

MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS SELECTED FOR THE 2025 LWML CONVENTION

#1 Support Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber, LCMS Missionaries to the Dominican Republic, North America \$10,000

Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber are serving the Lord as career missionaries through the LCMS in the Dominican Republic. Rev. Weber assists in the training of pastors, evangelists, and deaconesses at the Concordia del Raformador Seminary in the Dominican Republic. Besides teaching at the seminary, he serves as pastor at the mission station in Santiago. In Latin America, the Lutheran Church is growing so fast that pastors and deaconesses cannot be trained quickly enough to meet the need. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. The missionaries in the Dominican Republic continue to raise up laborers from all over Latin America to go back to their countries and communities to share the Gospel, plant new Lutheran congregations, and show mercy care to all. The seminary is currently training 47 pastoral candidates from 12 Latin American countries. This grant will support the work of Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber.

#2 Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel, The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Asia \$100,000

Six million unsaved Jewish people live in Israel, and they need to hear the saving words of the Gospel. The Apple of His Eye Mission Society is part of a consortium to plant Lutheran Churches in Israel in partnership with LCMS World Mission and others. A new Lutheran church will be planted in Tel Aviv under the leadership of Israeli Jewish believer, Sahar Sadlovsky. He is completing his theological studies through Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and has been serving with Jews for Jesus in Tel Aviv for the past five years and is well prepared to build this ministry. To strengthen this new Lutheran church, short-term mission teams of lay people and clergy will go to Tel Aviv and assist in reaching people with the Gospel. This grant will provide funds to develop training materials for volunteers and support their travel to spread the Gospel in Israel.

#3 Healing Your Heart — Faith-based Child Counseling, Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin, U.S. \$100,000

Protecting and nourishing the mental health and well-being of children is the mission of Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS). They protect a child's integrity, self-worth, spiritual well-being, and mental health through professional compassionate Christian counseling. The outpatient child therapy clinic was expanded in August 2023 and the number of children served by LCFS grew beyond capacity in six months. The clinic needs to expand its services again to meet the demands and needs of countless children in the greater Milwaukee community. As children get better and stronger, the lives of parents, siblings, and other family members often improve. LCFS also deploys trained therapists to respond to community crises and offer Christ's healing. This grant will increase the number of therapists working in the clinic from five to seven, purchase therapeutic toys, and develop promotional materials to present to LCMS churches and groups.

#4 The Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa — Sierra Leone and Liberia, Project: Pastoral Education West Africa, \$86,000

The project will send two LCMS Pastors to both Sierra Leone and Liberia to teach principles of doctrine and practice to Lutheran pastors in West Africa. LCMS pastors will make two trips per year (four for the biennium). The estimated cost for the team to travel and stay in West Africa is \$21,000. Students selected by their church body attend training for the Pastoral Ministry. In countries where witch doctors, Muslims, animism, prosperity preachers, and a mix of all of these is prevalent, to have the pure Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed and taught is vital. The project also hopes to purchase Kindles or electronic books since paper books do not last long in this climate. A web portal will be established to allow teaching and completion of assignments between sessions. This grant will cover the cost of travel, rental facilities for teaching, lodging, meals, and materials.

#5 Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print, Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S. \$100,000

Millions of people around the world are blind or visually impaired and are seeking to strengthen their Christian faith but find it difficult to access scripture-based reading materials. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is committed to providing Christian materials in braille and specialized large print worldwide at no cost. With a part of the grant funds, LBW will establish five new Ministry Production Centers in the United States. LBW will hold five related servant events at LWML conventions, Lutheran universities and schools, and district youth gatherings. Service opportunities provide young people with the chance to grow in their God-given gifts and share the Gospel. This grant will allow LBW to produce and freely distribute approximately 10,000 additional volumes of Bibles and other Christian materials. This grant will be used to purchase specialized paper, card stock, braille plates and equipment, and for training and shipping costs.

#6 Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses — Tanzania, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Africa \$100,000

Due to the tremendous growth, the South East of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania has been partnering with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) to train deaconesses to serve their expanding membership. Upon graduation, these women will be able to serve as instructors at the Bishop Emmanuel Makala Center in Negezi, Tanzania, thus allowing the formation of deaconesses in the future to be an indigenous process. The trained deaconesses will lead other women to better serve the needs within their communities. The needs include overcoming poverty, disease, disabilities, hunger, alcoholism, spousal and child abuse, and pagan influences that permeate the culture, resulting in the separation of children from their parents, creating orphans and outcasts in desperate need of the love of Christ. This grant will fund scholarships for two students to complete their master level deaconess studies through the distance education program of CTSFW.

