



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!

As I write this first report as President, I am feeling excited and at the same time anxious, as I begin my new term. I want to thank you for the confidence in me and electing me to serve the next four years as your President. Please, feel free to contact me anytime. My email and VP numbers are listed in the Board information.

Since I got back from our very exciting conference in Chicago, I have been kept busy. My first priority was to contact Jason Andera, who is the ELDA Newsletter Editor and also our Webmaster. I already have ideas for the newsletter. Jason will be putting the newsletters together and work on the website as needed. My job will be to write articles or to seek articles and pictures from all of our churches and ministries. It should go much easier when the two of us can work together.

In this newsletter, there are two articles on two different churches in the ELDA. I hope that you will take the time to read both articles. For future issues of the newsletters, I will ask at least two churches to submit articles. If you are not comfortable with writing an article, I can submit some interview questions and I would be happy to write the article for you. Any pictures that you have are always welcome.

I welcome any feedback on our newsletter and the website. We will have a global/domestic mission page on our website on all the mission trips that our ELDA members have been involved in over the years. I am proud to announce that Jeff Panek, Mark Koterwski, Marquita Jones and Pastor Beth Lockard will be part of the delegation team to meet jointly with the ELCA Global Missions staff in Chicago. Their first meeting will be in late October and the purpose of the first meeting is to find out how they can work together on global missions.

The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association, jointly with the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf has sent letters to the Bishops of both the ELCA Synod and the Episcopalian Diocese in early August. The purpose of the letters were to make them aware of the unique needs of the Deaf RID/NTID students and adults in the Rochester, NY area. A new part-time chaplain, Pastor Justin Johnson has since been called to serve the Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry at RID/NTID. Please, include this ministry in your prayers.

There is always a need for new pastors in Deaf Ministry and also to include more

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER (CONT.)

interpreted ministries in ELDA. We want to bring back some of the churches that have not been an active part of ELDA in the past few years. We need to reach out and warmly welcome these people. I plan to make this my priority over the next four years. I will ask some of you to work with me on this project. Let's see ELDA grow, a new pastor and another new church at a time!

We Are The Church Together was the ELDA 2014 Conference theme and the ELCA has a similar theme and their mission statement, in a nutshell is God's Work, Our Hands! Wow! Those are powerful statements. As we gathered with our Lutheran, United Methodist, and Episcopal brothers and sisters in Christ at the recent ELDA Conference in Chicago, we mingled, learned about each other's Deaf churches/ministries and most importantly, we worshipped together. Also as a result of our first successful joint conference, there is now a 9 member team of 3 representatives each from the ELDA, ECD and the UMCD that will be meeting from time to time to share resources, ideas, and possible projects.

It is important to be able to give of our time, talents and share any resources that we might have to a cause that we feel passionate about. It can also be a time of Thanksgiving and giving back to your church or something that you feel would make a major difference or you can start paying it forward to make someone's day a little brighter. Yes! We are the Church Together!

With Thanksgiving Blessings, Linda

CONGRATULATIONS ON AWARDS

Congratulations to the individuals who received honorable mention at the Award program in

Chicago this year!

Thanks to Joyce Atchison for her work as Director of the Christ through Hands Ministry (CTHM). She worked with the deaf and the blind children in their religious programs at the two schools and she also worked with the deaf and also the blind adults in the community. She also works with the Deaf Encounter Christ (DEC) retreats.

Congratulations also to Gordon and Luanne Bartens from Word of Life Deaf Church for all their hard work at WOLD. Gordon served as President in the past and presently as Treasurer and Luanne has been Secretary for a number of years and they both helped out wherever they can at their church.

HEY CHURCHES! SEND IN YOUR DUES.

To our Churches and Ministries,

Have you mailed in your 2014 ELDA membership dues yet? ELDA membership dues are \$125.00 a year for each church.

