

# RECOGNIZED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

*Serving in the Name of Christ*



## Recognized Service Organizations

*To extend its mission outreach, education and social ministry, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod works with independent Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) that agree to ensure their programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the LCMS.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**November 17, 2016**

LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission Webinar • “Using Technology for Ministry”

[calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-using-technology-for-ministry/](http://calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-using-technology-for-ministry/)

**January 4-6, 2017**

LCMS National Campus Ministry Liberty Conference

[calendar.lcms.org/event/2017-lcms-campus-ministry-conference/](http://calendar.lcms.org/event/2017-lcms-campus-ministry-conference/)

**January 27-29, 2017**

LCMS Life Conference

[calendar.lcms.org/event/2017-lcms-life-conference/](http://calendar.lcms.org/event/2017-lcms-life-conference/)

**January 2017**

Association of Lutheran Mission Agencies Annual Conference

[alma-online.org/conference.htm](http://alma-online.org/conference.htm)



## The Lutheran Home, Wauwatosa, Wis. WRAPPED IN LOVE



In July the residents of the Lutheran Home in Wauwatosa, Wis. received several warm hugs from some kind and talented friends. The hugs came in the form of lovely handmade prayer shawls from members of Redeemer Lutheran Church in DeRidder, La. During a trip to Milwaukee, Deaconess Dorothy Krans, director of Recognized Service Organizations from the LCMS Office of National Mission, personally delivered two gigantic bags of beautiful shawls to the Lutheran Home. No two prayer shawls were alike. The variety of styles, colors and exquisite craftsmanship made beautiful gifts. Each prayer shawl also had a tag letting the resident know it was handmade with love just for him.

The prayer shawls were put to work immediately by the dedicated staff of the Lutheran Home's sewing room. In addition to giving the prayer shawls to individual residents, some of the shawls were also made available to any resident who stops by the sewing room for a visit and to “shop.” The sewing room is open weekly for resident shopping and offers a variety of wonderful donated items, including tops, pants, jewelry, handbags and accessories. The residents can get new attire and items to suit their needs, and their purchase price is always the same: a smile.

Several of the prayer shawls also grace the chapel of the Lutheran Home during weekly Sunday services. Chaplain Derek Wolter loves to keep a supply of prayer shawls on hand for residents who come to worship. When a resident has a chill, a prayer shawl draped around her shoulders is a welcome hug, instantly providing warmth and comfort. Chaplain Derek also uses the prayer shawls to provide comfort and reassurance while visiting one-on-one with residents.

“The talented members of Redeemer Lutheran Church have wrapped our residents in love, and we are so grateful. Thank you for sharing your talents, prayers and loving kindness,” said Heidi Mayer, Lutheran Home Foundation executive director.

For more information about the Lutheran Home, please visit [thelutheranhome.org](http://thelutheranhome.org).

## RESOURCE FOCUS:

### *Worship for Shut-Ins: Sharing Christ's Love Through a Weekly Televised Worship Service for the Homebound*

*Worship for Shut-Ins*, produced by Lutheran Ministries Media (LMM), Inc., is a 30-minute broadcast worship service filmed and distributed with a new program each week. The service includes music, scripture readings, prayers and a Lutheran pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Every hymn is subtitled, making it very easy to follow along. Most viewers watch *Worship for Shut-Ins* on television or via the website, which is friendly for tablets and other mobile devices.

*Worship for Shut-Ins* was created in 1965 by Rev. Oswald Bertram with the vision of reaching people with God's Word. Upon his passing in 1979, members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. worked to bring the program back on the air. Today, *Worship for Shut-Ins* is recorded at the Elsie Rossman Media Center and Wolf Chapel (built in 2010) and broadcast all over the world.

*Worship for Shut-Ins* has seen tremendous growth over the years in large part due to the ability to broadcast throughout the United States and around the world on television via broadcast (over-the-air), satellite and cable providers. For most people in America, this is still the primary way television is watched. Now, with the advent of streaming internet television, it's easier than ever to watch each week's program via the *Worship for Shut-Ins* website.

The combining of AT&T and DirecTV in 2015 means *Worship for Shut-Ins* is on the largest TV provider in the United States. The program can be found on DirecTV every Sunday on channel 377 at 11:30 a.m. ET/8:30 a.m. PT. Being seen on TCT, a Christian broadcast station, has been an incredible blessing over

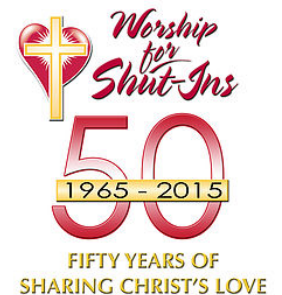
the years for LMM and *Worship for Shut-Ins*. TCT can even reach areas with their on-air broadcast in places like Atlanta, Nashville, ten locations throughout Michigan, and many more places around the country.

In the Chicago area and others parts of northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana, *Worship for Shut-Ins* is seen on Total Living Network (TLN). Between TCT, TLN and selected locations in other parts of Illinois, Ohio and Indiana, *Worship for Shut-Ins* is easily viewable in those parts of the country with the most Lutherans. To learn how to watch the program in a specific area, all a person needs to do is go to the *Worship for Shut-Ins* website and click on "Ways to Watch."

