

# FORMING CONNECTIONS WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY

## BREAD OF LIFE DEAF (BOLD) LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 11, 2023 –  
MINNEAPOLIS SYNOD TOOLKIT

PRESENTED BY OFFICE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, JANIE BARLOW,  
AND BOLD DEACON DOROTHY SPARKS

# WORKSHOP PLAN

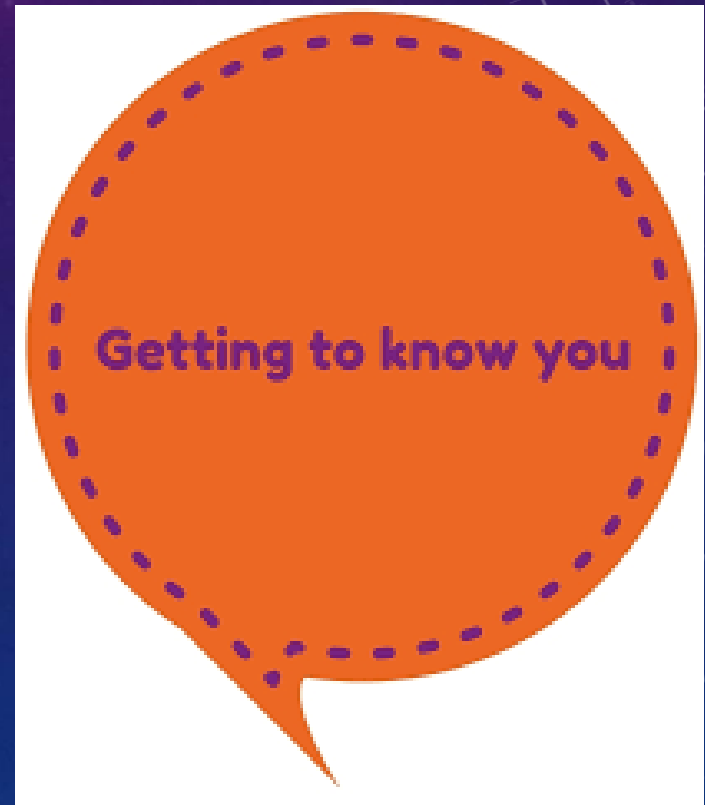
- Presenter Introductions
- Ice breaker questions
- Deaf Knowledge Quiz and answers/information
- Education:
  - Culture
  - Visuals
  - ASL Interpreter Requests
  - Ally of our community?
- Q&A / Closing



**Minneapolis Area Synod  
of the ELCA**

# ICEBREAKERS!

- Have you met a deaf person before?
- Do you know any sign language?
- Do you have deaf people/members in your community?
- What brought you here to our workshop today?



# DEAF KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

- Just for fun!
- Let's see how much you know 😊
- Five minutes
- Dorothy and Janie will teach you!



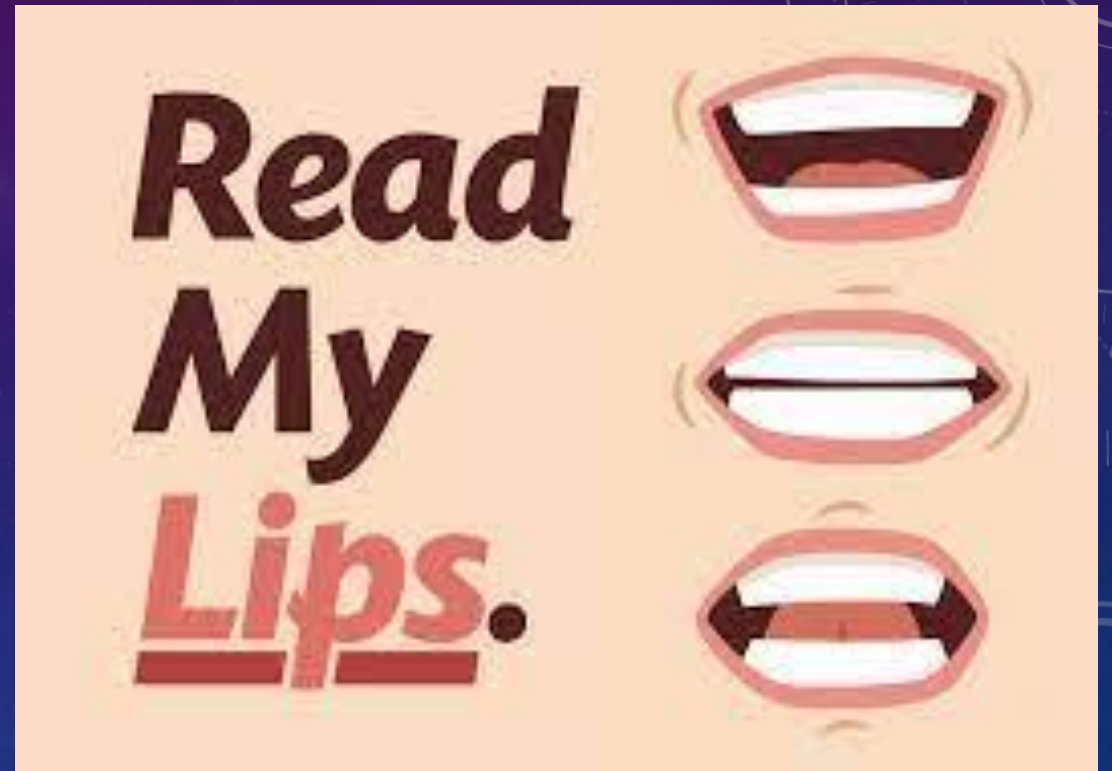
## QUESTION 1:

