



# Enlighten Me!

FALL 2019

Take a few minutes to become enlightened about the King of Glory Lutheran Church Foundation's recent grants to support our mission: *To be and to make followers of Christ who boldly share the grace of God with the world.* The Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation whose purpose is to receive gifts through planned giving, hold the principal, and give the value increase of those gifts to expand King of Glory's ministries. If you have given to the church throughout your life, wouldn't you want to continue your stewardship by including a planned gift at the end of your life through your will or estate plan? Visit [kingofgloryfoundation.com](http://kingofgloryfoundation.com).

As part of the Foundation's By-Laws, if funds have increased by at least 4 percent of the prior year, 4 to 8 percent of the Foundation's undesignated funds at the beginning of the prior year must be distributed. Among foundations, this is an unusually generous distribution requirement.

## Did You Know?



6411 LBJ FREEWAY | DALLAS, TX 75240



## What does the King of Glory Foundation do to support the Mission of our church?

Since 2010, the Foundation has provided more than 45 grants supporting dozens of organizations, new initiatives, and new activities in its efforts to "boldly share the grace of God with the world." A 13-member Board of Trustees, made up of members from the congregation, governs the plans and functions of the Foundation. It is made possible by your decision to make a planned gift to the church through your will or estate. Each year the Grants Committee recommends how to share a portion of those gifts. A Grant Application Form can be found on the website at [kingofgloryfoundation.com](http://kingofgloryfoundation.com). Here are just some of the grant recipients:

- ELC-Sierra Leone Community Development Fund
- ELC-Sierra Leone Seminary Scholarship Fund
- Impact Dallas
- Umoja Mission
- ELCA Seminary Scholarship
- In The City for Good Food Pantry
- National Youth Gathering
- Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Grant
- H.E.R.O.E.S.
- Building Tomorrow Together Fund
- Stephen Ministry
- Right Now Media access for the congregation
- NTNL Fund for Leaders
- Debbie Jacob Life Enrichment Speakers Series
- Special activities for KOG Children's Ministries
- Rise Against Hunger meal packages
- Servant Project International—Missionary work in Pakistan



## Did You Know?

Concerned about what the size of your estate may be and uncertain what dollar amount you wish to leave to charities? Most planned gifts are expressed as a percentage of the donor's estate, rather than as a dollar amount. That achieves the donor's goals more simply than trying to decide upon a fixed dollar amount.



JIM GRAESER  
Lead Pastor

*"We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give."*

- Winston Churchill

*I'll confess that I don't know much about the religious life of Winston Churchill. But to quote an oft-used phrase of one of my mentors, Churchill's quote above "will preach."*

*The King of Glory Foundation thinks of itself as a place to consider financial stewardship as one considers the completion of his or her life. Obviously, working within Sir Winston's quote above, I hope none of us waits until the end of life to think about making one. We make a life by giving throughout our lives. And I hope that lifelong giving includes churches and organizations that help people develop lives of*

*faith in the middle of life. As we approach the completion of our lives, though, maybe it's another opportunity to think about the lives we have made.*

*If you think about it, we arrive as pretty self-centered creatures concerned only about what we are getting: are we getting the next bottle, are we getting the next dry diaper, are we getting the next cozy blanket and nap? What if the meaning of life (a loaded phrase) is to get as close to the opposite end of that spectrum as possible? Rather than leaving this life still concerned only with what we are getting, we evolve to the point we are only concerned with what we are giving away.*

*The King of Glory Foundation has tools to help you wrestle with those questions. Give them a try as you think about what making a life looks like.*



## Did You Know?

*Including a bequest to the King of Glory Foundation in your will or trust is an easy way to make a difference. It doesn't affect your current cash flow or assets and it's easy to revise if your circumstances change. It may also save estate taxes. Best of all, you have the peace of mind of leaving something for King of Glory's ministries that lives on after you.*

