

Information on LWML LA-MS District Mission Grant Proposals

The 2024 Louisiana-Mississippi District Convention will find our delegates electing the Mission Grants for the district's 2024-2026 biennium. There will be 13 proposed mission grant projects on the ballot. The following information is for both the delegates and all of us as we prayerfully choose our upcoming Mission Grants.

Each submission came to me with two required items: the Resolution Form and the Information Form. The Information Form includes answers to many listed questions about the who, what, and how. I have included here a condensed version of those fact and figure answers. The Resolution Form follows a required format to answer the why, and I have included each resolution form in its entirety.

Proposal #1: Columbus Habitat for Humanity Repair Ministry Project \$3,500

Columbus Habitat for Humanity helps homeowners in Lowndes County, Mississippi who need help with unexpected repairs through volunteer and professional workers and repair supplies. Lowndes County is located on the Mississippi/Alabama border. Homeowners in need are screened and qualified by HFH, and help with the repair process. This ministry has been in place since 2015. Habitat for Humanity is a Christian based organization, and this project receives funding from the local United Way, churches of the area, and other local groups and organizations. The average cost per repair project is \$4,000.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, in James 2:15-17 "If a brother or a sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them 'Go in peace and be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?"; *and*

Whereas, Dorcas Guild wants to help those Christian ministry organizations meet the goals of assistance to those truly in need, and that the HFH in Columbus does that by building, maintaining homes, helping the owners through Christian counseling and advice by reaching those with a "hand up, not a hand out," we know that HFH will strive with God's help to meet those goals; *and*

Whereas, HFH relies on local organizations and individuals to help with the repairs and general funding; *therefore let it be*

Resolved, that the LA-MS District LWML grant the Columbus Habitat for Humanity \$3,500 to use towards helping their program with home repairs for truly needy families in our area.

Submitted by: Dorcas Women's Guild, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Columbus, MS.

Proposal #2: Bringing God's Word to the Visually Impaired in Prison \$3,000

Lutheran Braille Workers, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, intends to produce and distribute 400+ volumes of prison-specific Bibles and other Christian materials in English or Spanish large print format to visually impaired inmates of prisons in Louisiana, Mississippi, or other states. Approximately 12% of all prison inmates in the U.S. have a visual impairment and many have been told that their impairment is a punishment for sin. By providing these materials in a prison-approved binding, LBW provides a way for these inmates to study Scripture and learn that they are acceptable and forgiven in God's eyes through Christ Jesus. Two LBW Ministry Production Centers are located in the Louisiana-Mississippi area. The grant money would cover these expenses: Special paper and book bindings @ \$1,800; Production supplies and toner @ \$900; Shipping cartons and packing materials @ \$300.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, God tells us in Hebrews 13:3 “Remember those who are in prison as though in prison with them.”; and

Whereas, Because God desires salvation for all, the mission of Lutheran Braille Workers is to freely share the Gospel with people who are visually impaired around the world, including those in prison. LBW intentionally serves visually impaired prison inmates with a Specialized Large Print Bible and other Christian materials specifically produced with a prison-approved binding; and

Whereas, at the end of 2021, Mississippi and Louisiana had the two highest rates of imprisonment in the U.S. and about 12% of these inmates may have visual impairment leaving them without access to the Bible and the hope that comes from knowing Jesus as their Savior in a format they can see and read; and

Whereas, LBW has requests from prison chaplains within the Louisiana-Mississippi LWML District requesting Specialized Large Print Bibles, Bible Studies, and other Christian materials to use in their inmate Discipleship Training programs and religious services; Therefore be it

Resolved that the LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District in convention April 26th-28th, 2024 in Shreveport, LA vote the sum of \$3,000 for LBW to fund the production of at least 400 volumes of the Specialized Large Print Bible and other Christian prison materials in English or Spanish to be freely distributed to visually impaired prison inmates located in Louisiana, Mississippi or other prisons across the U.S.

Submitted by: Carolyn Bellard, Trinity Lutheran Church LWML, Baton Rouge, LA.

Proposal #3: New Life Pregnancy Center in Leesville, LA \$5,000

The New Life Pregnancy Center in Leesville, LA since 2012, is located in Vernon Parish where 42.2% of residents live below the poverty level. The Center, which is governed by a board of directors consisting of members of various churches and a medical director, is run by a specially certified RN. It is open every Tuesday for those needing assistance to come in and pick up needed items for new babies. The Center also provides pregnancy tests, pro-life peer counseling, and assistance with Medicaid applications.

