

## OUR 2008 MISSION GRANT RECIPIENT

Thanks to the congregations of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, and the spirit of partnership between these three congregations.....

### **Christ Lutheran Church, Shrewsbury, received a gift of \$3,000**

This is the third mission grant Christ, Shrewsbury, has received, and it is perhaps the most unique so far in our synod's Mission Grant Ministry. Thanks to their music director, Rumen Broimetchkov, and his wife, Biliiana, the congregation became aware of thousands of abandoned children in Bulgaria whose needs include serious medical attention. Combining the love of Christ with human care to literally touch the lives of abandoned children, this Congregational Mission Grant not only helps to provide for a physician and physical therapists but supports the ecumenical work of Lutherans and Methodists in offering weekend worship services and Bible studies.

### ***Previous Mission Grant recipients have included:***

#### **Big Spring United Lutheran Church, Newville, received a gift in 2007**

Big Spring United Lutheran is a newly-chartered ELCA congregation, formed as the consolidation of two smaller Lutheran congregations. A significant part their mission is to feed hungry people. As part of their building planning process, they constructed a permanent storage and distribution facility for the Big Spring Area Food Bank, a ministry partnership of the Big Spring Inter-Church Council, which includes congregations of other denominations as well as other ELCA congregations. This Congregational Mission Grant supports the mission we share to the hungry.

### **Christ Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, received a gift in 2007 and 2006**

As the people of Christ Lutheran in Harrisburg continue to demonstrate God's will for healing by reaching out to thousands of people each month, a Youth Worker served to organize and lead two Sunday church school classes (one before and one after worship) for elementary and junior high youth. A growing number of unescorted neighborhood children seek out the church on Sunday mornings, typically asking for breakfast, underwear, warm hats and gloves; they are eager for any organized activity. Christ, Harrisburg, is providing Christian education, nurture, and a wholesome safe harbor—all crucial for the health and future of this ministry.

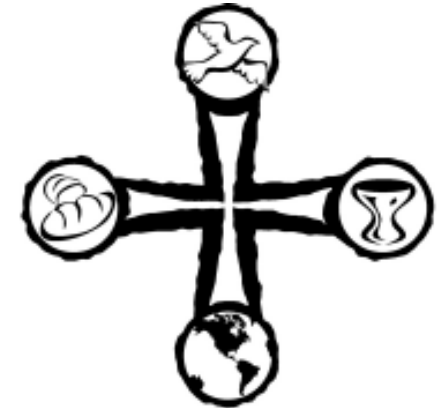
## TIMELINE

Deadline for application is October 30, 2009. Should your ministry project be accepted for the Funding Roundtable, a team of no less than three persons will be asked to attend a meeting with all approved applicants to decide on final fund distribution. This meeting will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Lower Susquehanna Synod offices in the Pennsylvania United Church Center, 900 S. Arlington Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

## WHERE TO DIRECT QUESTIONS

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# 2009



## Congregational Mission Grants

**A ministry of  
Lower Susquehanna Synod  
congregations**

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2009



A ministry of Lower Susquehanna Synod congregations

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This ministry of the congregations of the Lower Susquehanna Synod to one another is intended to *encourage* congregations, parishes, and cooperatives that have a demonstrated will for God’s mission in their community. They may have articulated a specific plan for this mission as they seek to live the life of Christ and “...make disciples of all nations...” Further, this ministry is intended to bring representatives of these congregations together to provide a forum for mutual learning along with spiritual, personal, and financial support for their endeavors.

*“...make disciples ..... of all nations...”*

## CRITERIA FOR MISSION GRANT RECIPIENTS

1. Must be a congregation, parish, or cooperative ministry of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA.
2. Must have a written Mission Plan or a demonstrated will for mission. The term “Mission” is considered in broad terms as God’s mission revealed in and commanded by Jesus Christ—Great Commission and Great Commandment. It is evangelical; this includes a readiness to clearly declare the Lordship of Jesus Christ in this ministry.
3. Must be willing to:
  - Pray for others in the Mission Grant group
  - Participate in periodic roundtable mission conversations with other recipients
  - Offer regular updates of mission project and progress upon request
  - While there is no limit to repeat applications, the proposal from repeat applicants is expected to be a new one
  - Complete a final report that will address such topics as what the congregation and participants learned, the challenges experienced, the joys and successes savored, the outcomes that occurred, and suggested changes — all to be shared and kept as a resource for other congregations contemplating similar mission projects.

## HOW APPLICANTS WILL BE TREATED

1. Supportively, attentively, kindly!
2. A review team of 3-5 persons will determine if the applicant meets the initial criteria stated above.
3. All applicants, regardless of meeting criteria 2 and 3, will be offered the assistance of a Mission Consultant or other resource person so they may qualify in the future if they choose to reapply.
4. Qualified applicants will be brought together with the review team for a “grant roundtable” where all will participate in deciding on the final distribution of available funds. For 2009, the total available is \$23,000. In a church culture where congregations often seem competitive with each other, this is a collaborative process where applicants determine the distribution of limited funds and learn from each other. Thus, each will have copies of the others’ applications beforehand. At the roundtable, each congregation will be asked to briefly state what is at the heart of its application and articulate how the project/process will specifically share the Good News of Jesus.
5. Periodic roundtable conversations will be held for all to share and learn from each other.
6. Contact persons and resources appropriate to each mission project will be offered.
7. Recipients will be expected to provide a written final report to be shared with each other and made available as a resource to other congregations.