



Lutheran  
Family Service

*For Nothing is Impossible with God*

# THE *Good News* LETTER



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

Spring 2026

## *Bold, United Voices For Life*

### **LFS Engages LCMS Leaders, Laypeople, and Legislators on Life Issues**

Lutheran Family Service supports LCMS church workers and laypeople by equipping them to engage effectively on life issues in their communities. In January, LFS hosted two annual events to strengthen relationships between LCMS leaders and LCMS members serving in the Iowa Legislature.

On January 13th, LFS welcomed Iowa's LCMS District Presidents, Life Coordinators, and LCMS members currently serving in the Iowa Legislature to its annual Capitol Luncheon. Established seven years ago, the event highlights LFS's commitment to supporting LCMS civic leaders in life advocacy efforts. Discussions included proposed life-related legislation, limits on mail-order abortion drugs, and support for Crisis Pregnancy Centers.

On January 27th, 30 LCMS pastors joined us at the Iowa Capitol for the annual LCMS Pastors' Day on the Hill. Pastors began the day at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Urbandale to receive guidance

for engaging their legislators and updates on recommended topics, including the Life at Conception Bill, the Black-Market Abortion Bill, and funding for the MOMS Act. They then traveled to the Capitol to meet with LCMS members who currently hold elected positions at the statehouse.

Our LCMS pastors expressed gratitude for the work of elected officials and affirmed their support for their efforts to protect life at all stages.

***"It's a great witness to all representatives (and our congregations) that the LCMS and her pastors are committed to life issues."***

***-Rev. Dan Vogel***

***"The fight for life brings blessings; some we see, and many more we probably won't."***

***-Rev. David Splett***

***"It encourages me to see our governing leaders embrace their calling. And it encourages them when pastors are present to support and pray for them."***

***-Rev. Alex Post, District Life Coordinator***

All LCMS members serving in the Iowa legislature expressed gratitude for the prayers, emails, and encouragement they receive from LFS, Iowa pastors, and fellow Lutherans. To receive updates from our Director of Life Ministries Kim Laube email [info@LutheranFamilyService.org](mailto:info@LutheranFamilyService.org) or call 515-573-3138. ♡



# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS Lutheran Family Service ?

Wiota, IA



9/13/25 Wanda Pritzel visited the LWML Adair Zone Fall Rally, where ladies gathered supplies and offerings to support the LFS counseling ministry.

Grand Forks, ND



9/21/25 Cheesecake Chats in Grand Forks and Minot invited North Dakotans to enjoy dessert and learn about expanding faith-based LFS mental health services.

Sioux Falls, SD



10/5/25 Rev. Mick Wolfram led worship and Bible Class during an LFS Sunday at Our Redeemer Lutheran in Sioux Falls, engaging a vibrant, family-filled church.

Rapid City, SD



10/6/25 LFS staff represented the ministry at the South Dakota District Fall Pastors Conference, thanking leaders and celebrating strong, growing partnerships.

Fort Dodge, IA



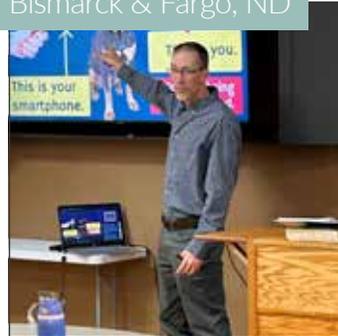
12/17/25 A MomTalk Christmas party, led by counselor Janel Lincoln, celebrated Christ's birth and encouraged mothers and children with the hope of Jesus.

Spirit Lake, IA



11/12/25 St. Michael the Archangel made a surprise visit to Immanuel Lutheran in Spirit Lake, joining the Ladies Circle for a fun, uplifting appearance.

Bismarck & Fargo, ND



10/20/25 Rev. Jonathan Conner presented on screen usage at Martin Luther and Grace Lutheran Schools, offering practical, faith-shaped guidance.

Bazile Mills, NE



10/11/25 Our Congregational Outreach team visited Christ Lutheran north of Creighton for the LWML Plainview Zone Fall Rally, presenting on life issues.

## Walking the Walk: Support for Pastors and Their Wives

A pastor's wife herself, therapist Lindy Hinckley supports LCMS pastors and their wives through three relationship-strengthening ministries: **Be One**, the **Dakota Pastors' Wives Retreat**, and **Koinonia**. She fosters emotional and spiritual health in ministry homes, where serving others often leaves little space for couples' care — a reality she knows well.

