

Christian Aid and Relief offers grants

Dear brother in Christ,

2020 was, in many ways, a train wreck. Social upheaval, protests and riots, a contentious election, and a worldwide pandemic – the devil was busy in the year just gone by!

2021 was supposed to be better, but it's not exactly off to a stellar start. On January 6 we witnessed violence and chaos at the Capitol. The pandemic is still causing disruption in every area of life. The economy remains uncertain, and the nation is still largely divided. The world is a mess right now – even more so than usual it seems. Many Christians are fervently praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

It would be easy to view all this with a pessimistic eye, but perhaps it's time to look at this time of uncertainty as a time of opportunity. Our Lord encourages us through Paul's pen: **As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers** (Galatians 6:10). Like no other time in most of our lives, people are hurting – both in our churches and in our communities. And we can help them. God has blessed us with an abundance of daily bread and with the good news of the Bread of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recently, WELS Christian Aid and Relief, in partnership with WELS Home Missions, gave \$166,300 in matching grants to mission congregations who have plans in place to reach out and bring relief to those struggling during this challenging time. These congregations are feeding the hungry, offering counseling services to those struggling with anxiety or depression, helping those who have lost their jobs to pay the bills, and providing many other types of support. In addition, they are seeking to touch the hearts of all they help with the gospel of our Savior.

We'd like to help your congregation reach out in this way. For this reason, WELS Christian Aid and Relief has set aside \$200,000 to be used for matching grants. Any WELS congregation that has not already received a grant for pandemic relief can apply. Here's how:

- Put together a detailed plan. Include how you will seek to alleviate suffering caused by the pandemic and reach out with the gospel. A [sample letter](#) is available to assist you in putting yours together. (This is for illustrative purposes only. You do not have to copy this. The needs and opportunities in your community may differ.)
- Send your plan to me at daniel.sims@wels.net.
- Approved plans will be eligible for a matching grant. We will match your congregation's financial commitment up to \$2,500.
- We will continue to give matching grants until the designated funds run out or we reach June 1, 2021 – whichever comes first.

Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). What an opportunity to shine the light of Christ's love into our communities! May God bless our efforts in his saving name.

Yours in Christ our compassionate Savior,

Pastor Dan Sims

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