

February 2021

2019–2021 LWML MISSION GRANT #19

Making Jesus Known

PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for providing assistance for distance learning and training of those to be ordained to serve churches in multi-ethnic communities.

PRAYER #1

Lord, the communities we are living in are changing and becoming more diverse. We thank You for the opportunities here in the United States to witness and serve people from various parts of world. Help us to reach out and share with them the love of Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER #2

Lord, some who come to the United States have served as pastors in their home countries. Help them as they serve in their multicultural communities. May Your Spirit equip them to grow in their faith and learn how to reach out and serve their fellow immigrants in this new country. In His name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER #3

Lord, be with the students who are studying through CHS and EIIT Concordia distance learning programs. They study while still serving their local church, holding jobs, and caring for their families. Their financial struggles can be great, and we ask You to strengthen them and to motivate us to support them. In His name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER #4

Lord, we give thanks for the servants You have raised up within the multicultural communities. These men and women serve faithfully and share Your love. We thank You for the specialized training they receive through CHS and EIIT. This training is equipping the students to share the Gospel of Christ. Bless their studies and their ministry. In His name we pray. Amen.



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CUT OR FOLD THIS LWML PRAYER GUIDE ON THE WHITE DOTTED LINE AND KEEP IN YOUR BIBLES FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

MAKING JESUS KNOWN IN THE UNITED STATES ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis — \$100,000

Across the country, in both rural and urban areas, there are passionately devoted first-generation immigrants serving in full-time ministry positions, sharing the Gospel among their immigrant/ethnic communities. They are bringing the message of eternal salvation. The LCMS is embracing the rapidly increasing ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States by providing two unique seminary programs for these church workers.

The Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) is an entrance level program providing lay people in the local Hispanic congregations with a foundational knowledge of Scripture and Lutheran theology and practice. The Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) offers a specialized program of preparation for men who want to serve as pastors and women who want to serve as deaconesses in immigrant and ethnic minority communities in North America. These pastors and deaconesses are reaching out to immigrant/ethnic groups who came from countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. Both programs are distance education programs that last four years and lead to a certificate of ordination. CHS students share the Spanish language, whereas EIIT students are a multi-language group. Most of the students enrolled in CHS and EIIT have been very active in their congregations. They are engaged in helping the immigrants in their communities. They give spiritual care and also may help others find a job, a home, or get access to health care. Evangelism in the immigrant community is done through networks of personal relationships. The director of EIIT states, "A number of the EIIT students have come from war-torn countries. They realize that only by the grace of God they were not killed in these wars. This drives them to be more committed in their service to the Lord and in bringing the Gospel to more people."

Many of the students live with strained financial circumstances, often working a second job while serving in their congregations. Even though they have these constraints, they are willing to go to great lengths in the service of Christ and His Gospel. Understanding the financial burden for these students, it is the policy of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to provide or find 100 percent tuition funding for them. Congregations and districts are encouraged to help meet the students' financial needs but many times fall short. This grant will help meet the education costs for these students.

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