

The Deaf Child's ADVOCATE

Volume 49

Issue 1

Lutheran School for the Deaf - Detroit, Michigan

February, 1979

"I Believe"



Confirmation 1975

Each Spring, by the grace of God, young people at the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit confess their faith in Jesus Christ through the rite of Confirmation. In 1979 there will be 5 young people again confessing their faith.

This past month the permanent records of the school were brought up to date on each of the children. So far over 1250 different individuals have attended the Lutheran School for the Deaf during its 106 year history. The official records contain many different items of information regarding each individual. The last one is entitled, "Reason for Leaving." The predominant reason written behind most of the children is the word "Confirmation."

The Lutheran School for the Deaf has, over the years, provided deaf individuals with the opportunity to receive a comprehensive, in depth study of the Christian faith and then, by the power of the Holy Spirit working through that study, to confess their faith to Jesus Christ.

We rejoice that the Federal law has encouraged local school districts to provide appropriate education for handicapped children at home. In addition to the occasionally nagging question, "Is the education appropriate?" there is another major question involved. Will the child receive an appropriate *Christian* education?

Congregations can and are beginning to provide religious education for profoundly deaf children. If you want more information on how to do this, drop us a card and we will be glad to send you some material.

But, another question should be raised. How many hearing children are confirmed only on the basis of Sunday School? Most congregations provide a one, two, or three year intensive study program leading up to the rite of Confirmation.

Communication difficulties make it very hard for a profoundly deaf child to understand such an abstract subject at a pace similar to hearing children. Appropriate Confirmation instruction suggests that a profoundly deaf child receive the same in depth study of the articles of our faith that a hearing child receives.

At the Lutheran School for the Deaf children involved in the Confirmation program receive 5¾ hours of religious instruction every week throughout the school year. The cost of separation from your child for 2 or 3 years is small in comparison to the value that your child will receive in a comprehensive religious foundation for the rest of his/her life.

As more and more of our children are prepared for mainstreaming, the average time they stay around the school is only 3 or 4 years. You might seriously consider the idea of sending them here for 3 or 4 years during the confirmation process so that they might, like their hearing peers, confess their faith to Jesus Christ with a more comprehensive background.

Candy Cane and Gingerbread

The children this year received two very exciting and delicious Christmas gifts. On the Sunday before Christmas vacation began, Mrs. Thomas Lapadat from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on the west side of the city brought over a very beautiful hand made gingerbread house.

She read to the children the story of Hansel and Gretel and then the residential deaf children were invited to enjoy the house. First they said, "No, it is too pretty," but then they began to pick the candy off of the roof and finally found out that the roof itself tasted good and greatly enjoyed the opportunity to eat the house. Mrs. Lapadat gave a magnificent Christmas gift, sharing her special talents and the children greatly enjoyed it.



Candy cane house

On Wednesday following New Year's, Dr. Wilbur Johnson sent over a beautiful candy cane house which he prepared himself. On Friday, January 5th, all of the children in the school saw a captioned film about Hansel and Gretel. They saw the slides of the beautiful gingerbread house prepared by Mrs. Lapadat and then after lunch they were invited to take apart and eat the candy cane house. Sixty excited children gathered around as they tried to find a way to take the house apart. In less than two minutes after it first started to come apart, it disappeared entirely as the children greatly enjoyed the candy. Our thanks to Dr. Johnson and the Lions Club, who brought it over, for their thoughtfulness. These two beautiful Christmas gifts were surely the highlight of our children's celebration.

Thanks

Thanks to all those churches and individuals who so wondrously shared their gifts of food with us on Pound Day. Gifts are still pouring in. We have received many more groceries this year than in the past. Since the Lord gave us a larger student body this year, we are also going through the food much faster than in the past.

Thanks to all those who have given to the annual appeal. We are beginning to catch up on sending out the thank you notes. Our special thanks to those of you who said that you were willing to let your cancelled check serve as your receipt and that we did not need to send you a special receipt. Thanks for that second gift of saving us time and money.



