

2020 SWCA Synod Grants during Time of Pandemic

Food Distribution Grants were offered in May of 2020 and funded by a \$10,000 grant from the ELCA COVID-19 Appeal. The goal was to support congregations who were experiencing a growth in the number of people using their food distribution ministry. Grants amounts were between \$200 and \$800.

The following congregations received these grants:

All Saints Lutheran in Sun Valley
Bethania Lutheran in Solvang
Bethel Lutheran in Templeton
Bethlehem Chinese Lutheran in San Gabriel
Chapel of Peace in Inglewood, Fe Y Esperanza in Southgate
First Lutheran in Inglewood, First Lutheran in Torrance
Grace Lutheran in Covina, Grace Lutheran in Culver City
Hill Avenue Grace in Pasadena
Holy Redeemer in Bellflower
Holy Trinity in Thousand Oaks
Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz in Santa Maria
My Friend's House in Los Angeles
Our Saviour's in Long Beach
Pueblo de Dios in Compton
Trinity in Pasadena
Trinity in Santa Barbara
Trinity in Ventura

Each grant was read by two members of the Evangelical Outreach Ministry Team and presented to the full team for discussion and decision. We were able to award funding at the level requested for all the applicants listed above. The Team included: Nolan Green, Todd Kolberg, Valerie Shaw, Laura Wilcox, Pastor Marsha Harris, Zekiah Wright, Joe Zheng and Pastor Marj Funk-Pihl.

The COVID-19 Love Neighbor Grants were offered in July of 2020 to support congregations who were sharing God's love with their neighbors. The grant was funded using \$10,000. from our synod's Evangelical Outreach Mission Team and \$35,000 from Lutheran Disaster Relief's COVID-19 appeal. Grant awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$4100.

The congregations who applied for and received grants are:

Bethlehem Lutheran Chinese Ministry in San Gabriel
Bethel Lutheran in Templeton, Central Lutheran in Van Nuys
Chapel of Peace Lutheran in Inglewood
Christ Lutheran in Goleta
Church of the Foothills in Sylmar

First Lutheran in Inglewood
First Lutheran in Torrance
Grace Lutheran in Covina
Grace Lutheran in Culver City
Hill Avenue Grace in Pasadena
Holy Trinity Lutheran in Inglewood
Holy Trinity Lutheran in Thousand Oaks
Holy Redeemer in Bellflower
My Friends House in Los Angeles
Pueblo de Dios in Compton
Resurrection Lutheran in Redondo Beach
Shepherd of the Hills in Simi Valley
St. John's Lutheran in Gardena
St. Mark's Lutheran in Los Angeles
St. Matthew's in North Hollywood
Trinity Lutheran in Pasadena
Trinity Lutheran in Ventura

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The **Strengthening Vital Ministries Grants**, still pending as of this writing and funded by \$155,000 earmarked by the Office of the Bishop and the Synod Council, are intended to support vital ministries whose sustainability has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis as well as the vital ministries that are built on opportunities discovered during the COVID-19 crisis. **Vital ministries** in this context adapt to their changing surroundings and are willing to try new things, nurturing strong relationships with God, one another, and their neighbors.