Mission Grant Proposals Selected Total Grants - $2,325,525

2019-2021 Mission Goal: $2,100,000
Mite Goal: $1,470,000

1. Mission Outreach for At-Risk Young Women in Africa — Lutheran Hour Ministries $100,000

Through its ministry centers, Lutheran Hour Ministries is offering programs that are a powerful force to physically and spiritually change the lives of young women to disrupt the cycle of poverty and prostitution by teaching income producing trades for economic independence and success, sharing the Gospel, and connecting them with the church. The purpose of this grant is to identify young women in prisons after they have been arrested for prostitution or small crimes and provide rehabilitation through counseling sessions and voluntary Bible studies for those young women expressing a desire to reform and connecting them with the church.

2. Lutheran Secondary Education for Hispanics —Walther Christian Academy, Melrose Park, Illinois $75,000

This Lutheran high school was established in 1954 and is serving 16 local congregations. Over the years the demographics of the school have changed and the emphasis now is reaching out to the local Hispanic students. The focus of this school is still to make available an excellent Lutheran secondary education to all who desire to enroll at Walther Christian Academy. This grant will support translation and printing of admission and student service materials, provide financial aid for Hispanic students from families with documented financial need, and make available personnel to guide families through the admission process and support students through their high school years.

3. Lights for Christ Scholarships — Divine Savior Lutheran Church, Zacapa, Guatemala $95,000

The Lights for Christ program developed by Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kansas and Divine Savior Lutheran Church in Zacapa, Guatemala will impact 12 impoverished Guatemalan children and their families who live in the Zacapa garbage dump by offering the life-saving Gospel of Christ, food and clothing, health and sanitation care, and school transportation to 'the poorest of the poor' with scholarships to attend Divine Savior Lutheran School. This education program covers most of their basic needs and equips these children in grades 7-12 to reach out into their community with the gospel. This request funds 90% of the projected costs for these youth to continue their education through high school. Since this scholarship program began, Guatemalan children and their families are worshiping at Divine Savior on a regular basis.

4. Music Outreach, Classes, & Resources on the Border — Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas $98,400

The ministry of YLMHC impacts the lives of 400-500 students with educational programs, classroom space, and equipment. For the past 17 years YLMHC's music ministry has proven successful in reaching out to the unchurched by witnessing to the mercy and grace of Christ. The Adelante Ministries offers music classes and leadership training to youth and adults while it also provides service to the church and community. Through involvement in this music program, many students have come to faith in Christ. This grant will enable YLMHC to better equip their classroom and rehearsal space so they can serve and teach a larger range of students. It will also allow them to adapt existing space for music instruction, purchase recording equipment, create video tutorials for online instruction, fund a music intern position, and purchase musical instruments for students unable to afford their own.

5. Teach Me Too – Preschoolers with Learning Needs — Lutheran Special Education Ministries $100,000

Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) has seen a growing desire for early intervention support of children with learning needs. In 1976 LSEM began serving children with special learning needs in the Detroit area and has since expanded programs and services to include a presence in Lutheran schools nationwide. Their pilot program is Let It Shine Academy at Bethany Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas. The Teach Me Too program was designed to administer intervention strategies, address the unique needs of children with autism spectrum disorder and other unique needs such as hyperactivity issues, decreased or delayed social skills, developmental or speech delays, sensory integration difficulties, or other learning differences. As a resource for families, this program provides assessments, consultations, and materials to help children on an individual basis. This grant would help fund Teach Me Too, expand the Let It Shine Academy, provide teacher training, and offer scholarship funding for children whose families cannot afford the cost of the Let It Shine Program.

6. Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families — Camp Restore Detroit $100,000

Detroit has experienced economic disaster and leads the nation with 57.3% of their children living in poverty without food or opportunity. Camp Restore Detroit provides a safe nurturing Christ-centered place for these children, their families, and other adults. This camp provides a place for the children to come and learn about God's love as they participate in art, theatre, and music classes and receive homework help while receiving assistance with basic educational and developmental skills. Additionally, adults are offered parenting, finance, and resume building classes. This grant will fund the renovation of two previously abandoned houses into community outreach centers, along with the house furnishings and outreach materials.

7. Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction — Office of International Mission $50,000

The Lutheran church has operated in Sri Lanka since the 1920's. Over the years, Lutherans in Sri Lanka have suffered numerous tests and trials. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has four very active congregations and seven preaching stations. There are three pastors for the 11 congregations. The need to train pastors is evident by the interest and enrollment in pre-seminary classes. For many years the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka has needed a sanctuary for Immanuel Lutheran Church, a central administrative office, and facilities to offer the theological classes for future pastors which will provide a permanent Lutheran seminary. Plans for a building to house the sanctuary, administrative offices, and theological classrooms have been designed. This grant will assist in funding the construction of the Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building.