- What percentage of Deaf people are born to hearing parents?
- Answer: 90%



## QUESTION 2:

- On average, how much correct information can a Deaf person understand by reading lips?
- Answer: 30%





## QUESTION 4:

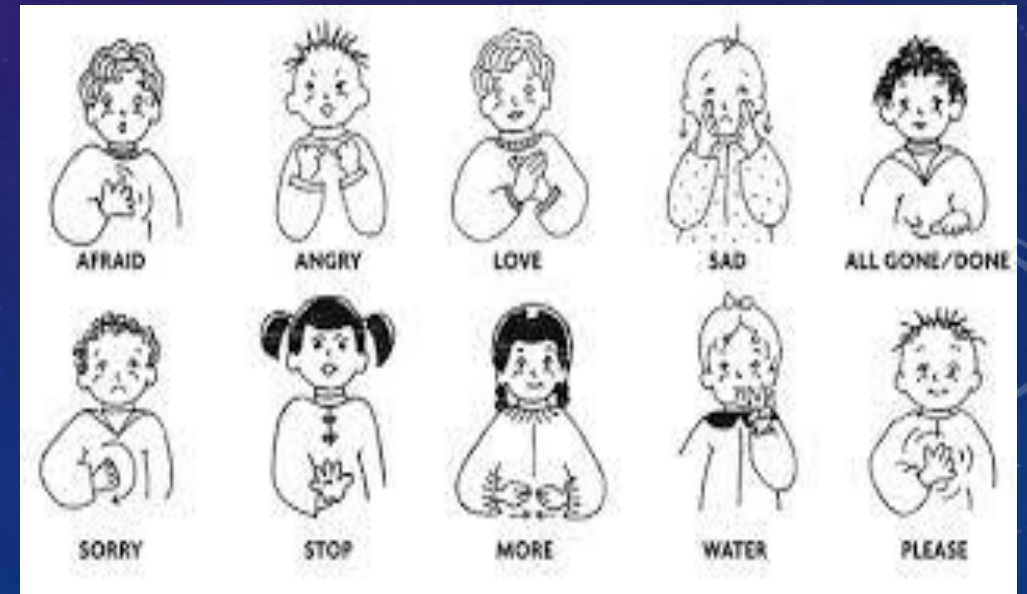
- True or False: English and American Sign Language (ASL) are the same.
- Answer: FALSE





# ENGLISH VERSUS AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

- ASL
  - Manual communication using the same linguistic properties as spoken languages, with grammar that differs from English.
  - Expressed by movements of the hands and face: 5 key components
    - hand shapes.
    - palm orientation.
    - hand movement.
    - hand location.
    - gestural features like facial expression and body posture.



