



# ELDA

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION  
A MINISTRY OF THE ELCA**

**Volume 17 • Spring 2022  
Issue 64**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### MARK KOTERWSKI

Greetings ELDA!!!

The ELDA Board members and I were so excited to witness Lori Fuller become an ordained pastor on February 27, 2022. She is the third deaf woman in ELCA international to be ordained. It was a beautiful event and also very organized planning. I was able to watch via Zoom by Palms Deaf Church. She will be a pastor for Palms Deaf Church in Florida under the Florida Bahamas Synod. The ELDA Board members want to congratulate Lori!!! See Pictures in this newsletter.

The ELDA Board is very excited that Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church will host the ELDA Conference this coming June 23 - 26, 2022. Bob Tortora, ELDA Conference chairperson did contact Eden Resort & Suites in Lancaster, PA to see the status of conference at the hotel. They told him that they will have the conference this year as long as the COVID pandemic numbers stay very low. I have spoken with Bob about the planning. The ELDA Conference committee has been working very hard to make everything as smooth as possible. It's our first time to have the ELDA Conference in person since we met in Las Vegas. It will be very exciting and enjoyable during the conference! Please share with everyone and come to our ELDA Conference 2022! See the flyer and registration in the newsletter for more information. The deadline for registration is May 15, 2022.



FYI - four of the ELDA officers will end their terms this coming June 2022. If you or anyone are interested to be on ELDA Board - President (4 years), Treasurer (2 year), Secretary (4 years), and Spiritual advisor (2 years), please contact Lori Fuller at [jeff.panek52@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.panek52@gmail.com) to put your name on the nomination list.

Guess what!

Easter is coming soon! May this joyful season fill your hearts with renewed Hope, Love, and Peace! Wishing everyone a blessed Easter from all of our ELDA Board members!

Happy Easter to everyone!

Mark Koterwski  
ELDA President

# Inside this Issue



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Find out about the ups and downs that Pastor Beth Lockard describes in her column.



## ORDINATION

See pictures from Lori Fuller's ordination.



## ELDA CONFERENCE

Get the latest on the 2022 ELDA Conference in Lancaster, PA!

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## PASTOR BETH LOCKARD



Dear ELDA Friends:  
It has been a **crazy up and down time** since our last newsletter...

The Omicron surge went up and then down. In the process many more of our various church members and family members contracted the virus. God took some of our dear people home to His Kingdom. Please begin collecting names for our memorial at the ELDA Conference.

As the Omicron surge came **down**, Lori Fuller and family arrived in Pennsylvania from Florida along with her Florida-Bahamas Synod Bishop, Rev.

Pedro Suarez. Lori's ordination service was co-hosted by Christ the King Deaf Church and Word of Life Deaf Lutheran. About 60 guests attended from six states including Rev. Kimberly Vaughn, ELCA's Senior Director for Christian Community and Leadership Mission. She is my new "boss" in the restructured ELCA hierarchy. We also had a "visit" from Pastor Ruth Ulea of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria via a video shared. Pastor Ruth will be at our ELDA Conference this June. I included a photo page because pictures are worth a thousand words!

