



SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

The Reverend Darren R. Olson
Executive Secretary

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Dear Christian Friends,

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:9

In June 2016 the South Dakota District Board of Directors established the Harvest Grant for District congregations, Lutheran schools, and ministries. Last year, 26 District congregations were awarded \$60,000 in Harvest Grants to plant the seed of the Gospel in their communities. With the assistance of these Harvest Grants, these congregations were able to do Gospel projects such as:

- Provide quilts to women in need and the elderly
- Host a community block party to introduce people to their congregation and early childhood center
- Host a circuit wide event to help people cope with suffering and grief
- Provide a meal to their community
- Have Vacation Bible School for immigrant children and families
- Give away baby gift packages at a local hospital
- Support a deaconess ministry
- Advertise or promote their congregation to the community in a new way

In addition to the Harvest Grants to congregations and circuits, 11 Lutheran schools in the District were awarded \$40,000 for their Gospel projects. With their Harvest Grants, these schools were able to:

- Host community meals
- Provide scholarships to low-income families to attend their school
- Create a library of Christian books and movies for their students and families
- Deliver “Love and Logic” parenting training
- Advertise and promote their schools in their community in a new way

Again, for 2019, the South Dakota District will make \$60,000 available to congregations and \$40,000 to Lutheran schools to help them with events and activities that plant the seed of the Gospel through acts of witness and/or mercy. How can your congregation, school, or ministry use a Harvest Grant to plant the seed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in your community through acts of witness or mercy? What need does your community have that is not currently being met? In what new way can you make Christ known to the people in your community? The South Dakota District invites you to ponder these questions and apply for a Harvest Grant to make your Gospel-oriented event or activity possible. You can apply for a one-time grant or you may seek a 2-3 year partnership grant. **The application deadline is October 1, 2018 for grants to be awarded in 2019.**

If your congregation or school was awarded a Harvest Grant last year as part of a multi-year partnership, you will NOT need to complete another application.

Accompanying this letter you will find a short brochure that will introduce you to the Harvest Grant program. You will also find a lengthier explanation of the Harvest Grant program that includes the Harvest Grant application form. In order to help you think of some ways that you can share Jesus with your community, you are provided with a listing of the 2018 Harvest Grant recipients, their Gospel projects, and the amount awarded to each congregation or school.

The Lord is calling us to plant the seed of His precious Gospel in the lives of people all around us. What an opportunity we all have to make our Lord Jesus Christ known to our communities through acts of witness and mercy! Please prayerfully consider how your congregation or school could use a Harvest Grant to reach out into your community with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions about the Harvest Grant program, please feel free to contact Executive Secretary, Rev. Darren Olson at: (605) 361-1514 or by e-mail: sdexec@midco.net.

The District cannot wait to receive your application and to hear all about your plans to share Jesus with your community! May God continue to bless your congregation, school, or ministry and may He bless your Gospel outreach efforts!

In Christian Service,

Rev. Darren R. Olson
Executive Secretary
The South Dakota District, LCMS

Encl: Harvest Grant Brochure
Harvest Grant Application
List of 2018 Harvest Grant Recipients