Please, mail a check, payable to ELDA for \$125.00 to: Jeff Panek, ELDA Treasurer 625 S. Mary Drive Tea, South Dakota 57064. Thank you!

A THANKSGIVING APPEAL LETTER

Thanksgiving is a time of giving thanks to our Lord for all the good and wonderful things that He has provided us with. We are thankful for our healthy families, a roof over our heads, food on our tables, our churches and our jobs. We are also thankful for our neighbors and friends, near and far. At the very first Thanksgiving, the settlers were thankful for their safe journeys on the ships from far away home lands. They were thankful for the Indians who helped them with their harvest and for the homes that they built for shelter through the long cold winters. The pilgrims were able to share their bountiful harvest with the Indians and at the same time, they gave thanks to God for all the good things. The ELDA Thanksgiving Appeal was set up to help the ELDA with its general expenses such as Board meetings and supplies, etc. It is really a thank offering to God for His good gifts. Will you and your church, please include the ELDA Board in your prayers?

And also, give a Thanksgiving offering to ELDA? Thank you! Your Thanksgiving offering can be in any amount. Make your check payable to ELDA and mail to: Jeff Panek, ELDA Treasurer 625 S. Mary Drive Tea, SD 57064

BOLD AND THE TWO DEAF WOMEN OF FAITH

By Linda Fairbanks

Congratulations to the members of the Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church on receiving the ELDA City on the Hill Award. "You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden" (*Matthew 5:14*) Congratulations also to BOLD lifelong church member, Barbara Schmidt who carried home the 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*) The awards were presented to the recipients at the 2014 Award Program at the ELDA Conference in Chicago. Two years ago, Dorothy Sparks was awarded the 2012 ELDA Shining Light Award at the ELDA conference in Sioux Falls, SD.

It is truly an honor for me to write this article about the Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church and the two strong Deaf women of faith who helped shape the church as it is today. I will start off with a little bit of history about BOLD and their church building, located at 2901 38th Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN.



Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church
In 1952, the deaf congregation, was then called the Bethany Lutheran Church for the Deaf gathered at Bethany Lutheran Church. When Bethany Lutheran church needed room to expand its ministry, the Deaf congregation had to move to

the Y.M.C.A. They had a dream of having their own building and they were able to locate an empty lot on a corner street in Minneapolis. They broke ground on August 12, 1956. The church building is now 58 years old. In two years, BOLD will have a special anniversary celebration of the founding of its church building.

The congregation then voted to change the name of the church to Bread of Life Lutheran Church for the Deaf and then in 2014, the congregation voted again to change that name to Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church. Over the years, BOLD has had 6 different pastors. The names of the pastors are Rev. Walter Olson, Dr. Lawrence Bunde, Rev. Mark Hendrickson, Rev. Russ Rockwell, Dorothy Sparks and Rev. Susan Masters. The average worship attendance is 43.

The members of BOLD church have been very involved in different community events, they want to let the Deaf community know that they are here to serve others! Here is part of a long list of activities that BOLD is involved in. Examples are as following, BOLD has opened its doors to Deaf Harbor which continues its work in making the Bible easily understood by the Deaf. Lunches are served once a month to Deaf seniors and their friends. Visits are made to the Lygnoblomsten Care Center once a month to entertain Deaf residents in card games and socializations.

BOLD members have packed meals for Kids against Hunger and Feed my Starving Children. The members collected clothes and money donations for the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and for the African Deaf School and the LCCN Deaf Church. The members have collected for the Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf., collected cans of food for the Emergency Shelf every month. The members packed water bottles, health bars and socks to hand out people who stand at corners for help. The church has hosted a

Christmas Brunch and a Christian Concert. Again, congratulations to BOLD Church, on receiving the City on the Hill award!

Barbara Schmidt

Barbara (Corn) Schmidt, a 1955 graduate of Minnesota School for the Deaf was born in a Minneapolis, MN hospital. She attended Gallaudet College for one year and while at Gallaudet, she would take long bus rides to a church on Sundays. Barbara became a member of BOLD Lutheran Church in 1956. Barbara was married in 1957 to Victor Schmidt and to that union, three children were born.

