

2024-2026 Mission Grant Proposals

1. Lutheran Heritage Foundation \$15,000

Sharing Lutheran Bible books in a Muslim school – does it sound impossible? With God, all things are possible! In Indonesia (home to the world's largest Muslim population), their founders admired diversity, and so the country does not proclaim itself an Islamic State. This pride in diversity and a certain amount of tolerance allow for the teaching of different world religions in Indonesia's public schools, where Christians can teach the basics of the faith. At a cost of only \$5 per book, we can provide 3,000 colorful Bible storybooks and Small Catechisms in the Indonesian language for Indonesia's public school students.

2. Cross, Yorkville STEM Lab \$17,921.21

Construction of our building expansion project began in the summer of 2023 and is on schedule to be ready for the beginning of the 2024 school year. The plans include a science lab, a STEM area, and an outdoor classroom. Since these will be brand-new spaces, they will need to be equipped with materials to encourage experimentation, collaboration, and exploration. Students will be able to use these spaces to explore the world God created.

4. St John's, La Grange \$18,000

St. John's has expanded our VBS outreach to multiple events per year - summer, winter, and spring. We minister to as many as 200 children per event, more than 80% of whom come from surrounding communities, and many with no knowledge of Jesus. We present Bibles as gifts to children who have no access to God's Word and send their families weekly email Bible lessons following VBS. This year we are establishing a weekly outreach event for families, a fun evening of activities along with Bible lessons for all ages. We will walk our neighborhood with invitations and advertise on multiple venues. As we grow our program, the Holy Spirit grows faith from these planted seeds!

5. Food for Thought—Feeding more Children in Belize \$18,000

By extending our Mercy outreach, our grant focuses on the transformative impact of sharing Jesus' love through hot, nutritious meals for children in Georgetown, Belize. Operating our second feeding program, hosted by a local resident, we currently serve 22 elementary students. However, the school principal identifies a pressing need for over 50 participants. Expanding our program aligns with our commitment to Christ Lutheran Church and aims to address the substantial need for nutritional support among elementary school students in Georgetown, Belize.

6. Worship Anew \$18,000

Although overall church attendance has decreased amongst aging adults, the population reached by Worship Anew is growing rapidly each year. With support from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of the Northern Illinois District, Worship Anew seeks to continue broadcasting our weekly, 30-minute worship program in current markets and expand into new markets, reaching thousands with the life-changing Gospel message. Our broadcast faithfully and boldly proclaims the Gospel through Scripture readings, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, hymns, and a sermon preached by an ordained LCMS Pastor. As a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, Worship Anew shares correct Biblical doctrine as presented in the Lutheran Confessions.

7. Concordia, Ft Wayne Food Co-op \$10,000

The Food Co-op of CTSFW provides up to 85% of our student families' monthly grocery needs at no cost to them. We operate as an actual cooperative, where each family volunteers time monthly to receive points used to purchase grocery items. The Co-op spends approximately \$7,000 a month on fresh produce, eggs, milk, cheese, ground beef, and other grocery items to fill in the shelves. Many of our students say use of the Co-op has taken away the concern of how they will feed their family. Thank you for caring for the men and women who have answered God's call to serve Him and you.

8. Serving the Spiritual Needs of Pastors' Wives in Norway and Iceland \$18,000

Since the congregations are spread throughout Norway and Iceland, being able to meet others in the church community is of great value. Utilizing the existing programs of a children's camp and the pastoral retreat, this grant would provide accommodations and specific programs for the pastors' wives so that they may have Biblical training and encouragement. It is hoped that four of these types of gatherings may be done within the grant biennium.

9. St Peter, Schaumburg Playground Equipment \$10,000

The playground project aims to create a vibrant and inclusive recreational space for children. Our playground is used not only for our students, but as an outreach to our community and an invitation to families to join our school and church. We hold community events on the playground and encourage new families to join us in worship and to enroll in our school. The more children we have in our classes the more we can spread God's Word throughout our community.

Overall, this initiative seeks to foster missional opportunities, physical activity, and imaginative play in a welcoming environment with the hope of attracting new members to our church and school.

10 Trinity, Lombard Creator/Makerspace and STEM Lab \$16,000

Trinity Lutheran School desires to provide students a dedicated space for enhanced hands-on learning opportunities. An under-utilized room will provide the area for a creator/makerspace and STEM lab. Trinity is blessed with volunteer talent to refinish the room, most of which will be sourced independently. A curated collection of science lab equipment, engineering components, STEM bundles, stocked makerspace carts, a 3D printer, and appropriate safety gear and storage units are the primary focus for grant funding. Initially, existing unused classroom furnishings will be repurposed for this creator space and additional expansion curriculum will be sought through Trinity's wish list program.

11. Dr. Rev. William and Ella Mae Griffin Community Center Food Pantry \$ 18,000

Dr. Rev. William and Ella Mae Griffin Community Center, a ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, opened in 2008 to meet the community's needs and serve as a bridge for Gospel outreach. The Center continues to serve over 300 individuals monthly through its weekly food pantry, clothing bank, and outreach events organized throughout the year. Over the past fifteen years, we have remained faithful to the mission of fighting hunger. By helping to close the gap between our community's need for donated food and the amount of food available through collaborative efforts, it's our mission to impact hundreds of families yearly.

12. Phil's Friends Ministry Expansion \$18,000

After much prayer, St. Paul's, Kankakee will be partnering with Phil's Friends to turn their former school building into a new Phil's Friends Hope Center. The center will provide Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer. The building, empty for most of the past 15 years, needs ministry-essential updates to prepare a friendly and hope-generating space for volunteers to share the love of Jesus. This \$18,000 grant would provide building updates, furniture, and equipment for St. Paul's preparations for the new Hope Center.