



# SOUTH WISCONSIN

## DISTRICT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

### Christian Heritage Tour Grants

Your South Wisconsin District is excited to announce our Christian Heritage Tour grant program. Our pastors and educators have a tremendous responsibility to confess Christ for the next generation – whether that is applying God’s Word to a congregation or teaching Biblical accounts to students in our schools. Your South Wisconsin District is committed to honoring our vocations and being distinctly Lutheran. The purpose of these grants is to provide funds for pastors and teachers to participate in a study tour of prominent locations connected with our Lutheran Christian heritage, so that the worker’s calling might be enriched.

While many congregations want to support their church workers, not every congregation or school can afford to give their church workers a paid sabbatical. If a full sabbatical is not possible, perhaps a grant from the District to support a worker’s desire to engage in a study tour would be possible, (i.e. a trip to the Holy Land, Paul’s missionary journeys, the seven churches of Revelation located in modern-day Turkey, or the sites of the Lutheran Reformation, etc.) Your District wants to help by providing these Christian Heritage Tour grants, even though the calling body is expected to cover the remaining costs associated with the tour.

In this new fiscal year, running February 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026, your District has set aside budgeted money to support congregations and other Synod entities in caring for their active, rostered workers. The thinking runs like this, not only will it benefit the worker to walk and study these sites in person, but the calling congregation or school, will benefit also from sermons, Bible studies, and classroom lessons that are enriched from first-hand experience. Plus, as your workers are enriched, God willing, another generation may catch some of the enthusiasm of understanding and passing on “the faith once for all delivered to the saints,” and thereby desire to enter church work.

There are a limited number of these \$2,000 grants. At the end of each month, grant requests will be considered and approved on a first-come, first-served basis by the District Office, with these expected requirements.

- The calling body (congregation or school) must submit a letter of support on behalf of the worker making the trip.
- The individual making the trip must be an active, rostered worker.
- While the trip itself need not occur within the district’s fiscal year, the grant application (see attached) must be received within this fiscal year.

*From the Office of the President*

*Confessing Christ  
for the Next Generation*



- Proof of registration in the tour should be submitted with the request.
- The district grant will be sent to the calling body.
- Priority will be given to tours led by LCMS-sponsored or affiliated groups or individuals.
- One worker from each Synod entity may apply. For instance, if a church has a school, a pastor from the church and a teacher from the school could both participate.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact the district president's office at 414-464-8100 X743 or [skovgaard@swd.lcms.org](mailto:skovgaard@swd.lcms.org) or [rayner@swd.lcms.org](mailto:rayner@swd.lcms.org)

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1**

Pax Jesu,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "E" and "S".

Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard  
District President

# CHRISTIAN HERITAGE TOUR GRANT APPLICATION

GRANT TIME FRAME: February 1, 2025 - January 1, 2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

City State Zip

Telephone email

Call Location  Active Ordained  Active Commissioned

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

City State Zip

Proposed Trip \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Tour Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Contact Information

Trip Goals \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I understand that if I do not participate in the planned trip, the grant money will be returned to the SWD.

My Church/School leadership is supportive and has given their permission for the trip.

Upon completion of the trip, I will prepare a brief report on how I was impacted and/or how it will enrich my ministry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature