

#01 Core Values:

LDMS Goal: The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) seeks (1) to help more Deaf Persons (and their families) see Jesus Christ as their Savior; and (2) to help more Deaf Persons serve Jesus Christ as their Lord. Through grace, Jesus' Father (God) saved you through faith. God has prepared a special work for each of His saved people to do (Ephesians 2:8, 10).

1. We **share Jesus:** "God our Savior ... desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4) and to "do the work of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5). God has given us a joyful responsibility. We tell people about His salvation.

2. We **trust** each other: Each one of us knows: "I am always 100% sinner; I am always 100% forgiven by God. We do not focus on mistakes. We focus on Christ and His people. "Behold I (Jesus) and the children God has given Me" (Hebrews 2:13b).

3. We **talk to** each other: Matthew 18:15-20 is our communication policy. We attempt to grow closer to others (v. 15) with Christ in our midst (v. 20).

4. We train Deaf Congregations to become **Indigenous** (belonging to the culture). LDMS seeks to help Deaf Congregations become:

1) **self-governing;**

2) **self-supporting** (this large challenge requires we ourselves serve God more; and

3) **self-sharing of God's Word by skilled teachers.** It is most important we rightly divide Law and Gospel in the Bible. All of us work hard to rightly divide Law and Gospel while we share God's Word. We want more Deaf persons to join with us in this sharing of God's Word in their home congregations.

5. We **disciple Jesus's believers:** Jesus chose disciples. Paul chose Timothy and Titus. Jesus said, "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). We deliberately enter a discipling relationship with one (or more) of Jesus' disciples. We learn together about the special service(s) we are doing for Jesus. Then when Jesus asks us to do something else, our disciple can carry forth the special service after us. We remember God's word: "He gave ... to equip the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12). We intentionally disciple, train, and equip congregational members to be more active and effective disciples of Jesus.

6. We **serve** by His **grace:** God does not owe us special blessings because we serve Him. We serve Him because of the faith the Holy Spirit makes and keeps in us. "It is required of servants that God finds them faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). This is possible. Alleluia! "For by grace God saved you through faith. You did not save yourself. Salvation is a gift of God, not because of our service. We can not boast. God works in us. He created us in Christ Jesus to do good works. God prepared us a long time ago to serve Him as we live." (Ephesians 2:8-10). We serve our Triune God to thank Him.