



GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD 2026 REPORT



Organization Profile

Founded: 1882

Website: www.lsswis.org

Main Phone: (414) 246-2300

Mission: Act compassionately. Serve humbly. Lead courageously.

Vision: Creating healthy communities filled with people using their God-given gifts to serve.

Contact



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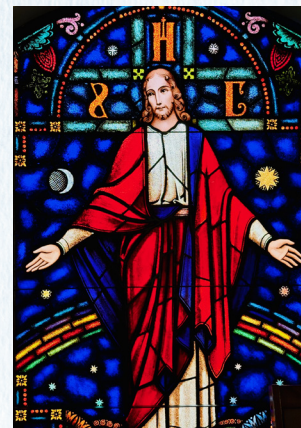


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God has called us to work together.

When we experience challenges in our lives it can feel impossible to handle them all alone. But God has called us to work together and collaborate through our shared ministry. **Your faithful prayers and financial support of LSS is changing lives in powerful ways.** We are pleased to share this update and invite you to explore this year's Community Impact Report and our newly redesigned website at www.lsswis.org to learn more about how your partnership in this important work is bringing the love of Christ to those who need it most in our communities and throughout the two-state region.



Loving Lutherans

When an anonymous donor challenged our Lutheran community to give \$1 million collectively by matching your donations, the response was overwhelming! **Loving Lutherans congregations and their members donated a total of \$1,118,238—unlocking the challenge funds for a total of \$2,118,238 for LSS's multiple programs and services, including the LSS Love Big Campaign.** In all, 397 Lutheran congregations increased their previous LSS support by 10% or more and doubled the impact for those most in need in our communities. These gifts help LSS provide essential services that feel like words of encouragement made real, through safe shelter, counseling, recovery support, and care for families who need strength and stability. Your kindness is making a profound difference for those served through our joint ministry.

To see recognition of all the qualifying Loving Lutherans congregations, access resources to share the impact of our ministry together, and learn more about Loving Lutherans going forward, visit www.lsswis.org/LovingLutherans.



LSS Sunday Toolkit

While any Sunday of the year can be an "LSS Sunday," we've identified several Sundays this year for which the Revised Common Lectionary readings offer an especially fitting opportunity to highlight your congregation's partnership with LSS and to thank members for their faithful giving that makes a life-changing impact for neighbors. **For each of these Sundays, we have developed a special toolkit with resources to make it easy to share this message.**

Visit www.lsswis.org/toolkit for sermon starters, children's sermon ideas, prayer petitions, short videos to share, and slides that can be shown during worship. If you'd like to have one of our team come to visit your congregation for an LSS Sunday, please reach out to Sarah Halstead or Jennifer Williamson or email church.relations@lsswis.org. We look forward to creating something special just for you!



9,591 individuals and their family members from the **Greater Milwaukee Synod Region** were served in 2025, and of those:

5,003 people were empowered to live independently and achieve self-identified goals through Connections, Service Coordination, and more.



3,536 people were provided early intervention and wraparound support through Birth to Three and Children's Long-Term Support.



485 people found behavioral and mental health support through School Centered Mental Health, Family Centered Treatment, and more.



215 people found love and safety in either a new home through Refugee Resettlement or in a forever family thanks to Foster Care and Adoption.



179 people made strides in their mental health and substance use recovery journeys through Residential Treatment.



174 people regained self-sufficiency and stable housing after exiting homelessness or reintegrating after incarceration or institutionalization through Welcome Home, Veterans Homeless Programming, and more.



LSS Recovery Center – Oconomowoc

Newest to our ministry of medically monitored and transitional residential treatment centers is the LSS Recovery Center – Oconomowoc located at 1331 Capitol Drive. With a 30-bed capacity, this trauma-informed center provides specialized mental health and substance use recovery care for women, expectant mothers, and mothers with newborns. This unique family-based approach not only improves the lives of women but also creates healthier and stronger families. A client recently shared: **"Through my time here, I grew in emotional maturity and understanding of my feelings, realized my triggers and source of my pain, I gained clarity, and I found support and security that I had never experienced before. I was loved until I could love myself!"**

Planned Giving

If you've ever watched news of people in need and thought, **"I wish there was something more I could do,"** there is! In addition to supporting LSS's ministry, many donors have also established a planned gift, such as putting a bequest to LSS in their will. These **legacy gifts are special acts of love that help shape the future**, ensuring that our ministry of compassion, humble service, and courageous leadership perseveres. Visit www.lsswis.org/support-lss or www.lssfoundation.org/ways-to-give to learn more.

