 St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Kenesaw, NE

Pastor Paul S. Duffy
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<http://stpaulskenesaw.org>

Pastor's Ponderings
May, 2016



Dear Beloved Friends in Christ Jesus,

I was recently given what I found to be an extremely interesting article on the alleged communist plan to destroy the USA that was found in 1919 by the Allied Forces at Dusseldorf, Germany, and reprinted in the *Kenesaw Times* on October 24, 1974:

- A. Corrupt the young, get them away from religion. Get them interested in sex. Make them superficial, destroy their ruggedness.
- B. Get control of all means of publicity thereby:
 1. Get people's minds off their government by focusing attention on athletics and other trivialities.
 2. Divide the people into hostile groups by constantly harping on controversial matters of no importance.
 3. Destroy the people's faith in their leaders by holding them up to contempt and ridicule.
 4. Always preach true democracy, but seize power as fast and ruthlessly as possible.
 5. By encouraging government extravagance, destroy its credit...
 6. Encourage civil disorders and soft attitude on the part of government toward such disorders.
 7. By specious argument, cause the breakdown of the old moral virtues, honesty, sobriety...

How many of these things, or forms of them, do you see taking place in our society today? Some of them jumped out at me, and it's more than a little disquieting.

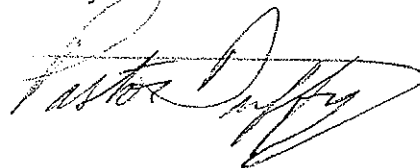
It must be said that every generation has its share of major problems, but I believe in recent years they have been amplified in our country. For whatever reasons – outside forces, forces within, spiritual forces, outright human rebellion against God, our Father – our culture is unraveling. Oddly, but unsurprisingly, some are rejoicing. Others are puzzled. Many feel helpless. Because of this, there are continual calls to prayer resounding throughout the land. And this is the right response.

In all truth, it matters little who or what is attempting to bring corruption about. What matters is for us to remember verses from God's Word that will encourage the people of God as they make supplications before His throne, remembering: "The prayer of the righteous accomplishes much!"

Nothing is going to stem the tide of sin and corruption except the prayers of a sincere people crying out to God, and the influence of the Word of God throughout the land

Paul told the church at Thessalonica, "Pray unceasingly!" That is a good exhortation by the blessed apostle for us to keep in our hearts. And so my call to you, God's beloved people, is to "pray unceasingly!" Pray for yourself and family, for your neighbor, for our country, for the His people throughout the world...

See you in Church!



Workers for the Lord in May

Acolytes: Paige Morrow
(Sundays) Payton Morrow
Hope Nienhueser
Kaylee Steer
Savannah Williams

Ushers: Zach Jacobitz
Glen Kuehn
Tony Greigo

Altar Guild: Rosie Schroeder
Jean Powell

Counters: Ken & Kathy Marble
Jack & Jean Powell

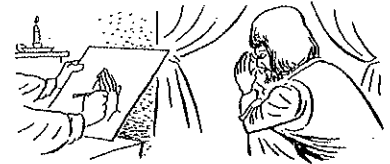
Elder: Lee Rockefeller



May Birthdays 2016

- 2 Bentley Olson
- Rosie Schroeder
- 3 Diane Kroll
- 4 Chris Shelton
- 7 Bricyn Jameson
- Jamie Porterfield
- 9 Carissa Chandler
- 10 Seth Campbell
- 14 Joe Bittfield
- Sarah Woodman
- 15 Bill Nabower
- 17 Dusty Augustin
- 22 Lydia Adams
- 23 Hailey Morrow
- 25 Tammy Thompson
- 27 Austin Mack
- 28 Blake Ehly

The Story of the Praying Hands



For years people have admired the art masterpiece known as "The Praying Hands." Behind this work of art is a fascinating story of love and sacrifice.

In the late fifteenth century two struggling young art students, Albrecht Dürer and Franz Knigstein, worked as laborers to earn money for their art studies. But the work was long and hard and it left them little time to study art.

Finally they agreed to draw lots and let the loser support them both while the winner continued to study. Albrecht won, but he agreed to support Franz after achieving success so his friend could finish his studies.

