



2020–2022 MISSION GRANT DEVOTION

#7 LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LCMS RSO — \$4,000

Leader: The **Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty** may not be a familiar group to many of you. As a point of reference, the speaker for our LWML South Dakota District Christian Life workshops in 2019 was Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz, the Executive Director of **Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty**. This grant will help fund the establishment of the **Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL)** in Washington, D.C.

R1: *For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor (1 Peter 2:15-17).*

Leader: "The mission of the **LCRL** is to ignite and fuel a uniquely Lutheran response to increasing intrusions by the government in the realm of the Church while educating, encouraging, and equipping LCMS members and organizations to take informed action in support of religious freedom."

R2: The words of Mordecai to Queen Esther seem appropriate for these challenging times. *"For if you keep silent at this time ... you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).*

Leader: Some of the areas of concern for Christians today in our culture are the biblical definition of marriage, the definition of the family, the lack of concern for the preborn and the attacks on our public expression of faith. The **LCRL** will strive to engage, educate, and connect us on these issues as they relate to our religious freedoms.

Please join in singing (or reciting) Hymn #965 *LSB* "God Bless our Native Land"

God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night,
When the wild tempest rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies; On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

All: Lord of all nations, we are so thankful for the many liberties that we enjoy in this country. We are reminded that the price of freedom is a dear one as is the price of our salvation. We ask that You would preserve our freedoms — especially our freedom to worship You openly and without persecution. Bind Satan's attempt to rob us of this liberty. Guide the leaders of this land as they set policy and laws to rule its people. Bless the efforts of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty as it defends the people's rights and freedoms. Our Hope is in You alone, Lord! We are trusting You to keep us safe in Your hands. In the name that holds all power here on earth, Jesus Christ. Amen!