

Mission Grant Proposals Selected for the 2021 LWML Convention

1. Light of Christ in Eastern Europe **Mission Central \$56,000 ***

For decades, Christians in the Germany and Czech Republic had to hide their faith. Churches that stood for centuries were closed and generations lived with no knowledge of the Christian faith. The Lutheran Church is striving to meet the urgent need to bring the love and light of Christ to people who have been living in spiritual darkness. Recently, immigrants and refugees from the Middle East have settled in Europe, many in Germany. Our missionaries are meeting the additional challenge of reaching out to those of the Muslim faith with the message of the Triune God. Thousands of immigrants, and German and Czech citizens of all ages, need to hear the Gospel. This grant will help in the support of eight missionaries working in Germany and the Czech Republic.

2. Educating Pastors in Africa **Mission Central \$100,000 ***

God is calling African men to become pastors. These men of faith know the culture and how best to share God's truth and the love of Christ in their native country. Matongo Lutheran Theological College, Kenya, East Africa, is a confessional Lutheran college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ECLK), which is in Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). This theological college is in need of support funding. Grant funds will be used for pastoral education projects, including scholarships and seminary needs in Kenya, Togo West Africa, and Uganda, as well as general support of six missionaries – five pastors and one layman.

3. Missionaries to America Project **Mission Nation Publishing \$88,000**

The United States is populated by people from all corners of the world. The purpose of Mission Nation's "Missionaries to America" project is to help the LCMS strengthen its capacity to share Jesus with people with whom we may be unable to relate because of cultural and language barriers. With this grant, Mission Nation Publishing will be able to provide opportunity and resources for each of us to be better witnesses for Jesus to ethnic groups other than our own, through the publication of the stories of missionaries, who now reside in the United States, and their respective journeys to faith.

4. Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life **LCMS Life Ministry \$92,000 ***

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). The sanctity of life created by God, and the family as God designed it, has been under attack by pro-choice organizations who are expanding their movement to reach children of younger ages, to attack chastity and promote promiscuity, and to influence our children causing devaluation of life, marriage, and the family. The continued development of "Life" curricula is one of the most frequent requests by LCMS schools. With this grant, LCMS Life Ministry will build a set of developmentally-appropriate resources and curriculum for early childhood, young children, and elementary-aged children and their families.

5. Nurturing Spiritual Care **LCMS Office of National Mission, Witness and Outreach \$56,800 ***

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy (1 Peter 2:9–10). People in this world are broken and hurting. God's people have an opportunity to show God's love and mercy to those around them, yet many feel inadequately prepared to provide spiritual care. There is a need for resources that reflect Lutheran theology and train believers to recognize and respond to the emotional and spiritual needs of others, enabling them to point to Christ who offers salvation, hope, and healing. This grant would support the development of "Nurturing Spiritual Care" resources.

6. Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses **Spirit Warrior, Central Maine \$95,000**

Maine is among the list of "least churched" states in the nation. It has only three LCMS churches in the entire state and has only five Veteran Administration Chaplains. Deaconess Kim Slininger was called to Hope Lutheran Church to reach out to the extensive veteran and military community in the Bangor area. Deaconess Kim is herself a disabled veteran, and the Spirit Warrior program is an extension of her ministry. Spirit Warrior is a program that addresses the need to provide pastoral/diaconal care using horses, to those who have stood in the face of evil and have returned. Current traditional therapy does not address the care of the spirit. Many veterans/service members want to connect with God and theological discussions take place while caring for the horses. This grant will provide funding for 58 veterans to go through the program.

7. Mission Catalyst **International Student Ministry, Inc. (ISM, Inc.) \$80,000**

Currently, ISM, Inc. partners with more than 80 ministry sites in 26 states, bringing the Good News of Jesus to international students and their families. One of the challenges is that there are 24 states without any ISM, Inc. presence.

ISM, Inc. exists to encourage and equip God's people for intentional Gospel ministry among international student communities. This presents amazing opportunities to share Jesus Christ with people from all over the world. ISM desires to connect and offer resources and encouragement to those working with international students. For this reason, ISM, Inc. is requesting an LWML grant to develop the position of Mission Catalyst over a two-year period. The Mission Catalyst will serve part-time as the official ISM, Inc. representative and will design and implement a viable strategic plan to faithfully fulfill the organization's goals for international student ministry support and growth.

8. Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania Mwadui Lutheran School and Community, SELVD-ELCT \$68,182 *
Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church – Tanzania

Mwadui Lutheran School in Shinyanga, Tanzania, has become one of the leading schools in the region with enrollment increasing from 40 to over 200 students. It is educating many new pastors, teachers, and professionals from all over western Tanzania using a curriculum with a Christian world view and daily chapel. This educational facility has become a valuable Christian outreach ministry to the community and region. However, malaria and other health issues continue to be a vexing problem for the students, teachers, staff, and community. The next step in enhancing this educational facility is starting a medical clinic. This grant will purchase medical equipment, medical supplies, and medicine to treat the various illnesses of the student community.

9. Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach Lutheran Deaf Outreach \$50,000

Lutheran Deaf Outreach wants to help Deaf people have a saving relationship with Christ by training Deaf and Hearing people to share Jesus with Deaf people. They work through congregations to reach Deaf people and families in their community. There are over 500,000 Deaf people, plus their families, in the United States. The need is great to equip more Deaf leaders through Jesus Signs Training Workshops so they may effectively witness the saving message of Jesus Christ. This grant will assist in expanding training through the sharing of resources, by assisting pastors, and by instructing individuals to lead the workshops. It will also help with workshop expenses to expand training and provide resources throughout the United States.

10. Mission & Outreach to the Least of These Victory Lutheran Church, K. I. Sawyer Community \$51,356

Christ has charged us in His Holy Word to share the Gospel and minister to the poor. Victory Lutheran Church is an inner-city church located in the unincorporated area of the K.I. Sawyer Community in Gwinn, Michigan. This inner-city church is a means of providing mercy ministries that spread His Word to all people, especially "the least of these." The purchase of a new and larger van will allow them to bring children to hear the love of Jesus and provide a safe place to learn. The church needs a safe haven for the congregation and the unchurched to attend worship and Bible study.

11. Propelling the Gospel LAMP Ministry Inc. \$65,000

Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots (LAMP) Ministry, Inc. has been using small aircraft to take the Gospel message to the Indigenous people in the most remote areas of northern Canada. Each year, hundreds of volunteer missionaries from the United States travel to teach vacation Bible school to thousands of children in remote northern communities. LAMP's ministry is highly dependent on the two aircrafts that they use in order to get their missionaries to these places so they can bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who so desperately need to hear the Good News. The aircraft has evolved over the years, and upgrades must be made to ensure safety and the ability for LAMP's missionaries and pilots to reach remote communities only accessible by air. Avionic instrument upgrades in the aircrafts are a costly investment. The Garmin GTX 345 model works best, not only with classical ground-based radar systems, but it also provides ADS-B input and output for both the American and Canadian/Aireon systems.

12. Matongo Seminary Chapel LCMS Office of International Mission — Africa Region \$113,500 *

The LCMS Office of International Mission supports theological education through established seminaries, such as Matongo Lutheran Seminary, recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) for the training of pastors, deaconesses, and evangelists for its congregations. It is essential that the campus community have a dedicated place of worship for daily chapel services. It will also free up classroom space currently used for the temporary chapel and serve as a "model" for students who will serve as pastors beyond the borders of Kenya and the ELCK. This grant is sought for architecture and engineering and structural framework. Additional funds are being raised to complete the building.

13. Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients Phil's Friends \$70,000

As Christians, we are charged with sharing the message of the Gospel and the Word with all individuals. The mission of Phil's Friends, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization, is to introduce and strengthen relationships with Christ by providing faith-based hope to those with cancer. The support includes a care package with practical, emotional, and spiritual items, including a Bible, a card sent monthly for 12 months, and a new program "Hope on Call," in which Phil's Friends' trained volunteers meet virtually with the cancer patient to talk and pray. This grant would further fund Phil's Friends Cancer Care Packages, Cards of Hope, and Hope on Call.

