

1. Mt Zion Lutheran Boulder Playground Renovation - \$5000

Our Grant request is probably different from most requests; different as to our need and what that means for our ministry and mission. Mt. Zion Lutheran Preschool is a small preschool with a staff of five teachers including our Administrator. Our enrollment is 25-30 students. Our preschool is located in the older part of the church building built in 1956. The updates basically have been just keeping up with the state and local government requirements.

Our request for the grant is to update our small outside playground area. The grant would help us meet government regulations and purchase some new playground equipment. Our ministry is to provide love, care, support and the joy of living in the blessings of Christ Jesus.

The playground is located in the front of the school and the parents walk through it to drop off their child(ren). The playground is on the Main Street (Balsam Avenue) where everyone who walks, bikes and drives by sees what the children and staff are doing.

Being in the heart of Boulder people who pass by are of all vocations, ages, races, and genders. Just our visibility is a ministry of what we do which helps folks to inquire about the preschool. When they inquire we get the opportunity to share our mission and ministry. The beautiful thing is we do have parents who have passed by; took interest in what the children were doing on the playground and scheduled a tour for their child(ren). Some parents after hearing our story (mission/ministry) they wanted to enroll their child(ren) in the preschool.

It may seem odd or different that a mission grant request would go for a playground; but our missionaries are the little children. The fact that they are playing, loving, caring and enjoying life out on the playground is witness to what our staff does and what we do in the community of Boulder, Colorado.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit and have you consider this unique mission grant request.

2. Concordia Lutheran Radio Ministry in Mission in Jacmel, Sud-Est, Haiti - \$5000

The purpose of this grant is to subsidize the operation of Concordia International Radio based in Jacmel, Haiti. The need is crucial at this time as gang activity in the

country has led to unsafe travel conditions and unprecedented inflation. The goal is to expand this Christ-centered radio station where the Gospel—along with a wide variety of pertinent information—can be disseminated to believers and unbelievers in this hurting country. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Haitians have many life challenges. Currently the country is in the midst of a civil war. Though American media coverage has been very limited, over forty different gangs control most of the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Kidnappings and murders are a daily occurrence there. This violence has had a ripple effect throughout the island nation. It has made transportation of goods very difficult and expensive. Haiti currently has a 46.4% inflation rate. Most secular and faith-based Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) have removed their international staff from Haiti. Many have closed their operations entirely or are working at a bare minimum with Haitian staff. At the same time, these conditions make it even more evident that people need Jesus.

This grant would almost double the number of people who would be able to tune in to hear Lutheran-based programming and indispensable updates. Concordia International Radio's equipment is older and extreme weather conditions have made it age more quickly. In order to ensure a continuous, quality broadcast of Concordia International Radio, funds are needed to purchase three laptops, three multidirectional microphones, a 16 Channel mixer, three hard drives, three fans, two tape recorders, six solar panels, and an inverter. The new equipment would also allow for a stronger broadcast signal, almost doubling the people it reaches. The upgrade would cover all of the South East Division (State) reaching approximately 600,000 people.

3. Concordia Seminary Food Bank/Re-Sell It Shop - \$5000

The services that Concordia Seminary's Re-Sell It Shop and Food Bank provide allow our students and their families to better focus on their call to be servants for Christ. They also provide opportunities for friends and supporters to demonstrate their love and care for the Seminary community through in-kind and cash donations.

The Re-Sell it Shop and Food Bank help make life as a seminarian more affordable by providing essential budget relief to our students. Most of Concordia Seminary's students live on tight budgets as they prepare for pastoral and diaconal ministry. The groceries, personal care products, clothing and necessary household items that our Re-Sell It Shop and Food Bank provide – at no cost in the Food Bank and at very low cost in the Re-Sell It Shop – allow our seminarians to more fully devote themselves to their studies as they prepare to become pastors, deaconesses and missionaries for the church.

The Re-Sell It Shop and Food Bank have a combined annual expense budget of \$248,300, relying heavily on financial contributions to fund operations.

The Food Bank and the Re-Sell It Shop have been in operation on our campus for more than 25 years. They provide vital services to our students, and they are permanent Concordia Seminary programs.

4. Concordia University Acts1:8 Fund - \$6500

In Acts 1:8 Jesus told those at this ascension, “You will be my witnesses ... “ The Acts 1:8 Students in Mission gift fund provides grants for Concordia students to participate in mission trips where they can demonstrate Jesus’ love through words and deeds out in the world.