8. Rooted, Celebrating, Growing — Camp Omega, Waterville, Minnesota $50,000

Camp Omega, Waterville, Minnesota has a long history of serving the youth in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Minnesota South District. Camp Omega plans to build an Adult Family Retreat Center to provide family, congregational, and district meeting space with 25 modern rooms serving small and large groups. A key function of the Adult Family Retreat Center will be to hold retreats and in-services for the LCMS Minnesota South District and LCMS. This grant will equip the 2000 square foot meeting room with projection and sound equipment so the meetings and seminars can easily be conducted. The space can be subdivided into two 1000 square foot rooms and each room will have its own retractable room sized screen and sound system which can be interconnected, allowing the projectors to project the same image when the spaces are combined.

9. Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln — University Lutheran Chapel, Lincoln, Nebraska $50,000

God has used the ministries of the University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) to reach students with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The connection between ULC, international students, and young adults in the downtown community is an important one which will provide those in need with Christian counseling services in a comfortable, easily accessible space. Research shows young adults are especially susceptible to depression leading to suicide making it the second most common cause of death among college students. ULC sits on the very edge of the University of Nebraska campus in the heart of Lincoln. It is the hope of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Nebraska District to use this building and its location as a hub of hope and healing for the students and young adults in the downtown community. It is our prayer that the students and community members who use this Hope and Healing Hub might be drawn into a relationship with Jesus, leading to faithful participation in the Word and Sacrament ministry offered there. This grant will make the building more inviting while offering Christian counseling services through GracePoint Institute for Relational Health..

10. God's Grace for This Generation — LAMP Ministry Inc. $100,000

LAMP Ministry Inc. has ministered for nearly 50 years in northern Canada where many villages are reachable only by aircraft or seasonal roads. Currently, nearly one million Indigenous people live in these isolated areas with about half of them under the age of 14. The most alarming statistic is that over 15 percent of children and youth will actually take their own lives out of despair and hopelessness. When LAMP goes into these communities with VBS, Bible studies, and personal witnessing, these communities will have access to Christian education for faith in Christ. In order to fulfill their mission of sharing the gospel in the next few years, LAMP will need to expand their staff of full-time missionary pilots to four or five. LAMP will need to recruit and train 100 to 200 more volunteer missionaries committed to serve at least five years. This grant will provide the funds to help LAMP reach their goal.

11. God’s Word Changes Everything — Lutheran Bible Translators $95,000

Martin Luther wrote, “I wish that this book alone, in all languages, would live in the hands, eyes, ears, and hearts of all people.” When people have God’s Word, it changes their lives in ways they couldn’t imagine. Lutheran Bible Translators is training people from churches in Ethiopia and Tanzania to translate the Bible into their own languages as a part of seminary training. This will be four-year project with 15 trainees working each year. The funds will be used to equip pastors and lay leaders in the translation of God’s Word in the numerous local dialects for the benefit of their Tanzanian and Ethiopian people in their everyday worship.

12. Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala — Lutheran Church of Guatemala and Child Beyond International $100,000

While Guatemala is a beautiful country, many people suffer in extreme poverty. Over 50% of the children are malnourished and have no access to any form of medical or dental care. Most have no pre-natal or post-natal care and often die from preventable diseases. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hood River, Oregon and the Lutheran Church of Guatemala have partnered together to share God’s physical and spiritual healing with as many souls as possible. They have developed a network of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod partner churches to send medical professionals and mission teams to Guatemala on short term medical mission trips. In order to reach these isolated villages they need the right tool, namely a Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus. The funds will be used to purchase and retrofit a bus with medical equipment. Bible school equipment will also be purchased enabling the teams to heal both the physical and spiritual needs of the Guatemalan children. While the physicians tend to their physical needs, the

ministers and lay leaders go into the villages and set up bible classes, VBS and worship services. Child Beyond International will continue to financially support this ministry.