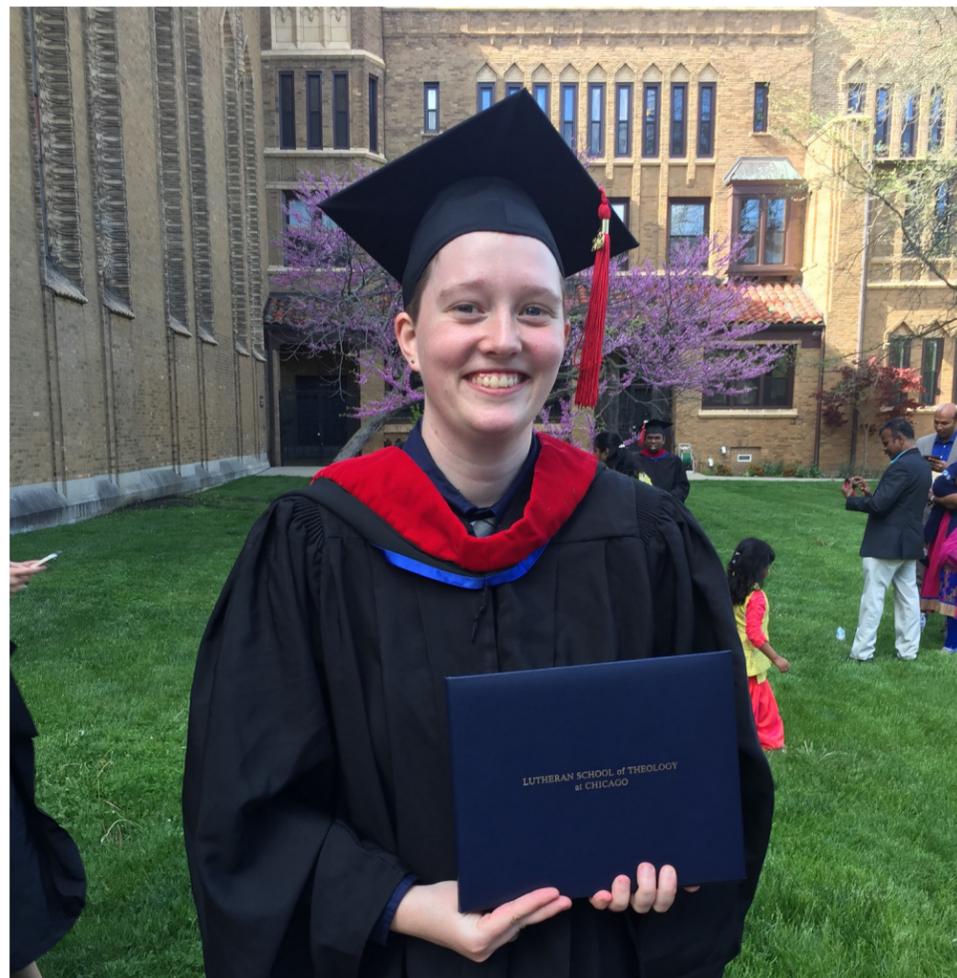
## Foundation grants help one of our own members earn a seminary degree.

**R**emy Remmers was baptized as an infant and confirmed at King of Glory. She discovered her love of ministry while working at a camp one summer. Graduating from Virginia Tech in 2015 with an engineering degree, Remy went directly into seminary at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. She graduated with a Master of Divinity in May 2019 and is now awaiting first call. The King of Glory Foundation supported her with tuition scholarship grants. She was able to graduate with no debt or student loans, which is rare for a seminary graduate seeking their first call. We asked her to tell us about her experiences.

“I’ve felt gentle nudges of a call to ministry since childhood. My faith in God has always been important to me. When I arrived at Virginia Tech, I participated in several Bible studies. I loved learning about God and reading Scripture in community. This is also when I began saying out loud, “I am gay.” The first Bible study group I said that to thought that being gay was a sin. They told me to pray the gay away. I had known this happened to people, but I thought we were beyond this harmful theology. I left that meeting knowing I had to claim my own faith. It is devastating to hear that unless you change from who God created you to be, you will not be welcomed to the table. At God’s table, everyone is welcomed and cherished.

After this encounter, I was not ready to leave my faith, and instead studied Scripture. Since

going to seminary, my love of Scripture has only grown. While no longer required, I studied Ancient Greek and Ancient Hebrew as part of my coursework. It’s important to me to understand what can get lost when translating the original biblical texts into English. When I can, I translate the passages I am preaching on, or look at commentaries that address translation issues with a passage. This helped reinforce for me what Scripture tells us: There is a loving God that strives to be in relationship with us all. There is also a depiction of human messiness. Despite what we have done or not done, God continues to love us. That is grace. No



matter what, God will not stop loving us.