**Be One** marriage enrichment groups for pastors and their wives are already making a difference. Couples note the importance of intentional investment and

healthy communication to prevent minor challenges from becoming major hurts. Through **Koinonia** and the **Dakota Pastors' Wives Retreat**, Lindy helps wives build unity, resilience, and joy.

For more info, contact Lindy at the email address listed, or call 605-271-1081. ▼



Lindy Hinckley, tLMFT  
Marriage & Family Therapist  
lhinckley@LutheranFamilyService.org

# Together In Mission

## Celebrating the Partnership of LFS and the LWML

For more than a century, Lutheran Family Service and the Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) have shared a deep, mission-driven partnership rooted in Scripture and strengthened by faithful service. What began with Lutheran women gathering small gifts in their Mite Boxes has grown into a remarkable legacy of Gospel-centered care for people in need. Their generosity – quiet, steady, and often unseen – has supported LFS from our earliest days and continues to shape our work today.

From caring for orphans in the early 1900s to supporting parents, teens, and individuals facing today's emotional and

spiritual challenges, LWML women have stood alongside us in compassion and purpose. Through prayers, encouragement, and countless acts of support at the Society, District, and National levels, LWML has helped extend Christ's healing presence into homes and communities across the country.

A shining example of this commitment came at the LWML's 2025 National Convention in Omaha, where they awarded LFS a **\$92,500 national mission grant** for our project *Not Alone: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis*. This extraordinary gift reflects more than financial generosity – it shows profound trust, partnership, and shared devotion to strengthening families with Christ-centered care.

Their support comes at a time when families face increasing challenges such as mental illness, gender identity confusion, suicidal thoughts, and fractured relationships. Many parents feel alone and unsure where to turn for guidance. LWML's partnership ensures these families receive faithful,



Christ-centered care through in-person presentations, virtual learning, support groups, and individualized counseling.

This is more than funding – it is a living expression of Christian love. Through this partnership, LFS will bring Gospel help to rural areas, underserved communities, and congregations nationwide.

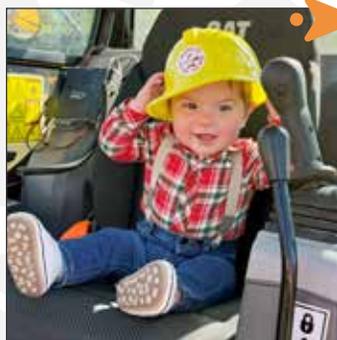
To every woman of the LWML: **We thank God for you, and we are deeply grateful for your steadfast commitment to sharing Christ's love.** Your partnership strengthens our mission and helps us guide hurting individuals and families to the hope found in Christ. ♥



## Recent Adoption Spotlights



Nora's story began when Tim and Julie, long dreaming of adoption, endured months of waiting until a birthmother in her third trimester selected their profile. After meeting before Christmas, they got the call from their caseworker a month later: "It's time." They rushed to the hospital and welcomed healthy Nora Lynn, deeply grateful for the steady guidance of LFS.



Isaac's adoption followed a year of waiting, including Thanksgiving spent traveling with an empty car seat just in case. Mike and Elizabeth received a post-Christmas text about a newborn. The next morning, an LFS social worker said they'd been chosen. They rushed to the hospital, overwhelmed with the support of LFS as they welcomed Isaac.

# Welcome Back!

**Lynnette Aschinger**  
Clinical Social Worker



Lutheran Family Service is delighted to welcome Lynnette Aschinger, LISW – a familiar face – to our growing counseling team. Lynnette served many Iowa families during her previous 12 years with us. After five years away, she returns to provide care to children, teens, adults, couples, and families across Iowa through telehealth; and in-person appointments in Ida Grove, Storm Lake, Wall Lake, and Carroll.

Lynnette blends years of counseling experience with a warm, caring personality and is driven to help people overcome barriers to living fully. She supports personal growth and strengthens relationships, especially marriages. Believing untreated trauma creates complications, she works with clients of all ages to address trauma so they can heal and experience a more peaceful life.

Reflecting on why she decided to return to Lutheran Family Service, Lynnette shares that she greatly values the opportunity to be surrounded with like-minded Christian co-workers. The values and work environment at LFS align closely with her own. She greatly appreciates the opportunity to integrate her faith that is grounded in Lutheran theology with the counseling work found at LFS.

