“Being part of LCMC means having freedom in things such as worship style, but being held together with an evangelical heart. In other words, we are bound together with a common love for Jesus and a desire to see others come into a personal relationship with Him. We also uphold the authority of the Bible as the Word of God.” – Pastor Kent Otterman, Round Prairie Lutheran Church, Glenville, MN
Convention Business
The business of this convention shall be as outlined in the official agenda for the convention as adopted by the convention.

General Parliamentary Procedure
The rules set forth in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Orders, Newly Revised" shall govern the convention in all applicable cases and to the extent not inconsistent with the constitution of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), the by-laws of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, statutes of the State of Minnesota or the rules adopted by this convention.

Suspension of Rules
Once adopted, a rule shall not be amended or suspended except by a two-thirds vote of delegates and seated alternates present and voting at the convention.

Quorum
The quorum is a majority of the delegates and seated alternates registered at the convention.

Distribution of Materials
Nothing in these rules shall be construed to prohibit delegates from distributing material encouraging the convention to take certain action or to resist action provided, however, that any and all material distributed in any manner to convention delegates and alternates shall contain the name and address of the delegate or alternate responsible for the material and the name and address of the organization, if any, responsible for the material. Any material not having a disclaimer as provided for in this rule shall be subject to confiscation at the direction of the chair.

Delegates
Each LCMC congregation shall be entitled to two voting delegates and such additional delegates as are permitted by the constitution of LCMC. Each congregation shall be entitled to alternates who will be seated in replacement of that congregation's delegates in accordance to the rules and procedures of the particular congregation. It shall be the responsibility of the congregation to notify the credentials committee of the convention of the names and addresses of delegates, alternates, if any, and the procedures adopted by the congregation for filling vacancies within a delegation. Alternates sent by a particular congregation may not fill vacancies, if any, in delegations of other congregations.
Area Caucuses
Congregations shall caucus within areas as provided by these rules. Each area shall be responsible for election to the board one individual qualified and willing to serve on the Board of Trustees of LCMC.

Election of LCMC Board of Trustee Members
All candidates seeking election to the Board of Trustees of LCMC shall be entitled to address their area caucus and shall be permitted, but not required, to distribute biographical and other material encouraging delegates to support that particular candidate. All such material shall be distributed in accordance with the materials distribution rule set forth above. All delegates and seated alternates to the convention shall be entitled to vote at their area caucus for one candidate for election to the Board of Trustees. All voting shall be by secret ballot unless the area caucus suspends the secret ballot requirement by unanimous consent. In the event of a contested election, the area from which election is sought will meet on two separate occasions. The first caucus shall be for the purpose of introducing the candidates to the electorate. The second caucus shall be for the purpose of conducting the election of a board member from the area. The time, date and place of the caucus meetings shall be as specified in the agenda or as directed by the convention chair. A majority of those present and voting in the caucus shall be required to elect a member of the Board of Trustees.

Amendments to LCMC By-Laws
No proposed amendment to the LCMC By-Laws shall be in order unless it has first been submitted to the LCMC Board of Trustees or its designee for comment and recommendation. The Board of Trustees shall not have the authority to prohibit consideration of the amendment by the convention and shall have the authority to alter the language of the proposed amendment only with the consent of the author of the amendment. The Board of Trustees shall forward to the convention for its consideration all amendments submitted to the committee prior to 1:00 P.M. on Monday, October 6, 2014. The Board of Trustees may, but is not required to, forward to the convention amendments submitted after that deadline.

Rules of Debate
Debate on any motion or subject shall be limited to three minutes by each speaker. A call for the previous question shall be in order only after one speaker on each side of the question has been afforded the opportunity to address the issue. Debate on any motion or subject cannot be postponed or set aside for another time due to adoption of an agenda or constraints of time, until action on the particular motion or subject has been taken.
Convention Business

Kip Tyler, Chair of the Board of Trustees, called the convention to order in business session at 3:00 p.m. Monday, October 6, 2014.

Procedures for the Convention 2014

Chair appointed Martha Uecker Nelson as Recording Secretary for 2014.

Chair directed the body to Section 4 of Gathering booklet in regard to adopting the official convention rules and announced that the deadline for suggested amendments to the By-laws would be 3:30 Monday.

M/S/P To adopt the conventions rules as presented.

Chair appointed Tony Stoutenburg and Cathy Nichol as Credentials Committee.

Report of Credentials Committee:
- Total Attendance: 1029
- Voting Delegates: 481
- Members: 348
- Seminarians: 51
- Visitors: 96

Convention Business

M/S/P Acceptance of the 2013 Draft Minutes as presented.

A report was presented on Election Areas and the proposal for 2015.

M/S/P To approve the Election Areas for 2014 and 2015 as presented.

The 2014 Areas holding caucuses for elections are: 2, 4, and 5.
New Business

Treasurer’s Report- Laurel Swanson, Treasurer, presented her report on the state of the association. She discussed the nominal budget increases and reported once again this year that our audit was clean.

M/S/P Accept the proposed 2015 Budget

Kip Tyler reported that the Heartland District had brought to Board of Trustees a request for Youth emphasis. The Trustees plan to launch a Youth Gathering in 2016 with the support of the association.

Suspend meeting at 3:17

Convention Business Meeting resumed on Tuesday, October 07, 2014

Kip Tyler called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Recognition of Becky Lee who explained the Thrivent Financial- Reformation Grant Program for 2017 Reformation celebration activity. The $75,000 grant is to be used before 2017 in service to show Love to God and love to neighbor. The Board of Trustees has challenged congregations to submit proposals for what they would do in this context with a $5,000 grant.

The 2015 assembly in Frisco, TX will choose to award $5,000 each to 15 congregations and will show what they did in 2017 to the assembly and to Thrivent.

Sean Kelly introduced Pastor Kelly Kosky from Transkei region of South Africa, missionary. Pr Kosky shared his story.

Meeting called to a close the 14th Annual Gathering of LCMC at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Uecker Nelson
Secretary
Grant Proposals

Thrivent Financial Foundation
Reformation Anniversary Grant Program

To celebrate the anniversary of the Reformation, LCMC and the Thrivent Financial Foundation will be awarding $5,000 grants to 15 LCMC congregations for use in planning a project to benefit their local community. Applicants were required to submit an essay of 250 words or less detailing how their congregation would use a $5,000 grant.

During the business sessions, delegates will be selecting 15 winners from the grant proposals that have been submitted. Winners will be announced at the close of the gathering and will be notified after the gathering commences.

**Objective:**
The purpose of the Reformation Anniversary Grant Program is to encourage missional service activities—that is, to encourage congregations and individuals to reach out to their neighbors in Christian service and love, and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This connects serving others in Christian love with Lutheran Theology.

**Selection Criteria for Projects:**
Projects should benefit the local community and may NOT to be used for internal congregational-focused purposes. Applications should also consist of some or all of the following aspects:

- **Future looking:** New ministry efforts
- **Outward facing:** Serving those beyond the congregation
- **Member engaging:** The more congregation members involved the better
- **Collaborative:** Involving others in the work as well, like other congregations or schools or service groups, etc.

**Eligibility Requirements:**
1. Only LCMC congregations are eligible to apply.
2. All applications must be submitted through our website by August 15, 2015 to be considered eligible. No mail-in, emailed, or faxed applications will be accepted.
3. Winners will be limited to one (1) per congregation.
The Anchor Church  Phoenix, Arizona

Submitted By: Ms. Janet Lee

Anchor House, a safe and supportive home for single mom’s and their children, is a ministry of The Anchor. Located in South Phoenix, The Anchor is a church family who strives to make disciples who love their neighbor and serve their city. In December, 2014, The Anchor purchased a 6 bedroom/4 bath home in one of the neediest neighborhoods of South Phoenix. This will become the Anchor House. The Anchor House will serve single moms that are in need of a loving and supportive community. The Anchor House provides support and assistance to pregnant and single mothers to help develop the appropriate skills to recover from poverty, homelessness, and difficult circumstances. Each mom will have a personalized goal-setting program designed for her family to become self-sufficient and break out of the cycle of poverty. Women must be pregnant or have at least 1 child in their custody (under age of 5) and can stay for up to 1 year. The Anchor House is partnering with Habitat for Humanity to renovate the house. Our goal is to occupy the house June 1st with staff and 2 single-mothers with children. The house will eventually be home for up to 4 single moms and their young children. The $5,000 would go towards renovation expenses.

Bethany Lutheran Church  Covington, Michigan

Submitted By: Mrs. Mary Rajala

We are in a small community & would appreciate receiving this grant to help our local food bank with supplies such as food, clothing, utilities, medical & transportation to those in need. Our community is widespread & this would greatly enhance a bonding to those not able to travel out of their homes to church events, shopping, or appointments. We would also like to raise community awareness to the fact of fellowship within our congregation to reach out to those in need of ministering by sponsoring events of interest to the age group span. Dinners with programs for certain age groups, as well as youth sponsored events for the entire community. We pray Bethany Lutheran Church of Covington, Mi. can be considered for this grant. Thank you & God’s Peace ~

Bethel Lutheran Church  Santa Maria, California

Submitted By: LaVonne McGee

A gift of $5,000 would be doubled, tripled, quadrupled, or more, through our congregation by purchasing supplies and equipment to be used by Serve Santa Maria, a primarily Christian based group of leaders dedicated to improving our community. The founder and primary leader of Serve Santa Maria is our pastor, Rev. Carl Nielsen, who serves with pastors and lay people on the Leadership Team. All people, including those on the Leadership Team, serve as volunteers. On two designated days each year, Serve Santa Maria volunteers join together to improve or maintain structures and grounds of city parks, schools and other public facilities, and to improve certain private residences identified by the City. The City Manager has said that these events have saved the City tens of thousands of dollars; actually, one event alone has been said to have a value of $30,000. Nine successful events have occurred over a period of 5 years. Approximately 6,500 hours have been donated, with as many as 400 people serving at one event. Nineteen churches and eight organizations or service clubs participated in the last event. The $5,000 in funds received from this grant would be used for two events in 2016. Needed supplies include wood and other building materials for fencing, handicap ramps, steps, porches and similar items; paint and painting supplies; plumbing fixtures; plant material; food for sack lunches at noon for volunteers; and shovels and wheelbarrows (to be stored and maintained for use year after year) .
Reverse Food Truck. Our congregation would use the grant money to purchase a used food truck in order to begin a Reverse Food Truck ministry here in the greater Colorado Springs community. Bethel Lutheran Church would partner with Mercy’s Gate (a local care organization in Colorado Springs that is supported by a collaboration of churches and other organizations which provides a multitude of services including a food pantry) to use this food truck to collect food and monetary donations with the goal of collecting over 25,000 pounds of food for Mercy’s Gate each year. The truck would be used at church and community events to not sell food, but collect food! The truck would be available to any Thrivent member in the greater Colorado Springs community to utilize as a Thrivent Action Team project. Through the use of this grant and Bethel Lutheran’s Outreach Team’s funds the truck would be purchased, registered, insured and maintained by Bethel Lutheran Church. The truck would be colorfully painted with the logo for Thrivent, Bethel Lutheran Church and Mercy’s Gate displayed. Information and signage would be available to share with all event participants to show the truck’s purpose in helping to feed all of God’s children. Currently, a Reverse Food Truck program is being utilized in Minnesota as a collaboration between Thrivent Financial and a business. More information about this program can be found at https://service.thrivent.com/content/truck-reservation/index.html.

If awarded the grant, we would utilize the money to purchase needed items for a new outreach ministry team: Hands of Joy. The team which we hope to launch in the winter of 2016 would travel to assisted living facilities, hospitals and therapy centers to share Bible stories through puppet and drama ministry. The team would consist of adults, youth and children. The goal would be to have several teams of mixed ages that could perform several times a month throughout Colorado Springs and beyond. Every performance would incorporate humor in telling the Bible stories in memorable ways. The grant money would be used to purchase puppets, a portable puppet stage and a portable sound system. Currently, our congregation uses puppet ministry in worship services, family programs, VBS and at special events. This past fall we had a puppet ministry program in which adults, youth and children learned basic puppetry and performed Gospel oriented skits. We have a group of people who are excited to take the puppetry skills they have learned to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Several of the children in our church that were part of our puppet ministry program are on the autism spectrum. With this grant we would like to develop a special puppet show showcasing their talents to be presented in several local therapy centers for other children with autism.

We have a Slavik (Ukrainian) Christian church that meets in our building for all of their worship and ministry activities each week. Our proposal is to have both of our congregations work together to host a neighborhood outreach picnic/barbecue for the 900 homes in our immediate area. The purpose would be to not only expose our neighbors to the churches and our ministries, but to collect food and clothing for the area food bank and assistance agency Mercy’s Gate. Mercy’s Gate also puts together backpacks and supplies for children going back to school and ensures that they have the proper clothing, shoes and supplies for students to feel confident as they go to school. Our churches would be able to purchase supplies for these backpacks as well as offer a couple of scholarships for our preschool as a way of helping some preschool students attend a Christian preschool who might not have been able to do so otherwise. We would involve the preschool staff, both congregations and the Mercy’s Gate staff as well. The goal would
be to help both congregations reach out into the immediate community and understand that those in need are often the ones right in our midst. One of the keys to undertaking this event is that it would not just be a one time event, but rather a catalyst to both churches working together with the neighborhood on future events as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Bethel Lutheran Church (4)  
Submitted By: Rev. Greg Brandvold

We would like to use the money to do an Adult Health Fair and more. We would offer blood pressure, support groups of the community, helpful information, security Q & A and other items that would be helpful to adults in our community. Along with that we would highlight the programs of the church and social events that may interest the adults. We would have videos of events, service projects, helping our community projects and dreams of what could be done in the future. We would also like to invite to our classes on Christianity, child care, marriage, eating right and other self improvements making it possible to live a better life. We would plan on having food and goodies with coffee and drinks inside and outside. Depending on age we are trying to reach we may have something for the children. All of this would be offered to our community for their benefit and Spiritual improvement.

Bethel Lutheran Church (5)  
Submitted By: Mr. Dan Lahman

Bethel Lutheran Church would like to sponsor a service day for the community as an outreach, especially to seniors and those that are disabled or disadvantaged. The service would be provided by church and community volunteers who would perform minor home repairs, painting, cleaning, yardwork, trash hauling, etc. while sharing the love of Christ through meeting the practical needs of those who are unable care for themselves. The $5000 grant would be used for paint and supplies and the volunteers would provide manpower and tools. The service needs would be assessed and planned in advance and teams of workers would then be matched to the needs. The goal of the day is to reach out to the community and to better understand the needs of those outside of the church. This event would hopefully be the catalyst for future semi-annual or annual serve days that would involve people from many different churches, charities, and community groups. Thank you for your consideration.

Central Lutheran Church  
Submitted By: Mrs. Allison Olson

Central Lutheran Church would like to host an annual one day Art Fair outreach for Elk River and the surrounding communities. “Artreach” will expose those interested in the arts without a faith background or uncomfortable in churches, (including musicians, poets, visual artists, storytellers, and culinary artists) to the love of Christ. Funds raised on this day through donations, food sales, art sales, vendor fees and raffles would be used to support a location for those interested in pursuing the arts to meet, practice their art and be taught, served and welcomed in love. This would be a new ministry for our church. There is a very strong arts community in Elk River which has an arts magnet high school and an Arts Alliance, but no faith component or exposure. We would like to share the Divine aspect of creativity with those called to create, who don’t know the Creator. We estimate 20 to 30 or more members of our congregation will be involved in planning and hosting the “Artreach”, and an additional 30 on the actual “Artreach” day. We plan to collaborate with a potential of 8 area churches, the Elk River school district (especially the staff of the arts magnet high school), the state award winning culinary team from the high school, area businesses and restaurants and members of the Elk River Arts Alliance. We will use the $5,000 for venue costs, advertising, permit expenses, and supplies for kids and adults to experience art for free.
Charity Lutheran Church, LCMC (1)  
Bismarck, North Dakota,

Submitted By: Mrs. Nancy Jensen

As a member of Charity Lutheran Church LCMC, I am grateful for the opportunity to apply for the LCMC grant opportunity. The project I am proposing to develop would be an “inclusive worship” opportunity for those children and their families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders. There is no such program currently available in our community. Children with autism have difficulty participating in a typical church setting. Worship is normally too loud, people are pressed together too closely, the various unaccustomed smells of perfumes are too overwhelming, and the expectations to sit still are too restrictive for their complicated sensory systems. As a result, many parents simply stop attending worship due to the distractions these children cause to other participants. These families -often the ones that could stand most to benefit from the right worship experience - are not participating. I propose a community-wide, sensory-friendly worship experience (offered quarterly) in cooperation with other area churches in a non-denominational setting (such as a park on a sunny day), where children are encouraged to dance, sing out of tune, stretch their bodies, and sit at the feet of Jesus while experiencing His love and acceptance. Many such ideas are expressed on the blog https://theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com. Submitted by Jennifer Skjod, Communications Coordinator, Charity Lutheran Church.

Charity Lutheran Church, LCMC (2)  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Submitted By: Mrs. Nancy Jensen

The Charity Women in Mission for Christ team works with women’s Bible study groups at Charity and various women’s ministry groups in Bismarck and throughout the region. We’ve worked diligently to connect with women’s ministry teams and have broadened our approach to partner with women in the local and regional communities. We’ve had growing success in broadening our outreach and have brought women together from throughout the region to our events to share our hope in Jesus Christ, renew their faith, and connect with other women. Through the power of God’s truth, we are able to help women rely on and live in the security of God’s promises in their relationships, roles, and unending responsibilities. This approach has provided a meaningful bond and unity of learning and purpose among the women attending and reaches women with the Gospel. We want to expand our ministry and bring a national conference speaker to the region in 2016. Our goal: To engage more women and broaden our mission of service in reaching women with the gospel! We plan to partner with congregations locally and/or in the region, LCMC congregations, and women’s groups to further engage women. We’ve operated our existing budget with prudence and creativity. However, our budget does not provide the resources needed to secure a national Christian women’s speaker. If selected, we would develop and provide a detailed proposal, including speaker, venue, expenses, etc. Thank you for this marvelous opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Chinese Life Lutheran Church  
Alhambra, California

Submitted By: Rev. Dr. Daniel Law

This is a new project with the purpose to serve the growing new immigrants came from Mainland China resided in Alhambra and also the nearby area such as Monterey Park, Temple City, and Arcadia etc. Goals: to serve the community and to preach the Gospel of God through the services and pre-evangelistic activities provided especially to the new immigrants from Mainland China. Strategy: through the friendship ministries by making friends with the new immigrants non-believers through the various services and activities provided and then introduced the belief of Christianity for those interested. Timeframe: for one year initially and will be continued after evaluation Expected total no. of target audiences: 450 pax Services including: 1. Language Ministry, English Class for beginners, intermediate learners, and English Tutorial Class for elementary and middle school students 2. Sports Ministry, Basketball Training, Table Tennis Training, 3. Seminars, Seminars on Parenting, Marriage, and Healthcare, 4. Pre-evangelistic Activities: Outing, Hiking, BBQ Manpower:
Instructors for English Class will be recruited both from the Church members and also volunteers outside. Speakers for the seminars on parenting, marriage and healthcare will be invited from the Christian organizations. Budget Honorariums for speakers on parenting, marriage & healthcare $300 x 6 talks = $1,800 Materials for English Classes $300 Basketball training facilities In-Ground Basketball system $1,000 Court Marking $200 Basketball 5 x @ $20 $100 Coach $500 $1,800 Table Tennis training facilities Table Tennis Table $200 Coach $300 $500 Expenses for Outing, Hiking, and BBQ $200 x 3 = $600

_________________ $5,000

Christ Lutheran Church

Odessa, Washington

Submitted By: Mrs. Barbara Greenwalt

Christ Lutheran Church is requesting $5,000.00 in grant funds to build for use of the community and congregational members a half-court basketball area and playground area. Costs will include: 1) concrete for the basketball court utilizing a local construction company or local volunteers 2) purchase of a basketball post to be installed by the congregation volunteers. 3) purchase of a plexiglass backboard. The basketball area will be wonderful for our teenagers, young adults and there parents for outdoor activities. The possibilities are endless for its use, one on one, two on two, bump, or full team players. Example of the playground equipment costs will include: 1) purchase of a playground set that will offer cedar wood, 8' 8" H, 15' 2" W and 10' 7" L, including an 8' slide, 2 belt swings, trapeze bar, picnic/activity table, rock wall at an approximate cost of $800 plus shipping with a one year warranty. There are several young families within the community with children of all ages that will benefit from the playground. There are often many events held at Christ Lutheran Church which would enable mothers to bring alone their children and not worry about them playing in the street. Odessa is a small engaged community that will benefit greatly from the use of the $5,000 grant funds. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Christ Lutheran Church

Whitefish, Montana

Submitted By: Dr. Randy Butikofer

I am applying for the Thrivent Financial Foundation Reformation Anniversary Grant on behalf of Christ Lutheran Church of Whitefish, Montana. We have currently brought together 13 area churches to form a Love INC affiliate in the North Flathead Valley. Love In the Name of Christ is a proven model that networks local churches, church volunteers, and community organizations together to help people in need. Through Love INC, churches and individual Christians are mobilized to work together, across denominational lines, to provide coordinated help to people with basic needs, such as food and clothing, to longer-term transformational responses such as life skills training. Our Love INC operates a local Clearinghouse which maintains information on resources available to people in need through the talents of people in the pews, church outreach ministries, and community agencies. Christian staff train and oversee church volunteers who prayerfully and lovingly receive requests for help and screen them for legitimacy and extent of need. Importantly, they seek to hear the person’s story, discover other needs and deeper issues fueling the problem. Each need is then referred to the most appropriate network church, church volunteer, or agency. Church members serving through Love INC follow up to ensure the need was met and to offer prayer and spiritual support from churches. By financially supporting Love INC we will be able to expand our programs, grow in churches and volunteers, and reach out with God’s love fulfilling his two great commandments of loving Him and our neighbors.