Barbara has been a widow since 1998 and lives alone in a purchased townhouse. Barbara said that since she could hear some, she was asked to “sing” in church and she was a choir leader for some time. Her love for the church grew when she was asked by Pastor Dale from the Ephahatha Deaf Church to help him out. Pastor Dale depended on her a lot.



In BOLD church, Barbara was known as the one who was always busy with all the different activities and when asked, she would get up and do something quickly without any questions. She often times would hand out a bag with bottled water, socks and snacks to those who stood at street corners and even gave away an extra Subway sandwich. Barbara always signs up to pack meals and helps to raise funds for good causes.

Barbara is a member of the Deaf Hospice Education Project and visits people who are in hospice care. She is also a member of Deaf Pinkies and the Deaf Senior Citizens. Barbara has attended the ELDA conference 7 times or more. Barbara has a deep passion for listening to God’s Word and always asks questions. Barbara is one of the Associate Ministers for the worship service and is currently Vice President of BOLD Church.

In addition to receiving the ELDA Shining Light Award, she had also received the Metlife Foundation Older Volunteers Enrich America Award and the Golden Rose Award at the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference for her lifetime of volunteer service. Congratulations, Barbara!

Dorothy Sparks, Associate in Ministry

Dorothy Sparks was born to deaf parents and also has a deaf brother and they resided in Omaha, Nebraska. Dorothy and her family attended the Nebraska School for the Deaf and the Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran Church. One year, after her high school graduation, Dorothy felt a deep desire to teach deaf children in Bible Class. She did not know how to do that, yet she wanted to. Her pastor gave her Bible lessons to teach with him. That was the beginning of her vocation but she was not aware of it at the time.

Dorothy moved to Minneapolis in 1986 to work as a parish worker at Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church. Dorothy is grateful to the Lord for leading her to the church and to live in the Twin Cities. She was Pastor at BOLD for 6 years and developed her skills in leadership, teaching, etc. In 2003, Pastor Beth Lockard led her to take the Deaf Ministry courses at St Thomas University in Miami, Florida. Dorothy received a certificate from the program in 2007.

BOLD AND THE TWO DEAF WOMEN OF FAITH (CONT.)

It seemed that Dorothy was finally realizing her dream to become a pastor, but then serious health problems forced her to leave BOLD. She had heart surgery and was also laid off from her full time job at a bank. She took advantage of the time off to get involved in volunteer work in the deaf community. She taught health classes, provided tutoring, and volunteered with the deaf hospice program. It helped her to gain a better understanding of the needs of the deaf community. Dorothy also joined a team of ecumenical deaf church leaders to visit a church- sponsored school in Jamaica to provide a Vacation Bible School program.

Dorothy found that she wanted to do ministry in the Deaf community anywhere in the world. She decided, with the support of the Minneapolis Area Synod that an Associate in Ministry (AIM) would be the next step for her instead of ordination. The Minneapolis Area Synod and Luther Seminary accepted the courses that she took at St Thomas University. Dorothy just needed to read two books, History of Martin Luther and Lutheran Theology. She was interviewed by the staff at Luther Seminary

and then approved as an Associate in Ministry, (AIM) by the Minneapolis Area Synod, which is the first synod in the ELCA to approve a culturally deaf candidate who uses ASL to communicate become an Associate in Ministry. Dorothy feels amazed and humbled on how God moves in her life. From now on, she will always say, “Everything is possible through the Lord”.

Indeed, Dorothy Sparks is a pioneer for other deaf people to follow her and become more involved in the church and also become strong deaf leaders in Deaf Ministry. Dorothy has not gone back to her work since she was laid off and her schedule remains full, demanding and busy. She is finally doing what she was called to do and to her, it feels good. She is currently serving BOLD as an AIM.

