

#6 LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM FOR AFRICAN MISSIONS, Lutheran Heritage Foundation — \$5,000

Leader: Imagine that you are the sole pastor responsible for shepherding 10 churches over 1500 members! That is the reality facing many African churches, and many of these members are new Christians! As new followers of Jesus, there are so many questions about the faith and the Bible. This could be an overwhelming situation, but God has a plan to help the rapidly growing Lutheran church in Africa! Christ himself commands us to:

R1: *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”* (Matthew 28::19-20a NIV).

Leader: Thankfully, The **Lutheran Heritage Foundation**, a Registered Service Organization of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has nearly 30 years of expertise in translating and publishing the books of our Lutheran faith into 125 languages around the world. These books can be used in the pastor's absence to teach the basic beliefs in the Lutheran churches. God's hand is in the details.

R2: *For I know the plans that I have for you says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope* (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).

Leader: Through the funding of the mission grant **Luther's Small Catechism for African Missions** for \$5,000, the LWML South Dakota District is helping provide over 1,000 copies of the Small Catechism to LCMS missionaries and church leaders in Africa. That may seem like a huge number, but in Africa, those copies are quickly distributed with people wanting more copies! What we take for granted, African Christians cherish!

R3: *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb”* (Revelation 7: 9–10 NIV)

Leader: What a glorious vision! How humbling to think that we here in South Dakota have a part in the fulfilling of this mission grant to bring a clear understanding of the Good News to African Christians.

Close with the singing or reciting of the Kenyan hymn, “Listen, God is Calling” *LBW* #833.

All: Lord of all the peoples, we may forget at times that You see us all the same: no difference in race, culture, sex. or age. Bless the people of Africa who will benefit from these new Luther's Small Catechisms. May Your Spirit guide them as they read these words of instruction. Encourage the pastors in their roles. Hold these precious souls in Your Hands. In the all-powerful name of Jesus! Amen!