

Our 2025-2027 Mission Grants

By **Cathy VandeBraak**,
VP of Gospel Outreach

Resources are currently being created to promote the 33 national Mission Grants that were approved for the 2025-2027 Biennium. The grants, along with a record mission goal of \$2,622,270, were approved at the 41st Biennial Lutheran Women in Mission Convention in Omaha, Neb., in June. The resources will be posted soon. You can learn more about each grant at lwml.org/mission-grants.

Our mites are mighty!

2025–2027 Mission Grants

1. LERT Shower Trailers, LCMS Disaster Response – \$81,500
2. Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons, Orphan Grain Train, Europe – \$100,000
3. Portable Laundry Trailer, Forged by Fire – \$100,700
4. The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers, LCMS Office of Pastoral Education – \$100,000
5. Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print, Lutheran Braille Workers – \$100,000
6. Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients, Phil's Friends – \$100,000
7. Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers, A Place of Refuge Ministries of South Wis. – \$75,000
8. Building a Place of Care, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota – \$60,000
9. Introducing Muslims to the Savior – Lutheran Heritage Foundation – \$100,000
10. Healing Your Heart – Faith-based Child Counseling, Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin – \$100,000
11. NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis, Lutheran Family Service, Iowa – \$92,500
12. Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field, Lutheran Hour Ministries – \$100,000
13. Reaching God's Children in Haiti, Trinity HOPE – \$61,782
14. Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel, The Apple of His Eye Mission Society – \$100,000
15. Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA, Concordia Publishing House – \$125,000
16. The Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa, Project: Pastoral Education West Africa – \$86,000
17. Mobilizing After School Care for Teens, Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Neb. – \$69,500
18. Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses in Tanzania, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne – \$100,000
19. Support Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber, LCMS Missionaries to the Dominican Republic – \$10,000
20. Mercy Triumphs: LCMS Prison Ministry, LCMS Office of National Mission – \$84,500
21. Shining a Bright Gospel Light, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Mobile, Ala. – \$78,675
22. Redeeming Life New Moms and Babies Transition Home, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Illinois – \$100,000
23. Sharing Faith and Food with Single Mothers, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kan. – \$38,800
24. Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Arizona – \$100,000
25. Pastoral Wellness: Pastor Family Week, Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina – \$15,000
26. Developing Capable Christian High School Leaders, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, S.D. – \$100,000
27. Teaching Christ to the Physically Handicapped, Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans – \$12,000
28. Mission Opportunities for a New Generation, MOST Ministries – \$50,000
29. Sharing God's Love and Changing Lives of Families, Camp Restore Detroit – \$81,313
30. Increasing Access to Lutheran Counseling Services, Concordia Counseling, Indiana – \$100,000
31. Speaking Truth Around the Table, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – \$75,000
32. Proclaiming Christ in Honduras, Mision Evangelica Luterana Confesional en Honduras – \$25,000
33. Reaching Out with God's Love in a Safe Place, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Neb. – \$100,000



Pictured are Heavenlight Mono (left) and Victoria Kiula, who serve as deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Through an LWML Mission Grant (#18), they are enrolled in the distance deaconess studies program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Moments with Mary Jo



Mary Jo Stier
LWML District
President

Praying through grief

As many of you are aware, my world came crashing down on July 29 when my husband died unexpectedly. I look back to then and wish time would have stopped before that date, but I know that time doesn't stop. Even in the face of death, other lives, including mine, continue through the grace of God.

The past couple of months have been a whirlwind for my family. There have been many tears shed and a searching for a "new normal." Each day I

look for the little signs that show me that things are going to be OK.

The first sign I saw was a full rainbow with all its beautiful colors shining over a freshly cut wheat field the day before I laid my husband to rest. What an awesome sight it was.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the words of comfort, the tears shed with me and the grace shown to me. While my heart aches, I have the comfort of knowing that my best friend and husband is resting in the arms of our Lord and Savior and one day I will see him again.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

**PREDICTABLE.
RELIABLE.
CERTAIN.**

I always look forward to October. As I write this, it is the beginning of August. Today's high will be in the 90s, and tomorrow's will be in the 100s. I don't much care for that kind of heat. But October is coming, bringing with it cooler temperatures, harvests and a routine sense of things that have a certain comfort.

Of course, this is South Dakota, and you may be reading this during a snowstorm, or during a heat wave. I can't tell the future, but I do know that Reformation Day will be Oct. 31. That comes predictably every year, and every year we hear predictably the same message: We are saved from our sins, from death and the power of the devil, not by gold or silver, but by the holy precious blood of Jesus, the Son of God. We are saved by this grace of God through faith in this act of God on our behalf. This message is predictably going to come from pulpits throughout our district. It is predictable. It is reliable. It is certain.

Yet that does not diminish the sweetness of that Gospel does it? In fact, it may be even sweeter because of its predictability, reliability and certainty.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. **ROMANS 11:29**

"What about my sins against God's holy and righteous Law?" you ask.



Rev. Christopher McCarthy
LWML District Counselor

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **ROMANS 5:8**

"What about the death of my loved one? We weren't ready!"

"I am the Resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live." **JOHN 11:25**

"What about the evil one, prowling like a lion, causing so much evil and corruption in our world, in my family, in my church?"

"...the ruler of this world is judged." **JOHN 16:11**

See, there are many things that change in this world and in our lives. Good relationships grow cold. Family members die, others are born. You finally cease struggling with one sin, only for another struggle with sin to flare up. It might be cold in October, it might be 100 degrees.

But there is one thing certain in all our lives: the objective and historical truth of Christ, the Son of God, born in human flesh, who lived the perfect life in our stead, died the sinner's death in our place, rose from the dead to bring new life, ascended into heaven to intercede for sinners and is returning in glory to bring with Him all His people to their heavenly home.

This God-Man's work was applied to your credit in your Baptism into Him. It was and is pronounced on you in the Absolution. It was and is received by you in His Supper. This Good News for your life is predictable. It is reliable. It is certain that "Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Amen.

History reports due Nov. 1

By Lurene M. Denke

LWML District Archivist/Historian

When we lose a loved one to the Lord, we end up sorting their treasures on earth. If a loved one was a member of an organization, he or she may have items that does not mean anything to you, but would mean a lot to the organization. Consider asking members of that organization if any of your loved one's memorabilia would be of value to them.

Did your loved one collect convention pins, books or jewelry? Case in point: I lost my first convention charm in 1985 somewhere in our church. A member of our church, a fellow LWML member with whom I had attended that first convention, found out I had lost my pin. She gave me hers.

They say photos are as good as the names to go with them, so don't neglect the importance of labeling pictures.

Reports from conventions and other events can be important. They can indicate who attended events and who to contact if someone has questions.

I learned at my history meeting to have a contingency plan to catalogue items on a computer and back up those files. A shout out to our webmaster, who puts items of importance on the computer for fast reference. You can also back up a catalogue of items with paper copies, stored in banker boxes by year.

Thanks for keeping history alive and sharing your reports with me by Nov. 1. You are special to me and others in our organization.

Aberdeen Zone update

By Betty Ochsner

Aberdeen Zone President

Our spring Christian Workshop was held on April 12, hosted by the ladies of St. John's, Britton. Rev. Robert Moeller, St. John's pastor, spoke on the topic, "Counting on Faith: The Significance of Numbers in Scripture." Rev. Jacob Smith, assistant pastor of St. Paul's, Aberdeen, gave the opening and closing devotions, focusing on grey hair — an entertaining and appropriate topic for our group of ladies.

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