



LWML Atlantic District Mission Grants for 2024 - 2026 Descriptions

1. Coats for Kids in the North Country

\$3,000

SonRise Lutheran Church, Pottersville, NY

SonRise Lutheran Church started 30 years ago at SonRise Camp, an LCMS Atlantic District camp in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State. The camp was sold, but we continued to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. SonRise is located in what was the poorest zip code in New York State. The Covid pandemic changed that when folks moved up here and built beautiful homes, but the same number of poor still live here as well. SonRise, as small as it is, has always endeavored to reach out and serve our community. School supplies for our North Warren School are gathered each year to assist poorer parents with annual startup costs. Warm clothing is also collected for the cold North Country winters. We try to buy coats on sale for as many as 50 – 60 students and could really use your assistance. We see this ministry as fulfilling Jesus' concern for the poor and hopefully attracting these young people to the loving concern our congregation has for our community.

2. Children, Adolescents, and Families Mental Health Support

\$4,800

Lutheran Counseling Center, Mineola, NY

The Lutheran Counseling Center of New York's (LCC) primary mission is to make faith-based individual and family psychotherapy available for people in need of healing. Each year LCC's licensed mental health counselors provide between 5,000 and 7,000 sessions to people in the five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, and Westchester. Every LCC therapist is a licensed mental health counselor, Christian, and a pastor or church leader. Children have experienced significant developmental delays and social anxiety resulting from Covid. Re-entry and in person schooling has been challenging and stressful since many developmental milestones were missed or permanently altered. Our counselors report numerous cases of families with either inadequate or no insurance for needed counseling of children and adolescents. This grant could provide important financial support to those families who are seeking faith-based counseling and to best address the needs of their family.

3. The Bible in Braille

\$5,000

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY

The ladies of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, were inspired by the great work of Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) at an LWML Atlantic District servant event. It was here that we learned of the need and the process of bringing the Word of God to a community that might not always be seen or thought about by others. There are 115 Ministry Production Centers throughout the United States. However, in New York there is only one center in Mineola, NY. St. Paul's, Brooklyn would be Daring in Christ - Atrévete en Cristo - to be another center so that the Word of God can be

accessible and available to everyone. The total cost to begin a Production Center is about \$8,000. We are requesting a grant of \$5,000 from LWML Atlantic District to assist us in starting an LBW Production Center where large print, braille press and production can happen, allowing us to bring the written Word of God into the hands of people who are blind. We will be able to share these bibles with people all over the world.

4. 6 In The City

\$1,000

True Light Lutheran Church, New York, NY

Young adults aged 20-40 in New York City are seeking fellowship and opportunities for gatherings that speak to daily life in an urban setting. This demographic solely needs encouragement, as they will form the future leadership of our local community. The primary objective is to address their needs by offering bi-weekly Bible studies to encourage spiritual growth and exploration and monthly fellowship gatherings to come together to socialize and build meaningful connections. These events will not only promote a sense of community among believers but also serve as an inviting space to welcome non-Christians, offering them an opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. To support the successful implementation of this project, we are seeking funding for the purchase of Bible Study books, including resources like David Coe's "Provoking Proverbs."

5. From Generation to Generation

\$3,000

St. Mark's Lutheran Church and School, Yonkers, NY

The Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, and enlightens" God's people from generation to generation. Enlightened by this Spirit, the students of St. Mark's Lutheran School (Pre-K 3 to Grade 8) hope to assemble and distribute 200 welcome kits to those who will be entering the Residential Rehabilitation Center of Wartburg Adult Care Community in Mt. Vernon, NY. We seek to serve a population experiencing not only health challenges, but also the emotional difficulties and social isolation that this stage of life might bring. We hope to extend a ministry of welcome and hospitality to incoming residents, so that they might experience the additional social, emotional, and spiritual support of the larger faith community. Each kit will include stimulating activities such as adult coloring books, Sudoku, crossword puzzles, word searches, and the colored pencils and markers necessary to complete them. We also intend to include an inspirational bookmark and poster and pen which will include St. Mark's contact information. Residents will be given the opportunity to contact St. Mark's to be included on our prayer list or, should they choose to do so, become a pen pal with a student from our school.

