

MISSION GRANTS BANK

The grants listed below were approved by the Mission Grants Selection Committee for placement in the Mission Grants Bank. LWML districts may want to consider them for their convention ballots. Please contact the person named with each grant for updated information.

New Life Children's Center Spiritual Program Lutheran Social Services of the South \$30,000

Lutheran Social Services of the South (DBA Upbring) is a faith-based organization in Texas with strong connections to the Lutheran Church. Abuse and neglect of children is a result of sin and is abhorrent to God's divine intention for His creation. The staff of Upbring New Life Children's Center work to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect by empowering children, families, and communities through individualized education, therapies, and spiritual care to bring healing in the lives of young girls aged 11-17. The center provides the safety, structure, and support they need to thrive. This grant will help finance the Spiritual Care Program which is designed to help these young girls and promote Christ's healing through a healthy relationship with God, which in turn motivates resiliency and creates support to break generational cycles of abuse and poverty.

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A Deeper Reach with Jesus into the Unreached Salam Ministries \$100,000

Salam Ministries reaches out to Muslim families in San Diego and Orange County, California. The families include immigrant/refugees or asylum seekers. Salam Ministries provides language partners, English as Second Language (ESL) classes, Arabic language classes, prayer, assistance in finding apartments, help to complete job applications and resumes, fellowship, meals, Bible study, visitations, driving lessons, ministry to women, men, and children. Steady growth has revealed the need to add more space for their multiethnic and multilingual refugees to gather for Bible study, training, and fellowship gatherings. This grant will provide partial rent payment for a Welcome Center and a van for transportation to further the work of outreach to Muslim families in Southern California.

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Theological Libraries and Resources, Africa

LCMS Office of International Ministry \$28,500

The LCMS encourages and supports Lutheran churches across Africa in pastoral education. Students training to be pastors and deaconesses need access to printed and digital resources in theological seminaries and training centers across Africa. This grant will help establish and fortify printed and digital library collections, cataloging, transport, and training for theological libraries of partner institutes and seminaries on the African continent. This will allow students to seek otherwise inaccessible theological knowledge, better equip them to provide pastoral care within their ministerial contexts and enable pastors and deaconesses toward faithful stewardship of their national churches. These resources will equip the workers who will teach at regional Bible schools, oversee large parishes of 15-30 congregations, and enable the church to strengthen its clergy and leaders.

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Bread of Life in Truth and Action

Martin Luther School, Queens, New York \$40,000

Martin Luther School (MLS) is a highly diverse college prep Lutheran middle/high school in Queens, New York, where students are encouraged to grow in faith and flourish in academics, the arts, athletics, and life. The school instills the personal values of compassion and charity among their students so that they may *not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth* (1 John 3:18b). MLS currently meets the needs of their food insecure students and neighbors through their Bread of Life Project food collections, donations, and food production service projects. In a community hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, this grant will allow MLS to expand their Bread of Life Project with a youth hunger retreat, establish an in-school food pantry formally recognized by New York City Food Bank, and start a community soup kitchen to serve community meals on or around significant holidays.

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Foundations for Life: An LCMS Micro School

Messiah Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC \$84,064

Messiah Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC, is building on its 36-year history of success in educating a diverse group of preschool students by establishing a Christian K-12 micro school with innovative, self-paced, individualized instruction in Christian values, academics, and life skills. Charlotte public schools are experiencing overcrowding and safety concerns as well as the lack of flexibility to individualize instruction and impart biblical morals and values to students. There is no LCMS elementary-secondary school

option in the Charlotte community and families are seeking an affordable option for Christian education that is based on LCMS beliefs. The grant will fund technology, as well as scholarship assistance to ensure service to diverse families. Messiah has invested in extensive planning, constant prayer, and consultation with Soaring Education Services (SES), a division of Open Sky Education, which specializes in development, launching, and sustaining of affordable non-traditional Christian schools.

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Set to Serve: Respite Care Training

Voice of Care, U.S. \$100,000

Approximately sixty-one million people in the United States live with a disability and more than 80% are unchurched. Families with a member requiring caregiving, who do attend church, may slowly vanish from congregational life; the need for caregiver respite is critical. Voice of Care Set to Serve: Respite and Companion Care Training prepares trainees to serve in homes and to provide respite drop-off activities in a church setting allowing families to leave their loved ones in the care of qualified volunteers. This grant will help to cover the cost of eight training workshops for congregations and will help with the cost of ongoing congregational support services and the option to pursue further training to train others. Voice of Care strives to equip congregations to embrace, empower, and engage people who experience disabilities and their families in their walk with Christ.

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Walking with Youth Transitioning to Adulthood

Fairmount Ministries, Wichita, KS \$60,000

University Lutheran Ministry Association DBA Fairmount Ministries seeks to engage Wichita State University and the surrounding community with a ministry of presence and encouragement, using the Fairmount Coffee Co. as a vessel to build relationships with all who enter. Statistics currently show that 66 percent of young adults walk away from the Lord during college and resources to engage, equip, and empower this generation are limited. About 13 percent of the students at Wichita State University are international students, so there are numerous opportunities to share the Gospel with students who did not grow up in the church. If approved this grant will allow Fairmount Ministries to expand its ministries and programs and provide training, resources, and ministry support to empower students to grow in faith, follow Jesus, and share the Gospel message.

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New Location for Transitional Housing

Welcome Home Collaborative, Cincinnati, OH \$100,000

Welcome Home Collaborative (WHC) is a Christian-based transitional housing program located near downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. John Suguitan pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church serves as Executive Director. The mission of WHC is to serve those who are marginalized, experiencing homelessness, and suffering from mental illness. It works to help the homeless, working poor and struggling families, by offering temporary housing in a program environment that includes a life coach along with specific program rules and procedures to follow to achieve transformational change. With the guidance of life coaches and help of the Holy Spirit, lives are transformed. This grant will help complete the remodeling of a home recently purchased that can house six additional homeless men who need help. With the remodeled house, there will be seven WHC transitional homes serving the marginalized in Cincinnati.

