

LCMS SCHOOL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (SLED) PROGRAM LCMS School Ministry — \$80,000

Lutheran schools are one of the Synod's premier agencies for witness, mercy, and life together. Caring Christian teachers daily share the Word of God with children and families. The schools are designed to strengthen the home, school, and church partnership through educating the whole child. Students are prepared and equipped for a life of Christian discipleship and citizenship. Over 220,000 students are served in 1,992 schools consisting of 1,127 early childhood centers, 778 elementary schools, and 87 high schools.

The most important work of the Lutheran educator is to share the Gospel message of hope. Many of the students in our Lutheran schools come from families who are not connected with Christ through a church home. The students served in Lutheran schools (2017-2018) reflect a mission field with 51% of the students identified as non-Lutheran or unchurched. What an opportunity for our Lutheran teachers and administrators to share the love of God through Christ Jesus!

According to the Institute for Education Statistics, many school leaders are retiring or pursuing new opportunities, thus creating a deficit of qualified candidates to fill their positions. Lutheran schools are in need of early childhood directors and elementary and secondary administrators. Immedi-

ate and long-term planning is needed to ensure the future of Lutheran education for the next generation of children and families.

The LCMS School Leadership Development (SLED) Training Program is specifically designed to have a direct impact on the Lutheran education system. The SLED Program's purpose is to identify and recruit thirty leadership participants each year who are currently serving in Lutheran schools and train them through two national SLED events conducted by LCMS School Ministry.

The project seeks to strengthen and revitalize Lutheran schools with administrators trained to be vital and effective leaders so that God's children are empowered and encouraged to live out their lives as His children. SLED candidates experience a year-long interactive on-line course of study led by respected Lutheran leaders. Two face-to-face development training events are held so that the leadership participants can work together on meaningful projects. This LWML sponsored mission grant will provide the funding for one of the two yearly face-to-face development training events. What a blessing we have to support Lutheran school leaders as they continue their service in the mission field.