***“With an understanding and incorporation of solid theology into our counseling work, a counselor’s perspective is different. How we approach suffering is so much richer because we have the security and solid foundation of Jesus’s suffering and resurrection. Therefore, we can always offer hope to those who suffer, because we not only see the worldly perspective, but the greater eternal perspective.”***

If you would like to schedule a time to meet with Lynnette or any one of our LFS counselors, reach out to us at 515-573-3138 or [info@LutheranFamilyService.org](mailto:info@LutheranFamilyService.org). ♥

## LFS Receives Prestigious LCEF Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award

Lutheran Family Service is honored to be named the 2025 recipient of the Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). This annual award recognizes ministries that demonstrate excellence, innovation, and a strong commitment to sharing Christ’s love through service. LCEF commended LFS for “setting a new standard in standing for life, from cradle to grave,” and highlighted the organization’s expanding work in mental health counseling, adoption services,

and care for church workers across the Midwest.

LFS Directors Kim Laube and Wanda Pritzel accepted the award at the LCEF Annual Meeting this past November, emphasizing that the recognition belongs to the entire LFS team. They expressed gratitude for the counselors, staff, supporters, and clients who make the mission possible each day. The award also includes a \$25,000 gift to further strengthen the ministry of LFS.

Lutheran Family Service thanked LCEF for its ongoing partnership,



which has expanded our reach across the Midwest. An LCEF-produced video (accessible via the QR code above) shares stories of lives changed through LFS, highlighting the real people behind hope and healing.

We thank LCEF for this meaningful honor and for their continued support of our mission. ♥

# Helpful Resources for You, Your Pastor, Your Congregation

A growing area of Lutheran Family Service ministry is outreach designed to support you and your family, pastor, teachers, and congregational groups. We cover topics that impact both wellness and faith as you navigate complex cultural issues. All educational presentations are grounded in Scripture, informed by clinical or pastoral expertise, and can be tailored to the needs of your group.

Topics include **life issues** (infertility, adoption, defending life, IVF, miscarriage, end-of-life decisions), **mental health concerns** (anxiety from clinical and Gospel perspectives; the impact of screens, social media, and AI), and cultural



**questions of identity** – especially gender identity – addressed from Lutheran theological and clinical viewpoints with Gospel-rooted compassion.

Presentations are available in-person or online. Contact 515-573-3138 or [info@LutheranFamilyService.org](mailto:info@LutheranFamilyService.org). ♥



## What Kind of Life Are You Looking For?

Loving, lasting marriages... strong families... happy and stable youth... healthy church workers... people who aren't just enduring but living the abundant life God intended.

Imagine how blessed our world would be if more people lived this way. Together with you, we celebrate those who are thriving with sufficient support. And with your partnership, LFS walks alongside those who need help.

Marriages on the brink of divorce are being restored. Families are growing stronger. Babies are being saved from abortion, and life is being protected. Families are being formed through adoption. Church workers are staying in ministry. Children and adults

are finding hope as they work through trauma, depression, anxiety, complicated grief, and other challenges.

This work happens every day, built on a foundation of faith in God – the One who designed marriages and families, grants life to each of His children, and desires that their lives be abundant, not merely endured.

The next time you make a partnership gift, begin a monthly pledge, or include LFS in your long-term financial plan, consider doing so in honor of someone God has placed in your life who reflects His good design. We will recognize that person, couple, family, or church worker in a future GoodNews Letter. A planned gift made in your

loved one's name becomes a lasting expression of the values that inspired you to honor them. You may create a fund in their name and direct which area of LFS ministry it supports. You can also choose how you would like to fund your gift – through appreciated stock, property, life insurance, or even a portion of an inheritance you received from that loved one.

To explore the options that may work best for you, contact Wanda Pritzel at 515-570-2310 or via email at the address listed below. ♥



Wanda Pritzel  
Licensed Social Worker  
Director of Ministry Advancement  
[wpritzel@LutheranFamilyService.org](mailto:wpritzel@LutheranFamilyService.org)

# Gifts given in *Memory of Loved Ones*

**Todd Baker**

given by Mary Becker  
given by Rev. Larry & Jane Schmidt

**Dewey Betts**

given by Duane & Karen Ploeger

**Elvera Bierman**

given by Rev. Bret Bierman

**Isaiah Caldwell**

given by Ken & Markie Hays

**Brandon Charles**

given by Karen Seegebarth

**Wes Daberkow**

given by Chris Peatrowsky

**Roger Day**

given by Donna Day

**Pauline Doyen**

given by Dale & Nancy Bruns

**Bill Greiner**

given by Rev. Ed & Eileen Brandt

**Dick Hansen**

given by Kathy Baetsle  
given by Delmar & Rose Bayer  
given by Dorothy Bright  
given by Nick & Pamela Cronbaugh  
given by Brenda Crow  
given by Kurt & Susan Koehn  
given by Lonny & Sharon Koehn

