

March 2020 Michigan District Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes

#9 –Lutheran Books for Missionaries around the World (Lutheran Heritage Foundation) - \$15,000

Each year in the fall we celebrate the Reformation, at which time the Bible was made available to all Christians. The invention of the printing press and the translation of the Bible into everyday language was the gift enabling all to read about his Word and learn about Lord, and books are critical support for missionary efforts. During March, national reading month, we focus on the opportunity to support the Great Commission through this grant that provides Lutheran books for missionaries around the World. For information on all grants, go to www.lwmlmichigan.org/. Under Missions, select Grants.

Do you love to read? Or do you hate it? Is it important? Literacy is tied to education levels, wage levels, and health – statistically, the lower the literacy of an individual, the more basic challenges exist. For Christians, it can also contribute to faith challenges – difficulty in understanding the gift given to us by God because of challenges in understanding the written words before them, and in comprehending what it means personally.

Michigan is the home for many ethnic populations – many of which have yet to be blessed with the gift of God’s salvation. Common languages are Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese. The state has populations from Mexico, India and Iraq, and the population from Yemen is significantly higher than the national average. The mission field is very close!

How well do people in Michigan read? The 2015 M-STEP data examined literacy rates of third graders, and 50% were partially proficient or not proficient. (Michigan rates 45th of all states for reading at the fourth grade, and 48th for disadvantaged students.) Yet this is the age that has been determined to be the point where proficiency is needed, and where a student may be held from moving forward in education until they gain proficiency.

Since 1992, Lutheran Heritage Foundation has been translating Lutheran books such as Luther’s *Small Catechism* or *The Good News About Jesus* into various languages and providing them to missionaries around the World. The grant from the LWML Michigan District will fund over 3,000 books for missionaries and partner churches. What a privilege we have to help!

Prayer: Dear Lord, please bless the efforts of those supporting the Great Commission by serving as missionaries and translators, and bless our mite offerings that they may enable their work. In Jesus name, Amen.