#7 Proclaiming Christ in Honduras, Mision Evangelica Luterana Confesional en Honduras, Central America, \$25,000

Honduras is one of the poorest and most violent countries in Central America with cartels creating gang violence, high homicide rates, and corruption. In the midst of these difficult circumstances, the Lutheran mission in Honduras has been growing. The mission consists of three churches in different cities served by one full-time pastor. He is supported by a visiting pastor from Nicaragua and lay leaders who are being trained as deacons and deaconesses. The visiting pastor from Nicaragua faces transportation challenges as he travels from his home to Honduras. The young church is actively training lay leaders to assist and expand the ministry. They also need to make improvements to their church facilities. The church's mercy ministry includes food distribution during vacation Bible school. This grant will fund the growth of the ministry in Honduras by providing transportation, training, church repairs, and food distribution at outreach events.

#8 Increasing Access to Lutheran Counseling Services, Concordia Counseling: A Lutheran Outreach Ministry, Inc., Indiana, \$100,000

Concordia Counseling, a Lutheran Outreach Ministry based in Jackson County, has the goal of serving all people, churched and unchurched, with Christ-centered counseling that is biblically sound, clinically effective, and financially affordable. The need for Christ-centered and Gospel-oriented counseling care is evident in our homes, our families, and our communities. People need the sure hope that only Jesus Christ can offer. Concordia Counseling is dedicated to offering services at a discounted rate so that financial hardships do not prevent anyone from receiving the life-giving message of the Gospel. To increase their services to congregations throughout the Indiana District, they want to offer more retreats, training sessions, and expanded consultation services. An additional therapist is needed to offer care for those hurting. This grant will help Concordia Counseling offer affordable care, expand its program throughout the Indiana District, and meet some of the costs of onboarding a new therapist.

#9 Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons, Orphan Grain Train, Europe, \$100,000

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) has been involved in humanitarian aid to Ukraine since the war began. In the past year, seventeen shipments of donated food, clothing, and medical supplies were sent to various locations in the Ukraine. OGT is assisting twelve orphanages in the Kherson area and three orphanages in the Kyiv area. OGT is working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine and other Christian churches as it distributes the aid. The impact the donations have is both lifesaving and soul-saving. The donated supplies assist people who have lost all their worldly goods and help children whose parents have been killed in the war. Through acts of mercy shown by followers of Jesus, recipients see the love of God. This grant will cover the cost of shipping up to seven containers loaded with food, clothing, and medical supplies to the country of Ukraine.

#10 Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailers, LCMS Office of National Mission, Disaster Response Ministry, U.S. \$81,500

Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) serve thousands of individuals and families who are suffering from loss in the wake of disasters like hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fires, and tornadoes. When

deployed, LERT teams traditionally use congregations in the disaster areas as their base camps. The host congregations provide a place for the LERT teams to sleep, eat, rest, recover, and receive spiritual care during their time of service. Host congregations are incredible to work with as the teams help them rebuild their communities and share the life-changing message of the Gospel. One challenge for team members has been the lack of showers and laundry facilities at a host church. LERT members have showered at national gym chains, in members' homes, in personal campers, or even under cold garden hoses. This grant will fund half the cost of two combination bathroom/shower/laundry trailers to be used during disaster response work.

#11 Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers, A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc., Wisconsin \$75,000

A Place of Refuge (APOR) is a sanctity of life ministry that positively impacts the lives of unwed, homeless pregnant women and their preborn children. Both mom and baby are equally worthy of Jesus' love, as He commands their safety and protection, which motivates APOR to offer valuable services. Women can reside at the Refuge House for their entire pregnancy and up to a year following the birth of the child. APOR teaches life and parenting skills. The women attend worship at a local LCMS congregation every Sunday. The current staff is teaching the Catechism to the moms. The Holy Spirit has brought many moms and babies to the baptismal font. This grant will fund the purchase of a new van for transportation to church, Bible studies, doctors' appointments, and grocery shopping, plus a set of five parental skill books to be gifted to each new mom.

#12 Mission Opportunities for a New Generation, MOST Ministries, Global \$50,000 Mission

Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries has been sending mission teams around the world for 35 years to share the Gospel in word and deed through acts of service to people in need. Teams participate in eyeglass clinics, clean water programs, medical clinics, construction projects, teaching English as a second language, plus women's and children's ministries. MOST has sent over 560 teams with over 6,600 team members and has served in 52 countries. Mission Opportunities for a New Generation seeks to offer financial help to students (middle school, high school, post-secondary, and seminary) who join a MOST Ministries mission team. They will have the opportunity to personally share the Gospel in word and deed in a way that supports pastors and missionaries around the world. This grant will provide financial assistance to cover up to half the cost of a student's participation on a mission team.

