



### Linda Fairbanks ELDA President

### FROM THE PRESIDENT Linda Fairbanks

Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association

a ministry of the Evangelcal Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

*i I D A* 

'I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart." Psalm 9:1

Volume • 12 Issue • 46

SEPTEMBER 2017

With the time of Thanksgiving drawing close, we want to give thanks to all of our churches and ministries who prayed for the health of two of our ELDA Board members. We give thanks to the Lord that they are healed. We also thank those of you who kept the ELDA Board in your prayers while we met in Las Vegas and made plans for the 2018 ELDA Conference. Thank you, also for the prayers for our Jamaica Mission

team! The team is still working in Jamaica with the Deaf children at JCSD, as of this time. Thank you for your concerns for the team in Jamaica, after the hurricane Irma hit most of the other islands and the state of Florida. We are grateful that the team is safe. I want to thank Pastor Beth Lockard who kept me and others aware of what is happening, in spite of her busy schedule. They were able to get Wi-Fi at their hotel in Jamaica. "We give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts".

Thanksgiving is also a time for our churches, ministries and individuals to think about making donations to ELDA for the Thanksgiving Appeal so that we can continue to do our work and also help with our missions. Any amount is much appreciated. You may donate to the General Fund or the HOPE Fund. Please send a check to:

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



The summer has gone by fast. The ELDA Board met in Las Vegas on August 20-23rd along with two committee members from

### INSIDE This Issue:

### -ELDA news

-PASTORAL Advisor's "The Three Chairs"

-2018 ELDA Conference Flyer

-2018 Conference Registration

MUCH, MUCH More

## GREETINGS FROM THE President (CONTINUED)

St Matthews Lutheran Church from North Hollywood, CA. Our major focus was on touring the hotel where we will hold the 2018 ELDA Conference and making plans for the conference. The ELDA Board also worked on our agenda items and gave reports on what has been done so far. It was nice for us to meet in person to go over our Board work. We also spent our meals together. At the beginning of each of our meals, we played a fun little game, in which the "loser" got to say the table prayer. On Monday evening, we ate at a German restaurant called the "Hofbrauhaus" and enjoyed our German dinner of mainly sausages, potatoes and sauerkraut, sitting on benches at a long wooden table, and, our waiters were in costume. It was fun to enjoy traditional German music, and an Alphorn which was played and passed from table to table. The evening before we left, we enjoyed devotions and a worship service with communion. All in all, it was a very good and productive 3 days in Las Vegas.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will see the 2018 ELDA Conference flyer and the registration form. Check out the early bird dates and get your registration in as soon as you can. The registration fees cover both your room and two meals a day. Breakfasts will be on your own. Also in the next issue, we hope to list all the presenters and their topics. We will have the 2018 ELDA Nomination forms for the Shining Light Award and the City on the Hill Award in the next newsletter as well. ELDA Fun Facts from the ELDA Newsletter, Volume 1 Issue 2 Fall 1999

Spotlight On was on the Bread of life Church, Minneapolis, MN and Christ through Hands Ministry, Faribault, MN. The work of CTHM is directed by a Board of Directors. The Board is elected by the association at an annual meeting and the day to day work of ministry is handled by one paid staff person, the coordinator. Bread of Life was in need of new carpeting and they also upgraded the altar area. To raise the funds, BOL sponsored a picnic and raised \$250 for the carpet fund. CTHM and BOL sponsored Religious Signing Workshops. The workshops were done to encourage interpeters to sign ASL as much as possible and to teach religious concepts.

Submissions for the next issue of the newsletter is due on or before December 15th. Please, put that date on your calendars. I will also send out reminders. Thanks!