Christmas Program



Prophets foretell the birth of our Lord



Angels announce to the shepherds the birth of the Prince of Peace

Each year the children prepare a special program to profess their faith in Christ, their most precious Christmas gift.

This year again, the program was in the beautiful Knudsen Memorial Gloria Dei Chapel. Parents, friends of the school, and members of the Ladies Auxiliary came to watch this program.

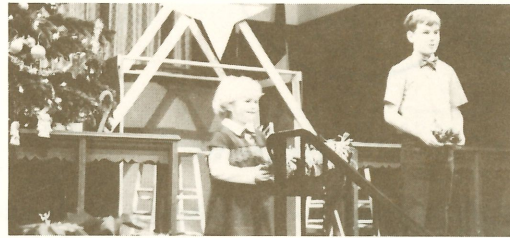
Older students narrated the beautiful timeless story of Christ's birth while younger students took part in the pageant to beautifully express that story.

The pageant was originally written in 1956 and has changed very little. This year an additional scene was added to contain God's first promise of His Son spoken to Adam and Eve in the Garden. Then came the promises spoken by God throughout the ages to His faithful people, to Isaiah, Micah, and Balaam.

To the crowded town of Bethlehem came Mary and Joseph seeking



Mary and Joseph take care of baby Jesus



Children present their gifts to Christ, the light of the world

a place to stay, and through the kindness of an innkeeper, they are directed to the rough and lowly stable. There the Lord becomes flesh. God's Son becomes our brother. Our Redeemer is born.

This joyous news is told by the angels to the shepherds who come to see what has happened. Wise men come from the East to bring their gifts and the children of the school continue that wise practice by bringing their gifts and placing them upon the Christmas tree in honor of our Savior.

The choir this year was made up mostly of older deaf children. Their carols were beautiful.

This program is the one time that the school really does demonstrate the growth of the children in their ability to speak, as well as their knowledge of the Christian faith. Our thanks to all of the teachers who worked so hard to help the children make this confession.



Memory Time

We ask our alumni to send us pictures of themselves and of the blessings that God has given them. At this particular time we don't have any new pictures to show. We thought we would show you two scenes from an earlier Christmas program and we hope those who are involved in the scenes enjoy seeing themselves one more time even though they were much younger then.



Legacies

During the latter part of 1978 legacies were received from: Louise Richardson, Henry Bock, Libbie C. Kryda, Walter W. Schantz, Oliver Weise, Laura Traue, Clara J. Kalies, Katherine E. Corner, Elizabeth Rainey, Mathilda Bucholz, Eleanor Rogers, Frieda Kuhn, Elsa Buch, Hedwig P. Launert, Miriam Gruner, Verda Bohlke, Honnas W. Siebert, Edith S. Backs, Ruth M. Gettel, Mathilda Zeigler, Olav Johan Larsen, and from the trusts of: Emma Stowe and Schmale Family.

We deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness of these people whose Christian stewardship continues to help our children after they have completed their service here on earth and are now living with their Lord in Heaven.

As you can see from the budget listed elsewhere, our current income from donations only covers about 65% of our actual cost needs.

Some legacies are given to us outright and they become part of that category called endowment income. Other legacies are given to us with the stipulation that we may use only the income from the gift, and that income is the other part of that endowment figure listed in the budget. We receive so many donations from so many wonderful people but those donations alone are not adequate to carry out the wonderful ministry here at the Lutheran School for the Deaf.

A Will is a very simple instrument for a lawyer to prepare. While many of us do not like to think about death, it is a very loving act to draw up a Will. The truth is you really have two choices. You can make a Will using the talents that God has given you to designate where the gifts He has given you will be used, or your second choice is to let the state decide what will happen to your things after you die. Every state has laws regarding the disposition of the property of those individuals who die without a personal Will.

Through your Will you can designate who will take care of your children should you die while they are still young. You can designate ways in which God's gifts to you can be used for the benefit of your family and loved ones. Through a Will you can also carry on Christian ministry long after you have joined the Heavenly Choir.

