

MAY, 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Friends in the risen and living Lord, Jesus Christ:

More than 60 years ago, I remember my mom using the phrase, “They’re living on the wrong side of the tracks”, or “They’re living on the right side of the tracks.” I’m not sure I ever understood what that meant, but I was certain that we were surely living on the right side of the tracks. My first inkling of what it meant was when Gene Pitney even wrote a song about it, referring to the “poor side of town.”

At any rate, at this point in life, from a purely spiritual perspective, I can easily make the leap from the “wrong side of the graveyard” to the “right side of the graveyard.” Some people are born on the wrong side of the tracks, but everyone is born on the wrong side of the graveyard. It’s been said that from the time of conception, we begin the journey toward death. It’s not only likely, but irrevocably inevitable. We all die. But how you face life in the face of that truth depends on which side of the graveyard you live.

If you live on the near side, or the wrong side, all you have in your future is burial. The graveyard is the end of the journey. Kaput! Decomposition! That makes this side of the graveyard miserable: anxiety, hopelessness, fear, the knowledge that you are finite, and having only a vain notion that somehow your presence here will leave the world a better place. Humph! Fat chance!

Living on the far side of the graveyard, however, means that you have come to know and trust, and embrace the risen and living Savior; that you’ve seen, by faith, the nail prints in His hands and the wound in His side and that, along with Thomas you are able to call Him my Lord and my God!” It means that you know that there is something beyond death and the grave, that you were made for eternity, that you were created for Divine purpose, and that life was made to be lived without the fear of death.

This is where we live – on the good side of the graveyard, and it makes life so much more delightful, so much more fulfilling, so much more productive. Because we live here, our efforts, our sacrifices, even our risks for the sake of Christ’s kingdom seem so worthwhile. May that spirit rule our hearts and lives as we go forward with the work He’s given us of introducing others to the good side of the graveyard.

Love in Christ,

Dan Esala

Pastor Dan Esala, Vacancy Pastor
Hope Lutheran Church

MAY SERVER'S LIST



If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please find a replacement and let Dawn know. Thank you for serving.

Date	Music	Worship Assistant	Greeters	Reader	Communion	Sermon/PP	Acolyte
May 03	Lori	Greg	Marge & Glenda	Greg	Becky/Bev	Dan	none
May 10	Lori	none	Karol	Karol	none	Dawn	Gideon
May 17	Lori	Andy	Lynn R	Andy	Becky/Bev	Dawn	none
May 24	Lori	none	Larry &	CJ	none	Dan	Shorter
May 31	Lori	none	Ruth &	Herb	none	Dawn	none

THIRD @ 3



Hope's 3rd at 3 speaker event in April enjoyed the largest turnout ever to hear all about the creativity and life of artist and industry icon, Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Tiffany's glass designs were so popular he started his own glass factory and made one-of-a-kind glass!



Final Third @ 3 of the year May 17 @ 3 PM

Jeannie Emser Schultz is a marketing and publicity professional with over three decades of experience in the arts and entertainment industry. She has served as Marketing/Publicity Manager at PlahouseSquare since 1993.

The **Front Row Theatre** in Highland Heights, Ohio, opened in 1974. She served as their **director of marketing**.



Third @ 3

Books will be on sale for \$20.

JEANNIE EMSER SCHULTZ
AS THE STAGE TURNED
MAY 17 @ 3 PM

It's not easy being a mother. If it were easy, fathers would do it. ~ From the television show The Golden Girls

May Birthdays

Brian W.	4
Judy R.	5
Chris C.	6
Chris D.	8
Chris S.	10
Andy R.	19
Lori F.	20
Doug B.	24
Dan O.	24
Sheila K.	25

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
MAY 24**



AFTER WORSHIP

Hope will celebrate May birthdays on May 24. Join us after worship that day in the fellowship hall.



Do you have an event you are planning at Hope? Please be sure to let Dawn know details of your event.

She will add it onto the new master calendar.

The welcome tablecloth and sign are located on top of the filing cabinets in the office and are available for all church events.

Celebrating the life of

Chuck Schwed

Memorial Service

Saturday, May 16
Visitation from 10:30 - 11 AM
Service begins 11 AM
Light lunch immediately following
in the Fellowship Hall

Hope Lutheran Church
Aurora, OH



COUNCIL MEETING

The next church council meeting will be on Thursday June 11 at 3:30 p.m.