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Mercy Ministry in Motion

Faith Lutheran Church, Shreveport, Louisiana \$48,875

In 2017, St. Paul (predominantly white) and Faith (predominantly African American) Lutheran Churches in Shreveport, Louisiana joined together into one ministry of Word, Sacrament, and mercy — Faith Lutheran Church. The new congregation moved to the St. Paul location which is in a changing community with high poverty and crime rates. Reaching out to the community they planted a year-round community garden and built an outdoor basketball court where the pastor and members can be found shooting hoops. They currently host community cookouts, sponsor clothing giveaways, teach Vacation Bible School, collect food for a local food pantry, and invite neighbors to worship and Sunday School. This grant will allow the congregation to purchase a church van enabling them to better serve the community and its own members, especially helping youth and adults participate together in servant events, church-based retreats, and their outreach ministry to the Sickle Cell Disease Association.

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Christ's Care for Children: Kenya

LCMS Office of International Mission-Africa Region \$80,000

Christ's Care for Children: Kenya is a child sponsorship program linked to Project 24. The program cares for vulnerable children living at one of eight Project 24 boarding facilities managed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya through support by LCMS. This sponsorship program matches donors in the U.S. with children who are living at the Project 24 sites and gives these children the opportunity for a successful life through spiritual care and education while providing safe housing, meals, and life lessons on self-care and sustainability. This grant introduces a 50/50 matching challenge to motivate donors. Each time a new sponsor — or an existing sponsor choosing an additional student — commits to a sponsorship with a commitment of two years, the donor would provide \$45/month and the grant will provide another \$45 in matching funds.

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Proclaim the Gospel

Serve in Mercy \$41,000

The LCMS Office of National Mission extends her work of mission outreach, education, and mercy through independent Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) whose programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the LCMS. RSOs serve the needs of all God's people and may sometimes need assistance in proclaiming the Gospel and strengthening and maintaining their Lutheran leadership. The LCMS Office of National Mission supports and works with independent RSOs and may receive requests for resources such as Bibles, children's bible story books, women's devotional study books, guidance, and resources for their leadership staff. This grant will purchase resources and provide leadership training for RSOs to strongly live out their Lutheran identity in Word and Sacrament ministry and in acts of mercy.

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Walking Together in the Mission Field

LCMS Office of International Missions \$50,000

The LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) recruits, trains, sends, and cares for our missionaries, human care workers and international educators. OIM continually receives additional requests for pastors and is not able to immediately fulfill the request. However, our church partners have pastors who are uniquely equipped for an open position in the mission field due to their culture, language, availability to deploy, or other factors. Pastors from partner churches who coordinate with the LCMS as missionaries or instructors are called Alliance Missionaries. Alliance Missionaries do not replace LCMS Missionaries; they work together complementing and strengthening each other as they

work. Alliance Missionaries typically do not have a large church membership supporting them from home and they are not able to raise their own funds for support. This grant will provide a portion of the monetary support needed by Alliance Missionaries working alongside the LCMS.

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**Camp Dixie Outdoor Ministries Mattresses
Elberta, Alabama**

Camp Dixie Lutheran Outdoor Ministries provides a summer camp to youth in the Alabama area. The camp provides a place for campers and staff to grow spiritually, physically, emotionally, and intellectually, in a positive way by experiencing, reflecting, and evaluating in an outdoor-based Christ centered program. Camp Dixie is committed to providing the healthiest, most comfortable, and safest experience for all persons who come to our facility. All our mattresses are over 11 years old. Many of them have tears and stitching that is coming loose for which we get penalized by the health department on our yearly inspection. We have over forty that are cloth covered with a vinyl zippered bag as required by the health department. They are very hard to keep clean and sanitized to meet the health code. We are wanting to replace all the current cloth ones with approved vinyl ones that are bedbug resistant and easier to clean and will not get damaged if exposed to bedwetters. The newer mattresses will be more comfortable for our adult guests who rent our facility. We are seeking assistance to help raise the necessary funds needed to replace at least fifty mattresses. Cost is currently \$120 per mattress and shipping and handling is around \$8.00 per mattress.

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**Lutheran Theological Education in Africa
Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society \$5,000**

Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) in Pretoria (Tshwane), South Africa trains both pastors and deaconesses for the work of the Lutheran Church in the countries in southern Africa. St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society was established to support and promote theological education for future pastors and deaconesses at LTS. The society raises funds for financial aid to support the needs of both residential students and visiting professors. The LTS student body consists of 24 students who come from South Africa (16), Ethiopia (4), DRC Congo (3), and Malawi (1). Grant funds submitted to Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society are used to support students during their Lutheran theological education. Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS.

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Mission Opportunities to New Locations

MOST Ministries \$50,000

Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) assists committed Christians from the U.S. to take mission trips around the globe to share the Gospel while meeting peoples' physical needs. Each year, MOST Ministries receives requests from new global mission locations for their teams and clinics. After a request is received, it is evaluated to determine the religious affiliation, the local congregation's evangelism strategy, community physical needs, and U.S. State Department assessment of political stability, safety, and health risks. This information is obtained through application forms and online research. The final evaluation step is an onsite visit by MOST Ministries staff to the new mission location to determine the best way for a MOST team to support the church through witness and service. The money requested for this grant will help meet the expenses of the onsite visit. MOST Ministries is a Registered Service Organization of the LCMS.

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