

## Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Vancouver, BC

Mark 7:31-35

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man.

33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!").35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, or as we, the members and friends, often use the acronym, TLCD, is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. TLCD for almost ninety years has been and still is on a mission reaching out with Christ Jesus like-minded and loving-attitudes shaped by the Gospel or Good News about Jesus Christ to the Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing and Hearing people who are lost, broken and hopeless in the Greater Vancouver area and all over British Columbia.

TLCD has three church-mission locations, in Vancouver, Surrey and Aldergrove where TLCD members and friends meet for regular and special event services. Also, TLCD has a Deaf team ministry of two Deaf pastors and a Deaf Deaconess who are serving at TLCD. TLCD Deaf team is committed to TLCD on-going mission with reflecting Jesus' love and educating God's Word to all.



TLCD mission ministry is a very special, unique and complicated one because the Deaf communities are scattered all over British Columbia. Imagine one Deaf Lutheran church for all in all of British Columbia.

Being the only church for Deaf Ministry in the Province of British Columbia poses many big

challenges for outreaching the Deaf Communities unlike the Hearing communities that are more localized for outreaching the lost, broken and hopeless souls. But TLCD prayerfully braves on with God's guidance!

Also, TLCD mission ministry requires a very special language to communicate with hands, lips and bodies because the Deaf do not hear or if any at all, it is with very little hearing ability. Sounds cannot be amplified in order for the Deaf to hear. But our hands can amplify by using sign language with our hands, lips, and bodies. At TLCD, members and friends use the American Sign Language or using the acronym, ASL, to communicate Jesus' Ephphatha between God and the Deaf.



Nowadays, TLCD is more of a mission than a church with a building. TLCD meets at other churches and other places for services and Bible Studies and we thank God for those opportunities to continue with our faith life of learning, sharing, growing and living in Christ Jesus. TLCD is very thankful to the ABC District for its support to their ministry to the Deaf over the years. Without it TLCD wouldn't have had a special three Deaf workers team ministry and a viable Deaf Ministry of its own in British Columbia. It is with a sincere hearts and hands, TLCD signs thank you and we love you!