

Mission Grants 2018-2020

1. Equipping the Church to Reach People with Disabilities, Voice of Care \$17,474

Voice of Care seeks to train respite companion volunteer trainers in each of the Northern Illinois District's four regions. Voice of Care, in partnership with REST (restprogram.org), will customize material to fit the specific needs of Lutheran churches providing Christ-centered respite care. REST is an accredited, evidence based program; therefore, data tracking is essential. As respite care need increases and funding decreases, Voice of Care is raising a corps of trained volunteer respite companions in the Northern Illinois District. Through building relationships, Voice of Care-trained respite companion volunteers will seek to nurture care recipients and caregivers in their Christian walk. A grant from NID for \$17,474 will provide curriculum resources and personnel training to continue this outreach.

2. Life for St. Matthew: Saving a Historic House of Worship, St. Matthew, Chicago, \$18,000

St. Matthew Lutheran Church (LCMS) located at 2108 W. 21st Street in the Pilsen Community provides worship services in English and Spanish in a poverty stricken community of mostly Latino families, as well as unemployed and homeless. St. Matthew was organized over 145 years ago by German immigrants who settled in Chicago, but lost most of these members to the suburbs. The congregation presently serves a small but faithful number of members who have recently shown growth through new member classes and confirmation instruction. This historic house of worship is listed in the national register of historic places in Illinois. Recently, St. Matthew has been cited with seven building violations which need to be addressed in order for the church to remain open. A grant from LWML NID will enable St. Matthew to begin the process of correcting and repairing the violations and bringing the building up to code, to breathe new life within its walls, and allow the ministry to continue for many years to come.

3. Haitian Feeding Program, Trinity/HOPE \$2,500

The average child in Haiti comes from a home where voodoo is practiced and is fed only 4-5 meals a week. These children need to be reached in the schools with the Word of God as well as nourishment for their bodies. Food is a powerful witness of Christ's love and evidence to the truth of the Good News being shared with them daily. Children in Lutheran schools are coming to faith faster than any other population segment and often bring their families and neighbors to the Lord.

4. Post Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion, Lutherans for Life \$10,000

The abortion hotline program of Lutherans for Life is the only Lutheran hotline in the nation. This grant will help reach more suffering souls through additional staff hours with a goal of having a director full time. In addition, LFL will launch concerted promotion in stages on a district by district basis and via targeted mailing, emails, district distribution of literature, etc. Lutherans for Life is seeking to partner with LWML NID to aid in staff expansion and promotion of the Word of Hope Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline to churches in the district, thereby having the opportunity to guide many more people into a relationship with the Trinity.

5. Grace Lutheran School/Grace Christian Academy, Chicago \$18,000

“The Mission of Grace Lutheran School is to prepare students for success in High School, College, and beyond, raising them up to be future Christian Leaders for service to God and their community.” A grant of \$18,000 would extend the outreach of Grace in the “Little Village” neighborhood of Chicago with several improvements: a new oven for the lunch program – over 85% of students receive “free or reduced lunch”; an upgrade to the facility starting with wiring to add much needed air-conditioning, as well as stair tread to front and back stairs for safety reasons; improvement to student transportation with new tires and glass on the school bus; and the purchase of new video equipment to help spread the mission to students, parents, and the community.

6. Food and Clothing Co-op, Concordia Theology Seminary, Fort Wayne \$10,000

The Food and Clothing Co-op on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary plays a key role in helping students feed and clothe their families during their seminary years. Nearly 60 % of the students are married, second career with families. When the decision is made to leave their jobs and come to the seminary, the students no longer have the same financial flow of funds that they had, but continue to have the same financial needs. For many families the spouse does not find adequate employment in Fort Wayne, because employers know they will be available for only a short time. One of the ways the seminary seeks to reduce this financial burden is by providing access to a Food and Clothing Co-op, which is supported through individual donors, churches and other organizations. The Food Co-op is currently able to supply between 80% and 85% of all food and household needs each month at no cost to the student. It operates as an actual cooperative with each family volunteering a certain amount of time each month in either the food or clothing area, for which they receive points in exchange, points redeemable each shopping day. Students can also shop at their own discretion in the clothing area during operating hours, and take whatever they need for free – no points, vouchers or money are necessary in the clothing area. \$10,000 will supply perishable food items for this vital part of the support of seminary students.

7. Exterior Cabin Renovations, Walcamp Outdoor Ministries \$14,562.35

Walcamp, in its 53rd year of running traditional outdoor camp programs for young people, provides a safe and healthy retreat into nature, built on 180 acres of forest and open fields. The facilities include two main cabins, Oak and Maple, built in 1971 and 1972. Each has 1700 sq feet and sleeps 28. Due to the location in the woods, the cabins have been very susceptible to woodpeckers. New T111 siding would continue the viability of the structures. This grant would fund the purchase of materials in order to re-side both cabins at the facility, allowing many more young people to experience moments in which God can change their lives as they grow in faith.

8. Native American Youth Program, Washington’s Olympic Peninsula, Lutheran Indian Ministries \$18,000

By providing a supportive environment for listening and building relationships, Ben Maxson, serving Makah Lutheran, desires to offer Native teens in Neah Bay, Washington, a safe place to grow and flourish, enjoy food and fun, participate in worship and learn from the Scriptures together. By offering what the community center doesn’t, funds would be used to purchase games (shuffle board, dart boards, bocce ball, volleyball), musical instruments, a sound system and LCD projector to help furnish the new Cultural Arts Center, located on the grounds of Makah Lutheran Church, for a growing youth program where Christ is the anchor

9. Reaching Visually Impaired Inmates with God's Love, Lutheran Braille Workers, \$8,000

Letters arrive weekly from visually impaired inmates asking for the Bible in large print. Due to the size of the Large Print Bible and the spiral bindings (which can be used as weapons) rarely are they permitted into the correctional institutes. Therefore, a grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Northern Illinois District will be used as seed money to purchase the necessary equipment to start up a new Work Center that will produce the 14 point APhont English Standard Version of the Bible for visually impaired inmates throughout the United States. These Bibles will be given free of charge.

10. Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, \$ 3,463.65

The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, USA is a long standing organization that provides ongoing support for spreading the Gospel of Jesus through the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. They are currently working through Pastor Thomas Bernard at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, with churches and preaching stations at several locations in Haiti. The newest Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Coraces has a complete foundation. Grant money would fund the building of walls, roof and a floor at this site which now serves several hundred persons each Sunday in a temporary building. They also support House of Love and Hope Orphanage, where some of the funds would help finish the second floor to accommodate additional children and provide recreational space for the children to play.