

Hands for the Harvest

CID Lutheran Deaf Mission
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Water Hands 3

A few weeks ago I was teaching a class about the woman at the well meeting Jesus. I asked the 3rd-5th grade students, what life-giving water does Jesus give? The students were quiet. I thought, this must have been too difficult a question. Then one student, deaf with autism, jumped from his seat and ran to the kitchen. I thought he misunderstood me and was bringing me a glass of water. He came back with a napkin. He hurriedly wrote three lines on the napkin,

Please pray for us:

- May 15-18, as we host the 2008 regional Deaf conference in Jacksonville.
- As the CID Board of Directors decide the future of the old parsonage.

"Kaleb down.
Bowl water.
Hands water 3."

Usually, his sketches and writings relate to superheroes or something of the like. But he insisted this was about Jesus. Then I understood. Kaleb was describing his Baptism. He bent over the

bowl of water while I used my hand to pour water three times. Both he and his sister were baptized on Easter Day 2007. What life-giving water! He didn't know the proper sign, but he probably made a better application than many Christians. Thanks be to God for the water of forgiveness, life, and salvation He gives us in Holy Baptism!

Beyond Chapel Talks

Since the Fall of 2001 I have enjoyed making presentations about deaf ministry in various settings: congregations, LWML rallies, an LLL convention, Bible classes, women's groups, mission festivals, and, of course, chapel talks for Lutheran schools.

Recently, I was invited to do something more. Karen Friedrich, a teacher at Our Savior Lutheran School in Springfield asked if I would spend some time with the 7th graders talking about deaf culture and the deaf experience. Through activities and discussion the students gained some understanding into a deaf child's experience in a mainstream (hearing) classroom. We all had a fun time and learned a lot.

If you would like a presentation relating to deaf ministry or deaf culture, or are interested in a mission festival speaker, please contact Pastor Tom Phillips, Central Illinois District's Missionary to the Deaf.

Spring Cleaning!

As the weather turns warmer your thoughts turn toward work outside and around your home or church. Can you find some time to volunteer at Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Jacksonville? We have long list of projects (indoors and out) for individuals or groups. This is true especially as we prepare to host the 2008 CRILDA conference in May. We will be planting flowers, tending the lawn, and doing general cleaning during the month of April. Come on out and join us!

If you or your group is interested in planning a servant trip this spring, or any other time, please contact us!

2008 Regional Deaf Lutherans

The Biennial Convention of the Central Region of the International Lutheran Deaf Association will meet in Jacksonville from May 15-18, 2008. We are excited to host this event, especially since it coincides with the 60th Anniversary year of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf. Please keep us in your prayers as a few volunteers are doing a lot of work.

It's that Time of Year!

Time to start gathering items for our Welcome Bag project. Every year we welcome the students at ISD to school and to our congregation by giving them a gift-bag filled with good things. Maybe your congregation, school, vacation Bible school, ladies group or Sunday school will team up to help us gather and assemble over two hundred welcome bags! For a full list of the items we give the ISD students send a request for our "Wish List". Thanks for helping!

Do You GoodSearch?

Here's one way you can support the Central Illinois District Deaf Ministry: GoodSearch (powered by the Yahoo search engine). Every time you search the internet you can earn one penny for our ministry. The donations cost you nothing. Contributions are made by GoodSearch sponsors. Many popular retailers also offer donations for online purchases. For more information, send Pastor Phillips an email or go to www.GoodSearch.com.

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