

February 2016

PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for: Hope and Healing to the Navajo People

PRAYER #1

Dear Father, You grant blessings to all of Your children, and You see our struggles. We pray for those among the Navajo people who are facing unemployment, or struggling with substance abuse, domestic violence or depression. Many families are hurting, Lord. May they look to You and find loving Christian support in the ministry of Vicar Tim Norton and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. In Your Holy Name, we pray, Amen.

PRAYER #2

Dear Lord, Your disciple Timothy reminds us, *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.... This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* 1 Timothy 2:1-4. We uplift the Navajo people in prayer. May they find hope and healing through the Gospel! Amen.

PRAYER #3

We thank You Lord, for Timothy Yazzie, a Navajo man, who desires to share his faith with his fellow Navajo. His work with Vicar Norton has resulted in a desire for more scriptural training. We ask Your blessings on Timothy and pray he may be a strong Christian leader among his people, leading them back to You and the promises of Your love and salvation. In Jesus Name, we pray, Amen.

PRAYER #4

Dear Jesus, as we bring our mites to You, make us mindful of how they will be at work among the Navajo people. The problems and needs are great, but Your unfailing love is greater. Give courage, strength and perseverance to those working in this ministry. Strengthen the faith of Navajo Christians that they may effectively reach out in their communities with the saving message of the Gospel. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

www.lwml.org/missions

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AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE IN YOUR BIBLES
FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

MISSION GRANT STORY

HOPE AND HEALING TO THE NAVAJO PEOPLE \$75,000

The Navajo Nation is the largest native people group in the United States. Over the years, the Rocky Mountain District LWML and LWML have reached out to the Navajo people. In 1969 a parsonage and guest house were built for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Navajo, New Mexico. In 1979 an LWML Mission Grant funded the construction of an educational wing. The community was growing, and under the leadership of a young pastor, the future looked bright. Eight years ago the pastor retired leaving no one to serve the worshipers who remained. Lack of employment opportunities and behaviors that often accompany poverty began to dim the light of hope. In 2013 however, Tim Norton, a trained DCE and former LCMS missionary to Africa, was called as a missionary-at-large to the Navajo people.

In partnership with Lutheran Indian Ministries, Norton is working to establish after school enrichment programs for children, Boys/Girls Clubs, youth camps, a men's Bible group, and a support group for abused women. Mentoring and training Navajo people for lay-leadership opportunities is another vital part of this program.

In 2014, four Navajo men accompanied Norton to Alaska to work with the Athabaskan people of Minto, Alaska, to restore a cultural recovery camp. The Navajo people once migrated from that area, and Athabaskan and Navajo are both from the Diné people group. This reconnection and celebration of a common heritage, and the opportunity to share the Gospel, will offer mutual long term benefits.

It is with hopeful and thankful hearts that the LWML reaches out to our Navajo brothers and sisters. May our mite offerings truly help to bring hope and healing to the Navajo people.

