

## 2026 - 2028 Mission Grant Descriptions

### **1. Supporting Wellness & Dignity for Youth** **\$4,000**

*Sister's Serving in Christ, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Hudson*

*Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me' (Matthew 25:37-40).*

Funding is being requested to provide self-care bags to young adults experiencing hardship in our community. It is designed to support dignity, wellness, and emotional well-being among youth in our city who are impacted by homelessness, poverty or unstable living conditions which limit their access to basic self-care items. While support is provided in schools for younger students, older students do not get access to the same support. Lacking essential hygiene products can adversely impact young adults' physical health and their personal self-worth. This project will include the assembling and distribution of bags tailored to young adults and will include Mustard Seed devotions, soap, shampoo, toothbrush and paste, deodorant, lotions, and gender specific specialty care items.

### **2. Children Centered in Christ** **\$2,500**

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Middle Island*

*"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).*

With a growing congregation and Sunday School, this congregation desires to expand their in-reach and outreach programs to their members, Sunday School students, and those who visit their food pantry. They want to provide take-home Sunday School materials to the children, sponsor local mission trips for their Sunday School students, purchase in-gathering items for local charity and backpack distributions, host game and movie nights for their members and community, and host overnight lock-ins for their youth, purchase evangelism

materials in English and Spanish to be distributed at their weekly food pantry, and to purchase items to upgrade their Sunday School area making it more appealing for learning.

**3. Jesus Comes Alive Amid Visual Darkness** **\$5,000**

*Lutheran Braille Workers*

*Jesus said, “And this Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).*

Hundreds of millions of people worldwide live with blindness or visual impairment and lack access to Scripture they can read. Through Lutheran Braille Workers’ Ministry Production Center (MPC) at St. Pauls’ Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, New York; and other MPCs around the country, this project will serve individuals across the Atlantic District and beyond who are blind or visually impaired. Providing God’s Word in accessible formats offers not only literacy, but also comfort, discipleship, and the hope of Jesus Christ. This grant will fund paper, bindings, and supplies to produce and distribute at least 1,000 Specialized Large Print volumes, placing Scripture directly into the hands of those who are waiting for it.

**4. Love in Action** **\$2,000**

*St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Brooklyn*

*And Jesus said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:15).*

Love in Action’s purpose is to create opportunities to share materials with neighborhood residents who participate in community outreach. Currently, meals and groceries are distributed from a food truck, seasonal meals are provided during holiday seasons, celebrations and special events are sponsored for the community, infant and toddler clothing is distributed, etc. The platform of Love in Action provides opportunity to distribute witnessing materials, Gospel tracts, and worship materials in both English and Spanish reaching many with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## **5. Care Packages & Cards**

**\$5,000**

### *Phil's Friends*

*'I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me' (Matthew 25:36).*

Phil's Friends provides Christ-centered support and hope to men, women, and children who are navigating cancer diagnosis through the distribution of free, personalized Care Packages, monthly Cards of Hope, and ongoing prayer. Phil's Friends is set apart by its mission of providing support beyond necessary medical care. They fill a unique gap by offering emotional and spiritual encouragement rooted in Jesus' command to "visit" the sick. They are requesting a grant of \$5,000, which will help provide 40 individuals with a Care Package, including a Bible, journal and pen, blanket, knitted hat, fuzzy socks, puzzle book, playing cards and toys, and personal care products promoting self-care. After this package is received, each recipient will receive a colorful and encouraging Card of Hope and on-going prayer support for another 12 months. This grant will help Phil's Friends to share the life-strengthening and saving message of Jesus Christ to individuals who are navigating a cancer diagnosis.

## **6. Six in the City**

**\$2,000**

### *True Light Lutheran Church, Manhattan*

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night (Psalm 1:1-2).*

The primary objective of this mission project is to address the needs of the young adult population by offering semi-weekly Bible studies and monthly fellowship gatherings. The target audience is comprised of young adults ranging from 20-40 who are seeking fellowship and opportunities to gather that speak to daily life in an urban setting. It is crucial for this demographic to receive encouragement and guidance as they will form the future leadership of our local community and churches. The funds will be used to purchase Bible study materials, fund retreats, supply light refreshments, and purchase items distributed during community projects.