Christ Lutheran Church

Maple Plain, Minnesota

Submitted By: Mr. Gary Stueven

Imagine you, or your son or daughter before a court Judge for the third time on drug and alcohol addiction related charges. All attempts to end this nightmare have failed. All that’s left is prison. Then to your surprise
the Judge says “I’m giving you one last chance... I’m sentencing you to MINNESOTA ADULT AND TEEN CHALLENGE.” Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge is a non-denominational long term faith based addiction and recovery program for adults and teens with one of the highest success rates in the nation at over 70%. This program is growing and has just opened another facility hosting 200 male patients just west of the Minneapolis metropolitan area. Our church has recently been asked to help rebuild and convert an old 14’ x 20’ storage shed on the new facility property (noted above) into a four season prayer cabin where patients can remove themselves from the general population and privately seek help, forgiveness, and guidance from God. This is where our congregation would use the $5000 grant. This community project reaches out to neighbors in Christian service and love and consists of the following aspects: • Future looking - Provides an on-going avenue for new patients to experience the love of Christ. • Outward facing - Serves the entire Minneapolis / St. Paul metro area. • Member engaging - Already engaging our youth, professional, and senior members; in labor, benevolence, and prayer. • Collaborative - Working with area churches, citizens, and community. Thank you for your consideration.

Christ Lutheran Church
Blair, Nebraska
Submitted By: Rev. Mark Degner

Rebuilding Washington County. Martin Luther wrote, “We are sinners and at the same time righteous.” In spite of our human limitations, our loving God is at work in and through us to accomplish magnificent things. Luther stated, “Good works do not make a man good, but a good man does good works.” Jesus said that we are to “love the Lord with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.” Our faith is useless unless it is expressed in tangible ways. We enjoy peace with God through Jesus and will communicate to others the abundant life God offers. The people of Christ Lutheran Church (young and old) will share the saving Gospel of Jesus with His Word and hand-made “salvation bracelets.” We will serve our community in a tangible, life-giving way. The LCMC grant monies will be used to buy the supplies and tools needed to activate a program called Rebuilding Washington County, helping those impacted by the major hail storm that devastated Washington County and the City of Blair on June 3, 2014. Photos can be viewed at www.scroppsmedia.com. We will collaborate with the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA) to identify uninsured or under-insured households. We will labor with Christians from other local churches to tangibly “love our neighbors as ourselves” by helping them to rebuild their homes. We will serve from the same motivation that Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses (October 31, 1517): “out of love for the Truth and the desire to bring it to light.”

Christ the King
Hutchinson, Minnesota
Submitted By: Mrs. Dawn Mitchell

Future Looking: Our congregation is beginning a new mission; “Wheels of Mercy”. The goal is to reflect Christ’s mercy by providing independent transportation, to promote families, exercise and joy by “recycling” bicycles to those in need. Outward Facing: Our congregation is studying how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE’s) affect individual children, families and community. ACE’s include physical, substance, sexual and emotional abuse. Approximately half of the children in our County have experienced at least one ACE. Only 29% of these children feel cared about by an adult-- we want to increase that number by giving bikes to children in foster care, those in need of transportation or who are homeless, or to a struggling parent so they can enjoy a bike ride with their child. Member Engaging: Congregants donate bikes, money and storage, while others fix bikes. When we have an onsite shed, we envision our youth group learning maintenance skills while being mentored by adults. We all actively pray for healing and joy for the bike recipients. Collaborative: We are collaborating with Common Cup Ecumenical Ministry to distribute bikes. County and School Social workers help spread the word. The police department assists with bike donations. Faith Lutheran Church has offered a temporary shed for storage. The grant money would be used to build a maintenance/storage shed at church so our youth group can be involved. Money would also be used to purchase basic tools and parts. Each bike recipient is given a bike helmet and lock.
Christ The King Lutheran Church  

Dodge City, Kansas

Submitted By: Ms. Darlene Elledge

Christ the King Lutheran would like to use grant funds to establish a healthier ongoing publicity and educational program for Numana Share the Bounty, a non-profit organization whose main goal is to purchase ingredients and package bags of a nutritious combination of rice, beans, soy flour, and vitamins. When cooked with six cups of water, each bag will feed six people at a cost of about 30 cents per meal. These bags are then distributed where needed. Please consult the web site for details of this ministry, numanainc.com. The educational component for the grant funds involves educating the growing and vital Hispanic community in our area about the importance of this project and to invite them to join us and participate on packing day. This day is a wonderful time of interaction and cooperation of community groups. In the last 5 years, our local event has packaged 1,109,586 meals. This will be the sixth year CTK has been involved with Numana and we have been noticing a downward trend in donations for the food. We feel poor publicity is partly to blame. It needs to be more intensive, far-reaching, and a year-long effort. And this year, all of the bags processed will remain in the area to aid the hungry here, many of which have immigrant status. Within a six block radius of CTK, four new Hispanic churches have sprung up in the last three years! We are hoping to establish a bridge with these churches through this.

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church  

Norfolk, Nebraska

Submitted By: Mrs. Elizabeth Armitage

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church has started a new ministry working with teen and young mothers. This ministry is a childcare that is geared toward helping moms ages 21 and under succeed in parenting their children. The Teen Mom Infant Childcare Program is more than just childcare. We pair each young mom with a mentor mom who gives them support and guidance as they finish their education. We also provide life skills workshops on topics such as SIDS, Shaken Baby Syndrome, how to make a budget, and engaging your child in play. Our goal is to help these young moms become the best mothers that they can be, and to show them Christ’s love and forgiveness rather than judgement. We want these young mothers to have a safe place to turn when their world is turned upside down. We are working hard to be an example of Christ's hands and feet. The childcare gives children a safe and secure environment when their home life might not be so safe or secure. Our goal with the children is to help them grow and develop in all areas of life. We provide activities and playtime that will help them develop emotionally, physically, spiritually, artistically, socially, and aesthetically. The $5000 would be used towards our ministry with these young mothers and their children. It would be used for the childcare staff salary and the purchase of new playground equipment.

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church  

Lacey, Washington

Submitted By: Crystal Hansen

If we had $5,000 to give towards our community we would use the money to create a garden and gardening programs at the elementary school next door. We would collaborate with the administration, teachers and parents of the school to create raised bed vegetable gardens and a perennial flower “thinking/ reading spot” garden. The money would be used for the building of the gardens, plants, a bench, sprinkler system and tools for the students to use. We would also work with the school to purchase/find gardening curriculum for the teachers to use with their students, as well as create an after school gardening club run by school staff, parents and/or members of our congregation. This project would be such a great way for our church members to connect with our neighbors; to work with our local school.
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Easley, South Carolina

Submitted By: Henry Schultz

SHINE was founded in 2004 to “Stop Hunger in Easley “. More than 300 volunteers from multiple congregations, including Emmanuel Lutheran Church, share responsibility to prepare and serve over 22,000 meals in 2014. Today, SHINE serves approximately 150 of our less fortunate neighbors Monday through Friday at a former High School, operated by The Dream Center, a local family services faith-based, 501(c)(3). SHINE provides meals to anyone who comes through the door, no questions asked. SHINE is the only Soup Kitchen in Pickens County, SC, which has approximately 24,000 residents below the poverty line. The Dream Center and its resident partners provide a variety of services to disadvantaged families, including mentoring and educational services for adults, and faith-based, mentoring, athletic and recreational activities for disadvantaged children and youth. These services dictate careful separation between some guests of SHINE and the families, youth, and children using other areas of the facility, including shared Restrooms. SHINE needs $10,000 to fund modifications to the SHINE area of the facility, including rest room facilities dedicated to SHINE and its guests, to assure continued meals service to all who arrive, while providing enhanced security for families, youth, and children, and all SHINE volunteers. This would allow the SHINE portion of the facility to become self-sufficient, avoiding a need for the Dream Center to provide cleaning and security service for the shared facility. Emmanuel requests a grant of $5000, to match a $5000 pledge made to SHINE to complete the project.

Faith Community Lutheran Church (1)  
Longmont, Colorado

Submitted By: Mrs. Konni Keuter

Faith Community Lutheran Church (FC) has been active in the Longmont community for 35 years. Since 2009 our congregation has had a collaborative relationship with Vida Abundante (Vida). Vida is a small, growing church that is dynamically serving the Spanish speaking low-income neighborhoods that FC cannot effectively serve. FC has successfully partnered with Vida in many ways including providing a meeting place, children ministries and grants. Through Vida, FC is able to bring God into the lives of Longmont’s Spanish speaking community. If FC were to receive a $5,000 grant from Thrivent, we would put that money towards helping Vida grow by providing funds for them to advertise their mission on a Spanish radio station. La Ley is a local Spanish radio station that is popular with the people that Vida is eager to serve. There is currently no faith-based advertisement on the station. This would be a completely new approach for this ministry. Vida reaches out to low-income families, single parents and multi-job households but their greatest cause is the children. $5,000 would provide creation of advertisement s and air time throughout the day. These outward facing ads would be geared toward bringing the children and teenagers to the church for fun, safe, nutritional activities. Vida believes that in serving the children thru the church, the parents will follow. Ultimately, members of both the Vida and FC congregations, as well as the Spanish community, will receive the gospel and be uplifted!

Faith Community Lutheran Church (2)  
Longmont, Colorado

Submitted By: Mrs. Teri Hassa

According to ‘Metro-Denver Homeless Initiative’ taken January 2015, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness is 6,130. In January 2014 “there were 5,812 homeless men, women, and children” (Metro-Denver Homeless Initiative). This number should be decreasing, yet it is rising. We feel urged to help. If we are blessed to receive this grant, we will use the money to create, buy items, and assemble “Thanks and Giving” bags that contain useful items a homeless person could use. Future Looking: to engage our congregational members and their children in serving our homeless community while giving thanks for all which God has blessed us. Acts 10:34-35. Outward Facing: to reach out in love to the homeless in the Boulder County community, and beyond our immediate vicinity, by encouraging congregational families to
take “Thanks and Giving” bags and keep them in their vehicles to handout to homeless people when encountered. Member Engaging: utilizing the coordination and leadership from 50 middle schoolers and their adult sponsors, we will fill the “Thanks and Giving” bags. Since service is one of the hallmarks of our Children and Youth Ministry at Faith Community Lutheran Church, we are empowering the next generation with the vision of service to others and looking beyond just themselves and their needs. Collaborative: each of our 394 families will be inspired and emboldened to take one or more “Thanks and Giving” bags to distribute to our homeless community members and beyond. Matthew 19:26.

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**Lakeland, Florida**  

Submitted By: Rev. Richard Poutenis

Entering our sixtieth year of serving the faithful people of Greater Lakeland, Faith Lutheran Church of Lakeland, Florida seeks your consideration for funding a new Adult Day Health Care initiative that we believe meets your grant criteria. This monumental undertaking would have a long-term effect on Faith Lutheran Church and the community-at-large as it is designed to provide Christian senior day care for infirmed individuals who remain living in the home environment. Our request will allow us the ability to:

- Fund the creation of a business plan.
- Create a scope-of-work for required construction retrofit projects.
- Create individual bid documents associated with each construction project.
- Secure financial resources for required permits (local, state and county).
- Conduct a needs assessment study associated with each portion of the business plan.

Our vision is to become a community resource that will provide not only medically supervised day care but allow families a respite opportunity. We envision that in meeting both state and federal mandates, up to thirteen staff members will be hired to operate this entity. Our parishioners will take an active role in this endeavor by providing spiritual and social programs. Outreach will be our primary focus. As a health care provider we will be interacting with the local medical community, transportation providers, food service vendors, as well as the local recreational market. Your consideration and approval will allow Faith Lutheran Church the ability to proclaim the Word through our daily actions of caring for His people.

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**Great Falls, Montana**

Submitted By: Mrs. Sharon Farnsworth

Faith Lutheran Church (FLC) has come a long way in the past year. This walk with God would not be able to be captured in 250 words, but in a book with 250 pages. This request for the grant will be instrumental in not only developing the church grounds, but improving the neighborhood. At the present time, the church grounds is adjacent to an undeveloped park. This park has one small slide and one basketball hoop and sits between two housing developments. The one on the west has approximately 100 school age children and the one on the east has 104 children. With this grant, FLC will develop a walking/biking trail with benches and a playground area along with a small pit for campfires and barbeques. This will be available for the community to use. FLC members will provide labor, donations, and fellowship in the process of the development. The work party will be comprised of all ages within the church. This project would not only attract families to the church grounds, but would open up the opportunity to host different neighborhood events - fall festival, picnics, Easter events, ice skating, etc. The church, when built will sit on 5 acres. These improvements will provide a benefit to the neighborhood and increase the values of homes. Rather than a lot filled with weeds and undeveloped land it will be replace with a useful purpose which will beautify the neighborhood, create an environment of fellowship, and share Christian love.
Faith Lutheran Church

Submitted By: Mr. Jeff Buchan

Faith Lutheran Church, established in August 2010, always seeks ways to connect with our members and serve people outside our walls. As we enter another year, we continue to search for ways to help our congregation and our community. Our mission statement is simple yet comprehensive. “Inviting all people to Faith…Come and worship—go and work”. Our church proposes to begin a childcare in our building. This new ministry would provide a much needed service to families in our community and surrounding area. This childcare will accept children from 6 weeks to 6 years old. Our facility will be open Monday through Friday. We will hire the staff needed to offer quality care in a safe, faith-nurturing environment for the children. In addition, once the childcare begins, our church will reach out to these families, encouraging them to join us for church services and programming activities outside of the work day and week. Faith Lutheran Church has approved this vision to host a childcare and is now taking the preliminary steps to begin a childcare. Faith Lutheran members will be encouraged to volunteer to support the childcare’s mission in a variety of ways. If awarded, this grant would subsidize the startup costs for the salary to pay an executive director who would lay the foundation. The grant would also pay for remodeling costs to the facility. Beginning this childcare ministry will enable us to serve families, our community, and empower us to reach out with Christ’s love.

Falls Community Church

Submitted By: Pr. Julius Badigo

My name is Julius Badigo I came as a Refugee in 2004 with my family am original from the Republic of south Sudan now am living in Sioux Fall South Dakota. We used to be with the ELCA congregation from 2001-2009 when the ELCA adopted the homosexuality in their church family. We decided as a Congregation to leave the ELCA. This congregation we are most refugees from Africa in particular south Sudan we are not a large congregation we are about one hundred fifty Members and confirm: sixty five members but we are hoping for more in the future it need a lot of work. To be done we are trying to do the great commission in Sioux Falls South Dakota, because many nationalities from different nations of the world are available here. We are the first African congregation to leave the ELCA after the convocation in Minneapolis in 2009. We are seeking for a solid Bible church and a solid teaching and principal of Christ, which at last we found the church which we want to be with them is the Lutheran Church Mission for Christ which is very interesting to join. So that we together can expand God’s Kingdom right here on earth. Now we have our own building at last we called home, we are very excited of what the Lord has done for this congregation we suffered enough, and with God everything is possible so far we need your engagement in this ministry very crucial, we are in a fantastic location with many rooms to grow and now we can shout Hallelujah any how because the Lord has done it. The population of the south Sudanese in Sioux Falls is about three thousands plus the new church building it will be so wonderful. Our mission is to reach out to the entire African community in Sioux Falls, we are very sad because many of our youth generation they are in jail or in prison, in Falls community church we have many young man and young woman but there is no place for them to come before, but now we have the church every Sunday we have about twenty or more are coming to the church as Christian we need to teach them the way of God is the best idea. Sioux Falls is a great city to reach out to many as possible but we need some resource to start, most of African youth are very A1:J118 in soccer than anything else we could introduce to them that very soon, it will work very well.

First Lutheran Church

Submitted By: Mary Lee Twidell

In the summer of 2016, along with other congregations, we will be sponsoring a Group Workcamp. The work camps bring 300-400 kids and chaperones to complete home repair on homes of local elderly, low
income, and disabled residents. This is work that the individuals would not be able to complete themselves. Funds are needed to supply materials, and support all the workers with snacks, meals, recreation activities on their afternoon off. An estimate of $30000 is needed, and we currently have $13000 committed. This grant would greatly help reach our goal, so the energy expended could go toward the other necessary logistics. Thank you for your consideration.

First St. Pauls Evangelical Lutheran Church  Hastings, Nebraska

Submitted By: Mrs. Tina Winchell

Project Homeless Connect is an annual community collaboration between agencies, churches and volunteers who help meet the needs of homeless or near homeless persons. Through this effort, we strive to empower individuals and families in their journey toward self-sufficiency. Persons in Adams, Nuckolls, Clay and Webster counties are the target areas; however none are turned away. For the past three years, First St. Paul’s has been blessed to assist Project Homeless Connect, established under South Central Partnership, in creating a successful event through the use of the church facilities, spiritual outreach and congregational volunteers. We intend to do so again this year. In 2012, Project Homeless Connect assisted over 200 people in its first year. In 2014, this number increased to 467 people. Some of the services included are: medical, dental, housing/rental assistance, employment mentoring, literacy council, legal aid, food, parenting programs, Veterans’ services, bedding, clothing, hygiene items, showers, haircuts, and much more. All services are provided at no cost to the participants. As part of Project Homeless Connect, members of the congregation prepare and serve a hot and nutritious meal to participants and volunteers. With this funding, we will be able to not only cover the increase in cost due to increasing participation. This additional funding will assist us with purchasing food for the meal, tangible goods for distribution, and necessary follow-up services for participants.