The offering given at the ordination is going to ELDA's

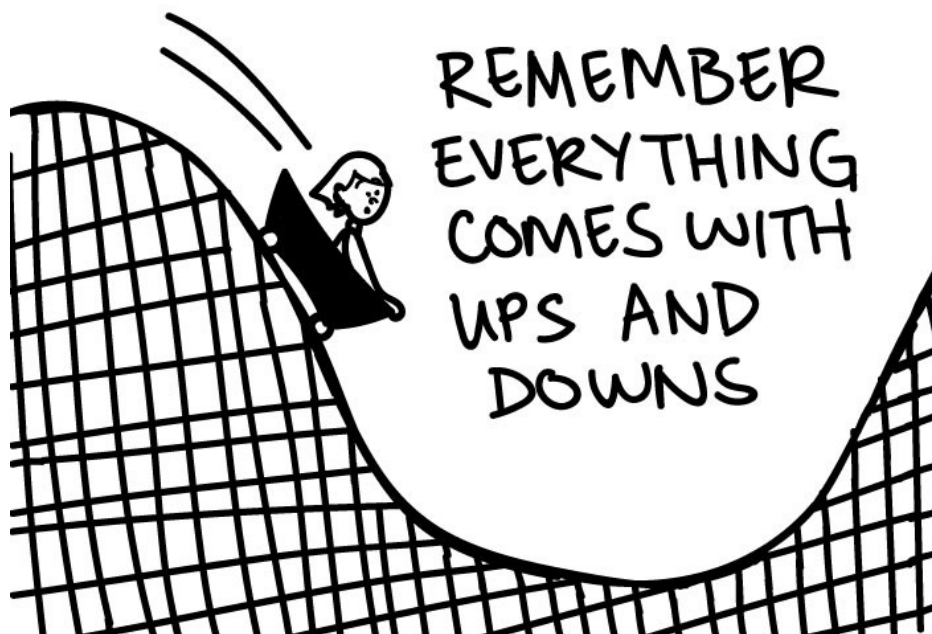
Zechariah Fund which supports deaf leadership in ELDA. The total to date is about \$1,123. You may add to this gift any time by contacting ELDA Treasurer, Jeff Panek (jeffpanek52@gmail.com).

This **"up"** ordination celebration was shadowed by the **downhill** slide that weekend of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As we pray for peace, please read the article contributed by Luanne Bartens about the Off the Grid Mission working with deaf and hard of hearing refugees on the frontlines. I know the Deaf Community wants to support each other across the globe.

In these **ups and downs** of life, I am thankful we have a loving God who promises to be with us no matter what happens.. God rejoices with our joys and cries with our pains. He is with each of us.

As we journey through Lent to the Easter feast, take time to watch the ELM Easter worship video sponsored by our Episcopalian, Lutheran, and Methodist friends. ELDA's Mark Koterwski will sign the Gospel and Dorothy Sparks will dance her Easter song. A link will be sent out when it is ready.

Peace and Prayers,  
Pastor Beth  
ELCA Deaf Ministries



# ORDINATION OF LORI FULLER



**Pastor Lori Fuller's ordination, Feb. 27, 2022.** (L) Daughter Riley leads the processional. (R) CTK & WOLD choir. (below) Laying on of hands by rostered leaders

(below) Lori's first pastor and current Mission Developer coach, Pastor Gisele Berninghaus, and response leader Bob Tortora



Thanks to Uber Gomez, CTK member, for photos



(bottom pix) show Florida-Bahamas Synod Bishop Pedro Suarez blessing Lori and at the altar with Pastor Beth Lockard



(above) Deacon Dorothy Sparks leads Lord's Prayer and (left) helps place the pastor's stole on Lori. (Below) A view of the 60 people who attended



# PASTORAL ADVISOR'S COLUMN

## JESUS IS ALIVE - DON ROSENKJAR

### Luke 24: 1-12

Very early on Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices that they had prepared. 2 When they found the stone rolled away from the entrance, 3 they went in. But they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus, 4 and they did not know what to think.

Suddenly two men in shining white clothes stood beside them. 5 The women were afraid and bowed to the ground. But the men said, "Why are you looking in the place of the dead for someone who is alive? 6 Jesus isn't here! He has been raised from death".

nonsense, and they would not believe.

