



ELDA

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

Volume 18 • Winter 2023 • Issue 71

FROM THE PRESIDENT

PASTOR LORI FULLER

Hello ELDA Community,

Many of us are familiar with the Christmas story: Mary, a young virgin, was engaged to Joseph and received a message from the angel Gabriel that she would be pregnant with a child. The child that would be the son of God. Joseph eventually wed Mary. Later, while passing through Bethlehem, Mary gave birth in a lowly stable, with only Joseph and the animals. Angels shared the news of Jesus' birth to shepherds and wise men. Shepherds adored him, while the wise men presented him with treasures.

I think about this story yearly, but I also wonder. For example, What is Mary feeling as she's holding the son of God in her arms in the stable? What about Joseph? What about the wise men and the shepherds? And many more wonders.

Even through the wonderment of this story, we still do the holiday traditions of making



cookies, setting up trees, putting up lights and gifts, and preparing time with family. All this is wonderful. Still, the great gift of all is... Jesus.

May this Christmas year be full of wonder and awe of God's incredible gift of love for you and me by sending God's only son to us.



Merry Christmas from our family to yours,
Lori Fuller
ELDA Board President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ELDA CONFERENCE

READ ABOUT NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO MAKE IT MORE AFFORDABLE AND MORE CONVENIENT TO ATTEND IN 2024

MINISTRY REPORTS

REPORTS FROM DEAF MINISTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD

SPIRITUAL ARTICLE

THE POWER OF PRAYER IN THIS SEASON

THANK YOU TO THESE DONORS



Mr and Mrs Ralph Planhold
Word of Life Deaf Church
Pastor Lori Fuller
Mark Koterwski

FROM THE DIRECTOR

PASTOR BETH LOCKARD

Dear ELDA friends:

Greetings to each of you as you celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons. It is a time to wait for, prepare, and ponder the Lord's coming 2000 years ago as a fragile baby, walking with us daily in our lives, and returning with glory as our King. We may experience different feelings as we GRIEVE the loss of those we love, the war in the Holy Land, the political struggles all over, and the tears of our earth. At the same time, we have HOPE for God's coming reign and justice for those of us who are oppressed.

The three churches seeking a Lilly Endowment grant for lay leadership training (Christ the King, PA; Palms, FL; and Bread of Life, MN) did NOT receive the funding but plan to meet in the beginning of 2024 to discuss next steps forward. They are committed to making this "Deaf Spirit" dream become a reality.

Bread of Life, Minneapolis, has voted to move into Minnehaha Communion

Lutheran Church in early 2024. As I understand, the BOLD members will have their last Christmas service in their current building before it is put up for sale.

Pastor Kimberly Vaughn, who has been the leader of my cohort group in ELCA churchwide, has accepted a call to be the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jersey City, NJ. She will be deeply missed by me and enjoyed meeting many of you at Pr. Lori Fuller's ordination and our ELDA conference in Lancaster, PA last year.

I will be celebrating my 25th anniversary of ordination on February 20, 2024.

The years have gone by fast! Christ the King plans a service of thanksgiving on February 25 and a luncheon afterward. If any of you will be in the area and wish to attend, please let me know!

Let's keep each other and the events above in our prayers!

Advent HOPE and Christmas JOY,
Pastor Beth Lockard
Director of ELCA Deaf Ministries

REPORTS

BREAD OF LIFE DEAF LUTHERAN CHURCH (BOLD)

Fellow Deaf Ministry partners in Christ, Bread of Life Deaf (BOLD) Lutheran has news to share with you. BOLD has decided on a new home base! However, because of the unofficial confirmation from the church of choice, I will not be announcing the name until we have official approval (or not) from this church. We are now in the process of selling our building and have interested buyers. BOLD plans to have a celebration of some sort in the coming months and I will share this news with you all when it becomes available. In other news, our interim pastor (Reverend Catrina Ciccone) was called and approved as BOLD's term pastor for the next two years. We are grateful and give praise to God to have Pastor Catrina continuing this journey with us over the next two years! Please continue to keep us in your prayer list and thank you all for your support in the last year through this challenging journey.

Updates submitted on behalf of BOLD by Janie Barlow, BOLD Office Communications Coordinator and BOLD Church Council Vice President

WORD OF LIFE DEAF PENNSYLVANIA

On Sunday, Nov. 5th, WOLD celebrated All Saints' Sunday with special candles on the altar, lit in memory of loved ones who passed away. This year, one WOLD member - Caroline Zueno - was remembered in the service.

