

2019 Mobile Convention Offering Whereas Statements

Offering #1 2019-2021 Mission Goal

Offering #2 Half of offering amount:

James Storehouse Louisiana

To aid James Storehouse Louisiana in caring for foster care children and youth as they also empower communities to be active in improving the foster care crisis, all the while sharing the unconditional love of Jesus with these most vulnerable children and youth.

WHEREAS, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Covington, LA, has gone to the Lord in prayer, seeking His direction for our outreach endeavors, and

WHEREAS, the Lord introduced missional leaders of Holy Trinity to Kim Bigler, the founder of James Storehouse Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, James Storehouse Louisiana is a faith-based organization that serves children and youth in foster care “from cribs to college,” and

WHEREAS, the Lord opened Holy Trinity’s eyes to the dire realities of those in foster care, as well as their lives upon aging out of (emancipating from) the foster care system, and

WHEREAS, the statistics underscore the urgency of James Storehouse Louisiana’s mission:

Across the Nation

- 415,000 in US foster care
- 108,000 waiting to be adopted
- 25,000 foster youth age out of system every year, many without family or community connections

Throughout Louisiana

- 4,374 kids in foster care
- 653 kids waiting to be adopted

In Addition

- 1 in 5 foster youth will become homeless after aging out;
- 51% of children exiting foster care will be unemployed within the first year;
- 40% of girls exiting foster care will become pregnant within the first year;
- 80% of domestic human trafficking victims were once in the foster care system;
- Only 30% of children who grow up in foster care will graduate high school; and

WHEREAS, the Lord laid on Holy Trinity’s heart a desire to partner with James Storehouse Louisiana, in sharing the unconditional love of Jesus with these most vulnerable children and youth, and

WHEREAS, Holy Trinity offered 4,700 square feet of its facility to James Storehouse Louisiana, which will house the James Storehouse Louisiana Youth & Family Development Center, and

WHEREAS, the JSL Youth & Family Development Center, opening November 13, 2018, will be the hub for James Storehouse Louisiana operations, including but not limited to:

- **JSL founder office and meeting space**
- **JSL board and staff office and meeting space**
- **Case worker office and meeting space**
- **Foster parent training meetings**
- **The Open Table mentor program trainings and meetings**
- **Safe, neutral, meeting space for families and children**
- **Resource and study area for foster care children and youth**
- **Clothing closet for foster care children and youth, therefore be it**

RESOLVED, That the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League give thanks, and all praise, to the Lord for opening the door to this humbling partnership between Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Covington, LA, and James Storehouse Louisiana; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League designate one offering during its 38th Biennial Convention to support the James Storehouse Louisiana mission of sharing Jesus’ unconditional love as they serve foster care children “from cribs to college.”

Offering #2 Half of offering amount:

Medical Mission Teams

WHEREAS, Our Lord has sent us on a mission to bless the lives of all people, Jesus specifically says, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19) and Jesus healed and ministered to all, and calls us to “... Love your neighbor as yourself ...” (Mark 12:31) and

WHEREAS, impoverished people in developing countries have limited access to medical care and die at an accelerated rate compared to developed countries, diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia, measles and HIV/AIDS kill 1.6 million children and adults in Africa each year (reported in Africa Renewal Online), and

WHEREAS, impoverished people in developing countries rely on local health care with ill-equipped clinics or local healers, little understanding of basic hygiene in the transmission of disease and very few medicines available to treat diseases which have been eradicated or alleviated in the developed world, and

WHEREAS, many people in these areas must walk for days to reach a medical clinic or hospital with no guarantee they will have basic medicines, sterilized equipment and supplies to assist the patients, and

WHEREAS, Medical Mission Teams provides a safe, caring, life-transforming, setting where the Good News of Jesus' renewing grace is modeled and communicated to the patients who come to the clinics that are set up on each mission trip in word and deed by a uniquely qualified staff consisting of doctors certified in family and emergency medicine, qualified nursing staff and certified pharmacist, as well as loving, willing volunteers from all fields, and

WHEREAS, Medical Mission Teams also provides life-saving medicine and treatments for many of the common ailments in these areas, they provide support items such as crutches, canes and walkers, as well as braces and vitamins, all donated or purchased with monetary donations and grants, and

WHEREAS, Medical Mission Teams has taken over 90 mission trips to places such as Madagascar, Guatemala, and Kenya, and service different towns and villages in these countries, not only serving the physical and medical needs but the spiritual needs as well, spreading the Good News to people everywhere they go; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League prayerfully adopt and generously support the on-going Medical Mission Teams ministry for free medical care and treatment to impoverished people in developing countries through a designated convention offering.

Offering #3 Half of Offering Amount:

Expanding the Disability Ministry in the Dominican Republic

WHEREAS, God's Word tell us in I Corinthians 12:24b-25: "God combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the members of the body that lack it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its members should have equal concern for each other"; and

WHEREAS, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Dominican Republic generally live very marginalized from the rest of society and the government provides no services to educate or help these people or their families, so they sink further into poverty; and

WHEREAS, God continues to bless the LCMS Dominican mission team and the Dominican Lutheran Church in their outreach and ministry with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities including visiting government institutions weekly, and opening the first group home in the country for six orphan children with developmental disabilities in January 2011; and

February 11, 2019

WHEREAS, the children in the group home are thriving in the care and love of Jesus they receive each day and are a Christian witness in their community, the outreach with God's Word and Jesus' love continues in the government institutions, and the ministry has expanded, by God's grace, into the government's psychiatric hospital, and funding is needed to continue this work of the Lord, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Board of Directors gathered in January 2019 decide to select "Expanding the Dominican Republic Disability Ministry" to be funded as one of the three convention offerings at the 2019 LWML National Convention in Mobile, Alabama, June 20-23-2019.

Offering #3 Half of offering amount:

Spiritual Care for Unaccompanied Refugee Children

WHEREAS, Proverbs states: Train up a child in the way he shall go: and when he is old, he shall not depart from it," and Upbring's (formerly Lutheran Social Services of the South) mission is to break the cycle of child abuse by empowering children, families and communities; and Upbring has the opportunity to introduce children at programs for unaccompanied refugee children to the Gospel of Jesus, thereby providing them with spiritual foundations for bright futures; and

WHEREAS, It is prohibited to use government support for religious materials or services, and so Upbring must raise funds from donors and faith-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, Upbring works with Lutheran pastors, church members, and others to share the Word with these children, which empowers them to recover from past trauma; and

WHEREAS, Each year, Upbring has the opportunity to provide spiritual care to over 2,200 unaccompanied refugee children served by its two emergency shelters in Corpus Christi, TX, and McAllen, TX, and transitional foster care in El Paso, TX; therefore be it

RESOLVED That the Lutheran Women's Missionary League receive an offering at the 2019 convention for Upbring in support of its spiritual care program for unaccompanied refugee children.

Offering #4

LCMS Disaster Response/Community Relief

WHEREAS, many of our LCMS communities, coast to coast, have been affected by devastating natural disaster during 2018, including hurricanes, tornadoes and fires; and

WHEREAS, our brothers and sisters have been disadvantaged by the storms and fires, and are in need of assistance for supplies to rebuild and re-establish their return to a somewhat normal life, including reuniting with their church families for spiritual growth, and

WHEREAS, it is our responsibility to care for those in need; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Lutheran Women's Missionary League designate one of the three convention offerings taken during the 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile, AL, to be used for supplies and necessary needs for US communities devastated by natural disaster during 2018; funds to be distributed through the LCMS Disaster Response program.