

**Lutheran Women in Mission
LWML Washington-Alaska District
2026–2028 Mission Grant Descriptions**

- 1. Aid to Washington-Alaska District Scholarships** **\$16,000**
LWML Washington-Alaska District
The LWML Washington-Alaska District provides financial assistance to full-time students within the district attending Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Universities, Colleges, and Seminaries who seek to become church workers or pastors. Support for those from our region who choose church work is a primary mission of our LWML Washington-Alaska District and, as such, we are authorized in our bylaws to use up to 20% of our district’s mission goal total for LWML church worker scholarships. Jesus commanded the disciples to, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19–20a). Through this grant, our mites will be used each semester to pay scholarships approved by the Scholarship Committee for those students from our district seeking to become pastors, deaconesses, directors of Christian Education, teachers, music directors, or to fulfill other ministry positions within the LCMS. In this new biennium, scholarships of \$3000 per year will be awarded to students studying in seminary and church-worker graduate degree programs (including deaconess training), with \$2000 scholarships awarded each year to students studying for undergraduate church-worker degrees.
- 2. Aid to Washington-Alaska District Women for Short Term Missions** **\$5,000**
LWML Washington-Alaska District
Spontaneous mission opportunities occur between convention years where financial help is needed immediately. The LWML Washington-Alaska District seeks to encourage women of our district to serve in the mission field at home or away, offering resources and assistance to create and plan short-term missions in our district, the country, and the world. Upon application to the Short Term Missions Committee, grants will be determined on a case-by-case basis to help our district women answer God’s call. Through this grant, women of our district are better able to answer “Here I am! Send me” (Isaiah 6:8), sharing Christ’s love with others through mission opportunities. Requested funding typically ranges from \$500 to \$1000, therefore it is possible that five to ten short term mission requests could be partially or totally funded during the course of the biennium.
- 3. Worker Wellness for Chaplain Wives/Families** **\$5,000**
LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod’s Ministry to the Armed Forces equips and supports more than 150 chaplains serving worldwide in Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Department of Veterans Affairs roles. Chaplains serve in some of the most difficult ministry contexts imaginable: combat zones, isolated bases, and deployments at sea. They proclaim Christ where lives are at risk and communities are constantly shifting; their families share these same stresses. Twice a year, Ministry to the Armed Forces hosts chaplain training events that provide worship, fellowship, theological study, and guidance on religious liberty issues. These gatherings strengthen chaplains’ wellness, keep them connected to their church body, and prepare them to better care for military personnel and their families. Recognizing the vital role of chaplain spouses, MAF has expanded these events to include them. Chaplain wives face the dual challenge of military life and church-worker isolation, often without strong peer networks. Participation in the retreat provides encouragement and Christ-centered fellowship with others

who share their unique calling. This grant helps cover travel expenses so spouses can share in the Worker Wellness program for chaplains, allowing this retreat to benefit the whole chaplain family.

4. Bringing the Word to Light – Production of Braille Bibles for Washington and Alaska Lutheran Braille Workers \$5,000

Lutheran Braille Workers bring the message and light of salvation through Jesus Christ to the blind and visually impaired, producing and distributing Bibles and other Christ-centered materials free of charge. *Jesus said, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world”* (John 9:5). This mission grant will be used to purchase paper, bindings, and essential supplies used by the two Braille Ministry Production Centers within our LWML District, at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Federal Way and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Everett, to ensure that God’s Word continues to reach individuals and communities throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. At these centers, volunteers emboss, collate, and bind Braille Bibles and devotional materials that are mailed directly to individuals, churches, prisons, and schools across the nation and the world. Through this grant, approximately 1,000 Braille volumes (each equivalent to one part of Scripture or other Christian material) will be produced, allowing individuals who are blind and visually impaired to encounter the Gospel message of light, hope, and love through Jesus! Beyond this core mission, intergenerational fellowship and faith unites volunteers at these church-based centers in prayer, service, and discipleship.

