



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

## **Lutheran Women's Missionary League South Dakota District Mission Grant Proposal**

### **"For Life" Ministry Development \$5,000**

Lutherans For Life (LFL) equips several types of local Life Ministry Groups to support pastors and congregations through Gospel-motivated education, communication, and events. We propose the **"For Life" Ministry Development** mission initiative to create new training programs for generational engagement. Using state-of-the-art communication tools, this mission initiative will bring our trainers to learners online through video and other interactive tools. This initiative speeds up the equipping process for the volunteers to share the sanctity of human life and the love of Jesus.

Today LFL serves 250 various Life Groups in churches and on campuses across the country. We plan to double that number in the next biennium. Considering at least 50% of our Life Groups sponsor events promoted to neighbors in their communities, many who may be unchurched, grant monies could help to reach thousands more with the Gospel message of the sanctity of life, a message God gives each of us regardless of age, ability, or life experience. By equipping volunteers how to share God's love For Life, we pray God will bless their work to reach the hearts of people dealing with life issues and thus save precious lives at both the beginning and end of life.

South Dakota is blessed with an active Lutherans For Life presence with volunteers throughout the state, which includes the Lutherans For Life of South Dakota State Federation, four Life Chapters (Aberdeen, East Dakota, Southeastern, and White Lake), and one Life Team (Pierre).

#### **Mission Emphasis**

The message of salvation and God's love for life by sending Jesus as our redeeming Savior is especially important as people struggle with life issues. We live in a world that views death as the answer to life's issues, e.g., abortion is promoted for a surprise pregnancy; while assisted suicide is encouraged for the sick, elderly, disabled, and mentally ill. Trained Life Groups in churches and on Lutheran campuses provides an important means of witnessing to the world with God's grace, empowered by the Holy Spirit to make known the love of Christ.

#### **Spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

The mission of Lutherans For Life is to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. The mission of LFL is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Life

Groups in churches, campuses, and the communities around them. The Life Groups are trained to share the love of Jesus, giving hope to those struggling with life issues and helping people understand God's plan for life as shared in the Gospel. People in the churches they serve, and the surrounding communities are all positively impacted through their communications, life projects, and events that they will be trained in how to implement.

**Purpose of the Mission Grant**

Life issues in our world today are affecting the lives of people in our churches, schools, and those in the communities around them. Life issues such as abortion, physician assisted suicide and euthanasia, biotechnology, sexuality, marriage and family, and mental health are the focus of Life Groups. They need training to learn how those issues are addressed in God's Word and how to apply the Gospel to their work in the church. The training will help them overcome any anxiety in promoting life issues. It will give them encouragement from the Gospel in communication, in support of their pastor, projects they develop, events they sponsor, agencies with whom they partner, and how they share the Gospel message to their communities as they reach outside the church as a witness of Christ and His love.

The mission grant funds will make it possible for Lutherans For Life to develop new, essential Life Groups training curriculum. Establishing new and expanded training will help LFL reach more volunteers willing to serve in a Life Ministry Group focused on God's love For Life.


**Budget**

The entire program budget supporting training initiatives is estimated at \$75,000. This includes \$32,500 for curriculum development and production; \$23,000 for technology development and systems; \$8,000 for project management and support; \$9,000 for marketing; and \$2,500 for associated hardware.

**We are requesting \$5,000 from LWML South Dakota District to partially fund this initiative.** These programs will be sustained by LFL's donations and nominal registration fees.

**Who is the governing body to whom the organization regularly reports?**

Lutherans For Life is the governing body and is a Registered Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS. The headquarters is located at 1101 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201-1816. The phone number is 888.364.LIFE or 515.382.2077. Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske is the Executive Director.

