



Upheld by God's Hand — Mental Health Outreach

Millions of people in the United States and around the world are suffering with mental illnesses and disorders. There is a tremendous need and opportunity for Lutheran outreach to both the people struggling with mental issues and their family members, so they may receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, pastors, church workers, and lay leaders are challenged in dealing with these problems because they do not have enough training to provide effective and appropriate care.

Public health researchers have conducted studies that indicate people with mental illnesses or disorders are more likely to approach a pastor or professional church worker than a medical doctor or counselor. A mental illness or mental disorder has a downward spiral effect in families that may include behavioral malfunctions, addictions, marital problems leading to divorce, loss of job, incarceration, and suicide. Training and outreach for mental illnesses and disorders are effective in assisting more people to get the help that they need.

The LCMS Task Force for Mental Illness, Health, and Wellness collaborating with expert LCMS contributors, with the help of grant funds, will develop materials, resources, and training programs. LCMS Life Ministry will coordinate the production of materials and rollout the training.

You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:9-10).



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