6. Grace Lutheran Church Community Garden

\$2,350

Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic Beach, NY

For more than 50 years, Grace Lutheran Church located in Mastic Beach, New York, has existed to provide solid Lutheran worship services, teach the Word to young and old, support our members and our local community who are in need, and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who will hear. Our community is comprised of many people struggling to provide healthy food options to their families. Proclaiming the Gospel to people who are hungry can be futile. While our collection of non-perishable foods and household sundries continue, fresh vegetables would provide healthy food options and truly bless the recipients. More than 12 years ago, a Community Garden began on the grounds of Grace Lutheran Church. Our goal is to resurrect this garden

enabling us to grow fresh vegetables to supplement food baskets distributed to our community. The garden will be tended to by willing members of our congregation. New soil, compost, and garden tools are needed. The plan is to clean up the garden, rototill the plots, and to plant various vegetables that will bless our community.

7. Joyful Chimes Choir **\$2,800**

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY

Dual parish St. Matthew's in Canarsie, Brooklyn, and St. Paul's in Bushwick, Brooklyn, serve newcomers, immigrants, and current members. Many are looking for a church home. After attending a Hand Chimes workshop at the Atlantic District Festival of Workshops last year, I learned how simple it would be to start a Hand Bell Choir in my churches. Members would not have to read music, and they would be of all ages and interests. The choir would give more church members an opportunity to be a special part of the service. I think that this would be a very exciting prospect and would help grow our small churches. A Hand Chime group can create a wonderful uniqueness and something to connect people with their usual Sunday service. Hand Chimes can connect the young and old and bring new growth in the church community. Harmonic chimes add a uniqueness to church services; they help us truly listen to and hear God's word in a fresh way. This grant would give our churches the means to purchase Hand Chimes and music.

8. Made New Again **\$2,000**

Made New Again, Sheboygan, WI

Made New Again is a community-based ministry that serves homeless individuals and others facing significant economic challenges in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, and helps them prepare for successful job interviews and employment. Many of these clients are facing difficult life experiences and lack the funds to purchase attire for job interviews. Each client meets privately with a trained consultant to determine their specific needs and are then provided with two outfits for the interview process. They may return once they are employed to receive a full working wardrobe. This client-consultant relationship opens the door for discussing God's faithfulness and His abundant love for them. Made New Again services are provided free of charge, relying on donated clothing from the community with the program director purchasing additional items as necessary. The funds requested in this grant application will be used solely for purchasing clothing, shoes, and haircuts for the clients.

9. Put on the Whole Armor of God **\$3,500**

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx, NY

Redeemer HEARTS (Here, Eager, and Ready To Serve young adult group) has worked successfully with helping young women in purchasing and acquiring clothing for professional interviews and jobs. Redeemer HEARTS discovered that young men would benefit from this as well. Many times, young men indicate that they are preparing for interviews but do not have the professional clothing that are needed. If these young men can get jobs, they not only will contribute to society, but they will live more fully their baptismal vocations as those who wear the armor of God. This project also allows for the bolstering and building of relationships between young adults as they assist young men to live their baptismal lives. Fighting the schemes of the devil who would have them fail and never succeed at life, the young men who benefit from this grant would be able to serve the Lord with gladness. The funds from this grant would be used to

help Redeemer HEARTS members accompany young men in the shopping for and selection of professional clothing to wear. Clothing would include suit jackets, shirts, ties, pants, and shoes with any needed accessories.

10. Vacation Bible School – St. Paul’s Saratoga Springs \$3,500

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Saratoga Springs, NY

Saratoga Springs is a largely un-churched community. It is the mission of St. Paul’s congregation to make our Vacation Bible School available to anyone who would like to attend so that they might come to know Jesus and His saving love. As such, we have offered this program at no cost to attendees for over 20 years. Many families have come to rely on us as a place to gain a morning of child care for a week in the summer, and we get the benefit of sharing Jesus with them in a real and tangible way. The funds from this grant would be used to assist with the purchase of curriculum materials, decoration and craft supplies, snacks and more, and would also assist with our Christmas program which we are tying into our VBS theme in hopes of attracting families who attended our summer program.

11. Where Charity and Love Prevail, God is Found! \$5,000

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

The services that Concordia Seminary’s Re-Sell It Shop and Food Bank provide allow the 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. Concordia Seminary respectfully asks the LWML Atlantic District for a mission grant of \$5,000 to help support the ReSell It Shop and Food Bank, providing vital blessings for our seminarians and their families.