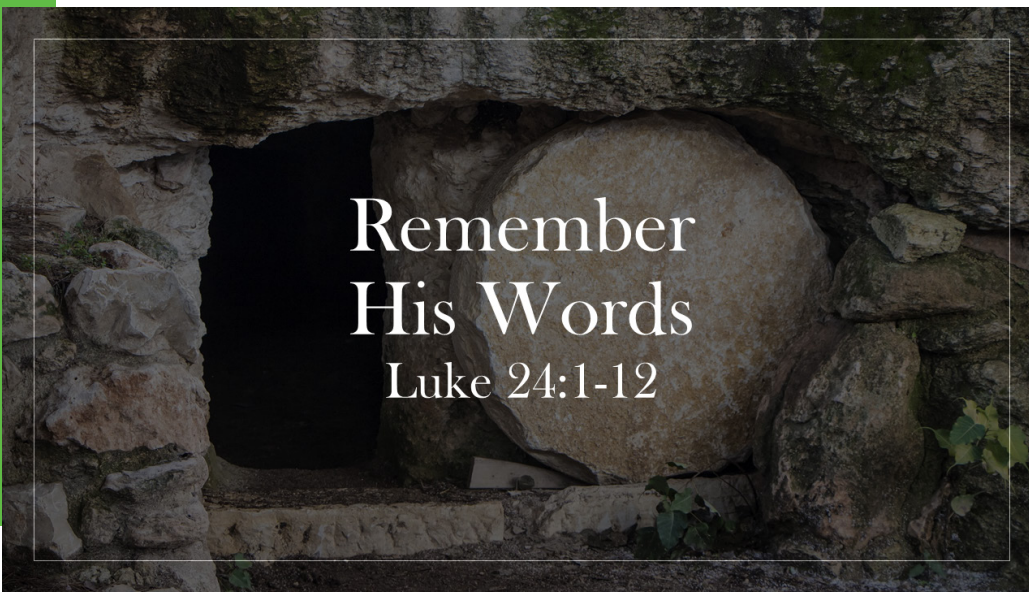
12 But Peter ran to the tomb. And when he stooped down and looked in, he saw only the burial clothes. Then he returned, wondering what had happened.

This Easter is something really special for all of us who believe in Jesus Christ's Resurrection. The pandemic is pretty much behind us, and most of us can go to churches to celebrate, with much joy. For me, I often wondered about this: here in Southern California, Easter Sunday is always, always sunny and warm.

Sometimes, on Saturday, just a day before Easter, we would have rain. Then, on Monday, a day after Easter, it can be cloudy and chilly. Maybe it's just my imagination, but my point is this: Easter is an amazing day, a truly awesome celebration that Jesus Christ has gotten out of the tomb alive, and greeted Mary Magdalene. Imagine how Mary Magdalene felt when she realized Jesus was alive!

Why should we be so thrilled about this? Well, He gives us hope, a factual hope that we too will live after we die. We too will go to an exciting place called

Heaven. There's one interesting thought that I want to mention: since most of us are Deaf, and when we go to Heaven, no one will need a hearing aid. (I'll leave mine at home when I die) because we'll be able to talk with loved ones who were not deaf with so much ease. No interpreters are needed. No lip reading is needed. So, my dear friends, celebrate Easter!



Remember  
His Words  
Luke 24:1-12

"Remember that while he was still in Galilee, he told you, 7 'The Son of Man will be handed over to sinners who will nail him to a cross. But three days later he will rise to life'. 8 Then they remembered what Jesus had said.

9-10 Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and some other women were the ones who had gone to the tomb. When they returned, they told the eleven apostles and the others what had happened. 11 The apostles thought it was all

# HAITI DEAF ACADEMY

## NEW CONSTRUCTION

The Haiti Deaf Academy is a non-profit organization that strives to educate, employ and empower so that every Haitian child with a hearing loss may know and reach their God-given potential. Here is a picture of their new campus.

Go to their facebook page to read more.  
<https://www.facebook.com/haitideafacademy/>

## NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

At our ELDA Conference this June, we will be electing new officers for two-year terms. The president, secretary, treasurer, and pastoral advisor's positions will be open. Our vice president, Jeannie Fischer (PA), needs our blessing to continue for two more years. Our treasurer, Jeff Panek (SD), has served his maximum number of terms. Our current president, secretary and pastoral advisor are eligible to rerun for office if they choose.

If you wish to run for office, please come to the conference and be ready to run. If you cannot attend the conference, please send a signed letter with your interest and a short bio about yourself to the Nominating Chairperson, Jeff Panek, at [jeff.panek52@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.panek52@gmail.com).