If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see our church president, Greg B., or email him at president@hopelcaurora.org.

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday we were reminded that grace is real and God's love is stronger than death.

Many thanks to all of those who helped make our celebration of Jesus' resurrection a special one. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



EASTER MOSAICS



Thank you to all who colored the individual pieces for our vibrant congregation-wide Easter mosaics this year.

The pieces came together beautifully into two pictures that enhanced Hope's celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

Also, many thanks to Dave B. for all of the time spent assembling both pictures!

CHURCH YARD WORK

Many thanks to Dave B., Dan C., and Allan F. for all of their hard work to cut and haul the many low hanging branches of the trees in front of the church.

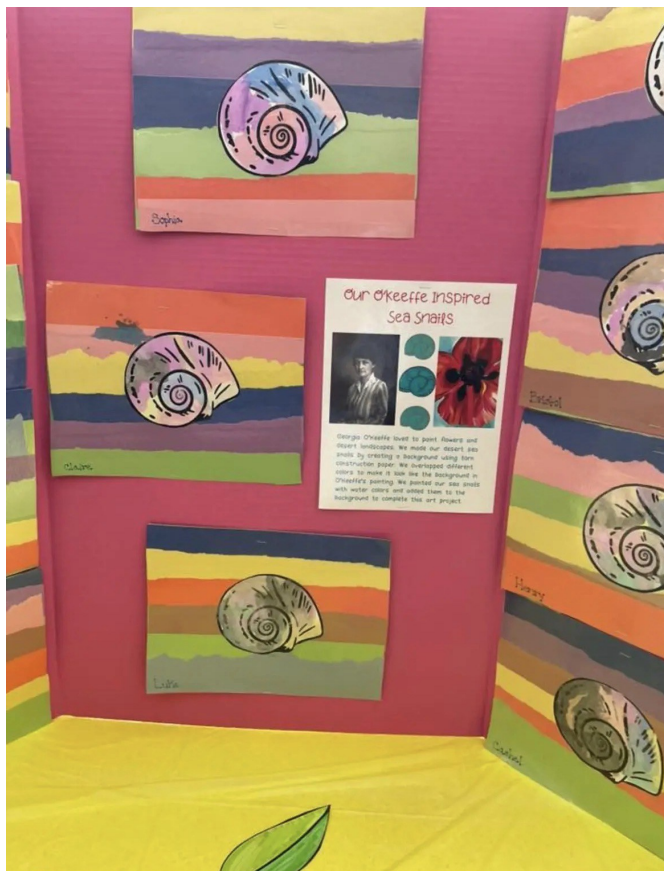
Thanks to their hard work, the church is much more visible from the road!



HCNS ART SHOW

Hope’s preschool recently held its annual end of the year art show for all three classes. Families enjoyed a wonderful evening celebrating the artwork created by the students throughout the year.

The church’s congregation-wide Easter mosaic was also a highlighted in the show.



Join the **In the Word bi-weekly Saturday** study and an examination of the Book of Acts. The study takes place at church and new members are welcome at any time.

May meeting dates are 5/2, 5/16 and 5/30

9:15 coffee and fellowship; 9:30 small group study; 10:30 Q&A with the pastor.

For more information, please email Cheryl T. at 505Tomaselli@gmail.com

The **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Esala is leading a study on 1 Corinthians.



“Mothers hold their children’s hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.” — Unknown



Thank you to all who donated Easter Lilies for our Easter Worship Service!

They were such a beautiful addition to the service.

Dan Coleman (2 plants) To the Glory of God!

Bev Stedman To the Glory of God!

Janet Marz To the glory of God and for our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Marge Godale (2 plants) To the Glory of God



Sunday School Youth and LWML Women are teaming up to honor all the ladies on Sunday, May 10th. LWML will be hosting coffee, tea and cookies while the youth will have a special gift for all the women in church that Sunday. Bring a friend as we honor all women and the God given blessings they are to all of us.



The LWML Mite Box collection for February/ March was \$40. Please continue to help the LWML make a difference in supporting charities by dropping your coins in a mite box. Thank you!



**Hope Lutheran Church is a congregation
In the
Ohio District
of the
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

“Being a mom is like being a superhero, but without the cape—mostly because it’s in the laundry!”