After becoming successful, Albrecht sought out Franz to keep his bargain. But he soon discovered the enormous sacrifice his friend had made. As Franz had worked at hard labor, his fingers had become twisted and stiff. His long, slender fingers and sensitive hands had been ruined for life. He could no longer manage the delicate brush strokes so necessary for executing fine paintings. But in spite of the price he had paid, Franz was not bitter. He was happy that his friend Albrecht had attained success.

One day Albrecht saw his loyal friend kneeling, his rough hands entwined in silent prayer. Albrecht quickly sketched the hands, later using the rough sketch to create his masterpiece known as "The Praying Hands."

A Baby Shower for...

AAA Pregnancy Resource Center.

LWML is collecting items for the center.

If you would like to help with this project.

Please place your item in the box by the mailboxes or bring with you to the meeting.

Needed items are:

Baby wipes
Diapers (newborn to size 5)
Pull-ups
Baby food and formula



Toddler Educational toys/puzzles
Educational Books
Baby Books for the mothers to fill out
Strollers and car seats
Pack and plays, cribs, bouncers
Clothes - newborn to 24 months,
Shoes and Socks

Nursery Roll Graduate

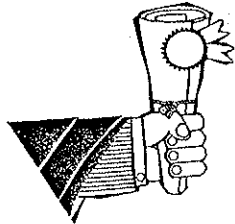
Lydia Ann Adams has graduated from the Nursery Roll and is eligible to attend Sunday School. Welcome Lydia!



MAY COMING EVENTS

May 1st Honoring of our ✠
(Sun.) 2016 Graduates
 10:00 AM

Class of 2016 graduates will be honored as part of our worship service. Join with the congregation to commit their future to God in prayer.



2016 Graduates
 Jake Brunk
 Michael Duffy
 Keaton Harpham
 Kelsey Jaeschke
 Brielle Schneider
 Rose Wehrman
 Carson Woodman

May 3rd Preschool Field Trip
(Tues.) (last day of preschool)

May 4th ✠ Worship at Premier ✠
(Wed.) Estates 10:00 AM

May 5th Ascension of Our Lord
(Thurs.) Jesus taken up into heaven.
 Read Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:10-11

May 5th Ladies Aid Spring
(Thurs.) Salad Luncheon
 12 NOON

Ladies of the congregation and guests are invited to attend . . .

Jack Duffy will give his presentation on "The Voice of Democracy". Please plan to come for an afternoon of good food, fellowship and an interesting program! Please sign up by April 24th if you plan to attend. The signup sheet is under the mailboxes in the entryway.



May 5th National Day of Prayer
(Thurs.) Service ✠ 7:00 PM

The 65th annual National Day of Prayer, will have profound significance for our country. It is an unprecedented opportunity to see the Lord's healing and renewing power made manifest as we call citizens to humbly come before His throne. The theme for 2016 is **Wake Up America** emphasizing the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to return to the God of Fathers in reverence for His Holy Name. **Join us for this special service to pray for our country, state, and community.**

"Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet." Isaiah 58:1a

All members of St. Paul's congregation are invited. . .

Kenesaw High School Graduation

Sat., May 7, 2016 2:00 p.m.
 Kenesaw High School Gymnasium

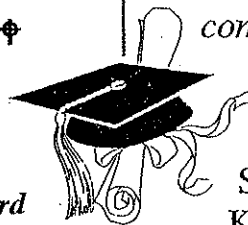
Receptions Following Graduation:
 Jack Duffy at the Parsonage
 Carson Woodman - St. Paul's Fellowship Hall

May 8th Happy Mother's Day
(Sun.)

May 11th OGT Pack and Sort
(Wed.) Day 10 AM - 2 PM

St. Paul's monthly pack and sort day at the Grand Island warehouse. Pool rides from the church at 9:00 AM. Questions? Contact Bev Nixon.

May 11th Fellowship League
(Wed.) 8:00 PM





May 15th Day of Pentecost
(Sun.) The day the Holy Spirit comes (50 days after Passover).
 Read Acts 1:8 and Acts 2.

June Newsletter Deadline

Monday, May 16th to be in mailboxes
 Sunday, May 30th.

