



# 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*

*Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."*  
King James Bible

This summer will be a busy one. Our ELDA Board has several plans. God is good!

**The ELCA/ELDA Glocal/Global Missions:** First, Mark Koterwski will be meeting with the staff of the ELDA office of the Global Missions. He will be teaching them all about Deaf Culture and some ASL. Then after this trip, 3 of our ELDA Board members, Mark Koterwski, Jeff Panek and Pastor Beth Lockard will travel to Chicago to meet with the ELCA Global Mission staff, in order to learn more about Deaf Missions in other countries. Mark is still waiting for the dates on these two trips to Chicago.

**The ELDA Board in Minnesota:** The ELDA Board will be meeting at St. Catherine's University in St Paul, MN on July 17-19th. (St. Catherine's University is also fondly called St. Kate's) We will take a tour of the campus which will be the location of the ELDA Conference in 2016. We will hold team-building activities, business meetings and work on some major plans for ELDA's future. We will also meet with members of the Bread of Life Lutheran Deaf Church (BOLD) and attend church services with them. We are excited about this trip and it will give us time to grow together and get to know each other better.

**The Ecumenical Task Force:** Before the end of July, Pastor Beth, Mark Koterwski and Don Rosenkjar will be flying to Dallas, Texas to meet with the other members of the Ecumenical Task Force team. (Lutheran, Methodist and Episcopal) They will seek ways that the three groups can work together and share resources.

**The National Youth Gathering** will take place in Detroit, Michigan this summer also. Pastor Russ Rockwell (Lancaster, PA) will be interpreting at the conference. Thanks to Pastor Dayton Williams, (Chicago, IL) for coordinating all the plans so all that the deaf and hard of hearing youth can enjoy the gathering. Kayla Koterwski will be attending as one of the presenters at the youth gathering. Way to go, Kayla!

**Prayers Needed:** We offer prayers for all the groups who are gathering in all different

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# GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

places, to work and worship together this summer. Wherever, we go, our God is with us and He does not forsaken us. Our meetings will be more productive and successful if we can work and pray together. Thanks to all the groups and individuals listed above, for their willingness to represent ELDA in various ways.

**ELDA Mission Statement:** This past few months, the ELDA Board has been working on a new mission statement. We will go over it some more at the meeting this summer. We will put the statement on our website and in all future newsletters so that we are reminded daily of what ELDA is about. We wanted to cover everything that ELDA is involved in, yet keep the statement short. Here is what we have come up with, for a mission statement:

*The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) is a national Lutheran organization of Deaf ELCA congregations, interpreted ministries, and their members which supports a core value of ASL and American Deaf Culture. ELDA advocates Deaf spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global missions and youth outreach, interpreter training, and hosts a biennial conference.*

**ELDA Earmarked Funds** Let me explain all the funds that ELDA has. We have a few and I would like to explain each one in simple terms. In each issue of the newsletters, we will remind you, our readers to give to the Lenten Appeal or the Thanksgiving Appeal or any other fund. The HOPE Fund and the Zechariah Fund are part of the Lenten Appeal, however you may donate to the HOPE Fund anytime year round.

1. The HOPE Fund, (Helping Other People (be) Empowered) supports missions.
2. The Zechariah Fund supports Deaf people who wish to become pastoral workers, (lay or clergy).
3. The Lenten Fund is more of a sacrificial gift during the 40 days of Lent.
4. The Thanksgiving Appeal was set up to help ELDA with general expenses such as Board meetings, supplies, etc. It is a thanks-giving offering to God for His good gifts.

**You may send a check made out to ELDA to:** Jeff Panek, ELDA Treasurer 625 S. Mary Drive Tea, South Dakota 57064. Be sure to put the name of the fund in the subject area or send Jeff a short memo. A memorial in memory or in honor of a loved one to ELDA is a good way to support the works of ELDA. Thank you!

