



# Ministering to Returning Soldiers and Veterans

2021–2023 Biennium  
Mission Goal:  
**\$2,150,000**  
Mission Grant #2  
**\$95,000**



## Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses Spirit Warrior, Central Maine — \$95,000

*Sing for joy, O heavens,  
and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O  
mountains, into sing-  
ing! For the LORD has  
comforted his people  
and will have  
compassion on his  
afflicted (Isaiah 49:13).*

*The LORD is near  
to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed  
in spirit (Psalm 34:18).*

Maine is among the list of “least churched” states in the nation. It has only three Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations in the entire state and only five Veteran Administration Chaplains. Deaconess Kim Slininger was called to Hope Lutheran Church to reach out to the extensive veteran and military community in the Bangor area. Deaconess Kim is herself a disabled veteran, and the Spirit Warrior program is an extension of her ministry.

Many veterans/service members want to connect with God. Theological discussion — as well as hearing of the love of Christ — take place while caring for the horses. “Equine Experiential Learning” is now a recognized therapy for those suffering

from mental health issues. Spirit Warrior is a program that addresses the need to provide pastoral/diaconal care using horses with those who have endured the hardships of war and have returned.

### We Pray Together:

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise Your holy name. In praise to You, we lift up this mission grant and ask that it be a means of providing for the spiritual and emotional healing of the military men and women in the Bangor, Maine, area. We pray they will receive expert therapeutic care and hear Your Word. We commend all who participate in the Spirit Warrior program into Your care. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Learn more about this mission grant at [lwml.org/mission-grants](http://lwml.org/mission-grants)



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