



2020–2022 MISSION GRANT DEVOTION

#3 I WAS A STRANGER: LUTHERAN BOOKS FOR IMMIGRANTS IN SD — LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION — \$5,000

Leader: Reverend Matthew Heise, the executive director of **Lutheran Heritage Foundation** has this to say about the people coming to America for the first time: "While these immigrants and refugees come for a new life in a new country, we also recognize that many of them need one more thing: a new life in Christ".

R1: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

Leader: Reverend Heise goes on by saying, "So many of these immigrants are people living in spiritual darkness, waiting to hear of the love of our Savior. Thanks to the generous contributions of our LWML, **Lutheran Heritage Foundation** can provide the resources — in their languages — that churches and evangelism teams need to bridge the language barrier and share the Gospel".

R2: *So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ (Romans 10:17).*

Leader: Through your mite offerings, **Lutheran Heritage Foundation** has been able to translate and publish Luther's *Small Catechism* into 101 languages, and *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* into 39 languages. These resources can be used to reach so many in their own language, which is huge when people arrive from other cultures to relocate here in South Dakota.

R3: *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us (2 Corinthians 5:18-20a).*

ALL: What a privilege it is, Lord, to have a small part in the tremendous task of "bringing the lost and erring into eternal fellowship with you"! We humbly ask to bless the efforts of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation as they prepare printed materials to spread the truth of your love to many people who are arriving in our country to seek a new and better life. We know that You alone hold the key to that new and better life through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ! Guide the people within our state as they use these books to tell others the Good News of Your love. In the power of Your name, Lord! Amen.