Gloria Dei Lutheran "Lord's Pantry"  San Jose, California

Submitted By: Mrs. Mary DeHart-Madson

Do you know what it’s like to be hungry? Many men, women and children in our community know this feeling. They could be your neighbors, coworkers, friends or children your children attend school with. We at Gloria Dei Lord’s Pantry are dedicated to help fed the homeless and low-income individuals in our community. The Lord’s Pantry is a nonprofit, emergency food program run completely by VOLUNTEERS. We are a partner agency of Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties serving local zip codes. We opened our doors in 1977, at 121 South White Road, over 35 years ago, as a non-profit organization. When we opened, we were feeding 40 families a month. In 2014, we fed over 60,000 individuals in the 7 zip codes we serve. On any given day we can see 55 – 85 families which could easily work out to be 250 individuals or more. Yes, we live in the heart of Silicon Valley and our pantry is in the heart of one of the poorest areas too. Considering the location of our site we see every ethnic group possible. That also includes the volunteers that work with me. Looking at the current totals for the last couple of months if the rest of the year continues like this our end of the year will certainly hit 60,000 plus.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  Washington, Indiana

Submitted By: Mrs. Sondra Wininger

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church would like to collaborate with the Washington Carnegie Public Library to enhance the early literacy program RAILZ (Reading and Interactive Learning Zone). Literacy is essential to fully developing a sense of well-being and citizenship. Children who are solid readers perform better in school, have a healthy self-image, and become lifelong learners, adding to their viability in a competitive world. Experts estimate that nearly 40 percent of U.S. 4th graders do not achieve basic levels of reading proficiency. The number is higher among low-income families, certain minority groups, and English language
learners. Sadly, these children may never fully participate in society. Their employment prospects diminish and the chance for anti-social behavior increases. Local statistics show that 24% of children live in poverty which is 2% higher than the national average. A quarter of children face challenges that are barriers to achieving success. RAILZ emphasizes reading to all children, especially those in disadvantaged households. RAILZ offers early literacy programming, a fun environment and a caring library staff. The grant could provide new books to support the demographics and a media center to promote literacy activities. RAILS participants will receive their own book for reading motivation and inspiration for family reading time. This grant is collaborative and outward facing as we would assist the library in order that they may serve the children of our community. Members will become engaged by volunteering with different RAILZ programs and activities which may open up new ministry efforts.

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
Florence, Alabama

Submitted By: Mrs. Helen Etienne

We are fourteen young women in our 70’s, members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, looking to step out of our comfort zone. When awarded, this grant would be utilized through our Women’s Ministry to benefit the efforts of the local “Room in the Inn Shoals”. This non-profit organization operates in the cold of winter and the heat of summer. They provide a place for homeless to get out of the cold or heat and into a place where they can sleep overnight and get a meal. Many of these people have health issues and would end up in doorway for the night. “Room in the Inn Shoals” began in 2013 with four people. Last winter they accommodated sixteen people. The expectation is that there will be at least twenty or more during this season. It is the goal of our ministry to participate in the efforts of “Room in the Inn Shoals” by providing pre-prepared meals. The need is for dinner, breakfast and snacks. Also by giving benevolence to help pay needed necessities for everyday living. Through this ministry we will reach out beyond our congregation into a segment of the community which is many times forgotten or ignored. We are looking forward to meeting their needs by giving them a form of healthy community. Good Shepherd is not just a church, we are a family, stepping out to help others.

**Grace Community Church**  
Belleville, Michigan

Submitted By: Rev. Billy Hales

Our proposal is to develop and present a program teaching financial literacy to children, targeting primarily teenagers from socio-economically challenged backgrounds. This program would include teaching the importance of saving money, how to open a bank account, budgeting and the importance of investing, etc. Our goal is to fill in the gaps in education that these children experience that impact the overwhelming majority for the duration of their lives. Our plan is to enlist the assistance of: Parents, bankers, teachers, members of our church and community.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
Ridgcrest, California

Submitted By: Rev. Mark Brynestad

Should we be awarded a $5,000 Thrivent Financial Foundation Reformation Anniversary Grant, Grace Lutheran Church would recondition a current Sunday School classroom into a Community Services room. Currently, too little exists in the community to help people connect with local services for finding jobs, housing, or stability after bouts with drugs or jail terms. This could be done while expanding our existing food pantry to include a refrigerator, a better-organized clothing and toiletry area, phones and internet services, as well as short-term babysitting. Furthermore, we would expand the offering of Bibles and devotionals. Grace Lutheran Church is committed to being an outward-facing church. The greatest needs in our moderate to low-income location are homelessness, joblessness, and drug abuse. We could provide transportation to our county seat in Bakersfield which is nearly 2.5 hours away for access to many county services. Our new
Community Service room would engage many of our members as well as people we help. While many have a passion to serve, an organized way to provide such service does not yet exist. This grant would help solve that dilemma. As a collaborative program, our Community Services ministry would coordinate with other local organizations such as employment agencies, county and municipal services, and local churches. Besides the practical help, this new addition would also provide a place for community members to take refuge from our desert surroundings to participate in regular devotionals and Bible study. We want to demonstrate love for neighbor as Christ loves us all.

**Hands for Pine City**  
Pine City, Minnesota

Submitted By: Pr. Julie Samuelson

Hands for Pine City is a church plant less than a year old. Our mission is to “Exist to be the hands of Jesus to Pine City.” We would like to use this grant money to match funds to provide a pre-school playground to the public softball field complex as a gift to the city. This complex is the center of summer recreation in our community with youth K-12 and adult men’s, women’s and church softball at least 4 nights a week. Because there is no safe place for small children to play, there is a great need for a play space covered with a safety net. This missional project has gotten great response with the community. In fact, they want to make this project a community build event. We see God opening doors showing the young families and city administration in Pine City that Jesus loves all people, especially the children. After all Jesus did say, “Let the little children come to me.” This is the heart of this project.

**Hebron Lutheran Church**  
Hebron, Kentucky

Submitted By: Mrs. Diane Martin

Our congregation supports the organization ‘Family Promise." This grant would be used by Family Promise to restart the organization. Family Promise helps homeless families get their lives back through regaining employment and obtaining a home again for themselves and their children. Churches in the area house these families while they get help from local agencies, counseling, job interviewing, finances etc. Family Promise will operate a Day Center where the guests will shower, and go on interviews from. The grant would help with the expenses to run the Day Center and hire an administrator and eventually purchase a van to transport the guests from the churches to the Day Center and back. Family Promise is in the process of doing a fundraiser in August, September and February of 2016, but the grant would help to open the door sooner. Please consider this request prayerfully. Blessings, Diane Martin.

**Holly Cross Lutheran Church**  
Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

Submitted By: Rev. Mark Anariko Onunda

Holly Cross Lutheran Church is an LCMC Church outside USA based in Nairobi. Nairobi is a city of close to five million and currently the congregation is in the eastern part of the city with 30 communicant members but due to city life the daily attendants ranges between 15 to 25 per Sunday depending on what time of the year. Land is a major issue in Kenya and worse in Nairobi. I believe Nairobi is among the most expensive city in the world and this congregation has been around since 2005. our growth depends on two major factors availability of land where to have a church building and the church building itself. Urban ministry in Nairobi has been a challenge especially when a church uses a hired hall. some of the people don’t see why they should worship in a hall when there are beautiful buildings around where one can go. The funds will be used to buy land to build the church. The locals are fund raising monthly and this will be a great boost to the dream of having a place of worship. This will also boost the dream of constructing a church. This is a our main project at the moment because if we get a church building of our own the church will grow to over 200 members because others are scared of our monthly fundraising. This is a lower class community. We hope we will be considered.
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Brigham City, Utah

Submitted By: Mrs. Jenny Hill

Holy Cross is landowner of the Box Elder Community Garden in Brigham City, Utah. Garden organizers have realized the dream of providing raised garden beds with soil and a water source for anyone in the community wishing to grow healthful food to supplement their grocery budget. Phase-1 planting beds were constructed, but immediately more beds were needed to serve people on a waiting list. Our congregation could use $5,000.00 for donation to the garden for purchase of materials needed to construct additional planting beds. Community businesses and volunteers realize benefits of greenspace ministry, as they are very supportive with donations of labor and materials to establish garden infrastructure. Our mission statement reads: To serve Brigham City and surrounding communities by providing a safe, relationship-driven, inclusive environment in the form of a community garden. Through gardening, joy and dignity are gained, as are enthusiasm for the fresh vegetables and fruits grown and respect for the property while ensuring food security for themselves and others through charitable giving. Environmental awareness, appreciation for nature, patience, self-esteem, ownership & responsibility, and improved relations with family members and others are additional benefits. Social and educational entities already plan to use the garden venue for activities serving children, adults, and families. Garden organizers represent three denominations, not by design, it just happened that way. All involved with the garden recognize multiple benefits the ministry offers to people. We look to a productive future, growing this greenspace for all, to the Glory of God!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Nazareth, Pennsylvania

Submitted By: Rev. Royan Rodney

Since ancient times, Christians have buried their families in the Churchyard, symbolizing the continuum of faith from birth to death, baptism to burial. In this tradition, the Memorial Garden of Holy Cross Lutheran church in Nazareth, PA will be a sacred area, integral to the whole community, for the purpose of remembering our members’ families and friends. We at Holy Cross recognize that there are many people in our community that moved from areas where their loved ones are buried or that served in the military who were not privileged enough to make it back home. This memorial garden will be a place, where they can come and find solace, and peace in the presence of God. This garden will remind the community that the church exist to serve the entire community, because God loves us all. The memorial garden will be a tribute to us finding comfort in the love of God and a testimony to our consistent faith in the Resurrection of Christ. The garden would provide a quiet and private sanctuary for all who wish to visit. The garden will be one of honor and memoriam, promise and testimony for those who walk and meet there. Ask you to prayerfully consider us for the $5000.00 grant as we strongly believe it will serve this community for generations to come. Without this contribution it may take years for us to receive the donations required. We thank you for this consideration!

Hope Lutheran Church

Quincy, Illinois

Submitted By: Mrs. Sandy Cassens

At Hope Lutheran, God helped us form a new service project for the community called Hope For Young Readers. It is an outreach program for struggling readers, Kindergarten - 4th grade. Our mission is to boost reading skills, increase knowledge of words, help students become independent readers through individualized lessons, and promote a love of reading! We targeted a low income housing area consisting of mostly single mothers and their families, adding on others from the community, as well. We offered this program for a fall and spring session. Students showed growth from October to April by moving up anywhere from 3-6 reading levels. Enthusiasm for reading was one of the biggest changes! We received funds from our own church and 2 local grants. We are in need of higher level guided reading books, magnetic letters and money for book giveaways. 25 volunteers from our church and other friends, had the
joy of seeing students grow and learn to love reading. We served 18 children each semester, on Mondays and Wednesdays. At the beginning, parents had to strongly encourage their children to come. At the end, children were begging to sign up. We have a kangaroo mascot who passes out free books each semester, named Hoppy. Hoppy invites children to hop on over and read with us! Thank You! As we build relationships, we have been able to invite children to church. It is so exciting to see God use this program for His glory!

**Hope Lutheran Church**

Submitted By: Mr. Dana Skaggs

Hope Lutheran exists in an increasingly diverse (40% Vietnamese and 25% Hispanic) and financially depressed neighborhood. In living out the Great Commission we seek to share the saving love of Christ with all those within walking distance of the church. We feel the best way to advance God’s kingdom is by demonstrating Christ like love in action by SERVING the community. Just as Jesus said, “whatever you do for the least of these you do for me” our goal is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and give hope to the lost. We run a food pantry that feeds 250 families (750 people) a week for about $1,000 a month. This non-budgeted ministry is entirely donation supported and volunteer run. Along with free food we offer free (donated) clothing and in addition to meeting their physical needs we seek to fill their spiritual needs with pastoral care in the form of prayer and a Gospel message. Sometimes what our guests need most is simply a hug and a listening ear which we’re happy to provide in the name of Christ. With more funds we can feed that many more in need thereby advancing the Kingdom one more heart at a time. Thank you for your consideration and prayers, every bit makes a difference!

**Hope Lutheran Church**

Submitted By: Mr. Robert Benson

Floodwood, MN, is an isolated rural community with a population of 590. The Floodwood K–12 school is directly across the street from Hope Lutheran Church. Almost none of the students have parents with a college education. In 2014, according to state testing, the school ranked 382 out of the 484 schools in the State of Minnesota. With 45% of the students coming from economically disadvantaged homes, only 48% of the students showed proficiency in reading and only 41% were proficient in math. For many of these students there is no homework help at home. Last November the Outreach Committee at Hope Lutheran Church implemented a two-pronged approach to help the Floodwood Students. The committee chose Wednesday evening as there are no sporting events on Wednesdays. 1. A group of qualified volunteers were recruited to come to the Church at 3:00 PM to assist any student in need of help with their homework or class project. 2. Pleas went out to local churches for people to provide a healthy snack for students arriving at 3:00, and provide a nutritious meal for everyone at 5:00. Other churches responded well. Last year the program was very successful for the students, and doing God’s work was rewarding for volunteers. The need is great, for both academic help and a nutritious meal for underprivileged students, but our funds are almost exhausted. This ministry connects serving others in Christian love with Lutheran theology. This grant would literally be a “God send” to our community.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church of Alice**

Submitted By: Rev. James Craver

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Alice, Texas, is pleased to present this proposal for your consideration. Immanuel Lutheran serves the people of Alice, Texas and Jim Wells County. We are a small congregation committed to transformational ministry! We are dedicated to being a bold witness for Jesus in our community where less than one-half of the population identifies themselves as Christians. Alice is a community of 20,000 souls, 22% identified as low socio-economic families and 24% identified as single-
parent households. There is a deep need for ministry to these families and marriages, with divorce rates past 55%! We are committed to bringing Christ to our community! Should Immanuel Lutheran be awarded the Reformation Anniversary Grant, we are prepared to begin transformational outreach classes designed to strengthen families and marriages. We would offer classes to couples in our community and surrounding areas using resources such as United and Dynamic Marriage from Family Dynamics. We are also prepared to begin ministries targeted to the youth (26% under 19 years of age) in our community. Resources such as these for family ministry abound. Immanuel Lutheran simply needs financial resources to provide new ministries and reach this community for the Lord. Our goal is to be a congregation that exists to serve our community and to live out the Gospel publically in our city! There is a deep need for the Gospel to be shared with families and couples whose marriages are struggling – we intend to be that witness!

Joy in the Spirit

Tucson, Arizona

Submitted By: Pr. Cindy Bakko

Joy has been supporting “Youth on Their Own” (YOTO). A program-prevention program that supports the HS graduation of homeless youth 6th-12th. Education is one of our passions, and YOTO is community supported only. Their vision is to empower young people to become positive & productive citizens. Values include education, integrity , respect, and compassion. Each year they support over 1300 students and over time the total is 15,000. This group is doing amazing things. Youth who have been part of YOTO have gone on to be amazing young men and women. YOTO partner with Tucson Unified School District which has been very open to building relationships with many church communities-after school bible studies, work days at the school, collecting books for summer reading, food and money donations for families in need. This grant would work to help youths to go to school, and graduate. God has amazing plans for these “throw away kids”. Thank you for considering YOTO.

Life in Grace Lutheran

Odessa, Texas

Submitted By: Mr. George Hennig

How would your congregation use $5,000? Life in Grace Lutheran would like to host a benefit concert to promote a new ministry in the community called The Well/Hand of Grace. This ministry, a non-government supported 501-C3, is designed to assist all women in Odessa, Midland and the surrounding communities. Women who have needs due to the death of a family member, divorce, job loss, recovery from abuse or addiction or any other cause, can come to The Well and be connected to the appropriate social or legal services. They can receive spiritual guidance or counseling; attend Bible study, and art or exercise classes. Any assistance that provides, physical help, builds self-esteem and preaches Christ’s love and grace will be offered. The Well is a new ministry and our congregation wants to physically and financially support the community through this ministry. The Don Wharton concert will be held in the spring of 2016 at a public venue. Don Wharton is a Lutheran singer/songwriter, author and plane crash survivor who presents the Gospel through music, truth and humor. His performance is perfect for all ages and the message of God’s grace is clearly presented in his concerts. Congregational members will work to promote and prepare the show and usher the event in conjunction with The Well. The event will be promoted throughout the Permian Basin in hopes of advertising this new ministry to the community and raising funds to benefit women (and their children) in need.

Life Lutheran Church

El Cerrito, California

Submitted By: Mr. Jack Zhang

The Great Commission calls us to be fishers of men. Doing missionary work doesn’t have to be in some far away land. It is in our own backyards and neighborhoods. Outreach should be a primary goal in all Christian churches, but how do we reach out to non-Christians? We must find something everyone is interested in.
Youths, young adults, and adults alike are into health and fitness. In the era of listing ingredients and fitness bands, people are more aware of their health. Therefore, we can use fitness as a way to share the Gospel with non-believers. If our congregation is awarded with $5,000, we would use it towards sports & fitness ministry. We would host leagues for neighbors to play various sports like soccer, basketball, volleyball, etc. Here, they would mingle with each other and with other Christians. In between periods or breaks, we would have light refreshments and a time Bible study. We would also host fitness classes where people would come to exercise together. We can motivate one another and push each other to achieve our health goals. Afterwards, we would hang out, nourish friendships, and learn about Christ. The key to outreach is creating intentional relationships. With the funding, we could afford to put on events that give us the opportunity to reach out to the non-Christians in the neighborhood with fun and healthy activities. We want to show that Christians don’t just sit in church and pray. We pray hard, we play hard!

**Lifesong Christian Communities**  
Newbury Park, California

Submitted By: Marcie Aschbrenner

Lifesong’s vision, “Offering our everyday life to reflect the love of Jesus in the Conejo Valley”, has led us to continuously seek good, kind things we can do for our community. Recently, it has been on our heart to help the over 1,000 foster children in our county. With insufficient homes to care for these youth, often placements must occur in less than optimal conditions or group homes. We desire to be part of the solution by helping to equip and support foster families. Through a partnership with James Storehouse (a community-based non-profit that fulfills emergency requests to expedite safe placements of children) we have the logistical network in place to make a difference. One of the high demand items is bunk beds. Our congregation desires to have the capability to fulfill the need for bunk beds on demand through a template design. Several members possess the woodworking skills and equipment needed to lead this initiative. The rest of our congregation is eager to lend a helping hand assembling and delivering bunk beds. Funds received through this grant would enable us to purchase the supplies needed to fulfill requests for beds in a cost and time effective manner. Moreover, through our partnership with foster agencies, we will be establishing relationships with the individuals as we deliver and set up beds. Our prayer is that the impact will grow far beyond the gift of a bed as we share the love of Christ with others.

**Lighthouse Christian Church**  
Mokopane, Limpopo, South Africa

Submitted By: Dr. Jim Blessman

Last year our church started a new “International Leadership Academy” to train 20 African students from 2 different schools in how to be leaders in their community and to train them to do community up-liftment projects. These same students will be brought back to a one week leadership camp each year throughout the eleventh grade. We invite a short term mission trip from America to come and help our congregation in hosting and training these students. In addition to 10 students from each school we invite 2 of their teachers to participate in the camp. This year we would like to double the size of the camp and by bringing in a new group of eighth grade students. Funds will be used to cover the cost of hosting these 40 students at a nice lodge, transporting the students and for materials. Some of the funds will also be used to produce a video documentary of this training with interviews with many of the second year students and American short term missionaries. Many of our church leaders, doctors from our community and social workers will be helping with this training in addition to the American volunteers.

**Living Water Fellowship**  
Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia

Submitted By: Rev. John Guilfoyle

$5000.00 US exchanges to approximately $6700. AUD. There is excellent "bang for the buck" in this grant opportunity. With this size grant, Living Water would first immediately fund and start an Alpha Course we are
planning for 2016. This would cover materials and a great deal of the food costs. We are engaging the entire congregation in this effort in terms of inviting unchurched friends, coworkers and family members to take part. We all will have a role to play in the presentation evenings. All invitees will be from beyond the walls of the congregation. We would also fund and start a Mainly Music weekday ministry for preschool children and their parents. We have experience and previous success in Mainly Music and although we haven’t offered one for over 4 years we have credibility among the community for doing this well. This too would involve over 20 people each week from within Living Water and up to 60 from the wider community. We also would use funds from this grant to train 2 members in the Christians Against Poverty debt relief and financial management strategies to work with Wagga families in their struggles with poverty and money mismanagement. We would also train 1 person in Seasons for Growth, a resilience building program for children and young people dealing with grief, change and loss. This would be offered to local schools who do not have chaplaincy or adequate care services. Thank you!

