

LWML Oregon District Proposed 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 offset 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 resources 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.

Proposed Amendments to LWML Oregon District Bylaws

Proposed Date of Adoption: June 22, 2024

If the proposed amendment is adopted, the Oregon District Structure Committee requests permission to re-number or re-letter sections to account for deletions and insertions and make any necessary spelling and typographical corrections.

Proposed Amendment #1

ARTICLE VII — DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 8 Recording Secretary

Rewrite bylaw regarding the Recording Secretary. Details of activities will be in the Procedure Manual.

Rationale: Update the duties of the Recording Secretary and move list of minutes distribution recipients to the Procedure Manual.

IF ADOPTED WILL READ:

The Recording Secretary shall:

- a. prepare minutes of business meetings of the district convention, Board of Directors and the Executive Committee;
- b. provide a copy of the meeting minutes within thirty (30) days, as designated in the Procedure Manual; and
- c. perform duties for the district convention:
 1. Compile the convention manual.
 2. Provide a copy of the District Convention Manual to the LWML Archivist-Historian.
 3. Receive and record credentials (count) of certified delegates and alternates prior to the convention.
 4. Record convention proceedings and provide copies, as designated in the Procedure Manual.

Proposed Amendment #2

ARTICLE VIII — Nominations, Section 3 Non-Committee Nominations

Strike “January 1 of” and insert “December 1 of the year prior to” the convention year.

Rationale: Give the Nominating Committee more time to search for additional nominees.

EXISTING BYLAW READS:	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:
a. Suggestions for nominations for elective offices may be made by individuals, local groups or zones and shall be submitted to the Nominating Committee Chairman by <u>January 1 of</u> the convention year.	a. Suggestions for nominations for elective offices may be made by individuals, local groups or zones and shall be submitted to the Nominating Committee Chairman by <u>December 1 of the year prior to</u> the convention year.

Proposed Amendment #3

ARTICLE XI — BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 1 Overview

Strike “The Board of Directors” and insert “The voting members of the Board of Directors” in the first sentence.

Rationale: Confirm the voting members of the Board of Directors.

EXISTING BYLAW READS:	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:
The Board of Directors shall be the elected officers, appointed officers, chairmen of standing committees, and the president of each zone or her representative. No member shall hold more than one (1) voting position on the Board of Directors.	The <u>voting members of the</u> Board of Directors shall be the elected officers, appointed officers, chairmen of standing committees, and the president of each zone or her representative. No member shall hold more than one (1) voting position on the Board of Directors.

Proposed Amendment #4

ARTICLE XII — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Section 3 Function

Insert “the office” following “except.”

Rationale: Add clarity to statement.

EXISTING BYLAW READS:

The Executive Committee shall:
j. fill vacancies occurring in elective positions except of President
(See Article VI, Section 3a and b).

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

The Executive Committee shall:
j. fill vacancies occurring in elective positions except the office of President
(See Article VI, Section 3a and b).

Proposed Amendment #5

**ARTICLE XIV — DEPARTMENT AND STANDING COMMITTEES, Section 1
Overview**

- Strike “except the chairman of the Gospel Outreach Committee,”
- Strike “The chairmen shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.”

Rationale: This does not eliminate the voting privileges of standing committee chairmen on the Oregon District Board of Directors. Instead, the members and voting privileges of the Board of Directors, including standing committee chairmen, are established under ARTICLE XI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 1. Our district president appoints all chairmen and committee members, who are then approved by the Executive Committee. The Gospel Outreach committee is led by the Vice President of Gospel Outreach and therefore the president does not appoint a chairman.

EXISTING BYLAW READS:

b. The standing committees shall be Christian Life, Communication, Gospel Outreach, Leader Development, Structure, Mission Servants, Membership, Young Women, Heart to Heart, and Special Ministries. The chairmen, except the chairman of the Gospel Outreach Committee, and the committee members shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee. The chairmen shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

b. The standing committees shall be Christian Life, Communication, Gospel Outreach, Leader Development, Structure, Mission Servants, Membership, Young Women, Heart to Heart, and Special Ministries. The chairmen and the committee members shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee.