#13 Renewing, Restoring, Refreshing People in Christ, Pioneer on the Lake Christian Camp and Retreat Center, New York \$100,000

Pioneer on the Lake's mission is "to serve others so each person experiences the reality of God's love, draws closer to Jesus, and leaves Pioneer refreshed by the Holy Spirit to live abundantly." The heart of their existence is to build up families and their children and to continue camp ministry from one generation to the next. The camp facility is located on the shores of Lake Erie. Their goal is to rebuild and revitalize the camp which has fallen into disrepair. Needed facility improvements include new metal roofing on half of the buildings, repair of structural support walls, and new windows. Equipment needs include automated external defibrillators (AEDs), waterfront recreational equipment, new signage, a ropes challenge course, archery equipment, VBS and spiritual programming supplies, printing revised

songbooks, and a walk-in freezer/refrigerator. This grant will be used to improve the facilities and provide equipment and supplies to expand Gospel-sharing programming.

#14 Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field, Lutheran Hour Ministries, U.S. \$100,000

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) sees the urgency to share the Gospel and grow the Kingdom of God by engaging people in the digital space. They have developed numerous digital resources that allow staff and volunteers to enter into conversations with individuals and provide biblically based answers for their lives. LHM's digital outreach platform, Thred, focuses on encouraging an open and honest conversation about life, faith, and Jesus with young adults. Gospel Adventures is a program designed for grade school and middle school youth where they experience meeting kids from another part of the world and can see God's work in action. High school students are being reached with a new resource to become effective witnesses for Jesus called Spiritual Conversations: Sharing Life, Faith, and Jesus with Friends. This grant will cover the cost of expanding mass media/proclamation activities and audience engagement, including social media, website, Bible courses, and training.

#15 Introducing Muslims to the Savior, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Global \$100,000

Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) supports the mission of the church — bringing Christ to the lost so that, through the Holy Spirit and the Word, they may believe in Christ their Savior. For over 30 years, LHF has been extending the ministry of God's Word by translating and publishing Lutheran books that help explain the Bible. They have translated and published more than 1,500 titles in over 150 languages, which have been distributed at no cost to churches, pastors, individuals, and missionaries. About a quarter of the world's population — over 1.9 billion — identify as Muslim. They are living in spiritual darkness and starving for the love of Jesus Christ. This grant will fund publication of over 20,000 Lutheran books, like the Small Catechism, A Child's Garden of Bible Stories, and devotions translated into the Arabic, Farsi, Bahasa Indonesian, and Kazakh languages that will be distributed in the United States and worldwide.

#16 Developing Capable Christian High School Leaders, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, South Dakota \$100,000

Sioux Falls Lutheran School (SFLS) is the only Lutheran school in South Dakota that serves infants through high school students. They are a community committed to developing capable Christian servant-leaders in a complex world — Word Ready, Faith Secure. Accomplishing this mission fits squarely within Martin Luther's goal for Christian education — youth who can capably serve both God and the world. They currently have 60 high school students and by the fall of 2026, the school is projected to be completely out of classroom space, because of its 40% growth. They have a high percentage of socioeconomically challenged unchurched student families who need tuition assistance. They would like to have the high school student body mirror the ethnic diversity of the two counties they serve. This grant, plus matching funds, will allow SFLS to provide tuition assistance to forty additional low-income, ethnically diverse high school students for this biennium.

#17 Sharing God's Love and Changing Lives of Families, Camp Restore Detroit, Michigan \$81,313

Camp Restore Detroit (CRD) is a ministry serving in the northeast corner of Detroit. Their goal is to partner with the community to restore neighborhoods and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They have established and seen growth in programs that focus on combating issues around poverty, homelessness, abuse, and broken families. There is also a focus on comprehensive youth mentoring and a training initiative. Overall, Camp Restore works to offer a safe, supportive environment where youth and young adults can transform their lives through mentoring, vocational training, life skills education, and spiritual care. Specifically, the next step is to create a comfortable dedicated space where youth can receive tutoring, participate in Bible studies, plus access essential resources like laundry facilities and showers. This grant will be used to renovate a building, cover construction costs, and purchase furniture for this next phase of outreach in the community.

#18 Building a Place of Care, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota \$60,000

Since 1952, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has touched the lives of more than 43,000 at-risk children and their families. They bring Christ-centered hope and healing to children who have experienced severe psychiatric, emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges due to abuse, neglect, violence, and other heartbreaking traumas. The Ranch is planning to build the Zurcher Cottage, a psychiatric residential treatment facility, replacing the current cottages. Within the Zurcher Cottage, they plan to create the Reflection Room, which will serve as a safe and calming environment to support the emotional, spiritual, and psychological well-being of the children. Not only will this room benefit the children, but it will also directly support the staff during stressful work shifts and allow them to be more effective caregivers to the children in their care. This grant will help fund the construction and furnishing of the Reflection Room on the Ranch's Minot campus.