Hope's unit of the LWML meets **the second Sunday of every month** in the conference room following worship. All ladies are welcome to help us plan for future ministry outreach opportunities.

National mission grant amount awarded was \$2,622,270.00 to 33 different ministries for 2025-2027.

Thank you to all who use a mite box to contribute your change to make LWML such a "mitey" ministry! You can drop off your mite box in the wooden box on the welcome table or the church office.

Our LWML unit at Hope collected \$40.00 to support the mission of Christ by supporting missions throughout the world. Thank you to ALL who share their change for Missions such as the following...

2025–2027 National LWML Mission Grant #9

**HEALING YOUR HEART — FAITH-BASED CHILD COUNSELING
LUTHERAN COUNSELING & FAMILY SERVICES OF WISCONSIN | \$100,000**



Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin has been serving members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations and the community for the past 128 years. Facing a great demand and need, the organization is seeking to expand its child mental health counseling clinic.

So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

From their beginning in 1896, Lutheran Counseling and Family Service of Wisconsin (LCFS) has grown from a small adoption clinic into a beacon of hope for children suffering from mental health issues. Over the years, they have been guided by unwavering faith and commitment to serving youth in need. Since the pandemic, stressors including poverty, homelessness, food insecurity, increased gun violence, political polarization, social pressure, and challenges of childhood/adolescence, have today's youth in a fragile mental health state. These stressors and lack of access to health care often trigger cycles of anxiety, depression, and behavioral difficulties. To address the mental health needs of children, LCFS provides a systemic support system. LCFS uniquely provides additional wraparound care and will work with that child until he or she is in a stronger, healthier place. Under their current leadership, LCFS has not turned away any child for inability to pay for services. LCFS opened an outpatient child therapy clinic, Healing Your Heart, in August 2023. The number of children served by LCFS grew beyond capacity in the first six months. The clinic plans to expand accordingly to meet the demand and needs of the countless children in the greater Milwaukee community who face barriers to accessing care. LCFS will continue to provide a safe environment that includes parents, guardians, teachers, and pastors. As LCFS expands to meet this large need, they seek additional support as they further the mission and ministry of the Gospel through Christ-centered child mental health services. While LCFS therapists are currently only able to practice in the state of Wisconsin, LCFS is striving to broaden their national presence and impact by providing digital resources, podcasts, and more on a national level. This grant will be used to increase the number of therapists working in the clinic from five to seven, purchase therapeutic toys, and develop promotional materials to present to LCMS churches and groups.

[Mission Grant Story | Learn more at lwml.org/mission-grants](https://lwml.org/mission-grants)



I hope I won't confuse you, but there are also Ohio District LWML mission grants where \$.75 of every dollar you donate to LWML through the mite boxes remains locally in Ohio! Below is the entire list that will be paid for the 2024-2026 Biennium! Praise God!!

	Grant total	2024-2026 Mission Grants	Disbursed to Grantee	Balance to Pay
		Total		
1	\$10,000	<u>Military Veterans & Family Member Counseling, Care Programs & Services</u> - Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries, Fort Wayne, IN	\$10,000	Paid in Full
2	\$15,000	Support for Seminarians <u>Ohio District LCMS Student Financial Aid Committee</u>	\$15,000	Paid in Full
3	\$12,000	<u>Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-Op</u> - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN	\$12,000	Paid in Full
4	\$7,000	Comfort Dog Ministry <u>Atonement Lutheran Church</u> , Columbus	\$7,000	Paid in Full
5	\$12,000	Ministry Outreach to Muslims of Greater Columbus <u>POBLO International</u>	\$12,000	Paid in Full
5	\$8,000	Code Blue 24/7 Extended Hours for Extreme Weather <u>Project Hope for the Homeless</u> - Lake County Ohio	\$8,000	Paid in Full
7	\$7,000	<u>Orphan Grain Train - Ohio Division</u>	\$7,000	Paid in Full
8	\$12,000	Support for LCMS Church Worker Students <u>Ohio District LCMS Student Financial Aid Committee</u>	\$12,000	Paid in Full
9	\$10,000	Christ-Centered Curriculum <u>Bethlehem Lutheran School</u> , Fairborn OH	\$10,000	Paid in Full
10	\$2,000	Position Cost of New Missionaries in Cincinnati OH (Partial funding) <u>POBLO International</u>	\$2,000	Paid in Full
	\$95,000	Total Mission Grant Goal	\$95,000	Paid in Full