**Living Waters Lutheran Church, LCMC**  
*Peoria, Illinois*

Submitted By: Mark Schoenhals

This summer our congregation began an intentional outreach to a mobile home park just a mile north of our congregation. It is a pocket of poverty surrounded by fairly affluent neighborhoods. What got our attention is that as we have knocked on doors, most families in the surrounding area are established in a congregation. But in this mobile home park of about 250 families, the common answer was: I’d love to have a church for me an my children. Based on that, we got to work. We rented a small store front connected to the park housing office to do a summer pilot ministry to youth and children. So far we have had a wonderful reaction with 70 people attending our first Wednesday night kids club in June. A number of parents have started to come and so we have started a parents discussion group at the same time as the youth and children’s reflection groups. The evening consists of food, fun games, and a Bible message. Our desire is to continue this ministry into the fall, and add worship and adult classes as well. $5000 would enable us to rent the store front into the next year and expand our ministry and mission as envisioned! We’d love to partner with Thrivent and our LCMC network to see this happen. Our goal is to see this ministry result in families reconnecting or connecting to Christ’s family for the first time!

**Living Word Antioch Lutheran Church (LCMC)**  
*Roseville, Minnesota*

Submitted By: Rev. Steven King

Living Word Antioch Lutheran Church (LCMC) is an energetic multicultural congregation centrally located in the Twin Cities, comprised of folks from both the United States and Madagascar. We are blessed with the presence of theologians, seminarians, and missionaries who have served overseas, as well as foreign nationals seeking higher degrees here in Minnesota. Our members have many back-and-forth relationships with family and colleagues in Madagascar. With a grant of $5000.00, Living Word Antioch Church would be able to invest in producing bilingual (English-Malagasy) Christian educational materials for children with a Lutheran focus. Such materials could be useful to the larger Church for missionary work (foreign and domestic), faith education language classes, and could also serve as mission-focused resources for children here at home. Work on initial Malagasy-language resources might subsequently serve as a template for bilingual resources in other languages as well. Living Word Antioch Church is in a unique position to be able to draw upon the catechism resources of Sola Publishing, with staff members represented in our congregation. Sola materials could be redesigned and formatted for the specific purpose of teaching basic concepts and language across cultures through simple curriculum booklets. With help in translation by our congregation’s own Malagasy doctoral students and former missionaries to Madagascar, the materials would then be class-tested by our own cross-cultured Sunday School children, eventually to be made available to the larger Church.
Living Word Lutheran Church

Milbank, South Dakota

Submitted By: Mrs. Carol Weber

LWLC congregation would use $5,000.00 to reach out and touch the people of our community by way of the Chapel of the new hospital. The city of Milbank, S.D., population 3400, is in the process of building a new Hospital and clinic to serve the rural area of northeast South Dakota. The population of the area to be served is approximately 11,500. Living Word Lutheran Church of Milbank is applying for funding through the Thrivent Anniversary Grant to assist with the furnishing of the new hospital chapel. The chapel will be a place where individuals or groups can come for meditation and prayer. It will also be a quiet place where pastors and spiritual leaders can meet with patients, or families in private. We feel such a resource will definitely be a benefit to those that the clinic and hospital will serve, both on the in-patient and out-patient basis. Avera Health is the management organization of the Milbank Hospital. As the Avera mission statement says, “We a healthy ministry rooted in the Gospel. The mission is to make a positive impact in the life and health of persons and communities by providing quality services guided by Christian values.” Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Lutheran Church of the Cross (1)

Altoona, Iowa

Submitted By: Mr. Andrew Potratz

Lutheran Church of the Cross’s mission statement reads “Jesus-centered community on Mission.” Keying on the word community, we have taken an intentional focus of empowering members of our congregation to “be the church” in their own backyards, front yards, neighborhoods and homes. LCC would use the grant to expand our “Neighborhood Rock” program. In this effort, we provide financial resources to members of our congregation to put on neighborhood block parties, using it as an opportunity to show hospitality to their neighbors, and to foster a sense of community.

Lutheran Church of the Cross (2)

Altoona, Iowa

Submitted By: Pr. Nathan Anenson

We would use the grant to expand LCC’s partnership with Kids Cafe. Kids Cafe is a free lunch and activity program, hosted in our church building, open to any child in our school district. Running five days a week, Kids Cafe brings churches, schools, businesses, and civic organizations together in a common cause. There is a significant number of families in our area that struggle financially and this is an opportunity to bless them with a fun learning experience, a healthy meal, a free book every day to promote literacy, and a bag of food each Friday to help sustain them over the weekend. Most importantly, it allows LCC members the opportunity to love on and build relationships with the kids and parents that participate, so that God’s love may be revealed. We currently have a partial summer program. This grant would allow the program to include more weeks during the summer and also add school breaks.

Messiah Lutheran

Joliet, Illinois

Submitted By: Mr. Robert Robertson

Mission Statement: Messiah Lutheran Church seeks to be faithful to Jesus Christ and to be known for evangelism and discipleship in a dynamic and energetic community of believers. To fulfill this mission we are committed to these three goals:

1. To encourage each member of Messiah to make full use of his/her gifts for the glory of God.
2. To expand the ministry of Messiah outside the four walls of the church.
3. To strengthen and build Christian family values.
Messiah has been doing that Mission for over 114 years. Records from 1972 thru 2014 indicate that Messiah has given to over 107 different benevolences, many of them on an annual basis. Messiah is in the process of building a Family Life Center. The FLC will help sustain our anticipated growth as an outreach to the many young people from the community that are not part of the Congregation to participate in Upward Basketball. The FLC will help our Vacation Bible School, as it continues to draw many from the community that are not members. Our Awana’s group continues to grow from non-members that will be able to use the FLC. There are many soft costs involved such as tables, chairs, basketball hoops, basketballs, volleyballs, padding for the walls, etc. This Grant would go a long way to help with all of the soft costs involved. Messiah would like to thank Thrivent for this generous offer.

Morningside Lutheran Church  Sioux City, Iowa
Submitted By: Barb Baker

Morningside Lutheran is involved in a project to bless 10,000 households in the Siouxland area. This fall and spring we will be doing "MISSIONS in SIOUXLAND". One of our projects will be to bless one of our neighborhood schools by doing 3 projects for the school. 1. Right before Christmas break, members of MLC will bake cookies, taking them to school and reading a Christian book with the children in the elementary classrooms. 2. Blessing the teachers and classes by fulfilling the wish list of the teachers who have to personally buy some of these supplies. 3. Supplying extra coats, sweatpants, gloves, etc for the children at school. 4. Buying gifts for families who will not be able to afford to buy their children presents at Christmas. Another project will be to send members out into the community to do odd jobs such as inside minor house, car repair and lawn maintenance to people in need in the Siouxland area. Also, at Thanksgiving time we will bless the homeless and the people who come to our food bank with a Thanksgiving meal. This will not be just providing and serving a meal but having MLC members sitting among these people listening to their stories and praying with/for them. Thanks for your consideration.

New Creation Lutheran Church  Perham, Minnesota
Submitted By: Kathy Lauer

New Creation Lutheran Church is currently planning a community outreach event for September, 2015. Kingdom Fest is a two day event that will incorporate: day camp, VBS, games, castle inflatables, education, music, food, and fellowship with community members in addition to our church family. Participants will step back in time to a medieval adventure, where kids, families, and individuals discover that they are a member of God’s royal family. We sponsored a community event in September 2014 which gave many community members a glimpse of New Creation. This event was a hog roast with music in addition to inflatables and “train” rides for the children. This was well received by the community as indicated by the numbers in attendance. Our 2015 Kingdom Fest event will expand on the experiences offered in 2014 (listed above) and will offer a taxi service to area daycares. New Creation is requesting a Thrivent grant to further enhance and expand in 2016 what we’ve already set in motion. A new goal for 2016 is to incorporate activities that target young adults. We will create a Saturday evening coffee house experience followed by an outdoor concert, featuring a big name Christian band. An opportunity would be given to attendees to support a local community ministry. In order to host this event, we are requesting funding for the concert, coffee house and additional promotional strategies and resources that we will need to employ. Thanks for considering providing monetary assistance to help fulfill our community outreach goal.

New Hope  Minong, Wisconsin
Submitted By: Mrs. Verdrene Vangsness

In the spirit of the Reformation, New Hope Lutheran Church, LCMC requests a $5,000 grant for renovations at COMFORTS community resources which serves Wisconsin residents in need from Minong and
surrounding areas. Specifically, the $5,000 will go toward the transformation of COMFORTS first real home, donated in 2013. After years in borrowed spaces, through the kindness of a dissolving Rebekkah Lodge, an historic building on three city lots is ours! Some renovation has already been done by volunteers from area churches--including a new furnace, shelves and removal of unneeded items. To function efficiently, upgrades are badly needed. Most pressing is the need for new windows to lessen heat loss before winter. Volunteers also pray for a kitchen area for demonstrating efficient, healthy meal preparation to clients. From its beginning in 1997 distributing Christmas meals to 5 families, COMFORTS has grown by the grace of God and the work of volunteers from area churches to serve more than 150 individuals last year; half of those children. In addition, 20+ families receive food boxes at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Food distribution is offered weekly on a revolving schedule to be available to as many as possible. Family friendly events include a Halloween alternative Harvest Party attended by more than 100 children, an Easter Egg Hunt and family games during Minong Summer Days. This grant will enable COMFORTS to transform an aging space and add programming demonstrating the love and hope in Christ to those in need.

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New Hope Lutheran Church
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Submitted By: Mr. James Adkins

New Hope is a small congregation of about 50 members and has been established for about 5 1/2 years. We have been meeting at the Boys & Club and in July we will be purchasing and moving in to a new building. Our first project will be to do a door to door campaign in the neighborhoods surrounding our new church. We will begin by having prayer walks in the community followed by mailing information in the selected areas to share information about our church and our ministry. This mailing will be to approximately 2,500 to 5,000 households. Then we will go door to door sharing information about our church. After we have made the visits to all the area neighborhoods we will have a large celebration service and dinner with invites to the community. We will do this project with or without the grant because this is what we believe God has called us to do in His new church building. But being awarded the $5,000.00 we will be able to greatly enhance this project from increased the mailings, newspaper advertising, to having a much larger celebration dinner with great activities for the children. As I stated above we are small congregation of about 50 members and we know we are called to this area to grow the Kingdom of God. Your consideration and approval for this grant will be greatly appreciated.

New Life Lutheran
New London, North Carolina

Submitted By: Debbie Pressley

New Life Lutheran is answering God’s call to minister to the new Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy, a last chance quasi-military program sponsored by the National Guard for 16-18 year old at risk dropouts. The mission of the academy is to redirect the efforts of young adults who have had trouble succeeding in the normal high school, and give them the skills and attitude to become productive citizens in their communities. The residential phase of the program is 22 weeks long with 100 cadets in each class. This may be the first time cadets experience Christ’s love and we take this call very seriously. The entire congregation has committed to the ministry and will be there on opening day in October to greet the families as they arrive and help cadets get settled. Members will be trained as mentors to assist the two staff counselors and be available to cadets as needed. New Life is developing the religious component for the academy; teaching weekly Bible Study classes, holding or coordinating weekly worship services with area churches which will require purchasing Bibles and Bible Study materials that will have to be replenished at $3,000 per class. Athletics were left out of the budget, so our ministry will include recruiting coaches, spectators and purchasing equipment at a cost of over $6,700. A currently empty room will be a library when we are finished obtaining bookcases and filling them with books, and the list goes on!
New Life Lutheran Church  Sterling, Illinois

Submitted By: Rev. William Sullivan

"Knock, Knock. Let's Talk! - The 9.500 Forum". In 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 thesis to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. In 2017 we would like to engage our community in a meaningful conversation. The series will be entitled: "Knock, Knock. Let’s Talk - The 9.500 Forum". For nine months, from January through September, 2017 we will hold a monthly forum centered around a theme from the 10 Commandments (combining the last two for our purposes). Each forum will present what God says in his Word in contrast to what the culture says about each issue. After nine months of the Law, we intend to present the Gospel in a clear and winsome way as we invite our audience to a 500th Anniversary Celebration of the Reformation on Reformation Sunday in October, 2017. The funds would be used to help us advertise the forums, to secure top notch speakers for each forum and to help us provide a truly inspirational and winsome presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a community 500th Anniversary Celebration of the Reformation. We believe this would honor the great contribution of Luther’s understanding of Law/Gospel and challenge our audience to let the Word of God speak its truth to our life together in our community today. As Luther engaged the culture of his day, we wish to do the same in our day.

New Life! Lutheran Church  Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Submitted By: Ms. Doris Kennedy

New Life! Lutheran established a Prayer Shawl Ministry with 7 members of our church. Through much exposure in the community, we now have grown to 30 ladies representing various denominations. It is a challenge providing this growing ministry with the yarn needed to continue our mission. Our shawls, lap robes, chemo caps, baby layettes, hat & scarf sets and military honor robes are distributed to local hospices, nursing homes, maternity wards, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, veterans, individuals and such. Each shawl contains a beautiful prayer that state it is blessed by our Pastor, Marion Brazell. The attached card and prayer contains his cell # and the address for our church. We also include a wooden holding cross made by a local craftsman. Although he supplies his time & talent, we must furnish the wood. These have become beloved by all recipients. Supplying the yarn, wood, and packaging material has become daunting. New Life! has become known throughout the community for its outreach to those needing the spiritual affect our items provide... The feeling of being wrapped in God’s loving arms. I certainly hope LCMC will consider our ministry and allow us to be the recipient of one of the $5000.00 grants being issued. These funds will allow us to continue this much needed ministry. The opportunity of outreach is endless. I assure you it will be spent wisely and everything we do will be given in the name of our Lord.

Northgate Church  Ramsey, Minnesota

Submitted By: Linnea Grey

Northgate Church has a unique opportunity to reach into and transform our surrounding community! With this grant, a LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE, led by Triune Leadership Services, would be funded and offered to business, education, government and social service agency leaders outside our doors. When Jesus changes the hearts and actions of community leaders, hundreds of others also will be transformed through their faith-inspired leadership and collaboration. Instead of a “band-aid”, this initiative has potential for long-lasting community change and far-reaching future implications. What is the Leadership Roundtable? The Roundtable is a successfully proven, 7-session encounter with leaders who desire to integrate their work and faith, and to develop practical and spiritual tools to become skilled “Servant Leaders”. Each session includes cutting edge business leadership training, insightful biblical instruction and lively dialogue – looking to Jesus as the ultimate model of a Servant Leader with a goal of personal and professional transformation of individuals, organizations and entire communities. Northgate Church has a unique opportunity to reach into and transform our surrounding community! With this grant, a LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE, led by Triune
Leadership Services, would be funded and offered to business, education, government and social service agency leaders outside our doors. When Jesus changes the hearts and actions of community leaders, hundreds of others also will be transformed through their faith-inspired leadership and collaboration. Instead of a “band-aid”, this initiative has potential for long-lasting community change and far-reaching future implications. Through participation, community leaders discover God’s wisdom and direction for their lives. They grow spiritually, positively impacting those within their sphere of influence. Additionally, they gain an intimate understanding of servant leadership and how to embody these principles in both their personal and professional lives. Why Northgate? Northgate desires to be a community catalyst for hope, healing, and good news. As the host, congregation members will be invited to participate in the Roundtable and/or to assist in the invitation and hospitality, all of which provide opportunities to openly share Jesus with those outside our doors.

Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church Victoria, Texas

Submitted By: Kim Pickens

Our congregation has been called to create a food pantry to feed our neighbors. We are meant to reach out beyond our walls and give hope to families in distress. We will provide food for those in need while getting to know their strengths and helping to plug them into local services and service providers. If we are selected for this grant, we will buy food and essential items to offer during the pantry’s operating times. Our congregation will continue to walk in service of the least of our brothers and sisters until they are no longer in need.

Peace Lutheran Church Holbrook, Arizona

Submitted By: Rev. Jeffrey A. Johnson

Holbrook is a poor, high desert community of 5,000 bordering three Native American reservations: Navajo, Hopi, Apache. Fifty percent of our population is Mormon; another 25% is Roman Catholic, mostly Mexican-American. We Protestants are but a handful. Peace Lutheran Church and its pastor, Jeff Johnson, have been instrumental in uniting the evangelical community of Holbrook. We now work together on any number of ministries, e.g. quarterly Sunday night worship, witnessing at our county fair, participating in an annual pulpit exchange. The response has been overwhelmingly positive—a wonderful witness to our community and a tremendous encouragement to us all! Because none of our Protestant congregations are large enough to have a viable youth ministry of our own, we have joined forces to call/hire a youth director to both work within our congregations and outreach to the many non-Christian youth in our middle and high school. Much preliminary work has been done, spawning an even greater sense of unity among our evangelical community. We have opted to affiliate with Youth for Christ, a national youth ministry organization with expertise in outreaching to non-white and poorer youth populations. We are already praying for the right youth minister to come to Holbrook. While each of six evangelical congregations has pledged financial and volunteer support, because each is small, it’s a slow-go. This $5,000 Thrivent grant would provide an incredible shot-in-the-arm to encourage us toward our dream. Would you help us?

Peace Lutheran Church Post Falls, Idaho

Submitted By: Pr. Gail Gutterud

Five years ago this church body was born. Peace Lutheran Church in Post Falls, Idaho. Like other new congregations we had no idea where God was taking us. We were refugees, from two different churches, who were drawn together because God was calling us out and creating something new and we were excited and listening. Our first place of worship was an old wooden dance hall. We worshipped our God in joy and thanksgiving. Two and a half years ago God brought us to our church building. It is on 4 acres and we have many plans for the acreage. But one idea in particular has been a topic of conversation for some time. We want to create a labyrinth. We have 7 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 2 High Schools, and a college
nearby. There are also many retirement communities in our area because of the beauty of the mountains and lakes. From the back of our property, where our proposed labyrinth would be created, there is a magnificent view of the mountains. The peace that is so hard to find today, is literally in our backyard and we would love to reach out to our neighbors, children and elderly to offer a place of meditation and connection with God in this unique way. We picture benches and plantings and even a memorial area. It would be built by not only our members, but friends and neighbors who would benefit. “Come and See” Jesus says. We dream big!

Peace Lutheran Church  Palm Bay, Florida

Submitted By:  Rev. Dr. Daniel Gilbert

Three years ago, we identified a gap between existing services available from government and non-profit organizations and the people for whom they were designed. In recent months, our Gap Ministry has grown into a broad array of services helping the poor and especially the homeless. We currently have a Micro Loan program for security and utility deposits; a community resource center opening in September where people can access Florida State resources, Kids Care Medical Insurance, and SOAR applications for SSI and SSDI. Our food pantry distributes 6500 pounds of food per month. Over the last five months we have added three full-time employees and 25 volunteers from our congregation and 10 from other churches. We have directly helped over 50 families since February 19th to move from homelessness to a secure and sustainable home. We are not giving a handout. We are offering a hand-up as we develop personal relationships with individuals and families in need with the grace to serve the least among us. The model we are emulating is “Housing First,” an approach with an 86% success rate. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has endorsed the “Housing First” concept as a “best practice” for governments and service-agencies to use in their fight to end chronic homelessness in America. We would use this $5000 grant to cover some operational costs with the remainder dedicated to our Micro Loan Program. We are standing in the GAP between hopelessness and life lived in the fullness of God's grace.

Peace Lutheran Church  Baldwin, Wisconsin

Submitted By:  Rev. John Hanson

Peace Lutheran will begin Cafe’ Ministries called "Parent Café" and "Memory Café", services currently not offered in this part of the state. Peace has a fully accessible space and a commercial kitchen to empower these projects. Facilities are located on 26 acres which provides plenty of space for program growth and activities. Parent Café is a ministry for parents to have personal conversations for keeping a family strong. This ministry engages parents in protective factors to prevent maltreatment, promote healthy outcomes for their children and peer to peer learning for a healthy family structure. Parents and children attend gatherings with meal time, child activities and parent interactions. We will partner with Childcare Partnership WI and the SCV Family Resource Center. Memory Café is a social gathering place for persons with memory loss, mild cognitive impairment, early Alzheimer’s, or dementia and their family and friends. The Memory Café meets in a relaxed environment to visit, share common interests, and enjoy refreshments. Each Café is unique and offers a program or activity that’s stimulating and fun. Activities will be chosen by participants, depending on interests. Members of Peace and area skilled craftspeople would provide the needed support for programs, interaction and oversight. We will partner with the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Alliance WI. The success of the Café ministries will depend on community participation and programmatic support. A Thrivent Grant would allow us to start this ministry to area communities without cost to the program or the participants.

