

GOSPEL OUTREACH

Mission Grants

In this section, information is provided to assist zones and groups in becoming knowledgeable and involved with mission grants. Each group president is encouraged to appoint a mission coordinator to report mission grant progress to the group and to increase mission awareness in the local congregation.

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2022–2024 Mission Grant Prayers and Descriptions

1. Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students — \$50,000

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod recognizes the importance of seminary training to equip dedicated men for ministry to God’s people. To help offset the cost of attending seminary, scholarship funds will assist seminary students from the Texas District LCMS, enabling them to go out and serve with less financial burden.

Almighty God, You expect us all to share the “Good News” with those around us. There is also a great present and future need for men to enter our seminaries in order to be equipped and empowered to be the spiritual leaders in our churches and communities. Our heart-felt desire is to support them with scholarships so they can complete their training with less of a financial burden. Bless our efforts to support those You call to serve as professional workers in Your kingdom. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

2. Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers, Houston — \$10,000

Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers help women in crisis pregnancies. This mission grant will be used to provide life-affirming aid such as pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and Christian counseling as well as Bibles and devotional books for women given through their Maternal Assistance program.

Gracious and living God, You are the One who gives the breath of life and sustains our hopes. When young women learn that they are to be Your instruments to bring new life into this world, they may be troubled, worried, and overwhelmed. You have provided Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers to give courage and comfort, hope and trust to troubled hearts. We pray Your blessing on Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers through these mission mites as they are given opportunities to guide these young women in ways that respect the lives of their unborn children. Merciful Father, strengthen them in love and faith toward You as they hear of Your mercy and grace in Jesus Christ their Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

3. ACTS of Love Early Childhood Education Center, Leander — \$25,000

ACTS of Love Early Childhood Education Center provides free childcare and parenting resources to teen parents. This mission grant will provide additional funding to continue to offer high quality, free, Christ-centered early childhood education and parenting classes to teen parents and their babies.

Almighty God, You have given us the blessings of children to nurture, teach and love. We ask You to work through Acts of Love to show the children Your love and care. As this ministry also seeks to help parents to both bring up their children in Your ways and to continue with their own education for the support and good of their families, please help us to reach out with love and support. Please give them wisdom and guidance as they meet this vital need in their community to Your glory. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

4. Orphan Grain Train, Houston — \$25,000

The Orphan Grain Train, Houston, volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs in the Houston area and around the world. This mission grant will provide storage and shipping supplies to aid in bringing the Gospel of Christ wherever they send assistance.

Our loving Father, You call us to remember those who are poor and hungry. We thank You for the dedication of those serving through the Orphan Grain Train. As we are experiencing a pandemic in our world today there are so many who are hungry due to unemployment. Guide their help and desire to put food in the hands of so many in need. Bless them with the necessary storage and shipping supplies so they can continue to impact the lives of people through their acts of giving and servanthood. Lord, we are grateful for them and ask You to find ways we can meet the needs of those we serve. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

5. Let Your Light Shine, Bethany, Austin and LSEM — \$10,000

The Let It Shine Enrichment Academy at Bethany Lutheran Church, Austin, was established by Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) and is designed to address the unique needs of children, particularly those on the autism spectrum and those needing early intervention. This mission grant will be used for tuition assistance and to provide materials and training needed to support the school's Christ-centered learning environment.

Almighty God and Father, You sent Your Son in love to call even the little ones to His embrace, for Your Kingdom belongs to people like these. In Your mercy, O God, work through the ministries of Let it Shine Enrichment Academy as they care for preschool children in the autism spectrum of disorders and other special needs. We thank You, for this caring arm of Lutheran Special Education Ministries that provides a loving and well-trained enrichment center for children who are often turned away from early learning facilities. Bless the use of this mission grant to let Your love shine in the lives of these children. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

6. Homeless to Housed, LINC Austin Outreach, Austin — \$10,000

This mission grant will help LINC Austin Outreach continue mobile street outreach in the Austin/Travis County area to locate and engage individuals experiencing homelessness. LINC helps navigate the homeless into housing, aids them to overcome obstacles such as attaining identifying documents, and provides basic needs.

Almighty and most merciful God, You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us but to abide with us to the end of time. Provide those who are homeless with people who, in wisdom and sympathy, will minister to them in their need, consider the road they have walked and do their best to provide hope and love, all the while pointing them to Jesus; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

7. The Garden Young Adult Ministry, North Texas — \$10,000

Young adults between the ages of 18-30 are disappearing from our churches. The Eternity Matters Most Network trains young adult leaders to reach unchurched and de-churched peers

through The Garden Young Adult Ministry. This mission grant will provide the ability for these leaders to receive practical and theological training to fulfill this mission.