13. Touching the Living Word — Lutheran Braille Workers $100,000

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has been bringing the gospel to blind and visually impaired people around the world since 1943. In its 76 year history, LBW has produced and distributed for free over 14 million volumes of braille, large print, and audio materials. Many volunteers help produce these Bibles and other materials using zinc plates, braille presses, specialized paper, covers, and spiral bindings. Currently these materials are published in 11 languages and sent to over 130 countries. They have published over 220,000 volumes over the last 42 months as the demand keeps increasing. This incredible volume takes its toll on the production equipment since each page requires separate zinc plates which are produced by a plate embossing device. The main challenge facing LBW's goal is having the machines and technology available to produce the zinc plates. With this grant LBW will be able to purchase a PUMA plate embossing device capable of creating the necessary number of zinc plates to meet production needs. It will also allow the production of more plates in different languages, reaching even more people with the Good News of Salvation.

14. Teaching the Faith through Music — St. Paul's Music Conservatory, Council Bluffs, Iowa $78,600

St. Paul's Music Conservatory (SPMC) is a parish-based mission that serves children in the Council Bluffs community with the message of Jesus Christ and a heart of mercy that bridges cultural barriers. The conservatory is based out of the church and has an enrollment of over 100 students studying music from Christian instructors who serve as role models and evangelists to whomever they teach. Through these lessons the students learn about Jesus through Christian music. Over the last two years SPMC has produced a Christmas CD and a piano book "Hymns of the Season", the start of a catalog of resources. These resources will benefit all involved presenting the Gospel, music, and Christian art which will move children forward both in faith and as a musicians. This grant will enable SPMC to create the resources they can share with Spanish speaking mission sites all across the United States and to help other churches set up their own music ministry.

15. Mission Outreach Among the Oromo — The LCMS Missouri District $37,175

Kansas City, Missouri, has been blessed by an influx of Ethiopian immigrants – specifically, the Oromo – the largest people group of that nation's population. The Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society (OELMS) reaches Oromo speaking immigrants, assisting them in finding places to worship. The Oromo people began worship at Christ Lutheran Church in Kansas City and have since outgrown the sanctuary, moving into the gym. Pastor Abdi Megerssa Selbana was identified as a potential pastor when he was originally in the United States. He is currently serving as a religious worker in the church, planning to enter the seminary and become ordained which will enable their church to become officially affiliated with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. While they meet in the gymnasium they need a moveable altar and a moveable baptismal font. Since the congregation members are all immigrants and starting a new life in this country, their resources are limited. They are only able to pay half their pastors' salary. This grant will help with salary, benefits, education and supplies for this vital, growing church.

16. Making Jesus Known in United States Ethnic Communities — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri $100,000

Throughout the country, there are many devoted first-generation immigrants serving in full-time ministry, reaching out to their ethnic communities and sharing the Gospel. Many of these church workers are enrolled in either of two Concordia Seminary programs – the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) and the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT). Both share the mission to make Christ known in their respective ethnic communities. CHS has a four-year program taught in Spanish and includes students from many Hispanic-Latino cultures. The EIIT program already has students that have been working in Word and Sacrament ministry as part of their culture. These students often have strained financial circumstances that are making it difficult to pay for this necessary education. Most hold two and three jobs to make ends meet but are willing to go to great lengths in the service of Christ and His Gospel. It is vital that they have the Biblical foundation to go with their passion for ministry. This grant will go towards funding the education costs of these devoted students and church workers.

17. Expanding Broadcast of *Worship Anew* — Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc., Ft. Wayne, Indiana $80,000

Worship Anew, is a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast program of music, scripture and prayers with a Lutheran pastor delivering a message designed to feel one-on-one, that reaches many that are facing life's difficult struggles such as health issues, loss of loved ones, and depression. Sharing God's Word through every program, this grant would dramatically increase the reach of the broadcast into millions more homes. Through the purchase of airtime on local TV stations, DVD subscriptions, and webcasts, the message of the gospel is shared with countless households. As good stewards, *Worship Anew* has a strong sustainability plan and strong partnerships with a state-of-the-art production facility on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

18. Expanding Congolese & Arabic Refugee Work — Christian Friends of New Americans $30,000

Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA) address the spiritual and physical needs of refugees and immigrants in the St. Louis. CFNA partners with Lutheran congregations, schools (Lutheran and public), secular organizations, and religious organizations and especially with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in order to build relationships with new Americans. Volunteers cover a range of programs and services helping to build relationships through computer classes, English as a Second Language, health and wellness screenings, household items, after-school tutoring and more. Connecting refugees with supportive Christian friends and having ethnic leaders leading Bible studies brings the focus of witnessing about Jesus as Savior at every opportunity. Those already connected with a church often reach out and invite others in their ethnic groups to join them. Congolese and Arabic (mostly Syrian) refugees overcome barriers working towards English fluency, obtaining health care, guidance and friendships. Introducing them to Jesus and giving Lutheran volunteers opportunities to 'make a difference' in lives through CFNA is of most importance. Grant monies would sustain ministry and assist with outreach and translation work.