**7. Not by Housing Alone**

**\$4,000**

*The Lutheran Care Network*

*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality*

*(Romans 12:13).*

Grounded in Romans 12:13, congregations of the LCMS Atlantic District seek to share Christ's love with residents of three senior low-income housing communities through spiritual care, fellowship, and compassionate service. Two congregations will host Coffee & Donuts Bible gatherings and provide grocery shopping assistance, including transportation and delivery for those in need. Two additional congregations will organize intergenerational Game Nights to foster connection, reduce isolation, and encourage cognitive engagement. Four congregations will host annual and seasonal worship celebrations, including a Three Kings (Epiphany) event with multilingual printed programs (English, Spanish, and Chinese), as well as Pentecost, Ash Wednesday, and Thanksgiving services followed by fellowship meals. Through these efforts, we aim to strengthen community, nurture faith, and embody Christ's hospitality among seniors in need.

**Trinity Lutheran Afterschool Program**

**\$5,000**

*Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Hicksville*

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).*

Our church has been serving communities on Long Island for 175 years and our school has provided a Christian education for 73 years. We currently serve a diverse group of students from Early Childhood through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. We are fully accredited by the Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA). As a Lutheran School, our mission is not only to share the love of Jesus, but to celebrate diversity where enthusiasm for learning is celebrated. We are seeking funding to assist with starting after-school enrichment programs. Students will have the opportunity to participate in art, cooking, and music classes after school. These classes will be open to both our students and families in the community. Art projects can be delivered to local nursing homes and shut-ins in the community. Cooking classes will teach students kitchen safety and basic cooking skills. Prepared food

will be delivered to soup kitchens in the area. Students participating in the music programs can be used during church services, to expand existing choirs, and play with church bands. All the programs allow us to highlight the gifts, talents, and blessings the Lord gives to us each day while, at the same time, giving back to the community.

### **8. Grace's Food Bags**

**\$3,000**

*Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic Beach*

*If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person (1 John 3:17)?*

Times are difficult for everyone causing food and money donations to dwindle, as the need to support our community increases. To supplement our food pantry, and to increase our Blessing Bag distributions, funds are requested to purchase food and much needed supplies to continue this ministry. Currently, we are assembling a blessing bag specifically designed for those who are homeless containing bottled water and a meal easily eaten without cooking. A larger blessing bag contains enough for a few meals for those who have access to cooking facilities. There is also a food pantry where people can go “shopping” for their own blessings of food and personal hygiene items. All bags have Christian tracts ensuring the Gospel is shared with those in need.

### **9. The Living Vine**

**\$3,800**

*Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx*

*I am the vine, you are the branches, whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5).*

Our community has limited access to peaceful green gathering spaces. This reality influences one's emotional and spiritual fatigue from urban stressors. This mission will serve as a vibrant sanctuary garden-bringing color, life, and connection, offering residents a place to pause, reflect, and reconnect with God's creation and His church. This mission will serve as a living testimony to our connection with Christ. This garden will have Scripture-inspired signs and devotional reflections that will guide visitors to reflect on Christ as the source of life and growth. Seasonal prayer groups, bible studies, and outreach events will

invite neighbors to experience the peace and presence of the Lord in a tangible way. Volunteers will be empowered to share their testimonies and offer prayer, bearing fruit through service and witness as branches of His vine. Grant funds will be used to purchase soil, plants, seeds, and tools needed to build and sustain the garden. Funds will also be used to install raised beds, provide benches, and training for volunteer workers. Ongoing maintenance will ensure the garden remains a lasting source of beauty and ministry.

**Backpack Ministry**

**\$3,000**

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glens Falls*

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me (Matthew 25:35-36).*

These grant funds will be used to serve homeless men and women, those transitioning out of prison, and those in need. Backpacks will be filled with hygiene products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, nail clippers, shampoo, washcloth, deodorants, hats, and gloves for the cold months. Gift cards to purchase fresh foods and produce can be included. It is our hope and prayer that demonstrating God's unconditional love and care for His children, will encourage the receivers of these gifts to hear the message of God's love for them.