**Thrivent Choice:** Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association, ELDA is one of the choices on Thrivent Choice! Dena DeGroat, an agent with Thrivent will be speaking to the Board and members of BOLD at St. Kate's in July. We will have more information in the next newsletter.

**Welcome to ELDA:** On behalf of the ELDA Board, I would like to express our welcome to Susan Howell and the Deaf members of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Muncie, IN. You may remember Susan as one of our interpreters at the ELDA Conference 2014 in Chicago. The church will be joining ELDA. I am sure their members will be attending the ELDA conference next year. We thank God for bringing this church into ELDA.

**Newsletter articles and pictures needed:** If your church or ministry has anything important or fun that is happening this summer, be sure to write a short article about it and send to [Lindafairbanks22@gmail.com](mailto:Lindafairbanks22@gmail.com) along with a few pictures. Pictures are worth a thousand words. We are always looking for articles for our newsletters. Have a wonderful summer! God's peace, Linda

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 INCLUDE CHARLESTON IN YOUR PRAYERS



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

It has been a long season of disquiet in our country. From Ferguson to Baltimore, simmering racial tensions have boiled over into violence. But this ... the fatal shooting of nine African Americans in a church is a stark, raw manifestation of the sin that is racism. The church was desecrated. The people of that congregation were desecrated. The aspiration voiced in the Pledge of Allegiance that we are “one nation under God” was desecrated.

Mother Emanuel AME’s pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, as was the Rev. Daniel Simmons, associate pastor at Mother Emanuel. The suspected shooter is a member of an ELCA congregation. All of a sudden and for all of us, this is an intensely personal tragedy. One of our own is alleged to have shot and killed two who adopted us as their own.

We might say that this was an isolated act by a deeply disturbed man. But we know that is not the whole truth. It is not an isolated event. And even if the shooter was unstable, the framework upon which he built his vision of race is not. Racism is a fact in American culture. Denial and avoidance of this fact are deadly. The Rev. Mr. Pinckney leaves a wife and children. The other eight victims leave grieving families. The family of the suspected killer and two congregations are broken. When will this end?

The nine dead in Charleston are not the first innocent victims killed by violence. Our only hope rests in the innocent One, who was violently executed on Good Friday. Emmanuel, God with us, carried our grief and sorrow – the grief and sorrow of Mother Emanuel AME church – and he was wounded for our transgressions – the deadly sin of racism.

I urge all of us to spend a day in repentance and mourning. And then we need to get to work. Each of us and all of us need to examine ourselves, our church and our communities. We need to be honest about the reality of racism within us and around us. We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act. No stereotype or racial slur is justified. Speak out against inequity. Look with newly opened eyes at the many subtle and overt ways that we and our communities see people of color as being of less worth. Above all pray – for insight, for forgiveness, for courage.

Kyrie Eleison.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# NEW ELDA MISSION STATEMENT

*The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) is a national Lutheran organization of Deaf ELCA congregations, interpreted ministries, and their members which supports a core value of ASL and American Deaf Culture. ELDA advocates Deaf spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global missions and youth outreach, interpreter training, and hosts a biennial conference.*

# A GRAMMATICAL MOMENT

By Kayla Koterwski

*This article originally appeared in The Lutheran magazine.*

At a time when denominations are asking “Where are our young people?”, I stand as an odd exception.

As a 19-year-old in love with our church, I’m amazed at the complexities of our conversations and actions, and the ways in which we’re consistently growing and responding.

Today I serve the church from a place of privilege, but my start was rocky. My family didn’t attend church, but my parents (both deaf) had me baptized in my dad’s home Methodist church in Chicago.

Then we found a place at Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, S.D., with an active deaf community. Like many children growing up in ELCA congregations, I felt at home and tagged along to countless meetings.

My parents were voting members of the South Dakota Synod Assembly the summer before my freshman year of high school. Since the assembly was being held seven hours away, it was reasonable that I would fill the youth voting spot and go along. When my pastor asked me to do so, I wasn’t sure what a “synod” or an “assembly” was. But I was giddy to have been asked.