According to Matthew Leighty, executive director of LMM, this level of coverage has been years in the making: "We've been blessed by the support and hard work of those who came before us in order to share the message of Christ's love here in the United States and all over the world through *Worship for Shut-Ins*. With the Lord's help, we seek to reach even more people with the message of salvation as proclaimed in God's Word."

To increase the accessibility of the program, LMM offers the Reach and Preach DVD subscription program. Subscribers receive a DVD of each week's program to copy and share throughout their community. Thanks to a generous gift from a donor, the Reach and Preach DVD subscription fee (\$520 annually) might be waived for churches or individuals utilizing the programs in ministry. Those interested should contact LMM to see if they qualify to have the fee waived.

For more information about Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. or *Worship for Shut-Ins*, please visit [worshipforshutins.org](http://worshipforshutins.org) or call toll free (888) 286-8002.







# FAMILY SHIELD MINISTRIES

## *Proclaiming the Gospel Beyond the Walls of the Church*

Family Shield Ministries (FSM), a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, proclaims the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16, John 3:16, Eph. 2:8-9) beyond the walls of the Church. FSM’s name is based on Eph. 6:16: “Take up the shield of faith.” FSM’s mission is to educate and equip people, through the power of the Gospel, to know Christ, grow in His Word, and strengthen individuals and their families. FSM accomplishes this mission through outreach and educational ministries, including a weekly half-hour *Family Shield* radio program; educational programs on family life, spiritual growth and learning to witness; a counter-cult ministry that helps family

***Approximately 800,000 people listen to the program each week, and according to George Barna Resources, 10 to 15 percent of listeners are unchurched.***

members and friends of Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons cope with and witness to loved ones involved in these organizations; and connecting people to resources.

The *Family Shield* radio program, a weekly half-hour program hosted by FSM President Kay Mayer, has been in broadcast for more than 20 years and is currently heard on 53 radio stations throughout the United States. Approximately 800,000 people listen to the program each week, and according to George Barna Resources, 10 to 15 percent of listeners are unchurched. The program features LCMS and Christian experts speaking on a wide range of topics and issues faced by families, including family life, spiritual

growth, missions and learning to witness. Organizations featured in past programs include Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Lutheran Indian Ministries; Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis.; Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ; Transforming Congregations Network; Lutheran Hour Ministries; and Lutheran Bible Translators.

The FSM Response Center answers calls and emails and responds to social media contacts from over 6,000 people each year. Last year 325 unchurched individuals contacted FSM’s Response Center after hearing the *Family Shield* radio program. Through a partnership with Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM), FSM gives away a weekly issue-oriented booklet to interested listeners, prays for and with callers, and refers callers to LCMS congregations. One recent caller, Carla, contacted FSM after hearing a *Family Shield* program. She said, “I was flipping through the radio dial when I heard you talking about the five love languages for married couples. I want to submit my name to receive one of the complimentary books you will give away.” During the conversation she mentioned that she had not been to church for several years. Response Center staff shared the Gospel message with Carla, offered to connect her with a local LCMS



congregation, and continued conversations with her about Jesus in follow-up phone calls.

The FSM Counter-Cult Ministry shares the true Christ of the Bible with Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses and members of other false religions, and assists family members and friends of individuals as they learn to cope and witness to loved ones. The ministry also offers prayers, resources, training seminars and workshops on witnessing to Jehovah’s Witnesses, witnessing to Mormons and other topics to congregations, circuits, districts, conventions and individuals. The Counter-Cult Ministry seeks to empower Christians to witness effectively to friends and family members caught in cults and false religions.

Family Shield Ministries also designs and presents numerous education programs relating to family life, parenting, spiritual growth, apologetics and witnessing. The organization also recognizes that one challenge individuals, families and church leaders face is finding resources that meet their needs. FSM strives to share relevant resources (people, products and organizations) through all its ministries and services. It has also produced numerous articles, booklets, Bible studies and books, including *Mission Field on Our Doorstep: Jehovah’s Witnesses* and *Witnessing: A Lifestyle*, both authored by Kay Meyer.

Throughout its ministries FSM works to share the Law and Gospel message of God’s Word with those it serves, strives to help those who are confused about spiritual issues, and speaks to those who do not yet know Christ to help them learn about their Savior. The organization equips Christians throughout the United States to serve and witness in their homes, churches and communities, enabling them to live out the message of Rom. 1:16 within their vocations: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

For more information about Family Shield Ministries, please visit [familyshieldministries.com](http://familyshieldministries.com).

**WANT MORE RSO NEWS?**

Check out our webpage: [lcms.org/rso](http://lcms.org/rso)

Looking for an RSO? Visit our online searchable directory or download the RSO State Directory at [lcms.org/rso/directory](http://lcms.org/rso/directory). Please send contact information updates for your organization to Deaconess Cara Patton at [cara.patton@lcms.org](mailto:cara.patton@lcms.org).



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For more information about the LCMS RSO ministry, visit [lcms.org/rso](http://lcms.org/rso).

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, contact Deaconess Cara Patton at 314-996-1635 or [cara.patton@lcms.org](mailto:cara.patton@lcms.org).

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Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:7-11 ESV).