Ohio District LWML Convention
“Joyful Always”
June 26-27, 2026
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Westlake OH

You know those Ohio District grants I mentioned above? This LWML Ohio District Convention, to be held this June, is where the new 2026-2028 OH District grants will be

voted on. Your delegates to the convention are Celia Esala and Janet Marz. If you have any of the following list of organizations that speak to your heart, please let Celia or Janet know. Please pray for God’s wisdom for all the delegates who are voting to select according to His will.

- 1. The Ohio District LCMS Seminarian Students Attending Concordia Seminaries**
 This grant will provide support for Ohio District seminarians attending one of the Concordia Seminaries as they prepare for full-time ministry in the Lutheran Church—Missouri ~~Synod.~~ **\$15,000**
- 2. The Ohio District LCMS Church Worker Students Attending Concordia Universities**
 This grant provides support for Ohio District students attending Concordia Universities who are preparing for full-time church work within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod...Students studying to become teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of parish music, and other church workers **\$15,000**
- 3. Gospel Access for Aging Adults, Worship Anew, Fort Wayne, IN**
 This ministry provides a weekly broadcast worship service along with daily devotions through the publication *Hope-Full Living*. These resources allow aging adults to remain connected to God’s Word, even when they cannot physically attend church. **\$7,500**
- 4. Facilitating Lifelong Christian Family Disciples, Concordia Center for the Family, Ann Arbor, MI**
 Through this program, pastors, congregational leaders, parents, and caregivers receive training and resources that equip them to strengthen faith formation within the family and encourage Christ-centered conversations in the home. **\$5,000**
- 5. Witnessing to the Ethiopian People: Lutheran Books for Ohio Immigrants & Mission Field, LHF**
 The Lutheran Heritage Foundation works to spread the Gospel by translating and publishing solid Lutheran resources around the world. This grant focuses on reaching Ethiopian people both in Ohio and in Ethiopia...Ethiopia is home to more than 80 languages, yet only 11 currently have Lutheran materials translated into them. **\$5,000**
- 6. Guided by Grace: Life Coaching & Housing for Single Mothers, Cincinnati**
 Many single mothers face overwhelming challenges as they seek stability, safe housing, and a hopeful future for their families. The Welcome Home Through this Christ-centered support system, women and their children can experience stability, hope, and the love of Christ as they move toward a more secure future. **\$11,200**