While you enjoy the fall colors and all the signs of fall, please keep the victims of the hurricanes in Texas and Florida and the surrounding states in your prayers. They have alot of clean-up to do. Peace, Linda

### 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 For more information, contact Donald Rosenkjar at 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:				
Church or Organization				
Emergency Contact Name:				
Text, VP, or Phone#				
++++++ Meals (lunch and dinner) an			in the price	+++++++
1) Pastoral Workers: July 22 PM- July 2	29 AM	\$ 670.00 pe	r person	
2) ELDA Board: July 24 PM- July 29 A	M \$ 42	0.00 per per	son	
3) Conference Attendees: July 26 PM- J	uly 29 AM §	5 345.00 per	person	
4) Commuters: (no rooms) (Includes sup	oper on Thu	rsday)	\$60.00	
(No rooms) (Includes lunch and supper	on Friday)		\$ 70.00	
(No rooms) (Includes lunch and banque	t on Saturda	ay)	\$ 80.00	
(No rooms) (Includes banquet only on S	aturday)		\$ 70.00	
(Meal tickets are Non Refundable)		TOTAL:	\$	
**Check made payable to St. Matthew's	Lutheran C	C <b>hurch</b> ; <u>with</u>	note at the b	oottom of chec

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 personName:							
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)



# ELDA CONFERENCE NEWS

By: Don Rosenkjar, ELDA Conference Chairperson

The year of 2018 will be an exciting one for many of us! We are working hard to make the ELDA Conference a productive and fun one for all attendees.

We chose **Tuscany Suites and Casino** as the site of the conference because: 1. It has great meeting rooms. 2. It is close to the airport. 3. It has great food. 4. Sleeping rooms are large and comfortable. 5. It is located one block from "The Strip" (The Strip is a noisy street, and being a block away is quieter, yet still within walking distance for those who want to explore the city). 6. It has a great swimming pool, spa and other facilities.

During the conference, there will be time set aside for pastoral workers to meet and for the ELDA, UMCD and ECD boards to meet. There will be workshops for us to benefit from. And, there will also be fun time.

The hands of our Deaf Ministry brothers and sisters of the United Methodist Church and the Episcopalian Church will join our hands in the spirit of ELM, and explore further on ways we all can work together. We are living in a complicated world, and our mission is to make a difference.

Some of you may wonder — is Las Vegas a sinful city? Well, Las Vegas has churches; lots of them. Mosques, temples and synagogues, too, represent vibrant faiths from all over creation. It is claimed by many that:

"Las Vegas has more churches per capita than most other large cities in America. Well, we don't know if that's definitely true or not, but we do know that Las Vegas is home to a large number of faithful who, along with our many visitors, attend our churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other houses of worship".

Check out the registration form for the schedule and prices, and then, start making plans to make Las Vegas, a trip of a lifetime for yourself!

# Word of Life Deaf

In the summer, WOLD went on its "summer schedule" of worship — 10:00 a.m. worship with no Sunday School. In June, WOLD had an outdoor picnic worship service, and was joined by members of Christ the King (CTK). We were all thrilled to have Pr. Beth join us, and receive an update from her on her recovery from surgery. In August, WOLD members traveled to West Chester and joined CTK's picnic worship service.

In the Fall, WOLD will resume its regular worship schedule of 9:30 a.m. worship service, followed by "Sunday School" discussion of v-logs (the v-log discussion is enjoyable). WOLD's Wednesday night bible study resumes in September; the topic of "The Messianic Prophecies" will continue from where it left off in the Spring.



## ELDA MEMBERSHIP

ELDA Membership dues: Some of you may not be a member of a church, yet you still want to support ELDA. We offer yearly membership dues for individuals and families, listed below:

ELDA Church/Ministry Membership dues: \$125.00

ELDA Membership dues for families: \$25.00

ELDA Membership dues for individuals: \$15.00

Please send a check made out to ELDA for your membership dues to: ELDA Treasurer Jeff Panek 625 South Mary Drive Tea, South Dakota 57064

If you have Thrivent Choice, you may list ELDA as one of your choices. You can either click on to add ELDA or talk to your Thrivent agent about adding ELDA to your Thrivent Choice. ELDA is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit tax exempt organization. Your donations are appreciated. Thank you!

### 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.

## JAMAICA MISSION REPORT

Dear ELDA Friends....