In the case of one Trust established by a Will, we recently received the 31st annual accounting and distribution. Thirty-one years after this individual was called to Heaven, she is still continuing to provide what that children here can go on "hearing" the good news of Jesus Christ and their Lord and Savior.

By all means write a Will. Use that Will to express your love to your family. Use that Will to serve your Lord. Consider including the Lutheran School for the Deaf as one of the recipients of your Will.

The Budget

Our attendance this year includes 35 deaf children and 33 children with specific learning disabilities. We thank God for the continued growth of the program for those children with learning disabilities.

Our budget changes this year come almost entirely from the government rules regarding minimum wage and from the increased costs necessary to operate residential facilities for children.

We thank God that through your generous love and support it is possible for us to continue to provide a quality Christian education for these special children of God.

Income from donations	\$399,374.00
Income from tuition	44,000.00
Board and room — employees	7,500.00
Festival	5,500.00
Interest and dividends	8,500.00
Lunch program and miscellaneous	3,500.00
Donations in value - food	16,500
Endowment income	200,000.00
Total	\$684,874.00
<i>Expenses</i>	
Salaries	\$482,074.00
Office supplies	25,200.00
Administration and public relations	56,700.00
Repairs and maintenance	18,500.00
Food	27,000.00
Household expenses	9,200.00
Insurance	10,500.00
Utilities	36,700.00
Protection patrol	7,500.00
Education expenses	11,500.00
Total cash expenses	684,874.00
Non-cash depreciation	+68,505.00
Grand total expenses	\$753,379.00

A Fire

On Sunday evening, September 17th, a fire mysteriously broke out in the linen storage room on the second floor of the boys' dormitory. That room, together with all the brand new sheets, hand-made quilts, and some of the children's clothes, was completely destroyed.



The remains of the linen storage room

The fire which left us stunned has proved in many ways to be a great blessing from God.

We have always had a fire alarm system in the building and as the rules require, we have regularly tested it when the children were in the classes during the school day. On that Sunday evening, five children were asleep across the hall from the linen room and 8 or 9 more were just getting ready to take their baths and go to bed.

Many people have asked, "how can the deaf hear a fire alarm?" No longer do we wonder what the answer to that is. The five children

that were asleep did hear the extremely loud fire alarm and were safely gathered outside of the building within moments. All the rest of the children also evacuated the building. We thank God for a very effective fire alarm and for the hard work of His guardian angels taking care of our children.

The second reason to thank God is for the thoughtfulness that went into the building of that dormitory by our fathers back in 1935. The fire was intensely hot and yet never once was it ever able to get out of that specific room. The building is very well built to contain and retard a fire and in this case it did an excellent job.

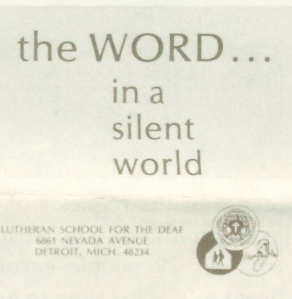
We have one reason to criticize ourselves. Like so many people we had delayed putting in smoke alarms. While the fire damaged only one room, the tremendous smoke and heat from that fire created damage to 20 other rooms in the building. Obviously we are no longer delaying, but have put up over 38 smoke detectors in the building because we now know of their great value.

Finally we must thank God for insurance. Often we are tempted to complain about high costs, but we now know that the cost is worthwhile. Immediately after the fire, the insurance company sent skilled craftsmen who have worked hard and have basically restored the building to the point where it is not even possible to know that a fire even existed.

While we are still short some clothes and blankets, almost everything has now been restored.

Thanks be to God who has so marvelously protected us through the thoughtfulness of so many of His people.

Films



The school has two 16 mm color films which are about 30 minutes long. These films are available for anyone to use to learn more about our school. There is no charge for the use of the films. We only ask that you pay for the return postage and insurance.

