



# ELDA

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



***Linda Fairbanks***  
***ELDA President***

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

***Linda Fairbanks***

My soul finds rest in God alone. My salvation comes from Him. He alone is my Rock and my Salvation. He is my fortress. I will never be shaken. Psalm 62: 1-2

Greetings! This is going to be one exciting month! Our mission team of Pastor Beth and Bill Lockard, Deacon Dorothy Sparks, Bob and Karen Pugh, along with Jay Johnson will be going to Nigeria. Since this is a very dangerous undertaking, we will be praying for the team every day that they are away, until they are safe again on American soil. I am proud of the mission team for being willing to go into Nigeria. It is for that reason that, a prayer page has been posted on the Word of Life Deaf website. We NEED to pray for each

team member while they are traveling to and from Nigeria. You can read more about the upcoming trip in Pastor Beth's report.

This year Easter will fall on April fool's Day. It is also my granddaughter, Maggie's 7th birthday. I know some pranksters who love to fool people and I wonder if they still plan to do so since it will also be Easter Day. Easter is so real to most of us. It celebrates the glorious day when Jesus rose from the dead. May each of us be reminded of that day. And happy birthday, Maggie!

The ELDA Board has been focusing, mainly on the upcoming Nigeria trip and also on the ELDA Conference that will be in Las Vegas this coming July. I hope you can join us. We are hoping to secure a grant that will cover some of the interpreter fees, which is the largest part of our conference expenses. It is important that we include all conference attendees without any communication barriers. The pastoral retreat is during the early part of the conference and we are hoping that most of them will stay through the full week. The Board arrives on Tuesday to work on our business agenda and then on Thursday of that week, we welcome all the delegates to the conference. If you wish to join us for our post-conference trip to the Hoover Dam, please sign up on your registration form and make sure your travel plans include this trip.

Any questions about the conference and/or the registration form can be answered by Don Rosenkjar, conference chairperson at Donkhai99@aol.com For any concerns, questions or whatever related to ELDA, please email me at lindafairbanks22@gmail.com Thanks!  
Find rest, my soul, in God alone. Psalm 62:5 Easter Blessings! -Linda

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# ELCA DEAF MINISTRIES COORDINATOR'S REPORT



Dear ELDA Friends-- God's grace and peace be with you. Exciting news is happening in our ELDA Community. I always enjoy sharing good news with you all!

First, we have a new Lutheran Deaf ministry start up in central Pennsylvania near Altoona. Pastor John

Telyea, former intern at Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran (Minneapolis) during his seminary days has been pastoring hearing churches in the area for the last three years. He has felt God calling him into Deaf ministry and his Allegheny Synod is supportive of that call. He has been meeting the Deaf Community and attending their events. They have asked him for worship opportunities. His first gathering will be March 25 at Geeseytown Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg, PA..

Pastor John will be at the ELDA Conference pastoral leader's retreat in Las Vegas. You can see a picture of Pr. John with Pr. Russ, Deacon Dorothy, and me in another part of the newsletter. Dorothy was in our area to get her Nigerian visa in Washington DC last month.

Things have been moving quickly since the last newsletter. As I write this, a team of six is planning to visit Nigeria March 19--April 4. God willing, we will arrive safely and back. I say this because we are traveling into a "red" zone that the US government warns us NOT to visit. It is a hostile primitive area and dangers include food and water contamination, malaria (sickness from mosquitoes), and crime against foreigners. Recently, 110 more school girls were kidnapped by the Boko Haram just north of where we will be.

But, we look forward to seeing Pastor Ruth Ulea again and visiting her church and school. It is called Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) Deaf ministry. We will also participate in their annual Easter Camp March 29--April 2 before we leave April 3. It is a 23-hour trip

both ways to Paris, France, down into Abuja, Nigeria and east to Yola where we find LCCN in nearby Jimeta. We will meet about 100 Deaf Nigerians at the Easter Camp and we are bringing some surprises for Pr. Ruth and the people. Mill Neck Lutheran Friends of the Deaf has also given us 100 ASL Easter Bible story books to distribute.