The grant money would be used to purchase and freely distribute diapers, wipes, formula, laundry detergent, a variety of toiletries, basic clothing for the baby, cleaning products, and toiletries essential for the care of the new mother. The Center is funded through donations from churches and individuals of Vernon Parish.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Hebrew 13:16 states “do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”, and Proverbs 19:17 says “whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed”; and

Whereas, the goal is to extend God’s work by showing love for our neighbor by providing tangible assistance to those who have chosen life but have limited or no resources in the community; and

Whereas, the funding for this center is from individual and church donations from the Vernon Parish community and no governmental funds; and

Whereas, the grant will be used to purchase, for distribution to those in need, such items as diapers, formula, baby food, cereal, baby wipes, and other essentials for the low-income families who may not be able to make it to the next paycheck without this valuable assistance; and

Whereas, the grant will be used to continue the ministry to support families and our neighbors in need by providing support for more the 1000 family members; Therefore be it

Resolved, that the delegates gathered at the 2024 Louisiana-Mississippi LWML District Convention in Shreveport-Bossier City, Louisiana, on April 26-28, 2024 vote the sum of \$5,000 for The New Life Crisis Pregnancy Center to support families in need.

Submitted by: Anne White and Leslie Koenck, Trinity Lutheran Church LWML, Leesville, LA.

Proposal #4: Forged by Fire Services \$5,000

Forged by Fire Services is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. It serves the gulf coast communities that are recovering from natural disasters such as storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, or flooding by serving meals and offering spiritual care to those in need. This ongoing project has already served over 150,000 meals. The grant would be used to purchase food, paper products, fuel and supplies. Each disaster deployment also includes a spiritual care tent where those receiving meals may also pick up a Bible and other LCMS approved devotionals and have someone pray with them.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, in Matthew 25 verse 35 our Lord spoke these words, “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink”; *and*

Whereas, Forged by Fire Services strives to fulfill these words of our Lord and Savior Jesus by serving those in need; *and*

Whereas, we seek financial support for the continuing work to help purchase food and supplies that help provide for those in need; *Therefore be it*

Resolved that Forged by Fire Services request the sum of five thousand dollars from the LA-MS LWML to help continue this work

Submitted by: Rev. Paul Ernewein and Kathy Capace of LWML at The Village Lutheran Church of Lacombe, LA.

Proposal #5: God’s Word for Teenagers Around the World \$2,500

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, has created a new Bible resource written and illustrated specifically for teenagers. *God’s Word for You* fills the need for Bible translation that is not too difficult for teenagers to understand while also providing more information than available in Bible stories written for little children. Translations of this book are distributed to churches, missionaries, and lay persons around the world free of charge. This grant would be used for the translation and printing of the books into one of a variety of languages spoken in Southeast Asia or Africa. This resource would also be available to be distributed in the U.S. where these languages are spoken. The total cost for translation, printing and distribution of 8000 copies of the book is \$44,000 per language.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Holy Spirit at Pentecost gave Jesus’ disciples the gift of speaking in many tongues, so that all of God’s children might hear His call (Acts 2:1-41); *and*

Whereas, included in God’s family are teenagers, who because they’re not children, and not yet adults, often slip between the cracks when providing resources to share the Gospel; *and*

Whereas, missionaries and churches in countries Indonesia, Thailand, and Cambodia have asked the Lutheran Heritage Foundation for a Bible storybook that’s especially well-suited to teaching the Lutheran faith to teens; *and*

Whereas, Lutheran books in these languages are also needed for sharing the Good News with immigrant families here in Louisiana and Mississippi, giving LCMS congregations the resources they need to establish relationships with immigrants in their communities; *therefore let it be*

Resolved, that the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League – Louisiana Mississippi District in convention vote the sum of \$2,500 for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation to translate and publish *God’s Word for You*, giving church leaders and missionaries the materials they need to introduce teenagers to the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Submitted by: Laurie Drosendahl and the ladies of the LWML at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mandeville, LA.

