

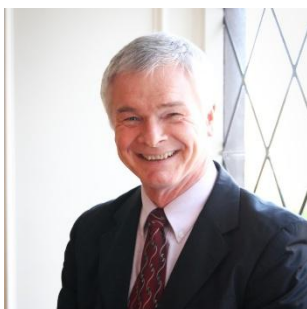


Lutherans in Medical Missions Fall 2025

LIMM Welcomes New Board Members



LIMM is excited to share that this summer we added two additional board members. We welcome back to the board Rev. Dr. Alan Abel from Big Spring Texas. Rev. Abel has served with LIMM in the past and welcomed the opportunity to return to LIMM. A retired surgeon, LCMS Minister and former LCMS missionary to the Philippines, as well as a volunteer for Mercy Ships, Alan stated he hopes to see LIMM, “Expand work in areas where we can make a difference improving medical care for the unserved.”



Rev. Peter Kirby comes to LIMM from St. Louis, MO. where he has served as Director of Congregational Services – LCMS Missouri District since 2023. Rev. Kirby is a former 8-year missionary to Jamaica as well as former Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Lutheran Hour Ministries, and has served on the board of Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ and Global Lutheran outreach. Both Rev. Kirby and Rev. Abel bring a vast knowledge of missions and ministry to share with LIMM and we are excited to welcome them to our organization.

In other news, LIMM announces that Linda Jurgens and Rev. Hector Hoppe have fulfilled their nine-year terms and leave their roles as Chairman and vice-chairman. Rev. Hoppe will remain an “emeritus” board member to help onboard our new members. We have appreciated their leadership and dedication to LIMM and will miss them serving on our board. We welcome Andrea Ferguson, RN, BSN into the position of Board Chairman, and Michelle Ritchie, RN, will serve as vice-chairman. Interested in our board? You can see all our board members on the website at WWW.LIMM.ORG.

LIMM JOINS LCMS on Mercy Mission Trip to Belize



Lutherans in Medical Missions (LIMM) works with local and global partners to share Christ's healing in medically underserved communities.

LIMM Goes to Belize



LIMM Executive Director Sharon Thomas, RN, along with Andrea Ferguson, RN, BSN traveled to Belize with LCMS in late August to teach Community health education classes in Western Belize. This trip has been a dream of Sharon's since her first trip to Belize in 2012 with the Belize Mission Society, and she was very excited to see it come to fruition.

Andrea Ferguson writes, "Lutherans in Medical Missions (LIMM) and LCMS International Missions provided Community Health Evangelism/Education in Valley of Peace, Belize from 27 August through 03 September 2025. There were seven volunteers: Sharon Thomas, RN (LIMM Executive Director), Kristin Dye, PT, Alice Layne, RN, Lisa Rathjen, RN, Janet Hitzeman, RN, Steve Hitzeman, O.D., and Andrea Ferguson, RN (LIMM Chairman).

Erin Mackenzie, LCMS Regional Volunteer Coordinator and Deaconess Tirzah Krey, Regional Human Care Coordinator provided exceptional guidance. Pastor Benjamin Flores, Pastor Jason Groth, Pastor Micah Wildauer, Pastor Herbert Burch, and their families welcomed us into their homes and shared the Belizean and Central American culture with the team.

Valley of Peace, Little Lambs Preschool teachers, Pastors and their families, as well as members of the community attended the various classes. Topics taught by the nurses included: First Aid, CPR, discipline methods for preschool children, nutrition, child development, Overuse of Technology and alcoholism. Dr. Hitzeman and Andrea Ferguson, RN completed vision and hearing screenings on 24 preschool children. Several children failed their vision and/or hearing screening which will require further evaluation and treatment. The team was blessed to witness the work of the Inspiration Center who, alongside the Valley of Peace Mercy House, provide care, such as physical therapy, to children with disabilities." If you wish to support this incredible ministry, you can send your donations to LIMM and designate Valley of Peace Mercy House.



Photos of the LCMS long-term and short-term Missionaries working in various settings in Western Belize. Erin McKenzie served as interpreter along with our missionaries as needed. From hearing and vision screening to first aid demonstration, and class lectures, the participants were very excited to join in.



Top row left to right: The Micah Wildauer Family; The Jason Groth Family; a preschool teacher demonstrates choking care on volunteer Janet Hitzeman, RN; Andrea Ferguson setting up for hearing screening.

Bottom Left to right: Pastor Wildauer translates on "Healthy Bodies"; Andrea Ferguson teaching First Aid; Sharon Thomas Teaching on Affects of Alcoholism at a class in Seine Bight; Missionary Pastor Benjamin Flores with Janet Hitzman during Nutrition class.

Medical Mission Legacy

One way to honor the memory of a loved one who has passed away or to honor a loved one still living is to make a donation in their name. If you would like to give a gift in memory or in honor of someone, you may mail it to L IMM and simply indicate if it is a memorial or honorarium and the name of the person you are honoring. We will include all memorial and honor gifts in our quarterly newsletter.

If you would like to leave an impact far beyond your life, consider giving to our endowment fund by naming L IMM in your will/trust or as a beneficiary of your life insurance. Another option to secure the long-term mission of L IMM is to name us as a percentage beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement plan assets. You will also be recognized as a Legacy Partner if you make a gift to L IMM's Endowment Fund.

This Medical Mission Legacy Report is not intended as legal advice. As you consider a planned gift to support medical missions, you are encouraged to consult your legal advisor.

**Lutherans in Medical
Missions**

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Please visit our Facebook
page:

**Lutherans in Medical
Missions**

Donations may be sent to:

Lutherans in Medical

Missions

P.O. Box 766

Concordia, MO 64020

Visit to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Secretary Gail Nierman and Executive Director Sharon Thomas had the privilege to travel to Warrensburg, MO to visit Bethlehem Lutheran Church, the home church of former board member Judy (Roy) Schache. We were honored to share in their Mission Sunday and thank them for their many years of support to LIMM. The congregation gifted us with quilts and prayer shawls that will be shared with ministry partners.



Top left: Sharon and Gail with Judy Schache

Top Right: Pastor Joel Kurz

*Bottom: Pastor Kurz along with his mother Carol,
retired nurse and former missionary to the
Philippines.*

Prayer and Praise

- ❖ Thanking God for our faithful donors who believe in the mission of LIMM.
- ❖ Thank you, Lord, for the large anonymous donation from our "Angel" giver.
- ❖ Praying for revival in the United States; that its people and leaders seek God.
- ❖ Asking God to open doors for additional grant opportunities.
- ❖ Lord, you continue to be faithful in giving us new donors and new board members. Thank you!
- ❖ We pray for wisdom and boldness for pastors, church workers and missionaries as they speak God's truth in a broken world.
- ❖ Lord, continue to give direction to LIMM's Board and Staff.
- ❖ Praying for endurance and safety for persecuted Christians around the world.
- ❖ Praying for the work our missionaries are doing in the field.

Lutherans in Medical Missions participates in Thrivent Choice Dollars program. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to LIMM. We will use your Thrivent Choice grant funding for future mission projects. LIMM is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3). Contributions made directly to Lutherans in Medical Missions are tax-deductible.