Our team will be led by Jay Johnson, a Lutheran Army vet from Minneapolis, who is experienced with the area. Deacon Dorothy Sparks, Bob and Karen Pugh will join him. My husband Bill and I will meet them in Paris. To prepare, we had to update our passports, get visas in person from the Nigerian Embassy in DC, get many immunizations (the Yellow Fever shot cost more than \$200!), and get prescriptions for malaria pills, antibiotics, etc. We are going into the unknown and your prayers are very much needed.

I have worked with Pastor Russ to create a prayer page on the WOLD website. Please check out [www.wordoflifedeaf.org/prayer](http://www.wordoflifedeaf.org/prayer). It will bless our team to know someone is praying for us each day. We will be six hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time.

A big thank you to Word of Life Deaf Ministry (\$1000), Chicago Lutheran Deaf Ministry (\$500), Christ the King Deaf Church (\$400), Elaine and Dan Burgess (\$100) who donated to the cost of our visas which were \$300 each. ELDA paid for Deacon Dorothy's flight to Philadelphia to get her visa in DC. The extra \$200 will be given to LCCN.

The last exciting news, of course, is the ELDA/ELM conference coming up in July. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Easter joy,  
Pr. Beth Lockard  
ELCA Deaf Ministries Coordinator





## **Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association and ELM Conference**

**Hosted by St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, North Hollywood, CA**

At the fabulous and exciting  
**Tuscany Suites & Casino, Las Vegas**

**"Sharing Hands with Love"**

### **Pastoral Workers Meeting**

Sunday, July 22 - Arrive in the afternoon  
Sunday, July 22 – Tuesday, July 24

### **ELDA Board Meeting**

Tuesday, July 24- ELDA Board arrives  
Wednesday, July 25-Thursday, July 26 AM

### **ELDA/ELM Conference**

Thursday, July 26 PM-conference delegates arrive  
Thursday, July 26 – Saturday, July 28

**Sunday, July 29 - Check-Out; Farewell**

**REGISTRATION FORM is in the ELDA Newsletter**  
**and on the ELDA website; [www.eldadeaf.org](http://www.eldadeaf.org)**  
**For more information, contact Donald Rosenkjar at**  
**[donkhai99@AOL.com](mailto:donkhai99@AOL.com)**

# ELDA 2018 REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly, fill in and mail this page with payment to:

**St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 11031 Camarillo St, North Hollywood, CA 91602, Attention: Donald Rosenkjar**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

VP \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Church or Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Text, VP, or Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

+++++++ **Meals (lunch and dinner) and Housing are included in the price** +++++++

1) **Pastoral Workers:** July 22 PM- July 29 AM      \$ 670.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

2) **ELDA Board:** July 24 PM- July 29 AM      \$ 420.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

3) **Conference Attendees:** July 26 PM- July 29 AM \$ 345.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

4) **Commuters:** (no rooms) (Includes **supper on Thursday**)      \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(No rooms) (Includes **lunch and supper on Friday**)      \$ 70.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(No rooms) (Includes **lunch and banquet on Saturday**)      \$ 80.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(No rooms) (Includes **banquet only on Saturday**)      \$ 70.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(Meal tickets are Non Refundable)      **TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Check made payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church; with note at the bottom of check:  
ELDA Conference**

**\*Room rates are the same for King and Standard rooms.**

**\*Check which room you would like. Also write down who will be in that room. Thanks!**

King room-1 bed, 1 person \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

King room- 1 bed, 2 persons, \_\_\_\_\_ Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Standard room- 2 beds, 4persons, Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Standard room- 2 beds, 2 persons, \_\_\_\_\_ Names: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED:**

**Special Needs:**

- 1) Interpreter, SSP, Voice Interpreter: (Please circle)
- 2) Other: Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Mobility Needs: Wheelchair Y or N
- 4) Special Meal Needs: Vegetarian, Diabetic etc. \_\_\_\_\_

- \* **Early Bird Deadline: February 28, 2018**
- \* Payment by March 31 – pay \$60 more per person
- \* Payment by April 30 – pay \$110 more per person

\* **Hotel Check-In** begins at 4:00 p.m. on July 22nd. All guests must check in before 8:00 p.m.

\* Check-In begins at noon on July 26<sup>th</sup>. All guests must check in before 8:00 p.m.

\* **Check-out:** by noon. on July 29<sup>th</sup>. All guests must be checked out by noon.

