The country of Haiti is familiar with disasters of all kinds. An earthquake in 2010 killed almost a quarter million people. Hurricane Matthew blew through in 2016, taking every metal roof from homes and churches with it. As life was getting back to normal two more earthquakes hit regions of the country. Each time a disaster hits, LCMS Disaster Response calls on Ministry in Mission, a Recognized Service Organization (RSO), to assist.

Ministry in Mission has been working for 15 years in Haiti and works with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. Besides helping in times of disaster, Ministry in Mission has built and supports an orphanage, an eldercare home, and several feeding programs. They coordinate the sponsorship of nearly three hundred students so that they can daily attend school.

Now a manmade disaster has immobilized Haiti. Civil unrest and gang violence has taken over a great deal of the country. Currently there is no formal government. Our Christian brothers and sisters are living in fear and losing hope.

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together (1 Corinthians 12:26).

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).
Despite all this despair, God’s light shines through. The money from this grant will be used to finish the churches that were rebuilt or restored after the earthquake of 2021. Money was allocated for the repair, but inflation has hit, and more money is needed to finish the project. Churches are open for worship but need to be tiled, toilets installed, and electrical wiring completed. There are still supplies that need to be purchased locally as no shipping containers of supplies can enter Haiti.

Disaster in Haiti always brings people to Christ. They realize their voodoo gods are not working for them. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti is building churches with the same structure and painted the same color so when traveling from village to village one sees and recognizes the Lutheran church. Each church is a symbol of the love of Jesus as they struggle through disaster after disaster.