

2018-2020 LWML-NED Mission Grant Project Applications

1. AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for Church and School

(First Lutheran Church and School; Holyoke, MA)

\$1750

They are now required by law to have an AED on site. This will also be an important safety measure they have wanted to purchase for the protection of the aging members in their congregation.

This was not included as a budget line item as they've been searching out other ways of funding. Their budget is already bare bones in order to keep the school open.

2. The Bridge (Our Savior Lutheran; South Windsor, CT)

\$2500

The Bridge is modeled after the very successful Hands of Grace in New Hartford, CT. The main objective is to share the Good News of Jesus and inspire hope through Him. They help individuals and families currently experiencing financial difficulties by providing their immediate basic needs of food and clothing. Those clients seeking financial management counseling or job-seeking/interview skill training are also helped through this ministry.

This grant will be used to fund financial management and work life training for The Bridge volunteers and to provide computers, printers, and supplies to be available for clients to prepare their resumes.

3. Church Worker Scholarships LC-MS-NED (LWML-NED)

\$7000

\$3500 is available each year in the biennium to be awarded to Lutheran students in our district who are attending LCMS colleges and seminaries, preparing to become pastors, teachers, and other church workers.

4. Foster Love (Messiah Lutheran; Lynnfield, MA)

\$5000

This program will provide the necessities for the children going into a Foster Care situation when DCF (Department of Children and Families) places a child and the child has little or no clothing, personal care items, car seats, etc.--and the Foster family is stretched to provide these items.

Funding will allow Messiah Lutheran to start up the operation and to buy storage bins, shelving, sorting tables, diapers/pull-ups, and car seats for Foster families as they receive a child.

(Messiah has developed a strong relationship with their local DCF office, and the church has been approached by DCF to help in the recruitment/retaining of Foster families.)

5. Free Medical Check-ups and Eye Screening in Rural India (Lutheran Hour Ministries)

\$3000

About 85 percent of India's population live in villages without proper hygienic conditions, and only about 5 percent are Christian. Lutheran Hour Ministries is committed to spreading the Gospel of Jesus by helping the poor in India with free medical check-ups and eye screening.

The medical professionals at these screenings will provide treatment, distribute medicine, and teach participants about health conditions and prevention. The staff will also be connected to the Lutheran Hour Ministries and will encourage those who wish to learn more about faith in Christ.

6. Keep a Baby Warm and Safe (Central CT Lutherans for Life)

\$1575

Funds would be used to buy items for Keep a Baby Warm (blankets, coats, sweaters, etc.) as they leave the hospital and at home. These are given to parents of newborns whose families are struggling financially.

This grant will also purchase car seats and cribs for clients at 4 crisis pregnancy centers in central CT. These centers assist women in making life-affirming decisions to keep and parent their babies or make adoption plans.

These programs have no ongoing funding provided on a regular basis and rely totally on donations.

7. Little Blessings Daycare/Preschool: Architectural/Interior Design Services \$4400

(Trinity Lutheran; West Roxbury, MA)

Trinity Lutheran Church, very near Boston, has been affected over the years by having its traditional members move to the suburbs and immigrants, mostly Hispanic and Caribbean, taking their place. They have invited these others groups to use their building for worship, and they offer a bilingual Christian childcare and preschool to serve the entire community.

This is flourishing and they find themselves strapped for space, with no permanent classroom for the childcare center. Or space that can be used as an evangelistic center.

The church is looking for funds for a space utilization study, done by an architectural firm (they already have the bid).

Trinity is a small congregation and cannot fund this in their budget outright. They will conduct diligent fund raising to raise any additional money that a grant does not cover. (The actual construction of the space itself will be funded through applying for various loans through the NED.)

