

## 2017 LWML Convention Proposed Mission Grants



- 1. Completion of Lukonda Lutheran School Buildings, Uganda – Lutheran Church Uganda \$48,000**  
This grant will complete Phase II of construction of two schools in Kayunga District, Uganda. Between 100 and 200 children, ages 4 to 12, will be educated in these schools. The villages of Kakiika and Lukonda will provide bricks and land for the school, with Resurrection Lutheran Church and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Southeastern District supporting the remaining costs of labor and materials. When complete, each of the two school buildings will have four classrooms. Two of the classrooms in one building will also be used for weekly Lutheran worship services. This grant will enable completion of the school building complex begun in 2012.
- 2. Providing Food and the Gospel to Starving Children – Mercy Meals of Siouxland \$40,000**  
Jesus gives the same command today that He gave His disciples, to feed the hungry. Mercy Meals of Siouxland, a ministry of Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City, Iowa, began packaging fortified rice/soy meals in 2012. Mercy Meals donates all packaged meals to Orphan Grain Train for transportation and delivery to Christian organizations in many countries, including India, Haiti, Romania and Ecuador, as well as to Navajo reservations in the Southwest and Ysleta Mission in El Paso, Texas. Children and families receive food and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. An LWML grant will feed from 50,000 to 75,000 hungry children.
- 3. Lutheran Children’s Books for Families Worldwide – Lutheran Heritage Foundation \$100,000**  
Lutheran churches, missionaries, and new Christian families around the world will be provided with Bible story books, translated into their languages that teach children about Jesus. These brightly illustrated books, such as *A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories* and *Bible Stories in Pictures*, are given free of charge to the parents and missionaries who need them.
- 4. Christian Hope Through Mass Media in Egypt – Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000**  
Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has over 60 years of experience proclaiming the Gospel via mass media in the Middle East. Fortunately, the political climate in Egypt provides a new opportunity to expand ministry in the region. Other parts of the Middle East, however, are experiencing great turmoil with war and, as a result, refugees, mainly women and children, are fleeing to safety. There is urgency to expand their proclamation of the Gospel in these areas, especially refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. LHM will reach families, refugees, and citizens of the region through a new television program broadcast in Cairo, Egypt. This new television broadcast has the potential to reach millions of people throughout the Middle East, refugees and citizens alike, with the message of faith and the true love of Christ and to be a strong Christian voice and witness through Arabic satellite television programming.
- 5. Laborers of Love – Lutheran Braille Workers \$100,000**  
Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has been providing God’s Word to the visually impaired since 1943, utilizing the New International Version of the Bible for the past 25 years. With the use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the LCMS, LBW desires to offer people with visual disability the opportunity to worship and study with the same translation of the Bible as sighted people of the Church. These funds will assist in the cost of the production of the zinc plates for each Braille Work Center along with producing the ESV Bible in large print.
- 6. Education Loan Repayment Assistance Grants – MinistryFocus \$100,000**  
Twenty called church workers, each year during the biennium, will each receive a grant of \$2,500 through MinistryFocus, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization (RSO), to assist in repayment of educational loans accrued in preparing for service to the Lord through the church. Repayment of educational debt is often made more difficult by the very modest salaries of church workers. This problem may affect recruitment, performance, and retention of church workers.