Our loving Father, You call us to “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” We thank and praise You for the young adults who are gathering together to learn and grow in faith so they can reach out to unchurched and de-churched peers. Please use this mission grant to strengthen and encourage them in their work. Bless this program and allow it to do Your will. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

8. Gospel-Driven Education, Faith Lutheran High School, Warda — \$20,000

The ministry at Faith Lutheran High School of Central Texas (FLHS) continues to grow each year through God’s grace. Students attend FLHS from Lee, Bastrop, and Fayette counties, many driving over 30 miles one way. Obtaining school-provided transportation will allow FLHS to expand the ministry to more students and families.

Gracious Father, thank You for the students, teachers, and supporters of Lutheran education and especially those at Faith Lutheran High School. Bless the young people who are attending this school, and fill them with a love for learning academically and drawing closer to You. We pray this mission grant is used to help Faith and the families involved to reach more students and alleviate some of the difficulties involved in transporting for school activities. May Your will be done. Amen.

9. Bible Brigade, Lutheran Disaster Care — \$16,000

The Bible Brigade will share God’s Word to those affected by disaster. This mission grant will be used to purchase Bibles marked with verses that comfort disaster victims and gift cards to be distributed to those impacted by disaster.

Dear Lord Jesus, You said, “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Please use this mission grant to minister to people, who have been through a disaster, by meeting immediate physical needs and also their long-range spiritual need through the Bible they receive, thereby blessing them in body and soul. In the name of our merciful Savior. Amen.

10. The Table of Los Fresnos Mission Outreach, Los Fresnos — \$25,000

This mission grant will assist The Table of Los Fresnos Lutheran Church with purchasing a step van, chairs, and tables. These will be used to increase The Table’s impact by giving mobility to its gatherings and outreach mission to reach people in the Rio Grande Valley with the Good News of Jesus.

Gracious Lord, in Your earthly ministry You met people in the marketplace and on the hillside where You fed them with Your Word and with loaves and fish. Many people in the Rio Grande Valley are lost and scattered, like sheep without a shepherd. We pray Your blessing on the mission efforts of The Table of Los Fresnos as they carry Your Word and Sacraments through meaningful service to the de-churched and unchurched in their community, offering food, clean-ups, and fix-ups. May the step van, tables, and chairs

they will purchase with this mission grant multiply their ministry to seek and restore their neighbors to Your kingdom. We pray in Your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

11. Each Child Complete in Christ, Faith Lutheran School, Plano — \$14,128.92

Faith Lutheran School strives to present students complete in Christ (Col. 1:28) by fostering love of learning, skills in critical analysis, leadership and independent thinking, and love of God and neighbor. This mission grant will provide tuition assistance for income-challenged families seeking classical Lutheran education for students in preschool through grade 12.

O Father of all people, who would have all come the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we pray for Faith Lutheran School, Plano as they reach and teach students and their families. This school strives to follow Your words, “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” Please equip this school with understanding and leadership as they meet the needs of these students. Open the hearts of these students to hear Your true Word and through the Holy Spirit come to a saving faith in You. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Mission Grant Information Resources

LWML Texas District

- *District News Articles*
- *The Lone Star Connection* newsletter (subscribe to receive by email at lwmltxdist.org)
- Website: www.lwmltxdist.org for updates on payments, listing of current mission grants, prayers, chart, mission grant video, and forms for submitting mission grant proposals, etc.
- Facebook @LWMLTexas
- Current district mission grant video on YouTube@LWMLTexasDistrict
- Email: gospeloutreach@lwmltxdist.org

LWML

- *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* articles
- Website: lwml.org/mission-grants for updates on mission grants paid; monthly mission grants resources – devotions, prayer guide and story, mission grant poster, and bulletin bytes; and information for submitting mission grant proposals, etc.
- eNews (subscribe to receive by email at lwml.org or read on the website)
- Facebook @TheLWML and other social media sites
- Current LWML mission grants video on lwml.org/mission-grants
- Email: depgo@lwml.org