Proposal #6: Spreading the Good News of Salvation through Technology, Print, Sound, Social Media at Mount Zion Lutheran Church in New Orleans \$5,000

Mount Zion Lutheran has been serving its community in New Orleans for over 145 years. The congregation offers Worship Services, Sunday School, Bible Study, and Vacation Bible School. They also run a Feed the Hungry Ministry. They would like to replace and upgrade the technology equipment to enhance these services and allow live streaming of their Worship Service to those in their community who are elderly, handicapped, disabled, shut-ins or homeless. Through the purchase and installation of cameras, computers, projectors and screens, the church strives to spread the good news of salvation and God’s abounding mercy through various media platforms using modern technology. Projected cost without tax, shipping, or installation is \$4535.98.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Psalm 100:2-4 “Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the LORD himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name”; *and*

Whereas, monies are needed to assist with the purchase and installation of two cameras, two projector screens, two laptop computers, and two LCD projectors along with the proper wiring to enhance communication; singing, praying, prayer and praise while teaching God’s word during Worship Service, Bible Study, Vacation Bible School and other church relate events. “Let the people of God come to hear, see, and partake in the goodness of the LORD with gladness. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. “(Proverbs 3:6); *and*

Whereas, we would like to teach God’s word and enhance our Worship Service, Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, and other church related events through various forms of communication as the church serves as a foundation to spread the good news of salvation and mercy. This updated form of communication would also assist with reaching our diverse learners within our community and the world. “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16); *therefore be it*

Resolved, that Delegates at the 2024 LWML Convention of the Louisiana Mississippi LWML District consider this request from Mount Zion Lutheran Church. We request \$5,000 to assist with the purchase of supplies and materials, particularly, two cameras, two laptop computers, two projector screens, two LCD projectors, wiring and installation, to install updated technology as a teaching tool.

Submitted by: Dr. Yolanda Wornner Prevost, Mount Zion Lutheran Church’s LWML Society in New Orleans, LA.

Proposal #7: Handicapped Access Doors at St. Paul Lutheran in Hammond, LA \$5,000

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hammond, LA would like to install an automatic door opener kit with two push-button activators on three of the exterior access doors. This project is designed to modify and improve the existing facilities at St. Paul Lutheran. This would be blessing to both the current members and also visitors who have physical mobility issues/disabilities. As each kit would cost \$2,895, the congregation and its LWML Society will be raising funds to cover the remaining costs of the project.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, in Luke 14:13-14a our Lord instructs us that “when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you;” *and*

Whereas, we believe that church attendance is of high importance because it is a place where we can all come together to worship, be encouraged, and learn from God’s words for spiritual growth; *and*

Whereas, we are seeking funding for the installation of an automatic door opener kit with two push-button activators on three (3) exterior access doors on the Church building; *therefore be it*

Resolved, that St. Paul Lutheran Church LWML, Hammond, LA, requests the sum of five thousand dollars from the LA-MS LWML.

Submitted by: St. Paul Lutheran Church LWML, Hammond, LA.

Proposal #8: Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) Food Bank & Resell-It Shop \$5,000

The Concordia Seminary in St. Louis provides a Food Bank and Re-Sell It Shop for its students. Most of the Seminary’s students live on a very tight budget as they prepare for pastoral or diaconal ministry. The Food Bank offers groceries (both fresh and frozen), personal care items, and cleaning products free of charge to seminary students and their families. The grant would offset the cost of stocking the Food Bank. The Re-Sell It Shop provides clothing, household goods, toys, sporting goods, and holiday items at greatly reduced prices. The grant would offset the cost of operating the store.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, The majority of seminarians struggle with the cost of providing necessities such as clothing and healthy food for themselves, their spouses and their children as they often are stretched financially with other living expenses; *and*

Whereas, The Seminary’s Re-Sell It Shop and Food Bank provide healthy food, personal care products, clothing and needed household items to students and their family members; *and*

Whereas, The Re-Sell It Shop and Food Bank provide ongoing and vital blessings that help seminarians and their families as they answer God’s call to prepare for Holy Ministry and to one day serve congregations; *and*

Whereas, The Re-Sell It Shop and Food Bank depend on the generous financial support of caring Christians to provide necessary assistance for daily living to future pastors, deaconesses, missionaries and their families; *Therefore be it*

Resolved that the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Louisiana-Mississippi District, assembled in convention in Shreveport, LA, April 26-28, grant the sum of \$5,000 to put food on the table and provide clothing for future servants of Christ and their families by awarding Concordia Seminary’s Re-Sell It Shop and Food Bank’s grant request.

