

ELCA Open Doors Grants

The ELCA recently solicited Grant Proposals from congregations who are demonstrating creative ways to reach out to new people as we emerge from the pandemic. Several congregations in our Northern Great Lakes applied and four congregations were awarded \$1,500 grants for their various projects. May God use their efforts to bless others.

Jeff Henquinet of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Houghton, Michigan, describes their project:



We propose a multi-generational, fall earth-care gathering in partnership with our local Ojibwe neighbors as a first step in shaping a new ministry. The gathering will be timed to coincide with the academic starts of public schools and local universities, bringing new and returning faces to our town and our Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) program at Michigan Technological University. Good

Shepherd Lutheran Church sits on Ojibwe land ceded in the Treaty of 1842. Through our Synod's study of the Doctrine of Discovery, we recognize there is much for us to learn about our Ojibwe neighbors and their culture, foodways and beliefs and the land we share. We seek to build relationships, and work to sustain Creation through earth-care and expanding how we think about nourishing food.

Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn comments about their project at Zion Lutheran in Ironwood, Michigan:



We are thrilled. We have been having outdoor worship this summer, and we're going to be (with this grant) adding a built-in campfire for during the service and fellowship afterwards (as long as we aren't in a burn ban, of course). We are really excited to be doing some more ministry outside.

Bonnie Pelto of Calvary Lutheran in Quinnesec, Michigan, explains that they have several things in mind:



1. Host a Kids Day at the Quinnesec park which is adjacent to Calvary's parking lot. We are reaching out to kids age 3 to 12. The kids have to be accompanied by an adult to attend; food will be provided, game contests will be held (ladder throw, hula hoops, bean bag toss, etc.), awards will be given. Each kid will be given a 'goody bag' that will also contain an invitation to participate in Calvary's activities.
2. Host Movie Nights either against the wall of the church or again at the park pavilion.
3. Hold a flea market where people rent a space (for \$10) and a table (\$5) where they sell their wares. All funds collected will go toward making our church fully accessible. In fact, in all three events it is our intent to include a written invitation to attend our church functions.

Pastor Sue Johnson describes how All Saints Lutheran in Wakefield, Michigan, is also thinking about utilizing the outdoors for ministry:

We are very excited to implement this! Liz Londo submitted the grant to use the field across from the church for new ministry opportunities, including an in-ground labyrinth for meditation, monthly campfire evening services, as well as possible yoga and music opportunities all within view of beautiful Sunday Lake. Loraine Mussatti has been the energy behind getting the guys on the property committee geared up to begin landscaping and yard work. I am looking forward to seeing the transformation.