At a Glance Reference for Creating Mission Grant Proposals

	<u>LWML Texas District</u>	<u>LWML</u>
Deadline for applying:	November 1 (odd-numbered year) It is strongly recommended you communicate with VP of Gospel Outreach by Oct. 1	August 15 (even-numbered years) to District President September 30 (even-numbered years) to national
Approval needed:	The submitter's Texas District LCMS pastor or zone pastoral counselor If group, Texas District LCMS pastor or zone Pastoral Counselor If zone, Texas District Zone pastoral counselor	1) the Executive Committee of the LWML district in which they originate * (due August 15 of even numbered years to LWML District President); 2) the President of the LCMS district or partner church in which the proposed mission grant recipient is located
Number of copies:	Nine (9) printed copies and one (1) electronic copy	Nine (9) printed copies and one (1) electronic copy
Photos:	Eight (8) to ten (10) high-resolution landscape orientation photographs in JPEG format with descriptive captions for each photograph posted on a photo sharing website (i.e. Dropbox, Picasa, Shutterfly)	Five (5) to seven (7) high-resolution landscape orientation photographs in JPG or JPEG format with descriptive captions for each photograph. Submit photographs no larger than 3MB in size.
Parts:	1) <i>Mission Grants Proposal Form</i> 2) <i>Mission Grant Detailed Information Form</i> 3) Resolution 4) Letter(s) of recommendation 5) Photos and descriptions 6) Balance sheet	1) Cover Page 2) Directory of Grant Personnel 3) Resolutions 4) Detailed PDF Information Page(s) 5) Photos and descriptions
Submit to:	LWML Texas District Vice President of Gospel Outreach	LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach (after approval has been secured)

Guidelines for Submitting Mission Grant Proposals

Proposals for the LWML Texas District need to be submitted by **November 1** of odd numbered years. It is strongly recommended you communicate with VP of Gospel Outreach by Oct. 1.

General Information

Who may submit a mission grant proposal to the LWML Texas District?

- Any LWML member, group, or zone of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District may submit mission grant proposals.

Criteria for LWML Texas District Mission Grant Proposals

Ministries should:

- Be mission-focused. Demonstrate clearly how the mission grant will promote or support the proclamation of the Gospel to all.
- Align with the goals and objectives of the Texas District LCMS.
- Be current and ready for implementation (funds for approved mission grants may not be available immediately.)
- Be ongoing in nature, with a plan for continued maintenance after the mission grant moneys have been expended.
- Be well documented.
- Request funding for no more than two years to correspond with the LWML biennium.

Ideas for Mission Proposals

- Agencies, organizations, and programs that help Lutherans to serve, grow, and spread God's Word.
- Special ministries that meet a specific need.
- Educational institutions of the Lutheran church.
- Facilities that serve as an instrument in extending the Kingdom of God.

Researching the Proposals

- Work closely with the person in charge of the agency organization, program, etc. for approval of the mission grant and for added input and insight.
- Gather necessary facts and assemble supportive materials so that the mission grant proposal can be easily evaluated.

Remember

The LWML Texas District Bylaws state in part (Article XVIII, Section 4):

- Requests shall not be made for any mission grants that necessitate a permanent subsidy from the funds.
- Requests shall not be made for any mission grants requiring borrowed funds.
- Requests shall not be made to cover deficits or shortages in the District LCMS treasuries.
- Responsibility of the LWML District ceases after mission grants have been completed.

Submitting the Mission Grant Proposal

1. Complete the *Mission Grant Proposal Form* available from the Vice President of Gospel Outreach (in *Leader's Manual* and on website).
 - a. Secure signatures of an LWML Texas District member, group, or zone and from submitter's Texas District pastor (member's pastor) or zone's pastoral counselor.
 - b. Chose a name for the mission grant that is brief yet descriptive of its purpose.
2. Complete the *Mission Grant Detailed Information Form* (no more than five pages in length).
3. Prepare the proposal in resolution form (Use imperative sentences).
 - a. Refer to samples in the *Leader's Manual* (e.g., *Help in Writing a Mission Grant Proposal* in this section) or a previous convention manual.
 - b. Be concise and specific (up to 150 words).
 - c. Use four (4) or less "WHEREAS" statements.
 - The first "WHEREAS" should contain the purpose or goal that is Bible based.
 - The following "WHEREAS" statements should state the need for the grant.
 - End with the "RESOLVED" which should contain amount of funds requested and purpose of those funds.
 - e. State the ministry needs, amount of funds requested, and the purpose for which the funds will be used.
4. Submit at least one letter of recommendation from someone who is familiar with but not employed by the ministry. No one who will be reviewing the proposal can submit a letter.
5. Photographs – photos copied from websites or submitted as a PowerPoint presentation CANNOT be accepted. DO NOT SUBMIT COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL! These photos become the property of the LWML Texas District.
 - a. Eight (8) to ten (10) in high-resolution JPEG format (landscape orientation preferred).
 - b. Post on a photo sharing website (i.e., Dropbox, Shutterfly, Picasa).
 - c. Include descriptive captions for each photo.
 - d. Send an email inviting the Mission Grants Chairman (Vice President of Gospel Outreach) to access the photos and descriptions.
6. Financial Page — include a balance sheet.
7. Submit one (1) electronic copy to gospeloutreach@lwmltxdist.org. **Wait for confirmation before mailing** nine (9) copies of the *Mission Grants Proposal Form*, the *Mission Grant Detailed Information Form*, the letter(s) of recommendation, balance sheet, and the resolution (photographs need not be mailed) to the Mission Grants Committee Chairman (Vice President of Gospel Outreach) of the LWML Texas District. Deadline: **NOVEMBER 1 of odd numbered years**. It is strongly recommended you communicate with VP of Gospel Outreach by Oct. 1.