WOLD continues its online Bible study, "Bible Stories to Know." Check it out! We meet Wednesday nights at 7PM Eastern.

On Zoom, join the Bible Study with Meeting ID # 813 2024 7582 and Passcode 790079. (note: no Bible study on Dec. 27)

Because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, WOLD will adjust its worship schedule so people don't have to drive to the church twice.

Dec. 24 Worship at WOLD:

- 9:00 a.m. - regular worship for the 4th Sunday of Advent
- 10:15 a.m. - break with light refreshments and socializing
- 11:00 a.m. - early Christmas Eve service

In January, WOLD will bring out the Epiphany Star again to use in worship. We put a candle on the star every Sunday to match the gospel lesson. Everyone likes guessing what color the candle will be. A picture of our Epiphany Star from 2019 is shown.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a Blessed Epiphany to all of you from WOLD!!

CHRIST THE KING DEAF CHURCH WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Christ the King Deaf Church (West Chester, PA) has had a busy season.

- November 25, DeafCAN! had a Thanksgiving celebration for their RIA group (Refugees, Immigrants, and Asylees) at CTK, Philadelphia. 28 people attended from eight countries (Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Liberia, the Philippines, United States, and Ukraine). Our guest was state representative

Joseph Hohenstein who is hard of hearing and married to an ASL interpreter. He was previously an immigration lawyer. A Deaf Palestinian/Israeli woman passed her naturalization test in early December and a Colombian man will take his test in mid December.

- On Christ the King Sunday, November 26, CTK welcomed nine more new members. In 2023, 14 new people joined CTK.
- CTK celebrated with an Advent service and Christmas luncheon on December 10. This included an in-person raffle and a Silent Auction online to help fund DeafCAN! services. Some items included an autographed Phillies cap, a framed autographed Eagles photo, Starbucks ASL mugs, Deaf art by national Deaf artist Nancy Rourke, and hand-knit shawls.
- CTK plans to celebrate their Christmas Eve worship at 7 p.m. December 23 followed by a dessert reception. A traditional favorite is "Silent Night."
- DeafCAN! will host their DeafBlind holiday party on December 30 with SSPs and some family members along with state SSP services, StepUp.
- Finally, CTK will welcome the new year with an Epiphany prayer service and potluck brunch on January 7.

Live simply

Speak or Sign Kindly

Love unconditionally



HEARTLAND EPHPATHA MINISTRIES SOUTH DAKOTA

Hello friends! Our ministry is anxiously awaiting the ELDA conference in 2024! We have made adjustments at our last meeting to get as many people as possible to the conference.

Here is our video that you can use at your worship services to invite others!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_M-O1dnEi8o

PALMS DEAF CHURCH FLORIDA



SPIRITUAL ARTICLE

Janie Barlow

As I write to you all this Holiday season, I write with a heavy and uncertain heart. I am sure many of you feel the same. At the beginning of October 2023, we saw the horrific start of a war between Israel and Palestine also known as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This conflict continues with shocking casualties. Another is the Ukraine and Russia war also known as the Russo-Ukrainian War. With so many things focused on the reality of the world, it is also important to focus on the truth of His Word. His Word asks that we pray for His people.

We are in the season of Advent, where we await the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is also the time to remember those struggling in the war and to pray for them as God has asked us to.

Remember *Psalm 122:6*, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you!", and *Isaiah 62:1* where the Lord says, for Zion and Jerusalem, He will not keep silent and quiet until people are saved and shine like a blazing torch. And, for any others, as *James 5:16* says "confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a godly person is powerful as it makes things happen".

While it is easier to just wait and do your normal day to day actions, we must actively participate in prayerful moments.

Did you know that this year, Bethlehem (the birthplace of Jesus) will not be decorating or lighting anything up for Christmas this year? This is in honor of those suffering in the war and the ones they have lost. While this may bring different opinions and points of views into the mix, it is an action that shows love and support to the people suffering through this. Pray continuously for all that you see, all that you think of, either good or bad, and continue to participate instead of comfortably waiting to see what happens. While we await the birth of Jesus and as we watch day by day happenings in the two world conflicts, we must always pray, give thanks, and praise through the good and bad. Do this not only during this Christmas season, but all through the year long. Merry Christmas and God be with you!



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CHRIST, NIGERIA

Pastor Ruth Ulea

Dear Friends,
Greetings in Jesus' name from Nigeria... in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The time has come to write a Christmas letter to friends all over the world. As usual, I am slightly behind, but I hope you will be patient with me all the same.