Our Jamaica team just arrived back in the United States after ten days of ministry on this beautiful Caribbean island September 7--16. We were unsure if we could go as we watched the hurricanes damage and destroy many of the islands in the area. In addition, one of our team members, **Lori Fuller** (formerly of **Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry in Appleton, WI**), lives north of Orlando, FL. She joined us and we prayed for God's protection for her husband and three children.

Dorothy Sparks (BOLD Minneapolis) again developed a Deaf-friendly curriculum, "Deaf Children Around the World," which we used all week in our VBS at Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf. This focused on the solar system, our world and its many peoples and cultures, the Deaf Community around the world, and connections with both Haiti Deaf Academy and Pastor Ruth Ulea's LCCN school in Nigeria. The 43 students wrote letters, drew pictures and made a poster of pictures for Nigeria. The games, crafts, Bible stories, and activities all fit together and we gave the maps, posters, and other teaching tools to the staff when we left so they could be used in the school. The kids especially enjoyed the different hats from various countries and the films showing Deaf people around the world.

The media queen was **Amy Schoen of PA** who ran the equipment and helped lead the youngest kids with Lori. **Barbara Simpson**, our newest team member **(CTK, West Chester)**, did the photography and led some games. My focus was on administration (fundraising, travel packages, communications with the school, etc.) We were able to take a trip on Saturday to St. Christopher School for the Deaf in Brown's Town (48 students). This school started in 1940 and receives government funding. We took a gift of colorful pencils and candy and played games with the kids.

Please see the separate pages of pictures and gifts given. We deeply thank ELDA members who donated to the HOPE Fund which gave us \$750 and to individuals and churches who prayed for us and donated supplies. God surprised us with over \$4500 in gifts we used to purchase things on the JCSD wish list as well as to pay our driver for transportation around the island and lunches at the school.

Dorothy and I continue to be amazed at the surprises (God-winks) that we experience each trip. This 2017 trip was no exception. Some examples:

- The teens at Calvary Lutheran (my host church) gave us 50 packets of health/hygiene supplies (comb. toothpaste, toothbrush. soap, socks, deodorant, etc.) at the end of July. A few days later one of my ASL students informed me she was going to Jamaica the first weekend of August and could take down four suitcases of supplies for us. A few days after this, a Deaf woman donated three suitcases and we already had one. So we were able to send four suitcases full of library books and some of these health packets down early to our hotel. God knew what we needed and exactly when! We were able to bring down a total of nine bags of supplies instead of the expected five.
- The hurricanes bypassed Jamaica,

damaged Haiti less than expected, and spared Lori's home even with fallen trees. Jamaica weather was favorable with the normal tropical weather.

- The students remembered us by name signs, the staff visited our VBS each day, and our team worked together well with our different skills and personalities.
- All the supplies went through customs without charging us any duty (taxes) or taking any of the medications we "hid" in the bags and we were able to pack all in 9 suitcases!

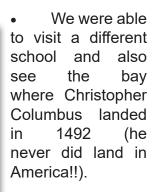


Some of the supplies donated are at left. At right, the team poses with a mural of the arrival in 1492 of Christopher Columbus.



At left, Barbara helps a middle school student with a worksheet. At right is the building on top of the library. We paid for the doors and floor tile of the two lower left classrooms. Below Amy & Lori lead the primary kids with a flannel graph story.





• We did not get an expected grant but God blessed us with \$4500+ in two weeks!

• Dorothy and I both had major health scares this past year but both of us recovered and were able to lead this team.

All this teaches us how well God cares for us with God's power, providence, protection, and presence. We are amazed! We are thankful! We give God glory for all of God's good gifts! Joy, Pastor Beth

HS students at top with new health packets. At right is Dian Thompson, JCSD principal, in the library. Primary kids show their "Deaf Children Around the World" books.



For the gifts of BOLD to continue, we need your gifts! You gifts can come in many forms—and <u>we need them</u> <u>all</u>! If you haven't already, please complete the pledge form on the back and give to Pastor Michelle

- Prayer support for BOLD
- Volunteer support for regular tasks and for occasional events
- Financial support for BOLD and it's mission to "Share the Good News of God's Love with Deaf people and their loved ones."



You can also support BOLD through charitable giving opportunities. If you are a Thrivent Member, ask your representative to help direct your **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to BOLD.

