

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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The Mill Neck Foundation Honors Rev. Dennis Konkel

The Board of Directors of the Mill Neck Foundation, Inc. has recently presented the John of Beverley Award to Reverend Dennis Ray Konkel in recognition of his lifelong commitment to service among God's people who are Deaf in this country and around the world. In honoring Rev. Konkel with the John of Beverley Medal, the Board acknowledged his contribution to the accomplishments which directly affect and positively improve the lives of those who live in a world of silence. The award was presented to Rev. Konkel at a dinner hosted by The Mill Neck Foundation which took place during the 2013 National Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (LCMS) Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. The national convention, held every 3 years, affords an opportunity for worship, fellowship and the exchange of vital information.

Rev. Konkel, born in Pontiac, Michigan, became Deaf at the age of 4. After graduating from high school, he attended Gallaudet University in Washington, where he studied to become a chemistry researcher. It was at this time that he also joined the Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf — LCMS.

Following his graduation from Gallaudet, Rev. Konkel worked as a chemist at the National Institute of Health in Maryland. He then held positions at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Washington, DC and FIDIA-Georgetown Institute for the Neurosciences at Georgetown University, working as a brain scientist and associate researcher, respectively. In 1997, Rev. Konkel began studying at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to become a Deaf Lutheran church pastor, or Missionary-at-Large. Upon completion of his academic studies, graduation and subsequent ordination, Rev. Konkel served as Missionary-at-Large and pastor for a number of Deaf church groups, eventually becoming the Executive Director of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society — LCMS.

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Currently, he works with project leaders for various Deaf activities and also serves as a board member for the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, which includes the Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry.

The award which Rev. Konkel received was named for John of Beverley, an English clergyman who lived at the close of the seventh century and has been recorded as the first to teach a Deaf person to speak. In commissioning the John of Beverley Medal, created in 1958 by renowned sculptor-artist Donald DeLue, the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf wished to call attention to individuals who serve the needs of those with hearing impairments and thus help broaden the understanding of the public, in general, to the need for better and more effective means of communication.

To date, twenty-eight persons and two organizations have received the award. Candidates for the Medal may be nominated by any individual, congregation, group or society within or beyond the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. Potential recipients may be of any race, color or religious creed and from any walk of life or profession.

Lutheran Friends of the Deaf provides support for educational and evangelistic outreach to Deaf people of all ages throughout the United States and world. To date, over \$7,000,000 has been granted to a variety of church-related ministries here and abroad. Mill Neck Foundation, Inc. and Lutheran Friends of the Deaf are part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, a not-for-profit group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are Deaf, or who have other special needs, through excellence in individually designed educational, vocational or spiritual programs and services. For more information, please call 1-800-264-0662 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

Photo Caption:

Rev. Dennis Ray Konkel



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