I know that one of the gifts I bring to the church is simply my being a part of several minority groups that the church has historically persecuted. I am gay, disabled, and a woman. This gives me a unique perspective on the church and the world. Being authentic in my own identity allows people to feel comfortable with me. People know they can share with me about their own complicated relationship with the church and God. People like me need to know they are welcome in the church.

I am thankful to the King of Glory Foundation for making my

seminary journey possible. When I first applied to the Foundation at the beginning of my journey, I was surprised when they gave me a grant that covered half of my tuition. In addition, several people from the congregation sent little bits here and there, leading me to feel embraced by King of Glory through my entire seminary experience.

Right now, I’m awaiting first call, and the thing is this: I know it will take me longer to find a first call because I am gay. Unfortunately, many congregations will refuse to even have a conversation with me because of this, even though the ELCA decision in 2009 allowed people like me to be ordained. So, I ask for your prayers as I await first call. I know God is calling the church to something better. King of Glory’s recent process of becoming Reconciling in Christ is a testament to that. Please continue to pray with me that more congregations are receptive to hearing God’s call for people like me, and that one day soon, I will receive a call to serve a congregation in word and sacrament.



### Did You Know?

If you already have a properly drafted will, you can amend your will with a short “codicil” which is signed, witnessed, and notarized. You do not have to rewrite your existing will. Obtain a sample at [KingofGloryFoundation.com](http://KingofGloryFoundation.com) and scroll to “Sample Codicil.”

## Grant helps energize 200 volunteers of all ages at new Advent event.

**L**ast December, King of Glory launched a church-wide service and fellowship opportunity to kick off our Advent season. “Hearts and Hands for Hope,” brought together anyone from age five and up to help package 25,344 meals which were then distributed worldwide through *Rise Against Hunger*.

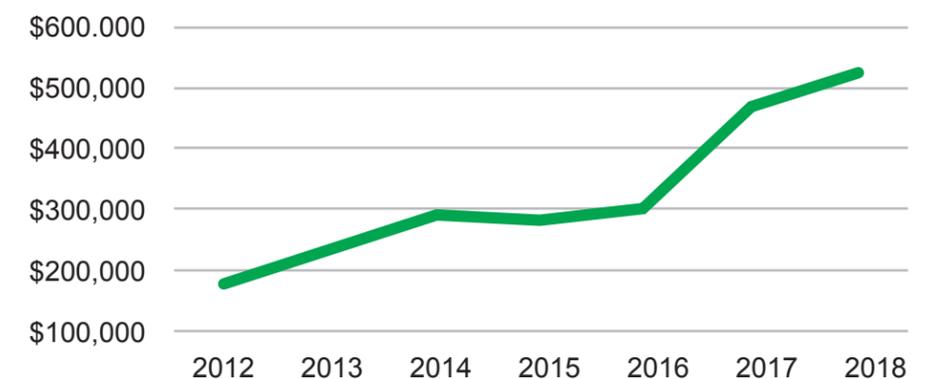


On the first Sunday evening of Advent, following an informal worship service, volunteers joined together in the Activity Center for the meal-packing event. They were accompanied by a soundtrack of music and facts about how *Rise Against Hunger* is at work in the world.

One in three people worldwide are adversely affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies. Our church funded the food items, which have a two-year shelf life, for just \$.33 per meal. The assembled packages provide a comprehensive array of micronutrients with rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables plus a flavoring mix including 23 essential vitamins and minerals. The meals then travel thousands of miles before reaching their final destinations at schools, orphanages, clinics, and vocational centers where they are desperately needed.

The King of Glory Lutheran Church Foundation gave a grant to defray some of the cost of the meal packages. It’s one example of how the Foundation can help expand the church’s ministries by using a portion of the planned gifts from members through their will or estate plans.

### The Foundation is Growing!



In less than a decade, the Foundation fund balance has more than doubled from \$200,000 to nearly \$500,000. Each year since 2010, the Foundation Trustees have awarded ministry grants that go beyond day-to-day operations to help fulfill our church’s Mission. Your planned gift can help you leave a legacy for future ministries at King of Glory.