

LCMS service opportunities



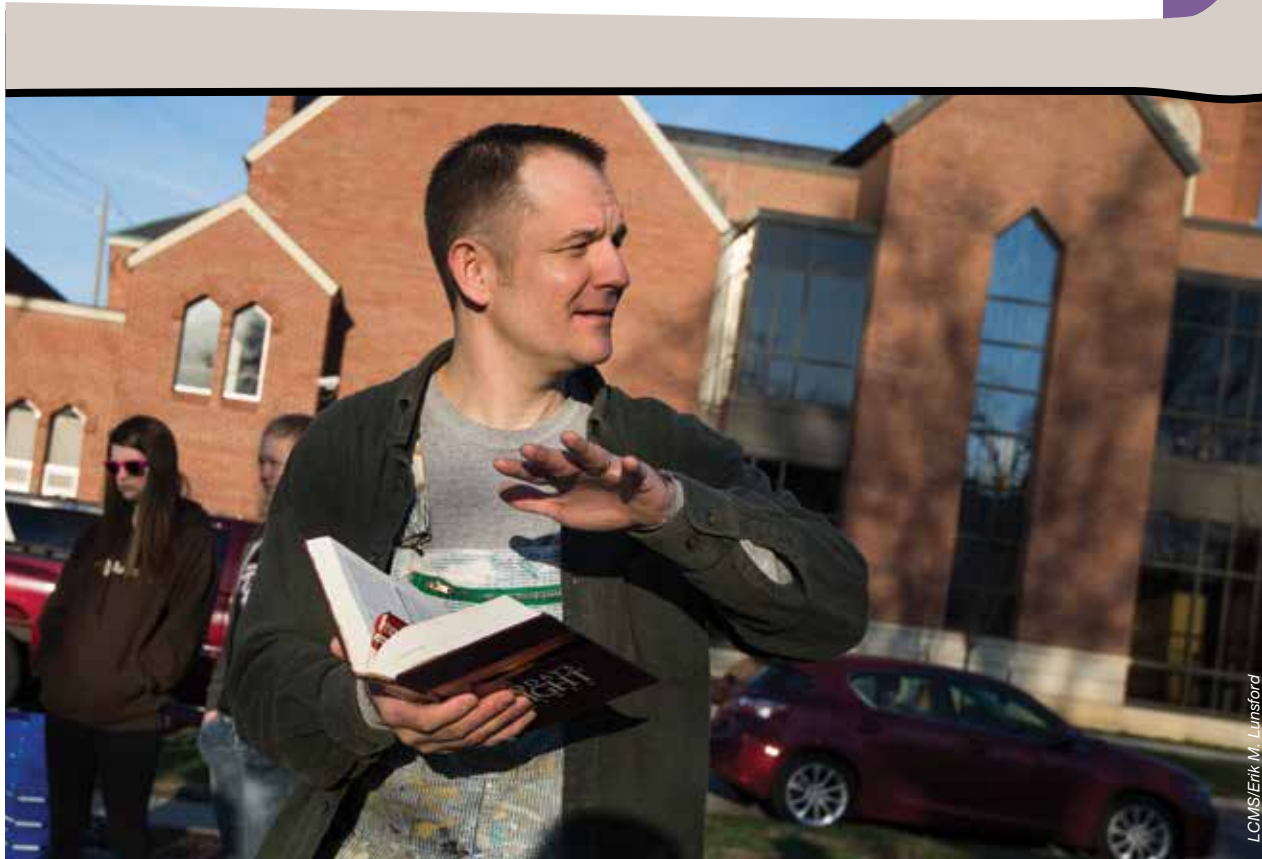
In July the LCMS focuses on service — God's to us and ours to others.

July 2014

“Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

(Matt. 20:28 ESV)

Visit lcms.org/themes/july to find a host of resources to talk about and live out a life of service in your life together.



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Jesus tells us that He “came not to be served but to serve” (Matt. 20:28). And He wasn't kidding.

Everything He does is an act of service, a gift, to us. And because we live in and by Christ, because He served us first on the cross, because we are a part of His body — the Church — it is our joy to serve those around us: our older brothers, our dear wives, our grumpy neighbors and our sleepy newborns.

Jesus comes to serve you, and He does. He also has given you the gift of serving your neighbors — those people He has placed in your life. So, join us this July in receiving all that God has to give. Then turn right around in joyful service and love those in your midst. Thanks be to God, we know you can, and we pray you will.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison,
president, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Rev. Bart Day,
executive director, LCMS Office of National Mission

Volunteer Opportunities

Below is a sampling of service opportunities within the LCMS.

Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT)

Responding to a disaster is a vital part of who we are as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Through LERT, LCMS Disaster Response teaches LCMS members how to be better prepared to show Christ's love to the community when a disaster strikes. Responding to a disaster allows a congregation to confess Christ to its community, region and world in ways it may have never considered before.

