

LDMS Purpose Statement

The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) will (1) help Deaf Persons and their families **see** Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (evangelism and Christian education), and (2) help Deaf Persons **serve** Jesus Christ as His redeemed people (stewardship and leadership training).
(*By-laws 2.1*)

The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) will (a) raise funds to support its Mission Purpose and (b) help congregations and districts of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod promote the Mission Purposes in their respective ministries with Deaf Persons. (*By-laws 2.2*)

How will this happen?

- A. Services to LCMS Congregations, stations, etc.
 - 1. Keep each person's eye on the prize (Jesus).

Sharing Jesus is our primary endeavor.

- B. Projects:
 - 1. DeafLites.
 - 2. [Interpreters Support Group]
 - 3. DeafPah!
 - 4. Deaf Institute of Theology.
 - 5. Ephphatha Conference.
- C. Suggested nomenclature for Mission Staff:
 - 1. Missionary Pastor
(Priorities: Making disciples, Leadership development, Evangelism, Diakonia (Christian service--Matthew 25))
 - 2. DIT Pastor
 - 3. A Vicar—a male DIT student who has completed the first five DIT courses.
 - 4. Deacon—a person authorized by a District President (DP) to serve a vacant parish and administer the Lord's Supper. If he is not actively studying in DeafPah! or DIT, he must be re-certified by the DP each year.
 - 5. Pastoral Assistant: A person authorized by a congregation to lead worship in absence of a pastor. (If the Congregation authorizes him to consecrate the Lord's Supper—the District President must have approved in advance)
 - 6. Deaconesses: Bible women, catechists, and diakonia (Christian service) + koinonia (Fellowship) (Matthew 25.)
 - 7. Deaconess Intern—a DIT female student who has completed the first five DIT courses.

- B. Services to a District:
 - 1. All or some of the functions of a Branch.
 - 2. Share fund raising resources.
 - 3. Encourage and develop Public Relations resources.
 - 4. Planning and/or evaluation of the mission focus.

- C. Services to Synod (LCMS)
 - 1. Provide purpose focused leadership for Deaf Mission.
 - 2. Share and lead LDMS projects with LCMS Congregations.
 - 3. Assist Partner Churches to provide Deaf DIT training upon request.

- D. Services in partnership with ILDA
 - 1. Zacharias Fund NA: Provide scholarship funds for DIT students.
 - 2. Zacharias Fund World: Provide scholarship funds for DIT students in Ghana, India, and other countries.