

# ELDA

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION  
A MINISTRY OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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ELDA CONFERENCE  
2026

CTK MEMEBER  
COMPETES IN  
DEAFLYMPICS



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY REV. LORI FULLER

Hello EDLA Community,

As we just celebrated Christmas, I want a moment to reflect on the past year. Whew.. It's been a challenging year for many people on many levels. Yet we have hope. Thanks be to God. We have hope. Why? Jesus' birth.

Jesus' birth has shown us just how much God loves you and me. Jesus' birth shows us that God has been with us from the beginning of creation, is with us now, and will be with us in the future.

Don't take my word for it. We have proof! The stories in the Bible, including the Old Testament and the New Testament, for one. Over and over, we see that God's love is greater than evil. God did not give up and even sent his only beloved son to earth for you and me. That is true love. Agape love.

So after the year we have had, I want to take a moment to thank God for sending his beloved son. Thanks be to God, his Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit, we have hope.

Let's rejoice this Christmas season by sharing stories with our families and friends—stories of Jesus' birth, and of where God is now. Let your light shine brightly. After all, love wins! Huh, speaking of Love Wins, that is also the theme of our upcoming ELDA Conference in June 2026! Take a moment to check out the flyer below and join us by filling out the registration form. See you there.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
Lori Fuller  
Pastor and ELDA Board President

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY REV. BETH LOCKARD

Dear ELDA Friends--

It's a busy season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. May we remember why this season happened and the Good News that changed our world. The shepherds were the first to hear and WE still carry this news to others in our daily lives. I want to share two events that involved our ELDA group in October.

October 14-17, four ELDA people were chosen to attend a retreat hosted by the Episcopalian Conference of the Deaf in Austin, TX. Pastor Lori Fuller (Palms Deaf Church, FL), laymen Mark Koterwski (Heartland Ephphatha Ministries, SD) and Brad Martin (Word of Life Deaf Lutheran, PA), and I participated. We watched the Jesus ASL film and discussed how we can use this film or parts of it to share the Good News with people, especially those who have not heard/seen it before. How can we tell the story best in our language and culture? This movie will be shown at our next ELDA conference in June. We enjoyed getting to know other Deaf leaders and the unique culture of Austin!



October 24--26, twenty women from three states gathered to have a retreat in the Pocono Mountains in PA. This was mostly women from WOLD and CTK. Our theme, "Grow in Grace," explored how God gifts us with grace and shapes our lives. How can we share this grace with others? We had time to chat, play pickleball, shop at the bookstore, eat at the snack bar, and chat some more! While I led the retreat, every woman added her wisdom and experience.



I look forward to visiting St. Matthew's (CA) and Bread of Life (MN) in early 2026, then seeing many of you in Orlando.

Jesus is the reason for the season. We are the reason He died for us. Let's share the news longer than the 12 days of Christmas. Let's become the Good News to others we meet this new year.



Advent hope and Christmas joy,  
Pastor Beth+

# MINISTRY REPORTS

## PALMS DEAF CHURCH

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Palms Deaf Church (PDC) is excited to introduce you to its first elected Board Council members.

Allie Potts, President

LaShaun Williams, Vice President

Angela Blair-Prince, Treasurer

Kelly Dunn, Secretary

Nena Dominquez, Member at Large

Cody Stiller, Member at Large

Congratulations to our new council members!



In other news....typically, PDC has a Thanksgiving feast at our site. However, this year we decided to go out into the community and serve people the feast.

We had over 40 people who came and took advantage of the feast that was offered besides having dishes available for people to take home. The reason we did this was in November, you may recall, SNAP benefits were on hold at the time because of the government shutdown and PDC wanted to step in and fill this need as much as possible.



We also partnered with Greater Marion County Association for the Deaf (GMCAD), and Center of Independent Living (CIL) with the Appleton Museum in Ocala, where we had a community tree set up that represented the Deaf community. Plus, we had an ILY with sign language on the ornament to give out to the community who visit the ASL tree.