Processing Procedures

1. After the Chairman of the Mission Grants Committee receives the mission grant proposal package, it is presented to the Texas District LCMS President, and the Mission and Ministry Facilitator (MMF) liaison to the Board of Mission Administration of the Texas District LCMS; and the LWML Texas District Pastoral Counselors. Proposals for mission grants outside the Texas District are sent for evaluation to the LCMS Executive Directors, Office of National Mission (proposals within the U.S.) or International Mission (proposals outside the U.S.).
2. After these officials have evaluated the proposal packages that are truly mission in character and merit the consideration of the LWML Texas District, and after evaluation and selection by the Mission Grants Committee, the selected mission grants are presented to the delegates in convention for consideration and action.
3. The total dollar amount of proposals submitted on the mission grants ballot should be approximately 1½ times the amount of mission grants adopted in convention in the previous biennium.
4. The total dollar amount of non-district proposals placed on the ballot shall not exceed 25% of the total of mission grants proposals on the ballot.
5. The Mission Grants Committee may call on the President of the Texas District LCMS or MMF liaison to the Board of Mission Administration of the Texas District LCMS or any MMF for information or clarification, and may invite him to attend the committee meeting in an advisory capacity.
6. All proposed mission grant recipients are notified if their mission grant proposal is to be placed on the ballot. The Mission Grants Committee reserves the right to edit amounts, resolution statements and mission grant descriptions. All proposed mission grant recipients are given the opportunity to approve the final resolution statements and brief descriptions of proposals for the ballot and convention manual. Scripts for the video may be sent to recipients if requested and time allows. The Mission Grants Committee will prepare prayers for use on the website following selection at convention.
7. Proposed mission grants will be placed on the ballot in the order the complete mission grant proposal packages (all requested information including the electronic submission and photos) were received.
8. Those on the ballot will be contacted, following the convention, advising them if they were or were not selected.
9. The contact person listed for all adopted mission grants will receive a *Disbursement Information Memorandum* form to be completed and returned to the Vice President of Gospel Outreach. They are encouraged to request payments in increments determined by need.

Help in Writing a Mission Grant Proposal

The mission grant proposal package has six (6) elements:

1. *Mission Grant Proposal Form*
2. *Mission Grant Detailed Information Form*
3. Resolution (1 electronic and 9 printed) to gospeloutreach@lwmltxdist.org
4. Letter(s) of recommendation
5. Photos (8-10 high resolution) shared on Dropbox or similar website with descriptive captions
6. Balance sheet

The **RESOLUTION** should:

1. Be concise and specific (no more than 150 words).
2. Include ministry needs, amount of funds requested, and purpose(s) for which the money will be used.
3. Use no more than four (4) whereas statements.

The **DETAILED INFORMATION FORM** (no more than five pages in length).

Sample Resolutions

The first “WHEREAS” should contain the purpose or goal that is Bible based.

The following “WHEREAS” statements state the need for the grant.

End with the “RESOLVED” which should contain amount of funds requested and purpose of those funds.

WHEREAS, Christ in His Holy Word has charged us to reach out to all nations; and

WHEREAS, Educated Christian youth are a means of propagating His Word to future generations; and

WHEREAS, The people of ____ are unable to fully finance the living costs for students away from home; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church of ____ is aware of the need, and has voted approval, and has purchased land for a student dormitory in ____, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Texas District in convention, vote the sum of \$____ to help fund the building of the student facility in ____.

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus has instructed parents to bring up their children in the way of the Lord and has asked that the little children be brought unto Him, and

WHEREAS, Christ Elementary School is a mission field in a new subdivision, and has already drawn new members to the Lutheran Church, and vastly expanded the Christian knowledge of our children, and

WHEREAS, Proper and up-to-date materials and equipment enhance learning capabilities, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Texas District in Convention grant \$5,000 for the purchase of audiovisual and learning resources.