**10. Eat, Talk, Pray, Paint, & Heal**

**\$2,000**

*St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn*

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2).*

Eat, Talk, Pray and Paint, and Heal is a faith-based, culturally sensitive and strength-based mental health program aiming to support mental well-being in a collective community. Learning, sharing, reading of Scripture, prayer, narrative therapy, and art therapy is done through guided exercises. Conversation on mental health issues is normalized through these means so that community members may thrive through difficult times. Community support is activated in

the congregation both through in-reach and outreach. This grant will be used for art therapy supplies, promotional materials, and refreshments for gatherings.

**11. Make Me a Blessing**

**\$2,000**

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Manhattan*

*If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without given them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2:15-16).*

This congregation of believers, enlivened in faith by the power of the only Spirit in and out of season over the many generations of its 360 years of Gospel ministry, has given witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus, His Son, through worship and service in His name. This grant will help provide a *Blessing Box* and the distribution of food hampers and meals to the less fortunate and the hungry in the local community. This social program is often extended to sister congregations in the area. Funds will be used to purchase non-perishable food items that will be packaged for distribution as well as to purchase fresh fruits and prepared foods to the hungry.

**12. Caring for Pastor's Wives**

**\$5,000**

*LWML Atlantic District Suffolk Zone*

*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith (Hebrews 13:7).*

While our Pastors serve the 89 congregations of the LCMS Atlantic District, their loving wives care for their families and homes. To recognize them and to bring them comfort and messages of support, we are planning to send "Caring for You" packages between 4 and 8 times throughout the year. These packages will contain personal health and beauty items, devotional materials, sweet treats, and a personalized note of thanks. As this ministry develops, we would also like to possibly supplement the cost of hosting a Pastor's Wives retreat.

**Bringing Resources in Christ's Name** **\$5,000**  
*Orphan Grain Train, New England*

*I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you (John 14:18).*

The New England branch of the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) was dedicated in June of 2014 and is going into its 11<sup>th</sup> year of operation. OGT is asking for a grant to help cover the cost of an end-of-year food shipment to the Manna from Heaven Mission in Kentucky. This mission feeds hundreds of families on a regular basis and we would like to help them provide a special Christmas dinner for the families they serve.

**13. Light Shines in the Darkness** **\$1,300**  
*Saint Mark's Lutheran Church and School, Yonkers*

*The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5).*

This grant is seeking to bring together the middle school students of our parochial school with Lutheran Braille Workers site at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. This will assist in creating resources for the visually impaired community and will help our young people to grow in empathy and willingness to assist those with special needs. This grant will cover the cost of providing transportation to and from St. Paul's in Brooklyn and light refreshments for the attendees.

**14. Make a Joyful Noise to Our Lord** **\$2,000**  
*Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic Beach*

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing (Psalm 100:1-2)!*

The music ministry of this church is growing by leaps and bounds! It currently has three music teams and is cultivating six more musicians to assist with Sunday worship and community concerts. This music platform has encouraged church members and other visitors to become involved in worship services and possibly become members of our congregation. This grant will be used to purchase additional keyboards, replace broken cables, and music supplies, as well as help maintain existing music equipment.

**15. Dominican Music Classes**

**\$2,000**

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board for International Mission*

*“... addressing one another in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart ...” (Ephesians 5:1).*

The LCMS Office of International Mission has two schools providing music classes from a missionary. Many students come from broken and/or unchurched homes. Funds will be used to repair instruments, purchase new instruments, and obtain supplies enabling students to perform in and get connected to their local Lutheran churches.

**S.O.U.L. (Supporting Others United in Loss)**

**\$1,500**

*Holy*

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Middle Island*

*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13).*

S.O.U.L (Supporting Others United in Loss) is a support group for those who have experienced the pain of losing a loved one. This group helps support its members by identifying tools that may help them on their journey through grief. Funding is requested to provide Grief Share workbooks, a Christ-centered program enabling more to attend and be healed.