We can't wait to see what God is up to next. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year from Palms Deaf Church.



# MINISTRY REPORTS

## CHRIST THE KING

The day after DeafCAN!'s 15th Anniversary Open House, five CTK and an interpreter attended our Synod Cluster (Chester County) Gala on 11/9. Our Cluster was given \$5000 seed money and the churches had a buffet dinner, dance, and Silent Auction to benefit the war-torn areas of Palestine and Ukraine. International missionaries Bevan and Laura Stein were speakers. 130 people attended and we raised \$33,000 that evening. CTK donated ASL classes to the Silent Auction. This was \$100 a plate!



CHRIST  
THE KING

- In November, our local Thrivent office hosted an early showing of the movie, "Wicked: For Good," and offered a buffet dinner at the theatre. 12 Deaf attended and Thrivent convinced the theatre to use open captions! This event was a food-raiser for our community food cupboard, so we raised \$1575 (cash and grocery cards) and 331 lb. of food.
- We had a private **Friendsgiving dinner** for our refugee/immigrant group and gathered to share our international potluck feast. It is a fearful time for many of them. Please keep them in prayer! We work with 38 countries.
- One of CTK members, **Jayson Wallace**, went to Tokyo, Japan to participate in the Deaflympics in cycling and mountain bike racing. See the picture page in this newsletter.
- **Jayson won first place (gold) in the sprint race.**
- He did not finish the Points Race.
- In the Individual Time Trial, he placed 36th.
- In the Individual Road Race (62 miles at a 9,600 foot elevation/height), he placed 5th.
- For Mountain Biking, he won 6th place for the Cross-Country Short Track.
- Last night, for the Cross-Country Olympic (14 miles), he placed 6th after having a flat tire in the last half of the last lap. He ran with his bike through the mountains to the finish line! 30 men were in that race and only eight finished.
- Jayson is a junior at King College in Tennessee. His parents are Connie and Stefan Wallace. Connie is also Office Manager for CTK/DeafCAN!



# MINISTRY REPORTS

## CHRIST THE KING CONTINUED

- Another CTK member, **Jason Marple**, who graduated from Gallaudet last December with a B.S. in Physical Ed and minor in Sports Management, was hired by PSD as a HS English teacher and **head coach for the boys' Varsity Basketball team**. He previously was assistant coach for two years at MSSD. Recently, his boys' team and the PSD girls' team both won the champion tipoff at Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf (NJ), Division 2. The boys won 4th place and girls 3rd place at The Learning Center (MA) for Division 1. Jason is the son of Terri and Mark Marple. Terri is CTK Council president.

- In December, seven CTK women and our interpreter attended the **Christmas Tea hosted by our host congregation**, Calvary Lutheran. 160 women attended. Each table had a hostess and decorated their table in advance. Our table theme was "Holly Berries" and decorated by Gloria Weiler, Linda Sheak, and hostess Connie Wallace.

**CTK Christmas luncheon** had to be postponed 12/14 to 12/21 due to a snowstorm! We will have a Silent Auction for DeafCAN! and hope to have **Jayson** show his gold medal, **Jason** talk about the PSD Boys' BB team, and Marlon (from Jamaica) tell about his recent passing of his U.S. citizenship interview/test! He will be the 14th individual that DeafCAN! assisted.



Qualified first in the flying 200m

Top 4 get a first round bye in the bracket

Next race will be heads up for 1000m



Let's gooo!!! @usadsf

These first preliminary “heats” put Jayson at the top of the pack with his speeds in road racing.



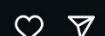
Send message...



**Jayson Wallace, son of Connie & Stefan Wallace, is in Tokyo for the Deaflympics to compete with the U.S. Deaf Cycling Team November 15-26, 2025. He is one of the 3,000 participants in the international event. He has road cycling races and then mountain biking races.**



Send message...



At right, Jason stands in the center on the podium as the gold winner for the first race. He will probably come home with more medals.