Submitted by: Vicki Biggs and Elizabeth Meschke of Concordia Seminary.

Proposal #9: Translators for MOST Ministries Mission Teams \$3,000

As a **Recognized Service Organization** of the LCMS, MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term) works in harmony with programs of the Synod to provide LCMS congregational members an opportunity to serve as short term mission team members assisting pastors and missionaries in the mission field. The team members may provide an eyeglass clinic, medical care, or work to provide clean water. Forty or more teams are expected to be sent out during the 2024-2026 biennium. Local translators are needed to translate both from English to the national language and from the national language to the local dialect.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us to “*go into all the world and preach the Gospel*” (Mark 16:15); *and*

Whereas, following our Lord’s mandate, MOST Ministries mission teams have served in over 50 countries where many languages are spoken, requiring skilled local translators as an essential part of each team; *and*

Whereas, translators who assist MOST Ministries teams are usually young professionals, often teachers, who become invaluable liaisons between team members and the local culture, enabling teams to perform their tasks effectively and helping them avoid many cultural blunders; *and*

Whereas, in some settings (e. g. tribal villages in Africa), more than one translator is needed to convey needed messages, especially the Gospel, from English into the national language (e.g. Swahili), and from that language into a tribal dialect; *and*

Whereas, local translators become valued members and friends of MOST Ministries teams, assisting in many ways and, in turn, receiving Christian witness and encouragement from the team members; *and*

Whereas, covering the cost of translations services will reduce costs to mission team members and help more people to go on MOST mission teams; *and*

Whereas, MOST Ministries is able to work with local missionary hosts who are able to secure translations services, working within MOST’s \$600 translator budget per mission team, that will allow the mission team members to more effectively share the Gospel in word and deed; *Therefore be it*

Resolved that the 2024 Convention of the Louisiana-Mississippi District LWML, approve the sum of \$3,000 to be used to secure translations services to assist MOST Ministries teams as they share the life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ through their eyeglass, water infiltration, and other short-term mission projects.

Submitted by: Kelly Bone, Ann Arbor Zone LWML.

Proposal #10: New Paraments and Items for the Altar at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Jackson, MS. \$5,000

The women of the Epiphany Lutheran Church LWML in Jackson wish to restore the beauty to the Lord’s altar and sanctuary following the destruction of their church which was a victim of an arsonist attack in 2022. They hope to purchase new paraments for the altar, the processional cross, and other items estimated to cost \$2,435. This will include a Cross for the outside of the Family Life Center so it will be easier for the Community to know that it is the Worship site for Epiphany Lutheran Church. Remaining funds will be used in their efforts to provide a proper worship setting within the Family Life Center where services are currently being held. All items will be transferred to the permanent Chapel of Worship when built.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church is the oldest and only historically Black Lutheran Church, a member of the Missouri Synod (LCMS) Church in Jackson, Mississippi. On Tuesday, “Election Day” November 8, 2022, Epiphany was attacked by an arsonist. The entire newly renovated sanctuary burned to the ground. We are so very thankful that this did not occur as we were worshipping on that Sunday morning; *and*

Whereas, we are so very thankful that there was minor damage to the Family Life Center. For we know that God is good, He is an awesome God and he is truly in the blessing business; *and*

Whereas, we are thankful to God for all the blessings, (i.e. contributions, your prayers. The Southern District has been partnering with the Black Ministry Task Force, the LCMS Black Ministry, The LCMS Disaster Response Team and other Lutheran Church Communicants from various states, organizations and our local sister congregation; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (*sponsored a Crawfish Boil and shared the proceeds between the two congregations—what a blessing*) we had a great time. Thank you for paying it forward to help the membership at Epiphany, as we continue to plan for the future. And to restore God’s beauty to the Lord’s Altar; *Therefore be it*

Resolved, that with God’s help, Epiphany will come forth as new gold, blessed with a New Spiritual Leader, and the rebuild of a New Sanctuary with a Reclaiming, Retaining in Membership. We would like to state our request to the 2024 Convention of the Louisiana-Mississippi District LWML. Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. We are still here!

Submitted by: Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church – LWML.