The purpose of providing mission grants to students through the Acts 1:8 Students in Mission Fund is to encourage Concordia students who may not consider taking part in mission experiences due to financial concerns, the chance to pursue and participate in mission opportunities with funding to cover some of the trip costs. Currently, students can apply for up to a third of the cost of a Gospel-focused mission experience.

Concordia University, Nebraska is seeking support from LWML to help support Acts 1:8 Students in Mission so that this fund is available for students beyond this year.

- During spring/summer 2022, 25 students requested gifts and \$13,550 was granted.
- Students served in 6 different locations – Bible camp in Alaska, missionary conference in Dominican Republic, English as a second language camp in Tunisia, missionary shadowing in Dominican Republic, mission outreach activities in Puerto Rico, health mission in Guatemala.
- During spring/summer 2023, 22 students requested gifts and \$11,165 was granted.
- Students served in 8 different locations – Bible camp in Alaska, English as a second language camp in Mongolia, mission outreach activities in Puerto Rico, health mission in Guatemala, missionary conference in Dominican Republic, mission outreach in Peru, youth servant project in Costa Rico, children and family outreach in Guatemala.
- At this point in time, without any additional funding, we only have enough funds to support students in 2024 – there would not be any funds left to provide requests beyond 2024.

Concordia students are very mission minded with much interest in how they can be involved in mission and mission opportunities here and abroad. More students would have the chance to serve and share the love of Christ and more Gospel-focused mission opportunities in the church and world could be possible with more funding available.

5. CTSFW Food & Clothing Co-op - \$5000

The Food Co-op is open for shopping 50 weeks a year for student weekly shopping. Annually the students consume approximately 3,000 lbs. of ground beef; 2,700 dozen eggs; 24,000 lbs of produce; and 2,000 gallons of milk. In addition, we purchase yogurt, cheese, butter, diapers, wipes, paper products and other non-perishable items to stock the shelves of the Food Co-op store. CTSFW exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. In serving the students who are preparing for full-time service to God as ministers of the LCMS, they too are being cared for.

6. Kitchen Renovation at God Cares About You - \$8000

Our mission is: "Changing Lives Now and for Eternity". Providing meals is a huge part of that mission. We are meeting a daily need. Providing meals also enables us to sit and visit with people. We develop relationships. We share the Gospel. We are changing lives for eternity. We have Spanish and English Weekly Bible Studies that are conducted while we serve a meal. We average 75 people each Thursday. We serve other meals during the week where we have the opportunity to share the Gospel. We currently serve 50 - 100 people at each meal; 6 meals per week.

We are looking to purchase commercial grade appliances as part of a kitchen renovation at God Cares About You. The Mission serves Albuquerque's International District from a house in the District. The current cobbled together decades old kitchen does not meet city standards for preparing meals. For the Mission to continue to serve meals, the kitchen needs to be upgraded to commercial standards. A major component of this upgrade is installing commercial grade appliances.

The project meets two of the 2023-2025 LWML Primary Focus Areas: Proclaiming Christ and Serving Others. The project will enable God's Light to shine brighter for many years to come in one of the poorest and dangerous areas in Albuquerque.

7. Mission Evangelica Luterana Confesional en Honduras - \$6500

In 2006, work started to establish a Lutheran mission in Honduras. The mission is currently served by Reverend Junior Martinez, a Lutheran pastor from Nicaragua, who started by hosting believers in his garage in La Paz. The congregation grew and was blessed to dedicate a new facility in 2022, which includes a larger worship facility with a capacity of 120, a multi-purpose building, and a parsonage. The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Mission in Honduras expanded to include two additional mission churches at Choluteca and Comayaguela (recently renamed Good Shepherd Lutheran Church). Funding for the missions began in 2006 with a group of Nebraska farmers who donated proceeds from their soybean crop. The mission has continued with financial support from partner churches in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, and Nebraska. The three missions are overseen by the Honduras FORO (Honduras Forum), which consists of representatives from LCMS Missions, Office of International Mission (OIM), the three Honduras Missions, LCMS churches in America, and some individuals with missionary ties to Honduras. The FORO meets twice a year to support the missions and determine their needs. In addition, a Junta (Board of Directors) has been established to determine how to best grow the ministries of the three churches including determining the infrastructure needs of the congregations, the materials needed for Christian instruction and advancement of the congregations, and mercy projects for the communities where the congregations are located.

