

## Local and Global Missions

# 2018 Mission Partners

*Formally called Mission of the Month*

## Arrive Ministries

Arrive Ministries is an outreach of Transform Minnesota which unites Christians to engage the greatest challenges facing our communities as together they impact every life in Minnesota with the love of Jesus. Arrive Ministries is also an affiliate office of World Relief, partnering with their worldwide community development efforts as they provide top-notch resettlement services and compassionate care for displaced refugee immigrants and asylees who now call Minnesota home.



SMLC has the opportunity to come alongside an immigrant family for 1 year. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry or learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact congregation member Margie Schroeder at [Margie@schroeder1.net](mailto:Margie@schroeder1.net).

[www.arriveministries.org](http://www.arriveministries.org).

## Good in the Hood

Good in the Hood is dedicated to changing lives together with simple acts of kindness. Although their service opportunities are not solely limited to the urban community, they do have a purposeful inner city affinity and a commitment to serve those with the most need. Their desire is to inspire individuals, families, and entire neighborhoods to take responsibility and ownership for growth, improvement, and well-being of their personal lives and community. Through partnership and kindness-based initiatives they believe the physical, emotional, and spiritual climate of an entire community can be changed for good. With this in mind, they collaborate with a number of difference-making organizations.



Each month, with the help of dedicated partners, they provide groceries, meals, food for hungry college students, and practical resources for over 3000 individuals. In addition, they make available regular volunteer opportunities for a variety of large groups and more than 200 individuals.

Contact congregation member Sue Timmerman at [chefsue@visi.com](mailto:chefsue@visi.com) for opportunities or visit

[www.goodinthehood.org](http://www.goodinthehood.org).

## Operation Christmas Child



A project of Samaritan's Purse, is the world's largest Christmas outreach of its kind. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to over 124 million children affected by war, poverty, natural disasters, and other crises in more than 150 countries and territories. They partner with local churches to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who receive shoebox gifts and offer a 12-lesson discipleship program called The Greatest Journey. St. Michael's supports this ministry by collecting thousands of items, such as toys and school supplies, and assembling over 2000 shoeboxes at a packing party held in November each year. St. Michael's also serves as a drop-off location for the Twin Cities area, where we pray over and carton shoeboxes received from our neighbors.

For more information, please contact Rick Jones at [rick.jones@basf.com](mailto:rick.jones@basf.com) or Sue Bosshardt at [suebosshardt@gmail.com](mailto:suebosshardt@gmail.com). [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)

## The Sheridan Story

The Sheridan Story is a weekend food program. They take a unique approach to fighting child hunger: they mobilize the community to partner with local schools. Each school is sponsored by a community group that provides funding for the weekend food program and volunteers to distribute the food to kids on Fridays. The Sheridan Story's goal is to give kids food while facilitating a community-to-school relationship that they encourage to grow beyond the weekend food program. St. Michael's serves students at Normandale Hills Elementary School. Contact [pastorpat@smlcb.org](mailto:pastorpat@smlcb.org) for more information [www.thesheridanstory.com](http://www.thesheridanstory.com)



## Trinity First Lutheran School

Trinity First School, located in the heart of Minneapolis, is blessed to serve God by providing a Christ-based education to children aged 3 through eighth grade. They see themselves as a family and joyfully give thanks to God for each child He leads to their school. There are opportunities to serve year round. St. Michael's will be doing a July afternoon service event helping the facilities personnel get the school ready for the start of the school year. Kay Solberg is our congregation rep. For opportunities, contact the school office at 612-871-2353 or [trinityfirstschool@gmail.com](mailto:trinityfirstschool@gmail.com).

[www.trinityfirstschool.org](http://www.trinityfirstschool.org)



Equipping Learners, Sharing Hope

## VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People)

VEAP founders believed that helping a neighbor in need ultimately strengthens the community. Their new mission is "together we create pathways to stronger, more hopeful communities through access to healthy food, housing, stability and supportive services." VEAP serves the residents of Bloomington, Richfield, Edina, and South Minneapolis utilizing a unique mix of professional and volunteer services. St. Michael's members get involved by collecting food for the food pantry and also by working at VEAP's Bloomington location in the warehouse, driving clients home from the pantry, working on the new mobile pantry, data entry and more. For more information, contact Sue Bosshardt at [suebosshardt@gmail.com](mailto:suebosshardt@gmail.com) or [www.veap.org](http://www.veap.org).