May 22nd The Holy Trinity
(Sun.) Read Matthew 28:19



May 22nd "War Room" Movie
(Sun.) 2:00 PM - Fellowship Hall

Tony & Elizabeth have it all—good jobs, a beautiful daughter, and their dream home. But their marriage is crumbling and Tony is flirting with temptation. When Elizabeth meets her new client, Miss Clara, she's challenged to establish a "war room" and a battle plan for prayer. What will happen if she steps out in faith (PG) Dove faith-friendly. 120 minutes. If child care is needed, please signup to allow for proper staffing and supervision of the children.

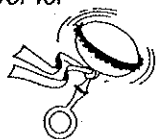
May 24th LWML
(Tues.) 7:30 PM



The AAA Pregnancy Resource Center is our topic for May. A speaker from the center is coming to tell about their work in Hastings. *All women of the congregation are invited.*

The Pregnancy Resource Center is a non-profit corporation staffed by caring and concerned volunteers from various churches and communities, offering help in a compassionate setting. They provide honest information and emotional support to anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy along with classes to help with prenatal, parenting and life skills.

Ingathering: Mites and Baby Shower for the Pregnancy Resource Center



May 25th LLL
(Wed.) 8:00 PM

May 29th Fellowship Coffee
(Sun.) 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM



Honoring our Military Chaplains
Pastor Harold King

Pastor King will be speaking about his experiences as a military chaplain. You won't want to miss this! Pastor King served in the Army, 1964 enlisting in active duty and then the Nebraska National Guard until 1974, and the Army Reserves 1975-1978. In 1985 he answered the call from the Board of Missions and began his service as a Military Chaplain until 1993. Pastor King was attached to the 82nd at Ft. Bragg and served "all over" including Korea, prisons, Ft. Campbell and others.

Hymn Sing 9:45 AM

Come a little early to sing your favorite hymn. Please place your request in the box between the mailboxes.

*My heart is steadfast, O God;
 I will sing and make music with
 all my soul. (Psalm 108:1)*

May 30th Memorial Day
(Mon.) (observed)



Pray for the military past and present who have fought and died on behalf of the U.S. and its citizens.

☩ Sunday Mornings at St. Paul's

9:00 AM Sunday School &
 Adult Bible Class

10:00 AM Worship Service with
 Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday



National Day of Prayer May 5, 2016

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday in May, inviting all faiths to pray for the nation. Since its creation in 1952 by Congress, every president has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation.

The Mission of the National Day of Prayer Task Force is to mobilize prayer in America and to encourage personal repentance and righteousness in the culture. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on their understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible. For the observances, Dr. Tony Evans, the 2016 Honorary Chairman, wrote a special prayer to be simultaneously read throughout the nation at noon (EDT). This recitation will create a huge wave of prayer, flowing from one coast to the other, illustrating the unity of God's people and acknowledging His dominion over the circumstances facing us. At this crucial time in our nation we can do nothing more important than pray. Thank you in advance for making this spiritual discipline a personal priority and for standing with us as we encourage others to incorporate prayer in their lives. We look forward to seeing His hand move across our land in exciting ways in response to our petitions!
<http://nationaldayofprayer.org>

National Prayer

By Dr. Tony Evans

Dear heavenly Father, we come to You as a humble people desperate for Your supernatural intervention on behalf of our beloved nation. First, we thank You for all the blessings You have bestowed on our

land, blessings that have allowed us to bring so much good and benefit to not only our own citizens but also the rest of the world. The very ideals upon which this country was founded were based on biblical truths, no matter how some try to rewrite history to deny that very fact today.

This is why our hearts are so broken over how You continue to be marginalized and dismissed by both our people and institutions. We are saddened by the fact that Your people have contributed greatly to the spiritual apathy that now engulfs us. Our satisfaction in remaining religious without being fully committed to living out the truths of Your Word has caused us to become co-conspirators with the forces of evil that are destroying us as a society.

It is for this reason that we personally and collectively repent of our carnality and recommit ourselves to becoming visible and verbal disciples of Jesus Christ. Enable us, by Your Spirit, to no longer be secret agent Christians but rather to publicly declare and live out Your truth in a spirit of love so that You feel welcome in our country once again.