Prairie Peace Lutheran Church  Cut Bank, Montana

Submitted By:  Mrs. Donna Taylor

Our town population is 3,000 and we would like to construct an obstacle course that will be challenging and fun to do. Our civic center can be arranged to construct a climbing wall which would be a great activity to
start with. Cargo climbers, hurdle jumps, agility ladders, trampolines, tire sets to run through, decline ladders, rings, we will construct the course to build up muscles and stamina and balance. We do have kids here that watch ninja warrior and try makeshift some of the obstacles, which is dangerous. If we could assemble a safe course where there would be supervision our kids would be safer. We do have adults that are interested in a course and would be willing to help build and once people see what can be done I know that more people would be willing to help fund. Once people see what can be accomplished, this project could easily be completed. Thank you for your consideration. Have a blessed day.

Prince Of Peace Davenport, Iowa

Submitted By: Mrs. Sandra Bixby

Thrivent Grant Proposal 2015. The congregation at Prince of Peace Community Church in Davenport Iowa (POP) kindly request a grant in the amount of $5,000 to be used in our community food pantry. The food pantry at POP was able to serve 1,016 families comprised of 2,937 individuals during 2014. During 2015, the area that we cover has been increased and we have noticed a 5-7% increase in usage. Monies received will be used to expand our ability to purchase protein and fresh vegetables. We will also use a portion to expand our community garden that grows fresh vegetables for the food pantry. Currently the pantry is funded through gifts from our congregation of less than 50 people. Our pantry is staffed 100% by volunteers. Clients order food from a list that shows availability and from a “white board” that lists out limited available items for that day. The pantry is open on Mondays from 6-7:30 pm. Each pantry night is staffed by 6 + volunteers who have all passed appropriate background checks. Our pantry is part of a group of food pantries that are coordinated by Churches United whose purpose is to limit duplication and wastefulness. Clients who are not in our geographic region are not turned away but will receive a one-time assistance and are then referred to their appropriate food pantry for subsequent service. We also have an agreement with the Social Services of the Iowa National Guard and Iowa Veterans whereby we serve Iowa and Illinois veterans who come for emergency assistance. Those numbers are not included in our 2014 census numbers. Our pantry is also unique for Quad Cities in that each year at the beginning of the Summer, we host a free hotdog BBQ for any and all of our clients. We also host a formal, plated, sit down meal for our clients each November. Any family that was served in the pantry is invited to this meal which is served by the volunteers in the pantry. For the last 3 years we have had an ensemble from the Davenport North High School provide orchestra music during our plated dinner. As a congregation, we are very proud of our pantry and those who serve each week. We believe this grant will materially improve and adequately increase our service to our community. Thank you for your consideration of our request. Sandra Bixby: Pantry Coordinator

Reformation Lutheran Church Cataula, Georgia

Submitted By: Mr. Charles Hunsaker

Our Outreach Committee, which comprises 30% of our church family, will select needy families from the local area and pay for their winter heat. We will supplement the grant with money we raise through fund-raising activities, so we can reach the maximum number of families. We will take them to a local restaurant for a Thanksgiving dinner. Our entire congregation will be included in this dinner at their own expense in order to not use grant dollars for other than the stated purpose of the grant. The dinner will provide us an opportunity to “eat, drink and build relationships” with each family. At the dinner we will give them a food basket. We will also provide money to the power providers for these family homes to pay for heat for the cold months of December through March. We will work with the school system, local charities and the county government’s community enrichment services division to select the neediest families. Once we have a list of the neediest families, we will work with the power providers of those families to determine the money needed for winter heat. This will also help us maximize the number of families we can help. The money will go to the provider, not the family, so it will be spent only for heat. The program will be written up in the local
newspaper as a way of showing our church outreach support in the local community and to reach out to potential new members.

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**

Submitted By: Mrs. Jocelyn Lofstedt

Our church mission statement is “Reclaiming Lives for Christ through healing and growth ministries”. Although we hold many programs within our congregation, we believe that one of the best ways we can serve Christ is by partnering with other organizations in our community that are reaching out to those in need. We would like to apply for this grant with that in mind. Our town and the surrounding area does not have a Christian school. We feel this is a huge need in today’s liberal society. There is a board set up and working hard to start one, beginning with a preschool, and adding kindergarten through grade six over the next five years. The board has been working hard over the past few years – the school is incorporated, is registered as a charity, has support of many of our local clergy, and has received many applications from eager teachers who would love to be able to share their faith in the classroom. The board is looking to secure a location to start up in 2016. The process has been slow, but they are trusting God to work in the hearts and minds of those involved. Our congregation is involved on the board and in fundraising efforts and we would love to surprise the school board with this $5000 grant. Please help us to support this worthwhile cause.

**Resurrection Lutheran Church (LCMC)**

Submitted By: Pr. Greg Lenz

40 for 40: RUN 4 VETS. General Concept: Recruit 40 people to run 40 yards to raise money to fund programs for veterans struggling with PTSD and other post-war issues. Where: Erlandson Park, Mankato, [or church parking lot]. When: Saturday morning around Memorial Day 2017. Who: members and friends of RLC; True U college age participants; Phil Daniel (Iraqi vet) may organize event with volunteers from Minnesota State University vets group; Thrivent Action Team to promote as service project. What: advertise event in Free Press, KEYC-TV, KTOE-radio, etc., as a benefit for veterans and their families in Mankato region; solicit corporate sponsors, matching funds, to assist with medical needs and family support; possibly develop campus programs for support groups with Footnotes family counseling (Amanda Gerdts). How: appoint committee in 2016 to organize, promote, report activities by sub-groups; utilize ministerial intern (Aaron Deutsch) to provide servant-leadership. Why: since the Lutheran Reformation was birthed and nurtured at a university, the campus connection with MSU could create new opportunities for gospel ministry in Mankato through the resources of Resurrection Lutheran, LCMC, and Thrivent.

**Richland Lutheran Church (1)**

Submitted By: Tim & Corki Mraz

Our congregation, Richland Lutheran, has had a focus this year on Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace University” program. This is a nine week, bible based program, that provides instruction in several areas of responsible financial stewardship. Topics covered are saving, budgeting, debt reduction, mortgages, insurance, saving for college, retirement planning, investments and giving. The emphasis is that everything we have is God’s and we are charged with being good stewards of his blessings. We are currently conducting our third session of the year. The two completed sessions were attended by 27 individuals from the congregation and the community. During the nine week sessions, following the steps in the program, the participants reduced their combined debts by $18,970 and accumulated savings of $35,185. The cost of the materials for the program is approximately $100. The gift from Thrivent and LCMC would be used to set up a scholarship fund. This fund would be used to fully or partially pay for the materials for the people who cannot afford them. Upcoming classes are publicized and are open to congregation members as well.
as to our community. Helping people to recognize, manage and share God’s blessings is one way we can return His overwhelming love for us.

Richland Lutheran Church (2)  Richland, Washington

Submitted By:  Mr. Robert Thompson

The objective of this grant is to use 21st century technology to fish for men. “Many believe the sum of human experience can be found on the InterNet and that more than ever before, we humans have it all figured out. And since we can explain everything, what use is God? In this context, God is no longer relevant. We don’t need Him to help us understand the world. All we need is Google and the interweb, a little bit of social media and some virtual relationships to make us feel good.” Wrong. We propose to use the internet to address these issues, literally, face-on. This project will develop an engaging website that is populated with an ever-increasing collection of video questions and answers about Christianity. Through the power of the internet, it will enable a dialogue to occur between those who are struggling with who they are in Christ and strong Christians and Clergy who will deliver answers in an engaging and compelling manner. A search engine will allow a visitor to ask a question that will direct them to the video question/answer pair. Anyone will be able to submit a question in the form of a short video they can upload from their phone. Funds will be used to host the website, develop the content and the website itself as well as establish a small video production studio. The work will involve the full congregation and the local community and be available to the world.

Richland Lutheran Church (3)  Richland, Washington

Submitted By:  Mike Strasburg

Our neighborhood was born from the Manhattan Project, and as our church approaches its 70th anniversary we have begun to open our eyes to the changes that time has taken on our neighborhood. An undesirable neighborhood for higher income families, our neighborhood remains with asbestos siding, cracked sidewalks, and wiring that was state of the art in World War II. A neighborhood watch program is unique for a church to start and involves engaging our neighborhood not so much as a church but as a neighbor. Working to restore a sense of community, a watch program can help make the neighborhood a safer, better place to live. It establishes a communication base with our neighborhood where neighborhood tensions can be eased, concerns can be addressed, and helps restore the church, our church, as a central focus in our neighborhood community. As this effort matures, we believe many will come to see Richland Lutheran as “their” church and will make it their home. With an increased sense of community initiated, the groundwork is laid for collaboration involving neighborhood clean-up, neighborhood park improvements, and most importantly the ability for our neighborhood to contact us with concerns regarding our elderly neighbors who will need help from time to time especially in winter. It is my hope that at the end of this conference someone will consider taking this idea home to their own church.

Richland Lutheran Church (4)  Richland, Washington

Submitted By:  Mrs. Carol Larkin

Richland Lutheran Church’s (RLC) congregation comes from a bi-county area that has a rapidly growing Hispanic population. In Franklin County they constitute a majority at around 55% and 19% in Benton County. Many of these Hispanics are immigrants that face challenges. In Franklin County 47% speak languages other than English while at home. Because of lack of education and language difficulties many are forced to do low-wage jobs. The poverty levels for Hispanics runs at over 29% as compared to the non-Hispanic white poverty rate of 7.5%. This leaves them vulnerable to abuses in wages and working conditions, with lack of health care. The children struggle in school because of language difficulties. In February of this year a Hispanic was shot by Pasco police resulting in local protests of over reacting, intimidation, and profiling. So
far RLC has not had an effective ministry of assistance for the needs of this population. RLC would use the grant to:

- Help our congregation understand the biblical teaching that should shape our attitudes and actions with the local Hispanic population
- Help our congregation to become aware of their needs
- Invite other churches to describe what they are doing to serve Hispanics
- Launch a specific ministry to address some of the needs

To do these things we envision inviting speakers to describe the local situation and what is being done to address issues, having individuals tell their stories, offering a book study of Welcoming the Stranger, and possibly showing a film.

Richland Lutheran Church (5) Richland, Washington

Submitted By: Mike Strasburg

With an LCMC grant we would add new outreach capabilities to our food pantry to better serve the needs of the hundreds of people in our community who visit it every month. While most people probably think of outreach as outside the church building, this is one area where we simply open the door and the community walks in. It has been amazing to see the response this congregation has had to the weekly ongoing needs of this ministry. Listed below are the improvements we would make.

1. A bulletin board containing information regarding social services, domestic violence services, addiction recovery, and financial classes
2. A secondary storage area with shelving so when things run low in reserve we can restock before they run out completely. This will also enable us to stock bulkier items such as diapers and allow us to offer a greater variety of foods (such as baby food and infant formula). Some clothing items can also be added (such as gloves in winter).
3. An additional freezer (or two) in the secondary storage area for storing the sometimes overabundance of summer produce produce our church members contribute and supplemented by bags of store bought frozen vegetables. These would be more nutritious and cheaper than the canned ones we are currently providing.
4. Garden seeds take up minimal space, and many of our members have farming heritages. There is a sense of independence and hope that comes with growing something that will feed your family.

Round Prairie Lutheran Church Glenville, Minnesota

Submitted By: Mrs. Gwen Wuerflein

If Round Prairie Lutheran were blessed with an LCMC grant, it would be given to “Shinefest”. This is a week-long, annual community event which gives area churches the opportunity to serve others through a variety of projects, as the light of Jesus Christ shines brightly to those in need. One such project is the School Clothes Give-Away, where donated clothing is available to families who need clothes for kids going back to school. Another great project is the giving of free oil changes to as many people as possible. Community Sew Day is a biannual event. Here, sewists from area churches gather with a heart to fill practical needs with the things they create. Examples of their work are personal care bags, pillowcases, kids shirts and dresses, and many quilts. The ladies of all ages, including myself, have a gift to sew and love to serve others with it. Shinefest blesses Albert Lea, Minnesota, each year with “Rock the Block”, in which a chosen neighborhood receives whatever home repairs are needed. Families are truly blessed by this project. A young boy thanked a volunteer for his new bedroom window by saying “Thank you! Now I can open my window!” The week of Shinefest ends with a neighborhood block party. This is a carnival-type event with food, live music and games. The Good News is shared, quilts are given out, and Jesus’ light shines. Volunteers and recipients alike are truly blessed.
Saving Grace Lutheran Church
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Submitted By: Mike Reetz

We would use the grant to provide bikes, a bike rack, helmets, bike locks, and bike maintenance when needed for the Beacon House located in the downtown area of Eau Claire. The Beacon House serves families and pregnant women who are temporarily homeless or at risk of homelessness by providing resources for emergency assistance, stabilization, and prevention. The Beacon House operates under the Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network. We would use the grant monies to purchase bikes and helmets that would be safe and suitable for children of all ages and adults. As the grant monies diminish our Mission Outreach would continue to maintain the program initiated by the grant. This facility houses six families at a time throughout the year, and also has transitional housing for families if needed. The bikes could be used for recreational / fitness, or for those without transportation school / work purposes. The downtown location is only two blocks from the bike path, and the area also has four parks nearby that offer playgrounds, athletic fields, and free park concerts in the evening. The downtown location also provides a host of job opportunities and the university is only five blocks away! I shared our idea with Ryan Graham, case manager of the Beacon House, and he really liked the idea as it would provide great opportunities, allow the families to share in some fun activities, and create some good memories during a challenging time in their lives. Thank you! Peace, Saving Grace Congregation.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Lead, South Dakota

Submitted By: Mrs. Marie-Eve Preaux

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." We would like to create temporary "mini-shelters" for the transient/homeless people that often come to our little town and who reach out to our ministerial association for help. Those individual shelters would be about 4X8, would be built by our congregation members and friends, with materials bought locally, decorated by the local Boys and Girls Club and furnished with a quilt homemade by our very own Quilters Club, a small lamp, some personal hygiene items and a bible as well as information about other resources like the local food bank and "free store". We would work with the town to pick locations for the mini-shelters, preferably near the churches of the ministerial association for easier maintenance and support. The idea is to help answer the many requests for temporary housing and emergency shelter received by our church, especially during the summer months. These shelters would definitely fill a need that, at the moment, can only be met very partially due to lack of funds and without a local "traditional" shelter (at the moment, the local ministerial will offer to lend a tent when it is available, or will sometimes pay for a motel room - but this is not very cost effective.) With the support of the whole community, we think we can help the people in need who stop in our hometown, by offering them a roof, some minimal comfort and dignity.

Shepherd of the Lakes
Waupaca, Wisconsin

Submitted By: Cassandra Rollins

Kids Hope USA is a mentoring program where church members give one hour of their week to spend time with an elementary student from the local schools. The students within the program are challenging students who need a little extra attention. With this grant money, I would have financial freedom to evangelize to students and their families off school property. Each year the program throws Christmas and Easter celebrations at our church to which the children and their families, the mentors, prayer partners, and church members are invited. The celebrations are not possible without the help of our church community members to provide set up, take down, food, and decorations. A new element I would love to add to this ministry this year is a grand birthday party, a huge celebration of the life of every child, correlating it to the birth of the church. The idea is that these students are given the opportunity to celebrate their life. I want the students to understand their life is not a mistake. Because I want to orchestrate the birthday celebration around the birth
of the Church, I want these children to understand they have the ability to be reborn into God’s Kingdom, to live a life that will never end, to be part of a bigger family. This program is strongly supported by the school district and the church. The change in these students’ lives is undeniable as students learn they have someone who cares about their personal life and education.

Shepherd of the Lakes LCMC  
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Submitted By: Ms. Alice Marie Hammer

We are a new small congregation formed on September 11, 2011. Our missions are concentrated on our local communities. We have an active women’s group called Piece by Peace Quilters who make and donate quilts to Hospice, Food Pantry, Mahube-Otwa and others supporting poor families in need. Our summer plan is to have Vacation Bible School for and with local children.

Shepherd of the River Lutheran Church  
New London, Wisconsin

Submitted By: Carrie Karow

Our congregation, Shepherd of the River Lutheran Church, would like to nominate 3 major groups in New London, Wisconsin. The first is Project Backpack. The purpose of this group is to provide nutritional meals for underprivileged children on weekends during the school year and ensure that no child goes hungry on the weekends when schools do not provide free or reduced lunches and breakfasts. Currently, the projects provides food for 90 to 100 children throughout the school district to meet the basic needs of low income families. The second is Mission of Hope, a day set aside to intentionally meet the needs of our neighbors, a day to promote and celebrate community service (volunteering), and a day to demonstrate love and offer a sense of Hope! This day includes the following components: a medical, dental, eye, food, children activities, donations, and a prayer tent with foot washing. Other important components would include linking the different community services that are available in the area. (how to write a resume, interview skills, how to obtain a GED, how to sign up for food stamps, etc.) and encouraging others to volunteer with the various non-profits in the area. Lastly, we would like to support the New London Veterans Memorial Foundation to help build a veterans memorial in our community to honor those servicemen, past, present, and future who have served in the military and gave of themselves, some with their lives, to ensure that we remain the land of the free.

Sierra Lutheran Church  
Auberry, California

Submitted By: Ms. Becki La Voy-Jordan

At Sierra Lutheran Church, our Congregation, has a community wide ministry called the Samaritan Fund. Anyone in the community that is having a financial hardship may apply for funds to get them through. It could be a time of unemployment, or a medical bill that has set them back, perhaps they need gasoline just to get them to the doctor’s office, etc. They may apply for funds on a brief form which details the need and which vendor’s bill needs to be paid. All checks are made to vendors. We even have made arrangements with some of the local vendors to work with us on the behalf of the applicant. If someone can even pay a bill with payments the vendor knows, through our communications, that SLC will help cover a certain unpaid portion if needed. This allows people to work things out with vendors and hopefully still be self sustaining. SLC has also developed a Wood Ministry for folks in our area who heat their homes with the use of wood burning stoves. Wood is recovered and chopped and split and delivered to an applicant’s property. The head of this ministry just needed to get a new motor for his wood splitter because of its constant use in this ministry. We live in a very rural area and this is a very important ministry. If we could purchase downed trees that would be a huge blessing. Thanks!!!
South Zumbro Lutheran Church (1)  Kasson, Minnesota

Submitted By: Mrs. Mary Sue Sandeno

Our city, Kasson, MN is in the process of building a new public library. We are busy into fundraising to furnish our new building. Our library serves a population that has doubled in 25 years and continues to grow. The building will allow us to expand our services to the public in Kasson and surrounding communities. We will be able to greatly enhance our programs to all people-preschoolers, children, teens and tweens, adults and seniors, summer programs and outreach to day cares and seniors. We would greatly increase our space (our current library holds a maximum of 38 people). One day care group just about fills our library to maximum capacity. The new space would include a computer room, as well as designated spaces for youth and adults. My church, South Zumbro Lutheran Church, in Kasson, MN has agreed to take on the project of doing the outside landscaping at the new library site. We are willing to provide the labor, a labor of love, for our community. This grant would allow us to purchase the plants needed for the project. We are excited for our new library and having this project done by members and patrons of our library community is a real gift. Thank you for your consideration.