**Dick Hansen (continued)**

given by Ronald & Sally Lang  
given by James & Jean O'Brien  
given by Rev. Larry & Jane Schmidt  
given by Doris Stanek  
given by Doris Wegner  
given by Stanley Weiss  
given by Bushong Construction Co.  
given by Koehn Motor & Tractor Co.  
given by Kuesel Brothers

**Bob & Eva Johnson**

given by Barbara & Donald  
Schneider

**Roger Johnson**

given by Kerry & Keri Burmeister  
given by Lance & Paula Olson

**Bertha Kirchoff**

given by Joan Arnold  
given by Kerry & Keri Burmeister  
given by Joe & Mary Holmberg  
given by Lance & Paula Olson

**Jason Koehn**

given by Lonny & Sharon Koehn

**Dale Langner**

given by Sandy Langner

**Esther Larson**

given by Joe & Mary Holmberg

**Alda Rapple**

given by Kerry & Keri Burmeister

**Beverly Skadburg**

given by St. John Lutheran Church,  
Burt, Iowa

**Phil Voge**

given by Mark Dohms  
given by Kim & Lynn Dreyer  
given by Rex & Joyce Hoppes  
given by Alison Keane  
given by Kenneth & Joan Kennedy  
given by Duane & Diane Madoerin  
given by Leo & Eleanor Moriarty  
given by Dallas Nibe  
given by Michael & Stephanie Nokes  
given by Bonita Pitz  
given by Wanda Pritzel  
given by Dennis & Coleen Tasler  
given by Joan Vandeer

**Shirley Weichman**

given by Scott & Nancy Franck

**Carol Wendel**

given by Allen & Kay Olson

## Gifts given in *Honor*

**Rev. Mick Wolfram's Retirement**

given by Anonymous

If you would like to give a gift in memory or honor of someone special, please visit [lutheranfamilyservice.org](http://lutheranfamilyservice.org) and click "Donate" at the top of the screen.



Coming soon to your mailbox, look for our  
**2026 Spring Appeal**  
to find out how you can partner with LFS  
and earn a special gift for your pastor's wife!

# 2025 LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

Lutheran Family Service is a 501(c)3 and a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. Our finances are reviewed annually by an outside accounting firm. Audited figures are from Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025). Last year's Form 990 is available now; the 990 for Fiscal Year 2025 will be available after filing in spring 2026.

▲ **85%**  
New  
Partners

▲ **17%**  
Total  
Partners

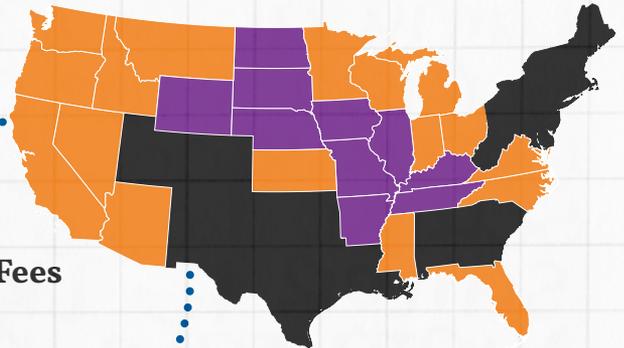
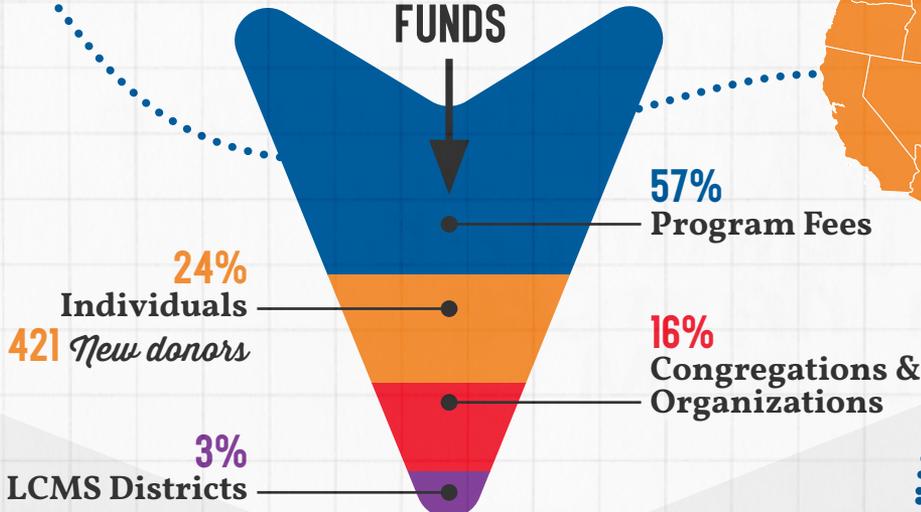
▲ **22%**  
Counseling  
Sessions