The film entitled, "A New Life for Jennifer" is now over 13 years old. It remains an excellent movie and is greatly enjoyed by little children as well as by adults.

The film, "The Word . . . In a Silent World" is about 4 years old. It is intended to be a thought provoker. It is much more usable with older children and adults.

Copies of both films continue to be used on a regular basis. If you would like to borrow a copy, write and we will be glad to lend it to you.



A New Life
for
Jennifer

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.

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.

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Sign Class



Mr. Elmer Francisco is the houseparent for the oldest boys. He was a printer most of his life. He has also been the president of his congregation on many occasions and recently completed a four year term as President of the International Lutheran Deaf Association.

Because of the requests of many people, Elmer has been teaching sign classes on his day off. He now has three different classes occurring for a total of 29 people enrolled. We rejoice that he is giving this magnificent gift of his time to help individuals better communicate with the deaf.

Our school continues to operate with its compromise in the continuing argument regarding how the deaf should communicate. Throughout the school day the children are taught to use their residual hearing. They are taught to lip read. They are taught to understand the English language. They basically are taught orally. As soon as the school day is over, the children, especially those in residence, are permitted to use total communication. That is, they can add both finger spelling and manual signs to their speech and lip reading.

While we have not made people on either side of the argument very happy, the truth is our children are learning a variety of ways to communicate and, in fact, tend to be very good examples of a method of total communication. Through our unique compromise, they are being given the skills so that they may make a choice as to how they would like to communicate with any individual with whom they want to communicate.

Our special thanks to Elmer and to his assistant, his wife Millie, for all of their help to make communication more enjoyable.

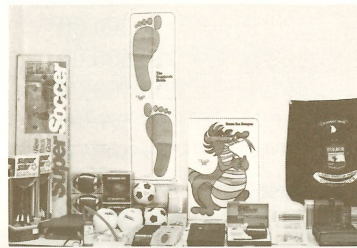
Dates

Please write the following dates on your calendar: Closing festival and graduation — June 10, 1979; Opening day of school — September 4, 1979; and Fall Harvest Festival — October 20, 1979.

DESIGNATED OFFERING FOLDER

Our new folder can be used for anniversaries, birthdays, and other joyous occasions. We will gladly send you free as many as you request.

Campbell Soup Labels



Some of the gifts from your offering

The school has again been collecting Campbell soup labels. These labels must be turned into Campbell's on February 25th. We would appreciate it, if you are saving some for us, that you would get them to us by February 15th so we may complete the final processing of them.

In answer to some of your questions, any Campbell's labels are acceptable this year, all of the soup labels, the juice labels, the bean labels as well as the Franco American labels. We only want the front part of the label. We don't want the back part where the recipe and the ingredients are carried. When we send the labels in they must be bundled in packages of 500 and tied only with string.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. These labels have made it possible for us to receive all of our physical education equipment and much of our visual equipment from Campbell's and not through our budget. Thank you for making this all happen.

Teachers Needed

Everybody tells us that there are far too many trained teachers and too few jobs available. That may be true, but frankly we don't believe it.

Now is the time for us to think ahead to September 1979 and the opening of the 107th school year. Obviously, we hope and pray that all of our current teachers will return to us next fall. However, if this year is any indication, we will probably need at least 1 trained teacher for deaf children and perhaps 2 or more trained teachers for the children with specific learning disabilities.

Often letters come from young people asking what they must do to prepare. Unfortunately our synodical teacher training colleges do not have programs specifically designed for teachers of the deaf, and only Valparaiso University has a program for teachers for learning disabled children. In general, that means that the young people must go to either a secular university or they must go to one of our colleges for 4 years and then go for an additional year for a Master's degree to get certification in one of the two specialties.

If you know anybody preparing in these two fields who might be looking for employment next fall, let us know by calling 313-368-1220 or by writing to Mr. William Harlow, Principal, Lutheran School for the Deaf, 6861 E. Nevada, Detroit, Michigan 48234.