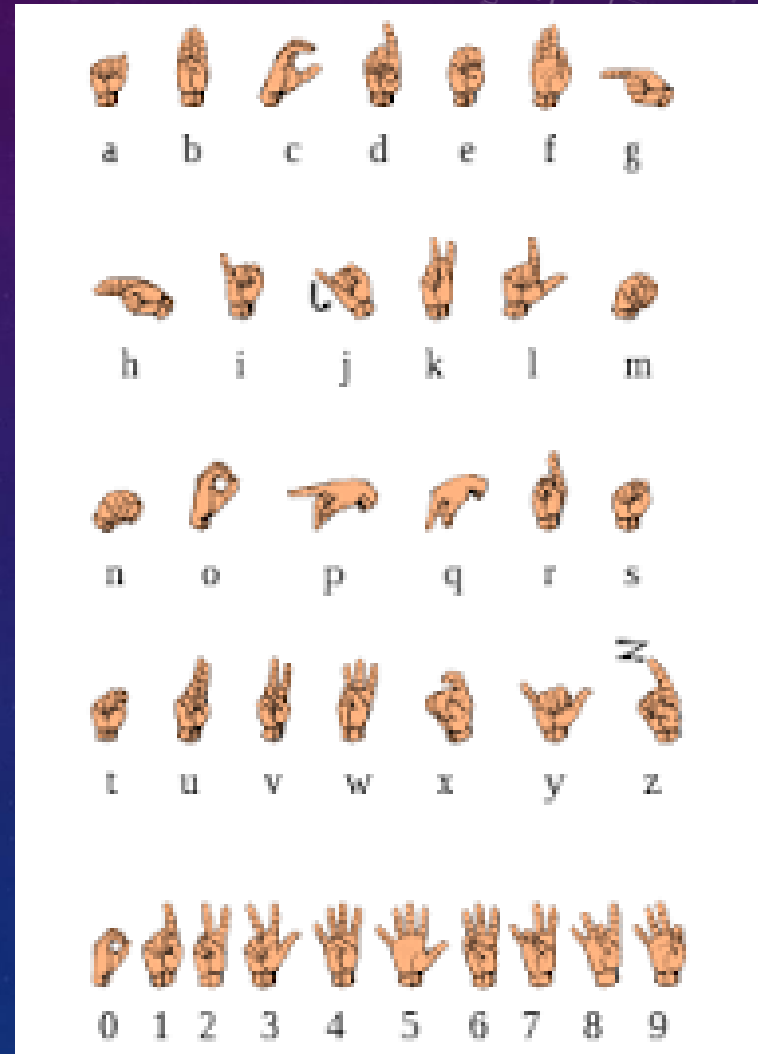
# ENGLISH VERSUS AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) SENTENCES

- I have carpet at home.
- I am going to the store.
- My nose is running.



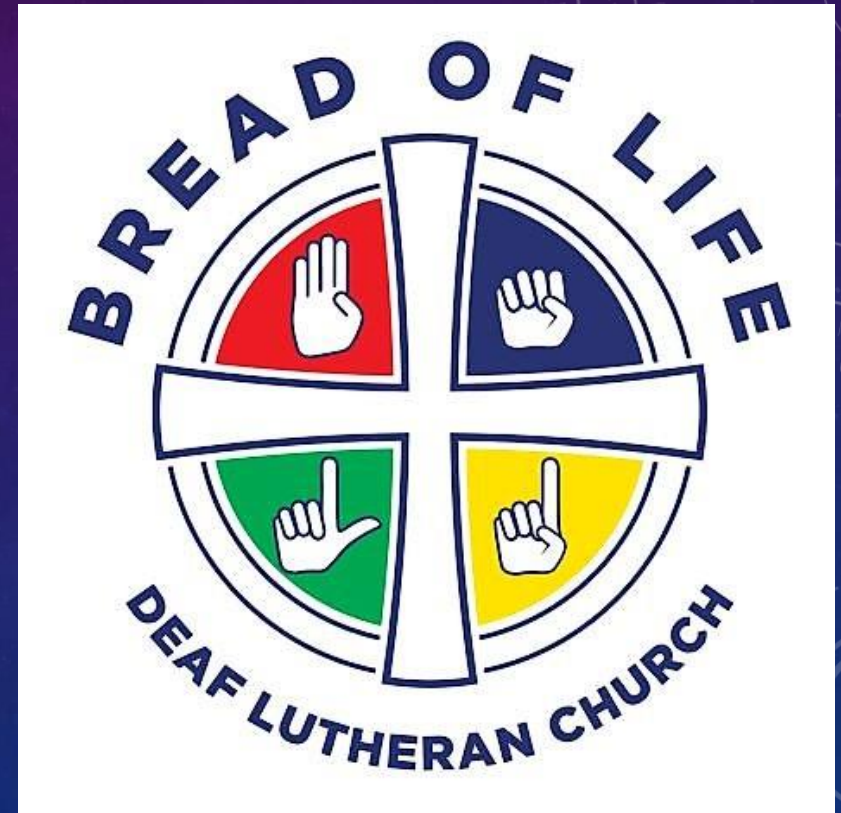
## QUESTION 5:

- True or False: ASL is the third most commonly studied non-English language in US higher education.
- Answer: TRUE



## QUESTION 6:

- True or False: BOLD is the oldest Deaf ministry in the ELCA.
- Answer: TRUE



## QUESTION 7:

- In developing countries, what percentage of deaf children get an education and are able to attend school?
- Answer: 10% to 20%



# “PATRICK SPEAKS” VIDEO

- A deaf 15 year old boy from Uganda who has no language.



