

# The Deaf Child's

# ADVOCATE

Volume 47

Issue 1 Lutheran School for the Deaf - Detroit, Michigan

January, 1977

## A Heart of Gold



A while back, when there was still an old red school house, Dr. John Klein invited a young lady to come to the dedication of the new buildings. He said, "Come and take charge of them and be the head of our household." After 38 years of service here, that lady is now going to retire.

Deaconess Marie Bliefnick, originally came from a small town near Springfield, Illinois and is joyously looking forward to retiring there on February 1st. She is a graduate of the Deaconess Program when it was based in Watertown, Wisconsin. After graduation, she served five years there as a Deaconess and now she has completed thirty-eight years as head of our household and housemother for hundreds of young ladies.

How do you describe her? Quiet and reserved. Efficient, hard working. All those things she is but even more, she is totally dedicated to her Lord who has entrusted her throughout the years with many, many children. In fact, in at least one case, right now, she is even taking care of the children of former students.

In the December 1958, DEAF CHILD'S ADVOCATE, it says, "we pray that Deaconess Bliefnick may continue with us for many more years, as a foster mother to the many little deaf children whose real mothers place them into her loving care in order that they may hear, be educated and trained to overcome their handicap and so become independent and self-reliant Christian citizens." God richly answered that prayer.

Words will never adequately describe the hundreds of different jobs that she does nor the thousands and thousands of hours that she has willingly given. Perhaps the greatest tribute are the young adults who come back, not so much to see the building, but to see their beloved former housemother, Miss Bliefnick.

We thank God for her "Heart of Gold."

**Our beautiful Memorial Wreath Folders are available,  
free and postpaid**

## Appeal

We joyously give thanks to all of you whom God led to respond to our Annual Appeal. As of December 31, over 6,300 of our friends have responded. A special thanks also to First Lutheran Church of Windsor, Canada, who helped us with the mailing to our Canadian friends.

Our secretaries and volunteers are in the process of posting and preparing receipts. Thank you for your patience. We will soon send you a receipt for your loving gift.

During the past several months, two new children have enrolled in our school. As God continues to present great need for Christian Education for the Deaf, we ask that you prayerfully reconsider responding to our Appeal.

## Sunday School Classes For the Deaf

As more and more deaf children are able to receive adequate education in their home town, it is becoming necessary for many congregations throughout the country to offer Sunday School Classes for them. Synod's Board for Parish Education has begun a project throughout 1977 to train individuals to serve as Sunday School teachers for hearing impaired children. Mrs. Pauline Fenton, our former Principal, is actively involved in Synod's project to prepare Sunday School teachers. We are most grateful that Mrs. Fenton is able to continue in this ministry.

## Lutheran Church Charities Fund

The Lutheran Church Charities Fund is an organization which encourages fellow Christians in Northern Illinois to support charitable agencies. In addition to the Lutheran School for the Deaf, this organization encourages support for:

1. Lutheran Retirement Home near Chicago,
2. Lutheran Family and Child Services in Chicago, and
3. Bethesda, Watertown.

Through the years, this organization has prepared many excellent posters, pamphlets and visual aids to publicize the needs of the four agencies. Last year, they prepared a beautiful filmstrip entitled "Sharing the Love of Jesus."