## Church

### Gideon Comfort Dog

Gideon is part of the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry , which is a national ministry utilizing the unique skills of dogs, specifically Golden Retrievers, to open opportunities to touch people with mercy and compassion. Gideon is a trained service animal prepared to interact with people in ways that provide a bridge for compassionate ministry to take place. For more information Contact Dianne Williams at [mndianne@gmail.com](mailto:mndianne@gmail.com)  
**www.K9Comfort.org**

## Large Print Ministry

Lutheran Braille Workers publishes Biblical, Christ-Centered literature which is offered in both Braille and Large Print formats. Currently printed in 30 languages and distributed to more than 120 countries, the publications are offered free of charge. The work is done by a team of thousands of volunteers. St. Michael's has a Large Print Center on location and meets bi-monthly year round. If you are interested in serving contact Sharon Viegas: [sviegas68@yahoo.com](mailto:sviegas68@yahoo.com) or Carol Hoppe: [cjeanhoppe@gmail.com](mailto:cjeanhoppe@gmail.com)  
**www.lbwinc.org**

## Mission Stitchers Ministry

1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."  
The Missions Stitchers use their gifts that God has given them to knit, crochet, embroider, sew, loom knot, etc. to make items that are then donated where there is a need to various organizations in our local community and abroad. We make a variety of items to donate such as hats, scarves, mittens, baby blankets, booties, prayer shawls, prayer mantles, embroidered dishtowels and pillow cases, dish cloths, scrubbies, pillowcase dresses, little purses and crosses. The group meets every Wednesday in Room 32 from noon-4:00pm, or come and go when you can. You can also be part of this ministry by working from home if you're not able to meet with the group and dropping off your completed items (labeled "Mission Stitchers") at the Welcome Center Desk. Any questions contact Marti Clark at 952-854-4653.

## Mission Quilters Ministry

Quilts can be such a comfort to those undergoing the trials of life. The St. Michael's Quilters have been in existence since 2008, and during that time have used their skill and love of quilting to make over 350 quilts for brothers and sisters going through those trials. Quilts have been donated to Healing House, Ronald McDonald House, Cornerstone Women's Shelter, Center for the Victims of Torture, City Life Center, Global Health, Children's Hospitals, Veterans Homes, Comfort Ministry. We meet every Wednesday afternoon from noon-4:00pm, downstairs at church. We would welcome anyone interested in joining. All skills are welcome. Sewing machines, fabric, batting, and all quilting supplies are available for you to use. You just supply the time and love. If interested email Barb Schaus at [bschaus46@gmail.com](mailto:bschaus46@gmail.com) or call 952-303-6240.

## Global Missionaries

Dave and Luz Maria Ernst

Dave, a member from St. Michaels and a pastor in Venezuela and LuzMaria, a deaconess, have developed a Lutheran mission school in Western Venezuela in LaCaramuca, near the city of Barinas, a very poor area. The preschool provides nutritious meals and cooperates with local health agencies. In addition to the school, they lead worship services on Sunday.

## Lutheran Indian Ministries

**Tim and Heidi Norton**

God has been calling people at Navajo, NM out of darkness into His light (1 Pet. 2:9). In 2015 we hosted 85 volunteers from all around the country to witness to God's love in word in deed. God used the means of the volunteer's service to bring people into our fellowship. God used the means of grace (baptism) in the lives of two people this past year, to wash them from their sins, and give them His Holy Spirit. God uses the means of His Word to draw people to faith which we proclaim through worship, Bible studies, and community activities. God is also using the means of His people including you at St. Michaels so that ministry takes place. Thank you very much for your gifts!

[www.lutheranindianministries.org](http://www.lutheranindianministries.org)

## Micah Wagner

### Tokyo, Japan

Micah' has a heart for reaching out to the Japanese people to share the knowledge of the saving work of Jesus. He intends to go and has signed up with Reach Global, which is the mission branch of the Evangelical Free Church, which has over 600 missionaries in nearly 60 countries all over the world. If you would like to partner with Micah, please connect with Micah at [micah.wagner@efca.org](mailto:micah.wagner@efca.org).

## Mission Care Africa

### Claude and Rhoda Houge

After 22 years of missionary service in Africa, the Hougues are returning in their retirement to serve with Lutheran Bible Translators to teaching the children of the LBT Regional Director David Federwitz and his wife Valerie. This will enable David and Valerie to focus on the important work of building and maintaining relationships with translation partners and offering advice and encouragement to fellow LBT missionaries. The focus of LBT is to translate the Bible and encourage Scripture use in languages that do not have the Bible in their own language. For more information, see <https://lbt.org/project/claude-rhoda-houge/>

# Local Run Ministries for Local & Global Initiatives

## Bethany Prison Ministry

Bethany Prison Ministry provides letters and literature to prisoners. New prisoners contact us at a “surprising pace” and they give us increasing confidence that we are on the right track and God wants us to not only maintain the rate at which we have been going, but to increase it.

