

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Foundation Mission: to gather, invest and distribute financial resources to further the mission and values of Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities Mission: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the church will connect people with Jesus Christ and His church family, grow them towards Christ-like maturity, equip them to serve in the church, and reach others with God's love as we worship God.

Bethlehem Foundation Grant Policies 2017

Grants will be considered for five categories:

1) Bethlehem TC Church staff development (usually for sabbaticals and specialized educational opportunities for clergy and staff); 2) Church buildings and equipment, and 3) Church programs and projects (which require Council approval); 4) Seminary students (tuition paid to the seminary, currently \$1800 per quarter) and internships (applications for both must be approved by a pastor); and periodic gifts to the seminary if BLCTC has few seminary students; and 5) Outreach to projects and organizations outside the Bethlehem TC congregational life whose grant requests are sponsored by a church member.

Grants must be submitted on official forms found on the website by the first of the month in which the Foundation Board meets (January, April, July, October), and must be signed by a Bethlehem sponsor who will indicate how each request relates to the mission of BLC and their effort to live out their faith.

Grants will be considered that are compatible with Bethlehem TC's mission and strategic direction in one or more ways:

- Helps nourish personal relationships with God and each other
- Helps people provide for and obtain needs such as housing, shelter, food, healthcare, education
- Helps us collaborate with TC congregations and service organizations to strengthen them
- Helps build global relationships and foster members' interest in serving around the world
- Helps individuals with leadership, faith development, prayer life, and increased understanding of God's work

Guidelines include:

- Organization must have tax-exempt status (501c3) if not a church (or award may be held 6 mos.)
- Grant must show evidence of need and other sources of funding available.
- Funds are awarded for non-recurring costs or expenses only.
- Generally grants are awarded to support Lutheran ministries and/or Twin Cities entities.
- History of awards is noted, with repeat recipients not considered within two to three years. Grant committee may fully or partially fund a request, defer all or part of a request, or deny. Grants committee may make an occasional exception to guidelines on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the Foundation Board.

Procedures:

- Following the Board meeting, the administrative assistant sends letters to all grant requesters.
- Recipients are required to use funds for the stated purpose; unused funds shall be returned. The grants committee will follow up with recipients to learn the outcome of projects.

Over a two-to-three year time span, the Foundation Board strives to award these percentages:

- 50% to Bethlehem TC staff enrichment, building and equipment, and projects and programs
- 25% to seminarians, internships, and Luther Seminary
- 25% to outreach programs beyond Bethlehem