



December 2018

Devotion

Education Loan Repayment - \$100,000

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And he said, "Go ..." (Isaiah 6:8-9)

Sing: Blessed be the Tie that Binds: verses 1-3 LSB 649

Have you ever been unable to pay your bills? What did you do? Did the concern affect what you did, thought, or said? How did you resolve the issue? Did God provide a help for you?

Many LCMS church workers have answered the call of the Lord to "Go" and share the message of the Gospel, *To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ...* (Ephesians 4:12). Equipping of our full time church workers means years of extensive study and hard work at our LCMS colleges and seminaries. The time and financial commitment for full time church workers for God's mission, affects the whole family not just the worker, and often requires substantial educational loans before the worker is called to serve and able to begin any debt repayment.

Regardless of the challenges, full time church workers are engaged, dedicated, and steadfast in their faithfulness to be in service to their Lord. Their financial indebtedness often causes concerns and apprehensions affecting both their ministry and family life. As sisters and brothers in Christ, *For we are God's fellow workers ...* (1st Corinthians 3:9), we can help support and nurture our full time church workers through our LWML grant Education Loan Repayment Assistance. The grant of \$100,000 will be administered by Ministry Focus, an RSO of LCMS, and will give \$2500 toward education loan repayments to 20 qualified workers.

From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love ... (Ephesians 4:16).

By supporting our full time church workers through prayers and mites to fund this grant, we can be an encouragement to them and give them some measure of financial comfort, as they work to serve their Lord with gladness to bring the message of salvation to all.

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" So faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ ... (Romans 10:14-15, 17).

Dear Lord,

We ask Your blessing on Education Loan Repayment Assistance Grants, that You would use us and this grant to share the burdens of our full time church workers as they engage to further Your kingdom. May we always be mindful of the cares and concerns of our fellow Christians. Use our prayers and mites to encourage and build one another up spiritually and emotionally, enabling us to work together to serve You and share Your salvation with the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

