



Life Means Hope

BY PASTOR MICHAEL SALEMINK,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE
WITH EDEN KEEFE,
MISSIONS EDITOR

Give a man a fish, and he'll eat for a day, but teach him to fish, and he'll eat for a lifetime. Address the sanctity of life with laws, and we may change a neighbor's behavior. This one may become an obedient citizen. But envelop the matter in the Gospel, and we will change the neighbor's heart. That one becomes a brother or a sister in Christ. Why fling a few coins or crumbled bills when you can break the bank and empty the treasury?

Lutherans bring a distinctive voice to conversations about life issues. We do not deny the suffering they sometimes involve. Surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis can leave people feeling afraid, abandoned, and ashamed. Most who support abortion, endorse physician-assisted suicide, or engage in embryocidal biotechnologies do so in anxiety or anger. Legislation and elections apply a necessary triage to the immediate trauma. Protesting and closing clinics treats the symptoms.

But only God's truth and Christ's love cure the root condition of sinful selfishness. We come with courage, compassion, and community that relieve and heal. We have hope and joy to give. No one needs to use death as a solution once they know the Lord creates, redeems, and calls every human life; each is His own precious treasure from fertilization to final breath (and beyond — forever!). Whatever a person's size, skills, or circumstances, we can lead our culture to receive him or her, to rejoice in every member of our race as a gift and a privilege.

Lutherans For Life (LFL) delights to put this ministry into practice across the country. Our Owen's Mission project leads chapel services and classroom

discussions. Our Y4Life initiative engages youth and networks students. Our Word of Hope hotline provides post-abortion and crisis care. Our Life Teams, Life Chapters, and State Federations connect volunteers taking local action. Our professional staff prepares life-affirming articles, devotions, brochures, booklets, podcasts, social media posts, in-person education, and online presentations. As recipients of a series of district awards along with a generous 2019–2021 national mission grant (LFL Digital Media Development), we proudly partner with and represent LWML.

What can you do?

- **Learn.** Visit our home page or YouTube channel to explore how Holy Scripture and Lutheran doctrine intersect life issues.
- **Love.** Involve yourself in the experiences and concerns of others to affirm their worth and purpose.
- **Serve.** Invest your abilities and interests in the relationships and opportunities God gives you.
- **Converse.** Ask questions and listen when sanctity-of-life topics arise. Testify to how His grace makes up for all our failings.
- **Celebrate!** Invite others around you to enjoy marriage, family, health, and length of days as blessings from the Heavenly Father.

God bless your Gospel-motivated voice For Life! Q

Pastor Salemink [pictured above on the far right at the 2022 March for Life] has served as Lutherans For Life Executive Director since 2015. He writes and speaks nationwide, equipping people to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. He lives in St. Louis with his wife, Heather, and their three sons.

Mission Grant Summaries

The following are summaries of four of 28 Mission Grants for this biennium. Please keep these ministries in your prayers throughout the summer.



#8 Light of Christ in Eastern Europe — Mission Central, \$56,000

The Lutheran Church is striving to meet the urgent need to bring the love and light of Christ to German and Czech citizens, as well as to immigrants and refugees settling in Germany. This grant will help in the support of eight missionaries in these counties.

#9 Propelling the Gospel — LAMP Ministry, Inc., \$65,000

LAMP Ministry, Inc. has been using small aircraft to take the Gospel message to the Indigenous people in the most remote areas of northern Canada. This grant will fund avionics instrument upgrades to ensure safety for LAMP's missionaries and pilots.

#10 Educating Pastors in Africa — Mission Central, \$100,000

God is calling African men to become pastors. These men of faith know the culture and how best to share God's truth and the love of Christ in their native countries. Grant funds will be used for pastoral education projects as well as general support of six missionaries — five pastors and one layman.



#11 Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion — Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, \$100,000

In central Florida, Redeeming Life currently operates maternity and transitional homes for single pregnant women who are homeless, abused, and/or at-risk of abortion. It is a proven model. Redeeming Life is expanding its ministry. This grant will help support a called Deaconess to serve in a new location in the Chicagoland area.



2021–2023 MISSION GRANTS
MISSION GOAL: \$2,150,000

- 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** (Mwadi 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; ■ -grant paid in full