MISSION GRANT PROPOSAL FORM
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE TEXAS DISTRICT
MISSION GRANTS 2024-2026

(Deadline for Submission: November 1, 2023)

Please print or type

Submitted by _____
(Name and signature of LWML TX District member)

(Name of LWML TX District group or zone) (Title of office held – put member if none)

Approved by: _____
(Signature of submitter's TX District LCMS pastor or her zone pastoral counselor)

(Print name of pastor signing above) (Name of church/LWML group/zone)

Mission Grant Name: _____

Location/Address: _____

Mission Grant Amount: _____

Brief Mission Grant Description (must include purpose for which funds will be used in 50 words or less. This will be printed in the convention manual.

Contact Person (person to be contacted for additional information):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Complete proposal package includes all items in this checklist:

- ☐ **Mission Grant Proposal Form**
- ☐ **Mission Grant Detailed Information Form** (maximum length of 5 pages)
- ☐ **Resolution** (maximum length 150 words)
- ☐ **Letter(s) of recommendation** (not employed by the ministry)
- ☐ **Photos** (8-10) with captions for each photo on a photo sharing website
- ☐ **Balance sheet**

Please submit one (1) electronic copy of this proposal package by **November 1, 2023**, to: Mission Grants Committee Chairman at gospeloutreach@lwmltxdist.org. Request mailing address to submit nine (9) printed copies postmarked by **November 1, 2023**.

MISSION GRANT DETAILED INFORMATION FORM
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE TEXAS DISTRICT
MISSION GRANTS 2024-2026

(Deadline for Submission: November 1, 2023)

This form is available at lwmltxdist.org/mission-grant-proposals in a fillable format.

Mission Grant Title:

What is the name of the organization being helped?

Statement of need — What is the need?

Why is this mission grant important?

Mission-focus — how will the mission grant promote or support the proclamation of the gospel?

Total amount requested from LWML and source of remaining funds if funding is only partial:

Purpose of mission grant funds (scholarships, program, supplies, ministry etc.):

Itemized budget for proposed mission grant. Please include:

- Cost of land, facilities, construction, equipment, etc.
- Amount of salaries, scholarships, etc.

List any grants (with amounts) or funding being sought from other sources (including other LWML Districts):

What is the plan of action (goals)?

How will you accomplish your plan of action?

What are measurable outcomes to be achieved by this mission grant?

What is the long-term funding plan for continued maintenance and support?

What is the name of organization or person responsible for implementing mission grant and/or administering funds? Please include their contact information if different from what you have already provided.

Provide any other information that is relevant, keeping this entire document no longer than five (5) pages.

Mission Grants – Frequently Asked Questions

Who can submit a proposal?

Any LWML member, group, or zone of the Lutheran Missionary League Texas District may submit mission grant proposals. The LCMS, RSL's and other agencies may not directly submit a proposal and must have a Texas submitter who is a member of the LWML Texas District.

Who should sign the mission grant proposal form?

The LWML Texas District member **and** her pastor or zone pastoral counselor should sign the form. If a zone is submitting, then the zone pastoral counselor should sign the form.

How long should the brief mission grant description be?

The description may not exceed 50 words. This description may be used in the convention manual.

From whom should our letter(s) of recommendation come?

The letter(s) of recommendation should come from someone not employed by the ministry but who is familiar with the ministry and supports the proposal being submitted. It should not come from anyone on the selection committee or who will be evaluating the proposal.

I have never written a resolution. What should it contain?

A resolution should be written in imperative sentences with no more than four (4) WHEREAS statements. The first "WHEREAS" should contain the purpose or goal that is Bible based. The following "WHEREAS" statements state the need for the grant. The "RESOLVED" statement should be the conclusion of the resolution and should contain the amount of funds requested and purpose of those funds (See the document *Help in Writing a Mission Grant Proposal*.)

It may be helpful to look at resolutions from a previous LWML Texas District convention manual.

How long should my resolution be?

The resolution may not exceed 150 words.

Is there a word limit for the captions?

No. Please don't put the caption on the picture. Attach a separate page containing the descriptions.

Which photo sharing website do you prefer?

You may use any photo sharing website (Dropbox, Picasa, Shutterfly) but we recommend Dropbox. Please be sure you send the Vice President of Gospel Outreach an invitation at gospeloutreach@lwmltxdist.org.

What items must be included for the proposal to be considered?

Complete proposal package include all items in this checklist:

- *Mission Grant Proposal Form*
- *Mission Grant Detailed Information Form* (maximum length 5 pages)
- Resolution (maximum 150 words)
- Letter(s) of recommendation (not employed by the ministry)
- Photos (8-10) with captions on accompanying page for each photo uploaded on a photo-sharing website.
- Balance sheet