



ELDA

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

**Volume 17 • Winter 2022
Issue 67**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

LORI FULLER

Hello, friends from ELDA,

Advent is here. The season of waiting for the Lord has arrived! Often in December, we tend to think about the things we have to check off on our list of things to do to prepare for Christmas. Such as...Cookies made? Check! Presents bought and wrapped? Check! Is the Christmas Tree up? Check! And so on.

**last minute
Christmas
checklist**



However, we know the true meaning of Christmas is NOT the things I mentioned on the checklist. It is instead rather on waiting, watching, and wondering about how we can truly get ready for the Lord. That's the heart of the matter.



The holiday season is a great reason to reach out to those around us and extend a hand, showing them the grace and love that the baby Jesus brought and still brings into our world. I want to invite you to join us in doing just that.

After all, God gave the greatest gift to us on that first Christmas Day (Jesus), and may the wonder always guide and light your way. Merry Christmas from ELDA!
God's peace, Lori Fuller ELDA President

Inside this Issue



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Pastor Beth gives a report and tells us what to expect.



PICTURES AND REPORTS

See pictures and read about the happenings from ministries around the ELDA.



SPIRITUAL ARTICLE

Joseph teaches us by his actions.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear ELDA Friends--

I cannot believe we are coming to the end of another eventful year. Between our long-awaited conference in June, our national election in November, and our celebrations during the Advent/Christmas season, life has been busy. As Covid/flu/RSV cases rise again, may you protect yourselves and your neighbors.

I enjoyed a retreat in the Arizona desert with my ELCA team colleagues in late September. It was the first time we could gather in person since the pandemic and we were carefully masked. Most of the people work with youth and young adults as well as with Disabilities Ministries and Deaf Ministries. It was very difficult for ELCA to cancel their national youth gathering but they are already planning for the next one. I was also able to visit my sister, brother, cousin, and some of my husband's friends in the area. We saw a coyote run across the road and Bill heard the javelina pigs scream in the desert outside one home. A different area and culture in Phoenix and Tucson!

On December 3, we also had the opportunity to attend my nephew's wedding in Palm Coast, Florida. The next day, we attended Palms Deaf Church five minutes away to witness the installation of Pastor Lori Fuller at St. Mark by the Sea Lutheran Church. See the picture page. To leave the freezing north for a sunny south was another area and culture to soak in! We were able to drive up to St. Augustine to view the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind.

Samuel Dimas has been doing well at the Bronnum Seminary in Nigeria. He had quit his job as a school teacher to focus on his studies. His wife, Blessing, had a difficult pregnancy after some miscarriages and this resulted in hospitalization, surgery and unexpected hospital bills. The bad news is there is no health insurance in Nigeria and poverty is high. The good news is that baby Sarah was born safely. I want to gratefully thank

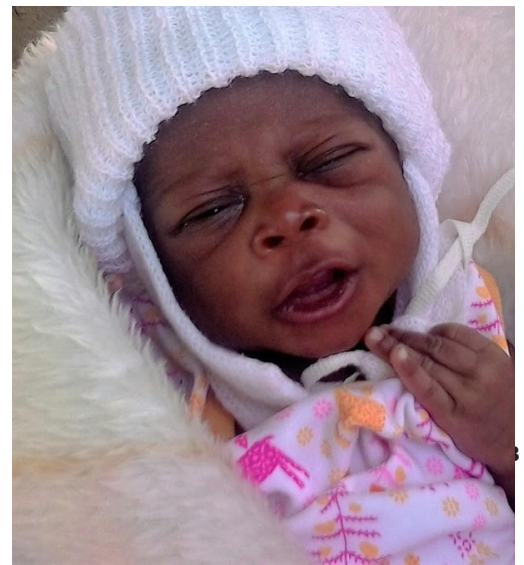
the following ELDA members who personally contributed \$550 to pay off the emergency bill and allow Samuel to stay in seminary: Rev. Lori & Curt Fuller (FL), Bev & Ray Groff (PA), Rev. Beth & Bill Lockard (PA), Lay Pastor Don Rosenkjar & Khai Nguyen (CA), and Deacon Dorothy Sparks (MN). I also thank Jay Johnson (MN) who used his personal Remitly account to wire the gift to Samuel. It takes a "village" to support our Deaf pastors!



