

## Why do we do prison ministry?

Often, when we think of prison ministry, we turn to Matthew 25:35-36:

*I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.*

Prison ministry does come out of this in the form of a specialized ministry like a food pantry or a hospital chaplaincy, but there is more

From 1 John 1:3:

*that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*

We want people to come into the fellowship of all believers and have the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. It's about evangelism and salvation

Excerpted from Theology of Prison Ministry, LCMS Prison Ministry Handbook, Pr David Kollmeyer.

## For more information, contact:

Email: [prison\\_ministry@lcms.org](mailto:prison_ministry@lcms.org)

### Online Resources:

- [lcms.org/spm](http://lcms.org/spm)
- [facebook.com/LCMSSPM](https://facebook.com/LCMSSPM)
- [vimeo.com/374464323](https://vimeo.com/374464323)

### Financial gifts can be made through:

- Online giving (TBD)
- Checks made out to SID-LCMS with prison ministry in the memo line

### Mailing Address:

SID-LCMS  
2408 Lebanon Ave  
Belleville, IL 62221

# LCMS Prison and Jail Ministry



**Remember those who  
are in prison as  
though in prison with  
them.**

**-- Hebrews 13:3a**

## So, how can I get involved with prison ministry?

That is a tough question, because it depends on your situation. First, talk with your pastor about your desire to help with this ministry.

If you and your pastor agree that this is something you should pursue, you should contact a prison or jail nearby. They may ask for one or more of the following:

- Leading a bible study
- Leading worship
- Education programs
- Working with returning citizens
- Mentoring,
- Providing materials

If you are in a situation where you aren't near a facility or the facility isn't taking new volunteers, you may still be able to help by "reaching in" to individual inmates. Contact the synod coordinator (prisonministry@lcms.org) for more information on this program.

## How can I help?

- PRAY!!!
  - For inmates and their families
  - For staff at facilities
  - For volunteers going in
  - For the victims of the crimes
- Talk with your pastor about praying corporately for prison ministry (as well as other SPM ministries)
- See if your district has any needs for support (like a task force or help for a coordinator)
- Take a mission offering to support a volunteer
- Invite a volunteer at a facility to come speak at your congregation.
- Collect materials for use at a facility
  - Bibles
  - Catechisms
  - Foreign language materials

## Chaplain James Rivett Memorial Jump Start Prison and Jail Ministry Grant Program

This program helps LCMS congregations and districts explore and expand their prison and jail ministry through grants of up to \$1000. Jump Start is supported by LCMS Specialized Pastoral Ministry (SPM) and managed by the LCMS Southern Illinois district (SID) Task Force on Prison Ministry

This program is named for Chaplain James Rivett. For over 30 years, he shared Christ's love with the incarcerated, served and coordinator for the SID and was the first synodical prison ministry coordinator. He also was the chief editor and contributor for the first two editions of the LCMS Prison Ministry Handbook.

Possible uses of grant funds:

- Start a prison ministry program in your congregation
- Assess/develop additional ministries such as re-entry, aftercare, or work programs.
- Extension of an existing prison ministry program.
- Development of resources to be used within a prison or jail setting.