Mercy Medical Teams

This short-term volunteer program, which is coordinated through LCMS Health Ministry, offers medical professionals opportunities to volunteer abroad in a variety of clinical and health-related settings. Doctors, nurses, pharmacists and even pastors and hardworking laity are coordinated and trained into specific Mercy Medical Teams, which work in conjunction with LCMS partner churches and international clinics to address needs of both body and soul. Since 2006, LCMS Mercy Medical Teams have provided desperately needed health care to more than 25,000 patients.



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford



LCMS/Dan Gill



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Parish Nursing

This program of LCMS Health Ministry prepares nurses for a unique blending of professional nursing and spiritual caregiving. A parish nurse works with the members of the health-ministry committee or health cabinet, enabling people of the congregation and the community to attain, maintain and/or regain optimal health. Opportunities for basic preparation and continuing education are available within the LCMS.

Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs)

Nonprofits that are granted LCMS Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status help extend the reach of the LCMS by addressing the human, social, economic, educational and spiritual needs of people within their communities. The Synod's 150-plus RSOs offer a wide variety of service opportunities around the country. (Contact RSOs directly to learn about specific needs.)

Lutheran School Consulting Services (LSCS)

In this program of LCMS School Ministry, experienced and capable Lutheran school leaders, LCMS district education executives and pastors of congregations with schools act as consultants to help strengthen and revitalize Lutheran elementary schools that are struggling. LSCS focuses on the school and its ministry. As schools are strengthened, so are congregations and their ministries.

See **VOLUNTEER**,
Page 4



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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(Matt. 20:28)



YOUTH Ministry

Lutheran Youth Corps

Coming soon! It will offer young adults the chance to engage in a year of service.
Who May Volunteer:
High school and college graduates
www.lcms.org/youthcorps

National LCMS Youth Gathering

Many opportunities to help during the Gathering.
Who May Volunteer:
Adults and young adults
www.lcmsgathering.com

LCMS Young Adult Ministry

Several servant events throughout the year.
Who May Volunteer:
Young adults (Ages 18-30)
www.lcmsyam.org

LCMS Servant

Servant events run the gamut from construction, to outreach to human-care projects.
Who May Volunteer:
Youth and adults — may vary by event
www.lcms.org/servant



HEALTH Ministry

Mercy Medical Teams

Short-term volunteer program provides volunteer opportunities abroad in a variety of clinical and health-related settings.
Who May Volunteer:
Medical professionals, pastors, laypeople
www.lcms.org/mercyteams

Parish Nursing

Prepares nurses for a unique blending of professional nursing and spiritual caregiving.
Who May Volunteer:
Registered nurses
www.lcms.org/health/parishnursing



INTERNATIONAL Mission

Short-term Teams

Teams of three to 20-plus people serve for one to two weeks in various locations around the world.
Who May Volunteer:
Youth and adults
www.lcms.org/teams

Short-term Missionaries

Serve alongside LCMS missionaries and partner churches for one week to six months.
Who May Volunteer:
Adults (18+)
www.lcms.org/short-term



SCHOOL Ministry

School Leadership Development Project (SLED)

Equips potential Lutheran school leaders through intense training over the course of an academic year.
Who May Volunteer:
Lutheran school administrators who have completed SLED
www.lcms.org/schools

Lutheran School Consulting Services

Consultants help strengthen and revitalize Lutheran elementary schools that are struggling.
Who May Volunteer:
Experienced Lutheran school leaders
www.lcms.org/schools



WITNESS & OUTREACH Ministry

The 72

Trained evangelism volunteers assist congregations to begin, revitalize or expand their outreach ministry to help them reach the lost.
Who May Volunteer:
Anyone who is available to serve 3-4 weeks at a time upon completion of training.
www.lcms.org/the72



DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT)

Learn how to be better prepared to show Christ's love to the community when a disaster strikes.
Who May Volunteer:
Members of LCMS congregations
www.lcms.org/disaster/resources



GOSPEL SEEDS

Gospel Seeds

Mentor congregations going through the "Planting Gospel Seeds While Serving Human Needs" program.
Who May Volunteer:
LCMS members who have completed the "Gospel Seeds" program
www.lcms.org/gospelseeds

LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Recognized Service Organizations
LCMS RSOs offer many service opportunities.
Who May Volunteer: Youth and adults
www.lcms.org/rso

Lutheran Schools
Lutheran schools around the country are often in need of volunteers.
Who May Volunteer: Youth and adults
www.lcms.org/locators/schools
(search for a school near you)

OPPORTUNITIES

(ESV)

Events

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teach,

vary by event
events

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Specialized Pastoral Ministry
Ministry opportunities exist at local hospitals,
prisons or in other settings.
May Volunteer: Pastors and deaconesses
lcms.org/spm

Urban & Inner-City Mission
Ministries around the country may
offer volunteer opportunities in your area.
May Volunteer: Youth and adults
lcms.org/citymission

LCMS U
Connect with your local campus ministry, or
start a new LCMS U Chapter at a college or
university near you!
May Volunteer: Youth and adults
lcms.org/lcmsu
[facebook.com/lcmsu](https://www.facebook.com/lcmsu)



VOLUNTEER

Continued from PAGE 1

“Through the readings and projects, listening to guest speakers, devotions and prayer, and even eating meals together with my SLED group and our mentor, I’ve become a different teacher. And the leadership training has already been a bonus for our school.”