19. Water and Word for Rural Schools — Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenya $80,000

In 2008, a man from Nebraska traveling in East Africa saw the need for clean water and sought a way to help. Through contact with a social worker and educator in Nakuru, Kenya, he devised a system of installing water harvesting equipment (rain gutters and tanks), filters, hand washing stations and clean water storage to be installed in schools in Kenya. In 2016, members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod from Nebraska took over the management of the project. They visit Kenya every year, traveling to schools assessing their water needs. Teams from the United States install rain gutters and tanks for

storage. Hand washing stations and clean water "buckets' are placed in every classroom. They teach personal hygiene, handwashing and the importance of drinking only clean water. WASH clubs, made up of students and staff, are formed to be responsible for the clean water program. The grant will help the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) to extend their ministry of Word and Sacrament by expanding the clean water project for their schools and orphanages.

20. Women's Witness and Mercy Asia — Mission Central $100,000

Asia is a harvest field ripe for the gospel. Women in Mission realize that our grants to missionaries in the field bring God's Word to a dying world. Asia is predominately secular with Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu and other false religions. Throughout Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau and Southeast Asia, ten women do various mission works such as teaching, acts of mercy and witnessing the gospel. Some have husbands and families working alongside of them while others work with a team or alone. One missionary teaches 242 students about Jesus in Taiwan while another has served for 10 years planting seeds of mercy and witnessing in Southeast Asia. Whether teaching English as a Second Language in Thailand or building relationships to open doors for sharing the gospel, each woman in the mission field helps in the growth God's Kingdom. This grant will help support these women in their unique mission setting in Asia.

21. Digital Media Development — Lutherans For Life $30,000

The mission of Lutherans For Life (LFL) is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel motivated voices for life. Life issues, like abortion, embryo experimentation, and physician assisted suicide are not political or personal choices but matters of the heart that effect people, neighbors, loved ones, and family. In America some 30 million women have undergone abortions since 1973 of which 54% identify as Christians. Suicide rates nationwide are rising. Physician assisted suicides are escalating. Digital media offers an open mission field to address these and other life issues. Yet much online communication degenerates, disrespects, and devalues life. LFL believes our Savior is calling us to speak the truth in love. This grant would fund infographics, memes (pop culture snapshots with captions), shareable video clips, webinars, and podcasts. This digital media initiative will serve as a visual witness and virtual conversation for Lutheran individuals and congregations to engage people using social networks like YouTube, Facebook, iTunes, and Instagram.

22. Holy Cross Lutheran Mission Plant — Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries $100,000

The mission of Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) is to facilitate cooperation among The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations in the Pittsburgh region and outlying areas in supporting the mission work of the church. The Hazelwood neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is under redevelopment. PALM sees this revitalization as an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to start Holy Cross Lutheran Mission Plant which will grow with the community. PALM in partnership with First Trinity Lutheran Church will place a vicar in Hazelwood to develop relationships with the residents there. Support of this grant will allow gospel outreach through Holy Cross Lutheran Mission Plant.

23. Ministry in Motion — Trinity Lutheran Church, Mobile, Alabama $58,000

Trinity Lutheran School, modeled after the ministry of Rosa J. Young, has remained a stronghold of Christ centered education in a community dealing with inter-generational poverty and the challenges of urban living. Today Trinity serves 200 students from infants through fifth grade, and reaches another 45 students daily from four public schools through its afterschool program and Good News Bible Club.

Daily prayer, chapel, and devotions help children, many from unchurched homes, develop spiritually in knowing God loves them. Grant funds are needed to purchase a handicapped accessible church bus for school children, elders, neighbors, and church members to participate in church and school ministries.

24. Wind River Indian Reservation Transportation —Wind River Lutheran Mission $40,000

Wind River Lutheran Mission (WRLM) works with the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes and is currently the only existing full-time mission with a pastor living on site. In this high poverty area of Native Americans, children receive little or no support when it comes to Christian education. A large part of this ministry focuses on outreach to the children of the Wind River Reservation. Very few children can acquire transportation to attend bible classes at Fort Washakie and Crowheart. Parents allow WRLM staff to pick up their children and take them to Sunday school or VBS. In most instances this is the only opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ with children living on the reservation. With a suitable vehicle purchased with this grant money, children will be able to continue the approximately eighty-eight mile round trip for Sunday school at Fort Washakie and the sixty mile round trip for "Monday" school at Crowheart.