14. Mercy House – Belize Lutheran Campus Belize Mission Society \$100,000

The Belize Mission Society (BMS) has a dental clinic in a multipurpose building that is located in the village. This grant money would fund the building of a Mercy House next to the elementary school and Christ Lutheran Church. By bringing the dental clinic and other programs to the Lutheran campus, it will lead people to the Church and connect them with the missionaries. The BMS is intent on "strengthening their cord" (a reference to Ecclesiastes 4:12) with the Belize FORO (forum), the missionaries, and the local residents. By building relationships with children, they also reach their extended family with the Good News of their Savior, Jesus Christ. Mercy House – Belize Mission Campus will further the mercy work and relationship-building of the BMS while providing a tangible connection to Christ Lutheran Church.

15. Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru La Mision Luterana del Peru \$50,000 *

Castillo Fuerte (Mighty Fortress) Mercy House is an outreach of the LCMS Missions in Latin America and the Caribbean and was started in 2013. The people of Lima are unable to fully finance the work of the Mercy House, and the work of our missionaries, who feed the souls with the Word of God and show the love of Christ by feeding the parents and children's stomachs. Families come to receive food for their physical bodies, and they stay because of Jesus' love for them as He feeds them the spiritual food which sustains their souls. The healing power of Christ's love and redemption shine into the broken lives of the families making them whole. This grant would partner with La Mision Luterana and Castillo Fuerte to work together to care for the children and families of Lima, Peru, by providing for the needs of the body and of the soul.

16. Deaconess Ministry – Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch \$81,680

Matthew 25:40 assures us that whenever we serve the "least of these brothers and sisters" of Christ, we are serving the Lord. The healing ministry of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch creates an eternal, life-giving impact in the lives of children age 10–18 who face unimaginable abuse, neglect, and trauma – truly "the least of these." This is especially true for female children who have been victimized by male figures, resulting in trust-related issues that are hopelessly difficult for a child to bridge. The specialized ministry of a deaconess bridges this gap with the transformational care of Christ, helping both young girls and boys.

17. Expanding God's Love in Uganda LCMS Office of International Mission — Africa Region \$92,000 *

The Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU) is a steadily growing church body in eastern Africa, which has requested LCMS assistance to locally train deaconesses so they may assist the small number of Lutheran pastors throughout Uganda to teach the faith, provide spiritual care, and show mercy to the communities. Being able to provide local training will be a huge benefit to qualified women who would not be able to travel to Kenya for a two-year program, and to the church. This grant would allow for a land purchase attached to the established Lutheran Theological College Uganda, fencing, and a small dormitory for the women.

18. Connecting Mercy and Church Planting-Latin America & the Caribbean LCMS Office of International Mission \$113,500 *

The Latin America and the Caribbean region of the Office of International Mission serves the Lord according to the trifold motto of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy. Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the Dominican Republic invests in the theological and practical formation of pastors and deaconesses so that they complement one another's Kingdom roles as they serve in 12 countries. This model allows them to supplement classroom learning with hands-on fieldwork. An LWML grant would fund scholarships for 15 residential pastoral students for one academic year and also promote the continuance of online deaconess instruction and biannual intensive courses for up to 140 deaconess students.

19. Mission Education Teams in Latin America & the Caribbean LCMS Office of International Mission \$55,000 *

The Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM) is a maturing mission field that began in 2005 and currently has five local congregations, two Lutheran schools, Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center, with 20 missionary and local pastor family units. Some of the most cherished short-term mission teams to the DRLM are sent to intentionally

experience the Church and her work and life on the field. Participation in Mission Education Teams is especially pertinent for future pastors, deaconesses, and graduates of the Concordia University System. These students will set the tone for spreading the Gospel, planting Lutheran churches, and showing mercy for generations to come. Funds received will provide scholarships for thirty-two students to be part of Mission Education Teams.

20. Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia

Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has an opportunity to expand its mission outreach of the Gospel to the Kazakh women and children in Mongolia, a non-Christian country. The Kazakh people are nominally Muslim and the country of Mongolia is largely Buddhist with a less than one percent Christian population. Through widely-accepted Women's Listener groups, religious broadcasts, and Christian resources in the Kazakh language, family members and relatives will be impacted by the Gospel in their homes. LHM has the media expertise to ensure the Gospel message is brought to a region where the populations have not heard the Gospel. Christian resources are being distributed, including Bible studies and booklets translated into the Kazakh language, as well as into Mongolian, the main language of the region.