Proposed Amendment #6

ARTICLE XV — SPECIAL COMMITTEES, Section 3 Special Gifts Fund Committee

Strike outdated statement and insert purpose statement of the Special Gifts Fund Committee.

Rationale: Update statement of committee purpose.

EXISTING BYLAW READS:	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:
a. Operate according to the “Guidelines for Special Gifts Fund of the Oregon District LWML” as adopted and amended by the Oregon District Board of Directors, found in the Procedures Manual;	a. The purpose of the Special Gifts Fund Committee is to accept, review and select applicants for scholarship monies. Applications are only accepted from women who are members of a congregation of the LCMS, within the geographical boundary of the LWML Oregon District and are preparing to serve or are currently serving in the LCMS.

Proposed Amendment #7

ARTICLE XV — SPECIAL COMMITTEES, Section 3 Special Gifts Fund Committee

Reorder duties of chairman as b. 1–3

Rationale: Clarification of duties

EXISTING BYLAW READS:	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:
b. have its chairman report to each meeting of the Board of Directors; c. submit a report to be printed in the convention manual; d. perform other duties as set forth in Standing Rules and Procedures Manual.	b. The chairman shall: 1. report to each meeting of the Board of Directors. 2. submit a report to be printed in the convention manual. 3. perform other duties as set forth in Standing Rules and Procedure Manual.

Proposed Amendment #8

Article XIX — FINANCES, Section 1 Mite Offerings, Item 1.c.

- Strike “or more.”
- Strike “approved” and insert “adopted” mission grants.

Rationale: Simplify the portion of mite offerings sent to the LWML. Correct nomenclature from “accepted mission grants” to “adopted” mission grants.

EXISTING BYLAW READS:

c. The Oregon District Treasurer shall remit twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the Mite offerings to LWML monthly for approved mission grants and administration of the LWML.

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

c. The Oregon District Treasurer shall remit twenty-five percent (25%) of the mite offerings to LWML monthly for adopted mission grants and administration of the LWML.

Proposed Amendment #9

ARTICLE XIX — FINANCES, Section 1 Mite Offerings, Item 1.d.

- Strike “or less,” “in its treasury,” and “administration.”
- Strike “approved” and insert “adopted” mission grants.

Rationale: Simplify the portion of mite offerings retained by the Oregon District. Correct nomenclature from “accepted mission grants” to “adopted mission grants.” The Oregon District does not use mite offerings for administrative expenses.

EXISTING BYLAW READS:

d. The Oregon District Treasurer shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) or less of Mite offerings in its treasury for funding approved mission grants and administration of the Oregon District.

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

d. The Oregon District Treasurer shall retain seventy-five (75%) of mite offerings for funding adopted mission grants of the Oregon District.

LWML Oregon District Candidates for District Positions

2024

PRESIDENT



LIZ BIER, Vancouver, WA, Interstate Zone

Liz is a member of the Lutheran Women in Mission group at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Vancouver, WA. She has served the LWML Oregon District as Vice President of Gospel Outreach, a member of the Visioning and Leader Development Committees, Interstate Zone President, and group treasurer and co-president. She is currently serving as co-chair for the 2024 district convention. At Good Shepherd, she has been a leader of the ladies Bible study, Sunday school and vacation Bible school teacher and superintendent, and chairman of the Board of Daycare. She also is a hand bell ringer and reaches out to others whose husbands have died. As a Girl Scout leader, she was the area cookie chairman.

Liz recently retired from teaching having earned a BS in Elementary Education, an MA in Curriculum & Instruction, and is a certified teacher on the National Board.



DEBBIE WEAVER, Junction City, OR, Emerald Zone

Debbie is a member of LWML at Grace, Grace Lutheran, Eugene. She has served the LWML Oregon District as Vice President of Christian Life and chairman of the Christian Life Committee, co-chair of the 2022 district convention and currently serves as Nominating Committee Chairman, Oregon *Leaguer* Editor and photographer. Prior to moving to Junction City in 2023, she was active at Grace in Scappoose, Oregon as a Sunday school teacher, a vacation Bible school helper and a ladies Bible study leader. She has a degree as a Spiritual Director and is a certified Soul Collage® Facilitator.