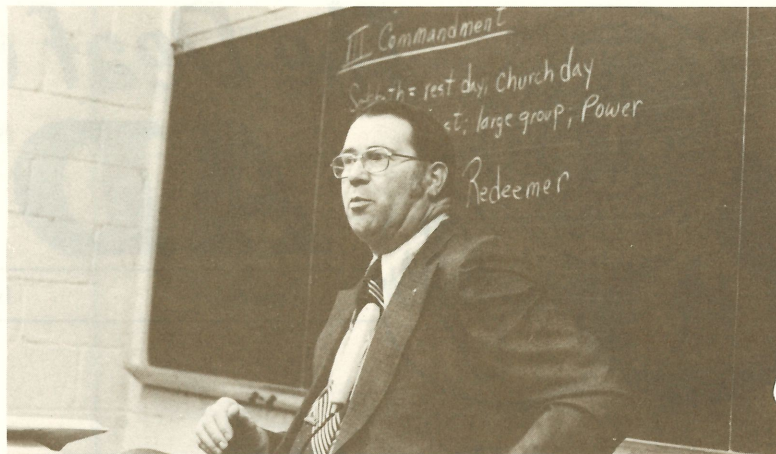
Recently they received a grant to prepare a stop-action motion picture this year. Their dedicated efforts have done an excellent job of informing Christians regarding the ministry that God is carrying on here at the Lutheran School for the Deaf. We are most grateful for all of their efforts. We are excited about the wonderful way that they have organized opportunities for people to understand and participate in our ministry as well as that of the other three agencies.

We pray God's richest blessings upon them.





A confirmation discussion with Dean, Linda, and Lisa



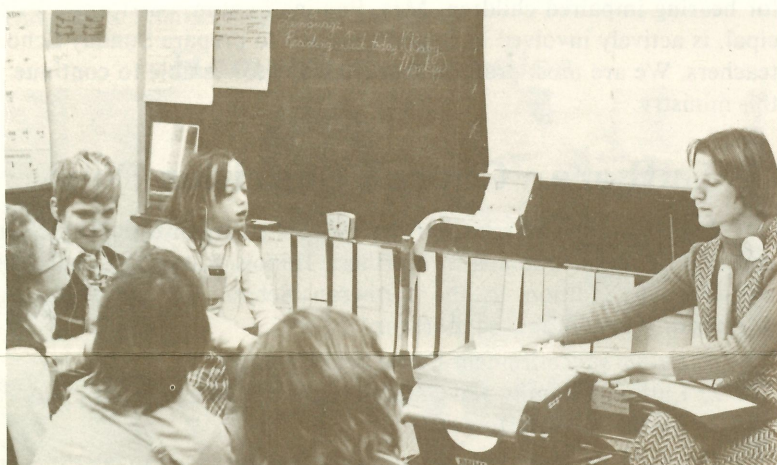
Pastor Clark Bailey — Confirmation II Class



Sandy Hirsch of Chicago, Illinois

The Good News of Jesus Christ is "heard" in a thousand various ways. It is heard in worship, whether that be in chapel or in church. It is heard in Bible Study. It is heard in quiet or in enthusiastic actions as people talk and share that Word.

Every morning, the children divide into three groups and have chapel in their various areas to praise God and to hear again the Word of Life which so wonderfully feeds our faith. On Fridays, they all meet together in one large group in the main church.



Mrs. Marilyn Edwards, Religion Class

Every day in each of the classes, the teachers have a period of time in which they discuss some religious concept or story. Mrs. Edwards, pictured on this page, was discussing one of the Commandments with the children and what it means to obey those who are in authority over us.

Mrs. VanManen, one of our houseparents, works each day with a different group of children, as the regular houseparent has a day off. Each day, Mrs. VanManen leads a different group of children in a little Bible study.



"Whom shall we obey?" A joyous response.



Mrs. Janice VanManen — Dormitory religion class

# The Many Faces of Faith

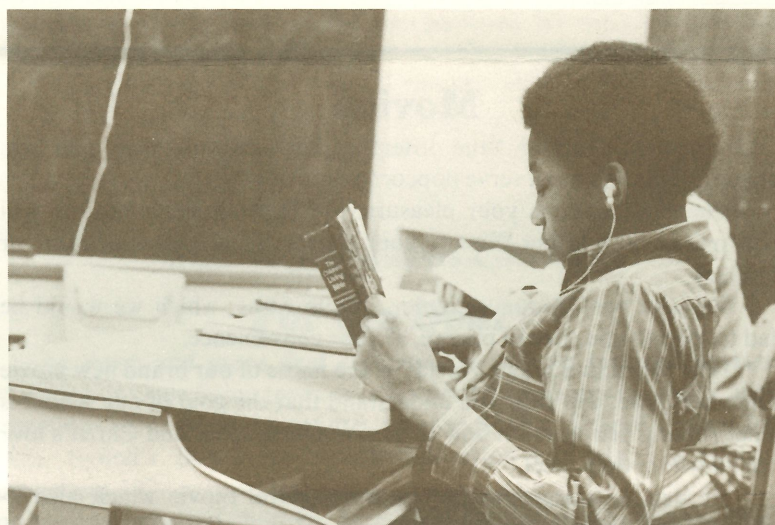
*"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing from the Word of God."*

