Jump Start Prison and Jail Ministry Grant Program

Jump Start helps LCMS congregations and districts explore or expand their prison/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.

Possible uses of grant funds are:

- Help an LCMS congregation/district enhance or begin prison/jail ministry.
- Assess/develop additional ministries such as re-entry, aftercare or temporary work programs.
- Assist in networking with other prison/jail ministries.
- Help fund training for a circuit or region interested in prison ministry.

To request an application packet, contact prisonministry@lcms.org

For more information, contact:

Email: prisonministry@lcms.org

Mail: LCMS Specialized Pastoral Ministry
1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122-7226
314-996-1312

Online: lcms.org/spm

The LORD sets the prisoners free.

- Ps. 146:7c
How can you serve in prison ministry?

1. Share with inmates (and staff) how Christ loves them as you reflect His love for you.

2. Communicate through instruction and spiritual care the importance of repentance, accountability and forgiveness in Christ.

3. Help the inmate grow in biblically-based self-esteem by being an instrument of God's grace, love and acceptance.

4. Point to Jesus as the key to true freedom that honors the rights of all through accountability to God and one another.

5. Teach hope by encouraging inmates to use their gifts, talents and blessings for God and others as well as for their own development and well-being.

Prison and jail ministry may include:

- Leading Bible study
- Leading worship services
- Instructing in the catechism
- Preparing for Baptism and Confirmation
- Teaching both men and women
- Working with re-entry programs
- Visiting prisoners
- Reading to or with prisoners
- Follow-up ministry
- Mentoring

Possible facilities for ministry:

- County jails
  where inmates may be seen only once;

- Work camps
  where assistance is given to someone in preparation for returning to society;

- Medium security facilities
  where the inmate is working and/or going to school;

- Maximum security state or federal prisons
  where the inmate will never see the outside of prison again.

How can I help?

- Pray!
  - For inmates and their families
  - For the staff
  - For the volunteers
  - Privately and in corporate worship

- Get acquainted and work with your district prison ministry coordinator.

- Volunteer at a facility near you.

- Collect materials to use in facilities.
  - Bibles
  - Catechism books
  - Foreign language materials
  - Portals of Prayer
  - Greeting cards

- Take a mission offering.

- Have a mission Sunday at your congregation that focuses on prison ministry; invite a prison chaplain or district coordinator to speak.