Not many people can say a synod assembly changed the course of their life, but that gathering in 2009 changed mine. During heated debates and divided perspectives, I was absorbed in conversations and attempted to make sense of words I was hearing and seeing on the screen.

In one proposed amendment I noticed a line that I believed should be worded differently. The next thing I knew I was walking nervously to a microphone (which was far too tall for me) and Bishop David

Zellmer was calling on me to speak. I made a motion to change grammar in a sentence that passed. This moment set me on a journey that has molded my voice, passions and relationships – and certainly my faith.

I became the first youth representative to our congregational council, interned at the synod office and served on the synod council. And at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly I was one of two youth elected to the ELCA Church Council, the first young people to receive both voice and vote on this governing body.

This church has equipped me with a passion to understand and love the world around me. It has engaged me in conversations that moved me to view the world differently – and to welcome the stranger and make room at the table for every voice.

It’s “synod assembly season,” and I write this as a reminder that the way in which young people are addressed and taught has such potential to impact their lives – either positively or negatively. This church has shown me what it means to be listened to and valued. And in so doing, I join you in the call to live out “God’s work. Our hands.”

Kayla Koterwski, formerly a student at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D., is a student at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

- See more at: <http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran/Stories/2015/06/150610-A-grammatical-moment#sthash.z0cr6NG8.dpuf>



# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear ELDA friends—  
In our spring issue, I mentioned the upcoming Jamaica mission trip planned for September 11—20. At this writing, we have seven people on the team and they will be flying from different parts of the U.S. Because we are not one big group flying from one city, the cost is slightly lower. We have room for a few more so if you are interested, please

contact me quickly (lockardbeth@gmail.com, VP 484-319-4256). We especially need one more woman so that all have roommates.

It also seems likely that Don Rosenkjar and Khai Nguyen will be leading a trip to Israel in 2017. This is a trip that you will want to start saving for NOW. More details will be announced in the near future.

In July, our ELCA will once again sponsor a youth gathering for thousands of ELCA youth. This time it will be in Detroit. Mark & Angela Koterwski's daughter Kayla will be one of the speakers. I want to thank Rev. Dayton Williams for coordinating the interpreters, assistive listening devices and special seating for many years for the deaf and hard of hearing kids (and some adult sponsors) who attend. This is Dayton's last year and we salute his efforts! Rev. Russ Rockwell has served as one of the interpreters and in the past Rev. Gisele Berninghaus was another.

Our ELDA Board has sent a mission gift of \$300 to Bishop Jensen Seyenkulo in Liberia for their recovery efforts after the Ebola pandemic. Word of Life Deaf Lutheran (WOLD) has also pledged a gift. Some of you will remember Bp. Jensen was the Director of Disability Ministry at the churchwide offices and my colleague. Before the Ebola crisis, Liberia had a long civil war and struggles with shortages of water and electricity as well as damaged buildings, roads, and lack of services. Your gifts through ELDA's HOPE Fund help others.

In the last issue, President Linda Fairbanks shared a letter

from Christ the King Deaf Church member, Elroy Treibel, who had just been diagnosed with a brain tumor in March. Despite numerous radiation treatments, the tumor grew and Jesus called Elroy home June 6 at the age of 84. I buried him at a private family service June 14 and Pr. Rockwell and I shared a memorial service for him June 15.

Elroy was born and baptized in Wausau, Wisconsin and became hard of hearing at age 7 from Scarlet Fever. He was confirmed in the Lutheran faith in 1944.