Christmas is coming soon and changing from one year to a new one. It is the time when you look back and try to remember the events of the year which is passing away. All through this year I have been busy with work which was delayed after the demise of my beloved husband. I have already received email from all of you with condolence messages. Thank you so much.

Born into an Unjust World - Luke 2:1-7

It's another Christmas and a celebration for us who believe in Christ Our Lord. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and appreciate the love of God for giving His own Son to the world. There was no room for Jesus to be born in the inn. Mary and Joseph had to look for a manger to give birth to him. It is ironical that while other people found a place in the inn that night, the Savior of the world could not be accommodated there. The road to success is not always smooth. Behind any success there is a challenge attached to it. Sometimes we wonder why

there are still difficulties even after doing the will of God. Note that God did not talk of the part that Joseph and Mary had to take but he strengthened them for it. God did not provide a luxurious inn for Joseph and Mary but brought His Son into the world in a humble surrounding. Nevertheless, do not forget that in all the hurdles, God's plan for you will prevail. He will guide, guard, and provide all your needs like He did for Mary and Joseph. Trust every day by faith and trust that God is in charge in every situation. God Bless You,

Pastor Ruth Ulea, Deaf Ministry
Lutheran Church of Christ, Nigeria

NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR EDLA 2024

The Heartland Ephphatha ELDA planning group met recently and want to announce some changes to make attending the 2024 conference easier and more affordable than ever! We want you to come to South Dakota, please contact : Jason Andera with any questions! jason.andera@gmail.com

RATES ADJUSTED FOR FAMILIES

KIDS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD ARE FREE!
NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR ROOM, FOOD OR
MONUMENT ADMISSION.

DEADLINE DELAYED

YOU NOW CAN USE THE EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT UNTIL MAY 10, 2024. MORE TIME
TO SAVE YOUR MONEY!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

WE WILL INCLUDE YOUTH ACTIVITIES!
WE WILL WAIT TO SEE HOW MANY YOUTH
REGISTER TO PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

COMMUTER RATE AVAILABLE

IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND THE
CONFERENCE BUT NOT BUY A ROOM YOU
CAN FOR \$50/DAY

LIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO AFFORD THE CONFERENCE, SEND AN
EMAIL TO [JASON.ANDERA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:jason.andera@gmail.com) AND ASK ABOUT OUR
LIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS

ELDA 2024

CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION



June 11-12, 2024

ELDA Board Meeting (TUE-WED)

June 13-16, 2024

ELDA Conference (THUR-SUN morning)

June 16-18, 2024

ELDA Pastors meeting (SUN-TUE)

Register now to reserve your spot in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota where we will explore what "Paha Sapa" means and how - "God is the heart of everything that is".

This conference is hosted by Heartland Ephphatha Ministries in South Dakota. We can't wait to see you!



TERRA
SANCTA
RETREAT CENTER



MT. RUSHMORE



CRAZY
HORSE
MEMORIAL



Evangelical
Lutheran Deaf
Association

ELDA 2024 CONFERENCE

Terra Sancta | June 2024 | Rapid City, SD

REGISTRATION FORM (EACH PERSON MUST FILL ONE OUT)

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

TEXT # _____ CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND NUMBER _____

INTERPRETER NEEDS VOICE (for Hearing) _____ HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE ROOM? _____

TACTILE (for Deafblind) _____ SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS _____

ARE YOU FLYING _____ T-SHIRT SIZE _____

DRIVING _____ Any questions or need help filling out the form? Let us know

CONTACT INFO

☎ 605 310 9847

🌐 www.BeDeaf.church

✉ Jason.Anders@gmail.com

📍 Heartland Ephphatha



Choose the option that fits you best.

Put a check mark next to your choice!



~~Following Prices are~~
NEW PRICES ARE
GOOD UNTIL MAY 10!
~~Prices are good until the~~
~~close on January 31, 2024.~~

Hotel Style Room

- Hotel Style Rooms includes 2 queen beds, and a bathroom.
- Total of 2-4 people per room.
- Includes all meals.
- Only 24 rooms available, first come first served

Monastic Style Room

- Monastic Style Room includes 2 twin beds, and a sink. Shared bathrooms are in the halls.
- Total of 1-2 people per room.
- Includes all meals.

