

LWML Oregon District Mission Grants 2024–2026 Biennium

1. Proclaiming The Gospel-Serve with Mercy, \$5000

The LCMS Office of National Mission extends its mission outreach, education, and mercy work through independent Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) whose programs are in harmony with the Lutheran doctrine and practices of the LCMS. RSOs serve the needs of all God's people and may sometimes need assistance with resources to proclaim the Gospel. They may also receive requests for resources such as Bibles, devotional materials, and resources for their leadership team. This grant will purchase needed resources and provide ministry training to support their Lutheran identity in Word and Sacrament.

2. New Life Children's Center Spiritual Program, \$6500

Lutheran Social Services of the South (DBA Upbring) is a faith-based organization in Texas with strong connections to the Lutheran Church. Upbring New Life Children's Center provides safety, structure, and supportive healing for abused and neglected young girls aged 11–17 through individualized education, therapy, and spiritual care provided by this grant. Promoting Christ's healing through a healthy relationship with God leads to resiliency and breaking the generational cycle of abuse and poverty.

3. Life-Changing Care for People in the Dominican Republic Living with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities-\$6500

The LCMS started mission work in the Dominican Republic in 2005 with a specific emphasis on improving the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by providing spiritual, physical, and emotional care as Children of God. Six young adults living in a group home, *Hogares Luteranos el Buen Pastor* (Good Shephard Lutheran Home), need continued care while confronting the way a country cares for God's children with disabilities. This home allows residents to remain in their Dominican community while interacting with neighbors, friends, church members, and visitors as they grow in Jesus's love and His Word.

4. Lutheran Seminarians for Haiti's Future, \$5000

This grant aims to subsidize the seminary education offered by Concordia the Reformer Seminary so Haitian men can be quickly trained in pastoral ministry, serving existing churches and planting new churches in Haiti. The need is crucial as current pastoral leadership is aging, and available seminary courses are sporadic. The goal is to secure the future of the Evangelical Lutheran of Haiti (ELCH), a church in full altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS, to carry the Good News to the hurting people of Haiti during a time of great upheaval.

5. Project 72: Jesus Sent Them Two by Two (East Africa), \$5000

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation, an RSO of the LCMS church, has developed a new training program called Project 72. Lutheran teachers (usually pastors) use this program to educate and train church leaders, who then return to their congregations to teach their people in faith. This grant will fund three pairs of teachers to educate and train groups of fifteen church leaders to extend that knowledge to people of faith.

6. Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide-Concordia Seminary, \$6500

Most countries have a significant shortage of Lutheran pastors with advanced theological education. The global proclamation of Christ's love and the message of eternal salvation through faith in Christ continues to be paramount. Theological education is one of the critical priorities of the LCMS Synod. This grant will offset international students' educational costs that are not covered by other contributions.

7. Physical Wellness for At-Risk Children, \$5000

This grant will replace the gym floor on the Minot campus of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ensuring that children at the Ranch and Dakota Memorial School have a safe place to participate in wellness activities. As an RSO of the LCMS, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch's mission is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.

8. CTSFW Food Co-op to Purchase Food for Seminary Students, Fort Wayne, IN., \$5000

The Co-op is vital to the livelihood of many seminary students, providing 80–85% of all the families' food and household needs. This grant will allow the Food Co-Op the monies to purchase eggs, milk, ground beef, fresh fruits and vegetables, and other perishable items. This food will help off-set the financial burden of seminary education for students and families.

9. Oregon District Unequally Yoked Workshop, \$4000

This grant aims to educate the leadership, congregations, and especially college-aged young women of the Oregon District with a better understanding of the Islamic doctrine to prevent them from being wooed away from the Christian faith. This POBLO training, consisting of a workshop and training kits, has been developed to sharpen the distinction between the identity and mindset of Disciples of Christ in contrast to Islam's carnal/spiritual view.

10. Helping Eastern Oregon Desert Churches Thrive, \$6500

Remote churches in the high desert of Eastern Oregon have benefited in recent years from regular pastoral visits from Trinity Bend's assistant pastor, Rev. Don Heien. These congregations need technological, physical, and financial resources to build resiliency. Churches in Burns and John Day require financial support for building repairs, updating infrastructure, and providing community project funding.

11. Sharing Jesus Through Large Print Ministry, \$6500

This grant will help fund Lutheran Braille Workers Ministry Production Center in Oregon production costs for specialized large-print Bibles, Bible studies, and other Christian material in a format, including a prison-approved volume specialized for senior and impaired inmates so that they may know Jesus as their Savior.

12. Support the Funding of the Forest Hills Lutheran School Christian School (FHLCS) Construction Project, \$6500

Forest Hills Lutheran Christian School encompasses Kindergarten through 8th grade. It is owned and operated by the Westside Lutheran Christian School Association. It is both a Lutheran parochial school for sponsoring congregational members and an outreach school for community families. This grant will support the construction of a new church building to increase enrollment capacities for more children to receive Christ-centered education.

13. Wilderness Trails Christian Youth Camp, \$5000

Wilderness Trails, Inc. is an outreach camping program in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, and Klamath counties focusing on at-risk kids, including foster children aged eight through high school. Christian staff provide support and structure while the campers hear about Jesus' everlasting love. This grant will provide scholarships for Foster/At-Risk kids in Southern Oregon.

14. Project "Go" Share Jesus, \$5000

This grant aims to provide financial support for women of the Oregon District LWML to go on mission trips associated with LCMS churches, international partner churches, and LCMS RSOs to share Jesus' love in Word and Action. This grant will assist ten LWML women who may not have the re-sources for travel, food, and housing.

15. Mercy & Ministry: Support for Deaconesses (Oregon), \$6500

This grant will support a Lutheran Latino Ministries Mercy and Mission deaconess and a deaconess intern providing spiritual care to women, youth, and children, engaging new believers, teaching, and discipling church members, and keeping post-confirmation youth engaged in their congregations.

16. Feet on the Ground-Most Ministries, \$6000

Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) is a recognized RSO of the LCMS church. MOST Ministries' "Feet on the Ground" project is designed to give encouragement and financial help to LWML members with four scholarships to join international mission trips. There are more requests from pastors and missionaries than can be filled with the current team members to help with specific projects such as eyeglass clinics, medical clinics, water purification projects, construction projects, VBS, and more.

17. Theological Libraries and Resources, Africa, \$5000

The LCMS encourages and supports Lutheran churches across Africa in pastoral education. Students training to be pastors and deaconesses needed access to printed and digital resources in African theological seminaries and training centers. This grant will help establish and fortify printed and digital library collections, cataloging, transport, and training for theological libraries of partner institutes and seminaries. Allowing students access to otherwise inaccessible knowledge, materials, and resources will equip and strengthen pastors and deaconesses to teach in regional Bible schools in parishes of 15–30 congregations.