



ENHANCEMENT OF DEAF MINISTRY AND OUTREACH

Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society \$47,000



There are an estimated 500,000 deaf users of American Sign Language (ASL) in the United States, 95% of whom are unchurched. There are 124 local or congregational deaf ministries in the LCMS; however, there is a severe shortage of Lutheran resources and interpreters. Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS) is dedicated to serving and supporting the deaf and hard of hearing community with the Gospel.

This grant will help provide interpreters and resources to spread the Gospel message to deaf people in the United States by allowing ELMS to expand its Church Interpreter Training Academy to several satellite locations, potentially training more than 100 new interpreters. It will also allow them to continue ASL translation work of the *Lutheran Service Book* settings 1, 2, 4, and Matins for the benefit of all those who are deaf.

**Mite Goal new
biennium to be
adopted at
convention**

**Received as of
July 31, 2024
\$2516.10**

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to toward our new
biennium**