

1. Camp Luther Gerwick Kitchen Remodel

Camp Luther's kitchen in Gerwick Hall is an integral part of our ministry, serving over 1,500 campers, volunteers, and guests each year. To continue providing safe and efficient meal service that fosters Christian fellowship, the camp seeks to upgrade essential kitchen equipment. This project includes purchasing a new commercial-grade stove, dishwasher booster heater, kitchen serving window door, wipeable wall paneling for sanitation, and a commercial food mixer. These improvements will make meal preparation more reliable and efficient.

2. Building beds for kids who have none in South Sioux City (Sleep in Heavenly Peace)

Quality sleep is essential for the overall well-being of children, both mentally and physically. During sleep, the body and mind undergo essential repair and rejuvenation processes, while the brain consolidates new information. Insufficient sleep can have detrimental effects on children, including difficulties with concentration, memory, mood regulation, behavior, and academic performance. Moreover, children without a suitable sleeping environment are more susceptible to sleep disturbances and are at a higher risk of developing mental health issues. The discomfort and insecurity of sleeping on the floor can contribute to stress, anxiety, and low self-esteem. The current request is to contribute \$10,000 to the cost of lumber, mattresses, and bedding to build and deliver beds to local bedless children by the chapter. The chapter has a goal of delivering 1000 beds to children in 2026. Project funding will be used solely to purchase lumber, mattresses, and bedding to build and deliver beds to local bedless children.

3. "Daughters of the Savior...Depending on the Savior" Wives of Pastors' Retreats

A \$7,500 grant would allow the opportunity to arrange for speakers/presenters from a further distance for the Nebraska District LCMS 2027 and 2028 annual wives' retreats. Funds are not currently available to cover flights, housing, meals, and other travel incidentals for speakers on a regular basis and provide scholarships for those in need.

4. Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd's Canyon Retreats

This grant would be used specifically to give scholarships to pastors, teachers, DCEs, ministry workers, and spouses to attend a Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. 13% of churches in the LCMS are vacant. Barna Research shows that 41% of pastors say they've considered quitting. When one of these servants quits, it takes hundreds of thousands of dollars to train their replacement. Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is an LCMS RSO (recognized Service Organization) that provides week-long counseling retreats and has helped hundreds of ministry workers in various stages of burnout, stress, loss, compassion fatigue, and conflicts. One pastor wrote: "I have become a spiritual zombie – dead but moving. It's more than just a dark night of the soul...Can you help? I really have nowhere to turn." He came to our retreat and before he left, he thanked our staff and volunteers profusely and said, "This has been the best week of my life!"

5. Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool Tuition Assistance

This mission project would provide tuition for two years for 10 preschoolers each year. Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool is located on the Winnebago reservation in northeast Nebraska. It is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and was started in 1997. The mission statement for Jesus Our Savior Preschool states that each child is a precious gift from Mauna (our Creator), saved by the love of Jesus. Because the majority of our preschoolers hear about Jesus for the first time or have a limited knowledge of Him when they enroll, it is imperative that we reach out to these precious preschoolers. As Kora, a current preschooler, told Mrs. Carson (the teacher) recently, "I know Jesus loves me, cuz He died on the cross for me!" That summarizes what our preschool is all about.

6. Down Syndrome Life Advocacy & Adoption Initiative (Lutheran Family Services of IA)

This grant proclaims the value of every life created by God and offers Christian adoption as an alternative to abortion for parents facing a prenatal Down Syndrome diagnosis. In the United States today, nearly 75% of babies diagnosed in the womb with Down Syndrome are aborted. Through this LWML partnership with Lutheran Family Service (Iowa), OBGYNs in Nebraska will be fully equipped to present adoption instead of abortion to newly diagnosed patients, and one Lutheran/Christian, male/female married couple will be identified, prepared, and supported to adopt a baby with Down Syndrome. Babies with an extra chromosome will be saved from abortion to life with a loving family, and eternal life for eternity to come through baptism and faith – supported, nurtured, and loved by their adopting parents and church family.

7. Gospel Access for Aging Adults (Worship Anew)

With this grant Worship Anew can provide “Gospel Access for Aging Adults” by equipping congregations in Nebraska with resources to connect aging adults with God’s Word. Aging adults face some of life’s most difficult circumstances, including illness and loss, fear, regret, and isolation. These things often make it difficult or impossible to participate in worship. At the same time, these things can make those who are unchurched more receptive to the Gospel message. Through Worship Anew, aging adults can hear the Gospel through resources made specifically for them, particularly a weekly worship program, a daily devotional (Hope-Full Living), a monthly magazine (The Broadcaster), and a Care Ministry, which provides care packages and grief resources for those in need.

