



ELDA

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION
A MINISTRY OF THE ELCA

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Issue 68

FROM THE PRESIDENT

LORI FULLER



Welcome!

We are glad you are here.

It seems every year we, as a Church community, talk about Lent. Perhaps some people may wonder. First, what is Lent? Why do we celebrate Lent? Read on to learn more!



Lent is the forty-day season (excluding Sundays) of action of feeling and preparation for the Three Days of Holy week and Easter. Lent started on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd, 2023) and will end on

Easter (April 9th, 2023).

The Three Days are the three days of Holy Week which focuses on Jesus’s passage from death to life starting on Maundy Thursday evening through Easter evening. The term “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lecten” which means “spring.” During Lent in today’s time we tend to focus on

Jesus’s forty day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses’ forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

Here are some fun facts:

- The color for Lent season in church is purple. Why? The color purple is considered royalty and we see that Christ reigns from a cross.
- Many churches do not say the word “alleluia” during Lent! Alleluia means, “Praise the Lord.”

So the next few weeks until Easter, I invite you to take some time to think about Jesus’s journey. Have a blessed and reflective Lent!

- Lori Fuller
ELDA President

Inside this Issue



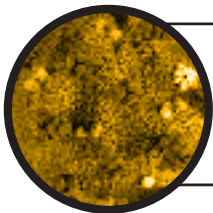
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Pastor Beth gives a report and tells us what to expect, including a surprise gift!



ELDA CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

Get your first look at the ELDA Conference plans and dates for 2024!



SPIRITUAL ARTICLE

Learn about what Lent is for.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear ELDA Friends--

Lenten blessings to you as we travel our 40 days through a time of self-examination and reflection of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Moving from darkness to light, from Lent to Easter, and experiencing Daylight Saving Time all work together to keep us focused.

Christ the King Deaf Church and **Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church**, are having a “**pulpit exchange**” during **Lenten Sundays** where the pastors trade places. Their theme is “The Mercy of Jesus” and the churches are exploring different Bible readings on Jesus' mercy in different situations. His way and life is MERCY and He wants us also to show mercy to others. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” I believe sharing pastors helps both churches to experience worship in a different way and helps the pastors prepare for different groups of people.

We rejoice with **ELDA Board's spiritual director, Janie Barlow**, who welcomed a baby daughter, Makenzi Jacena, with her husband Justin and two sons. She gave birth on March 2, right before our ELDA Board meeting!! The Barlow Family are members of Bread of Life Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Minneapolis where Janie is the Communications Coordinator.

Bread of Life interim pastor Catrina Cicconne and BOLD Deacon Dorothy Sparks have shared that BOLD is using this interim season to explore new models of ministry for BOLD. Their teams are actively researching and discussing three things:

- ways to do more outreach among the Deaf Community in the Twin Cities;
- what it might look like to seek out partners to share their building;

- and what it might look like to sell their building and become partners in a different location.

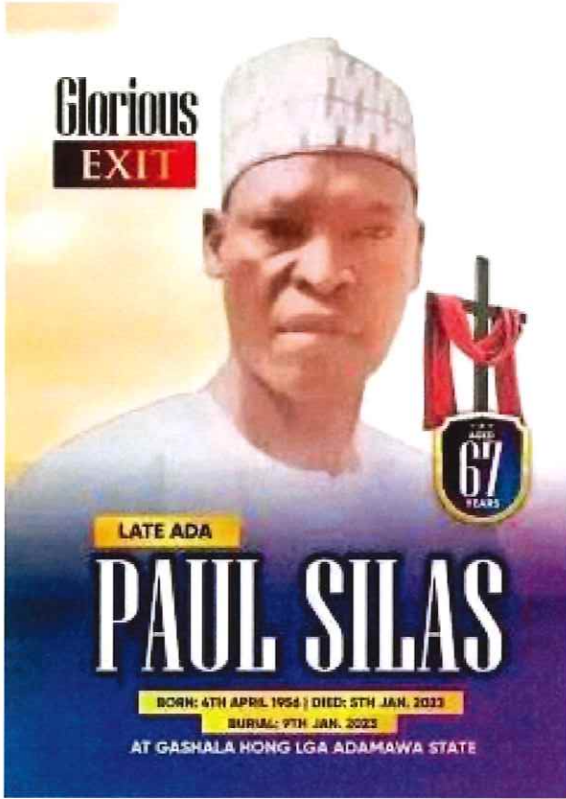
Every church needs to examine their vision and mission in their community and seek where God is leading. Changes may scare some people and excite others. Pray for wisdom as BOLD moves forward.