Help support our congregation through Thrivent Choice<sup>®</sup>.



VThrivent Financial for Lutherans\*

Another opportunity is with **Smile.Amazon.com**. When you shop through Smile.Amazon.com and choose to support "Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church," Amazon will send a percentage of your purchase our way!



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#### Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church Commitment Card 2017

I want to support my church and help meet our mission: Sharing the Good News of God's love with deaf people and their families!

	Name					
	Address					
	City			State	Zıp	_
	Video Phone			TTY		
	Email					
I will su	pport BOLD by doing the	ese thing	s in 2017	7:		
Pra	y regularly for Bread of Li	fe Deaf L	utheran	Church		
Sur	pport Bread of Life Deaf Lu	ıtheran C	hurch Fi	nancially:		
\$	each week	<u>OR</u>	\$		each month	
<u>OR</u> indi	cate another financial arran	gement:				
I ar currently	y on the Church Council.)	Spiritual Hospita g, & Stev	Commit lity, & M wardship	ttee Ien's Club) )	ars, beginning in February, 2017	. (I am not
-	greeter/bulletins (welco power point	light can le) čering) ean up H ome ever	dles) Coly Com Tyone and	munion, check l give them a b	c candles and oil for candles)	
Other ta	lents and skills I have that I	can sha	e with th	e church are:		

### SPIRITUAL SIDE by Dorothy Sparks

The Three Chairs By Dorothy Sparks, Associate in Ministry



### <u>"I pray that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. I pray that</u> your life will be strong in love and be built on love." Ephesians 3:17

Rev. Beth Lockard and I were in Jamaica to lead a Vacation Bible School at Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf for 10 days. We can see that the Jamaican culture focuses more on time with people, than on the clock and money. They take care of each other. They usually are NOT in a hurry.

The three chairs remind us of God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.

- God created the world in 6 days. He could have made the world in one day but He was not in a hurry.
- Jesus was not in a hurry to raise Lazarus from death.
- The Holy Spirit did not hurry to lead the Jews out from Egypt to go to the Promised Land. They traveled for 40 years.
- They were not in a hurry.

Let's take time to focus on God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Where are they now? Are they too far from us?

The Bible tells a story about Abraham. He saw three men on the road. He invited them into his home as his guests. They accepted and sat with him. He did not realize that the three men were angels. This story reminds us that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are very close to us. They are in our hearts now. They are **around us**. They are **in us**. They are **with us**. How can we get to know them better?

#### When you invite a guest to your house, which room would you sit with your guest?

In Deaf Culture, we would sit at the kitchen table with a good light.



We usually take time to listen to our guest. We get to know our guest better. Then we develop a relationship with our guest.

What did Abraham do with his three guests? He listened and learned about them.

We need to take time to listen to our guests, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, at our table.

Here are suggestions for getting to know your guests better:

- You may sit alone at your kitchen table with a good light and read your devotion booklet daily.
- Or watch ASL Daily Devotion for the Deaf online daily.

Or read other Devotions online daily.

Then you may develop a relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Let's invite our guests, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, to Our kitchen table every morning or evening.

"Come, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, be our guests."

Good News! God already welcomes you as His guest through Jesus.

# ELDA NEWS

# ELDA News:

Congratulations to ELDA Board Vice President Jeannie Fischer and her husband, John on the birth of their second grandchild, a little girl, born on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Her name is Eleanor Elizabeth Fischer and she weighed 5 lbs. 5 oz. at birth. Her brother, Garrett just turned 3 on





September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to Travis Fischer, the youngest son of Jeannie and John Fischer on his high school graduation in June. He graduated from Garden Spot High School in New Holland, PA. Travis is now attending Lebanon Valley College in Lebanon, PA. He is majoring in criminal justice and plays JV football. His team has won 2 games so far.

Ryan Fischer is still attending medical school in Hershey, PA and his proud parents are Jeannie and John Fischer. His college is located just 15 minutes from his younger brother, Travis' college.