25. Sharing the Good News — Main Street Living Northland $53,200

Main Street Living Northland is a weekly televised ministry that has the potential to reach 157,000 households in the Duluth-Superior television market. The goal is to deliver a message of hope and good news of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible which may include the elderly, ill, or shut in. The audience may also include people with transportation issues that prevent them from going to church, those without a church home, or non-believers seeking an introduction to Jesus Christ. The 30- minute program is available on TV, cable, and the internet which includes all the elements of a traditional church service. This grant will support one year of production and broadcast fees which will be matched by money raised from local congregations.

26. Equipping Missionaries to be Reconcilers – LCMS Office of International Mission $62,500

The main priority of a missionary is to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who have never heard the Good News or know of God's peace and reconciliation. Many times the native church bodies face insurmountable disagreements between themselves. Due to facing many cultural differences, language barriers, and poor living conditions, missionaries may face many personal, professional, and spiritual challenges. There is a rising need of wellness training for our missionaries. The goal is to be proactive in equipping them with reconciliation training. By expanding the existing worker retreat program to include specialized training, the missionaries can both maintain personal relationships in Christ and in turn, share this gift of reconciliation with those to whom they minister.

27. Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow — LCMS School Ministries $80,000

The need for well-trained leaders for our Lutheran schools is already great and increasing. To address the critical shortage of school administrators, the School Leadership Development Program (SLED) has been redesigned to better equip educators with the tools needed to lead Lutheran schools in the 21st century. God's children are well served and His kingdom is expanded with the help of knowledgeable educators. These grant funds will provide training to equip 30 qualified candidates for placement as administrators in LCMS schools who will directly impact thousands of students, helping them grow as disciples of Christ.

28. LCMS Deaconess Ministry — LCMS Office of International Mission $90,000

LCMS Deaconesses are women who are full time professional church workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. The LCMS Deaconess Ministry program will provide LCMS students the opportunity to become a church professional, learning and training to understand the diaconal leadership, the work of deaconesses as applied to body and soul ministry. This grant will provide educational and financial support to our partner churches who introduced deaconess training programs within their church bodies like the Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India.

29. Christ's Mercy in Russia — LCMS Office of International Mission $70,000

The mission of the Christian Counseling Centers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria, St Petersburg, Russia, and the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Novosibirsk, Russia is to spread Christian knowledge of salvation, sanctity of human life, marriage, and family. These ministries provide counseling services, computer training as a means of evangelization, development and distribution of educational materials in support of single mother families. The culture of a de Christianized society has caused a high rate of abortions. Funds from this grant will provide services in their community, especially for crisis pregnancy counseling, educational brochures about pregnancy, pregnancy test kits, ultrasound services, baby supplies, and other items to support women who choose not to abort their babies. All these programs are aimed at sharing about God's love and bringing the women to faith in Christ Jesus.

30. Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere — KFUO Radio $60,000

Since 1924, KFUO has been reaching people far and wide with the message of Jesus Christ by using the latest technology. In the last century, technology has advanced at an unprecedented rate and continues to develop with each new year. Incorporating the newest forms of communication methods into KFUO's ministry, they can more effectively reach the younger generation and the generations to come with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even our Nation's military can listen wherever they are stationed. Aging family and friends who are confined to their homes can still be gathered to the Word through an iPad or similar device. Prison Ministry also utilizes KFUO as an effective way of sharing the Gospel. This grant will assist the station in sharing the gospel and staying current in the digital age.

31. Pre- & Post-Seminary Training — Mission Training Center, Africa $62,650

In villages across Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, most local congregations are led by helpers, evangelists or seminary trained, and ordained pastors. Both the pre-seminary and post-seminary men are eager for opportunities to study theology in a community which will enable them to better serve their congregations. To enable those whom the church has called into service as lay leaders of these congregations, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Africa Mission Training Center provides continuing education opportunities for local pastors and their wives. The course may be taught by a church leader, a local seminary professor, or a missionary engaged in the work God has given him. This grant will provide basic theological training for lay leaders of congregations who serve under a pastor responsible for between five and 15 congregations. The training material allows the local pastor to work through a total of 22 workbooks (over two years) with his lay leaders. Lay leaders gather with their pastor for 5 days once a month. The program provides limited financial assistance to offset the costs of food and transportation.