



LDMS

**Lutheran Deaf
Mission Society**

touch • teach • train

DeafLITES

Lutherans Inspiring, Teaching, Equipping, Serving

The LCMS has been active in congregational Deaf ministry since 1894. Much of that ministry has taken place in indigenous deaf congregations. Over the past 20 years, that model has been changing. With decreasing district support, deaf congregations can no longer afford their own pastor. In addition, more students attend local public schools with interpreters instead of residential deaf schools and are more used to daily life set within the hearing world.

One response to these changes is to begin more interpreted ministries in hearing congregations. DeafLITES is a three to five day intensive workshop that teaches hearing congregations how to conduct deaf ministry. Hearing members begin learning sign language, Deaf culture, and outreach methods. If the congregation already has deaf members, they learn how to work with the hearing congregation and how they can become leaders and take ownership of the ministry.

Our goal is to have DeafLITES workshops in every district of the LCMS and in every metropolitan area. The time has come for deaf ministry to multiply through the hearing congregations of Synod. Imagine God's people, hearing and deaf, working side by side to extend His kingdom! We can see it and invite you to partner with us to make it happen.

How you can help

- Pray for individuals and congregations to see the need and be moved to begin a new interpreted ministry.
- Find people in your own congregation who know sign language or are interested in learning and beginning a new ministry.
- If you have sign language or deaf ministry skills, help us lead a workshop in your area.
- Donate to support workshops in other areas.

Contact Us

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