At the end of December, **ELDA received a surprise gift of \$500** from Ralph and Sunnie Planthold, the Deaf Ministry leaders of Trinity Lutheran in Lawrence, Kansas. **ELCA World Hunger sent out their “40 Days of Giving” Lent Study Guide** (ELCA.org/40Days). The first session focused on Psalm 32 and featured Christ the King Deaf Church's DeafCAN! program and work with prisoners, the DeafBlind, and immigrants/refugees and explained how the Hearing Community often links the Deaf Community with stigma and sin. DeafCAN! works on healing the Deaf Community through different activities, classes, and support so they can feel and see God's love. (CTK/DeafCAN! received a three-year hunger grant for their program). That same week I was contacted by a Deaf individual in Chicago and a pastor near Houston, Texas. At the same time, St. Paul Lutheran in Oakland, California sent **ELCA a \$10,000 gift for ELCA Deaf Ministry!** This was a **God-wink for CTK, ELDA, and the ELCA. We thank God for His surprise blessings!**

Lenten mercy and Easter joy!

Pastor Beth
ELCA Deaf Ministries

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PAUL SILAS, HUSBAND OF PR. RUTH ULEA



Pr. Ruth's beloved husband, Paul, went to his eternal home on January 5, 2023, after being ill for a year. He was a university professor who retired in 2021. Paul and Ruth met at school in 1977 and were married December 23, 1983. Picture below.




Above...Paul as a young boy born in the village of Gashala in Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Paul & Ruth raised five sons...Fenyi (39), Wayinan (37), Samson (30), Alheri (26), and Bello (20).

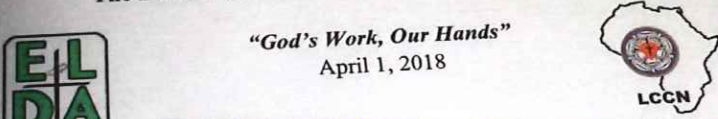


In Celebration of Our PARTNERSHIP in Deaf Ministry



Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association in America & The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria Deaf Church

"God's Work, Our Hands"
April 1, 2018



At right...picture of Pr. Ruth and Paul at their church in Jimeta during ELDA's visit in 2018. At left is the award we gave LCCN. Below is part of the funeral.



SPIRITUAL ADVISOR'S COLUMN

LORI FULLER, PALMS DEAF CHURCH

Hello friends,

As we reflect during this Lent Season, I invite you to notice what is happening around you. Also, I invite you to wonder about all the things that are happening.

Now, how can we do that? There are many ways to do this. One of those ways includes taking time out of our schedules to do that, by taking a Sabbath day.

Perhaps some people may think Sabbath is just a day of rest, nothing more. Yes, Sabbath is a time of rest and much more. It is also knowing that God is active (here within us, around us, and among us). When we do notice and be in the moment with God's presence, we become aware and in awe of what God is doing.

I invite you to notice and wonder about all the things God is doing in your life. I'll start by sharing what I have noticed and wondered as I took a walk in my backyard recently. I live in Florida.

I noticed every leaf, and how God designs each leaf differently. I notice the ray of the sun resting on my cheek with warmth. The acorns that fell from the tree feed the various range of birds that visits us regularly. Even the little bugs from bees, butterflies, and grasshoppers live in our area. Even the two butterflies that fly around. One was yellow and the other was more orange. I notice the beautiful plants that surround me. Including these beautiful flowers that grow every year. Here's one picture of an incredible flower God created:

Now it's your turn!

I invite you to notice and to wonder. Then share those moments with your friends, family, and



community including me. Please take pictures and share them with us. I'll include the pictures you send me and what you noticed and wondered about in the next newsletter. My email address is lori@palmsdeaf.org or call me at 727 223 6209. Through this Easter season and beyond. Take a moment to rest and be in awe of what God is doing.

WORD OF LIFE DEAF

PENNSYLVANIA

This year, WOLD and CTK are doing another “pulpit exchange” for Lent. Pastor Beth Lockard from CTK will come to WOLD twice to lead worship and preach, and Pastor Russ Rockwell will go to CTK twice and do the same. The church members really enjoy it. In fact, neither Pastor Russ nor Pr. Beth were planning to do a pulpit exchange this year, but WOLD members requested it! They really enjoyed the exchange in previous years, so you can say the Lenten pulpit exchange is back “by popular demand!”

WOLD and CTK have done Lenten pulpit exchanges since 2017. When the pandemic hit in 2020, though, the pulpit exchange had to stop just after it got started. Because of lingering pandemic concerns, there was no pulpit exchange in 2021 or 2022. Finally, it seems, WOLD is getting back to “normal” with its pre-pandemic activities.