5. Expanding Comfort Dog Ministry Redeemer Lutheran Church, Spokane Valley, Washington \$5,000

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley, Washington has been involved in the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry since June 2020. Redeemer Lutheran began with Isaac Comfort Dog as the bridge to people outside the walls of the church to share the love of Christ with a hurting community. Through Isaac, the trained team of volunteers has been able to meet and pray with people from all walks of life, going wherever Isaac is requested and invited to go. With his team, Isaac has ministered in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and California, but with his busy schedule, many requests must be turned down. This mission grant will assist in purchasing a second Comfort Dog, training a new team of handlers in Spiritual First Aid (to effectively help the needs of those we encounter) and purchasing food, grooming and other essentials items for the second Comfort Dog. This is especially important as Isaac Comfort Dog nears retirement. This is an unconditional ministry that takes us to “some of the least of these” as Jesus commissioned us to do, bringing Christ’s love, grace, and a listening ear to those who are often forgotten.

6. Emergency Response Fund for Idaho Comfort Dog Ministry Christ the King Lutheran Church – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho \$5,000

A Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dog was placed at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Coeur d’Alene in late-spring 2026 to begin providing the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus to those who are suffering and in need within the North Idaho region and beyond. Congregations utilizing an LCC Comfort Dog are often the first ones called by the community when tragedy strikes; these dogs are used by God to open doors and hearts in ways that we humans often cannot. Christ the King is training twenty or more members to serve the community and region daily with this canine partner, bringing Christ and comfort to care facilities, schools, hospitals, EMS stations, military/veteran services, and other organizations serving those in need. Although all comfort dog services are free, this mission grant would establish a fund for emergency deployments to natural disasters (such as forest fires) or sudden emergencies (such as tragic shootings or death) by covering travel expenses for the comfort dog and their human handler,

allowing them to comfort the hurting and share the Gospel when and where God's people need it most.

7. Hope for Suicide Awareness, Intervention, & Postvention \$5,000

Lutherans for Life - Word of Hope

The mission of this grant is to develop and implement the HOPE for Suicide Awareness, Intervention, and Postvention (HOPE S-AIP) program—a professional, Gospel-centered training initiative designed to equip individuals with practical tools and spiritual care strategies for addressing suicide. The program will be accessible online at a minimal cost, ensuring broad reach and public availability. This initiative will spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by integrating Biblical truth into every aspect of suicide awareness, intervention, and postvention. Participants will learn to offer spiritual care grounded in Scripture, share the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, and build long-term relationships that reflect Christ's love. Through this training, individuals struggling with suicidal thoughts or mourning a death by suicide will encounter the life-giving hope found in Jesus Christ. By equipping laypeople, church leaders, and congregations who complete the training, the program strengthens the ministry of the Word of God and ensures that those in crisis receive both practical help and the ultimate comfort of the Gospel.

8. Equipping and Sending Village Mission Teams with the Gospel \$5,000
Alaska Mission for Christ

The goal of this mission is to strengthen Gospel outreach throughout rural Alaska by equipping and sending volunteer mission teams into remote villages with the Word of God. Alaska Mission for Christ oversees volunteer recruitment in conjunction with LCMS congregations and communities in Alaska and, through a Servant Event Coordinator, prepares and deploys dozens of volunteer teams to conduct Vacation Bible Schools, Bible studies, worship gatherings, and service projects throughout rural Alaska. Grant funds will be used to recruit, train, and spiritually equip volunteer mission teams to share the Gospel, extending the ministry of the Word to people in remote regions of Alaska who are hungry for Christ's love. The mission grant will also enable travel, shipping, and logistics for village mission teams and provide Bible-based curriculum, devotionals, and Gospel-centered resources to volunteers for distribution within the villages. Demand for village ministry is increasing, and funding this grant will ensure greater stability in bringing the Christ's Gospel message to remote communities in Alaska.