The ELDA Board meets every two months on Zoom. All ELDA members aged 18 or older are eligible to run for office. You must have reliable access to the internet to participate on the Board.



## LENTEN APPEAL

### CONSIDER YOUR SUPPORT

March is here and it is time to reflect on the Lenten season. The season of Lent is already upon us and it is a time for each of us to think and pray about what we can give up for Lent. It is also a time to pray about what we can give for the ELDA Lenten Appeal. This appeal money supports our mission efforts through the HOPE Fund and Deaf leadership through our Zechariah Fund. It also helps support the ELDA mission trips. If you can donate any amount towards the Lenten Appeal, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you! Spring is also the time for membership dues. The membership rates are as follows:

<b>Churches or Ministries:</b>	<b>\$125.00 yearly</b>
<b>Families:</b>	<b>\$25.00 yearly</b>
<b>Individuals:</b>	<b>\$15.00 yearly</b>

If you are a Thrivent member, you can direct your Thrivent dollars towards the Thrivent Choice. Be sure to list ELDA as one of your Thrivent Choices. If you are not sure how to do that, contact your area Thrivent representative. Thank you!

Your Lenten Appeal donation and membership fees can be sent to our ELDA Treasurer at:

**Jeff Panek 625 Mary Drive  
Tea, South Dakota 57064**

# ELDA CONFERENCE AT WOLD

## WORD OF LIFE DEAF PREPARES FOR AN AWESOME CONFERENCE

Every two years, different churches and ministries in ELDA take turns hosting the conference. This year, it is WOLD's turn to host the ELDA Conference, and **WE ARE SO PROUD** to host this year's conference!

ELDA 2022 – our theme: “*Walk In Faith*” – will be a REALLY BIG DEAL(!) for different reasons.

- 1st, because WOLD is hosting it!
- 2nd, there was no 2020 Conference because of the pandemic, so this is ELDA's first conference since 2018.
- 3rd, the 2022 Conference is ELDA's 30th anniversary!

One more thing will make this year's conference special – YOU!

We'd love to see you come! Our planning team is excited by everything we have planned. We may be biased, but we think this year's conference might be the Best. Conference. Ever!

Information & Registration forms can be downloaded from WOLD's website at [www.wordoflifedeaf.org/elda-2022-conference](http://www.wordoflifedeaf.org/elda-2022-conference).

Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to do online registration, so you must

download, print, and mail your registrations!

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATIONS TO BE RECEIVED IS May 15th!**

ILY's all-around!!

The ELDA Planning Team at WOLD

Bob Tortora, chairperson

Jeannie Fischer

Roberta Winkelspecht

Gordon Bartens

Luanne Bartens

Pauline Johnston



# ELDA 2022 REGISTRATION FORM “Walk In Faith”

June 23-26, 2022  
(Thursday afternoon – Sunday morning)

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

ELDA REGISTRATION  
% Gordon Bartens  
16 Springcrest Dr., Akron PA 17501

*Make checks payable to **Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church***  
**Questions about Registration?** VP Gordon Bartens at 717-283-4284

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Text \_\_\_\_\_ VP \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Text \_\_\_\_\_ VP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION is paid to WOLD**  
**HOTEL RESERVATIONS paid to EDEN RESORT**  
– Conference Registration (covers meals & conference only) **due by 5/15** –  
**\$ 180/person** – ages 14 and up  
**\$ 130/person** – ages 3-13 (free ages 0-3)  
**note: child care not provided; parents are responsible for their children.**

Interpreter needs: \_\_\_ Voice (for Hearing) \_\_\_ Tactile (for DeafBlind)

Conference Attendee (attends conf. 6/23-6/26) # of people: \_\_\_ x reg. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Include Amish Tour **YES / NO** (circle one) # of people: \_\_\_ x \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$35 (add to registration cost)

Guided tour of “Amish country” on coach bus; includes Amish home-cooked meal in Amish home. Tour on Friday 6/24 (10am-3pm). Seating is limited to 55 people.