21. Caring for and Sharing Christ with Hurting People

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis \$100,000

Deaconesses are continually pointing those they serve toward the cross, sharing the Gospel with them so they gain the wonderful gift of eternal life through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Concordia Seminary has requested through this mission grant, much-needed scholarships for deaconess students and assistance with seminary costs to provide high-quality theological education. Enrollment in the new online Deaconess Studies Program is expected to increase, enabling the faculty to form more well-trained deaconesses and bring more people to Jesus and provide compassionate, Christ-centered help to those who are hurting and suffering — physically, emotionally and spiritually.

22. Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach **St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries \$78,364**

St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries in Merced, California, has been actively involved in outreach to Hmong communities in their native tongue for 15 years. In 2015 and 2018, Hmong language schools were founded. They are connected with host churches, St. Paul Lutheran in Merced and Redeemer Lutheran in Fresno, California. Through the schools and outreach at New Year's festivals, the Gospel is being heard and families are being baptized and confirmed. Funds will be used to continue mission programs, develop new training modules, and support training implementation of Christ-centered educational materials in the Hmong language to be used in the schools, for festival outreach, and to share with other LCMS churches and districts.

23. Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa's Children

Lutheran Heritage Foundation \$100,000

Lutheran Heritage Foundation continues its work of translating, publishing, distributing, and introducing Lutheran materials throughout Africa where the population is more than 1.216 billion people. Sadly, over half those souls are still waiting to be introduced to the one true Savior, Jesus Christ. Islam has made huge inroads in the continent. But thanks be to God, Christian missionaries have been spreading the Light of the Gospel also. Economic and political conditions may force missionaries to leave a country, but the Lutheran books they leave behind stay — and teach — for generations. This grant will fund the printing and distribution of 129,500 engaging, colorful books which will introduce children to Jesus in their Lutheran schools, Sunday schools, and orphanages.

24. Sharing Jesus' Love in India

Lutheran Braille Workers \$100,000

Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world*" (John 9:5). This verse is important to the individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired as they seek to know the love and light of Christ. This is especially true in India where there are over 62.6 million people who are Blind or Visually Impaired, and most do not know Jesus or have access to the Scriptures. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) already produces Braille and specialized Large Print Bibles and other Christian materials in multiple languages used in India and has extensive experience distributing these materials with partner ministries and churches. This grant would help fund the formation of a Ministry Production Center in India to produce and distribute its materials, and train workers on the equipment.

**25. Strengthening the Lutheran Mission to Kuna, Idaho Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church — LCMS
\$100,000**

Kuna, Idaho, is listed as the seventh most rapidly growing urban/suburban area in the United States and is located near Boise and Meridian, Idaho. A new church has been planted in Kuna and Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church, Boise, is its mother congregation. Kuna Lutheran is currently meeting for worship in the local high school cafeteria with up to 60 people in attendance. The congregation wants to build their own sanctuary and other facilities from which to conduct growing congregational activities, but they are first in need of a parcel of land. The grant funds will assist in the purchase. The mission of Kuna Lutheran is to celebrate God the Father's love for us in creating us and giving His Son; connecting in faith with Jesus, our Savior; connecting with others in love and care; and communicating God's love in the power of the Holy Spirit.

26. "Ends of Earth" Scholarships Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries \$50,000

MOST Ministries is receiving more requests from LCMS missionaries and national church leaders to provide teams to go to the "ends of the earth" places such as Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, Thailand, Peru, and Sri Lanka to work side-by-side with missionaries, sharing the Gospel. The travel cost (up to \$5,050) of the short-term mission trips to these distant places has become prohibitive, and has made it challenging for willing people to join a team. Currently, team members are personally responsible for their total per person cost. Not only do they use personal funds, but they are encouraged to reach out to members of the body of Christ to participate in the mission with encouragements, prayers, and financial support. This grant would offer financial support to cover up to one-half the cost of each participant, not to exceed \$2,000.