Thank You for Your promise to hear our prayers when we call to You with hearts of repentance and obedience, which is how we are appealing to You today, Father. On behalf of Your church, we affirm afresh the priority You are to us that You would fill every dimension of our lives as we seek to bring You glory through the advancement of Your kingdom in our personal lives, our family lives, and in the lives of our churches and our government leaders. We confidently invite heaven's intervention into all the affairs of our nation and we praise You in advance for Your answer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool Now Registering for 2016-2017

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Preschool is the only preschool in Kenesaw, licensed through the State of Nebraska and associated with the LCMS schools. Our program offers developmentally appropriate activities that meet the individual needs of our students, in a Christian atmosphere. Because we have returning students, we offer a new and varied curriculum each year, meeting 3 days a week, 15 weeks a semester. Our staff strives to keep up to date on the latest trends in education and our teacher has a Nebraska teaching certificate in Elementary/Early Childhood education.

To qualify, your child must be 4 by Dec. 31st. **Register by May 30th and the \$20.00 registration fee will be waived.** We can help arrange transportation and we also have financial aid if needed.

For more information contact Michelle Hagemester at 308-325-5768 or Sharon Duffy at 402-752-3536.



Scholarship News!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Nebraska South District Scholarships

Application deadline of June 1, 2016 is fast approaching. Scholarships for 2016/2017 school year are available for those planning to be full-time church workers and attend one of our Concordia Universities and Seminaries. The scholarship has been increased from \$500 to \$1,000/year. Please let students know about this wonderful opportunity to serve our Lord in their vocations. For more information and an application go to www.lwmlnesouth.org.

New In the Church Library

Little Boy (DVD) A powerful, moving and heartwarming film about a little boy who is willing to do whatever it takes to bring his father home from WWII, *Little Boy* will capture your heart and lift your spirits. From the executive producers of *Son of God* and *Touched by an Angel*, this instant cinematic classic captures the wonder of life through the eyes of a seven-year-old child and reminds us of the power of faith, hope and love in the face of adversity.

Rated PG-13 Running Time: 1 hour 47 minutes

A copy of Sharon Duffy's notes for her presentation to LWML concerning her conversion to Christianity has been placed in our St. Paul's scrapbook. This is located in church's library by south entrance and can be checked out. Sharon has agreed to present "Faith Walk: Judaism to Christianity" again during a fellowship coffee this summer. Watch for the date.



Look at other items in this area --books, videos, cards, napkins and some free things on some shelves.

St. Paul's Scholarships

Financial support is available to college and seminary students who are attending a synodically supported school. All applicants must hold communicant membership in St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Scholarships are available per term as follows: Freshman \$200; Sophomore \$350; Junior, Senior, Graduate School \$500. Applicants need to make their request known to a member of the Board of Christian Education well in advance of the initial school term. Request forms for financial assistance are available from Connie Bittfield, Scholarship Coordinator.

Area Events

Respect Life: South Central NE Right to Life will again sponsor the **Annual Mother's Day and Father's Day Ads** in the Hastings Tribune to honor living or deceased mothers, grandmothers, aunts, fathers, grandfathers, uncles, etc. Print the name(s) of those that you would like to honor in the ads indicating whether living or deceased. (Form available on table in Education entry way.) A donation of \$2.00 per name listed is asked. Please place names and donations in an envelope and mail to South Central Right to Life, PO BOX 391, Hastings, NE 68902. **Deadline May 3rd.**



Thank you for your witness to life.

Decision America Tour

Franklin Graham is traveling to all 50 states in 2016 to hold prayer rallies, to preach the Gospel, and to challenge believers to take a stand and take action. He'll be urging Christians to vote, to live out their faith in every part of their lives, and to pray for our nation. just as Nehemiah cried out to God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and restore hope to his people.

The Decision America Tour will be coming to the **Nebraska State Capital North Plaza, Lincoln, Nebraska, Wednesday, May 18th at 12 Noon.** *Interested in attending this event? Please sign the sheet by Pastor's office.* Watch the newsletter and bulletin for more information as it becomes available. For more information and how you can become involved can be found at <https://decisionamericatour.com>

June Upcoming Events



Summer Schedule

Begins Sunday, June 5th

9:00 AM ✦ Worship Service ✦

Fellowship Coffee following the service. Any organization, group, or family may host a coffee. For best choice of dates sign up early! Watch for signup sheet Education wing entryway.

Barnyard Roundup VBS 2016

June 6 - 10 (Mon - Fri.)
8:15 - 11:00 a.m.



