



2019–2021 LWML Mission Grant — \$80,000

Water and the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya

BY SHURIE SCHEEL WITH EDEN KEEFE, MISSION EDITOR



The first time I stepped off the airplane in Nairobi, Kenya, I fell in love with the people and culture. As you often hear, that first trip was life changing for me. The poverty is unbelievable, but the people, their deep sense of faith and trust in God, and the work God is doing there are equally inspiring.

It started with Rotary grants and working with schools to collect and filter rainwater. While in the country, we visited schools to bring soccer balls, books, school supplies, and washable sanitary pad kits to the schoolgirls, in an effort to keep them in school. In fact, the first grant received from LWML was a district grant that paid to ship sanitary pad kits to Kenya, a major expense for us over the years.

The 2019–2021 LWML grant funded ten schools and much more. We worked closely with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK), knowing that we must be very intentional in relationship building at every level of the church. Our contractor, Isaac, spent a lot of time and effort, holding meetings in each of the five dioceses, or regions/districts, of the ELCK. He has trained pastors in each area about clean water, and they are all on-board with the project. The ELCK also chose only two schools in each diocese, in an effort to not show partiality — to make it fair to all.

In those ten schools, we asked the students, parents, and staff to help with the project and take care of the equipment. We worked with a local nongovernmental organization (NGO), Running Waters International. The Running Waters team takes care of initial school visits, installation, and education sessions with staff and students, as well as helping to facilitate a project commissioning.

ELCK — working with the LCMS Office of International Mission — provides schools and support. A church worker or pastor makes a school visit periodically to check on the water project and leads students in a Bible study or preaches a sermon. This helps to ensure the success of the water projects and allows the children to hear biblical teachings from a trained pastor. The grant reimburses the expenses of the church in this effort. Due to financial restrictions, pastors aren't often able to visit the churches and schools under their care. The children have been blessed immensely by LWML mite donations!

Because the groundwork has been done and the relationships built and cultivated, any funds raised now can go directly to help another school or orphanage. The Kenyan church is so excited about the project. They have already raised enough money to fund one more school! This truly is God's work, and He can do great things! Our plan now is

to just start adding schools and rotating dioceses as we raise funds. Please pray for us. It's only with God's guidance and support that we are able to do this work. Please join us! All donations are welcome and greatly appreciated, and there are ways to volunteer. **Q**

Shurie Scheel is the grant administrator for Water and the Word in Kenya. She is involved in LWML at St. Paul Lutheran in Thermopolis, Wyoming, has served as a YWR to both a district and a national convention, and has served in various offices — currently as the LWML Wyoming District Human Care Chair. Email Shurie at shuriescheel@gmail.com for their address or follow them on the Water and the Word Facebook page.



2021–2023 MISSION GRANTS

MISSION GOAL: \$2,150,000

2021-2023 Mission Grant Summaries

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

Using horses, the Spirit Warrior program addresses the need to provide pastoral/diaconal care to veterans and those in the military community. This grant will provide funding for 58 veterans to participate in the program.

#5 Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach — Lutheran Deaf Outreach, \$50,000

This grant will assist the expansion of Jesus Signs Training Workshops through the sharing of resources, by assisting pastors, and by instructing individuals to lead the workshops.

#6 Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients — Phil's Friends, \$70,000

This grant will further fund Phil's Friends Cancer Care Packages, Cards of Hope, and the new virtual program, Hope on Call, to train volunteers who talk and pray with cancer patients.

#7 Training Pastors to Serve the Church in Russia — Lutheran Theological Seminary, Novosibirsk, Siberia, \$100,000

This grant will fund some of the operational expenses of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, allowing it to provide a solid theological education to those seeking to serve as pastors and deaconesses within the Siberian Lutheran Church.

1	Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch)	\$ 81,680
2	Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses (Spirit Warrior, Central Maine)	\$ 95,000
3	Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa's Children (Lutheran Heritage Foundation)	\$100,000
4	Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life (LCMS Life Ministry)	\$ 92,000
5	Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach (Lutheran Deaf Outreach)	\$ 50,000
6	Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients (Phil's Friends)	\$ 70,000
7	Training Pastors to Serve the Church in Russia (Lutheran Theological Seminary, Novosibirsk, Siberia)	\$100,000
8	Light of Christ in Eastern Europe (Mission Central)	\$ 56,000
9	Propelling the Gospel (LAMP Ministry, Inc.)	\$ 65,000
10	Educating Pastors in Africa (Mission Central)	\$100,000
11	Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion (Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries)	\$100,000
12	Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania (Mwadui Lutheran School and Community)	\$ 68,182
13	Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia (Lutheran Hour Ministries)	\$100,000
14	Caring for and Sharing Christ with Hurting People (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis)	\$100,000
15	The Littlest and Least of These (St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy, Dallas, Texas)	\$ 42,000
16	Bring the Inner-City Children to Camp (Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado)	\$ 25,000
17	Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru (La Mision Luterana del Peru)	\$ 56,750
18	"Ends of Earth" Scholarships (Mission Opportunities Short Term — MOST Ministries)	\$ 50,000
19	Sharing Jesus' Love in India (Lutheran Braille Workers)	\$100,000
20	Mission & Outreach to the Least of These (Victory Lutheran Church, K. I. Sawyer Community)	\$ 51,356
21	Mercy House Belize Lutheran Campus (Belize Mission Society)	\$100,000
22	Ministry Vehicle Fund, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone (Lutheran Bible Translators)	\$ 70,000
23	Showing God's Love in the International District, Albuquerque, New Mexico (God Cares About You Mission)	\$ 98,000
24	Reaching the Homebound with God's Word (Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. DBA Worship Anew)	\$100,000
25	Missionaries to America Project (Mission Nation Publishing)	\$ 88,000
26	Strengthening the Lutheran Mission to Kuna, Idaho (Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church)	\$100,000
27	Expanding God's Love in Uganda (LCMS Office of International Mission, Africa Region)	\$ 92,000
28	Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach (St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries)	\$ 70,208

■ -grant partially paid; ■ purple highlight -grant paid in full