**Transportation:** Use either Uber or Lyft. Be sure you have an account with either one. If not, download an app, and set up an account. Cost of transportation is \$6.00-\$8.00, and is the **cheapest and quickest** way to get to the hotel from the airport. You may take a taxi from the airport, for around \$9.00 per person.

**DO NOT USE THE SHUTTLE TO THE HOTEL!!! (Expensive and long wait)**

**The address of Tuscany Suites & Casino is 255 E Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, Nevada 89169**

\* Are you interested in going on the Hoover Dam Tour with Lake Mead Cruise?  
**Yes or No**, circle one. (This is a post conference tour; July 29 or 30<sup>th</sup>)

(Cost: \$120.00, pay at the conference if there are enough people interested)





# ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA



# DON ROSENKJAR'S ARTICLE

## ELDA Conference 2018

Lenten Season is a wonderful time for us; searching in ourselves, and try to improve ourselves by eating more healthy food, exercise more, show more kindness to others, finish unfinished projects and thank the good Lord for all the gifts He gave us. It is Lent, and time is nearing the Early Bird Deadline, which is February 28. Mail your registration forms to me BEFORE that date, to make sure that I receive it on or before February 28. After that, it's \$60.00 more per person, up to March 31. After that, it is \$110 more per person. So, take out your checkbook, and send your check to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Las Vegas is an exciting city, filled with beautiful buildings, lots of lights during evenings, and lots of fun. So, don't miss it! Our hotel, Tuscany Suites and Casino is a beautiful place to stay, and to meet your old and new friends. If you have questions, please e mail me at donkhai99@aol.com.

## Deaf Volunteers with Homeless Project

As we all know, the homeless population is growing, and we are faced with so many people living on the streets needing food, medicine and shelter. Our church decided to set up a program, and make a difference. Our pastor gave up her office, and it is now used as a place where the homeless pick out clothing, and take a hot shower. Each Wednesday, a group of volunteers, both Deaf and hearing, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm serve area homeless folks. We provide hot breakfast, hot lunch, a bag of food, a shower, fresh clothing. We also have an on-site social worker, a nurse and a housing specialist. We are now in a process of expanding the program by starting a separate 501(c) 3, known as NoHo Home Alliance. A good number of Deaf folks faithfully serve as volunteers, of which all of us are most grateful. During the ELDA Conference, you will have the opportunity to learn more about our program.

## ELM MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

*Mission Statement: "In the Presence of Jesus Christ, with mutual love and respect, the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD), the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) and the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD) partner together to inspire and transform the lives of Deaf people."*

*Vision Statement: "Together as one, with God's help we strive to build a spectrum of ministries with Deaf people, passionately engaged in creating and supporting diverse ministries, outreach, communication, worship resources, and leadership development that show the love and grace of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet."*

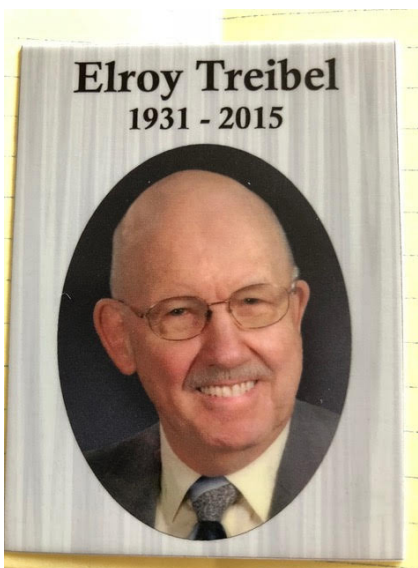
## THE ELDA MISSION STATEMENT

*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 a biennial conference.*



# WORD OF LIFE DEAF LANCASTER, PA.

This is a photo sent by Luanne Bartens of the Elroy Treibel memorial plate that is used on the base of the banner stand at WOLD. ELroy was a faithful member of WOLD Church.



WOLD used a special Epiphany Star during worship in the Epiphany season. Joe Almoney, a St. Peter's member, made WOLD's Epiphany Star. The Epiphany season is symbolized by a star because the 3 Wise Men followed a star to find the Christ child. It was that star which first revealed Christ's presence to the nations.



