

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Waterville's Zion Lutheran Endowment Fund Awards \$130,000 to Nonprofits in 2021

The Mission Endowment Fund of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waterville is celebrating its 17th annual series of grants by awarding a total of \$130,000 to 20 nonprofit organizations.

Grants supporting local organizations include \$2,000 to the Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministry to buy ready to eat items for area children and teens facing food shortages and insecurity. Waterville Primary School's Land Lab, which provides fresh produce to two local food pantries, will receive \$6,500 for structural repairs and improvements, tools and supplies. A grant of \$8,000 to Browning Masonic Community will be used to expand services to residents living with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Other grants in Northwestern Ohio include \$8,000 to Luther Home of Mercy in Williston for a commercial convection oven in the new central kitchen being built this year. Neighborhood Properties, which provides housing for homeless persons living with mental illness, will receive \$7,600 to buy basic apartment furnishings. Leading Families Home was awarded \$7,500 toward additional staffing and supplies to respond to the growing number of homeless families. A grant of \$7,000 to Blessings in Disguise will pay for medical equipment needed by seniors and veterans with limited resources. The East Toledo Family Center was granted \$4,400 for use in its community support programs, particularly for tutoring and mentoring students who have struggled with virtual learning. The Grace Community Center is expanding its urban gardening operation and was awarded \$2,000 toward a walk-in cooler for storage of the increased amount of produce that will be grown.

Grants to local and regional churches include \$10,000 to offset pandemic-related costs at Zion Christian Preschool in Waterville, \$8,000 to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Toledo for expansion of its community meal program and \$3,000 to Faith in Action Church of the Brethren in Delta for emergency assistance to individuals in the community. The Northwestern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was awarded \$5,000 for the Camino de Vida ministry to the Hispanic community in the Fremont area and \$5,000 for On the Way, a program to train members throughout Northwestern Ohio to nurture new faith communities as well as strengthen existing parishes.

Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus was granted \$10,000 to sponsor events and activities that will assist prospective students discern whether they are called to vocational ministry and \$10,000 toward the costs of required off-campus study for current seminary students.

Pace Center for Girls in Lakeland, Florida, will use \$9,000 to support its food pantry and provide personal care items to students. Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad was granted \$9,000 to cover the cost of loading a shipping container with surplus medical equipment and supplies and transporting it to Central America. A grant of \$4,000 to Project Health for Leon will help pay for a refurbished EKG machine for the hospital in Leon, Nicaragua. East-West Ministries International will receive \$3,000 toward basic medical training and supplies for missionaries in the Republic of Guinea.

Zion's Mission Endowment Fund has awarded grants annually beginning in 2005 that total \$1,848,600 to date. Applicants are sponsored by Zion's members. Recipients include a broad range of regional, national and global nonprofit organizations that share the Fund's goal of "Bringing Mission to Life."