



RSO of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

# EPHATHA LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY

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*Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society exists to bring the gifts  
of Christ to the Deaf community.*

*This year there are many new things that ELMS is doing to reach out to the  
Deaf community with these gifts.*

## Tutoring Program

ELMS will open a tutoring program for the Deaf community at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School in Dearborn, MI. Last year the Dearborn public school district had to close their program for Deaf students. Many of those student were forced to find a new town or to commute to places as far as Flint. ELMS seized this opportunity to create a new way to reach this community by providing tutoring. This program is set to start in February with 3-5 students receiving tutoring help.

## Deaconess Work in the Deaf Community

ELMS recently became an internship site for the Deaconess program at Concordia University in Chicago. Diana Rice began in January of 2017. She is Deaf and it is her hope to be a deaconess to the Deaf community. Diana, her husband and her 4 children moved to Michigan back in September. Currently she is teaching an ASL class to the hearing children of Emmanuel Lutheran school, attending outreach opportunities in Deaf community events, caring for Deaf shut-ins and helping with ELMS tutoring program.

## Partnership Churches and St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf

Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School has partnered with ELMS not only with the tutoring program, but they have also committed to teaching American Sign Language to all of their students as a second language. This is in preparation for the eventual opening of St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf.

In years past the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was able to serve the Deaf community with Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit. After this school closed, there was no longer a way to access the youth in the Deaf community. This is why ELMS committed to starting another Deaf Lutheran School in cooperation with a hearing Lutheran School. Emmanuel has generously offered a room and joint activities during the day when students sign up for St. Martin.

It is our hope that within the next two years ELMS will open the doors again to the Deaf community for a Lutheran Education.

*He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" Mark 7:34*

### Visit Us on the Web

[elms-deaf.org](http://elms-deaf.org)  
[smlid.org](http://smlid.org)

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## Holy Baptism

Mekdes Whittaker, a student at Michigan School for the Deaf in Flint was baptized on January 17, 2017. The baptism took place at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Flint.

Mekdes confessed her faith in Jesus Christ as savior from sin, death and power of the devil. She desired to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Mekdes is one of four students from the deaf school who receives weekly instruction of Luther's Small Catechism.

Pastor Brant Engel of Christ the King Lutheran Church of the Deaf and Pastor Tyler Walworth, the Missionary at Large to the Deaf from Michigan District teach the class. We thank and praise God that Mekdes through the Word and Sacrament is now a child of the Triune God.



*"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" Acts 2:38*

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