

2022 Candidate Mission Projects for Holiday Fair Funding

LCMS Disaster Response

The following paragraphs are excerpts from lcms.org.

But Johnson (Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, the director) adds that LCMS Disaster Response does not stop at caring for Lutherans. “We certainly want to care for our workers and congregations, but the Synod’s disaster response is about serving and showing mercy to all who need it. We offer whole-person care: not just tending to physical needs but to emotional and spiritual ones as well. And because we do not receive any government funding, there are no restrictions on our ability to share God’s Word.

“We want people to know that even when terrible things happen, it doesn’t mean that God doesn’t love them. He loves them so much that He sends people — such as first responders and LERT personnel — to help in their time of need. More important, He loves them so much that He sent His only Son to die on a cross for their sins and to rise from the dead so they might have eternal life in Him.”

Johnson emphasizes that the Synod’s approach to disasters is never to show up for a short time and leave, but to remain over the long haul. This is why it is so important to work through the local Lutheran community, thereby establishing a presence that can provide ongoing relief, not only in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, but for months and years to come.

“In the wake of a disaster, we continually proclaim the Gospel,” Johnson said.

The LCMS has two full-time disaster-response coordinators in Puerto Rico. (Hope has supported missionaries in Puerto Rico.)

Missions—U.S.

Swaddling Clothes Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cheyenne Wyoming

The mission of Swaddling Clothes is to share the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship and the forgiving Word of God. Items associated with pregnancy and motherhood are given away. Referrals for counseling, health care, employment, etc. are offered. Pastoral care and the Gospel are shared.

Alaska Mission for Christ

St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Hickory, North Carolina sends a team of 10-14 volunteers each summer to Ft. Yukon, Alaska, north of Fairbanks, flying in from Fairbanks. The team works with town leaders and the pastor of the Episcopal church to provide construction help (recently building an addition to the church) and a VBS for 30-40 children. They teach Bible stories, make crafts, have meals with families, show that Jesus loves us all. Money from the Holiday Fair would provide fuel for the airplane.

LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces

Since one of our own, Nolan, is in a place to appreciate a chaplain, we submit the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces which supports all LCMS chaplains who serve on active duty, in the reserves, National Guard, Civil Air Patrol and Coast Guard Auxiliary. LCMS chaplains deliver Word and Sacrament ministry to military personnel and their families. Chaplains serve in bases close to the fighting, on ships, in isolated air bases.

LCMS Joint Seminary Fund

The LCMS supports two seminaries, Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, that train pastors and deaconesses. The Fund was established to supplement the Synod subsidy by directly soliciting the church for charitable donations. These donations cover expenses directly in a way that keeps the expenses off each seminarian's tuition bill. Funds are used wherever the need is greatest as determined by the seminaries. Men are trained to

preach and teach, Word and Sacrament ministry, as pastors and women are trained to serve the church as deaconesses.

Missions—International

Rev. Dr. David and Jennifer Preus

David and Jennifer Preus serve the Lord through The LCMS in Eurasia, based in Romania. David is a professor with the Livonian Lutheran Project, where he provides theological education to future pastors of the Eurasia region. He also serves as an assistant pastor, recruiter and mentor to new and upcoming pastors in the lower Balkan and Mediterranean subregion. In this capacity, he helps to establish a network of communication and strengthen the brotherhood among pastors of the region, including in Brasov and Bucharest, Romania; Sofia, Bulgari; Salonica (Thessaloniki), Greece; Padua and Rome, Italy; Spain; and Portugal. (The Preus family visited Hope last March before leaving for Romania.)

Colegio San Pablo Montevideo, Uruguay (St. Paul School)

To 1,800 students in pre-school through high school, on 3 campuses, teachers have opportunities to share their Lutheran faith to students, many who are not Lutheran. Rev. Christian Hoffman is the school's chaplain, teaching Christian education classes and interacting with students. Uruguay is known for its atheism and resistance to religion. LCMS missionaries work with the Lutheran Church of Uruguay and Lutheran Church of Brazil.

Christ's Care for Children: Kenya

Project 24 is a collaboration between the LCMS Office of International Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya to provide four boarding facilities in Kenya for children to complete their primary education. Daily opportunities for Scripture engagement, catechesis and worship are provided. Project 24 scholarships for secondary school, trade schools or colleges are provided. The goal is for the child to grow in faith and celebrate Christ's claim on his or her life in joyful recognition of God's forgiveness worked by grace through faith.

Stronghold Cambodia, part of the Mission of Christ network

Stronghold Cambodia is located at Fish Island, Kampot, Cambodia (between Vietnam and Thailand, near the coast of the Bay of Thailand.) The mission of MFC is to boldly, intentionally and faithfully make known the light, love and peace of Jesus Christ, by Word and deed, to those around the world who live in spiritual disbelief, darkness and despair. The Gospel is proclaimed to children and families so they can know God as their Stronghold, Shelter and Shade. We have a safe place for poor children in a Buddhist/Moslem community to be nurtured intellectually, physically and spiritually through a lunch program, Bible devotions, English-as-a-Second-Language program and basic computer classes. Children learn about Jesus' love in their language of Khmer. Staff include Phan Narit, pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran church of Cambodia, and his wife, Chin, and several graduates of Concordia colleges.

Laura Metzler, missionary to university students in Germany, with Campus Connect (CRU, nondenominational)

Laura is providing leadership and training to college students to witness to fellow students. She, with her team, plans regional conferences to equip and refresh the student leaders. The groups plan ways to meet incoming freshmen, plan Bible studies, have prayer groups and build relationships with students to learn who Jesus really is, that we are loved and accepted not because of what we have done but 100% because of what Jesus has done. The goal is to equip and encourage students to encounter each other and know God in the here and now.

Vote in church October 9 or email your top two choices to bcloff@yahoo.com by Tuesday, October 11.