Debbie is retired, married to Rich, has 3 grown stepchildren, and loves baseball and her chocolate lab, Bronco. Debbie is also a marathon walker.

VICE PRESIDENT OF SERVANT RESOURCES

JANIS ARNSDORF, Medford, OR, Southern Zone



Janis is a member of St. Peter LWML at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Medford. She is currently serving as the LWML Oregon District Structure Committee Chairman, Southern Zone President, and St. Peter LWML President. A retired nurse, she received her degree from Emanuel Hospital School of Nursing. She also holds a Bible Certificate from Multnomah School of the Bible (Multnomah University, Portland). Janis has been very active at St. Peter, serving on the church council and organizing church dinners and many charitable projects.

She was a Campus Crusade for Christ missionary in Kenya, East Africa for two years. She loves gardening and visiting parks.

VICE PRESIDENT OF SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES

ELIZABETH LOPEZ, Woodburn, OR, Willamette Zone



Elizabeth is a member of Hope LWML evening group at Hope Lutheran Church, Woodburn. She is currently serving as the LWML Oregon District Young Women Committee Chairman. She has led vacation Bible school and dramas and outreach activities for youth. Elizabeth has a BA in pre-medicine biology and an MAT in Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL).

She is married to Pastor Zabdi Lopez and they have a daughter, Hannah, age 17.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

KAREN REED, Lincoln City, OR, Willamette Zone



Karen is a member of LWML, at St. Peter the Fisherman Lutheran Church, Lincoln City. She is currently serving as treasurer of St. Peter the Fisherman LWML and head of the quilting group. She is retired after 30 years of doing payroll and being the head of payroll for an investment firm in Portland. She studied a year of college for accounting.

Karen is a recent widow. She has three grown children.

JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR



REV. JOHN WESTHAFER, Waldport, OR

Rev. John Westhafer is currently serving Our Savior Lutheran Church in Waldport, OR. He has a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. He has served churches in Iowa, California, and Oregon since 1985.

He is a chaplain with the Seal Rock, OR fire district and the Lincoln County Chaplains Association. He is a volunteer writer for South Lincoln County and he is the

Waldport Schools Backpack Coordinator for the Waldport Lions. He is a member of the Bayshore HOA's social club.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



CAROLYN STUCKY, Oregon City, OR, Mt. Hood Zone

Carolyn is a member of Mission Guild at Trinity Lutheran, Oregon City.

Carolyn has held numerous positions in Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) — Mission Guild President, Zion Lutheran LWML President, Klamath Falls, OR, Mt. Hood Zone President and Vice President, Southern Zone President, Southern Zone Christian Growth Chairman, LWML Oregon District Vice President of Servant Resources and President. She has been very active in her church, having served as Bible class leader, organist, sung in the church choir, Sunday school teacher, and the Christian Education Committee.

Carolyn earned her BS in Elementary Education from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska. She taught at St. Paul Lutheran School in Sherwood, Oregon, ran a child care provider business for 23 years, a Hot Line advocate, 4-H leader, and a mother of five children.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Continued)



CAROL REIS, Sublimity, OR, Willamette Zone

Carol is a member of Women of Calvary at Calvary Lutheran, Stayton. She is currently the President of LWML Oregon District. Previously she served as a member of the Christian Life Committee, Chairman of the Leader Development Committee as well as a member of the committee, and as the Worship Committee Chairman for the 2018 LWML Oregon District Convention. She has served Willamette Zone as Vice President, her local group as a co-chairman, and Calvary as vice president.



JOYCE TWISS, Portland, OR, Interstate Zone

Joyce is a member of Dorcas group at Trinity Lutheran, Portland. She is currently serving as the Mission Servants Committee Chairman for the LWML Oregon District as well as the Archivist-Historian. She is also Zone President for the Interstate Zone. She has been treasurer and president of her local group. She serves as chairman of Northwest District Bethesda, studied cosmetology, and has been a leader in Campfire Girls, Brownies, and Girl Scouts. At Trinity, Joyce serves on the Altar Guild, is a lay minister, and manages the children's video library.