Elroy married in 1956 and had a son and daughter. He received his Bachelor degree in chemical engineering from

the University of Wisconsin and worked in Delaware as a chemical engineer and later as a computer programmer. At the age of 35 he became completely deaf. He and his wife found a deaf Lutheran church in Camden, NJ and he began to learn sign language. Later they become members of St. Philip's Deaf Lutheran in Philadelphia where I first met them. In 1991, they transferred to the new Christ the King Deaf Church in West Chester. In the past few years as he drove less, he attended WOLD more frequently as well as the Deaf seniors at Trinity Lutheran in Reading. His memorial service was attended by members of all these churches plus residents of his Garden Spot Village retirement community. Many of you met him at ELDA conferences.

Thank you to all who prayed for him during his three-month battle with cancer. Your prayers and his faith kept him strong and he planned his service to be a strong witness of his faith in Jesus and the hope of resurrection. May we all be encouraged to do the same!

Blessings, Pastor Beth+  
ELCA Deaf Ministries



# HEARTLAND EPHPHATHA SERVING

By Jason Andera

Every time Heartland Ephphatha (SD) has a chance to serve they do. Our most recent serving opportunities were providing and distributing items to people in our community who have trouble making ends meet. It's called Necessities for Neighbors. Our church gives away items that you can't buy with food stamps. Items include toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, laundry detergent and diapers.

Also in June we served a meal to our church during Vacation Bible School week.



God's Peace,  
Jason Andera





# WORD OF LIFE DEAF PICNIC

By Luanne Bartens

It is a wonderful feeling to worship God and fellowship together with sisterly love in Jesus' name. WOLD hosted our annual picnic in June, and we invited Christ the King to join us. It was the first time for us to worship together, and it was so nice! The weather was beautiful. We enjoyed fellowshiping after worship as well. Everyone brought food to share. It was enjoyable tasting all the different food people brought. Christ the King is planning to have their annual picnic in August, and WOLD is joining them — we are already looking forward to it! It was so nice, we decided we are going to start doing that every year from now on.



Peace,  
Luanne



# SPIRITUAL SIDE:

By Dorothy Sparks, Associate In Ministry

How do we live fit for God's mission?

A cute little girl was sitting on the top of a pile of luggage in a hotel. Her parents were at the hotel desk. A sympathetic lady asked the little girl if they were visiting relatives in the city. "The little girl said, "Oh No, we are going to live at this hotel until we find a house. My daddy got a new job and we had to sell our old house and move." The lady said, "oh it is too bad that you don't have home'. The girl replied, "We do have a home. It is just we have not found house to put it in yet."

The little girl taught us that house will never be home without **togetherness...**

*Galatians 3:28* "Now, in Christ, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or Greek, a slave or free, male or female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus." **Togetherness** is the key.

I will never forget the ELDA (Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association) conference in Chicago last year. My life has been enriched by being **together** with people from the Deaf Methodist and Episcopal Church. The one member from my church attended this conference and met the two women who are the members of Deaf Methodist Church and Episcopal Church. Today they still keep in touch with each other. They are still **together**. Even though, all of them live in different states. Wow! It is so wonderful about fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ.

The World Federation of the Deaf researched and found that about 80-90 percent of the Deaf people in the world don't have any education. It is clear to me that thousands (maybe millions) of deaf people feel alone and isolated in their houses because of lack of communication. Do they feel at home? I doubt it. How can we make them feel at home? The theme for the ELDA conference is 'Bringing God's love to the Deaf people in the World.'" The goal is that the Lutherans, Methodists and Episcopalians get **together** and help spread God's love to the Deaf people in the world. The Deaf people can receive education and use sign language. Then they could feel at home. "**Together** we can make changes in



the World.”

The Church History says that the Christian Church was the first institution in the history of the world to bring **together** on equal footing, Jews and Gentiles, men and women, slaves and free.

Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little, **together** we can so much”.

“We must cherish one another, watch over one another, comfort one another, and gain instruction that we may all sit down in Heaven together.”

— Lucy Mack Smith

Let’s Build a Ministry **Together!**



# 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](mailto: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 presents 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).

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### 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](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.

## 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](mailto:lindafairbanks22@gmail.com) and I will share with our Newsletter Editor. Thanks!