Ages 4 years - 6th Grade Welcome!

VBS 2016 is "farm-tastic!"

In Barnyard Roundup VBS, your children will explore five Bible accounts where Jesus gathers us together to be with Him with His abundant provision and saving protection, now and forever. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games and *more!*

Full and part-time helpers needed, with many ways you can be involved to suit your schedule and interests

Register now to attend or to help:

Online at:

<https://vbsmate.com/stpaulskenesaw>

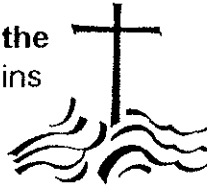
Questions? Contact Sarah Kroos

402-984-7735 or kroosfamily@gmail.com

Congregation Support: Please pray for VBS Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! Ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission.

Upcoming Events cont'd.

June 22nd "Summer In the
Psalms" Bible Study begins
Wednesday Evenings



Orphan Grain Train Fish Feeds

June 17th Hastings LLL - 5:30 PM
Prospect Park, Hastings, NE

June 26th St. Paul's Lutheran
Church - Shelton - 11:30-1:00 PM



LWML District Convention September 16-17, 2016

Younes Conference Center, Kearney

"Partakers of Grace"

You won't want to miss this convention!

Watch for registration forms in the
Summer Echo and on line
lwmlnesouth.org



LWML National Convention Moves to Albuquerque June 22-25, 2017

After ongoing difficulties finalizing contracts in Salt Lake City, the LWML Executive committee met in emergency session and voted to change the site of the 2017 convention to the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The theme for the convention is "Jesus Christ Above All" based on the Scripture verse from Philippians 2:9, *Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.*
www.lwml.org/2017-conventions



**Jesus Christ
above all**
Philippians 2:9



Annual Camp Luther Weekend June 4th-5th, 2016

Camp Luther is once again opening up for families to come and enjoy the grounds and activities they have to offer. Event starts on Saturday afternoon with time for families to enjoy canoeing, archery, hiking, Frisbee golf, and much more! Stay overnight for free at our campgrounds, or call for information about reserving a spot in our tree houses and cabins. We'll have a Sunday morning outdoor chapel service, a full day of open activities and our annual luncheon and silent auction. Come for the weekend or just the day, leave with fun memories and hopefully a great item from the auction! If you would like to spend the night, please call ahead to hold a spot (402)352-5655. For more information go online at www.campluther.org

Summer Camp Registration

"Unique yet United" is this year's theme, based off 1 Corinthians 12:12, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." The full brochure and registration forms are available for download at www.campluther.org. A few brochures are also available on the table by Pastor's office. Look at all the great camps they're offering, for all ages and interests!

Scholarships to Camp Luther

LWML will again be providing scholarships to Camp Luther this summer. LWML will pay for 1/2 of the child's registration fee. Check out the brochures for camp information, dates and costs or go to www.campluther.org Contact an LWML member if you plan to attend.

Stewardship Wrap Up #4

Last month we concluded our thoughts by considering the words of our heavenly Father to us through St. Paul as he said in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, ¹⁹ *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. God reminds us that we give witness to our faith even in how we care for this body.*

It is very important that we remember this, for as soon as we begin to believe that we are accidents of evolution, that life is not really on loan to us from God, and that life is meaningless, human life becomes very cheap and we run into all kinds of issues.

When life becomes cheap, it becomes disposable. It can be tossed away or snuffed out whenever we feel like it. When life is cheap, I can hurt or harm my neighbor in any way that I choose. It can run the gamut. I can talk bad about him. I can gossip about him. I can destroy his property. I can go and punch him in the nose or even take his life if I so choose, if his life or my life are not gifts from God.

This plays out in other ways as well, as first the unborn are a burden to many, then the elderly are a drain on our economy, then the handicapped are not producing as they should ... where does it all end? Sadly, there is no end, for soon folks are the wrong color to be treasured and respected as children of God, then the wrong race, then the wrong religion, then the wrong group of people within a religion or denomination, and therefore expendable.