(This article was written from the ELDA award nomination forms and interviews with Barbara Schmidt and Dorothy Sparks. Some information came from an article written by the Rev. Susan Masters in the Metro Lutheran, an independent Lutheran newspaper serving the Greater Twin Cities area. Thanks to BOLD for the pictures and the historical information on the Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church.)



TWO ELDA ANNIVERSARIES



Two of ELDA's Deaf ministries celebrated church anniversaries the same week! Sunday, August 31, St. Philip's Lutheran Church of the Deaf (Philadelphia) gathered for worship in their chapel to thank God for

FLOWERS SENT FROM LONG TIME MISSION PARTNER CHURCH, TRINITY LUTHERAN IN NEW HAMPTON, IOWA (IMPORTANT TO WOLD)

87 years of ministry to the Deaf Community of Delaware Valley and then celebrated with a luncheon at nearby Tiffany's. Saturday, September 6, Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church (Lancaster) gathered to celebrate 20 years with a luncheon at Foxchase Golf Club and thank God for their own ministry in the Lancaster—Harrisburg area. Together, these two Deaf churches have served the Deaf Community in eastern Pennsylvania for many years.

St. Philip's ministry began in 1920—1923 but then stopped. In 1926, Edward Kaercher, a deaf graduate of Gallaudet College, entered the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. With his help, Rev. Dr. Bechtold restarted the ministry and in 1927 the first confirmation class of nine Deaf students from PSD was the start of the St. Philip's Lutheran Mission to the Deaf. When Rev. Kaercher was ordained in 1929, he served St. Philip's full time. He was a dramatic preacher and built up a large congregation while turning down a lucrative offer from the silent films. He served faithfully through the hard conditions of the Depression years. Documents say he also served the "Lancaster mission" and many other Lutheran missions in the area which probably included Trinity in Reading. This would mean St. Philip's and WOLD were connected 85 years ago!

Word of Life ministry goes back to 1929 when "signed" worship services were first offered at the former Zion Lutheran Church. This ministry moved



PASTORS RUSS ROCKWELL, BETH LOCKARD AND, PAM CARNES (HARRISBURG)

to St. Matthew's Lutheran as an interpreted ministry and peaked in the late 1970's when a hard of hearing seminarian, Robert Collins, served as a vicar and then assistant pastor at St. Matthews. After he left in 1982, St. Matthew's deaf ministry once again became interpreted ministry. In 1989, the ELCA approved Word of Life as an official mission start and called Rev. Kim Lengert. WOLD became an ELCA congregation in 1994 which explains the 20 year anniversary although its roots go back to 1929.

1972 was a big year for St. Philip's when synods changed and St. Philip's moved under the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Rev. Jerold Munz was called as full time pastor to St. Philip's and south New Jersey. This ministry included PSD and MKSD students and the Home for the Aged, Infirm, and Blind Deaf (now known as Valley View). Seminarian Dayton Williams served as vicar 1977—1978 (now serving Chicago). Rev. Joseph Varsanyi served 1980—1986. Beth Firmhaber (Lockard) was called as Parish Assistant in 1982, later entering the same seminary as Rev. Kaercher, and now serving as the interim pastor. Rev. Varsanyi was guest speaker at St. Philip's anniversary and Rev. Lockard was guest speaker at WOLD's anniversary. We are the church together!

WOLD called Rev. Russell Rockwell in 2001 and in 2007 relocated to St. Peter's Lutheran in Neffsville, a suburb of Lancaster. In 2005, St. Philip's relocated to St. John's Lutheran in the Mayfair section of Philadelphia. St. Philip's became a worshipping community of the ELCA but never became an ELCA congregation like WOLD. We thank and praise God for these two ministries. May they continue to grow and reach out to the Deaf Community in many different ways.