Option A • Conference Attendee

(Thursday - Sunday Morning)

HOTEL STYLE

- 2 in a room = \$350/person
- 3 in a room = \$325/person
- 4 in a room = \$300/person

MONASTIC STYLE

- 1 in a room = \$325/person
- 2 in a room = \$275/person

Option B • Board Meeting + Conference

(Tuesday - Sunday Morning)

HOTEL STYLE

- 2 in a room = \$550/person
- 3 in a room = \$525/person
- 4 in a room = \$500/person

MONASTIC STYLE

- 1 in a room = \$475/person
- 2 in a room = \$425/person

Option C • Conference + Pastors Mtg

(Thursday - Tuesday Morning)

HOTEL STYLE

- 2 in a room = \$550/person
- 3 in a room = \$525/person
- 4 in a room = \$500/person

MONASTIC STYLE

- 1 in a room = \$475/person
- 2 in a room = \$425/person

Option D • Board Mtg + Conference + Pastors Mtg

(Tuesday - Tuesday Morning)

HOTEL STYLE

- 2 in a room = \$750/person
- 3 in a room = \$725/person
- 4 in a room = \$700/person

MONASTIC STYLE

- 1 in a room = \$475/person
- 2 in a room = \$425/person

Sightseeing Tour
(Friday)

- Bus Tour = \$50/person

Sightseeing Tour

- Coach bus tour to see Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial.
- Covers parking, and admission

LIST ROOM MATE(S)
 or be assigned a roommate

Directions:

- 1) Mark one option on the left for lodging in either option A, B, C or D
- 2) Choose if you want to go on the sightseeing tour.
- 3) Write down roommates in box above, or leave blank to be assigned.
- 4) Add up costs and enter it below
- 5) Send in payment

Total Cost

Room Cost _____

Tour Fee (\$50) + _____

If after Jan 31 add \$50 _____

TOTAL COST \$ _____

SEND PAYMENT AND FORM TO:
 HEARIL AND EPHATHA MINISTRIES (HEM)
 6508 W 41ST STREET
 SIOUX FALLS, SD 57108

or Venmo payment to:
 @peace.lutherans.f

(make sure to add a note that says "ELDA")

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY JUNE 11

- ELDA BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12

- ELDA BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY JUNE 13

- ELDA BOARD MEETING 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Arrival and Registration 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- Meal 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Opening Worship 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- Ice Breakers and Fellowship 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM

FRIDAY JUNE 14

- Meal 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
- Devotion 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
- Monument Tour 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM (BAG LUNCH)
- Meal 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Workshop "Paha Sapa Discussion led by HEM" 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- Fellowship 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM

SATURDAY JUNE 15

- Meal 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
- Devotion (Prayer Labyrinth) 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
- ELDA Business Meeting 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Meal 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
- Workshop 1:00 - 2:30 PM
- ELDA Town Hall 2:30 - 3:30 PM
- Free Time 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
- Banquet 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Closing Worship 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Fellowship 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM

SUNDAY JUNE 16

- Meal 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
- Devotion 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
- Room checkout and goodbyes 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Meal 12:00 pm - 1:00 PM
- Pastors and leaders retreat begins 1:00 PM

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 MEMBERS DIRECTORY

Rev. Lori Fuller

ELDA President
Palms Deaf Church
303 Palm Coast Pkwy NE
Palm Coast, FL 32137
Lori@palmsdeaf.org

Jeannie Fischer

ELDA Vice President
Word of Life Deaf Lutheran
WOLD President
301 Weaverland Valley Rd.
East Earl, PA 17519

Linda Fairbanks

ELDA Secretary
ELDA Newsletter Editor
Lindafairbanks22@gmail.com
1083 280th Street
Mahnomon, MN 56557
218-325-4791 Home
218-251-5829 Text

Mark Koterwski

ELDA Treasurer
5101 S. Marion Rd. Apt. 309
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
Peace Lutheran w/ Heartland
Ephphatha Ministries
Mkoterwski@gmail.com
605-212-0947 Text

Janie Barlow

ELDA Spiritual Advisor
Bread of Life Deaf (BOLD)
Lutheran Church
BOLD Office Communications
Coordinator
BOLD Council Vice President
2901 38th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406
BOLDOffice1@gmail.com
VP: 651-968-8166

The Rev. Beth Lockard, M.Ed. (she/her)

Pastor and Executive Director
Christ the King Deaf Church/
DeafCAN! program
West Chester and Philadelphia,
PA
ELCA Coordinator of Deaf
Ministries/ELDA Board Liaison
484-319-4256 VP, Voice
lockardbeth@gmail.com

Jason Andera

ELDA Newsletter Lay-out Editor
ELDA Webmaster
Heartland Ephphatha Ministries
Co-Director
Peace Lutheran Church
Sioux Falls, SD
jason.andera@gmail.com
605-310-9647 Text