

# Mission Grant Story • April 2021

## LCMS DEACONESS MINISTRY

LCMS Office of International Mission — \$39,523

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 provides LCMS students the opportunity to become church professionals, learning about diaconal leadership, and the work of deaconesses as it applies to body and soul ministry.

Christ's love for the whole person remains the supreme example for Christians, caring for the needy in body and soul. He said,

*For I was hungry and  
you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and  
you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and  
you welcomed me,  
I was naked and  
you clothed me,*

*I was sick and  
you visited me,  
I was in prison and  
you came to me  
(Matthew 25:35–36).*

LCMS Deaconess Ministry works both domestically and internationally. These women serve in congregations alongside the office of pastor or in institutions where, like the women of old, they may serve as institutional chaplains.

This grant will provide educational and financial support to the deaconess programs in our international partner churches in the Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India. Their theological training encompasses two years of studies and one year of internship. The grant helps fund theological education, text books, resources, transportation, student aid, and tuition support to the underprivileged women who have a passion to learn confessional theological studies in order to serve the church.