



*May 2015*

## MISSION GRANT STORY

### ST. PAUL COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - PONTIAC, MI

Pastor Dietrick Gladden and his wife, Becky, are building a vibrant ministry in the city center of Pontiac, Michigan that connects with homeless neighbors, people held captive by addiction and dysfunction, families in need, and children who need a safe place to learn and grow. St. Paul Community Lutheran Church is in the midst of a community just discovering Jesus, and not yet able to form a core of believers or members to help support ministry.

While worship attendance averages around 70 people, it's not unusual for church events to attract far more. Most events provide food for a hungry community, including Wednesday night family dinner and Bible study, Friday youth nights, and Vacation Bible School family breakfast and lunch. Because the need is so great, clothing, furniture, school supplies, and other needs are also met where donations can be found.

As newcomers grow exponentially, it becomes more urgent to develop means to connect them to worship and other parts of ministry.

The grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League would make it possible for this ministry to continue in three areas: (1) hiring of a part-time music leader to develop a quality of worship that will draw and connect people to Jesus in a deeper way and part-time office staffing to provide vital quality communications with supporters and the church community; (2) refurbishing and bringing the existing community youth center up to code so the youth and their families can find shelter and hope in Jesus from the day-to-day crises in their lives; and (3) funds would provide an electronic church sign to communicate their outreach resources and events.