ELDA CONFERENCE REPORT

Linda Fairbanks and Mark Koterwski, ELDA Conference Co-Chairpersons

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the conference attendees, which includes the Lutherans, the Methodists, the Episcopalians and also those who attended from the offices of the ELCA. The conference planning had taken a few short months and we made it happen! Thank you to our conference planning committee, Jeff Panek who was our treasurer, Angela Koterwski, Belinda Panek, Jason Andrea and Rev. Susan Masters. Thanks also to our interpreters!

Here is a summary report on the conference. The ELDA Conference 2014 was a unique one for several reasons: the committee members are also ELDA Board members; we did not have a host church, and our conference was in a remote city of Chicago. Our committee worked hard to arrange all the meeting rooms for each group and the larger rooms for when we all met together.

The conference started off with the Pastors and Church Workers' retreat. We had the Board meetings in mid-week. Each day the number of people grew when the other groups arrived. It became much more exciting as the week went by. We held workshops, devotions, and worship services and also gathered at meal times each



day. We learned about each other's deaf churches and ministries. We had social time with snacks every evening.

Of course, not everything went according to plans but we learned to be a little more patience as we worked through details. We had to be flexible in making last minute changes but in the end, the conference was successful and we were pleased with the positive comments and the great evaluations. Our choir group of seven members signed the theme song, "We Are the Church Together" and did very well with very little practice.

On Saturday, August 2nd was the most busy



day and evening. We had workshops, and then business meetings. We had an election and Linda Fairbanks who was our Board Vice President, was elected as the new ELDA President. Jeannie Fischer was elected to finish out the remaining two years of Linda's term. Angela Koterwski was elected Secretary and Dorothy Sparks is our newly elected Pastoral Advisor. Mark Koterwski's term as President ended after 8 years in office and he became our Immediate Past President. Jeff Panek, Treasurer and ELCA Director of Deaf Ministries Pastor Beth Lockard are the other two members on the ELDA board. We also presented letters to the Episcopal and United Methodist groups to join us at ELDA Conference 2016 which will be hosted by BOLD in Minneapolis. Of course, they gladly accepted.

We had group pictures and went to the banquet after the pictures. Mark Koterwski was the Emcee and the Award Program started out with Jason Andrea and Linda Fairbanks handing out the two awards to Barbara Schmidt and Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church. (See story in this newsletter). After that the Episcopal and United Methodist groups presented their awards. It was really nice to see how everything came together. The ELDA, the UMCD and ECD boards were sworn into office by Don Rosenkjar. We all then, moved to the Chapel and held closing worship with Holy Communion together.

On the last morning of the conference, we gathered for breakfast and then had a short devotional and then we prepared for departure for our homes. Overall, the conference went very well and we left with nothing but good memories. We look forward to the ELDA Conference 2016.



VIEW THE SIGNED SONG
"WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER"
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=AWI3_HRWEGK&LIST=UUGKEKX0B2Z-VGYLJQK_UPMQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWI3_HRWEGK&list=UUGKEKX0B2Z-VGYLJQK_UPMQ)

NEWS AND NOTES



THANK YOU TO ELDA MEMBERS WHO GAVE TO THE ELDA HOPE FUND WHICH SENT \$500 TO PR. RUTH ULEA IN NIGERIA TO FINISH BUILDING THEIR LUTHERAN DEAF CHURCH.



Our new ELDA vice president, Jeannie Fischer and husband John, became first time grandparents of Garrett Matthew Fischer, born September 8, 2014. The little guy is 8 lb., 10 oz. and is 20.5 inches long. Garrett is the fifth grandbaby for Pauline Johnston. Pauline and Jeannie are members of Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church in Lancaster, PA..



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear ELDA Friends:

It was a blessing to see so many of you at the recent conference in Chicago! It was certainly a new and enjoyable experience to share the conference with the Episcopalians and Methodists. Hopefully, we can continue to share resources and events which will enrich each of our

groups. By the next newsletter, you will be hearing the dates and location of the 2016 conference hosted by Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran so you can plan ahead. Let's make this the biggest ever! BOLD will be celebrating their anniversary that year.