#19 Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients, Phil's Friends, U.S. \$100,000

The core of Phil's Friends mission is based on Matthew 25:36, I was sick and you visited me. In the past 18 years, Phil's Friends has sent nearly 60,000 care packages and more than one million Cards of Hope. This ministry supports anyone with cancer regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or income level. It costs \$100 for one year to support a cancer patient. This total includes the care package, 12 Cards of Hope, and postage. The care packages are hand-decorated, and the contents are customized according to the age and gender of the recipient. They are filled with simple, practical comfort items that cancer patients can use during their treatments. Phil's Friends is 100% donor supported. This grant will purchase supplies for care packages and Cards of Hope and will pay for shipping and postage to support 1,000 cancer patients for one year.

#20 Getting Kids to Camp: Physically and Financially, Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado \$54,200

The mission of Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) is to share God's grace and glory through His creation, using outdoor ministry. Camp is more than just a week away from home — it is an opportunity for youth to engage with God's Word, build lasting relationships, experience personal growth, and change lives. The hope of LVR is to ensure that no child is denied access to camp because of financial or transportation barriers. In the past three years, LVR has received 102 scholarship applications, showing this need will

continue into future years. This grant will provide 36 full and many other partial scholarships over the next two years. The funds will also cover the cost of two 14-passenger buses, which will enable campers to be picked up and dropped off from centralized locations in Denver and Colorado Springs, ensuring that no child misses out on this scripture-based camp experience.

#21 Shining a Bright Gospel Light, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Mobile, Alabama \$78,675

Trinity Lutheran Church and School has been a beacon of light with the Gospel for impoverished urban neighborhoods of Mobile, Alabama, for over 70 years. The church was founded by African American Lutherans who grew up in rural Alabama. The school serves 150 students, from six weeks of age through fifth grade, many from single-parent, low-income families. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School's mission is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The four original classrooms are in dire need of renovation to provide students with a positive learning experience. Many of the windows are duct-taped in place, the linoleum floor is cracked, the ceilings need to be lowered, and the lighting needs improvement. The fifty-year old desks need to be replaced with chairs and tables for a more versatile learning environment. This grant will fund improvements to the four original elementary classrooms in the 60-year-old elementary school.

#22 Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Arizona, U.S. \$100,000

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is an LCMS Recognized Service Organization (RSO) that provides week-long counseling retreats to help hundreds of church workers struggling with burnout, stress, depression, compassion fatigue, conflicts, grief, and other challenges of everyday life and ministry. Recent data from The Barna Research Group shows that 41% of pastors say they have considered quitting ministry. Many pastors share that they would not be in ministry today if not for the help they received at counseling retreats. Not only does this organization help keep church workers from leaving ministry, but it also helps those church workers become healthier role models for those considering church work vocations. The cost for a married couple to attend the retreat is \$6,000 and for an individual, it is \$5,000. This grant will fund partial scholarships for up to 100 pastors, ministry workers, and spouses to attend retreat weeks at Shepherd's Canyon.

#23 Teaching Christ to the Physically Handicapped, Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, Louisiana \$12,000

Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans is the only Lutheran high school in the LCMS Southern District. Its mission field is a city that has a very diverse population with many disadvantaged people. Its mission is to provide quality body, mind, and spirit education to its students and to equip them to make disciples for Christ. Extensive repairs were made to the building after Hurricane Ida's devastation to the school in 2021. Some renovations were made with the physically handicapped students in mind, and the one handicapped student is greatly benefitting from the Gospel focus of the school. The school's goal is to seek out and enroll more handicapped students and make improvements to make the school more

accessible. This grant will fund the purchase of five handicapped-accessible wheelchair desks, two lunchroom tables, two automatic door openers, handrails, and a walkway from the school to the church.

#24 Speaking Truth Around the Table, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, U.S. \$75,000

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty Two-Kingdom Round Tables will gather leaders from the church and the state in an informal setting for presentations, discussions, and questions about issues and threats to religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage as an institution, and educational freedom. Today's culture is increasingly hostile to the teachings of the Bible. The result of these discussions is to produce talking points and recommendations to be brought to the called workers and laypeople of the LCMS. These talking points can then be used to discuss the sensitive issues that often divide parents from children, neighbor from neighbor, church member from church member, or student from professor. Using these talking points will help when having these difficult conversations with family and friends who have left the church. This grant will fund six round table events in Washington, D.C., and the administrative costs to support these events.