**27. Training Pastors to Serve the Church in Russia Lutheran Theological Seminary — Novosibirsk, Siberia
\$100,000**

Through the efforts of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the pastoral training provided by the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, the Word and Sacraments are again making their way to the long-repressed Russian people. With this grant, Lutheran Women's Missionary League will partner in training pastors and deaconesses and in helping the seminary continue its efforts to restore the Lutheran Church in Russia. The Novosibirsk seminary's goal is to prepare workers to spread the true Word of God to the Russian people. This grant will fund some of the operational expenses of the seminary and allow it to continue providing a solid theological education to those seeking to serve as pastors and deaconesses within the Siberian Lutheran Church.

28. Bring the Inner-City Children to Camp Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado \$25,000

Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) shares both God's grace and the glory of His creation. Many families in metropolitan Denver are unable to fully finance camp tuition or provide transportation to LVR where their children would experience God's Word in daily devotions, singing, and worshipping around a campfire. This grant will span two summers when LVR will partner with Lutheran churches in Denver to arrange sign-up, transportation, and scholarships for 50 children from the inner city, so they could have this mountain-top camp experience. Research shows that the challenges of camp activities are transformational, giving children tools to overcome real-world challenges when they return home.

29. The Littlest and Least of These St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy, Dallas, Texas \$42,000

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy is located in a poor Dallas community of mostly unchurched families and offers the only Christ-centered preschool, before and after school care, and adult academic and Bible classes. The Academy uses Christian books, music, and Bible stories. There are regular devotional services and families are encouraged to attend worship. St. Paul is outgrowing their current facility after a single year of operation. Going forward, more space is needed for the preschool, nursery, and after-school educational enrichment. The kitchen serving meals needs to be upgraded to a commercial kitchen. The funds will help with these expenses and will allow the Academy to further expand their mission in the community and bring more to Christ.

30. Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries \$100,000

Redeeming Life currently operates maternity and transitional homes in Central Florida for single pregnant women who are homeless, abused, and/or at-risk of abortion. It is a proven model. This grant will help Redeeming Life support a called deaconess to serve in a new location in the Chicagoland area. Additionally, the funds will help offset the costs, during the first two years, of operating a safe and stable home (rent, utilities, food) and provide program services for the women to be served. Redeeming Life's goal is for their residents to learn to live independently and offers many opportunities for the women to understand that, in Christ, there is forgiveness, peace, and unconditional love.

31. Ministry Vehicle Fund, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone

Lutheran Bible Translators \$70,000

Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) uses literacy programs within the local language communities to give people the skills to read the newly-translated Bible which results in a personal relationship with God. When they can read God's Word in their local or heart language, they know that God speaks their language and hears their prayers. Local personnel in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, identified as partners with LBT, help teach their people. The long distances between the language communities have treacherous and hazardous terrain. The money from this grant will help purchase robust, reliable vehicles. Trainers will be able to travel to God's people who are waiting for the opportunity to learn to read the saving words of the Gospel in their heart language. This will impact multiple language groups in both countries.

32. Reaching the Homebound with God's Word Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. (DBA Worship Anew) \$100,000

Lutheran Ministries Media reaches the homebound and aging with the life-saving message of the Gospel through the weekly broadcast ministry of Worship Anew. With an aging population, the need exists to have accessibility to faithful teaching and understanding of the Bible as taught in our creeds and Lutheran confessions. The broadcast currently reaches areas of New York, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa. Lutheran Ministries Media wants to expand their broadcast area by securing on-the air broadcast time on a new nationwide station and also enhance their online presence. The grant funds will be used to pay the broadcast fees and the internet expansion.

33. Showing God's Love in the International District, Albuquerque, NM God Cares About You Mission \$98,000

Albuquerque's International District is home to an ethnically diverse and disadvantaged population with a high crime rate. God Cares About You Mission, which is supported by nine area Lutheran churches, is transforming lives both now and for eternity. Their outreach includes a clothing bank, children's ministry, food bank, back-to-work program, Christian fellowship, meals, Bible studies, worship services, street evangelism, and counseling. Currently, the programs are only offered three days a week and they want to expand to six days. With this expansion, they need to add a services director and kitchen manager to better manage the programs offered. Help is sought for their salaries. With the funds from this grant, God Cares About You can expand their ministry and reach more with Christ's love.

34. Enhancing Multi-ethnic Mission Effectiveness

LINC Ministries \$98,093