12. Fulfilling The Great Commission:

Expanding Great Commission Christian School \$5,000

St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church of Canarsie, Brooklyn, NY

Great Commission Christian School (GCCS) is a ministry of St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church of Canarsie, Brooklyn. GCCS is a completely volunteer-run, full-time Christian day school using a unique model that combines traditional parochial education with the practice of homeschooling. By the grace of God, we have consistently provided a foundation in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have baptized and taught, and thus served as agents of our Lord’s Great Commission. The vision for this grant is to expand the reach of GCCS by publicizing this unique program through social media and online platforms and the purchase of new signage to clearly identify our Gospel mission. We will use funds to purchase core curricula (for example, Bible instruction materials from Concordia Publishing House) and books and resources so that the cost for students to join a new program is not prohibitive.

- 13. Community Table Talk** **\$3,000**
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Middle Island, NY
 Holy Trinity is located on Middle Island/Yaphank Road. Our members come from communities that are mainly working-class neighborhoods, contain a large population of Spanish speaking people, and where food insecurity is an issue. Holy Trinity is expanding the hours of its food pantry to help meet the needs of our communities. With the expansion of the food pantry and the high visibility of Holy Trinity, there is an opportunity to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ and better serve our community through “Community Table Talks” based on Martin Luther’s table talks with his students. Members of our communities will be invited to a series of meetings so they can share their needs, and we would develop programs and services to meet those needs. Biblical materials from the LCMS and other approved materials will be used. We will offer to pray with people, offer Bible studies, and share the schedule of our Divine Services and that of local churches. The funds from this grant would be used for mailings, give away items, seed money for community events and outreach, money for speakers or teachers on a community issue, printed materials, and for training and program development. This grant would allow us the flexibility to have funds on hand to meet community needs.
- 14. Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd’s Canyon Retreats** **\$4,000**
Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat, Wickenburg, AZ
 Recent data from the Barna Research Group shows that two in five (41%) pastors say they’ve considered quitting ministry in the last 12 months. When one of these servants in ministry call it quits, it takes hundreds of thousands of dollars to train and prepare their replacement. The funds will be used to help pastors, ministry workers, and spouses who need financial assistance to attend a Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat, which is a week-long intensive counseling retreat for men and women in full-time ministry who are in various stages of burnout, stress, depression, compassion fatigue, and conflicts of all kinds. Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat serves ministry workers from all over the United States through its main site in Arizona. Pastors, ministry workers, and spouses are in the “front lines” of bringing hope, help, and healing to the people, ministries, and communities that they are called to serve. Our church workers need the help, hope, and healing they can get, by God’s grace, from a Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat to continue sharing the Gospel and leading people to our Savior wherever they are called.
- 15. Let the Little Children Come to Me** **\$3,000**
Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx, NY
 Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven (St. Matthew 19:14 ESV). These words of our Lord Jesus remind us how He came to save people of all ages by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Infants are among those who can receive the Lord’s gifts through Holy Baptism and the proclamation of the Lord’s Word. Proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior happens inside the walls of the church building and far beyond by these infants and their families. At Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, mothers and fathers bring infants to the Lord’s house for worship, religious education, service, and fellowship. They often need to change their infants but have lacked adequate equipment to do so in the four restrooms at the facility. Having changing equipment for infants proclaims the truth that the Lord’s house is for everyone and that parents are encouraged to care for their children in every possible way, raising them in the church to proclaim the Good News that Jesus is our Lord

and Savior. Funding is sought to purchase the equipment to install changing tables in the four restrooms. The equipment purchased would include changing tables and padding, the mounting equipment, and storage containers for the supplies needed at the changing tables.

16. Bringing Resources, in Christ's Name, to the Needy **\$4,000**

Orphan Grain Train, Terryville, CT

Orphan Grain Train (OGT), New England branch is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS and is self-supporting through financial donations. All items given out or shipped have been received through donations from individuals and entities like hospitals, nursing care operations, and assisted living facilities. There are no paid staff and our volunteers work to rehab, sort and pack items to get them ready for donation or shipment. We also sent shipments to Appalachian Missions, Senegal in Africa, Liberia, and the Republic of Georgia who is helping assist with Ukraine refugees. Funds are requested to help with the cost of operating expenses that have been increasing.