# MINISTRY REPORTS

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## WORD OF LIFE DEAF LANCASTER, PA



WOLD finished its Bible study on Proverbs, and started a new study on the Psalms. We're trying something new – we're recording our Bible studies. You can find the recordings at two places online. Easiest way is to go to our website ([wordoflifedeaf.org](http://wordoflifedeaf.org)) and click Bible Study in the menu. Other way to find them is on YouTube – go to WOLD's channel by typing this url in your browser: [youtube.com/@wordoflifedeafchurch4776](https://youtube.com/@wordoflifedeafchurch4776)

There is no Bible study over Christmas and New Year's, so watching the recordings is a good way to catch up. Or, you can join the WOLD's Bible "live" on Wed. nights at 7pm on Zoom (starting Jan. 7, 2026). Use Meeting ID 813 2024 7582 and Passcode 790079.

WOLD will have Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m. There are no in-church services on Dec. 28 & Jan. 4, since the pastor will be away. WOLD's church council opted to have online services only those days ([wordoflifedeaf.org/home-worship](http://wordoflifedeaf.org/home-worship)). Services are pre-recorded and may be watched any time.

WOLD's after-Christmas banquet will be Jan. 3rd. When Epiphany starts in January, WOLD will again use its Epiphany Star in worship.

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## ELDA NEW WEBSITE COMING

We are working on a new website that will have links to streamed services and ministries throughout the ELCA. The website will be mobile friendly and house all of our archives as well. Be looking for it in the coming months. IF there is anything you would like to see on the new site contact [jason.andera@gmail.com](mailto:jason.andera@gmail.com) (605) 310-9647

ELDA

Ministries   About   Newsletters   Events   Contact

God's work  
Our hands

ELDA 2026

Conference

#LOVEWiNS!

# Registration Form

June 9-10, 2026 - ELDA Board Meeting (TUE-WED)

June 11-14, 2026 - ELDA Conference (THUR-SUN morning)

June 14-16, 2026 - ELDA Pastor and Leaders Retreat

(SUN afternoon -TUE morning)

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name

Email Address

Text Number

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Emergency Contact  
Name and Number

## PREFERENCES

Check which you will attend:  ELDA Board Mtg  ELDA Conference  Pastor and Leaders Retreat

Church Organization

Tshirt Size  
Circle all that apply

YOUTH: YS YM YL ADULTS: S M L XL 2XL

Accessibility Needs

Voice (for Hearing)

Deaf/Blind

Mobility limitations

Tactile (for Deaf/Blind)

Low Vision

Food Restrictions

Airline, Flight number and  
Arrival/Departure Time

Arrival:  
Departure:



## CONTACT INFO:

VP: 727.223.6209

email: Lori@palmsdeaf.org

Palms Deaf Church

## OPTION A CONFERENCE ATTENDEE (THURSDAY-SUNDAY MORNING)

2 IN A ROOM=\$350/PERSON  
3 IN A ROOM=\$325/PERSON  
4 IN A ROOM=\$300/PERSON

## OPTION B BOARD MEETING + CONFERENCE (TUESDAY-SUNDAY MORNING)

2 IN A ROOM=\$550/PERSON  
3 IN A ROOM=\$525/PERSON  
4 IN A ROOM=\$500/PERSON

## OPTION C CONFERENCE + RETREAT (THURSDAY-TUESDAY MORNING)

2 IN A ROOM=\$700/PERSON  
3 IN A ROOM=\$675/PERSON  
4 IN A ROOM=\$650/PERSON

## CONFERENCE ENTERTAINMENT!!

F: ASL JESUS  
MOVIE WITH  
DISCUSSION,  
FRIDAY;  
DONATION  
ACCEPTED  
10:30 AM-2:30  
PM (LUNCH 12:30  
PM TO 1:30 PM)