South Zumbro Lutheran Church (2)  Kasson, Minnesota

Submitted By: Mrs. Sandy Tjaden

Preschool Play Area. Our Kasson-Mantorville Public School District has completed a new building addition for the 2015-16 school year. This addition is wonderful with a new gym and 10 new classrooms. The addition did consume the playground space that the preschool classes had access to. This proposal request is focused on creating a preschool play area in the courtyard space that remains between the new addition and the Community Education wing. Our South Zumbro Lutheran Church congregation members would work along with members of the Kasson-Mantorville Community Education program, the Early Childhood Initiative committee, the Early Childhood Family Education program and the Project Kids after school childcare program to complete this project. We would use the money to purchase the material to build and stain planter boxes, benches and a sandbox. We would also purchase some outdoor play equipment. Materials to make the planter boxes ($70.00 each); We would like 4 planters: $280.00; Potting soil and plants: $200.00; Materials to make the benches ($300.00 each); We would like 4 benches: $1,200.00; Materials for a sandbox: $200.00; Play equipment found at www.schoolsin.com; Country view Estate (Playhouse) $750; Tree top Climb & Slide $520; Climb & Crawl Caterpillar $350; Riding toys found at KaplanToys.com; 2/ Toddler Walker Trikes $550.00; 2/ 3 wheel scooters $300.00; 2/ Low rider trikes $360.00; Total Estimate of Expenditures: $4,710. Thank you for considering this project as one of the LCMC grant projects. The young children of the Kasson-Mantorville preschool programs would benefit from this outdoor space.

South Zumbro Lutheran Church (3)  Kasson, Minnesota

Submitted By: John Van Camp

Organize and Lead a county wide 1st Annual "Relay for Christ". Engage 45+ Churches to form teams of at LEAST one team of 10 people from each Church to raise money and walk during a Christian Music and walk/Relay Event. 5k would be seed money to buy 1st 10 T-shirts for each congregation, which would include their Church name along with all other Churches that would participate in the 1st Annual Relay for Christ. Money would also defer cost of entertainment, advertising and fair grounds rental. Multiple sponsors/businesses would be engaged to participate by volunteering or support through monetary means. Resources to get the word out would be Christian Business Leaders of Rochester, Christian Home School associations, local papers, radio, TV, the Churches and community at large. All proceeds and money raised would go to benefit the Dodge County Food Shelf which is an organization and cause our entire community can come together to support. Our goal is to raise 5 times the seed money or $25,000 at the completion of
the event. Beyond the money, this is a way for Churches to set aside our differences and unite in the body of Christ. What Church will NOT want to be represented at an event and for a cause such as this? I know it can happen through HIM. Matthew 19:26. Praise His Holy Name!

**Spirit of Joy Church**

Submitted By: Rev. Mark Wilhelm

If Spirit of Joy Church had $5,000 to spend on an outward focused ministry we would start a food pantry ministry that would:

- Minister to the whole person/family by:
  - Proving a discovery of needs process that dignifies and honors the person as one who carries the presence of Christ. (Matthew 25.40)
  - Offer to pray with the person served during the discovery process for any needs (sickness, relationships, etc)
  - Commit to make follow up contact with the intent of building relationships for the long term
  - Offer (if a need is there) to help with more comprehensive budgeting/money management

- Offer enough food for 5 days appropriate for the household size
- Present the Gospel in some form to everyone we meet with.
- This will be volunteer based.

The food pantry will be stocked with food donated by local businesses. Food collection containers will be provided for several area businesses with signs that indicate a discount for a certain amount of food donated. This gives the local business the opportunity to participate as a contributor to the greater good of the city. The primary strategy will be to partner with local businesses and organizations. The majority of the grant money will be design and buy collection containers that are suitable for various businesses’ aesthetic requirements for their place of business, for advertising and for furniture/shelving for the pantry. The pantry will also need a computer for maintaining a database of who has been helped and for future follow up.

**Spirit of Joy Lutheran (1)**

Submitted By: Mrs. Ann Lashley

Fixing It For Christ: Spirit of Joy LCMC partners with area churches for an annual, 4-day community repair project. Working as one body in Christ, this collaborative effort started several years ago and has grown each year. In 2015, 51 adults and youth from SOJ joined members from 8 other congregations and a BSA troop to repair 17 neighborhood homes. Everything from making bathrooms operational again to repairing holes in floors and from painting to replacing roofs is done for needy neighbors. In one case, we restored power to a home for a family living without electricity for over three years. Even members without the skills to make repairs are able to participate in support roles. For example, the team prepares three meals a day for the volunteers, coordinates supply runs, and provides computer-based administrative support. Families are encouraged to work together, especially on Saturdays, to establish common experiences, strengthen their faith, and practice talking to others about Jesus. In addition to the repairs, the volunteers share the Gospel and pray with the homes’ families. Each year, 2-3 people give their lives to Christ and often serve in the next Fixing It For Christ. This year, over $18,000 was raised to buy supplies; donated products were also procured. Next year, our congregation would use the $5,000 grant to expand both the number and scope of projects. We anticipate that more than 75 members of SOJ would participate if we had the ability to take on 25 projects in the neighborhood.
Another Christmas Gift from God: Spirit of Joy LCMC reaches out to the community each December with a message of hope for neighbors. The Missions Committee prepares pre-printed envelopes containing $20-$100 each. The envelopes list the name and address of our church and a message about God’s love and provision. Members pick up an envelope during Worship in early December and are asked to give it to someone who is in need. Some members know exactly with whom they will share the gift while others pray for an encounter where they can share the love of God with a stranger. In 2014, 122 envelopes containing about $6,000 were distributed. Members don’t know how much money is in their envelope but many have reported that the recipients have said it was just what they needed. One recipient started crying and said, “Now I can buy Christmas dinner for my family”. A member was on her way to our Christmas Eve service and saw a house on fire. She approached the family on the street and said, “I don’t know how much is in here but the Lord is telling me to give it to you.” Several months later, that unchurched family began worshipping at SOJ. If we received the $5,000 grant, we would increase both the amounts in the envelopes and the number of envelopes so that more of our members could experience the joy of sharing God’s love and Good News with even more people in need in our neighborhood.

Spirit of Peace LCMC

Submitted By: Pr. Michael Hanus

Spirit of Peace LCMC is a small missional focused congregation of believers with large impact engaged in church planting. We plan, sponsor and carry out community activities throughout the calendar year. We engage people of all beliefs and walks of life throughout the community including many of the significantly large population of “unchurched.” Over fifty per cent of the community is comprised of children, seniors and the disabled. The Valley Nebraska and surrounding small rural and agricultural communities are geographically divided by topography such as two rivers and limited access where you may have to drive quite some distance out of your way, for there is no direct short path to cross the rivers, to get to the people who are distant and isolated from the one another and the larger community. We share the plans we hope to realize with this generous grant and hope to reach people who are moved to contribute time, resources and prayers. Future looking. Our missional church congregation can benefit from a sufficient trailer to transport event supplies and church related items to services and events that we have in the community, especially in the more remote places. Outward facing. Spirit of Peace is active in the community at large serving people in the community from other churches and faiths including the unchurched. We regularly engage events feeding the community and participate in food drives. blog.peacelcmc.org Member engaging. Spirit of Peace enjoins everyone in its outreach and activities; its members, and entire community.

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Submitted By: Rev. Mary Ellen Steinukraus

St John’s 2016 Missional Project is to bless our communities as directed by the Holy Spirit consistent with both our mission and vision statements. Mission Statement: Our mission is to believe, serve and worship in a way that makes Christ’s grace and love known to the communities we serve. Vision Statement and Action Plan–Our vision is to become a place of:

- **V = Vital Prayer Ministry** – Prayer is the basis for all that we do. Action: Offering an additional opportunity for intercessory prayer within our evening family worship and learning.
- **I = Intentional Stewardship** – All that we own belongs to God. Action: Hosting monthly community events.
- **S = Sound Biblical Principles** – We act out of and on our faith. Action: Offering (18-35 yr old) education and fellowship opportunities including Alpha.
• I = Intergenerational Education and Spiritual Formation – We learn as the family of God.  Action:
  Expanding our preschool to serve more families by giving scholarships, extending hours and adding
  a summer program.
• O = Outside the (Church) Box Thinking – We are Jesus to others wherever we go.  Action:
  Collaborating with Chisago County “A Brush With Kindness” (Habitat for Humanity).
• N = Now Words – We speak as well as listen to God.  Action: Giving our individual members $50.00
  a week to bless others as the Spirit directs and listening to testimonies of changed lives.

Blessing the city of Stacy, MN and surrounding communities is our main purpose.

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church          Bridgewater, Michigan

Submitted By:  Rev. Drex Morton

Our Member Doreen Cawley Haist, a Veterinarian who has helped eradicate the Midwestern bird flu, is
involving St. John’s further as follows: Doreen: With the support of St. John Lutheran Church, Bridgewater,
Michigan: 1. In 2012 partnered with Living Water Mission to provide veterinary and animal husbandry
instruction to a community in Kenya. 2. In 2015 Returned with Living Water Mission to work the Zarephath
Project. The project feeds around 60 children breakfast and lunch. 3. A small dairy cow operation was
started a year ago to eventually provide the funds to purchase food for the Zarephath Project. 4. St. John’s
Church raised enough money to purchase 3 cows and to support my trip. 5. Worked with the farm manager
to increase milk production. Purchased feed and water for the cows during the dry season. 6. Started the
Kenyan Student Fund after returning, & now have sponsors for 15 children to attend school. 7. Is working on
funding the college students in that same community of Turbo. 8. The immediate need is for funds to
purchase food for the children until the dairy operation can sustain the project. This may stretch beyond the
end of the 2015 and into 2016. 9. Our ongoing vision is to continue a face-to-face relationship with the
people of Turbo, Kenya, involving Doreen and other members in order to facilitate their ability to further self-
sufficiency in feeding and educating themselves. Kenyan Pastor Sammy wrote: “Thank you for being a
blessing to us...” (July 11th)

St John's Lutheran Church LCMC                Weyauwega, Wisconsin

Submitted By:  Rev. Roger Nielsen

We the people of God at St. John’s Lutheran, LCMC, in rural Weyauwega, Wisconsin, have partnered with
Foundations For Living as a monthly mission outreach.  If granted the $5,000.00 it would go directly to
Foundations for Living for the establishment of an Emergency Overnight Center. It will be a warming center
for the homeless and needy. The center will be open from 9PM-7AM, October thru April. The Center will
house 12 people. Nightly devotions/sharing Christ, hot soup, classes in life skills, a safe sleeping place, and
oatmeal and nourishment for the coming day will be provided. We plan on having volunteers from our
congregation along with other area churches serving at the warming center. We will also help with the
supplies needed for the overnight center. The need is great for a safe place to spend the night. No other
overnight center in available in the Waupaca area. The mission of Foundations for Living, a Christ centered
ministry, is to provide safe housing and transformational services to people in need. It is Foundations For
Living’s vision that all people in Waupaca County be healthy in mind, body and spirit, living independent and
productive lives to the best of their ability. Foundations For Living’s office at 1421 Churchill Street, Waupaca,
Wisconsin, is the hub through which a wide variety of services are given that supply many basic needs to
people in Waupaca County facing poverty and homelessness. Matthew 25:40
www.foundationsforlivingwaupaca.com
St Marks Lutheran
St. Joe, Indiana

Submitted By: Mr. Phil Carpenter

Where: Saint Mark’s Lutheran is a small LCMC church located in St. Joe, IN. St. Joe, has a population of 452 with 155 between the ages of 5 and 18 and 44 over the age of 65. The median value of the homes in St. Joe is $32,000. Who: St Marks, while small in numbers and internal resources, has completed numerous community projects using various grants and gifts. These include a 1.3 mile greenway and a Memorial Park. We also provide meals, clothing and safety items to the community such as fire extinguishers and 1st aid kits. What: Our project is to manage and provide free and secure lending library kiosks to St. Joe residents that will be located in our Memorial Park. This library will supplement the K-6 Riverdale Elementary library and serve all community members and be available 24/7. Why: There are no library services available to this low income community. The nearest library is 10 miles away and requires a substantial subscription fee. We wish to encourage and facilitate reading for all segments of our community and provide a sense of place, community pride and promote community spirit. How: We have over 500 books donated with the promise of many more. We will purchase materials that a volunteer will use to build two kiosks holding up to 500 books each and that are protected from the weather. A patron will take a book and return when finished. When: Upon Grant approval.

St Michael Lutheran Church (1)
Canton, Michigan

Submitted By: Greg Anderson

St. Michael, Canton, Michigan is requesting a $5,000 grant to enhance on going support and involvement with Brown Evangelistic Ministries, an outstanding outreach ministry in inner city Detroit. Our church has been involved with Brown Ministry for over 20 years with monthly volunteers and we also provide monthly operating support from our Benevolence Fund. Brown Evangelistic Ministries has been serving the Cass Corridor (downtown) area of Detroit, Michigan for close to 50 years. This area of Detroit was one of the most downtrodden areas in the City, with many homeless, alcohol and drug addicted people. Brown ministered to the homeless and served the lower income residents in the area by providing both physical and spiritual support. In recent years, some economic growth has actually lead to the beginning of a renaissance as new construction and the expansion of Wayne State University has led to a reduction of homeless people. After much prayer God has laid it on their hearts to focus efforts into starting a Christian school which is the number one request from their church members and local residents. The goal of this new ministry will be to provide a safe, Christian learning environment for neighborhood children. The $5,000 grant would be used to to help convert some existing facilities into modern classroom space. St. Michael volunteers look forward to continuing to support Brown Evangelistic Ministries.

St Michael Lutheran Church (2)
Canton, Michigan

Submitted By: Greg Anderson

St. Michael Lutheran, Canton, Michigan is requesting a $5,000 grant to enhance support and involvement with Hope Clinic. Our church has volunteers who work with Hope Clinic and we provide monthly operating support from our Benevolence Fund. Hope Clinic is a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian organization that provides medical, dental, and social services to the underserved at two sites: the original center in Ypsilanti and a satellite facility in Westland, Michigan. Hope’s clients are a combination of the “working poor” — those with minimum-wage, temporary, or part-time jobs that do not offer health insurance—as well as the unemployed, homeless, and recent immigrants. Many patients have poorly controlled chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma, or hypertension. Few other options for primary health care exist for low-income, uninsured individuals in south east Michigan. Their goal is to minister to the whole person with dignity and respect. The medical services are provided by volunteer clinicians. Other volunteers help with administrative duties and the care and maintenance of the facility. The LCMC/Thrivent grant would be used.
to replace the aluminum siding on the top half of the Westland facility to improve appearance, function, and safety. The Hope staff and volunteers are proud of their facility and the services they provide. Enhancement to the siding on the facility will enhance Hope’s goal to provide a clean, safe, and functional facility preserving the dignity of those they serve and the dignity of volunteers who so graciously donate time to serve others.

**St Michael Lutheran Church (3)  Canton, Michigan**

Submitted By: Mr. Greg Anderson

St. Michael, Canton, Michigan is requesting a $5,000 grant to enhance going support and involvement with Open Door Ministries, an outstanding local food pantry servicing the western suburbs of Detroit. Presently, we have 15 members who regularly volunteer time at Open Door and our church also provides monthly operating support from Benevolence. Open Door Ministry is a large food pantry and job placement ministry located in Canton, Michigan. Open Door is a Christian based 501c3 organization fully run by volunteers from churches and the community. The ministry was founded in 2002 when it provided food to about 60 families weekly. Today, Open Door secures and distributes over 25,000 lbs of food per week to an average of 481 families. In addition to high quality food, clients are provided a weekly devotion and access to Christian support. A job bank and “graduate school” helps clients obtain skills to locate employment. In 2013 Open Door purchased a building to house all services and insure long term continuity. The building is in need of extensive roof repairs to protect food products and other items and to insure a safe working environment for the many volunteers. The total cost of the roof project will be over $50,000 with the work phased over several years. Volunteers with the skills to repair the roof using the latest EPDM materials and processes have been identified, but now funding for the materials must be raised. A grant from Thrivent/LCMC would be a blessing.

**St Paul Lutheran Church  Kodiak, Alaska**

Submitted By: Rev. Elden Simonson

This a three fold Grant request. Working with Frontier Baptist Church and Kodiak Island outreach a group of Kodiak Churches, We want to create a fire wood ministry on our island. With heating oil cost between 4 and 8 dollars a gal, our elders have a hard time heating their homes, we have the man power and need some equipment. 3000.00 would be used to buy equip. We have 5 small native villages that we travel to by boat or float plane and help the elders of the villages. The second part of the grant is to fund VBS to one of the villages next summer. A team from Kodiak Island outreach will travel to and gift the village with a gospel based VBS program. The last part of the grant will be used to fly St Paul’ Pastor to the lower part of the island to lead a church service. In the past people have traveled as long as 2 hours by open boat to come to a worship service in Olga bay. The last time services were held they were people from 8 different denominations present! A story board will be set up at the gathering to show you our island and how this would bless our people.

**St Paul Lutheran Church  New Braunfels, Texas**

Submitted By: Emily Harborth

Worship Outside Our Walls (WOOW) is a new ministry outreach sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMC), New Braunfels, Texas. It will be held at the Comal County Fairgrounds in New Braunfels on October 11, 2015. Its purpose is to invite those who normally would not attend church “inside the walls” to a more informal worship setting followed by fellowship and a meal. St. Paul members are encouraged to invite and host the unchurched as their guests,-“Go and make disciples”. St. Paul members will plan and manage all aspects of the event, including the "muscle" required to effect a meaningful worship experience. This includes setting up the Fair Hall for the event: transporting chairs, musical instruments, and sound equipment for the worship service, tables for the meal, and clean up after the event. Last year approximately 100
members enthusiastically contributed their time and talent. Expenses we envision include hall rental, chair rental, evangelical literature costs, Bibles to be given out, special music purchase, and costs of the meal. This is our second year to host this event. Last year’s event attracted approximately 450 people with an estimated 20 families who normally didn’t attend church. The event also had an ancillary affect of letting our members realize that we need to reach out more and offer Jesus to our community. It also energized some to do more outreach on their own. We appreciate your consideration. Kindly acknowledge receipt and forward any questions. God’s peace.

St Paul’s Lutheran Church
Elma, New York

Submitted By: Mr. Thomas Kowalczyk

June 8, 2015. I would like to present the following suggestion for your consideration: Many children from various parts of Western New York are affected by Autism and are transported to the various facilities in the Northtowns (i.e. Amherst, Clarence, Williamsville). There are many children in the Southtowns (i.e. Elma, Hamburg, Springville, etc.) in need of this help. The affected children, parents, and guardians have always had to travel to the Northtowns for any assistance; that is up until now. Autism Services Inc. just recently opened an Autism Resource Center in the Village of Hamburg; it is the first of its kind in the Southtowns. Autism Services Inc. is specifically dedicated to protect and promote the welfare of those who are affected with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the local communities, supporting their development by means of teaching new skills and nurturing their abilities. The newly created center in the Village of Hamburg will provide: (1) Outreach activities, (2) Conferences, (3) Gathering place for support groups, (4) Gallery space, (5) Respite location, (6) Lending resource library. Direct Service Professionals need to be hired and trained to meet these goals; resource training and support groups also need to be established. Our Federal and NYS representatives have most recently tended to cut, rather than increase, aid to such groups. The $5,000 Grant would definitely help to advance this very much needed mission for our Southtowns communities.

St Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church of Walmore
Sanborn, New York

Submitted By: Rev. Jonathan Haseley

Our congregation would use the grant to assist the Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission (Niagara Falls) in rehabilitating a large facility that they recently acquired, which will allow them to expand the scale of their ministry to some of our area’s most needy people. Many of our congregants actively serve and support the Rescue Mission in various ways including serving meals, preaching, music ministry, and financial contribution. The Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission is a faith-based, §501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to glorify God by bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor, afflicted, and needy, while attending to their basic human needs –demonstrating God’s love, mercy, and grace. They provide meals to men, women and children in need, maintain an emergency shelter and transitional housing (presently for men only), and offer a year-long “New Life in Christ” recovery/discipleship program based on Biblical Christian principles. The Mission recently acquired a 57,000 sq. ft. facility (former YMCA building) that will become their new home, allowing them to serve the community in greater capacity. A pressing need they have is for rehabbing the top two floors of the building, on which are 56 single-occupancy rooms, which will provide low-income transitional housing, a great need in the city right now. The grant funding would be put towards purchasing supplies (paint, plaster, etc.) for this project, and our congregants can be involved in helping with the labor. This is a great opportunity for our congregation to serve those in need in Jesus’ name.

