youth or do building repair
 - No visas or vaccinations are needed

We would like to bring the following requested by JCSD:

- *children's shoes (new or gently used)
- *twin sheets (fitted and flat) and pillow cases for the dorm
- *Cash gifts from your church or group will pay for a LED projector for their new multipurpose room.
- *a Bible story curriculum for the school
- *some student tuition grants (\$475 a month for each student)

Old luggage will be used to carry the gifts to the school. We will work in the classrooms, fix up buildings and lead a Vacation Bible School after daily classes.

This will be an annual working trip. If you cannot come this year, please let us know your interest for 2016

+ Dorothy Sparks & Beth Lockard+

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Reservations, Deposits and Final Payments: Please complete the Participant Agreement, with full names as they appear on passports, and mail it to us with the required per person deposit plus applicable (optional) insurance. Receipt of your deposit shall act as your agreement to these terms and conditions. Balance is due 90 days before departure date. All payments made by check should be made payable to Regina Tours.

Travel Documents: A valid passport (valid for six months after the return date of the trip) is required to travel. Regina Tours will not be responsible for any delays, damages and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip due to improper travel documentation.

Air Changes, Cancellations & Refunds: Airline tickets issued by Regina Tours are highly restrictive and in most instances cannot be reissued, revalidated or exchanged. If a change is possible, a \$75 per person administrative fee, plus any applicable airline change fees, will be assessed once air tickets have been issued. Airline penalties vary depending on carrier.

Responsibility: The tour member understands that he or she has no claim against Regina Tours, and its affiliates, for any delay or damage to or loss of property or baggage or injury to or death of persons due to any neglect or willful act of a direct air carrier, hotel, bus company, or any other person or persons rendering any of the services being offered in connections with these tours. Further, Regina Tours advises that it has no ownership interest whatsoever in any hotel, restaurant, bus company or transportation or service company of any kind outside the USA, nor does it have any employee outside of the USA. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of these conditions. If there is a difference between the conditions of Regina Tours and those published by suppliers, the conditions of suppliers shall apply. A contract is made when your reservation and payment are accepted by Regina Tours and any dispute shall be governed by New York law. We reserve the right to decline to accept a person, or remove a person from a tour, if such person reents a significant risk to the health or safety of himself or the group and the person cannot otherwise be reasonably accommodated.

Cancellation Policy and Refunds: We hope that nothing will prevent you from taking your Regina Tours trip. However, should you need to cancel, your cancellation must be received in writing, via email, fax or by letter. It will be effective on the date of receipt. If you cancel your tour after you have received your documents and airline tickets, you must return them to Regina Tours before we can process your refund. The following cancellations fees are only for fixed departure date tours published in our brochure. Fees for custom groups and tours may be different, please contact us for details. You are responsible for the cost of any non-refundable airline tickets that have been issued on your behalf plus the following cancellation charges per person:

Days Prior to Departure	Charge
91 or more	\$150
within 90 days	No refund

Once the tours commence, there will be no refunds on missed or unused portions of the tour programs. **Purchase of Travel Insurance, at the time of deposit, is strongly recommended.**

Travel Insurance

Tour Cost Per Person	Premium Per Person:
\$1000-\$1499	\$79
\$1500 - \$2000	\$109
\$2,001 - \$2500	\$129

IMPORTANT: We must receive your premium payment within 7 days of the date we receive your initial deposit for your trip for the Pre-Existing Conditions clause to be waived (provided you are not disabled from travel at the time you pay your premium).

Enclosed is my payment for: Montego Bay Mission Trip September 11-20, 2015 # 41209

- \$259 (\$150 + 109 insurance) per person
 \$150 (if insurance is declined) per person

Credit Card # (Amex / Visa / Master Card): _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code _____

Credit Card holder Signature: _____

The name of the merchant on your credit card statement will be "Group IST." Group IST does business as "Regina Tours."
Name as it appears in your passport: (Last, First) _____ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Airport city of departure _____

Rooming With: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship _____

Enrollment in and payment for the tour constitutes your acceptance of the program conditions.

Make checks payable to: Regina Tours, 545 Eighth Avenue suite 720 New York, NY 10018

Note: Deposit of \$150 is non refundable. Full payment due 90 days prior to departure.

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.

The first newsletter since the new Board was sworn into office was sent out last September. Have you seen the newsletter yet? Please, do check it out on the ELDA website. The website address is www.eldadeaf.org/information.html. Be sure to sign up to receive your newsletter by email. For those without email, please print out the newsletter and post it in your churches. Thanks! The ELDA Newsletter will be sent out quarterly, which follow the seasons of the year. The months are listed below:

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!