All of the children, as they become older, also are involved in the Confirmation process. Our Principal, Mr. William Harlow, teaches the first Confirmation Class in which they study Bible History. Rev. Clark Bailey, of Our Savior's Lutheran Church of the Deaf, comes in two days a week and leads the older children through Catechism Doctrine Study. This coming spring, four young people, pictured here on this page, will be confirmed and next year the four young people will be involved in Confirmation III Class with Pastor Rynearson, as they study what it means to belong to the Church.

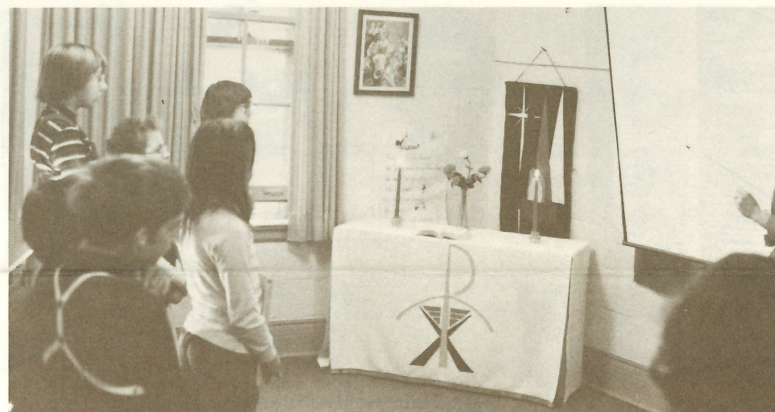
The faces of faith are manifold. They are the faces of a houseparent, explaining God's will to the children when they behave in ways which God does not desire. It involves sharing the comfort of God's Good News, of Jesus' Resurrection for our forgiveness. It involves Sunday worship and a Sunday School provided by the local deaf congregation. It involves all those attempts to encourage all of us to act as the Faith-full people of God.



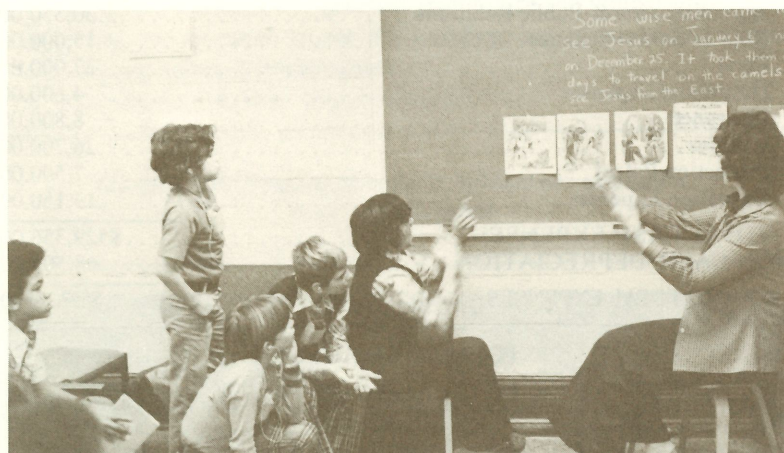
Principal William Harlow leads Confirmation I Class



Tony reads in the Bible



A prayer in chapel



Wisemen came from the East



Upper Primary division chapel

## ADVOCATE READERS

Return address postage will now cost us 25 cents a piece. Please help us. Inform us of any correction, deletion, or duplications. We need the following information.