- 7. Support for Youth Ministry in the LCMS Ohio District, Ohio District LCMS**
 The Ohio District Youth Ministry Team is dedicated to bringing the solid Word of God to the hundreds of youth who attend our Junior and Senior High gatherings each year. These funds will be used to secure Christ-centered speakers and musicians who can faithfully and engagingly share God's Word. Each event requires approximately \$4,000 to provide quality speakers and music leadership. This investment allows us to maintain high standards in teaching and worship while keeping registration costs reasonable for families. \$10,000
- 8. Preschool Revitalization Grant, Prince of Peace Christian Preschool, Oregon**
 This grant will help ensure that Prince of Peace Preschool can continue offering a strong, Christ-centered program to the families they serve. The congregation intentionally creates opportunities to connect preschool families with their church family-through prayer pal partnerships, pizza nights where members meet with parents, and special services such as their Lenten program, where preschool children sing during worship. \$2,500
- 9. St. Paul Westlake LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Westlake**
 St. Paul, Westlake is blessed to serve the community through our LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry. Honey serves as a bridge to people who are hurting — opening doors for conversation, prayer, and Gospel-centered care. The funds will provide for daily care and nutrition for Honey, professional grooming, vet care and preventive medical needs and travel expenses for emergency site deployments...A Comfort Dog is often the first step toward healing. Honey opens hearts that might otherwise remain closed. Through her presence, we are able to bring the mercy, compassion, and tangible presence of Christ into moments of grief, trauma, and uncertainty. \$5,000
- 10. HOPE for Suicide Awareness, Intervention, and Postvention, Lutherans for Life all of Ohio**
 Word of Hope, a ministry of Lutherans For Life, has created a professional, Gospel-centered training initiative to equip laypeople and congregations to respond to those struggling with suicidal thoughts and to care for families impacted by suicide attempts or loss...These funds will support professional editing of the curriculum, integration into an online learning platform, and outreach so the training can remain low-cost and accessible to congregations across Ohio. Suicide rates continue to rise across our state and nation. Churches are often where people turn in times of crisis, yet many congregations feel unprepared to respond...This program equips churches with Christ-centered tools to recognize warning signs, intervene appropriately, and offer long-term spiritual care rooted in the hope of the Gospel. Your support will help bring these life-saving, Gospel-centered resources to churches throughout Ohio. \$7,500
- 11. Strengthening Somali Church Plant: Gospel Outreach, Word, Sacrament, Whitehall**
 The Central Ohio Lutheran Immigrant Mission-known as COLIM-exists to engage Somali Muslims with the life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through partnership with Ebenezer Ethiopian Evangelical Church-LCMS, this ministry provides transportation for Somali individuals and families to attend Divine Service, Catechism and Confirmation classes, and ongoing Bible study. Funds from this grant will be used to purchase Somali-language Bibles, provide gas cards and bus passes for transportation and hold quarterly Somali Ministry and Outreach Training events. \$10,000
- 12. Feet on the Ground, MOST Ministries, Ann Arbor, MI**
 For more than 36 years, Mission Opportunities Short Term-MOST Ministries-has equipped committed Christians to go on short-term mission trips around the world. Through eyeglass clinics, clean water outreach, English classes, Vacation Bible School, health education, and medical and dental care, volunteers share the love of Jesus in both word and deed. \$6,000
 scholarship will cover up to half the cost of a short-term mission trip — up to \$1,500 per participant. Preference will be given to women within the Ohio District, helping raise up and send faithful servants from our own communities into the mission field.
- 13. A Chance in a Christian School, LSEM Partnership at St. Paul Westlake**
 Jesus says in Gospel of Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." This mission grant ensures that children with diverse learning needs can remain in Lutheran schools—growing in faith as well as knowledge. Through partnership \$7,500

with Lutheran Special Education Ministries, schools and families are supported so every child can receive specialized care in a Christian environment. With 1 in 5 students facing a learning challenge, the need-and opportunity to serve-is significant and growing.

14. POBLO Ministry Support of Missionary Couple for Christian Outreach ... in Cincinnati
 Missionary couple Ramy and Miriam Mina and their three daughters are settled into Gospel ministry outreach in the Cincinnati area. Under their leadership four International Friendship Centers (IFCs) have been opened. One of the IFCs is at Christ Lutheran Church in Cincinnati...Ramy and Miriam partner with the IFC at Christ Lutheran Church and have continued to build ethnic Christian outreach ministry to immigrant and refugee Asians, Southeast Asians, Africans Middle Easterners and Latino populations. \$3,000

15. POBLO Support Costs of a New Missionary Couple for Christian Outreach ...in Dublin
 In Dublin, Ohio, the mission field is not across the ocean-it is right in our community. Emmanuel and Samara Dulat, originally from Pakistan and now U.S. citizens living in Ohio, have stepped forward to serve in outreach to unchurched and unbelieving immigrants and refugees from Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu backgrounds. This work builds on the foundation laid by Joseph and Heba Beshai in partnership with St. John Lutheran Church in Dublin. Through their ministry, many individuals were introduced to meaningful Christian relationships and Gospel conversations. Some have already come to faith. Others have entered what we might call "seek mode"-wanting to know more about Christ. The field has been prepared. The seed has been planted. Now the work must continue...The Dublin area is home to a large and growing population of international communities, including tens of thousands of Somalis, Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs. With two mosques and a Sikh temple located directly in Dublin, and two Hindu temples nearby, the opportunity for faithful, loving Christian witness is significant. The investment in this outreach has already begun. Relationships have been built. Trust has been earned. Now, continued support will allow Emmanuel and Samara to serve alongside the leadership and congregation of St. John Lutheran Church as they deepen and expand this ministry...Through International Friendship Centers and community programs such as ESL classes, assistance with basic needs, food pantries, potlucks, and holiday gatherings, relationships are formed. These connections create opportunities to share the love of Jesus in culturally sensitive and meaningful ways-through one-on-one conversations, small group Bible studies, and intentional evangelistic outreach. This mission is about more than programs. It is about winning souls for Christ and proclaiming the Gospel to all nations-beginning right here in Ohio. \$5,000