**YOUR TOTAL REGISTRATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**REMEMBER!! –**  
**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE to contact the hotel and make your ROOM reservation!**  
Hotel will tell you your price for room. All rooms have 2 Queen beds.

• Share rooms – save money! •

**Make reservation under group name:**  
**“ELDA Conference”**

**Eden Resort & Suites: 717-569-6444**  
**Deadline for hotel reservations: May 21, 2022**



**ELDA 2022  
Award Nomination Form:**

**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 (CEV)*

**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:

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

Who is nominating this person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please, circle one: VP, Voice, or Text Msg.

**NOMINATIONS ARE ACCEPTED THROUGH MAY 1, 2021**

Return Nomination form with Registration -OR- Send your submission to:

Jeannie Fischer

301 Weaverland Valley Rd. East Earl, PA 17519

[jeannie@frontiernet.net](mailto:jeannie@frontiernet.net)

**ELDA 2022  
Award Nomination Form:**

**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 (CEV)*

**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:

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

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

Contact E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please, circle one: VP, Voice, or Text Msg.

**NOMINATIONS ARE ACCEPTED THROUGH MAY 1, 2021**

Return Nomination form with Registration -OR- Send your submission to:

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**- 2022 ELDA Conference Schedule -**

		ELDA BOARD MEETS			ELDA CONFERENCE			PASTORAL WORKERS MEET		
		Tuesday 6/21	Wednesday 6/22	Thursday 6/23	Friday 6/24	Saturday 6/25	Sunday 6/26	Monday 6/27	Tuesday 6/28	
7:30a - 9:00a			breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	7:30a - 9:00a
9:00a - 9:15a					15 min. devotion;	15 min. devotion	Worship	Pastoral Workers Meet	Pastoral Workers Meet	9:00a - 9:15a
9:15a - 10:00a			ELDA Board Mtg	ELDA Board Mtg	Free Time until Tour	ELDA Town Hall (Free Time after)		Pastoral Workers Meet	Pastoral Workers Meet	9:15a - 10:00a
10:00a - 11:00a					AMISH TOUR (10:00 - 3:00)		<b>Room Check-out by 11:00 a.m.;</b> Travelers Leave for Home		Closing Worship	10:00a - 11:00a
11:00a - 12:00p										11:00a - 12:00p
12:00p - 1:00p			lunch	lunch	lunch: incl. w/ Amish Tour	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	12:00p - 1:00p
1:00p - 2:00p		ELDA Board Arrives		Arrival, Registration & Free Time		ELDA Workshop (1:00-2:30)	Pastoral Workers Meet	Pastoral Workers Meet	Travelers Leaving for Home	1:00p - 2:00p
2:00p - 3:00p		&	ELDA Board Mtg		Break / Free Time	Break / Free Time				2:00p - 3:00p
3:00p - 4:00p		Free Time	Free Time	Room Check-in at 4:00 p.m.;	ELDA Meeting (4:00-5:30)	Elections & 2024 Site Selection (4:00-5:30)	Free Time	Free Time		3:00p - 4:00p
4:00p - 5:00p				Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time		4:00p - 5:00p
5:00p - 6:00p										5:00p - 6:00p
6:00p - 7:00p		supper	supper	supper	supper	<b>Banquet &amp; Awards</b> +	supper	supper	supper	6:00p - 7:00p
7:00p - 8:00p		ELDA Board Mtg		Opening Worship	Workshop: Our Pandemic Experience	Group Picture (7:30)	Pastoral Workers Meet	Pastoral Workers Meet	Pastoral Workers Meet	7:00p - 8:00p
8:00p - 9:00p			Free Time		Church Skits competition	Closing Worship (8:00)				8:00p - 9:00p
9:00p - 10:00p		Free Time		Intro's, Icebreakers, & Fellowship	Fellowship Compline at 10pm	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	Fellowship	9:00p - 10:00p