St Peter’s Lutheran Church
Emden, Illinois

Submitted By: Mrs. Deb Batterton

October 2015, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Emden began H.O.P.E. (Helping Others through Praise and Encouragement) after school tutoring program for students in grades K-4. H.O.P.E. partners the elderly
congregation and community members with students. The goals of H.O.P.E. are to develop an attitude of appreciation and gratitude for God’s love, gifts, and protection as they build new friendships and become aware of the needs of others in our community and world. We believe that individualized attention between children and community members builds positive achievement and a feeling of love, self-worth, acceptance, and belonging. We purposely provide students with a personal connection by having students work with volunteers one on one. Each week, we come together to learn, help, encourage, and share our love of Christ. The Christian fellowship at H.O.P.E. is an outreach example of Christ’s love, especially for those not in a church family. This grant would be used to purchase leveled readers with a Christian focus, academic leveled readers, and math manipulatives. Craft supplies for Christian based projects for students and "Love" projects would also be funded. "Love" projects are included to share with veterans and nursing home residents in our community as well as helping others around the world through Lutheran World Relief, Operation Christmas Child, and Adopt A Platoon. Based on parent feedback and surveys, we are predicting our enrollment to double next year. We have the volunteers for H.O.P.E. but need funding to continue to provide quality Christian based resources.

St Timothy Lutheran Church
San Diego, California

Submitted By: Mrs. Patsy Long

St. Timothy Lutheran Church of San Diego would like to use $5,000 to purchase backpacks, fill them with school supplies and give them away to students in need at Lee Elementary School. The school is in a lower income area and many students don’t have school supplies needed for them to be successful in the classroom. We would involve a large group from our church, teachers and students from the school. We would also involve local businesses to help with the project. This project would help students and involve many people to make an impact for Jesus Christ in our community.

Trinity Church
Genoa City, Wisconsin

Submitted By: Mrs. Susan Gali

The last two years, our congregation has put a lot of focus on the community elementary school down the road. Star Center Elementary has become a primary mission focus. We have partnered with them for special events, for before school tutoring, and reaching out to them with our free Vacation Bible School and mid-week programs. Last month, we sat down with the elementary school principal and asked her what the school needs from us next. She told us that the biggest need is a program for the once-a-month early release days when the kids get out of school 3 hours early. Starting in September, we would like to offer such a program for the elementary at our church. We will provide a meal, tutoring help, games, activities, and most of all, the Gospel. We would use the $5000 to purchase materials to run this program such as food, recreation equipment, craft supplies, a library, materials for Christian education, and also resources for tutoring.

Trinity Lutheran
Titusville, Florida

Submitted By: Rev. David Trexler

Titusville was hit hard with the closing of the Space Program because of this we have a large poor and homeless population. Trinity is blessed to have a great location (2 blocks from the ocean) and plenty of property. Our traditional Sunday morning worship appeals to the retired community, with over 25 new members in the past year. However, the entire congregation seems excited about starting a “tent ministry.” This worship service would take place on Saturday early evening, in front of the church, on the main road, with plenty of visibility. Trinity will use this grant to help fund the ministry. We will need a large durable tent with at least 10 picnic tables, along with the ability to play music outdoors and amplify sound. We will need a great deal of advertising and canvassing, done mostly by our members. The worship service itself will be
Lutheran, offering the community confession of sins, at least 2 lectionary readings, a message, and Holy Communion, yet in a manner people will think as contemporary. Following the service there will be a period for questions and answers. During which time drinks and refreshments will be served and once a month a full spread pot-luck will be offered—hosted by our members. Like I said, the congregation seems eager to move forward, helping to set up each Saturday, serve as readers and greeters and most everyone willing to assist with snacks and food.

**Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Submitted By: Mrs. Suzanne Caquelin

Camp ministry has been an important outreach of Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls for 40+ years, an experience that has impacted young lives for Christ from generation to generation. Several years ago, a vision was cast to make this opportunity available for children in the city who could not afford to go to camp. Freedom Week was launched, providing a week of overnight camp at Camp Patmos in Hackensack, MN for a minimal cost to families - $25 per camper. Campers stay in cabins, enjoy swimming, boating, fishing, exciting outdoor games, campfires, and morning and evening teaching from God’s Word in relevant and engaging ways. Each camper receives a new Adventure Bible to keep and a sleeping bag to use for the week of camp. Bus transportation is provided from the Twin Cities to Camp Patmos, about 3 ½ hours away. The camp is completely staffed by volunteers high school age and older. Campers come through collaboration with ministries like Cru Inner City and schools that serve low-income families. We currently depend on the generosity of individuals to help pay the expense of Freedom Week Camp. We desire to continue Freedom Week in future years and, when financially possible, to expand it from the current week for children who are 8-11 years old and offer it to teen campers in an additional camp week. A grant from LCMC would help make Freedom Week available to more campers and to possibly expand it to an additional week.

**the WHY Church**  
Elk River, Minnesota

Submitted By: Rev. Bjorn Dixon

As an LCMC congregation located strategically in the YMCA, we would invest $5000 into partnering our vision for church planting with the birthplace of the Reformation: Germany. Five years ago we began as a church plant in the Y. We said, “Instead of expecting people to come to church, let’s take the church to where people already are.” In our context the YMCA is one of the great gathering points of the city. Hundreds of thousands of people come through the doors of our 22 YMCAs across the Twin Cities. This is our mission field. So this year we are planting another church in another YMCA. Next year we have plans to multiply again in another city, in another YMCA. To further advance our mission in the Y and carry on the gospel-proclaiming movement of the Reformation, we would like to become a field placement location for the International YMCA University in Kassel, Germany. Specifically, they approached us about a young theology student whose heart beats to share the gospel, especially with youth. She would spend 5 months in ministry with us, fulfilling her internship semester. During that time we would equip and commission her for optimum impact in our community through the YMCA. In fact, the Y itself is eager for us to deploy her into their Youth Development department and school-age programs. We would use half of the $5000 to finance her 5-month stay and the other half to fund the major outreach initiatives she would lead.

**Word of God Lutheran Church**  
Peachtree City, Georgia

Submitted By: Mrs. Diane Durden

The Word of God Lutheran Church proposes to benefit our local community by overhaul and expansion of the Line Creek Nature Area public event facilities for use by families and community groups. The present gazebo has a leaking roof. The existing wooden picnic tables are reaching their end of service life. The outdoor council circle arena that serves as a program presentation area has seating for only 50 individuals,
and has no level platform for presenters. This project will replace the gazebo roof, assemble new picnic tables, add accessible seating for 70 additional people, and build a stage for program presenters. This proposal is forward-looking by providing new ministry stewardship opportunities for our congregation members to actively serve and interact with our local community where they participate in sustainable outdoor recreation activities. This project is outward facing by benefiting the over 25,000 annual visitors to the Line Creek Nature Area, including adding a new community venue for outdoor worship and church activities. This project will be member engaging by providing ample opportunities for both skilled and unskilled volunteers to contribute their time and talents. Youth members will have numerous opportunities within the overall project to develop their leadership skills by leading the completion of specific tasks. This project will be a collaborative effort planned with the land manager Southern Conservation Trust, and executed with the assistance of Trust leadership and membership. Community members, other churches, civic groups, and local Boy Scout Troops will be invited to participate.

Word of Life Lutheran Church Fairfield, Iowa

Submitted By: Mrs. Lori Fry

As an outreach opportunity, Word of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfield, Iowa has committed to improving Heritage Park, a city park with limited playground equipment, located in a low income neighborhood in Fairfield. We are working with local groups who are actively improving this neighborhood. Habitat for Humanity has built several homes for low income families and are currently building another home there. Fairfield City Parks recently planted twelve trees and plans to add a Pickle Ball Court yet this year. Our school district supports our commitment to improve this neighborhood as there are approximately 30 school age children using bus transportation from this neighborhood. The Trails Council maintains a portion of the Fairfield Loop Trail here and have expressed their support. We have committed volunteers from the Young Professionals Group, Maharishi University of Management Service Group, Schaus Vorhies Contracting and church members. We were working with the school board to relocate equipment from a closed elementary school in this neighborhood. However, after careful inspection by a playground specialist, it was deemed cost prohibitive and a liability issue. Therefore, we have researched and selected a new playground system costing approximately $14,000. We have received a local county grant which will allow us to purchase a handicap accessible picnic table and stationary park benches. We will be fundraising for the other costs involved for this project. A $5000 grant would have a huge impact on this project and in turn benefit our whole community as we work together.

Zion Lutheran Church Des Moines, Iowa

Submitted By: Sherilyn Rittgers

Every Wednesday night at Zion over 400 people are fed. Most people that come for supper are refugees that are brand new to the U.S. After supper, kids are tutored in English and math and English classes are offered to adults. Many of our refugee friends don’t have the luxury of sleeping on beds. Zion helps furnish refugee apartments when they arrive. However, it is hard to find used beds and the requests are too many to handle. Zion gets upwards of five bed requests per week. Because of this apparent community need, Zion would use a $5,000.00 grant to purchase beds for refugees in the community. For only $150.00, a twin mattress, box spring, frame, and bed bug cover can be purchased. With a $5,000.00 grant, Zion could buy 33 beds to share with those in need in the community. The plan would be to gather the congregation, wrap the mattresses in bed bug covers, and load beds in trucks and trailers. The beds will then be delivered by the congregation to apartments and homes where people are sleeping on the floor. This is a great way for Zion’s congregation to work together to bless the community in such a tangible way. A similar project was completed this past Christmas and it was a huge success. Zion really wants to continue to bless refugees in the community with beds, but it is an expensive project. This $5,000.00 grant would be a huge blessing to this ministry.
Clear Lake, Iowa has a high population of Autistic and Down Syndrome individuals. On September 26th, 2015 we want to launch a new ministry that will integrate all persons in our community including any with disabilities. We have spoken to an agency about our plans and they are very excited for us. Our church will be the sole support provider for this service. We will invite the agency that is currently working with these folks to be "on-call" in the event we need their help. The outcome of this worship service will be to have these folks as a part of our service and to be a part of our community. They will be included, just as anyone else, in the ushering, the communion serving, making the announcements, reading the scriptures, singing on the contemporary music team and choirs. We will use the money for a new soundboard and special lighting, staging and possibly a used projector and screen, too. The agency that is currently working with these folks has agreed to help with the promotion and advertising for this service. I believe their mailing list will be sent to over 18,000 families. There are over 360 families with family members with Autism or Down Syndrome that are within 20 miles of our church. Please prayerfully consider this grant for this new ministry. Thank you!

Our congregation is partnering with volunteers from various health care professions and organizations such as local pharmacies and Valley Medical Center, and local health care providers such as Group Health, University of Washington Medical Centers, and Providence Medical Center to provide a Community Health Fair. It is our intent to provide basic health care screening ranging from dental, basic cancer screening (testicular, breast, and skin), general health screening for children and adults, and nutritional education. Secondly, our congregation will provide general health necessities such as soap, deodorant, combs, tooth paste, tooth brushes, floss, and other personal hygiene products. Thirdly, a variety of resource booths will be available to educate community members with other resources that are available: Vine Maple Place, Lutheran Counseling Network, the Local Food Bank, Catholic Community Services, Saint Vincent de Paul, Northwest Center for the Retarded, and Food Lifeline. Our congregation is invested in not only providing spiritual health to our community, but whole body health as well. The $5000 grant would offset the costs of set up for the examination areas, power supplied to the health trucks, purchase of personal hygiene products for distribution to participants, and provide food and fun activities during the event. We believe that once this seed money is planted, this program will become an annual community event and provide outreach to all of those who need assistance to discover basic health practices. Zion's commitment is to show Christ’s love regardless of spirituality or finances.
Preamble

As members of the priesthood of all believers, called by the Holy Spirit to confess the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in its purity, we give thanks for God’s continual faithfulness and, by adopting this constitution, form this fellowship and association of congregations, uniting to carry out God’s mission in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Article 1 - Name and Incorporation

1.01. The name of this association shall be Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. The official abbreviation of this association shall be LCMC. For the purpose of this constitution, LCMC hereinafter may also be designated as “this association.”

1.02. LCMC is incorporated and its Articles of Incorporation were filed under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

Article 2 - Statement of Faith

2.01. We believe, teach, and confess the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2.02. We believe, teach, and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe in him.

a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

b. The proclamation of God’s message to us as both law and gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy in the person and work of Jesus Christ through whom God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself.

c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God. Inspired by God’s Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God’s revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God’s Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.
2.03. We believe, teach, and accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the sole authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith, and life.

2.04. We accept the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the scriptural faith we believe, teach, and confess.

2.05. We believe, teach, and accept the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and the Small Catechism as true witnesses to the Word of God, normative for our teaching and practice. We acknowledge that we are one in faith and doctrine with all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

2.06. We believe, teach, and confess the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid expositions of the Holy Scriptures.

2.07. We believe, teach, and confess the gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the priesthood of all believers for God’s mission in the world.

Article 3 - Ministry

3.01. This association affirms the priesthood of all believers. It commits itself in function and structure to the equipping and supporting of all members of its congregations for their ministries within and outside of the household of faith. It is within and from this context of ministry that we declare that some are called by God to the public ministry of Word and Sacrament and other specific ministries. At the same time, all baptized members of our congregations are priests called by God to ministries in their daily lives.

3.02. Ministry standards shall be established by the Board of Trustees or a Board of Ministry and approved by the national convention of this association; they may be altered or amended only with the ratification and approval of a majority of the member congregations of this association.

3.03. A called minister of Word and Sacrament of this association shall subscribe to the confession of faith and otherwise comply with the ministry standards as established by this association and shall be subject to discipline as set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by this association.

3.04. God’s call of a particular man or woman to the office of public ministry is confirmed by the call of a congregation. All calls to the public ministry will be issued by a congregation. Chaplains, missionaries, and pastors employed in other types of special ministries will be called by their congregation, or a congregation that chooses to sponsor them, and listed as deployed. Candidates for these ministries must meet the credential standards of the agencies they are endorsed to serve in addition to the credential requirements of LCMC.
Article 4 - Membership

4.01. LCMC is an association of congregations. Each congregation that subscribes in writing to this constitution in a manner determined by the Board of Trustees shall be a member of this association.

4.02. Except as otherwise agreed in writing between this association and one or more member congregations, each congregation retains

4.03. LCMC, by action taken by the Board of Trustees, may suspend the membership of a church for cause by three-quarters vote of a quorum of the Board of Trustees of LCMC. The Board of Trustees shall give at least sixty (60) days written notice of intent to seek suspension of membership in the association. The board shall adopt rules and regulations, approved by the national convention, governing the suspension of membership in LCMC and shall report all such membership suspensions to all member churches of LCMC within 30 days. The suspension shall remain in force until the next regular or special meeting of the association at which time a decision regarding the lifting of the suspension or the termination of the membership of a member church be made by a two-thirds majority vote.

Article 5 - Governance

5.01. This association shall be organized through congregations, chapters, districts, areas, a Board of Trustees elected at the national convention of LCMC and the national convention of LCMC and such other organizational tools as its members choose to adopt.

5.02. The national convention of LCMC shall meet annually as convened by the Board of Trustees or as otherwise provided in the by-laws of this association. The national convention shall have only such authority as is specifically granted by this constitution, the by-laws of this association or otherwise granted by the members of the association. Each congregation shall be entitled to two delegates at all conventions where the LCMC business is conducted. Congregations with average worship attendance in excess of 500 shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every additional 250 average worship attendees over the 500 member base. Delegates shall be selected by member congregations pursuant to such internal procedures as member congregations may, from time to time, adopt. The manner of determining how delegates cast votes on behalf of their respective member congregations at conventions shall be determined by the member congregation on whose behalf the delegates are acting.

5.03. Subject to the limitations imposed by this constitution, the by-laws of this association and such other restrictions as may be imposed by the national convention of LCMC, the business and affairs of LCMC shall be managed by or shall be under the direction of a Board of Trustees.

5.04. Other matters of governance, organization, and order shall be addressed in the by-laws of this association.
Article 6 Amendment of Constitution and By-Laws

6.01. An amendment to this constitution may be proposed in writing by ten percent (10%) of the member congregations. At least four months prior to the next national convention, the proposed amendment shall be referred to the Board of Trustees for review, comment and recommendation, and shall thereafter be submitted in writing to the delegates to the national convention. Regardless of the position taken by the Board of Trustees on the proposed amendment, such proposed amendment shall be presented to the delegates to the national convention as required by this constitution. The adoption of any amendment shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the next annual convention, provided that such amendment shall not become effective unless it is ratified in accordance with Section 6.03 below.

6.02. The Board of Trustees may propose an amendment six months prior to the next regularly scheduled national convention. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting at such national convention but shall not become effective until ratified as provided in Section 6.03.

6.03. Any constitutional amendment, regardless of origin, must be affirmatively ratified by two-thirds majority vote of the member congregations acting in and through properly called congregational meetings, with each congregation entitled to one vote. Any proposed amendment not ratified within two years of the date of approval by the national convention shall be deemed rejected. The board of trustees is authorized to adopt rules and regulations governing the ratification process provided, however, that such rules and regulations are not inconsistent with this constitution. For the purposes of ratifying constitutional amendments, each congregation shall have one vote. Voting procedures will be defined in the by-laws of LCMC.

6.04. By-laws not in conflict with this constitution may be adopted or amended by the national convention of this association provided however that all such by-laws are approved by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the national convention and provided further that a majority of the member congregations of this association do not reject the adopted or amended by-law.

6.05. Amendments to this constitution and the by-laws of this association adopted prior to the first national assembly of LCMC shall be handled as provided by transition rules set out in the by-laws of this association. This provision shall be of no further force and effect following the first national convention of LCMC.
These by-laws are duly adopted by and govern the affairs of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).

By-Law Section 1 – Membership and organizational principles

1.01 LCMC is an association of congregations and, subject to the provisions of the constitution of LCMC and these by-laws, the voting members of this association shall be member congregations. For purposes of these by-laws, LCMC is also designated as “this association.”

1.02. A congregation is a community of baptized persons gathered around Word and Sacrament. It serves as God’s people in the world, nurturing its members and reaching out in witness and service to the world. Each member congregation of this association shall adopt governing documents and govern itself in such a way as to involve its members in fulfilling the definition, purpose and functions of the congregation. This association does not direct, control or supervise the affairs of individual congregations except as specifically provided in the constitution.

1.03. LCMC shall recognize, receive and maintain a list of its member congregations. Member congregations shall, by their practice and their governing documents:
   a. Preach the word and administer the sacraments in accord with the Augsburg Confession;
   b. Uphold and subscribe to the constitution of this association;
   c. Agree to call pastors who actively uphold and subscribe to the constitution of this association and,
   d. Support the life and work of this association by their practice, their governing documents and by written commitment to this association,
   e. Shall provide current census information as requested by the Board of Trustees including but not limited to the number of members, appropriate congregational contact information and identity of pastoral staff.

1.04. A congregation may terminate its membership in this association by:
   a. Terminating its relationship with the association by following such internal congregational procedures as are required by that congregation and giving written notice to the association that it no longer desires to be a member of the association.
   b. Ceasing to exist.
   c. Taking action to dissolve as a congregation.
1.05. A member of this association may be removed by a three-quarters vote of the members of the Board of Trustees present and voting provided, however, that:
   a. The Board of Trustees shall give at least 60 days written notice of intent to seek termination of membership in the association;
   b. Membership termination shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the next national convention;
   c. Following action by the national convention, notice of termination of member be transmitted to members of the association who shall have one year from the date of transmittal to reject membership termination;
   d. A member of this association subject to membership termination procedures shall remain in good standing unless suspended by the Board of Trustees as provided in the LCMC constitution.