If you'd like to participate in encouraging those in prison, contact Deb Cheney at [Deb.Cheney@bethfel.com](mailto:Deb.Cheney@bethfel.com).

## Bibles for Missions

Bibles for Missions is a totally volunteer-run thrift store that receives donations of clothing, furniture, and household goods to support missionaries and church plantings in Eastern Europe. They also send clothing and food to the Ukraine, clothing to the homeless ministry locally, and medical devices and supplies to Global Health Ministries through St. Michaels. Don and Ev Griwac are contacts ([dgriwac@usfamily.net](mailto:dgriwac@usfamily.net)) if you are interested to volunteer from scheduling pick up and deliveries, cashiering, or working in a wide variety of departments in the store.

## Camp Omega

The most valuable gift you can give a child is the opportunity to develop independents, self-worth, leadership, responsibility, and most of all, a life-long faith in Jesus Christ. At Camp Omega children develop a stronger sense of self, others, and God; they learn how to navigate the world successfully; they learn resiliency; and they learn the value of healthy, Christ-Centered relationships. As always, a week at Camp Omega is a life-changing experience where campers of all ages make new friends, connect with old friends, and most importantly, experience a Christian community that will encourage and nurture their faith. For more information contact Bob LaCroix at [bob@campomega.org](mailto:bob@campomega.org). [www.campomega.org](http://www.campomega.org)

## Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian Non-Profit organization that works together with volunteers to provide and pack nutritious meals for children who are hungry in both body and spirit. One in nine goes hungry each day, and at least 6,200 kids under the age of 5 are dying each day from malnutrition and other related instances. We have three food formulas, which consists of Vitamins, Vegetables, Soy, and Rice. Feeding these children is made possible because of our volunteers who dedicate their time to pack with us and make donations which enable us to purchase the ingredients. Any one over the age of 5 is able to volunteer with us, and we are open Monday through Saturday, with 5 different shifts available throughout the day. By volunteering your time or donating your money, you are helping us to **TURN HUNGER INTO HOPE WITH YOUR OWN TWO HANDS!** We encourage you to visit one of our sites in Eagan, Chanhassen, and Coon Rapids, or attend one of our Mobile Packs as they come available in your area.

[www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)

## Global Health Ministries

Since the founding of Global Health Ministries in 1987, increasing emphasis has been placed on primary health care in rural areas of developing countries, under the leadership of local people, and also on providing training for doctors, nurses and other health care workers. GHM gathers and ships medical supplies and equipment, aids in recruitment of long and short-term health care workers and promotes interest in health care ministries within congregations in the USA. GHM has, in recent years, added a consulting arm that works with communities, hospitals and medical personnel in developing countries to help them achieve the best possible medical care for their people. This helps carry out the mission of GHM. For more information contact Ruth Meier.

[www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org)

## Healing Haiti

Healing Haiti is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to serving the poor, the vulnerable, and the disadvantaged both physically and spiritually. The ministry focuses on coming alongside those who God puts in our path, recognizing the dignity, talents, and potential of Haitians we serve. We believe there is unlimited potential just waiting to be unlocked and invite you to be a part of serving with and empowering these incredible people.

There are many ways to serve with Healing Haiti, including short-term mission trips.

Margie Schroeder (Margie@schroeder1.net) is our Healing Haiti coordinator.

[www.healinghaiti.org](http://www.healinghaiti.org)

## LINC Twin Cities

LINC Twin Cities exists to engage God's people in mission within diverse communities. Our vision is to see younger and more diverse people in local churches. Our main goal is to see churches reflecting their local community demographics. Our strategies work to see our mission, vision and main goal accomplished. In short, we are an organic team of cross-cultural experts, missiologists, consultants and coaches who relate to God. And because of that, you will find that we listen to, learn about and love others a lot—particularly people in diverse communities.

[www.linctwincities.org](http://www.linctwincities.org)

## Lutheran Special Education Ministries

Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) is a Christ-centered resource for children with learning needs. Over the years our greatest asset has been our ability to adapt based on the needs of the children we serve. Our programs, services and resources have differentiated us since we were founded in 1873 by actively seeking new ways to reach, serve and support children with various learning needs. Every day we praise God for the opportunity to help so many children. Today we're proud to be following God's plan to serve children with specialized learning needs — no matter where they may be. That is why our partnerships with Christian schools and iCAN after school programs serving children in communities in need has been such a success. Dennis Senne is our congregation rep. You can also follow them on Facebook.

[www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org)

## The Lutheran Church in Norway

The Lutheran Church in Norway stands for the inerrancy of the Bible, confessional Lutheranism, passionate mission focus, and church planting. The Lutheran Church in Norway acknowledges its international place in the group of like-minded churches and has started developing church relationships with The Lutheran Church in Latvia and The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. Ruth Meier is our congregation rep. You can also follow them on Facebook.

