



JESUS

Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LC-MS)

Rev. Tom Phillips

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Press Release!

Deaf Church Building New Outreach Center!

Jacksonville – Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf has been a part of the Jacksonville community for over 60 years. The deaf congregation is really the continuation of the Lutheran Deaf Ministry in Jacksonville initiated back in 1904. In the face of Governor Quinn’s threat to balance the state budget by closing the Illinois School for the Deaf, the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod remains committed to serving the deaf in Jacksonville and throughout the region. The proof is in the mortar. On July 23, Buhl Masonry broke ground for the footings of Christ Deaf’s new outreach center.

Laborers for Christ, a group of Lutheran retirees, will head up the work force of contractors and volunteers. The Laborers, 5 workers and their spouses, live in their RVs or fifth-wheel campers and become involved in all aspects of the congregation’s life and ministry. Pastor Tom Phillips, missionary to the deaf in central Illinois, commented, “The Laborers mean a lot to us. We are a small congregation. LFC helps us accomplish things we could not do on our own. We are also looking to our sister congregations, Salem and Our Redeemer Lutheran Churches for a strong volunteer crew.” Project manager Dave “Griff” Griffin, and his wife Barb, are former ranchers & businessmen, “We’re here to do more than build a building, but to help the ministry to the congregation and the community.”

The new building will replace the old parsonage which suffered severe water damage during the sub-zero weather of January 2009. Plans include new restrooms, a meeting room, a new office/workroom. “We see a major part of our mission to train deaf leaders to lead deaf churches,” added Phillips. “We plan to do this through internet video conferencing. We have been blessed with many donors, including the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund and the Central Illinois District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.” The new facility will be ADA accessible.

“For many years we have brought the good news of God’s love through Jesus to the students of ISD and the deaf community. We especially enjoy our Wednesday Good News Club with the younger children and Saturday night high school youth group,” commented Phillips.

Come on over and watch the progress. The church is located at 104 Finley, across State Street from ISD. Sunday Bible study begins at 8:30am followed by the worship service at 10am. Those interested in more information about Christ Deaf or volunteering should contact the church office at 245-0180, or visit www.IllinoisDeafLutherans.com.

***God shows His love, how?
Christ died to save us!***