Samuel responded with: Thank you so much. God bless you abundantly. I am so busy in school because we have already started exams. By the grace of God we will finish next week. My family and I are short of words to express our profound gratitude. God bless you richly. Samuel

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace! (Isaiah 9:6)

Advent hope & Christmas joy to all,
Pastor Beth, ELCA Deaf Ministries





Rev. Rob Carlson,
DEM, Florida-
Bahamas Synod



(left) one of the
interpreters of a
father-son duo.
(below) Pastor Vince
Iacona of St. Mark
by the Sea Lutheran
questions Pr. Lori



(left) Pr. Dennis
Koch & Pr. Beth
standing side by side
were Lori's sponsors
while in seminary.
(below) reps of
Palms Deaf Church
welcome Lori



(left) Pastors lay hands on Lori as
she is installed. (below) Lori's
youngest daughter, Eve, joins Pr.
Beth & Mom! **December 4, 2022**



SPIRITUAL ADVISOR'S COLUMN

DOROTHY SPARKS, BREAD OF LIFE DEAF

The Bible does not talk much about Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. Joseph does not talk much but he has shown faith through action.

He did not expect Mary's pregnancy.
He did not expect an angel appeared in his dream.
He did not expect that the inn was full.
He did not expect that Jesus was born in the barn.



He did not expect the shepherds to come and worship baby Jesus.
He did not expect Simeon and Anna to come to the baby Jesus in the temple and praised the Lord.
He did not expect those wise men came to baby Jesus with gifts.
He did not expect that the angel told him to escape Egypt with Mary and baby Jesus.
He did not expect that the angel told him to return to Isreal.
Joseph did not expect to face many things but he did not give up and walk away from them.

Today, we have faced many things that we don't expect. It seems to be out of control. We may feel fears and worries. Let's look at Joseph. What did he do? He kept looking up at God and trusted Him.

He reminds us of a driver of a cargo ship. When a terrible storm is around the ship, all the driver can do is look at the compass. A needle on the compass will always point north. The direction will never change. A driver keeps an eye on the needle instead of looking at the storm.

ELDA TREASURER'S REPORT

ELDA Treasurer Mark Koterwski reports the following for the end-of-the-year report:
ELDA Checking Account \$4,831.71
ELDA Savings Account \$9,627.34
Thrivent Investment as of 1/1/2022 \$18,250.14
Total as of 12/3/2022 \$32,709.19
Send your financial contribution(s) to Mark at his address:
Mark Koterwski
5101 S. Marion Rd. Apt. 309
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
Thank you!
Respectfully submitted by Mark Koterwski

NEWS AND NOTES

Jeannie Fisher and her family are proud to announce that her youngest son, Travis is officially a policeman for Cain Township, PA. He graduated from the police Academy last January 2021. Travis also got engaged in September to Clare Remaley and they are planning a 2024 wedding. Jeannie would like for us to keep Travis in our prayers for his safety.
By Jeannie Fisher

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY REPORT

REPORT FROM LCCN DEAF CENTRE JIMET, YOLA

Dear Partners/Friends:

Greetings and gratitude...May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Amen!

I thank God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ for the great privilege and opportunity to write about the main activities of our Centre. Thanks be to God Almighty for His grace and mercy upon our lives despite all the challenges we are passing through in our nation. I pray that we shall continue in the Spirit to get all done. May God help us.

The Deaf Centre is a ministry to reach out to the physically challenged Individuals. We have deaf churches in these areas: Jimeta (attendance is 95) where most come for Sunday worship,

Nu man, Ngurore, Song, Mubi, Dumne, Go be, Ganye and Taraba. Outside the church premises, we have Nursery, Primary and Secondary school education in Jimeta, with a total number of 76 students who are mostly from Yola metropolis.

The major problem now is that the school is a day school and therefore cannot accommodate those from afar. We also have a deaf student at Bronnum Lutheran Seminary, Mr. Samuel Dimas, who is studying a degree program.