9. House of Mercy Mission: Equipping Ex-Prisoners Beginning a New Life \$5,000
Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest

This grant will help to restore dignity, build confidence, and support the successful reintegration of men recently released from incarceration by providing essential items for daily living. The funds will equip men residing at the House of Mercy with essential clothing and grooming items that can foster confidence in daily activities—from grocery shopping to job interviews—supporting their journey toward reintegration and self-sufficiency. Statistics reveal that ex-offenders who receive structured support after release from incarceration are significantly less likely to re-offend than those who are released into the general public. Lutheran Ministry Services NW's partnership with the House of Mercy benefits the men's physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. For the past four years, LMSNW has provided backpacks to ex-prisoners with essential items such as water, socks, hats, gloves, and other items, as well as tracts from Lutheran Hour Ministries. This grant will expand that ministry, and may assist in purchasing and mailing Portals of Prayer to prisons and jails

across the US as funds permit; LMSNW is the only organization doing this and it is overwhelmingly well received.

10. Second Harvest Ministry to Hungry Families in Ferry County **\$4,000**
Trinity Lutheran Church – Republic, Washington

The goal of Trinity Lutheran's Second Harvest ministry is to follow Christ's command to feed the hungry (Matthew 25: 31-40). For several years, Trinity Lutheran has responded to the needs of the people living in Ferry County who struggle to feed their families by sponsoring a Second Harvest Mobile Food Truck to provide free, fresh, and shelf stable food directly to those in need. Although Trinity Lutheran's church population has diminished since the Covid years, the people of Trinity continue to be active participants in sharing Jesus' love with their community through the Second Harvest food ministry. Approximately 20-25 volunteers are needed to make the food distribution from the Second Harvest truck go smoothly, and as a result, there is an opportunity to share the Gospel with both unchurched volunteers (as Trinity Lutheran members work in concert with other willing helpers), as well as with food recipients. Approximately 15.6% of Ferry County's 7,555 citizens live below the poverty line. Last year, as many as 218 Ferry County families were served from each food truck. At a cost of \$2,000 per truck, this grant would sponsor two Second Harvest Mobile Food Trucks. This food will be distributed with Christ's love by Trinity-led volunteers.

11. Healing the Whole Child - A Bike Path for Wellness **\$2,000**
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, North Dakota

Wellness Programming is critical for children in residential treatment, providing a holistic approach to healing, development, and long-term success. While much of the Ranch's wellness programming focuses on physical health, activities also support the social, mental, and spiritual health of the kids. Wellness programming includes physical recreation activities such as biking, kickball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, and ultimate frisbee. Wellness specialists also teach kids how to enjoy leisure activities like board and card games, arts and crafts, and trips to the zoo, park, science center, or movie theater. We introduce children to healthy living habits that will benefit them while they are in care and when they return to their home communities. This mission grant supports critical Wellness Programming at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch; funds will be used to construct a bike path and bike storage shed on our Minot campus. As we do not currently have a dedicated bike path on campus, the only option is for kids and staff to ride around the parking lots and other areas of campus where cars typically drive. The new bike path will give kids a safe place to enjoy the benefits of physical activity as they heal in both body and spirit. Something as simple as a bike ride with peers or staff can be an opportunity to share God's love with the children we serve.

12. Sharing the Light of Christ through LCMS Missionaries **\$10,000**
Mission Central – LCMS Mission Advancement

Through this grant, five of the newest LCMS missionaries are supported in the early stages of their ministry, each with 20% of this grant. Gary Thies, Mission Development Counselor for the LCMS states, "People are eager to hear about Jesus. The challenge is great, but God has sent wonderful pastors, vicars, teachers, and missionaries to reach out to those in need." Scripture tells us "*Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path*" (Psalms 119: 105). The Lutheran Church strives to meet this urgent need by *Sharing the Light of Christ* through the ministries of our LCMS missionaries. The five missionaries supported by this grant include Reverend Sergio Maita, Makia Adler, Reverend Jonathan Anderson, Benjamin Goehring, and Anika Slayton. Reverend Sergio and his wife Yoxandris serve the Lord in Puerto Rico; Makia serves the Lord as a missionary in the Latin America and Caribbean region, based in Belize; Reverend Jonathan serves as an LCMS missionary in

Panama; Benjamin and his wife Ella serve the Lord as missionaries in the Eurasia region and are based in Braşov, Romania; and Anika Slayton is serving as a missionary in Leipzig, Germany. While the ministries of each of these five LCMS missionaries would receive support in the amount of twenty percent of this grant, the grant's mission is the same for all – sharing the light of Christ and His Gospel with the world.