Each week, a different color of candle was put on the Epiphany Star. Each candle reminded us of something in the Gospel lesson from that week. WOLD members enjoyed guessing what color the candle would be. Here are the colors and what they represented:

Wk. 1 - brown, for the color of sandals. John the Baptist said, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals."

Wk. 2 - green, for the fig tree that Nathanael sat under. Jesus told Nathanael, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Wk. 3 - blue, for the sea, where Jesus called his first four followers: Simon, Andrew, James, and John who were fishermen.

Wk. 4 - "dirty white," for the unclean spirits that Jesus commanded to come out of people.

Wk. 5 - yellow, for healing. Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law and many others.

Wk. 6 - white, for Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain.

During Lent, WOLD & CTK are doing another "Lenten Pulpit Exchange." Two Sundays in March, Pr. Beth from CTK and Pr. Russ from WOLD will go to each other's churches to lead worship. The theme for the pulpit exchange is "Jesus And (+)..." -- "and" is abbreviated with the plus sign (+) which looks like a Cross. Topics covered in the pulpit exchange are Jesus + the Disciples / Jesus + Judas / Jesus + Caiaphas (& Annas) / Jesus + Pilate" / Jesus + the Crowds. The sermon series ends on Palm Sunday with Jesus + the Cross.

To better accommodate Pr. Beth's travel time to Lancaster, WOLD adjusted its worship time to 10:30 during Lent. Palm Sunday and Easter worship will be at 10:00, and WOLD worship will return to 9:30 the week after Easter.

Also during Lent, WOLD members are joining host site St. Peter's members for interpreted midweek Lenten services.

WOLD plans to have another "meal-and-movie" event soon, hopefully in the Spring.





# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP 101

## RUSS ROCKWELL BOOK

Only three months ago, I announced with joy the publication of a “first-of-its-kind” resource for Deaf ministry that I made, a digital book I named What We Believe: the Basic Beliefs of the Christian Faith Explained in American Sign Language.

Now, I am announcing the publication of a second book I have made: Church Membership 101.



Church Membership 101 is available as a FREE download on the iBooks Store. Here is the link for the book:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/book/id1352753127>

Church Membership 101 has sign language videos in it, just as What We Believe did — the only difference is that the videos in Church Membership 101 have voice interpretation!

I made Church Membership 101 because we have some people who would like to join WOLD, but getting them all together at one time for new member classes is proving difficult. To keep from duplicating my efforts, I made the book. It's based on a Bible study I did at WOLD a couple years ago.

For the people who don't have Apple devices, I took my book and “converted” it to a series of vlogs that I put

on both WOLD's website and my FaithSigns LLC website. I'll give you all the links so you can check them out.

Here's the link to Church Membership 101 on the iBooks Store: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/book/id1352753127>

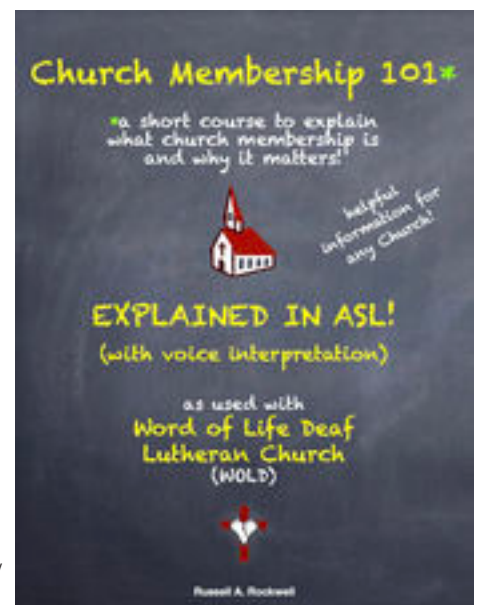
Here's the link to the vlogs I made from my book & posted on WOLD's website: <https://www.wordoffideaf.org/become-a-member/>

Here's the link to the same vlogs on my FaithSigns LLC website: <https://www.faithsignsllc.com/church-membership-series/>

I learned a lot when making What We Believe. Now that I have the knack, I plan to make more books and vlogs in the future. :)

Peace to you, and Thanks Be to God!