I wanted to thank all of you for your faithful support of our recent mission trip to Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf in June. We had a safe and productive journey and were able to share pictures and information in Chicago. Many of you also bought items made by the Jamaica Deaf Village artisans that I brought back. I hear Barbara Schmidt is already working hard at making and collecting twin sheets for the 52 students which we will take with us in 2015.

At JCSD, Jeff Panek (SD) and Bill Lockard (PA) worked hard to sand, prime, and paint the whole inside and outside of a second floor addition to the kindergarten and Special Ed unit building. What made this a challenge was that they had primitive or no tools to do the job. They sanded with broken concrete chunks. Another mission team put the finishing touches on their work with bright paint, windows, and a small stage. Their hard work paid off as staff, students and families gathered in the new big room for a graduation ceremony four days after we left.

While the guys were sweating in the heat, the eight women led the Vacation Bible School for the

students where we taught the 23rd Psalm. A special thank you to Dorothy Sparks (MN) who developed the lesson plans and taught with drama and dance. Elaine Burgess (PA), a retired Lutheran teacher, also took time to clean and organize JCSD's small library. Energy came from college students Meredith Branham (SC) and Madeline Goodwin (PA) who led games. June Goodwin (PA), Belinda Panek (SD), Shelley Williams (PA), and I assisted with skits, crafts, and stories. The many smiles and hugs made it worthwhile!

Mill Neck Lutheran Friends of the Deaf provided ASL Bible story books for the staff and students plus the residents at the Jamaica Deaf Village. Mill Neck Foundation, ELDA, Christ the King Deaf Church (PA), Heartland Ephphatha Ministries (SD), Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran (MN), Messiah Lutheran (PA), DeafCAN!'s Deaf Women Connection (PA) and many individuals helped with donations of supplies for the school and VBS plus money for our van and driver, lunches, and shipping. We were able to give JCSD a \$1225 cash gift.

We will return in September 2015. We hope you will be a part of our next trip!

Pr. Beth Lockard, ELCA Deaf Ministries



MEET THE BOARD



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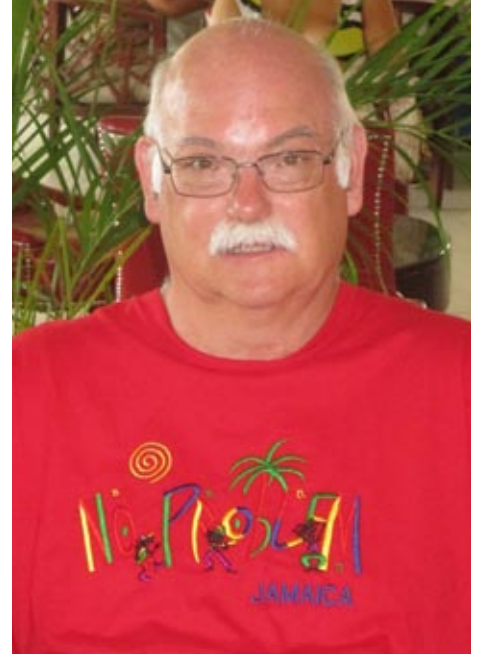


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BRIEF HISTORY OF TRINITY LUTHERAN DEAF CHURCH

*-Dee Horst, Interim Administrator
of Trinity Lutheran Deaf Church*

Since 1920, Trinity Lutheran Deaf Church has been a worship center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Reading, PA and surrounding areas. Reading is one of the poorest cities in the US, which presents a big challenge getting people to come into the city for church. Until 1984 church was held once a month. At that time,



a pastor who signed traveled from

Philadelphia for the church service.

Members of the church held a covered dish meal after worship. In 1984, Trinity Lutheran Church with the Inner Mission Society called a part-time pastor to Trinity Lutheran Deaf Church who was fluent in ASL. They worshiped every other Sunday and held Bible study once a week. Later they started Sunday School. Members then decided to have weekly church services.