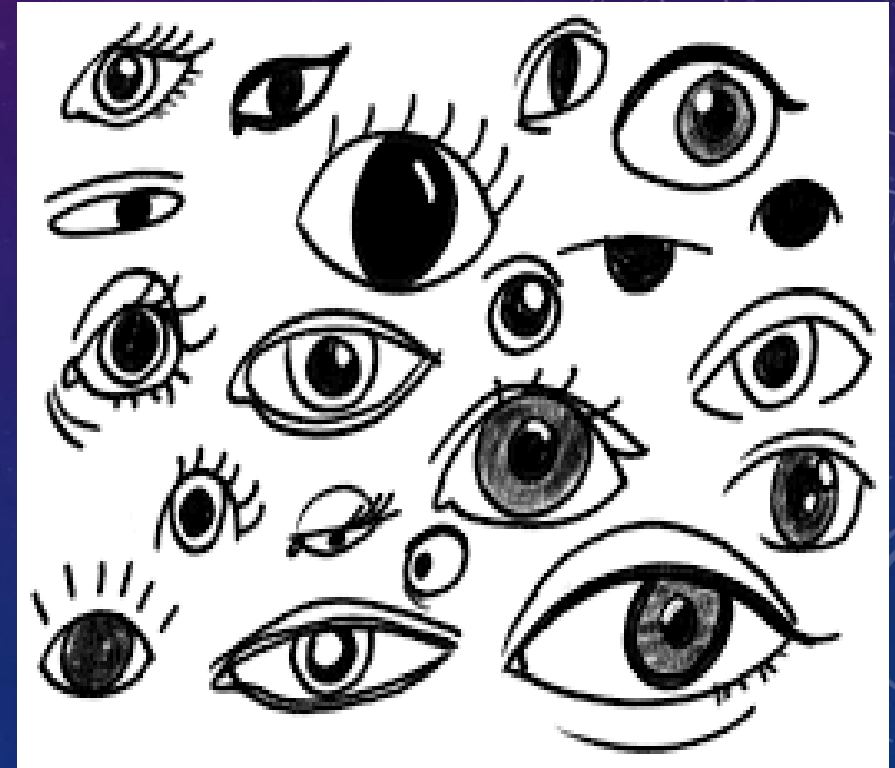
# DEAF CULTURE!

- Gatherings
- Getting attention
- Loud and Proud
- Inquisitive
- Visual dependent
- Different-abled, NOT disabled!



# VISUALS ARE SO IMPORTANT!

- Walking in front of signing person(s) – NO!
  - Hearing can look away and still get information by listening with ears
  - Deaf need to listen with their eyes; provide a CLEAR PATH to information
- Front row access – YES!
  - Interpreters stand close, on stage, by the speakers!  
Not nearby where the Deaf people are sitting.
- Dim/dark rooms – NO!





# ASL INTERPRETER REQUESTS

- ASLIS Interpreting Agency
  - BOLD's go-to agency
  - Others in the Twin Cities: (rates unknown)
    - Middle English Interpreting
    - Keystone Interpreting Services
    - Others that can be found via Google, usually the Maps section is best (skip the ads)
- Best practice in requesting ASL interpreters
  - At least two weeks in advance (the bigger the event, the more advanced request)
    - 48 business hours cancellation period
  - Provide prep to the agency and interpreters when you can!
  - 1 to 2 hours, one interpreter
  - 2 hours or more, a team of two interpreters
  - Deaf Blind need their own interpreters; request separately following the same criteria



# WANT TO BE OUR ALLY?

- Interpreters READY for any event; at your church, at another church, at any Synod, and any ELCA events!
  - ANY media being shown **MUST** have **PROPER** captioning added, and readily available!
    - PLEASE DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUTUBE OR AUTOMATED CAPTIONS; very unreliable!
    - If unable to have captions, **SHARE** the media with the interpreter(s) ahead of time!
- Appropriate contrast solid colored clothes to skin color
- Hearing Impaired; Hearing loss; Hearing difference
- Invite US! Opportunities for learning and sharing!
- Reciprocal relationships
- Learn ASL!



# QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU for coming to our workshop today and learning about us!

Please reach out to one or both of us! We will be happy to help you learn and grow in being an ally!

- BOLD Deacon Dorothy Sparks: [bolddeacon@gmail.com](mailto:bolddeacon@gmail.com)
- BOLD Communications Coordinator, Janie Barlow: [boldoffice1@gmail.com](mailto:boldoffice1@gmail.com)