Russ



## Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association

### ELDA SHINING LIGHT AWARD

*“Make your light to 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why this person is being nominated:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is nominating this person: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Please, circle one: VP Voice or text

**NOMINATIONS ARE ACCEPTED THROUGH JUNE 1, 2018.**

**Please send your submission to:**

Jeannie Fischer  
301 Weaverland Valley Rd.  
East Earl, PA 17519  
[Jeannie@frontiernet.net](mailto:Jeannie@frontiernet.net)

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### 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**

2006	Donald Rosenkjar	St Matthews Lutheran Deaf Church, CA
2008	Dayton Williams	Lutheran Deaf Ministry, IL
2010	Daniel Glenney	St. Philip's Deaf Lutheran Church, PA
2012	Dorothy Sparks	Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, MN
2014	Barbara Schmidt	Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, MN
2016	Mark Koterwski	Heartland Ephphatha Ministries, SD

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 or Ministry Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why this church or ministry is being nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is nominating this church or ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Please, circle one:  
VP, Voice, or Text

**NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH JUNE 1, 2018.**

**Please send your submission to:**  
Jeannie Fischer  
301 Weaverland Valley Rd.  
East Earl, PA 17519  
[Jeannie@frontiernet.net](mailto:Jeannie@frontiernet.net)

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**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**

- 2006 Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry, WI
- 2008 Christ the King Deaf Church, PA
- 2010 Heartland Ephphatha Deaf Ministry, SD
- 2012 DeafCAN! Social Services, PA
- 2014 Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, MN
- 2016 The Jamaica Mission Team, PA/MN



# THE MAN WHO MOVED A MOUNTAIN BY DOROTHY SPARKS



(I encourage you to look at your internet for Dashrath Manjhi. The story is inspiring.)

Sometimes friends, spouses, and parents don't really understand what you are going **through**. But God does understand you. He cares for you. After Moses died, God told Joshua to be strong and to have courage to lead the people to the promised land. God told him a wonderful truth: **"The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."** Yes, that's right... wherever! you don't have to feel all alone. God is with you. He is working out the problems, and you don't even realize it.

Mother Teresa said, "Everything starts from Prayer". (In ASL, I would sign, "Everything starts with prayer.")

## **Ephesians 3:16-17**

**<sup>16</sup>I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong in spirit. He will give you that strength through his Spirit. <sup>17</sup>I pray that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. I pray that your life will be strong in love and be built on love.**

This Scripture is awesome. There is nothing that God doesn't know and can't do for you. He walks with you every moment of every day. You may need to speak these Scriptures to your hearts. The devil can't stand it when you, in confidence, speak God's Word. It builds faith in you and gives you the strength to stand.

You can trust God. No matter what is going on in your life, He is there! God goes where you go!

The point of the story of the mountain man is that he did not give up. Don't let the devil stop you. Keep moving on. Don't give up!

# ALLEGHENY SYNOD (PA)



Deaf Ministry in our Synod... We continue to move forward with our outreach to the deaf community in our area. On Friday, February 9, 2018 Pr. John Telyea and Pr. Tim Knauss meet with three ministers of deaf congregations to gain insight to the process we are embarking on. Pictured are Pr. Russ Rockwell, Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, Lancaster; Deacon Dorothy Sparks, BOLD- Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, Minneapolis; Pr. Beth Lockard, Christ the King Deaf Church, West Chester, PA. Pr. John worked at BOLD with Deacon Dorothy while he was at Luther Seminary. A member of our team who was unable to attend is Pr. Denise Arpino.



# FROM THE TREASURER

From the ELDA Treasurer:

Spring will soon be here and it is time to renew your membership in ELDA. It is also a time to think about how much you would like to donate to the HOPE Fund. Whatever you donate **to the HOPE or Zechariah Funds**, all donations, large or small are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

ELDA Memberships:

Churches or Ministries yearly donation: \$150.00

Family Membership Rate: \$25.00

Individual membership Rate: \$15.00

Please, send your check for the amount desired to:

ELDA Treasurer Jeff Panek

625 S. Mary Drive, Tea, South Dakota 57064

Thank you very much, Jeff





# PICTURES FROM NIGERIA

This is the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria.( LCCN) annual National Convention at Demsa, in Adamawa state of Nigeria.

The event is happening now and last till Sunday, February 25, 2018.



## 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!