



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 program for District congregations, Lutheran schools, and ministries. Last year 31 Harvest Grants totaling \$75,000 were awarded to congregations, Lutheran schools, and ministries within the South Dakota District. With the assistance of these Harvest Grants, various Gospel projects that shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ and/or met a community need were able to be carried out all across South Dakota.

For 2021 the South Dakota District Board of Directors intends to award Harvest Grants again. However, as with many things, COVID-19 may also affect the Harvest Grant program. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on congregational offerings to the District is uncertain at this time. The total amount of funds available for Harvest Grants in 2021 has not been determined by the Board of Directors at this time. More definitive information about the Harvest Grant program will be shared in the future. For now, there are two important pieces of information for you to know:

- **The deadline for 2021 Harvest Grant applications will be moved from October 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021. If Harvest Grants are awarded, they will still be provided to grant recipients shortly after the District begins its new fiscal year on January 15, 2021.**
- **If you received a Harvest Grant in 2020, but were unable to use the funds because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you carry over your Harvest Grant funds into 2021 and refrain from applying for another Harvest Grant in 2021.**

The purpose of the Harvest Grant program is to assist LCMS congregations, schools, and ministries 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? 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 pray about these questions and apply for a Harvest Grant to make your Gospel-oriented event or project possible. **The application deadline is January 1, 2021 for grants to be awarded in 2021.**

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 2020 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