One of the greatest needs of the missions is to train lay leaders to serve as Deacons and Deaconesses. Deaconess Cherie Auger was asked by the OIM and the Dominican Republic Seminary to lead Deaconess training. Pastor Ed Auger, a former missionary to Honduras serves as the Pastoral Advisor for both training programs. There are currently 6 lay leaders (2 men and 4 women) who are enrolled in the program, which takes 3 years to complete. The second year will begin in January 2024. The missions need approximately \$15,000 per year to complete the training. They are asking for grant funds from the Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to support this program.

8. Lutheran Heritage Foundation Bible Books for Ghana's Children - \$5000

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation supports the mission of the church as an Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS by bringing Christ to the lost so that, through the Holy Spirit and the Word, they may believe in Christ their Savior. LHF sows the seeds of faith by translating and publishing the Lutheran books that help explain the Bible, including Luther's *Small Catechism*, *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, theology books for pastors, *One Hundred Bible Stories*, devotions, hymnals and more. These resources are used by Lutheran church bodies, seminaries, congregations and missionaries in more than 100 different countries and in more than 150 languages. LHF has now translated and

published more than 1,400 books around the world; over 3,000,000 copies have been distributed at no cost to the churches, pastors, individuals and missionaries who need them.

One of the most exciting areas of LHF's work is Ghana, home to a tireless servant of

God, Rev. Nicholas Salifu. Like the farmers in his region, Rev. Salifu spends day and night sowing the seeds of faith and nurturing the growth that results. A decade ago, LHF connected with Rev. Salifu as he sought to have Luther's *Small Catechism* translated into his language of Kusaal. From there, a long and fruitful relationship blossomed, with Rev. Salifu taking several innovative steps to share the Gospel throughout his country. God has taken Rev. Nicholas Salifu and two thousand catechisms and turned them into a growing, thriving Lutheran churches in Ghana. From a small mustard seed a mighty tree has grown. Now, the LWML Rocky Mountain District can help foster this continued growth in the Holy Spirit through the translation and publication of good Lutheran books in the languages of Ghana. Imagine the gift of a book - especially a gift for the children, written in their own language: priceless for people who often own NO other books, and it opens doors to conversation about who God is! While the scope of LHF's publishing plan is extensive, LHF is only requesting the LWML Rocky Mountain District's assistance with one or two of the smaller projects - a blessing, indeed, to the pastors, missionaries and evangelism teams wanting to introduce their Ghanaian friends to Jesus!

9. Lutheran High School (LuHi) Missions - \$8000

The LuHi Missions department is sending approximately 100 students on Missions Trips this year and we expect that the program will grow in the coming years. The cost to run this program is substantial and any assistance that we can get is greatly appreciated. The money would and could be used for program cost, assistance for students who can't reach their fundraising goals, and for materials for the communities being served (this could range from construction supplies for a home being built in Honduras to VBS materials for a remote village in Alaska.)

This project shares the Gospel with the lost in many ways. First, not every student at LuHi is firmly rooted in their faith. The mission trips have the ability to solidify their faith in a way that is not available through traditional classroom education. Second, we have seen God work through the fundraising efforts of the students to share the Gospel to their family and friends. Finally, the communities that are being served are blessed with the Love of Christ and the Gospel is shared when and where it is appropriate within each trip. The work that is being done in the local communities we are serving is amazing. But most of all, the reason we believe this is a good project is because of the high school students. The future leaders of the Christian Church are being molded because of this Missions Program. We can't

think of a better investment than our young people! Thank you for your consideration and God Bless.

10. MOST Ministries Feet on the Ground - \$6000

For over 34 years, MOST has assisted committed Christians from the U.S. to take mission trips around the globe to share the Gospel while meeting peoples' physical needs. Deeds of loving service give MOST a compassionate means of entry into other countries and cultures so that team members and our national partners can share the One Way of salvation in Jesus as they do acts of kindness. It began in 1989 as the vision of one couple who learned of servant opportunities in Haiti and took a team there. Since then, MOST has sent more than 6,500 people on short-term mission trips to 52 countries around the world, impacting over 250,000 lives for Christ. MOST mission is to provide short term mission opportunities for individuals to support Christian ministries throughout the world through witness and service.

The MOST Ministries "Feet on the Ground" project is designed to encourage LWML members to share the Gospel in word and deed with impoverished people around the world. It will provide financial support to LWML members who join their first MOST Ministries mission team. Our hosts, pastors, and missionaries around the world, contact MOST Ministries to request help through specific projects – eyeglass clinics, medical clinics, water purification projects, construction projects, VBS, ESL, and more. MOST then recruits mission team members, provides a team leader, establishes a plan, and handles all the arrangements to send this team into the field to support our hosts in their work. Grant funding for "Feet on the Ground" will help LWML members take that first step into international missions.