You see, it is all a stewardship thing. When people start believing we are random accidents of evolution,

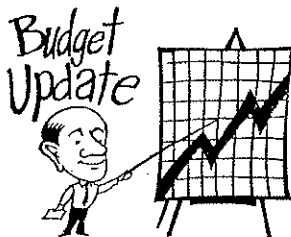
life becomes very cheap, very expendable, worth about as much as the minerals in our body are worth. (When I looked this up in January the thought was we have about \$4.50 worth of minerals in our body. Nowadays, not many would even stoop down to pick that up if they saw it lying on the ground. If I see it, get out of my way!)

God, however, wants us to know differently, wants us and all people to know the truth. **HE is the Creator and HE is the One and only One who has the absolute right of ownership over our bodies and all things.** When we fail to begin our study and living of stewardship right there, we will never get it right. I read recently that is it like missing a button at the top as you button your shirt. **It will never come out right until you start back at the top and get that first button in the right place.**

The same is true in our life of stewardship, and for that matter in our whole understanding of God's Word and the life He gives to us as His incredible creations. Nothing in all of Scripture, nothing in our lives, nothing in our relationships with God or with others, nothing in this whole wide world will make any sense or have any relevance to us until we understand that God is the Creator of all things, that He has the full rights of ownership, and that He has blessed us for a time that He sets, to be stewards of all of His wonderfully incredible gifts to us.

Next month we bring an end to these conversations, at least through this venue.

Rev. John Heckmann
LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor



2016 Budget Analysis

	Amount Proposed For the Year 2016	Amount Received as of 2/29/2016	Percent of Budget Met To Date	Amount Needed To Meet Budget
Missions	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 2,134.00	18%	\$ 9,866.00
Current	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 28,676.00	17%	\$ 141,324.00
<i>(including Commodities/Assets)</i>				
Commodities and Assets	\$	-		
Gauthier Family, Missionary	\$	50.00		

May 2016

PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for: Global Seminary Initiative

PRAYER #1

Dearest Lord, we lift to You this task of teaching pastors and leaders throughout the world. Grant that this initiative will train more leaders and pastors worldwide on a graduate level so that they may in turn teach others and bring Your salvation to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER #2

Heavenly Father, we remember Paul as he wrote in Romans 10:1, *Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.* We pray for pastors and teacher to step out in faith and gain advanced education through the Global Seminary Initiative to bring the lost to salvation. We ask this in His name. Amen.

PRAYER #3

God our Father, hear our prayer for this mission grant. You commanded us ... *go and make disciples of all nations ...* (Matthew 28:19). We pray for all those seeking greater knowledge that they may be encouraged to use their skills and education to bring the Good News to their communities with the aid of this grant. We pray in Your Son's Holy name. Amen.

PRAYER #4

Blessed Lord, we pray for the teachers at our seminaries as these pastors and leaders from around the world come to gain greater knowledge through their advanced degrees that the Holy Spirit will fill both the teachers and students with the desire to spread the Gospel to all nations. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

www.lwml.org/missions

PLEASE HOLD OR CUT THIS GUIDE ON THE DOTTED LINE
AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE IN YOUR BIBLES
FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

MISSION GRANT STORY

GLOBAL SEMINARY INITIATIVE \$100,000

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God ... (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Theological education is the most frequent request from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) partner churches worldwide. The Global Seminary Initiative (GSI) provides scholarships for pastors, leaders, and students throughout the world for advanced degrees at LCMS seminaries. This in turn allows them to return to their home countries and bring more people to Christ as a result of their new leadership abilities. This grant is an opportunity for us, the women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), to bring others to Christ through these newly trained leaders.

The goal of this initiative is to encourage international students to apply to our graduate and post-graduate seminary programs. These students then return home to their churches and communities around the globe with the best training available. This grant will bring 100 students selected by partner church leaders to train and study at one of our seminaries. The leaders choose talented students who they think can impact the future growth of their churches.

The initiative works in three ways: 1) it takes the best candidates globally and brings them to study at the graduate level, equipping them to provide advanced theological leadership in their communities; 2) it also gives assistance to local regional seminaries for scholarships and aid; 3) it supplies continuing education through conferences, classes, and visits by qualified LCMS pastors and teachers.

The world has changed from the days when we sent missionaries to places where no one had heard the Gospel story. Many have heard the Gospel but desire to grow in their knowledge of Scripture and its teachings. We have partner churches that knowingly trust the LCMS to provide the best theological education available. This initiative will spread the Gospel through the teachings of these newly educated shepherds.