#25 Reaching God's Children in Haiti, Trinity HOPE, Haiti \$61,782

Trinity HOPE began working with Lutheran schools in Haiti in 1999. Originally feeding 42 children in one school, the ministry now feeds 65,000 children, teachers, and cooks in over 265 Christian schools across the country. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere where more than 4.7 million people suffer from acute hunger. The children are innocent victims of gang violence, inflation, cultural insecurity, lack of jobs for parents, and the worship of Satan through the Voodoo religion. Eleven of the 36 feeding program directors are Lutheran pastors who visit their schools twice a month to teach lessons from God's Word. Before each meal a prayer is said, and children profess their faith in Jesus. The children receive the light, love, and warmth of knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior with each meal served. This grant will fund 160,472 meals served to children and teachers over two years.

#26 Pastoral Wellness: Pastor Family Week, Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina \$15,000

Camp Linn Haven is situated on fifty-two acres of pristine Blue Ridge Mountain property in western North Carolina. The primary purpose of the Pastor Family Week is to provide a Sabbath rest and renewal to active rostered pastor families. It is well documented that pastors suffer from stress and burnout and that little encouragement is given to pastors' wives and their families. During the Monday through Friday wellness camp, each family stays together in a cabin, enjoys worship twice daily, shares three meals a day provided family-style in the dining room, and has fun participating in camp recreational activities. Fellowship is fostered between the pastors' families as the body of Christ comes together and shares in each other's joys and sufferings. This grant will provide funds for a week of mental, physical, and emotional respite at no cost for families of active LCMS rostered pastors.

#27 Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA, Concordia Publishing House — Concordia Gospel Outreach, U.S. \$125,000

Concordia Publishing House, through the Concordia Gospel Outreach program, wants to share the Good News of Jesus with thousands of immigrant and refugee children in the United States. The USA is home to

nearly one-fifth of the world's international immigrants, many of whom face challenges in accessing materials in their native languages. This project will equip LCMS entities serving immigrant and refugee populations with Arch Books, free of charge, in the heart language of the children and their families. It is estimated that up to 125,000 children and their families will be reached by the translated books. Five Bible stories will be translated and made available in Spanish, Chinese, Telugu, Arabic, and Farsi. This grant will fund the creation and distribution of these Arch Books — The Story of Creation, Noah's 2 x 2 Adventure, Baby Jesus is Born, The Week that Led to Easter, and Jesus Blesses the Children.

#28 Redeeming Life New Moms and Babies Transition Home, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Illinois \$100,000

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries is a pro-life ministry that cares for single pregnant women who are in crisis because of an unexpected pregnancy and who lack the support of a spouse or family. The ministry cares for women whether they choose to place their baby for adoption or to keep and parent their child. The Redeeming Life Maternity Home in East Dundee, Illinois, opened in 2024 and has several women in residence. These women hear the life-giving Gospel message as they receive care that focuses on faith, family, and education. Now there is a need for a transition home where women who graduate from the maternity home may receive ongoing support and critical services to ensure stability and future independence for themselves and their babies. The grant will fund the property surveys, architectural designs, required permits, and the start of construction for the new transition home.

#29 Transforming Lives in India through God's Word, India Bible Study Translation Project, Asia \$100,000

The India Bible Study Translation Project is committed to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ across India and to other people speaking Indian languages throughout the world. Translating The Lutheran Study Bible's notes and commentary into all fifteen major languages of India will equip Indian pastors and believers to share the Gospel with their relatives and neighbors, both Christian and non-Christian, in their heart language. There are very few study Bibles in the Indian languages, and none have notes and commentary published from the doctrinally sound Lutheran perspective. The focus of this translation project will be on the languages of Hindi and Malayalam. Next to English, Hindi has the broadest language distribution in India, and it is the fourth most spoken language in the world. This grant will fund the translation, production, and distribution of The Lutheran Study Bible's notes and commentary into Hindi and Malayalam.

#30 Sharing Faith and Food with Single Mothers, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas \$38,800

Risen Savior Lutheran Church operates a food pantry at Inwood Crossings Apartments, a low-income housing complex, just down the street from the church. The pantry supports 30–35 families, many of whom are led by single mothers and live below the poverty line. This makes it very difficult to afford the purchase of the essentials of life — food, clothing, and rent. The funding would expand this ministry by providing consistent food support, hygiene products, and self-care items. Church members, who staff the food pantry, also offer prayers, distribute faith development resources, and invite residents of the

apartments to join their church community for worship and other activities. This personal engagement provides compassionate, Christ-like caregiving in times of distress, celebrates successes, and fosters a sense of community. This grant will fund the purchase of food, hygiene supplies, and ministry resources for the food pantry at Inwood Crossings Apartments.

