

2023 Grant Recipients



Perley Parish – Kirkebo and Nora Lutheran Churches

The people of this parish feel that making traditions that focus on their new future together is important for continuing to build relationships to learn how to be church together in the new reality of rural ministry. They will use their funds at Christmas time to invite the community to a Cookie Baking Clinic featuring baking old-fashioned Christmas cookies, music, listening to the Christmas story, and sharing a meal and fellowship. They hope that offering this multi-generational community event will create teamwork, connection, a feeling of welcome, and sharing of holiday cheer and the meaning of Christmas together.

Trinity and Oscar Lake Lutheran Churches – Holmes City

This parish entered the Rural Revival process trusting God was up to something. Throughout the process, they developed a relationship with First of Kensington, and the three congregations will now be sharing two SAMs. Their grant funds will help support their first joint worship service together, including commissioning the two SAMs, and a community meal celebrating the current pastor's years of ministry and new role in the SAM process as a mentor.

Zion Lutheran Church – Warroad

Zion's use of grant funds will focus on developing children and youth ministry and increasing outreach through the use of the church building for the common good in the community. They will do this in three ways: establishing a pastoral leadership to support the pastor in Jr. and Sr. High ministries; supporting VBS day camp in partnership with Pathways, which would also welcome all children in Warroad and surrounding communities; and increasing the flexibility, quality, and engagement value of the audio/visual equipment of the church.

First Lutheran Church – Audubon

First will be hosting the first annual Fueling Our Farmers event this fall, which will bring together area farmers, families, and community members for a free meal at a time when farming commitments make it hard to have time to make meals. Local businesses will make donations, but using grant funds, First will purchase other food items, supplies and rent a tent for the event. Fueling Our Farmers will also offer the opportunity to deliver meals directly to the fields and pray over both those doing the work and the machines working the fields. This event will also allow members of First to connect with others in and around the community who may be unchurched and see how they can be a part of the Holy Spirit's work in the community.

First Lutheran Church – Kensington

First, the synod's first Rural Revival site, trusted that God was up to something new and is stepping into a new leadership model. They will use grant funds to help their two Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs) with their training and education, including books, travel, supplies, and other needs. These two SAMs of different ages and experiences will offer more opportunities to connect with people and create a variety of programming.



Northwestern Minnesota Synod's Green Grant Recipients

Lutheran Church of Christ the King – Moorhead

The people of the Lutheran Church of Christ the King plan to create a recycling and stewardship of the earth program that educates staff and members at the church while finding ways to transfer that knowledge to their lives and homes. They will place recycling containers throughout the building, include creation care education in the monthly newsletter and children's programming, and create a "green" committee to investigate care opportunities and continue to educate members.

Sion Lutheran Church – Lancaster

Sion plans to upgrade the lighting and overall church operation to be more ecologically friendly by changing all the fluorescent fixtures to more energy-efficient LED ones, then replacing standard on/off switches with ones that would operate on a timer and motion detection. Education on how these efforts could be done in members' homes will also happen. They hope to achieve energy reduction, financial savings, and impact through community conversations to help create meaningful global impacts.

Bethesda Lutheran Church – Moorhead

Bethesda plans to create an outdoor learning space, labyrinth, and native plant pollinator garden to experience God's creation while learning and growing together. They will incorporate care of the land and learn about their relationship with it and the elements to best steward it. Bethesda Sunday School students will be a part of this program. A Master Gardener will guide this effort.

Bethany Lutheran Church – Nevis

Bethany plans to use funds to expand their pollinator garden and create a mulch and pea gravel path off the bike trail to encourage bikers to enjoy the gazebo, lawn spaces, and garden. They will also create welcoming signs to invite people into the area. The space could also be used for gatherings and forums to educate the community about caring for the earth and land.



DIGITAL MINISTRY GRANT RECIPIENTS!!



Maria Lutheran Church in Kennedy plans to focus on being a venue site for events and to virtually welcome those at a distance. In our changing world, offering digital spaces in new ways is very pragmatic.

First Lutheran Church in Bemidji is where Tyler Bublitz serves as the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. Tyler produces The Faith and Science podcast with the mission to engage and challenge the audience to see God's role in science, increase knowledge, and deepen faith.

Sion Lutheran Church in Lancaster's dream is to provide an adaptive space, both physically and virtually, for community engagement. They hope this will have an impact on worship life, community engagement, and future developments.