13. Changed Lives, Shared Word: Restoring the Bible Printing Fund **\$2,500**
Lutheran Bible Translators

For over 60 years, Lutheran Bible Translators has translated, printed, and distributed Scripture to communities that have never had access to God's Word in their native language, work that spans over 90 language communities across Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Collaboration with local churches, linguists, and missionaries helps ensure translations are accurate, culturally relevant, and spiritually transformative. With 5-7 new Bible translations expected in 2027, the need for printing support is urgent. Each Bible costs approximately \$20 to print; this grant will fund 125 additional copies and help bolster the printing fund producing these Bibles. The ministry of LBT impacts thousands of individuals through Bible distribution, literacy workshops, and Scripture engagement events. Families receive their first Bible; pastors preach in their native tongue; children and adults learn to read using Scripture and Scripture-based materials.

14. Christian Library Books for Sunbeams **\$1,200**
Sunbeams Lutheran School, ministry of Lutheran Church of the Cross – Kent, Washington

Sunbeams Lutheran School has been an active mission outreach of Lutheran Church of the Cross (LCMS) for 48 years, providing families with Christ-centered, quality education for children from preschool to fifth grade. The Scripture-based library books purchased with this grant will provide better opportunities to share the Gospel with children of all ages and reading abilities. By having the opportunity to directly interact with Christian books, students will be able to nurture and strengthen their faith by growing in their understanding of God's Word through books that point to Jesus, including Arch Books, Bible story easy readers, devotionals, Christian biographies, and other titles with a Christian theme and message. The mission is to inspire God's beloved children to become life-long learners, with Scripture-centered stories that help students encounter Jesus, planting seeds of faith and allowing those seeds to grow as they advance in reading comprehension. The grant of these Christian library books helps provide students with a firm foundation that will last a lifetime, equipping them to go out into the world and share the truth of Christ with others.

15. Feet on the Ground: Supporting LWML Sisters in Short-Term Missions **\$3,000**
MOST Ministries

MOST Ministries enables Christians to go with short-term mission teams around the world to share the Gospel in word and deed – through eyeglass clinics, clean water projects, medical clinics, and other ministries. There are LWML sisters who yearn to be "feet on the ground" for Jesus through participation in a short-term mission where they can joyfully share the Gospel through acts of mercy, but who need a little encouragement or financial assistance to join that first mission team. Mission grant funds would be used as partial scholarships for LWML members joining their first MOST Ministries mission team. Funding would be applied to cover up to half the per-person cost of a mission team (up to \$1500). The "Feet on the Ground" funds of this grant would be awarded with preference given to members of the LWML Washington-Alaska District embarking on their first mission. Hundreds of lives are directly impacted by every Most Ministries mission team and

hundreds more are indirectly impacted when their family members receive care from our mission team and hear the Gospel.

16. Mental Health Prayer Book Ministry

\$1,300

Higher Things

Higher Things exists to make the gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults through faithful catechesis, worship, and teaching. Every devotion, publication, and event points readers and participants to Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sin and back to their congregations, where they receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. Higher Things has been blessed to hold a number of events and have multiple supporting congregations in Washington and Alaska. The mission of *The Mental Health Prayer Book* is to bring the comfort of the Gospel to those struggling with the burdens of mental illness and emotional suffering. This resource will proclaim Christ to those who live daily with anxiety, depression, trauma, addiction, and grief, reminding them that their identity and hope are found in their baptism and in the mercy of Jesus Christ. The *Mental Health Prayer Book* seeks to fill the gap in faithful Lutheran devotional materials addressing mental health by offering a resource rooted in the means of grace and the certainty of God's promises, intended for youth and young adult audiences, but accessible for all.