

**SD District LWML Mission Grant**  
**Mite Box Devotion – LCMS Joint Seminary Fund**  
\$3500 (Paid in Full) September 2010

- All:** Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting—Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me”?
- Reader 1:** During His time on earth the Lord Jesus Christ bid us make disciples of all nations.
- Reader 2:** Christ called men to be His apostles, and still today calls men to be pastors in His church – to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness to the world.
- Reader 1:** Over the past decade, higher education costs have risen faster than the costs of housing, transportation, and health care when calculated on a percentage basis.
- Reader 2:** The Church is also facing a challenge in the funding of theological education. Some seminarians have accumulated staggering amounts of educational debt, approaching \$100,000, especially when combined with their spouse’s undergraduate debt. Average starting pastor salary is under \$40,000.
- Reader 1:** While this might not be as serious a concern as some vocational paths, the reality is that this dilemma does affect the preparation of pastors which in turn affects our Lord’s great commission to serve His people and proclaim the Gospel of Christ to all nations.
- Reader 2:** This mission grant will help cover seminary student tuition assistance. The Financial Aid Office at each seminary will identify student recipients that require tuition assistance in accordance with their current financial need.
- Prayer:** Gracious and loving heavenly Father, as we bring our Mite offerings before You today we pray that you bless all pastors who will teach the faith, proclaim the life-giving message of both Law and Gospel and rightly administer our Lord’s gifts of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. May the Lord of the church bless our current students, those who will follow them, and those who assist and lead them in their pastoral formation. To God be the Glory. Amen.