11. Orphan Grain Train Colorado West Collection Center Shipping Container - \$5000

The Orphan Grain Train Mission Statement is: Sharing resources and bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both near and far. The shipments are received by vetted Christian groups, who distribute the goods in the name of Jesus. The Gospel is shared as gifts of needed items are distributed. Many people in the Rocky Mountain District actively support Orphan Grain Train with donations, including clothing, quilts, medical equipment, hygiene kits, and school kits.

Funds are needed to pay for shipping these items to people affected by disasters in this country and people in need of humanitarian aid internationally. The money is needed for the cost of a shipping container. At this time, the cost of a shipping

container ranges from \$6,000 to \$37,000. (This information was provided by the staff at the Norfolk warehouse in Nebraska.) Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical and other needed items to people in 71 different countries including the USA.

12. Redeemer Lutheran School Scholarship - \$5000

Redeemer Lutheran School in Delta, CO has a mission to “provide a Christ-centered environment of academic excellence that prepares students as faithful Christians to reach their God-given potential.” Their objectives are to provide the best academic training possible so that students are prepared for further education and life after leaving our school. To instill in each student a desire to learn and a desire for excellence. To assist each child in growing in his or her faith, trust, and love for Jesus as Savior and Lord in a Christ-centered learning environment. To assist each student in acquiring a sound knowledge of the Bible for use in developing a God-pleasing character, proclaiming the faith, and building up the body of Christ. To develop the student’s knowledge, strength, and boldness to make choices and decisions that reflect Christian principles. To help each student find acceptance, develop confidence and build lasting friendships. To utilize professionally trained Christian teachers, who by their words and examples apply Holy Scripture to the total learning environment.

The school is asking for money to support a scholarship for the fall of 2024 or 2025 school year. The grant will provide an opportunity for a financially challenged child to hear the Gospel everyday in a Lutheran school. Acts 1 reminds us to be “witnesses Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.” Our Jerusalem is Delta. We are called to preach here to families and their children. Please help us share the Gospel!

13. Set Apart to Serve LCMS office of Pastoral Education - \$5000

The need for more pastors, Lutheran school teachers, and commissioned church workers is urgent. Without immediate attention, studies show the number of ordained pastors decline from 6,000 to 3,000 over the next 15 years. This is because we have a significant number of current pastors reaching retirement age while we are graduating new pastors from our seminaries at a rate well below what’s needed to replace pastors likely to retire. The same studies show a 50-70% decrease in commissioned workers. Like pastors, the increase in expected retirements is happening as enrollment in church work programs and seminaries is decreasing.

Set Apart to Server (SAS) is a major initiative of the LCMS seeking to create an intentional culture of church worker formation and recruitment in every congregation. SAS is the outcome from the 2019 LCMS Convention Resolution

6-01 to develop a comprehensive, multi-year church worker recruitment initiative focused on identifying, catechizing, encouraging, and supporting our members for church work – both young people and adults called to a vocation change.

The perpetual nature of church work recruitment will build on this strong foundation to continuously improve the intentional structure of tools and training for congregations to provide the essential experiences and deeper levels of development youth need to successfully pursue church work. Synod-wide expansion and long-term strategy for the SAS Youth Phase through fiscal year 2024 and beyond will 1) Emphasize the office of Holy Ministry and its relationship to the commissioned church work vocations; 2) Equip influential adults; and 3) Intentionally engage youth. LWML mites would be specifically used to further develop the SAS Youth Phase.

14. Updating Math Curriculum and Manipulatives Trinity Lutheran - \$5000

The purpose of Trinity Lutheran School in Fort Morgan, CO, is to thoroughly train children into the faith and love of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. A hand-in-hand relationship between teachers and parents best accomplished this goal. We strive to enable the students to be the best possible stewards of the talents that God has given them. Teachers and parents working together, combined with the power of God's Word and His Spirit, provide a mighty force for raising children to become mature Christians with character and purpose.

The school's mission is to share the Gospel with students in every aspect of their lives which includes their everyday lessons in school. Trinity is asking for funds to update our math curriculum and manipulatives. The BJU Press math curriculum combines the math lessons with the Gospel of Christ allowing students to see how Christ works even in math. This curriculum also gives the opportunity to open up discussions about faith and how to use it in their lives and share it with others.