The theme for the pulpit exchange is “The Mercy of Jesus.” Gospel stories that emphasize how Jesus shows mercy will be used. “The Adulterous Woman,” “Raising the Son of the Widow of Nain,” “Mercy, not Sacrifice & Eating w/ Tax Collectors,” “Two Blind Men Sitting by the Road,” and “The Raising of Lazarus” are the stories for the special sermon series.

In February, WOLD hosted another “Meal-and-a-Movie” event. We showed the movie “Megan Leavey.” A record was set for the highest ever attendance – 62. Another movie is planned for June.

WOLD continues having Bible study over Zoom on Wednesday nights. We are continuing the series, “Bible Stories to Know.” We read a story from the “Deaf Bible,” discuss it, and then watch the ASL version of the same story and discuss it some more. It’s a good time of learning. If you’re curious, join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM eastern time. (Zoom Meeting ID: 813 2024 7582 – Passcode: 790079). (note: no Bible study during Holy Week)



WOLD WATCHING A MOVIE



WOLD ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

LENTEN APPEAL

FROM REV. LORI FULLER

We at Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) enter Lent with hearts ready for mercy, grace, prayer, and giving.

The heart and mission of ELDA support a core value of ASL and American Deaf Culture. In addition, ELDA advocates Deaf-Centered spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global and youth outreach, interpreter training, and a biennial conference.

To continue to provide this life-giving ministry, we need your support not only in prayers but financially. Please consider adding ELDA to your prayer list so that we continue to serve with open hearts and minds to what God calls



us to do to meet the needs of the Deaf community spiritually.

If you are able and willing to contribute some funds to ELDA, please mail to:

Mark Koterwski, Treasurer
5101 S. Marion Rd. Apt 309
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Thank you for your continued support of ELDA. If you have any questions please reach out to any of us on the ELDA Board.

NEWS AND NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our own ELDA Board's spiritual advisor, Janie Barlow, has exciting news to share! Janie and her husband, Justin, have welcomed their third child into the world at the beginning of March 2023! Her name is Makenzi and she has two older brothers; Elijah, 7, and Zenith, 4. All three children are CODAs. The Barlow family are members of Bread of Life Deaf (BOLD) Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota.



WELCOME TO MACKENZI
BARLOW

MEREDITH HENDERSON

Meredith Henderson works with Converge and is serving on a Deaf Catalyst Team as an interpreter to advance the Lord's kingdom.

If you wish to support Meredith in the work she is doing to reach Deaf people with His love and salvation, contact her at meredithh@converge.org

Meredith is asking for our prayers for His protection over

the Deaf staff and students in Haiti, and their families. Life is still very difficult as the gangs continue to spread unchecked.



GLOBAL WORKER

Meredith Henderson

United States

Status: *Raising Support*

ID: 194598-1

Help Meredith to serve Deaf global workers and Deaf leaders as an interpreter as they mobilize to create a Gospel movement among Deaf people in the US and worldwide.

SUPPORT NOW

ELDA CONFERENCE 2024

HOSTED BY HEARTLAND EPHPHATHA

Greetings from the ELDA 2024 planning group at Heartland Ephphatha in South Dakota!

We have already begun planning the 2024 ELDA Conference in Rapid City, SD near the Black Hills! The Indigenous Lakota tribe called the Black Hills of South Dakota: Paha Sapa. For the Lakota, these Hills are a sacred place. Paha Sapa means the heart of everything that is.

Recently the Eros Data Center near Sioux Falls, South Dakota photographed the Black hills from above. When the pictures were developed the scientists were shocked to learn that the Black Hills were the shape of a human heart. You could even see the chambers, veins and arteries. It is no coincidence that they were named the heart of everything that is by the Lakota people.



We are going to use that as our theme for the conference ***“Paha Sapa: The Heart of Everything that is”***
We hope to learn that God is the heart in a setting of sacred nature in Rapid City.



SAVE THE DATES:

June 11-12, 2024	Board Meeting	TERRA SANCTA RETREAT CENTER IN RAPID CITY, SD
June 13-15, 2024	ELDA Conference	
June 16-18, 2024	ELDA Pastor and leaders meeting	

Prices and agenda will be out soon! Plan on a trip through the Black Hills and to stay at Terra Sancta Retreat center in Rapid City!





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-Centered spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global missions and youth outreach, interpreter training, and a biennial conference.

NEW ELDA Vision:

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

ELDA BOARD

ELDA Board

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