**ELDA 2022**  
**TRANSPORTATION FORM**

*(send to WOLD when you have your tickets!)*

**note:**

*Plan your arrival by 3PM Thursday (hotel check-in is 4PM)*

*Plan your departure anytime after breakfast on Sunday (hotel check-out is 11AM)*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Flying:**

*Choose Destination, EITHER:*

*Lancaster Airport (LNS), Harrisburg Airport (MDT), or Philadelphia Airport (PHL)*

**ARRIVAL**

Airport (circle): LNS MDT PHL

Airline: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Picked Up? \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTURE**

Airport (circle): LNS MDT PHL

Airline: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Dropped Off? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Text Number: \_\_\_\_\_ *(so we can be in touch if needed)*

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**Train:**

[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

*Choose Destination: Lancaster, PA (LNC)*

Date Train Arrives: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Train Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Pickup? \_\_\_\_\_

Date Train Leaves: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Train Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Drop-off? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Text Number: \_\_\_\_\_ *(so we can be in touch if needed)*

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**Drive / Commute:**

Expected Date & Time of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Hotel:

Eden Resort & Suites  
222 Eden Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

Your Text Number: \_\_\_\_\_ *(so we can be in touch if needed)*

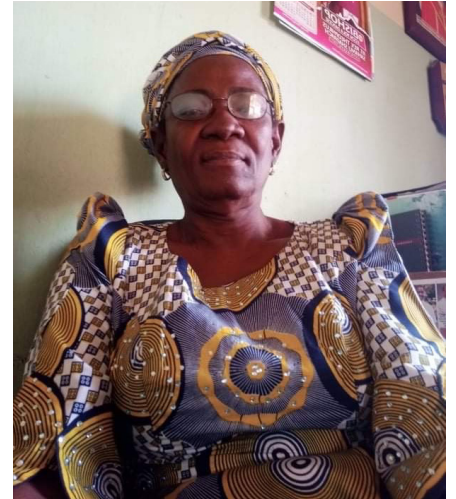
# PASTOR RUTH ULEA

Our Zonal Easter Camp is coming on April 14-18 2022. After the Camp, there will be more opportunities to write a report of what happened at camp. What is more important now is our congratulations to Lori Fuller on her ordination on February 27, 2022.

Dear Lori Fuller, Whereas we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling to ordination and fulfil all the good pleasures of His goodness, and the work of faith with His power.

- 2 Thessalonian 1:11

Pastor Ruth Ulea.



## OFF THE GRID MISSIONS

### DEAF HELPING DEAF UKRANIANS

Since the war in Ukraine began, we have been developing unique disaster-focused strategies for Deaf people both in Ukraine and on the frontlines of the surrounding borders of Ukraine. We have been funding DIRECTLY to deaf frontline volunteers from drivers and navigators to support their resources such as gas, shelter, beds, food, train and bus tickets—all as it relates to the evacuations and influx of Deaf/Hh refugees. These funds directly cover the fleeing of Deaf/Hh individuals from Ukraine, and getting them to their next destination where they can safely settle amidst other countries beyond the border who are offering support specifically for Deaf/Hh refugees. The reason we remain focused on the frontlines is because the primary goal is to evacuate individuals from Ukraine and the way in which we are donating is unique to each operation—some we are funding the evacuations gas/food, all the way to building makeshift shelters. With every team/individual we are working with we are bridging NGO requests re: disaster-specific resources (infos/alerts/operations).

This update in particular is from one of those teams whom we are supporting, DeafBridge, a Deaf faith-based organization who immediately redirected their focus to work the frontlines at the Romania-Ukraine border.

Ukraine is in really bad condition, the situation is growing increasingly worse... this update is specific to Ukraine → Romania at one of two checkpoints we are supporting in that region. Right now, the wave of refugees is low due to new threats and negotiations. What will happen next is out of our control and we are trying our best to use the resources we have in place to support those most vulnerable during this time.

Thank you to everyone who has been donating, amplifying, and fundraising. More to come.

[www.offthegridmissions.org](http://www.offthegridmissions.org)

#offthegridUKRAINE





# ELDA MISSION STATEMENT



**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.

# 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.”