▲ **56%**  
Finalized  
Adoptions

▲ **3**  
New States  
Served

▲ **20%**  
Facebook  
Followers

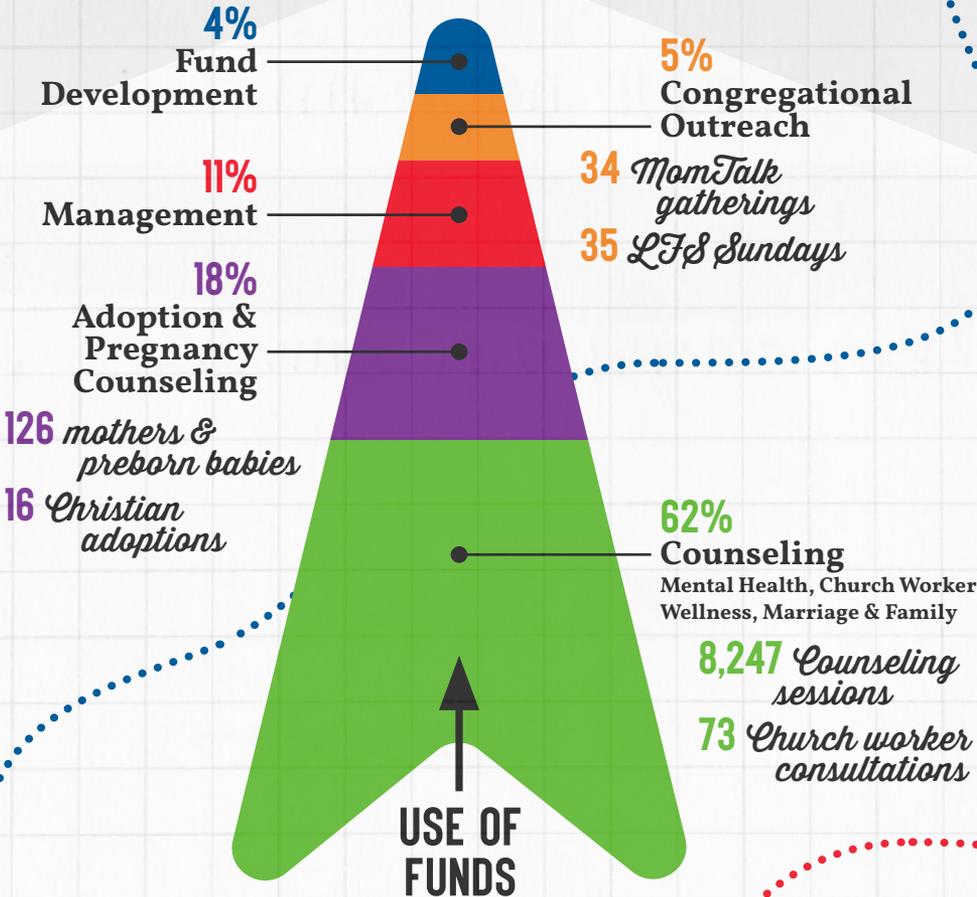
## SOURCE OF FUNDS



▶ **1,205** partners from  
**25** different states  
▶ **\$0** government dollars

Currently serving in  
**10** different states

## Lutheran Family Service



**34** MomTalk gatherings  
**35** LFS Sundays

**126** mothers & preborn babies  
**16** Christian adoptions

**62%** Counseling  
Mental Health, Church Worker  
Wellness, Marriage & Family

**8,247** Counseling sessions  
**73** Church worker consultations

- 8,360** Facebook followers
- 375,785** Social media reach
- 43,520** Website visitors
- 35%** Enews open rate
- 6%** Enews click-thru rate

## Profit & Loss Overview

\* Breakdown shown on left

▶ **\$1,853,563**  
Revenue

◀ **\$2,619,248**  
Expenses



Lutheran Family Service  
409 Kenyon Rd, Ste. C  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# THE *Good News* LETTER

Spring 2026

<<LINE 1>>  
<<LINE 2>>  
<<LINE 3>>  
<<LINE 4>>

[lutheranfamilyservice.org](http://lutheranfamilyservice.org)

     @LutheranFamilyService



If you or someone you know is in need of Christ-centered mental wellness, marriage & family counseling, unplanned pregnancy support, or adoption services, reach out to us today.

Call: 515-573-3138 • Email: [info@lutheranfamilyservice.org](mailto:info@lutheranfamilyservice.org)  
Scan the QR code on the right to visit our web form.



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[lutheranfamilyservice.org/news](http://lutheranfamilyservice.org/news)