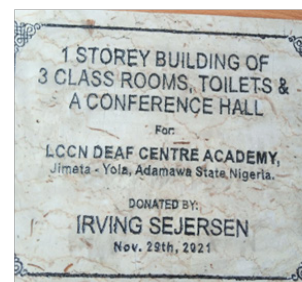
A new bus was also donated to the LCCN Deaf Centre by the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) and the Learning Mission for Foreign Denmark. The school has recently received a donation from Mr. Irving Segerskn for three classrooms. We are therefore grateful for the generous gifts. The building was finally completed and commissioned November 25, 2022 with great applause and gratitude for our philanthropist and his sacrifices. The three-story building houses classrooms, a conference hall, and toilets for the LCCN Deaf Centre Academy. On November 27, 2022, three young men who

understood the way of salvation and surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ, were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

It's another season to recount the hand of the Lord that has remained faithful and steadfast through the past years. His continual leadership work amongst the deaf amazes us. It's my earnest prayer and conviction to continue the opportunity to be co-workers.

With Him we will not take it for granted but with grateful hearts returning glory and honor to God. God bless you all. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas in advance.

Rev. Ruth Ulea



ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN

NORTH HOLLYWOOD CA

St. Matt's Sharing Hands members- Sylvia, Don, Khai, Raffy, and I attended the "Dia De Muertos" (Day of the Dead) event at ADORE LA, an ELCA QTIBIPOC faith community in Hollywood. We celebrated and remembered our loved ones. It was a good experience for us, and we enjoyed delicious Mexican food, especially tamales.

By Christopher Luna Co-Coordinator Sharing Hands Deaf Ministry



WORD OF LIFE DEAF

PENNSYLVANIA

In November, WOLD had one candle on the altar for All Saints' Sunday (on Nov. 6). We remembered Donald Baker, who passed away in February. He was charter member of WOLD. At the end of the month, another WOLD member passed away: Caroline Zueno, who died on Nov. 28. Her candle will be on the altar at next year's All Saints' Sunday service. Also in November, Pastor Russ returned to work after a 4-month sabbatical.

For Advent, WOLD returned to having in-person Bible study again – at least, that was the plan. At this writing, we are halfway through Advent – and we've not had one Bible study, because of bad weather and bad luck on the part of the attendees. In January, we will return to Zoom Bible study because of winter weather.

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. WOLD will do the same as in years past, and not have worship on Christmas Day. There will be in-church Christmas Eve worship at 5:30 p.m. Online versions of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be available as an option at wordoflifedeaf.org/home-worship (anyone can use the link).

Special Note from Pastor Russ–

Thanks to all in the ELDA community for your prayers, well-wishes, cards, notes, and help. My surgery in August went very well. One procedure they did was meant to "set things up" for me to have full-blown urethroplasty surgery in December. I consulted with the doctor about this surgery the week before Thanksgiving, and Good News!! I healed up so well from the surgery in August, that I might not need to have the urethroplasty surgery – ever. We'll see about that in six months, when I consult with the doctor again.

I remain humbled by receiving the Shining Light award. It certainly gave me something to reflect on during sabbatical.

URGENT: RED BIRD MISSION

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING AT THE RED BIRD MISSION

REGISTRATION FORM
DEAF ELM MISSION TRIP TO RED BIRD MISSION, BEVERLY, KENTUCY
AUGUST 6-11, 2023

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." Isaiah 6:8*

ALL **CHECKS** SHOULD BE **MADE OUT TO RED BIRD MISSION**
ALL **FORMS** AND **CHECKS** SHOULD BE **SENT TO:**

Rev. Patti Ravilious
4528 Cagney Lane
Middletown, Delaware 19709

DEADLINES:
REGISTRATION FORM and \$50 per person REGISTRATION FEE
due to PATTI **by October 1, 2022**

This is a NON-REFUNDABLE commitment fee.
REMAINING \$375 is due to PATTI **by June 1st, 2023.**

PLEASE FILL OUT **ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON** GOING TO RED BIRD
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Prefix (Mrs., Mr., Dr., Rev., etc.) _____

Full Name: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

Address – Street: _____

City and State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Church affiliation: _____

Church location (town and state): _____

BEST/QUICKEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE with you, check one and fill in access information:

Phone (text): _____

Phone (talk): _____

Email address: _____

Relay service: _____

HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF? (Choose as many as apply to you.)