## People of the Book Lutheran Outreach

POBLO International is a Christian organization working to transform the way missions is approached in the US by responding to the changing demographics that have brought the mission field to our own front years. They serve immigrants and refugees. They train and educate churches on how to engage in cross-cultural outreach. They share the Gospel message.

Originally from Palestine, POBLO Missionary Nader Alaraj started his career as a medical technologist, working for fifteen years in the medical field in Omaha, NE. He met his wife, Georgette, on a visit to Palestine. Georgette holds a bachelor's in elementary education and taught for 6 years. They were married and moved back to Nebraska. Both were raised in Christian homes, although Nader felt a personal calling to serve the Lord shortly after arriving in the US in 1998. Nader was among the leaders who organized the Arab Christian Fellowship of Omaha. Both Nader and Georgette love sharing the Gospel with others in practical ways. They serve at the International Friendship Center at Mount Hope Church with their outreach to non-believers in the highly diverse city of Bloomington. Opportunities to serve contact Nader at [nader@poblo.org](mailto:nader@poblo.org) or Georgette at (402)889-6162.

## Vernacular Video Mission International

Vernacular Video Mission International (VVMi) partners with and equips ethnic Christians who proclaim the Gospel through video and other media in their common language. For over 25 years, VVMi has successfully empowered nationals in the Philippines to utilize media tools and Scripture to grow the Church. Since 2008, VVMi has also been actively involved in Latin America. Then, last year, VVMi began a partnership in Africa that has the potential for impacting that entire continent, plus the Indian Ocean islands. God is moving his Kingdom forward and it's exciting to be part of it!

We invite you to wade into the waters of cross-cultural partnering with us.

Join VVMi as we come alongside our indigenous brothers and sisters in Christ to help them bring the Good News of Jesus to the nations in unique and culturally relevant ways!

Contact Colin Edwards at [cjedwards@vvmi.org](mailto:cjedwards@vvmi.org). Don Nemcek ([dsn31@aol.com](mailto:dsn31@aol.com)) is our congregation rep.

**[www.vvmi.org](http://www.vvmi.org)**

## Urban Homeworks

The mission of Urban Homeworks is to perpetuate the hope of Jesus Christ through innovative community development that produces equitable, dignified housing, a strategic network of good neighbors, and the redemptive development of real estate.

Since 1995, Urban Homeworks has been responding to the voices of our neighbors by providing dignified housing opportunities, creating space for construction training, intentionally weaving together a network of engaged neighbors, and mobilizing volunteers. Our focus on stability and connecting resources so that individual and communal assets emerge, thrive, and invigorate our neighborhoods has resulted in more than 200 redeveloped properties and a network of 17,000 volunteers, 1,200 construction trainees, and over 400 Urban Neighbors.

For more information, contact Mike Timmerman [timmerman@visi.com](mailto:timmerman@visi.com)

**[www.urbanhomeworks.com](http://www.urbanhomeworks.com)**

## Young Life

Young Life doesn't start with a program. It starts with adults who are concerned enough about kids to go to them, on their turf and in their culture, building bridges of authentic friendship. These relationships don't happen overnight — they take time, patience, trust and consistency. So Young Life leaders log many hours with kids — where they are, as they are. We listen to their stories and learn what's important to them because we genuinely care about their joys, triumphs, heartaches and setbacks.

We believe in the power of presence. Kids' lives are dramatically influenced when caring adults come alongside them, sharing God's love with them. Because their Young Life leader believes in them, they begin to see that their lives have great worth, meaning and purpose. This is the first step of a lifelong journey; the choices they make today, based upon God's love for them, will have an impact on future decisions — careers chosen, marriages formed and families raised — all ripples from the time when a Young Life leader took time to reach out and enter their world. Contact Staci Stringer at [staci.stringer@gmail.com](mailto:staci.stringer@gmail.com)

[www.younglife.org](http://www.younglife.org)

## Youth for Christ

God loves teenagers! For 71 years God has been using Youth for Christ International (YFCI) to reach young people around the world with His life-changing message. Today there are 1.75 billion teenagers on our planet. What a massive and exciting mission field! YFCI's vision is that as part of the Body of Christ every one of those young people would have the opportunity to hear and become a follower of Jesus and become part of a local church. This past year YFCI has worked directly with over 3.6 million young people in over 112 nations—young people like Fouad from Lebanon, Sharav from India and Braydon from Canada. All young people whose lives have been changed forever through a relationship with Jesus. Bryon Blomker is the local contact at [bryan.blomker@fci.org](mailto:bryan.blomker@fci.org).

To see more of what God is doing around the world through YFCI go to [www.yfci.org](http://www.yfci.org).