— Michael Popp, seventh-grade teacher and athletic director at Grace Lutheran School in Jacksonville, Fla.

School Leadership Development Project (SLED)

Each year, Lutheran school administrators have completed SLED volunteer training to mentor current participants. SLED seeks to equip potential Lutheran elementary-school leaders through intense training over the course of an academic year. Since 1989, LCMS School Ministry has trained more than 200 elementary school administrators through SLED.

Lutheran schools

LCMS School Ministry supports 2,255 Lutheran early-childhood centers, elementary schools and high schools around the country that serve some 221,300 students. These Lutheran schools are often in need of volunteers. (Contact LCMS schools directly to learn about specific needs.)

Chaplains

LCMS Specialized Pastoral Ministry trains and certifies ordained and commissioned ministers to serve people who are ill, imprisoned, aging, troubled, conflicted and isolated. The ministry also helps connect volunteers to opportunities that sometimes arise to provide chaplaincy services at local hospitals, prisons or in other settings.

Urban & Inner-City Mission

The ultimate goal of LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission (UICM) is to assist congregations with their efforts to transform the chaos, death and decay that often plague the cities in which they are located into communities characterized instead by peace, life and renewal. UICM also supports urban ministries around the country which may have volunteer opportunities in your area.

The 72

Team members of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry’s The 72 are trained evangelism volunteers available to congregations to help them begin, revitalize or expand their outreach ministry. This is accomplished by equipping their members to connect people to Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit and then to connect them to the congregation, where they will be assimilated into ministry, loved and cared for and nurtured in their Christian faith with Word-and-Sacrament ministry.



LCMS/Erin M. Lunsford



LCMS/Erin M. Lunsford

LCMS Servant Events

For more than 30 years, thousands of Lutheran youth have participated in LCMS Servant Events, learning that serving others can make a difference because of Jesus Christ. The events run the gamut from construction to human-care projects. This summer, 72 LCMS Servant Events are being offered in every region of the country.

National LCMS Youth Gathering

Held every three years, National LCMS Youth Gatherings provide young people an opportunity to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. During the five-day event organized by LCMS Youth Ministry, youth spend time together in worship, God’s Word, prayer, song and service. College students and adults are needed to volunteer at the next Gathering, which will be held July 16-20, 2016, in New Orleans.

Lutheran Youth Corps

This new opportunity organized by LCMS Youth Ministry will launch its mini-event program in summer 2014 and its full pilot program in 2015. It will offer high school or college graduates — working in teams with church workers — the chance to spend a year engaged in domestic service, all from a uniquely Lutheran perspective.

LCMS Young Adult Ministry

LCMS Youth Ministry oversees LCMS Young Adult Ministry, a movement of young adults (ages 18-30) in the LCMS who are reaching out to their peers with the love and light of Christ. LCMS Young Adult Ministry organizes several Servant Events throughout the year. This summer, events are being held in St. Louis and San Diego.

LCMS U

LCMS U, the Synod’s campus ministry initiative, has some 175 chapters at universities and colleges around the U.S. Volunteer with your local campus ministry or start a new LCMS U chapter at a college or university near you! (Visit www.lcms.org/lcmsu/findcampus to find a chapter near you.)

“When I joined [University Lutheran Chapel in Boulder, Colo.], it was the first time that the church I went to was ‘mine.’ What I mean is that it was no longer my parents’ church or just a church I went to on Sundays. If there were decisions to be made, communion to be ushered, paraments to be changed, windows to be replaced or flowers to be planted, we did it.”

— Kyle Lampe, a 2009 graduate of the University of Colorado



LCMS

“Coming here, I’ve met so many new people and I’ve grown a lot closer to my youth group; so I want to be more involved in my church when I get back.”

— Liz Houghton, a teenager from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, Tenn., who attended the 2013 National LCMS Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas

Gospel Seeds

The “Planting Gospel Seeds While Serving Human Needs” program trains congregations to identify unmet or underserved needs in their communities in order to be a more effective witness to the lost around them. Individuals who have completed “Gospel Seeds” are needed to mentor other congregations going through the program.

Short-term missionaries

Volunteers are needed to serve through the LCMS Office of International Mission alongside LCMS missionaries and partner churches for one week to six months. Short-term missionaries have served as pastors, nurses, doctors, teachers, business managers, camp counselors and in many other crucial positions.

Short-term teams

Teams of three to 20-plus people are needed to serve for one to two weeks in various locations around the world through the LCMS Office of International Mission. Teams might hold Bible camps, organize outreach events or complete construction projects. Teams can be formed by congregations, families, friends or other groups.

“You really see the value of getting out there and spreading the Gospel in parts of the world where there are very few Christians. We can get very comfortable in our own surroundings and don’t always see how important it is to share that message and the impact it can have on those who don’t know Christ.”

— Krista Erickson of Sioux Falls, S.D., who has served on six short-term teams to Hong Kong through the LCMS Office of International Mission