G: MAGIC  
MORGAN SHOW  
ONLY SATURDAY;  
\$10/PERSON  
7:00 PM-8:00 PM

## OPTION D BOARD MTG + CONFERENCE + RETREAT (TUESDAY-TUESDAY MORNING)

2 IN A ROOM=\$750/PERSON  
3 IN A ROOM=\$725/PERSON  
4 IN A ROOM=\$700/PERSON

## OPTION E COMMUTER'S (FOOD ONLY, NO BEDS) (FRIDAY AND SATURDAY)

ONE DAY = \$50/PERSON  
TWO DAYS = \$100/PERSON

## CHILDREN COMING FOR CONFERENCE? HOW MANY? AGE?

CHILDREN UNDER 12=FREE  
YOUTHS 13-17 YEARS OLD=\$20/PERSON

## FEES, AND WRITE THE TOTAL COSTS

OPTION A B C D E F G  
CHILDREN(S)\_\_\_ AGE (S)\_\_\_

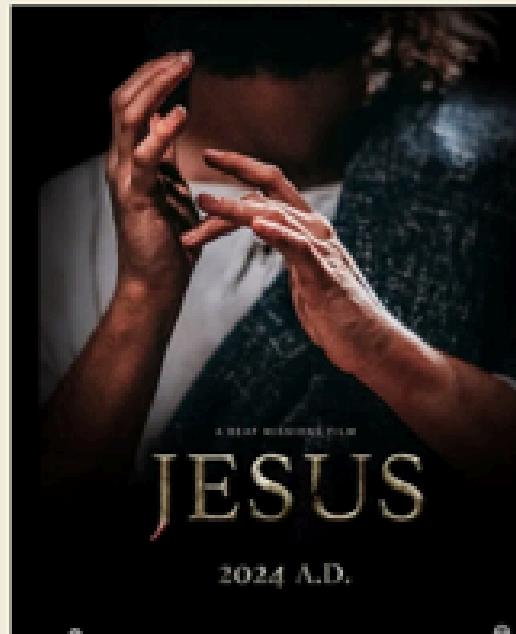
TOTAL COST: \$

# 2026 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE



MAGIC MORGAN & LILIANA  
WILL HAVE WORKSHOPS FOR  
KIDS (FRI/SAT) AND PERFORM  
FOR THE COMMUNITY ON  
SATURDAY NIGHT

JUNE 11-14, 2026  
WINTER PARK, FL  
NEAR ORLANDO



FRIDAY-SHOWING OF DEAF  
MISSIONS JESUS MOVIE IN  
ASL AT 10:30 AM



For more information  
contact Pastor Lori Fuller  
at [lori@Palmsdeaf.org](mailto:lori@Palmsdeaf.org) or  
call VP 727 223 6209

PLUS A SURPRISE GUEST  
SPEAKER, PANEL, AND  
MUCH MORE

#LOVEWINS!

# ELDA BOARD MEMBERS DIRECTORY

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Tracy Prince ELDA Vice President <a href="mailto:Calitx8@gmail.com">Calitx8@gmail.com</a> Florida Palms Deaf Church	Janie Barlow ELDA Spiritual Advisor Bread of Life Deaf (BOLD) Lutheran Church BOLD Office Manager P.O. Box 17444 Minneapolis, MN 55417 <a href="mailto:BOLDOffice1@gmail.com">BOLDOffice1@gmail.com</a> VP: 651-968-8166	Jason Andera ELDA Newsletter Lay-out Editor; ELDA Webmaster Heartland Ephphatha Ministries Co-Director Peace Lutheran Church Sioux Falls, SD <a href="mailto:jason.andera@gmail.com">jason.andera@gmail.com</a> 605-310-9647

## ELDA ONLINE

Remember our website is [www.ELDADeaf.org](http://www.ELDADeaf.org) our  
facebook page is:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ELDADeaf/>

## NEWS

Please help our newsletter! Send me your  
pictures and stories about your ministry.  
We'd love to put it in our next newsletter.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Deadlines are:

March 15 for spring newsletter  
June 15 for summer newsletter  
September 15 for fall newsletter  
December 15 for winter newsletter

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 Linda Fairbanks, [lindafairbanks22@gmail.com](mailto:lindafairbanks22@gmail.com) Thanks!