- 7. Fairmount Coffee House Outreach Ministry – Lutheran Student Center, Wichita, Kansas \$100,000**  
 The Lutheran Student Center (LSC) of Wichita, Kansas is a campus ministry under the guidance of the University Lutheran Ministry Association (ULMA). This area of the city has seen some urban decay over the last several years and Wichita State University has taken on the challenge of bringing renewal to the area. The Fairmount Coffee House will be situated directly across the street from the new campus expansion called “Innovation Campus.” This will be an interconnected community where organizations establish operations and utilize the university’s vast resources. There are no other coffee houses in the area and the Fairmount Coffee House will provide an environment where the love of Christ is felt as you walk in the door. Walls will be decorated with scripture quotes and staff will share the Gospel with students and guests. Students are working hard to raise funds for this project and are seeking grants from other organizations.
- 8. RECONNECT to the Body of Christ, Circuit 28 - Texas District \$50,000**  
 The congregations of Texas District Circuit 28 have a great desire to work together as one group in training mission workers to share the Word and unite these congregations and communities. The Rio Grande Valley of Texas shares the border with Mexico and has a large Hispanic population, many of whom are among the poorest of poor, at risk and unchurched. They have developed a long-range plan to assist the struggling congregations in reaching out to the communities to bring the Word into the homes of hurting families. The first step in the plan has been realized with the arrival of a Director of Christian Education (DCE) that will be serving the circuit – not just an individual church. With this in place, the next stages can begin by training leaders within the congregations in a mission and ministry model utilized by a local, thriving congregation, building campus relationships with the 50,000 students attending local colleges, and conducting community mercy projects. These funds will assist in the project startup costs, training materials, transportation costs, scholarships, and other incurred expenses of the training program.
- 9. Reformation Continues: Lectionaries in West Africa – Lutheran Bible Translators \$108,800**  
 Following the words of Martin Luther, “I wish that this book alone, in all languages, would live in the hands, eyes, ears, and hearts of all people (LW 48.356),” this project focuses on translating Old Testament texts for the three-year lectionary series into three languages in Cameroon and Ghana, West Africa. New Testament translations already are completed. When completed, these lectionaries will enable the use of mother tongue scriptures in the church.
- 10. Training Lutheran Middle Eastern Missionaries – Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission \$93,000**  
 The mission of the Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM) is a ministry primarily to Arabic-speaking peoples and Muslims in particular. They bring the Good News of salvation through their teaching and by the power of the Holy Spirit. BOLM’s outreach impacts lives in the United States and in the Middle East. They educate and disciple new believers and, as the Lord wills, commission them as missionaries. They need funds to support their internet seminary for two years; acquire Bibles in various languages for distribution, acquire and distribute copies of Luther’s *Small Catechism* in Arabic and for expenses for phone and internet.
- 11. “Set To Serve” – Voice of Care \$100,000**  
 The mission of Voice of Care is to equip the Church to nurture people with disabilities and their caregivers in their walk with Christ, training ministry workers and lay volunteers to serve at their own congregations and in the community. These volunteers share Jesus’ love through church and community site programming and special needs camps. Workshops teach how a congregation can provide help by offering inclusive worship, adaptive Christian Education, short-term respite programs, disability awareness days, volunteer-led “Jesus time” in residential or daycare facilities, and Vacation Bible School. Grant funds would be used for webinars and videos, as well as workshops.
- 12. Student Leadership Training Conferences—Lutheran Campus Ministry Association \$30,000**  
 Lutheran Campus Mission Association (LCMA) is seeking funds to initiate additional Campus Ministry Leadership Conferences in three new regions. The gathering has been effective in providing disciple-building and leader development to members of various campus ministries. Prior conferences have led a significant

number of alumni to enter a church work profession. This grant will fully fund up to three new regional conferences for two years, after which ministries in each region will fund the events with registration fees and support as needed from LCMA and private donors.

**13. Training Teachers for Today's Learners – Lutheran Special Education Ministries \$100,000**

Recognizing that well-equipped teachers can best serve students who have special learning needs to “do all things through Christ,” this grant would provide additional education for special education teachers as well as effective tools, supplies, and appropriate technology for use in the daily classroom. The iCAN after-school programs and summer sessions also provide community outreach in a Christ-centered area with exposure to God’s love for perhaps the first time.

**14. Mercy House for Women and Children – Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint, Michigan \$100,000**

The Franklin Avenue Mission in Flint, Michigan, has purchased a residence next door to the mission, and is seeking funds to redesign, renovate, refurbish, and furnish the residence. Named Mercy House for Women and Children, the facility will house six to eight homeless, pregnant, and/or abused women and their children. Located in one of the poorest cities in America, the home will attempt to break the cycle of poverty and decrease the potential for abuse, by housing women and children in a safe, caring, Christian environment, where the best practices of parenting and relationship building can be modeled and taught.

