



LUTHERAN MILITARY  
SUPPORT GROUP  
*Shoulder to Shoulder in Service*

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Report to the Twelve Districts  
Summer 2024

Greetings in Jesus' Name!

God has richly blessed LMSG in the last year as we strive to provide Christ-centered resources to our Christian Warriors and their families within WELS and ELS congregations. One of those blessings continues to be the generosity of members and congregations such as yours who take part in our biannual Ammo Can Campaigns. These campaigns are our primary source of funding and allow us to continue and develop our programs. We are proud to share that 70% of gifts go directly toward our programs. This is possible through your support.

A staple of military culture is on-going professional development. We believe that concept applies to our Veterans who pursue ministry as a second career and to Military Contact Pastors (MCP's) as well. Last year, we awarded \$27,500 in educational scholarships and grants.

- 6 Veterans pursuing ministry at Martin Luther College, Bethany Lutheran College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
- 3 Military Contact Pastors attending Chaplaincy Certification courses
- 27 MCP's helped with travel expenses to attend the WELS Military Services Committee's MCP Workshop in Hawaii

A USMC Veteran and WLS Seminarian shared his gratitude for his scholarship, *"It is wonderful that there is an organization that focuses on supporting our military members and veterans. The support of individuals and organizations such as you help make all this possible. My family and I are incredibly grateful."*

God established the warrior vocation as an honorable profession for our good and for the good of society. This vocation does not come without a cost. Military service can have negative impacts that affect the warrior and their families. Last year, we hosted our annual Spiritual Retreat for Christian Warriors event with a focus on couples to provide support to the Combat Veterans and their Families in our pews.

- 30 people in attendance from all over the United States
- Sessions focused on God's promises and hope of healing, mental health awareness, and peer encouragement from Steve and Sarah Schroeder
- Sessions led by WELS/ELS pastors and lay members who have served in US Armed Forces

Attendees had this to say about their experience at last year's Spiritual Retreat:

- *"(This Retreat) Helped with finding forgiveness of my past actions of service. This weekend helped me in both relationships of family and our Lord. Very helpful."*
- *"It was amazing to see the support from one another."*

This year's retreat is scheduled for November 14-17th, 2024 at Camp Shiloh, Texas under the theme Building Bridges. Veterans impacted by combat deployments are invited to attend with their battle buddy, spouse, or caregiver.

These programs have been beneficial, yet there is more work to do. In 2024, we expanded our programs to include:

- *Chaplaincy Scholarship* – Now includes all the courses needed to obtain and maintain WELS Chaplaincy Certification for Military Contact Pastors. Scholarship awards are \$500 toward each course.
- *Chaplain-Led Workshop for Veterans and First Responders* was held in New Berlin, Wisconsin in April through a partnership with Institutional Ministries. Topics included moral Injury and how God prepares us for war and peace.
- *Workshop for Veterans and First Responders* scheduled for July 20th at Parkland Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Washington. Topics will include how trauma affects our thinking and our Warrior vocation.
- Access to Christian counseling for WELS and ELS Service Members or their families through Christian Family Solutions.

As we look to next year, we will pause to thank God for his blessings to our ministry as we celebrate our 10-year anniversary. You are invited to join us on May 3, 2025, as we celebrate at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. More information about this and all our work can be found on our website, [www.LutheranMilitary.org](http://www.LutheranMilitary.org).

Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with our military men, women, and families through your support of our ministry!

He Reigns,



Brad Price

President and CEO

Lutheran Military Support Group