



## 2017-2019 LWML Mission Grant #3

### Christ for Veterans and Their Families LCMS Ministry of the Armed Forces, \$27,750

#### Prayer Guide

**Prayer #1** – O Lord, almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit to bless us with the desire to reach out and encourage our military service people, their families, and the many veterans who served. We thank You for the work of our Ministry to the Armed Forces/*Operation Barnabas*. Grant Your continual blessings to them as they reach out in Your name to minister to these dedicated military and veterans as they reintegrate back into their communities and churches. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**Prayer #2** – Dear Lord, Jesus Christ, The goal of *Operation Barnabas* is to train and equip leaders to take back to the congregations ways to share with veterans and their families that You are the true source of peace. Their goal is to connect soldiers with their families after deployment and reintegrate them back into the worship life of their congregation. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to support this endeavor and help them in their effort to remind us that our everlasting peace comes from You. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

**Prayer #3** – Heavenly Father, Protector of all, we humbly ask You to strengthen and preserve our military, both active and veterans. Grant that we would uphold them in prayer, commending them into Your care both in times of service, as well as when they have returned home. Bless the efforts of *Operation Barnabas* in their endeavors to lead us in ways to be an encouragement to them. We pray this in the name of Your Son, our Lord, Jesus. Amen.

**Prayer #4** – Dear Lord, we thank You for all that You are and all that You have done. We ask You now to give us a measure of Your grace and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, to reach out to our brothers and sisters in the military, their families, and those who have served. Often when they return after deployment or other forms of service, their needs are not evident to us. We thank You for the equipping and encouragement provided by our Ministry of Armed Forces/*Operation Barnabas* that trains and enables us to reach out with compassionate care and Gospel outreach. Bless their efforts and lead us to prayerfully connect with our military and veterans, serving them as we share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is in His name we pray. Amen.

#### Mission Grant Story

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) is authorized as the mission arm of the Synod to support and serve all military chaplains – active and reserve – their families and the veteran population. *Operation Barnabas* – an extension of MAF and the only program of its kind in the United States – 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.

Our military has answered our nation's call to protect and defend us. In every time and place they have stood the watch, far from their families. Congregations have focused on deployment care – with good reason. There is a need, however, for adjustment to a more normal pace of life in the military and civilian communities when military personnel and their families are reunited after repeated deployments. *Operation Barnabas* focuses on connecting soldiers with their families after deployment and reintegrating them back in the worship life of their church.

Ministry to the Armed Forces *Operation Barnabas* will host a national, three-day training event empowering *Operation Barnabas* Districts, Congregations and Chapter members to bring the Good News of God in Christ to veterans and their families. The primary purpose is to train participants in techniques to reach out to veterans in local communities with witness, mercy, and life together. The goal is to train and equip *Operation Barnabas* leaders to take back and share with other congregations how to reach out to our veterans and their families so that all have an opportunity to know that the only source of true peace comes from Jesus Christ.

You may be interested to know that the name *Operation Barnabas* comes from Paul's missionary companion and aide, Barnabas. His name literally means "son of encouragement." Providing encouragement is a key component in the ministry to military members and their families. *Operation Barnabas* works through relationships that offer encouragement and thanksgiving centered in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.