Former  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Initial

New  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
No. and Street, Apt. Suite, P.O. or R.D. No. (In care of)

Post Office, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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*Mrs. Hale*  
*Flour*

SECOND CLASS  
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Detroit, Michigan 48234  
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Send all communications regarding the Editing, and ALL ADDRESS CHANGES  
to the above address

## Movies

Someone once said, "the difference between an educational film and a movie is you must serve popcorn at movies."

What you serve is your pleasure. We hope though that you will show one or both of our films to your church, school, organization, or auxiliary.

We have two 28-minute, color, 16mm films, which we would be glad to loan to you, free of charge, at your convenience.

"The Word in a Silent World" is the name of our brand new movie which, we hope, will help you understand that the goal of our school is to help young people learn how to communicate ideas and Christ's love with all whom they meet.

"A New Life for Jennifer" is a delightful movie which also illustrates the Christian ministry of our school.

## Homemade Goodies



Mrs. Jessie Hale making bread

Mrs. Jessie Hale has been the head cook for four and one half years. This delightful lady, in addition to cooking breakfast and dinner (our noon meal), also serves as the dietician and supervisor of the Kitchen Staff.

Out of Jessie's kitchen come, not only delightful smells but wonderful tasting dinner rolls, apple kuchen, potato pancakes, and many other delights. Her holiday dinners and her pumpkin pies are enjoyed by everybody.

As young children came wandering in with big bags of groceries and congregations and schools and friends sent us hundreds and thousands of pounds of groceries this year, we were also blessed with well over a ton of flour plus many other ingredients.

So Jessie has again risen to the challenge and she has become the chief baker, in addition to all her other jobs. Now for our soup and sandwich meals, we frequently have homemade bread and for breakfast, we are having homemade kuchen of many varieties.

Our thanks for the gifts of flour which are being turned by Jessie's skilled hands into tasty goodies.

## It Costs Too Much

Frequently we hear of a deaf child who is not attending our school because the parents feel it would cost too much to send their child here.

There are many different costs. There is the cost of separation from a family. There is the cost of transportation. There is the cost of accepting your share of the responsibility for educating your child. On the other hand, there may be a larger cost for your child if you don't. There is a terrible cost when a child receives an inadequate education. There is perhaps a disastrous cost if your child never really learns to know Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

The budget listed below shows that there is a tremendous cost to educating a deaf child. The small class size, the many visual aids and the special hearing equipment make this cost very necessary.

**No parent is required to pay the full cost of educating their child at the Lutheran School for the Deaf. In fact, all that we do ask is that they be responsible parents.**

Because of the great love of so many friends, we are able to continue this wonderful ministry. We rejoice that you have made it possible for some parents to entrust us with the Christian Education of their child.

<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations .....	\$302,700.00
Tuition .....	41,300.00
Board & Room — Employees .....	11,000.00
Festival .....	10,000.00
Interest & Dividends .....	7,500.00
Lunch Program & Miscellaneous .....	2,500.00
Donations in Value — Food .....	15,000.00
Legacies .....	150,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$540,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Salaries .....	380,556.00
Office Supplies .....	15,500.00
Administration & Public Relations .....	30,550.00
Repairs & Maintenance .....	15,000.00
Food .....	27,000.00
Household Expenses .....	4,600.00
Insurance .....	8,800.00
Utilities .....	26,700.00
Protection Patrol .....	7,500.00
Education Expenses .....	13,150.00
<b>TOTAL CASH EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$529,356.00</b>
<b>NON-CASH DEPRECIATION .....</b>	<b>68,505.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$597,861.00</b>

### FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Lutheran School for the Deaf, 6861 Nevada Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48234, a duly organized and incorporated, non-profit corporation, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and/or the following described real estate and/or stocks and bonds. The receipt of the Treasurer or Executive Director of said corporation shall be sufficient discharge to my executor for same.