Signature:   
Michele Hartshorn  
Lutherans For Life

**South Dakota Partner**

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# For Life Ministry Development

## Life Group Ministry Highlights

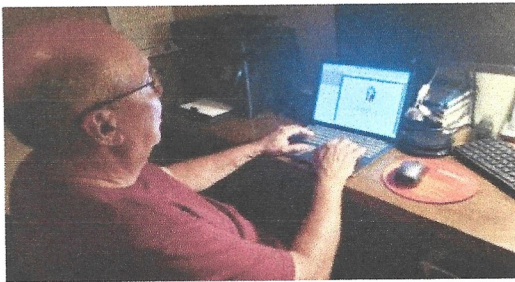
LFL Life Ministry Groups are volunteers in Lutheran churches who assist the pastor in finding ways to share the value of human life, affirmed by the resurrected Christ to equip their congregation to use their voices to support the sanctity of human life. The For Life Ministry Development project will create programs for life ministry groups in churches and their surrounding communities that will equip volunteers in how to understand God's love For Life as presented in the Gospel and how to share that knowledge with those they serve in their congregations and their mission work to the communities.



**Gospel-Motivated Training:** God's Word is the heart of the training as the Good News that brings hope to a culture focused on death. Life issues, from fertilization to forever, are serious spiritual, not political concerns. Training is important to prepare the Life Groups how to equip their congregations on God's love For Life by assisting their pastors in providing the Gospel message found in scripture. Pictured is Kathy Ivanka, Life Team Leader at Christ Lutheran in Eagan, Minnesota.



**Outreach:** Through the LFL training programs the Life Groups are equipped to reach out to their congregations and surrounding communities with projects and events that share the love of Jesus. Those who devalue Life assault the Creator and Lord of Life as God created, redeemed, and calls us to eternal life through baptism. Organizing life-affirming events helps to reach people within and outside the church.



**Equipping:** Through the Life Group training, leaders will be leading Life Group members in how to work as a team unified in serving the Lord to proclaim God's love For Life. In their team efforts they work together to identify their mission based on identifying their individual and team strengths and using them in setting goals. Their Gospel-motivation is their central focus and inspiration. Growing their Life Group and sharing the hope in Christ is their encouragement.



**Multi-Faceted Display:** It is important that the Life Groups are equipped to address multiple life issues. Each life issue is important. Life Groups find opportunities to share information as in featuring a display at their church or at events. LFL has many resources for this purpose. Many will appreciate receiving information on life issue with which they struggle to understand God's Word on the topic. Pictured is display at Shepherd of the Grove Lutheran Church in Maple Grove, Minnesota.



**Volunteerism:** Life Group responsibilities include activating people in their churches to support their efforts within the church and in their surrounding communities. By engaging volunteers, they expand their resources project by project. Assistance like assembling kits, helping with life-affirming church events, contributing to support life agencies like pregnancy centers, are important in their work. Volunteers pictured are Dorothy Lee and Ann Putnam.

## Michele Hartshorn

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**From:** Paul Egger <paul@iowadistrictwest.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025 10:33 AM  
**To:** Michele Hartshorn  
**Cc:** Jill Davis  
**Subject:** RE: LWML South Dakota District Mission Grant Proposal Documents

Dear Michele,

Thank you for your email and information concerning the LWML Mission Grant Proposal on behalf of LFL. I have reviewed the grant details and approve submission of the LWML South Dakota District 2026-2028 Mission Grant proposal for the requested amount of \$5,000 to support Lutheran's For Life's "For Life" Ministry Development.



Rev. Paul D. Egger

**President, Iowa District West**  
**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**  
**409 Kenyon Rd., Suite B**  
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**From:** Michele Hartshorn <mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2025 10:47 AM  
**To:** Jill Davis <jill@iowadistrictwest.org>  
**Subject:** LWML South Dakota District Mission Grant Proposal Documents

Hello Jill,

Attached are the documents for the LWML South Dakota District Mission Grant Proposal submitted on behalf of Lutherans For Life for review and electronic signature approval by the Iowa District West, District President, Rev. Paul Egger.

Thank you for your assistance.

Serving the Lord of Life,

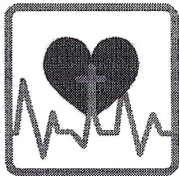
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*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly"  
(John 10:10).*



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