

Grant Report for “*Leadership: Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty*”

Dear Ladies of the LWML,

Where would we be without you? Your gracious support is allowing our LCMS voice to expand in Washington D.C. and around the country. Your support is also protecting and defending our Church’s public voice in the community through our churches, schools, pre-schools, and Universities. In a time when our first amendment religious liberties and responsibilities are under attack, your support is helping many stand strong and boldly proclaim the whole counsel of God so that all can hear and believe. This past year, while the Covid-19 pandemic has limited our ‘in person’ events, it has not limited our activity in Washington D.C. via Zoom and our activity out among our LCMS churches all across the country (both Zoom and “in-person”). As you know, our LCRL has Four Primary Tasks:

- A. Educate youth and laity on major issues facing the country, the Lutheran doctrine of vocation (in particular Christian citizenship) and two-kingdom theology.
- B. Assist in connecting Christians with legal defense when they suffer persecution (arrest, lawsuits, etc.) for public-square speech and actions that are in agreement with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions but are in conflict with the culture and government
- C. Advocacy, advocacy-training, and support both on the Hill and out among the Church.
- D. Publication and communication to governing bodies and policymakers regarding the orthodox Lutheran, Two-Kingdom view on cultural issues.

To that end, I’m excited to tell you about several initiatives that your gift is underwriting. In our *Educational Initiative*, the LCRL is committed to preparing the Church, people of all ages, to engage the culture for the sake of the culture and for of the mission of the Church. These are indeed trying times for people of faith in America. Religious Liberty is under assault due to legislation like the “Equality Act” in Congress which will pressure churches and schools to change their teaching on marriage and sexual fidelity or face litigation by the state. We will always boldly proclaim the truths of God’s Word faithfully, but now is the time to also use our constitutional protections to proclaim those truths freely for all to hear. Our Educational Initiative teaches LCMS members, students, and churches to do just that.

The LCRL is expanding its training of churches and LCMS lay people with the work of the *Champions for Liberty Network*. This *Educational Initiative* work puts churches through a Two-Kingdom (2KG) curriculum for the sake of their mission. It is a year-long process that equips the laity in 2KG citizenship for the sake of their Churches and Schools in their community. The educational work of the LCRL is also producing *Two Kingdom Bible Studies* for the sake of the on-going training needs of our people. This year’s study in process is called “*Two Kingdoms – One Mission – God’s people in Action, God’s two ways!*” And, finally, our *University Education Initiative* is continuing with some changes. We are presently working with Interns on a limited basis while repositioning our 2KG curriculum to serve the greater Concordia community. More on that work in the days to come.

Each initiative addresses issues like Religious Liberty, the Sanctity of Life, the Institution of Marriage and Educational Freedom which proclaim God’s moral voice in the culture, both to preserve the culture and to call all people to the repentance that only comes by grace through faith in Jesus. These initiatives help our people clearly share God’s Law and His Gospel in a way that is timely and relevant to people today.

Your grant is helping us expand our training in and for the Church in these challenging times. We also remain committed to expanding our resourcing for all of God’s people through the growing of resources. On these resources you’ll find the best information to our churches, schools, and universities about the government encroachment into the areas of Religious Liberty, the Sanctity of Life, the Institution of Marriage, and Educational Freedom.

Webpage: www.LCRLfreedom.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LCRLFreedom/>

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7j5u8_ALRMhz2I6SBCzayw.

The growing data base includes our “**Word from the Center**” weekly devotion and 2KG-OpEd, our “**Bulletin Blurbs**” as helpful items for churches to use every Sunday to keep them aware of what’s happening in Washington that directly affects Christians and the Church, and the **Champions For Liberty Page** training opportunity for churches around the country. Each will help our LCMS people learn to put their temporal liberties to work for the sake of the Culture and the mission of the Church.

Again, thank you for your prayerful support. Each dollar that is given to us is put to work for the sake of protecting and advancing our LCMS voice in the public square.

God bless you all, Dr. Gregory P. Seltz



Bev Vietor, LWML C-N-H District VP of Gospel Outreach presents a grant award notice to Dr. Gregory Seltz, LCRL Executive Director during the LWML Convention in Lexington, KY.



Dr. Greg Seltz, LCRL Executive Director engaging in conversation and sharing resources at the LCRL booth during the national LWML Convention in Lexington, KY.

This report was compiled by Mary Hamilton, Grants Manager, LCMS Mission Advancement with information provide by Dr. Gregory P. Seltz, Executive Director, LCRL. Photos by Erik M. Lunsford, Managing Photojournalist, LCMS Communications. Dated: September 7, 2021