**15. Sharing Jesus with People with Disabilities – Bethesda Lutheran Communities \$100,000**

Bethesda Lutheran Communities desires to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with services that share the good news of Jesus Christ. Operating at program locations across the United States, they provide homes and support, promoting awareness and advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Over 1,900 people at 300 program sites in 13 states are served. Travel is essential in achieving this mission. Costs are not subject to state reimbursement when faith supports are at the heart of the mission. Relying on the support of donors, Bethesda is able to nourish relationships and grow their network to support people of all abilities with their faith journey. Grant funds would be used to support ministry consultant travel.

**16. Restoration Programs for Native Hawaiians – Lutheran Indian Ministries \$75,000**

Most people think of Hawaii as paradise, but to Native Hawaiians, Kanaka, it is quite a different place. In recent years, the number of homeless people in Hawaii has grown, with poverty rising, leaving few people in the middle class. Most of the ministry work is done in urban areas by non-Kanaka men and women to non-Kanaka people. To successfully engage the Kanaka people in the Christian faith and to provide the support and assistance that Kanaka people need to begin to overcome the serious social issues that plague them, missionaries must embrace the Kanaka culture. Clarence DeLude III (Kanaka), who is on staff with Lutheran Indian Ministries, is enrolled in the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center Program at Concordia University, Irvine, California, which leads to ordination. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, Clarence, a Native Hawaiian will be used as God’s instrument in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to his fellow Kanaka people. Grant funds would be used for scholarships for Clarence, VBS/Teen Camp, on-going Bible study, and Sexual Abuse and Leadership Training (SALT) seminars.

**17. Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips – MOST Ministries \$60,000**

MOST Ministries has been meeting the physical needs of people around the world as a way to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through connections with LCMS missionaries and Lutheran church leaders, MOST is building churches and schools, providing health care and teaching marketable skills, all the while sharing the love of Christ and the Gospel of our Lord. MOST feels it is important to recruit families into mission work not only because of the positive impact it has on the lives of those they serve, but on the families themselves. Serving as a family opens the eyes of their children to see how other people live and gives them a perspective of how fortunate they are in the United States. We are all aware of the increasing costs of travel. This grant will help to offset the expenses of approximately 50% of a typical trip. When the families return, they will share their experiences with their churches, communities, district, and the women of the LWML.

**18. Expanding the Broadcast of Worship for Shut-Ins – Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. \$80,000**

Lutheran Ministries Media seeks to reach a rapidly aging society with the life-saving message of the Gospel through the weekly broadcast ministry of Worship for Shut-ins. Their desire is to dramatically increase the reach of this broadcast throughout the United States as well as the world through the means of solidifying the on-air broadcast time on a new major cable or network station and internet streaming of television broadcast. These funds will assist the ministry over the two-year period in expenses and allow the programs to become self-sufficient.

**19. Equipping Youth to Witness for Life - Y4Life – Lutherans for Life \$25,000**

Y4Life seeks to equip young people to be the voices for life in a culture that glorifies the choice of death. The need is especially true for teens, college students, and young adults who are bombarded with secular life styles that are contrary to God's wonderful plan for life. Currently, the Y4Life program is serving college campuses. The mission grant funds will go directly towards expanding the initiative to include Lutheran high school campuses. By training student leaders and providing ongoing mentorship and support for the individual campus ministries, they can raise their voices for life.

**20. Forming International Teachers and Leaders – Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri \$100,000**

Over the past years, Concordia Seminary's Graduate School has seen an increase in the number of international students seeking advanced theological degrees with the full intent of returning to their respective home countries to become teachers and church leaders. This advanced training will have a considerable impact on spreading the Gospel in their countries and will enable them to raise up the next generation of pastors and church leaders.

**21. Tanzanian Sewing Center – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) \$25,000**

In southeastern Tanzania, many young women from villages do not attend school or have jobs, and so seek unskilled jobs in larger towns, often ending up involved in prostitution. Some end up with AIDS or unexpected pregnancies, with no means of supporting themselves. The ELCT has established the Bishop Makala Sewing Center to teach young women sewing, life skills, and the Gospel. The ELCT goal is to build classrooms with a 50 student capacity, along with a dormitory. Within one year of training, their sewing skills enable women to have pocket money, purchase a sewing machine, and buy materials to create sewn items to sell for income.

**22. Christian Eldercare Home in Haiti – Ministry in Mission \$100,000**

Haiti is a nation in need of special attention. Since the earthquake in 2010, Lutheran baptisms in Haiti have been multiplied beyond expectations and Lutheran church attendance is increasing. However physical and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ are left unmet. A center for the elderly people who have outlived their families, and some of whom are currently living in tents and deplorable conditions, is planned to be built on the same property where an orphanage was constructed in 2014. The children will have grandparents and the elderly will have children to make them smile. The center, built with funds supplied by this grant, would result in a dwelling with clean water, suitable waste containment, beds, food, and care for these forgotten people. Ministry in Mission desires to fulfill the intent of creating a true community for Haitian Lutherans by providing a safe living environment for all Haitians in the surrounding area and particularly the elderly forgotten society.

**23. Raising Pastors and Deaconesses – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia \$97,000**

Prior to the civil conflict of 1990, there were several Bible colleges/seminaries across the country. Some are yet to be opened and none is Lutheran. The civil war has increased the level of economic hardship in the country, making it difficult for those who may want to study outside of Liberia. In addition, fees charged to other colleges and seminaries outside of Liberia are extremely high. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia has decided to build a Lutheran Bible College for its 137 congregations and for those from neighboring Sierra Leone and Guinea. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia believes strongly in the need to witness to our Lutheran confession in a nation that predominately preaches and practices work righteousness over and

against justification by grace through faith alone. This grant will provide all the necessary funds to build the college/seminary with the people of the church supplying the labor.

**24. Current Missionary Need – LCMS International Mission \$100,000**

With fervent, sustained support of LCMS mission projects, Mission Central, located in Mapleton, Iowa, seeks to serve as an avenue for continued support for missionaries throughout the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This grant would provide for a variety of necessary missionary resources such as orientation and training, language training, transportation to and in the country of service and on furlough, various types of insurance, housing, medical care, utilities, education of missionary children, to name a few.

**25. Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund \$80,000**

Every year, many Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) groups and individuals join their hearts and hands in sewing mission quilts, making blankets and assembling personal care, baby care, school, and fabric kits to be distributed to people in need through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Delivering these materials to people in need is a long and sometimes complex process, involving trucking and rail transportation, warehousing, processing and overseas shipping. This grant to LWR's Quilt and Shipping Fund ensures the ability to deliver more than 35,500 quilts each year to our neighbors in need around the world, and sustains the ministry that so many LWML members have been a part of for generations.

**26. NOLA 4H: Hearts for the Hungry, Homeless and Hurting – Christian Families United for Progress \$100,000**

Hurricane Katrina was the largest residential disaster in United States history. Twelve years later there is no more federal aid and many inner-city communities are still hurting. New Orleans has the third highest homeless rate in the nation with 1700 homeless persons every night, much of this due to the hurricane and loss of homes. Entire neighborhoods were wiped out. Many lost friends and family still suffer from loneliness and depression. Six inner-city LCMS churches, their pastors, leaders, and members have come together to serve Christ by serving their neighbors and providing food and shelter. The NOLA 4H churches work closely with other organizations to support various outreach ministries such as food banks, clothing, toiletries, Bibles, prayer books, counseling and clinics. Funds will go towards these ministries and to equipping each of the fellowship halls in the six churches to serve more people.