Micah Lockard, youngest son of Pastor Beth and Bill Lockard also graduated from West Chester, PA high school last June. He is now attending college. Congratulations to Micah and his parents!

Again, congratulations on your college studies, Travis, Ryan and Micah!

### TRINITY DEAF READING, PA CONGREGATION Trinity now Shares Worship with Hearing Members

Instead of a stand-alone Deaf worship service, Trinity Deaf Church and the hearing congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church are now joining together for Shared Deaf & Hearing Worship each Sunday morning. The new Shared Worship service combines elements of worship used by the Deaf church and the hearing church. Shared Worship includes Power Point slides on the wall screen, certified ASL interpreters, two hymns, and Holy Communion.

Trinity Deaf has shifted from stand-alone worship to Shared Worship for a number of reasons. For seven years we have been unable to find a pastor for this part-time call who knows or is willing to learn ASL. Our current interim pastor now needs more time to spend with his family. Most of our Deaf members are getting older and it has been difficult to get new people to come into the city of Reading to worship.

Our remaining Trinity Deaf members are faithful and enjoy attending worship and other ministries such as our monthly Deaf Senior Center gatherings and Covenant Prayer Shawl meetings. Some of our members are Deaf, some are Hard of Hearing, and a few members are hearing family members of the Deaf. Our ASL interpreters have been teaching the hearing congregation some signs so that members can communicate directly with each other during worship. Our Shared Worship is broadcast each week locally on Comcast Channel 190 and on demand online through Trinity's website (www.trinityreading.org) or Trinity Lutheran Church's YouTube channel (www. youtube.com/oldtrinitytv).

--Dee Horst, Deaf Ministry Coordinator

## 2017 Donations for Jamaica Mission Trip

Many thanks for all of the donated items:

School lunches for four days, Payment for luggage with supplies on flights ; Donor paid for four Driver & van to JCSD six days and Driver & van to St. Christopher's, Tile floors for two classrooms, four doors, ten library chairs, 48 meal trays, 24 aprons (art classes & restaurant training), 96 paints, Large First Aid container, 200-piece First Aid kit, 6 bags rolled bandages, 11 rolls medical tape, 20 large gauze pads, 45 small gauze pads, 1 bandage roll, 7 gauze rolls, 16 bottles cough syrup and children's pain meds, 360 children's vitamins, 260 children's gummy vitamins,160

Aleve liquid gels, 320 Aleve caplets, 11 Cortisone and Neosporin creams, 120 alcohol prep pads, 464 Advil/ ibuprofen tablets, 100 Tylenol tablets, 18 Aleve tablets, 80 Acetaminophen tablets, 24 sinus tablets, 2 hand sanitizers, Vaseline, 280 colored band aids, 120 plain band aids (to Nigeria), 120 fabric band aids, 160 sheer band aids, 50 waterproof band aids, 120 plastic band aids, 130 gallon Ziploc bags, 80 large bags, 85 quart bags, 673 sandwich & snack bags (plus more to be given to Nigeria) 3 Goop glue, 46 dust masks, four rolls gorilla tape, 160 heavy duty gloves, Weed whacker, 3 surge protectors, 60 student whiteboards (20 to Nigeria), 15 rolls crepe paper, 59 composition books, Trouble game, VBS supplies, 31 Folders, 200 inserts, 9 bulletin board borders, printer ink & paper for photos during VBS, 6 rolls masking tape. 72 pencils with colorful erasers, 30 bags of candy

5 world atlases, 84 library books, 2 Bible activity books, 1 child DVD 43 student Birthday and Christmas cards with \$1 in each = 86 cards 23 Staff thank you cards with \$5 gifts and inflatable global balls \$50 to JCSD Director for emergency needs-

LED projector (HEM), \$300 (WOLD), 50 health packets (Calvary, West Chester), Bible books and flannel graph pix sets with teacher book (CTHM), \$750 (ELDA), \$800 (ELCA), \$1000 (Fullers), \$200 (Winkelspechts, WOLD), \$255 (Simpsons, CTK), \$250 (Langhorne Accounting), \$370 (CTK people), \$540 others AND SEVEN SUITCASES!

## **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.

### 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!