#31 Life Ministry Training Development and Automation, Lutherans For Life, U.S. \$50,000

Lutherans For Life (LFL) upholds the value of all human life affirmed by the resurrected Christ. LFL equips local ministry groups to assist pastors in educating and sharing information through resources and programs covering euthanasia, biotechnology, sexuality, marriage and family, mental health, and much more. Today, LFL serves 250 various Life Groups in churches and on campuses across the country. They are not focused on changing laws but changing hearts, which only God can accomplish through His Gospel. Updating and automating existing courses and developing new automated training programs will bring trainers to learners online through video and interactive tools. Training is essential for LFL volunteers to be equipped with the Gospel-motivated focus, equipping them with the knowledge and encouragement needed to provide a joy-filled approach to life ministry. This grant will fund technology development and systems, curriculum development, project management and marketing, and associated software to expand the ministry.

#32 Equipping All God's Children in a Lutheran School, Child of God Lutheran School, St. Peters, Missouri \$80,000

The mission of Child of God Lutheran School (COGLS) in St. Peters, Missouri, is to provide Christ-centered education for the community. Child of God has welcomed students who have been turned away from other Christian schools due to their learning needs. As such, 25–35% of the school's population receives special education services. The state norm and the public school district both have a special education population of 15%. A full-time special education teacher is needed to continue to offer quality education for children of families who desire a Christian education for their diverse learners. In addressing these needs, COGLS treats each student as unique and valuable in God's eyes and provides the necessary educational support in a nurturing Christian environment regardless of students' challenges or abilities. This grant will provide funds to hire a full-time special education teacher to offer Christian education for children with diverse learning needs.

#33 Portable Laundry Trailer, Forged by Fire Services, U.S. \$100,700

When disasters strike, Forged by Fire Services, a disaster response organization of the LCMS Southern District, is deployed to the Gulf Coast Region and beyond. Sharing the hope in Christ, they provide human care to the victims, volunteers, and first responders affected by natural and man-made disasters. After a disaster, one of the needs of the people and volunteers are clean clothes, but there may be no facility for laundry service available. Forged by Fire Services would like to provide laundry service by obtaining a professionally built eight-station laundry trailer with all the supporting equipment. The laundry trailer would be set up in the parking lot of an LCMS church. When offering the service, the LERT trained volunteers have an opportunity to talk to the people about the grace, mercy, and love of Jesus Christ. This grant will provide funds for the purchase of the portable laundry trailer.

#34 Mercy Triumphs: LCMS Prison Ministry, LCMS Office of National Mission, U.S. \$84,500

LCMS Prison Ministry sees a tremendous opportunity for Lutherans to share the Gospel with prisoners and their loved ones. Incarceration affects not only the prisoners, but their families and friends as well. In this sinful and hurting world, both prisoners and their families need to hear the message of hope and the healing words of the Gospel. Several LCMS districts have prison ministry coordinators who help those who are incarcerated to find reconciliation and redemption through the Gospel, and who mentor and provide support for those who come to faith. The Office of National Mission wants to expand prison ministry into more districts, encouraging them to provide and share the Gospel of Christ by reaching out with spiritual care for prisoners and their families. This grant will be used to offer training programs and develop Lutheran resources to aid pastors, church workers, lay people, and congregations in prison ministry.

#35 A Model Lutheran School for Sierra Leone — Lutheran Church of Sierra Leone, LeadaChild, Africa \$79,000

LeadaChild has been working over the past several years with Martin Luther School in Bo, Sierra Leone, and with the church leadership to develop a well-designed program and learning environment. They have achieved a quality education program that provides a Gospel-rich learning environment which impacts the community and the connected church body. The Covid years slowed down the project, but they still have been able to provide ongoing training for teachers and leaders and have assisted in the improvements of the K–6 school building. An educational model is needed where teachers and leaders from the region can come for training to provide an effective Lutheran education. This grant will assist LeadaChild to complete the project of a church/auditorium/classroom building to serve as a model where teachers and leaders will receive training to share the Gospel by teaching God’s Word and doctrine to the children during the school day.

#36 Reaching Out with God’s Love in a Safe Place, Forward, a Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska \$100,000

Forward is an outreach program of Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation located in the heart of Lincoln, Nebraska, which is home to a large refugee and immigrant population. Forward operates out of Trinity House, a 100-year-old house, providing a monthly supplement of diapers and pull-ups for families of children up to age five. In 2022, Forward Plus was added to provide donations of clothing, nonperishable food, and household items to Forward families. While families receive their supplies they also learn about the story of Christ and His love for all His children. The Director of Christian Outreach at Trinity Lutheran oversees the program and coordinates the volunteers who reach out in Christian love. This grant will help provide funds for necessary building and safety updates to Trinity House and to purchase Bibles and biblical story books for sharing the Gospel to Forward families and to open doors for more ministry opportunities.

