



# Deaf Institute of Theology

## Training Pastors & Deaconesses

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has opened its alternate route ministries program, the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, to Deaf students, providing them the opportunity to prepare for ordination as pastors and certification as deaconesses, thus enabling them serve in Deaf churches and bring the Good News of Jesus to more Deaf people. With LDMS technical, linguistic, and financial support, Deaf students have full access to the Seminary's course curriculum and instruction through American Sign Language. Because this is a distance education program, students remain at home and take classes online. Students do their internships and vicarages in their home congregation under the supervision of their pastor. When they graduate, they are called to serve their home congregation or another congregation nearby.

DIT is necessary because the Deaf are in the best position to reach the Deaf. They do not have the language and cultural barriers that their hearing counterparts have. For more than 100 years, Deaf ministry in the LCMS has been done mostly by hearing pastors. DIT allows the Deaf to take ownership of their congregations and carry out God's mission.

Our vision is to use DIT and its "Deaf friendly" education to radically increase the number of Deaf men and women serving the church. Will you join us in that goal?

### How you can help

- Pray for the students, mentors, and teachers in DIT.
- Identify prospective students from both Deaf and hearing congregations.
- Start new Deaf ministries. These can raise up new students.
- Donate to support the program and offset tuition costs.

## Contact Us

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