**27. Libraries and Literacy in China – Concordia Welfare & Education Foundation \$88,890**

Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation (CWEF) is a non-profit organization based in Hong Kong that was started by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and has been working there independently for over 15 years. Here and in other parts of China, they partner with communities to implement programs in the areas of public health and education. Many areas in China have large underserved populations with children that become left behind when their parents move to other provinces. CWEF partners with schools to provide resources for teaching rural students to read and to practice healthy habits. Many years are spent working in the community and establishing bonds of trust with the people and their leaders by supporting schools and health clinics. The Holy Spirit is working all the time, and many have experienced the love of Christ in word and deed from CWEF staff and volunteers.

**28. Christ for Veterans and Their Families - LCMS Ministry of the Armed Forces \$27,750**

Funds requested by the Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) will be utilized to host national training events for *Operation Barnabas*, an extension of MAF, which provides a network of care through trained congregations that want to reach out to members of the military, their families, and the veterans in their congregations and communities.

**29. Christ's Care for Children: Kenya – LCMS Office of International Mission \$60,000**

Through primary boarding school facilities operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya and a secondary school and college scholarship program, vulnerable children have the opportunity to complete school while living at a home away from home. A Christ-centered, caring and safe environment provides each

pupil with education, Scripture engagement, catechesis and worship. An LWML grant to Christ's Care for Children: Kenya will support 25 students for a two-year period, providing lodging, meals, school fees and related school expenses, medical care, adult oversight, tutoring, emotional support and spiritual care, free of cost to the child or their family.

**30. Prison and Jail Ministry Synod-wide Conference in 2018 \$36,500**

One of the largest needs in Prison and Jail Ministry is not only the offering of Word and Sacrament Ministry to those incarcerated, but also in assisting the person when he or she returns to the community. The Prison and Jail Ministry Conference enables over 200 lay and clergy participants from 30 of our LCMS districts to learn about the importance of prison and jail ministry as well as networking with one another for best practices and support of each other in a very difficult mission and ministry. A number of LCMS districts are already doing or are starting up a Prison and Jail Ministry, and a Synod-wide conference will allow these to continue and expand as changes and new developments continue in the federal and state criminal justice systems. Grant funds would help pay for the expenses involved in hosting a conference.

**31. Thanking Former Missionaries – LCMS Office of International Mission \$55,555**

The LCMS has been sending missionaries into the field since 1894, and today, trains, sends, and supports career, long-term, and short-term missions around the world. As an expression of gratitude to former missionaries and their families, a celebratory reunion is planned to honor and thank them for their service. This event will provide an opportunity for Synod to reconnect with former missionaries and to express to them the value of their service, while allowing these church servants to renew friendships, review experiences and rejoice in God's many blessings. This grant will cover lodging, meals, and a stipend to offset travel costs for former missionaries attending the reunion.

**32. Every One His Witness – LCMS Witness and Outreach Ministry \$33,500**

With over 200 million non-churched people in the United States, this initiative is a witness and outreach evangelism program that equips believers to be effective witnesses of Jesus in their everyday lives. It approaches witnessing and outreach as the calling of every believer, focusing particularly in the United States, to share in God's joy as He works through us to gather the lost into His Church. The LCMS, in its June 2016 Convention, adopted this program for implementation throughout the LCMS.

**33. Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team - LCMS Office of International Mission \$25,000**

Seeking to expand their educational exposure, nursing students in the Concordia University System would be afforded the opportunity to participate in a short-term mission trip to Madagascar with a Mercy Medical Team. This is a service opportunity for students to work with medical professionals in providing medical and/or spiritual care to the under-served would be invaluable.

**34. Engaging RSOs – LCMS Recognized Service Organizations \$27,800**

LCMS RSOs will be able to partner more effectively with congregations in providing acts of mercy and will be equipped with the skills and resources to network more efficiently with congregational members, other Lutheran entities, their communities, and the church at large. Grants will provide consulting in such things as fund development and board governance; funds will permit Chief Executive Officers to attend Lutheran professional conferences relating to leadership, board development, and funding; and relationships will be strengthened between congregations and RSOs in providing services and resources to serve those in need.