#37 Caring for Those of the House of Faith, LCMS Office of National Mission, Specialized Spiritual Care Ministry, U.S. \$75,000

The church today faces the evils of suicide, sins members commit against each other of both criminal and moral demise, and other unexpected suffering and death. Traumatic events are by nature unpredictable, and unforeseen as to when, where, or the scope of what the trauma will be. Church workers may not be equipped to respond to these traumatic situations within the church, and there is a great need for church laypeople and workers to be cared for after these events. A dedicated LCMS Trauma Response Team is the answer to providing spiritual care to church workers and congregations suffering the fallout of traumatic sins committed amid LCMS congregations. This grant will develop a faithful, strategic Lutheran training curriculum across the Synod for interested applicants to become certified LCMS Trauma Response team members and deploy those members to congregations in need.

#38 Building the Faith in Guatemala, Resurreccion Lutheran Church Educational Community, Central America \$70,000

The Lutheran school associated with Resurreccion Lutheran Church of Guatemala has 285 students. Their current chapel is not complete and does not have the space to accommodate all the students. Chapel is offered every week to children and youth, but parents are not able to participate due to space limitations, causing parents not to grow in their faith. The chapel construction was started but then was delayed due to Covid. The chapel needs to be completed for children and teachers to have adequate space to grow in their faith. The Gospel will be spread through the development of Christian education programs carried out within the chapel facilities. These programs include weekly worship for the students, Christian musical concerts, presentations of Christian dramas, and presentations of choirs with the participation of parents, teachers, and administrative staff. This grant will fund the construction of the chapel for the school.

#39 Christian Counseling Services, Lutheran Counseling Center, New York and New Jersey \$30,000

The Lutheran Counseling Center (LCC) of New York is a unique healing ministry of the church as it partners with LCMS Atlantic District pastors and churches, offering hope to those in need of care. Their mission is making faith-based individual and family psychotherapy available for people in need of healing. LCC spreads the Gospel through licensed Christian therapists, sharing the love of Christ. Most importantly, LCC allows therapists to be the church in the world, offering care, Christian love, and professional expertise. LCC's mental health counselors provide care to people in the five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, Westchester, and New Jersey. Most insurance companies do not include faith-based counselors, causing families to pay out of pocket for a Christian counselor. This grant will provide accessible and affordable Christian counseling services by subsidizing fees for those in need and assist in the cost of connecting clients and insurance companies.

#40 NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis, Lutheran Family Service, Iowa \$92,500

The number of serious mental health problems, suicide attempts, gender identity confusion and transition, and alienation from family and church is impacting young people and their parents. These cultural and mental health issues are destroying faith, lives, and families. Because of the stigma surrounding these topics, it is often difficult for Christian families to ask for help. They would like care that is scripturally sound, and Gospel-focused. Lutheran Family Service (LFS) provides teams of LCMS pastors and licensed Christian mental health therapists who bring help through in-person and virtual education events, lead support groups, and provide individualized Gospel-focused care to the increasing number of families facing these mental health issues. Many LCMS parents facing these circumstances feel isolated and alone and are at risk of leaving the church. This grant will fund teams of LCMS pastors and licensed mental health therapists to provide Gospel-focused care for families.

#41 Pittsburgh Campus Ministry, International Student Ministry and Lutheran Student Fellowship, Pennsylvania \$70,000

The city of Pittsburgh has nine main colleges, universities, and a seminary. The current student population for this community is close to 90,000. International Student Ministry/Lutheran Student Fellowship (ISM-LSF), hosted by First Trinity Lutheran Church, provides regular worship, Bible study, dinners, social outings, and service opportunities for the students. The campus pastor spends time on each of the campuses for student outreach, participates in dialogue and lectures, and welcomes students to First Trinity for worship, Bible study, catechesis, and English as a Second Language classes. ISM-LSF of Pittsburgh meets the ongoing great need to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students, staff, and faculty. The campus is a fertile, vital, and crucial mission field as students are confronted with the secular challenges of college life. This grant will support the activities of the ministry to college students and provide salary assistance for the campus pastor.