Trinity Deaf's most recent called pastor, The Rev. Jeanne Beadle,

suddenly died of a heart attack four years ago while parked in the church parking lot. Since Pastor Jeanne's untimely death I have been the administrator of the Deaf Congregation. We are looking for a new permanent part-time pastor who signs.

One program Pr. Jeanne started at Trinity that we continued is the I Can Group for adults with mental health challenges, supported by Trinity Deaf and the greater Reading Mental Health Alliance. The first Saturday of the month this group meets at the church. A pastor teaches an hour Bible study which is interpreted. Deaf and Hearing church members prepare and serve a free lunch. Then we play signed Bingo. Adults with mental health issues (both Hearing and Deaf) benefit from the Bible study where we can be together in a safe Christian place. Several members of the I Can Group are attending our noonday Advent and Lenten services, too.

Deaf Senior Center is our

second outreach program. We meet on the second Thursday of each month in the church social hall. Twenty five seniors gather for fellowship, play Dingo and eat a great lunch prepared by members of the Deaf congregation. Church member Barbara Hartman chairs this event.

Six times a year students attend from Reading Area Community College's ASL classes. The students and Deaf enjoy signing together.

In the future when we have called a part-time pastor who signs, we have several programs we want to start to expand our media ministry and to attract young adults. Currently we broadcast our Deaf service twice a week on local cable. The service is also streamed on line at www.oldtrinitytv.org. The possibilities for media are endless. Some ideas for further media ministries are Power Point used at worship services, Bible study for broadcast on cable TV, and TV programs to highlight Deaf awareness. I'm exploring having a monthly social event for young adults at the church. This would include child care and free dinner. I



will be asking several young Deaf adults to help organize this project.

At the time of Pr. Jeanne's death I was the only member of Trinity Lutheran's Hearing church who was involved in the Deaf ministry. I'm still doing it four years later. We have an interim Pastor serving our congregation and a great interpreter for our worship services. Church is held every Sunday in the church chapel at 11:00 a.m.

Our congregation is unique in that we have Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing members. Many families with Deaf members worship together. These families love being able to worship God together on Sundays. We need to find a way to get young adults to come to church. This is a challenge but we keep trying.

Trinity Deaf have been members of ELDA since the start of ELDA. Members have attended every ELDA conference. Personally for me the last four leadership meetings have been a tremendous help and learning experience. Everyone welcomed me and treated me with respect. When I need help or have a question, I know I can e-mail a Pastor or board member from ELDA and receive help. ELDA is a wonderful group of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing members working together to serve God and promote Deaf awareness. I'm grateful to be a member of ELDA.



SPIRITUAL SIDE

by Dorothy Sparks, Associate In Ministry

We have heard about 'Leave No Child Behind!' and "Leave No Vet Behind!". In Ethiopia, it says, "Leave No Woman Behind!" Many women feel out and alone due to lack of education and training. Now there has a program to empower women and girls thru Health Education, Business education , Training and etc. .

What is the point of this view? Jesus said, "They will be one with each other, just as *You* and *I* are one."

For example, Jesus left no one behind
at the road (blind man, cripple man, deaf man, bleeding woman, prostitutes, lepers, and etc),
at the well (Samaritan woman),
at the tree (Zacchaeus),
on the cross (sinner)

Jesus lived and died by no one left behind. Even at the ELDA Conference in Chicago, No one leave behind. I am so pleased to see how God move and lead the members of the Methodist /Episcopal and Lutheran Church together. We laughed together, We chatted for hours together, We love each other. We hug each other. It is wonderful to meet our sisters and brothers in Christ. We learn in depth meaning of God's family. The conference enriched our experience. Wow! I can't wait to get together again at next conference at Minnesota in 2016.



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 your pictures and stories about your ministry. We'd love to put it in our next newsletter.