Proposal #11: Feeding the Children of Haiti in Body, Mind, and Spirit – Trinity HOPE \$5,000

Trinity HOPE provides a noon meal for students and staff at 270 schools in Haiti. Haiti suffers with widespread hunger and malnutrition. \$5,000 would provide 85 students and staff at a specific assigned Lutheran school with a noon meal for one year. The children are led in prayer each day, and the Gospel message is shared. The feeding program employs over 500 Haitian vendors, cooks and directors, increasing employment and income in the area.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Christ instructed us in Matthew 28:19 to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” and God will tell His sheep who have fed the hungry “For I was hungry and you gave me food... ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” in Matthew 25:35-40; *and*

Whereas, Trinity HOPE has identified the island of Haiti as a fertile ground for the sharing of the Gospel and the nurturing of bodies, minds, and souls of young children, and that by providing a noon meal for the hungry children in our Lutheran schools in Haiti is a powerful witness used by the Holy Spirit to discredit the Voodoo teaching that God is unapproachable and non-responsive to Haitians; *and*

Whereas, provision of a noon meal improves physical growth and mental acuity such that children in our Lutheran schools in Haiti are coming to faith in response to the Word and its witness faster than any other population segment and often later are instruments in bringing their whole families to the knowledge of Christ; *and*

Whereas, starving children are unable to retain learning of academia or the Gospel, and the Lutheran schools in Haiti are unable to fully finance food for the children and the staff that share the Gospel with the children, Trinity HOPE provides, through donors, the funds to ensure these needs are met, essentially affecting the whole family with the love of Jesus Christ through word and deed; *therefore be it*

Resolved that, the delegates of the 2024 LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Convention in Shreveport, LA vote the sum of \$5,000 to partner with Trinity HOPE and the Haitian Lutheran Churches in Feeding the Haitian Children Physically and Spiritually.

Submitted by: Denise Gudlin, member of LWML Mid-South District.

Proposal #12: Financial Grant-in-Aid for Seminary and Church Worker Students \$5,000

The LCMS Southern District Church Worker Student Endowment Fund provides financial assistance to the men and women of the Southern District who intend to pursue education to become pastors, DCE's, deaconesses, teachers or other full time church workers in the LCMS. The cost of this education is becoming increasingly expensive.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, scripture states "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17); *and*

Whereas, the mission field continues to expand in our communities, nation, and world, and the need for laborers in His vineyard continues to expand; *and*

Whereas, there is a great need for church workers, Christian men and women should be encouraged in their decisions to dedicate their lives to full time service to our Lord and Savior; *and*

Whereas, the LA-MS District LWML recognizes ongoing critical need for financial grant-in-aid assistance for persons studying for the office of Pastor, Director of Christian Education (DCE), Deaconess, teachers, or other full time church work in the LCMS, and from whose commitment to serve we will all benefit; *and*

Whereas, current costs of such education are extremely high and alternative funding from other sources is becoming more limited, thereby preventing some from completing their preparation for these church callings; *therefore be it*

Resolved, that the LWML LA-MS District assembled in convention April 26-28, 2024 in Bossier City, LA, grant the sum of \$5,000 to the Southern District Church Worker Student Endowment Fund to provide financial grant-in-aid funding for the men and women in our district who apply for assistance to pursue education to become pastors, DCE's, deaconess, teachers, or other full time church workers in the LCMS.

Submitted by: Daughters of Christ, Christ Lutheran Church LWML, Shreveport, LA, and LCMS Southern District Recruitment and Scholarship Committee.

Proposal #13: Bible Translation – Lutheran Bible Translators \$5,000

Lutheran Bible Translators is a **Recognized Service Organization** of the LCMS and works to extend the mission of the synod by Bible translation work in 132 languages which have no current Scripture access. By the end of 2024, the organization hopes to increase the languages covered to 144.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Revelation 7:9 says, "... a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the Lamb...;" *and*

Whereas, Lutheran Bible Translators is partnered with 132 language communities around the world to help put God's Word in their languages; *and*

Whereas, millions of people and thousands of language communities lack access to Scripture in the language they understand best; *and*

Whereas, average translation costs are \$1,000 per chapter of Scripture; *therefore be it*

Resolved that the Louisiana-Mississippi District LWML offer a mission grant during the 2024 Convention in the sum of \$5,000 to Lutheran Bible Translators for the translation of five chapters of Scripture for a current translation program.

Submitted by: Alyssa Petty – Ladies Aid 1912 LWML, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Concordia, MO.

LWML LA-MS District Vice President of Gospel Outreach Sue McAdams

March 1, 2024