#42 The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers, LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S. \$100,000

Set Apart to Serve is a Synod-wide initiative focused on forming and recruiting full-time pastors and church workers. Supplying the church with church workers is one of the highest priorities of the LCMS, since pastors and commissioned church workers preach and teach the Word of Christ through which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith. The demand for more pastors, Lutheran school teachers, and commissioned church workers is urgent. Set Apart to Serve is providing resources to encourage intentional conversations with youth to pursue a church work vocation. This is leading to increased enrollment in the church worker formation programs at the LCMS Concordia universities and the seminaries. Districts and churches are being encouraged to reach out to their youth through workshops and conferences. This grant will help to cover a part of the expenses of creating resources, travel and presentations at workshops and conferences, and staffing.

#43 Serving the Least Among Us — The Next Step, God Cares About You, Albuquerque, New Mexico \$66,500

At God Cares About You Mission, we seek to share Christ's love and Gospel in Albuquerque's International District with an ethnically diverse and disadvantaged population, transforming lives both now and for eternity. Six Lutheran churches work together to provide clothing, meals, groceries, laundry services, Bible study, and worship. Small group discussions are held each Friday to build relationships and affirm that God loves them. Showing God's love is sometimes a bus ticket for people who need to move out of the area and return to their homes. Each day they seek to honor the people they serve by knowing their names, hearing their stories, and sharing God's love. They serve 50–100 people daily through their various programs. God Cares About You wants to provide their services in a more focused and comprehensive manner by hiring part-time staff. This grant will fund the salary of part-time staff and numerous office supplies.

#44 Prayer Plaza: Outreach, Discipleship, and Fellowship, Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas \$75,000

Since 1982, Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) has pursued its mission of changing lives through simple acts of kindness and sharing God's love and mercy at the U.S./Mexico border. The Servant Event Ministry has brought close to 6,000 short-term missionaries to serve through YLM. Teams build homes for families, organize and lead VBS in impoverished communities, and hold medical, dental, eyeglass, and water/hygiene clinics. Many who serve have become missionaries, teachers, pastors, and DCEs. A large tree on the campus of YLM, was a gathering place for volunteers as they shared their experiences and studied God's Word. The tree plaza provided a safe place and protected them from the hot sun. The tree had to be removed, and now the area is barren. This grant will fund the construction of a pergola to provide a safe place where people can come to relax and grow in faith, friendships, and service.

#45 Summit Mission Alliance — Mission in Leadville, Colorado \$100,000

Summit Mission Alliance is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS whose mission is to prepare, plant, and provide for missionaries in the central Colorado mountain region. This area covers seven counties and 80,000+ souls but only has five small LCMS congregations and four LCMS pastors. There are significant challenges for mission work in this area, including expensive cost of living, transient people, and isolated communities. The plan is to plant ten missionaries in ten years in this region. Rev. Dale Critchley has been installed as missionary to Leadville, Colorado. He will focus his mission efforts on the people within Leadville and the surrounding county, with a population of approximately 7,500 people. His mission efforts will strive to build relationships with these people, to gather them around Word and Sacrament, and to raise up local leaders. This grant will go towards funding Pastor Critchley's salary and other mission expenses.

#46 Supporting Compassionate Medical Care in Detroit, The Luke Clinic, Michigan \$80,000

The Luke Clinic in Detroit serves families who are often marginalized and underserved, many of whom have experienced significant trauma, systemic inequities, and a lack of compassionate care. The clinic's mission is to provide holistic, compassionate, and Christ-centered care. The clinic wants to hire a dedicated Christian nurse to address the needs of the families. The nurse's role will go beyond traditional medical duties. She will be responsible for mentoring, praying with and witnessing to the patients, and offering spiritual support alongside medical care. The nurse's faith will be a cornerstone of her approach, enabling her to connect with patients on a spiritual level, providing comfort and hope where it is needed most. Besides offering medical care, Luke Clinic assists with social work support, meals, clothing, insurance navigation, and transportation assistance. This grant will fund the salary for a Christian nurse at the Luke Clinic to offer Christ-centered care.

#47 Mobilizing After School Care for Teens, Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Nebraska \$69,500

Our Place is a caring, Christian community for special needs students between the ages of thirteen and twenty who are not safe when home alone and have aged out of the Hastings, Nebraska, daycares. Grounded in a Christ-like love for their neighbors, Our Place provides programming designed to promote academic, social, and life skills and opportunities to grow spiritually through community service and enrichment activities. Parents and caregivers of the children are supported. The after-school program allows them to maintain full-time employment to meet their families' needs. Our Place needs a 12-passenger accessible van to transport program participants to the facility after school and to educational, vocational, and recreational opportunities. By serving these students and their families, Our Place fulfills Jesus' call to compassion by being a community for and with our neighbors. This grant will fund the purchase of a special needs accessible van for the after-school program.