1.06. Individuals not belonging to member congregations who desire associate status in LCMC, upon completion of an application in the form determined by the Board of Trustees, may become associates of LCMC. Subject to such rules as the Board of Trustees may adopt, associates shall be entitled to voice, but not vote, at conventions and assemblies of the association. Associates may be appointed by the Board of Trustees to a task force or a committee of the association; and following appointment, shall be entitled to voice and vote at the meetings of the task force or committee. Following at least thirty (30) days written notice, the Board of Trustees may revoke associate status upon a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board of Trustees then present and voting.

1.07. There shall be no quotas for service on association boards, commissions, task forces, committees or the Board of Trustees.

1.08. Unless otherwise specifically prohibited by these by-laws or the constitution of this association, congregations shall be free to organize in a manner deemed most effective by those congregations in support of the purpose and objectives of this association.

**By-Law Section 2 - Ministry**

2.01. Member congregations of this association may call and ordain pastors who subscribe to the standards laid out in the Statement of Faith as set out in Article 2 of the LCMC Constitution. Called and ordained pastors of this association may belong to clergy rosters of another association or church. Member congregations are not required to seek or receive approval from this association before calling men or women to serve in a pastoral capacity regardless of whether or not such persons are identified on any LCMC list of pastors.
2.02. Ordained ministry is ordered: The Holy Spirit institutes the office and calls some to its public exercise and it is to be done in an ordered fashion. Articles 5 and 14 of the Augsburg Confession provide the basic contours to understanding a Lutheran concept of ministry. The congregations have the authority to fill and regulate the office and the responsibility to support it. The authority of the office itself is rooted in the Word its holders are called to proclaim. The congregation and the pastor both stand under this authority. The reason for the office is to see that what is preached in the church is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2.03. In order to assist congregations in calling qualified men and women for the public ministry, LCMC establishes ministry standards for its clergy. The following standards additionally constitute the formal basis for the exercise of any possible discipline to which our clergy are subject.

   a. As set out in Article 2 of the LCMC Constitution, all pastors of this association shall preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, the LCMC Statement of Faith and the Confessions referenced therein.

   b. In their preaching, these pastors adhere to a sound biblical, evangelical, confessional, and pastoral hermeneutic, founded upon the proper distinction between Law and Gospel,

   c. These pastors recognize that, additionally, they are called upon to set an example of the faith in their lives (I Tim. 3, 4:11-12, Phil. 3:17, II Thess. 3:9) and they will guard against anything in their person that would place a stumbling block to the hearing and trusting of anyone in the proclamation of the Gospel. For example, they will seek to remain faithful in marriage between one man and one woman and sexually chaste in all other relationships.

2.04. Ministry standards, once adopted by this association upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, or upon the recommendation of a Board of Ministry, may be amended only by the national convention of this association and any such amendments must be ratified by an affirmative vote of a majority of member congregations of this association. Any amendment to the ministry standards of this association shall first be made in writing to the Board of Trustees for review and comment and shall thereafter be submitted through the national convention of LCMC for approval or disapproval. Following approval by the national association, any amendment to the ministry standards of this association shall, within one year of the date of approval by the national convention, be ratified by a majority of the member congregations of this association. Any unratified amendment shall not be effective. The Board of Trustees, on its own motion, may submit proposed changes to the ministry standards of this association but notice of any such changes shall be made in writing at least 6 months prior to a national convention of this association and shall also be ratified as provided by this paragraph. The Board of Trustees shall have the authority to establish interim ministry standards until the first national convention of this association.

2.05. The Ministry Board of this association shall:

   a. recommend standards for certification of pastors serving members of the association.

   b. maintain a list or roster of pastors who serve association members. The list shall consist of all pastors serving under call in any member congregation of the association, (unless they are rostered with another denomination and request not to be listed in LCMC),
(2) all persons who have formerly served as pastors in congregations and are now available for call.

(3) all persons who seek calls in the association and have completed the Ministry Board certification process

(4) all retired or emeritus pastors of the association.

2.06. Certification in LCMC represents that an individual has demonstrated ministry training credentials according to the Ministry Standards of LCMC, signed the Certification Form, including acceptance of the LCMC Statement of Faith, received approval in a Certification interview; and received affirmation by the LCMC Ministry Board.

2.07. Certification is not designed as a predictor of safety or suitability for any particular context. The responsibility for such judgments remains with the calling congregation.

2.08. The Board of Trustees may revoke certification (or decertify) a pastor. The Board of Trustees shall establish a procedure for inquiry, discipline and, if warranted, decertification. Decertification disqualifies a pastor from being a delegate to, or to have voice at, the national convention. A decertified pastor may not serve as a trustee or officer of this association or its districts.

2.09. Pastors serving in Contract Calls for whom there is cause for removal will be subject to the inquiry and discipline referenced in 2.08. If warranted, the pastor serving a Contract Call will be removed from LCMC's list of pastors in good standing.

2.10. A congregation has the right to retain a pastor, either under call or employment, after the pastor has been decertified or been removed from the list of pastors in good standing. However, if a member congregation retains the services of such a pastor, the Board of Trustees may determine that this is sufficient cause to initiate a process of suspension and removal of the congregation under LCMC Constitution 4.03.

By-Law Section 3 - Statement of Purpose and Objectives

3.01. The purpose of this association is to support our common mission to bear witness to the good news that sinners are put right with God by faith alone in Jesus Christ, to resist any corruption of this gospel, and to serve and support fellow congregations who seek to do likewise. Looking only to the cross of Christ, we proclaim God's word as law and gospel for the redemption of his people today.

3.02. To serve and support the member congregations of this association in their mission to proclaim the gospel, this association will, among other things:
   a. Be available to assist congregations in calling pastors to the ministry of word and sacrament;
   b. Assist pastors in obtaining calls to the ministry of word and sacrament;
   c. Assist seminary graduates in the call and ordination process in first call congregations;
   d. Assist in placement of chaplains for specialized services, e.g., military, medical, social services or special ministries of the association members;
e. Plant new mission congregations and support missionary ministries wherever God would lead us;

f. Assist individuals in obtaining the proper academic instruction to qualify to receive a call to a congregation in this association;

g. Encourage and support confessional Lutheran seminarians by providing, among other things, mentors and guidance through the seminary process;

h. Provide voluntary pension plans and employee benefits for church employees;

i. Sponsor inspirational and educational gatherings, foster fellowship and worship opportunities for all of God's children;

j. Strengthen Christ's body on earth by encouraging worship in our congregations, prayer for one another, and study of the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran confessional writings and the theology of the cross;

k. Sponsor youth events that train young people in the beliefs and teaching of our faith, providing guidance and leadership training necessary to raise up a new generation of theologically grounded Christian leaders;

l. Support congregational confirmation and other faith building programs by providing members with sound theological resources and training;

m. Assist congregations in raising up and selecting candidates for the ministry of word and sacrament.

3.03. To serve and support member congregations in their mission to resist every corruption of the gospel (Galatians 5:1), this association will, among other things:

a. Provide an evangelical, confessional Lutheran church home for congregations who seek to have their proclamation, teaching and witness shaped about what God has promised us and spoken to us in his law and gospel;

b. Uphold the statement of faith in word and deed by supporting and assisting member congregations when they are hindered from, or persecuted for, proclaiming the one true gospel revealed in Jesus Christ;

c. Support the ministries of those who serve God and neighbor in mission through our stewardship: financial, intercessory prayers, teaching, worship and fellowship;

d. Provide sound educational and worship resources for congregational use;

e. Encourage congregations to return to the confessions of the evangelical Lutheran church, to resist every coercion of the conscience or subversion of the pure gospel in the church and, where desirable, to join this association;

f. Sponsor conferences where confessional Lutheran theologians study and discuss issues challenging congregations, informing the association of their biblical, confessional and theological interpretation and witness;

g. Support congregations that have been harmed by confessional crises in conflict.
3.04. In accordance with the intent of this association to look only to the cross of Christ, proclaiming God’s word as law and gospel for the redemption of his people today, this association shall support theological guidelines and declarations adopted by this association.

**By-Law Section 4 - Our Declaration**

4.01. Recognizing these declarations, attached to these by-laws and incorporated by reference, not as additional confessions of faith or as substitutions for confessions of faith, we believe them to be a witness in exposition of the Holy Scriptures and the confessions of the evangelical Lutheran church addressing the theological and confessional crisis challenging the church today. These declarations are intended to help us fulfill our mission to confess the gospel in its purity and to reject attempts to corrupt or obscure it. As a witness to the pure gospel of Jesus Christ, these declarations are neither laws nor prescriptions; we commend “Our Declaration” to assist in our preaching, teaching, pastoral care, evangelism and in the building of our faith community. We recognize, as we must, that as the context for our mission changes these declarations may need revision or augmentation.

**By-Law Section 5 - Districts of the Association**

5.01. Congregations, in their sole discretion, may join together in districts and shall adopt governing documents, budgets and other procedures that will allow districts to support the mission of the members of this association. Districts need not be organized along traditional geographic boundaries and may be united by, and organized for the support of, member congregations of this association using such criteria as district member congregations may choose from time to time to adopt. All such district organizations shall be self-supporting and shall be subject to supervision and direction by district member congregations.

5.02. This association, by action of the national convention of LCMC, may terminate, for cause, the affiliation between an LCMC district and LCMC by a two-thirds vote of those convention delegates present and voting at an LCMC annual convention. A motion to terminate the affiliation of a district with LCMC may be brought by the board of trustees or by any member congregation, provided, however, that the district affected shall be given sixty (60) days written notice of intent to make such a motion. The written notice shall state with specificity the grounds for terminating the affiliation of the district to LCMC. Termination of a district/LCMC affiliation shall not in any way affect the status of member congregations of this association. In the event of emergency circumstances, the Board of Trustees, after notice to the affected district and upon a three quarters (3/4) vote of the Board of Trustees, may suspend the affiliation of a district to LCMC, pending final action at the next annual convention of LCMC.
5.03. Districts shall have such powers to promote and accomplish the objectives of this association that are specifically granted to those districts by member congregations and not otherwise prohibited by these by-laws or the constitution of this association. Districts shall have no legislative authority over the affairs of non District members or the Association.

5.04. Districts seeking to affiliate with this association shall acknowledge in writing, in a form approved by the Board of Trustees, the request to affiliate and shall also acknowledge consent to be governed by the constitution, by-laws, and all resolutions and actions of this association and shall also agree to the following nonexclusive requirements:

a. All voting members of the District shall be LCMC congregations;

b. No district may make claim to the real estate of any member except for loans for the purchase or improvement of real estate duly documented and recorded or register in accordance with applicable state law;

c. District members may resign from district membership at any time and districts may not impose, other than a notice requirement, any conditions on the right of a district member to resign rom district membership;

d. Districts may not impose restrictions on the right of district members to fully participate as members of this association.

5.05. In fulfilling the goals and objectives of this association LCMC districts shall cooperate with the Board of Trustees by:

a. Keeping current lists of member congregations;

b. Keeping current lists of pastors who serve those congregations;

c. Seeking to keep the work of district ministry committees consistent, congruent and consonant with the candidacy and colloquy processes of the LCMC ministry committee, while keeping their exchange of information up to date;

d. Notifying all other districts of pastors who seek approval of, or certification from a district ministry committee (subject to reasonable confidentiality requirements unique to the call process).

e. Create and submit an annual report to the national convention summarizing district activity during the preceding year.

5.06. In its relationship to districts, the Board of Trustees of LCMC shall:

a. Post promptly on the LCMC website changes in membership and pastoral lists;

b. Provide copies of communications to member congregations of the association;

c. Provide a census of the number of districts and member congregation in each district.
By-Law Section 6 - National Convention

6.01. The national convention of congregational delegates shall be the legislative authority of LCMC, and the powers of the national convention are limited only by the provisions of the articles of incorporation, the constitution (including but not limited to Article 2 of the Constitution) and by-laws of this association, and the national convention's own resolutions. The national convention shall meet annually in regular session but may meet as called by the Board of Trustees. The time and place of the national convention shall be determined by the board of trustees which shall give at least sixty (60) days written notice to member congregations of the date and place of any national convention of this association. Each congregation shall be entitled to delegates and alternates to the national convention of LCMC as set out in paragraph 5.02 of the constitution. The names of the delegates and any alternates selected by member congregations to represent the interests of the member congregations shall be provided to the Board of Trustees pursuant to such procedures as the Board of Trustees may adopt. Members of the Board of Trustees shall also serve as members of the national convention and shall have voice and vote.

6.02. The national convention, in addition to such other duties as are assigned to it by the constitution, the by-laws of this association or the member congregations as they may direct from time to time, shall also have the authority to establish boards and commissions to assist in the management of the affairs of the association.

6.03. The national convention is authorized to adopt continuing resolutions to assist in governing the affairs of the association that do not otherwise conflict with or are prohibited by the constitution or by-laws of this association.

6.04. The national convention shall be convened by the Board of Trustees of LCMC and shall occur annually. The national convention shall serve as an annual meeting of the association and the agenda may include but is not limited to, election of the Board of Trustees or the filling of any vacancies on the Board of Trustees, approval of the annual budget, approval of ministry standards or changes to ministry standards and such other business as may occur from time to time.

6.05. The Board of Trustees of LCMC shall convene a national convention of this association within sixty (60) days of submission of a written petition signed by twenty-five per cent (25%) of the then existing member congregations requesting a national convention.

By-Law Section 7 - Board of Trustees

7.01. Subject to the limitations of the constitution or the by-laws of this association, the business and affairs of LCMC shall be managed by or shall be under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

7.02. There shall be seven (7) to twelve (12) members of the Board of Trustees and each trustee shall hold office until the election of a successor trustee. Any person who is a member of an LCMC congregation shall be eligible for election to the Board of Trustees. Trustees shall be elected by area as provided in these bylaws. The number of trustees to be elected shall be determined by the national convention of this association.
upon the advice of the Board of Trustees. Until a successor trustee has been elected and qualified, the trustee to be replaced or succeeded shall continue in office. No trustee shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. For purposes of this provision, partial terms of office resulting from appointment to fill a board vacancy are not included in the term limitation.

7.03. Election of members of the Board of Trustees shall be by areas as determined by the national convention, and subject to rules adopted by the national convention not inconsistent with the LCMC constitution or bylaws. The number of areas shall correspond to the number of trustees, with the exception of the Treasurer of this association who shall be elected pursuant to paragraph 8.05 of these bylaws. Areas shall have approximately the same number of congregations; for purposes of determining areas from which elections to the Board of Trustees are to occur, the size of individual congregations is irrelevant. Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, areas may be reapportioned at any time by the national convention but shall be reapportioned whenever any area is more than fifteen percent (15%) larger or smaller than the average number of congregations in all areas. Following approval by the national convention of a reapportionment plan, that plan shall be effective for the next regularly scheduled trustee election. The Board of Trustees may, but is not required to, recommend reapportionment plans. Areas shall serve no other function except for the purpose of providing geographic balance in the election of members of the Board of Trustees.

7.04. There shall be no voting by proxy or absentee ballot by members of the Board of Trustees.

7.05. Meetings of the Board of Trustees may be held from time to time at any place the Board of Trustees may designate within or without the state of Minnesota. Either the chair or any three members of the board of trustees may call a board meeting by giving ten (10) days notice to all of the other trustees of the date and time of the meeting. The notice may be given by mail, telephone, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, or in person. If a meeting schedule is adopted by the board, or if the date and time of a board meeting has been announced at a previous meeting, no formal notice is required. A trustee may waive notice of a meeting of the board and such waiver is effective whether given before, at, or after the meeting and whether such waiver is given in writing, orally, or by attendance.

7.06. A majority of the trustees currently holding office is a quorum for the transaction of any business.

7.07. Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Trustees may be taken by written action signed by the number of trustees that would be required to take the same action at a meeting of the Board of Trustees at which all trustees were present, provided that all members of the Board of Trustees receive reasonable notice of the text of the written action at the same time it is furnished to any trustee for signature. All members of the Board of Trustees shall be notified immediately of the effective date of any such written action that is duly taken.

7.08. A member of the Board of Trustees may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the remaining board of trustees, following written notice to the board member of the grounds for removal. The national convention may, by resolution, further define cause permitting board member removal and may also specify additional procedures to be followed in connection with a motion to remove a board member.

7.09. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees resulting from the death, resignation, or removal of a trustee may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining trustees, even though less than a quorum.
Each trustee elected under this section to fill a vacancy holds office until a qualified successor is elected by the delegates at the next regular or special meeting of the association.

7.10. The Board of Trustees may, by resolution, establish committees to conduct the affairs and business of the association.

7.11. Except as otherwise provided by the constitution, the by-laws and continuing resolutions, if any, of this association, rules of parliamentary authority as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the affairs of this association.

7.12. Nothing in these by-laws is intended to discourage electronic participation in the affairs of the association including, where consistent with good order and ballot integrity, voting and election procedures.

By-Law Section 8 - Association Officers

8.01. This association shall have as its officers a chair of the Board of Trustees, a vice-chair of the board of trustees, a secretary, and a treasurer and such other officers as the Board of Trustees shall, from time to time, create. The Board of Trustees may remove any officer by a two-thirds majority vote with or without cause, with the exception of the treasurer, who may be removed only for cause as specified in paragraph 8.05 of these by-laws.

8.02. All officers, except the treasurer, shall be elected by the board from among the board's members to serve a one-year term. The board shall select an individual to perform the responsibilities described in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 317A applicable to the president of the corporation.

8.03. The vice chair shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Trustees where the chair is unable to preside and shall serve under the direction of the chair.

8.04. The secretary shall serve as the recording officer of the association, shall keep the minutes, have responsibility for records, rosters, archives, and other documents of the association, and such other duties as may be assigned to the secretary by the Board of Trustees.

8.05. The treasurer shall propose policy for review in action by the Board of Trustees of the financial, accounting, insurance, property management, investment, and money management systems of the association. The treasurer shall be elected at the national convention by a majority of those delegates at the national convention who are then present and voting. Election of the treasurer shall be from the body as a whole and not by area. The treasurer shall serve a three-year term. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 7.09 of these by-laws, no treasurer shall serve more than two consecutive terms of office. The treasurer shall have voice and vote and shall otherwise be eligible to fully participate in the activities and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees of this association. The treasurer may be removed by the Board of Trustees only by a two-thirds majority vote of the remaining Board of Trustees and only for cause following written notice of grounds for removal. The national convention may, by resolution, further define cause permitting removal and may also specify additional procedures to be followed in connection with the removal of the treasurer.
8.06. Should the chair of this association die, resign, or be unable to serve, the vice chair shall be charged with the responsibilities of the chair until the election of a new chair or until the chair is able to serve again. Should the vice chair, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the chair, with the approval of the board of trustees, shall arrange for the election of a new officer by the Board of Trustees to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.

8.07. Any candidate for the election to the Board of Trustees shall be entitled to the names and addresses of delegates and alternates from their area to the national convention, if any, for the purpose of communicating the candidate's vision and the candidate's desire to seek election to the Board of Trustees.

By-Law Section 9 - Amendment of By-Laws

9.01. The by-laws of this association may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the national convention where the amendment to the by-laws has been presented in writing by the Board of Trustees or by at least 10 per cent of the member congregations. The Board of Trustees shall review and comment on proposed by-law changes transmitted by member congregations pursuant to this paragraph but shall submit any proposed by-law changes to the national convention of LCMC for action. Any proposed by-law or amendment to an existing by-law shall first be approved by a majority of those delegates present and voting at the national convention of this association. Thereafter, member congregations of this association shall have one year from the date of enactment by the national convention to reject the proposed by-law or amendment to existing by-law. A majority of member congregations is required to reject a proposed by-law or proposed amendment to the by-laws of this association. No amendments to the by-laws of this association shall become effective until adopted by a majority of the delegates to the national convention then present and voting at the national convention and until the time period for rejection by member congregations has passed. Rejection by a majority of member congregations terminates all action on the proposed by-law or amendment.

10/2005
10/2012
CHAPTER 7

Areas