- Deaf
- Hard-of-hearing
- Hearing
- Interpreter
- Pastor
- Lay person
- Male
- Female
- Toddler (up to 5) free
- Child (6-9) \$212.50
- Teenager (10-18) \$425
- Adult (young and strong) \$425
- Adult (middle-aged and enthusiastic) \$425
- Adult (old and wise) \$425
- (other) _____

Skills (e.g. carpentry, plumbing, masonry, simple household repairs, electricity, etc.)

Talents (e.g. preaching, teaching, ASL interpretation, organizing, sewing, cooking, driving, etc.)

Challenges (e.g. difficulty walking, food allergies, Diabetes, etc.) _____

TRANSPORTATION:

How do you plan on getting to Red Bird Mission?

- Drive either by yourself or in a van with a group
- Fly to nearby airport – Name/location of airport _____
If flying, what transportation will you use to Red Bird? _____
- Other (please specify) _____



Red Bird Mission Work Camp



**"A praying people answering
peoples' prayers"**



**Changing lives since 1921
www.rbmission.org**

About Us

Red Bird Mission and Clinic have been providing ministries in this region of the Appalachian Mountains since 1921.

Today the need remains critical in this isolated, rural distressed area. Chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing, and rugged mountainous terrain provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents of this area. Red Bird Mission and Clinic strives to meet these needs through ministry in five areas: Education, Health and Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity, and Community Housing Improvement.



MISSION STATEMENT

Red Bird Mission, guided by Jesus Christ, empowers individuals and advocates justice by providing spiritual, educational, health, and community outreach ministries in southeastern Kentucky.



Work Camp Rates

\$425 per person (\$50 deposit required within 60 days receipt of Group Application)

- ◆ \$225.00 meals/lodging
- ◆ \$200.00 project material donation
* Based on the project(s) your group sponsors, you may be required to make an additional donation to cover material expenses.

What's included in your fees?

- Project materials, van, and tools (donations are gladly accepted)
- Knowledgeable and enthusiastic crew leader
- Evening devotions and programming
- Good food, good stories, and cozy cabins



How will you serve at Work Camp?

- ◆ Flooring
- ◆ Roofing
- ◆ Siding
- ◆ Interior/Exterior Walls
- ◆ Bathroom Remodel
- ◆ Build Room Additions
- ◆ Kitchen Remodel
- ◆ Underpinning
- ◆ Build/Repair Decks
- ◆ Basic Electrical
- ◆ Wheelchair Ramps
- ◆ Basic Plumbing
- ◆ Painting
- ◆ Build Steps
- ◆ Gutters
- ◆ Landscaping

Limited opportunities to serve at Red Bird

- Serve in the Craft Store
- Serve in the Senior Center
- Serve in the Community Store
- Serve in Outreach

*Limited service opportunities must be pre-approved!



Red Bird Mission

70 Queendale Center

Beverly, KY 40913

Phone: (606) 598 - 5133

Fax: (606) 598 - 0906

E-mail: RBMworkcamp@rbmission.org

Daily Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

- 7:15am Devotions
- 7:30am Breakfast
- 12:00pm lunch
- 4:00pm Return to Barn, check-in and load for next day
- 5:30pm Supper
- Monday/Tuesday-Leaders breakfast meeting
- Thursday-Clergy breakfast meeting



Evening Programs

- Sunday-7:00pm Orientation and Worship
- Monday-7:30pm Mission Presentation
- Tuesday-8:30pm Ice Cream and Craft Store shopping
- Wednesday-7:30pm Talent/No-Talent Night
- Thursday-8:30pm Ice Cream , 7:30pm Closing / Communion



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

President Rev. Lori Fuller, FL
Vice President Jeannie Fisher, PA
Secretary Linda Fairbanks, MN
Treasurer Mark Koterwski, SD
Spiritual Advisor Janie Barlow, MN
ELCA Liaison Rev. Beth Lockard, PA

ELDA Newsletter

Editor Linda Fairbanks, MN
Lay-out Editor Jason Andera, SD