16. Reaching Forward: Sharing Christ's Love with All Abilities, Bethesda Luth. Disability Ministry
 Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries (BLDM) exists to help congregations, parents and volunteers reach out with the gospel to people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and help congregations with their ministry and outreach. BLDM is dedicated to bringing the love of Jesus to individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This grant will support the 'Reaching Forward' initiative expanding BLDM's outreach to 20- 30 new congregations with inclusive ministry resource kits, mentor training, and family outreach materials and promoting Disability Awareness Sundays throughout the Ohio District. \$2,500

17. Care Packages & Cards of Hope: Nurturing Whole-Person Care, Phil's Friends, Wheaton, IL
 Phil's Friends, established in 2006, is deeply committed to the mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone - particularly cancer patients, many of whom are facing a terminal diagnosis. They send free, personalized Care Packages and Cards of Hope to cancer patients across the United States...The Care Packages include a Bible, to offer comfort, peace and strength, and to share the life-saving message of salvation found only in Jesus Christ. The other items included are a journal and pen, a warm hat and blanket, a water bottle, lip balm, tissue, fuzzy socks (for women), travel-size tissue, travel-size toothpaste and a toothbrush, a puzzle book and playing cards, a cuddly stuffed toy for children. The cost to support a cancer patient with a free Care Package and monthly Cards of Hope for one year is \$125... Grant funds, if awarded, will be used to purchase the items for 40 Care Packages, which will specifically be sent to 40 deserving cancer patients who live in Ohio. \$3,000

18. Where Charity and Love Prevail – Food Bank, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO \$2,500

Most seminarians live on a tight budget to provide for necessities such as nutritious food, clothing, toiletries and other household items for daily living. Concordia Seminary's Re-sell It Shop and Food Bank provide healthy food staples, personal care products, clothing, cleaning products and needed housewares for students and their family members... The Re-sell It Shop and Food Bank provide ongoing and vital blessings that help seminarians and their families as they answer God's call to prepare for the Holy Ministry and to one day serve congregations.

19. Appalachian Lutheran League, St. Paul Lutheran, Parkersburg, WV

Appalachian Lutheran League seeks to bring faithful Lutheran ministry to those living in the Appalachian region of the Ohio District. Its mission is simple and profound: to serve those who desire confessional Lutheran teaching, the Word rightly preached, and the Sacraments faithfully administered-even in places far from an established LCMS parish...The requested funds will be used to expand this vital outreach. Funds will provide: Travel costs for pastors to preach and administer the Sacraments in areas not within reach of an LCMS congregation. Essential resources-including Bibles, hymnals, and catechisms-so that believers may be grounded in God's Word and sound doctrine.

\$5,000

20. CTSFW Food Coop to Purchase Food for Seminary Students, Concordia, Fort Wayne, IN

CTSFW is preparing workers to serve in the harvest fields. In serving these students during their years of study by helping to relieve the financial burden of feeding their families, CTSFW is furthering the mission and ministry of the Word as they prepare to carry His word to the lost...The Food and Clothing Co-op currently spends approximately \$7,700 a month on items such as eggs, cheese, milk, fruit juice, ground beef, fresh fruits and vegetables, other perishable items and paper products to fill the shelves. Grant money will be used to purchase only perishable food items, each month...The people served by the Food and Clothing Co-op are students of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne. All seminary students must be enrolled and taking classes to be eligible to use the Co-op.

\$10,000

The Mission Grants Committee approved 20 applications for the ballot totaling

\$138,200



Northeast Zone
Ohio District

All About LWML Mites



Mite Boxes are used to collect money for missions.

A dollar gets divided 75% used for the Ohio District's mission grants and 25% is sent to support the National mission grants.

Mite money is used to further God's Kingdom through the mission grants selected by delegates at District and National conventions

Place your Mite Box wherever you can find it; dressing table, office desk, laundry room, car, kitchen counter. Share a Mite Box with family members and friends.

Return your filled Mite Box to the wooden mite box on the welcome table in the gathering area.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me all that I have. Bless these mites that I give back to You so that they can be used to spread the Good News of Jesus' love here and throughout the world. Amen.