8. LCMS Missionary Expenses (LC-MS Mission Central) \$4000

Grant money will be used for:

- flights to and from the mission field where they serve
- transportation in country of service
- transportation while on furlough
- family use vehicle
- evacuation insurance
- health insurance
- retirement funding
- Concordia Health Plan
- housing expenses
- utilities
- computer
- office expenses
- education of missionary children
- language training in the field
- salary
- cost of orientation and training prior to leaving for the field

9. Open Arms Preschool Flooding Remediation (Lutheran Church of the Savior; Bedford, MA) \$5000

Lutheran Church of the Savior suffered from the effects of significant water intrusion and resulting mold to much of its building two years ago. This has been mostly addressed but the lower level of the church, which includes the preschool, is not fully repaired. It is clean and dry but needs drywall replacement.

Lack of permanent classrooms has led to a decline in enrollment. Funding will accelerate the return of the preschool and strengthen their ability to serve the children of Bedford with a Christian experience.

10. Reaching Visually Impaired Inmates with God's Love (Lutheran Braille Workers) \$3000

Weekly they receive letters from visually impaired inmates, requesting a Bible in large print. Unfortunately, most prisons will not allow the current Bible they produce due to the size and spiral bindings on the books. They have developed a new large print Bible with a taped binding, which will be prison acceptable, and this grant will help provide seed money to cover the costs of opening a work center to produce it.

The equipment start-up cost alone for this new project is approximately \$8000 (and this doesn't include paper, shipping boxes, and other essential materials).

11. Seminary Distance Education (LC-MS-NED) **\$5000**

The New England District is focused on starting new LCMS churches. Some of these new churches will need new pastors and deaconesses, who will receive Seminary Distance Education through St. Louis or Ft. Wayne seminaries. The District's budget does not cover this need. Therefore, the District is actively working to raise financial support for training new church workers.

Many of the new LCMS church plants will be bi-vocational, meaning the pastor or church worker will need to work another job (outside of the church). This grant will help reduce the financial burden for future church workers and their families. This grant will help start new ministries in New England.

12. Short-term Mission Scholarships (LWML-NED) **\$6000**

This will provide scholarships to members of LC-MS-NED congregations who are embarking on short-term mission trips.

**13. Support for Concordia Seminary's International Graduate School Students
(Concordia Seminary; St. Louis, MO) **\$3000****

The key purpose of Concordia Seminary's program of welcoming and forming highly qualified international graduate school students (currently 47, from 21 different countries) is to further the Great Commission. Back in their home countries, these students will become teachers and church leaders with considerable impact, spreading the Gospel message throughout many nations.

Neither these students themselves or their home churches have nearly enough resources to fund their studies. And the majority of these international students would not be able to come to the seminary without monetary support from Lutheran bodies within the U.S. (The estimated cost per student per year is \$41,800.)

14. Trinity Lutheran Preschool (Trinity Lutheran; Ashaway, RI) **\$1200**

The Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool is an outreach mission to the community of Ashaway, RI and its surrounding towns. The preschool has grown over the past few years so that it is now at full capacity (30 children).

Due to the overwhelming cost of operating a preschool, incoming funds only go so far in providing the major necessities—with almost nothing left over. Currently, they are in need of electronic devices and speakers that would enable them to share the vast on-line educational resources with the students.

Also, they would like to bring storytellers, musicians, petting animals, and other educational resources to the school. (RI regulations and liability insurance issues make it hard for them to take the children out to experience these things.)

15. White Canes (MOST Ministries) **\$1500**

For 27 years, MOST (Mission Opportunities Short Term) has been meeting the physical and spiritual needs of people around the globe with the purpose of sharing the Gospel of Christ. (And it is a Recognized Service Organization of the LC-MS.) MOST Ministries mission teams serve nearly 10,000 people each year with their eyeglass teams alone.

In the field, they provide white canes to those coming to their clinics whose vision cannot be sufficiently helped with eyeglasses. A white cane provides the user with a level of freedom and independence that cannot otherwise be achieved. This can be life changing, allowing people to attend school for the first time or travel outside of their homes.

\$1500 would allow MOST to provide white canes for 4 years.