

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS — \$100,000

(Note: Assign a leader and divide into two groups.)

Leader: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Group 1: The mission statement of Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is: All people in the world who are blind or visually impaired will have free access to the Good News of Jesus Christ as Savior.

All: Lord, we give thanks and praise for the mission of Lutheran Braille Workers.

Leader: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Group 2: Since LBW was founded in 1943, they have shared the Gospel with individuals who are blind or visually impaired. They have produced over 14 million volumes of braille, large print, and audio materials. Work started in a single language, and currently, materials are produced in over 30 languages.

All: Lord, we give thanks that through the work of LBW, people around the world can read and study Your Word.

Leader: Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37–38).

Group 1: The LBW volunteer force has grown from one in 1943, to over 3,000 volunteers working in 170 work centers across the United States.

All: Lord, we thank You for the dedicated volunteers who labor to print and assemble braille Bibles and other Christian materials.

Leader: Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men (Colossians 3:23).

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Group 2: The completed braille Bible consists of 37 volumes and is over five feet in length. Each page requires a separate zinc plate. A new Puma-brand plate embossing device, manufactured in Norway, will allow more zinc plates to be developed, and the Bible can be printed in additional languages. The saving news of God’s grace can then be spread to more people throughout the world. Funds from this mission grant will help LBW purchase the machine and pay for shipping, installation, and staff training.

All: Lord, we thank You for specialized machines and the people who design and manufacture them. The talents of their hands, and the hands of the volunteers, allow Your Word to be spread to those in need.

Leader: “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:29–32).

Group 1: It is estimated that 36 million people worldwide are blind or visually impaired, and 94 percent are unchurched. They continue to live without the hope found in Jesus Christ. The purchase of the new PUMA-brand plate embossing device will allow the production of more zinc plates in more languages to reach out with the hope we have in Jesus Christ through the publication of braille Bibles in multiple languages.

All: Lord, the master of all, continue to bless the work of LBW as they reach out to all with the Word of God. Bless the support of this mission grant to enable the purchase of the PUMA-brand plate embossing device that will enable the printing of more braille Bibles in more languages. Let all join with Simeon and proclaim loudly, “for my eyes have seen your salvation” (Luke 2:30). In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.