



LUTHERAN MILITARY  
SUPPORT GROUP  
*Shoulder to Shoulder in Service*

Fall 2017

## Thank God for our Veterans

**Veterans Day is Saturday, Nov. 11. The USA is home to many young veterans of the war on terror, as well as older veterans from prior conflicts. Some of them are members of our own congregations. Some were stationed overseas. Some stateside. Some were wounded – visibly and invisibly. Some suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression or substance abuse. Some are homeless. Some are successful community leaders.**

As Christians and US citizens, we have a responsibility to help those who are shouldering the burdens of war and protecting our earthly freedoms. We can do that without picking up a weapon. We can do it shoulder to shoulder in Christian service.

That sense of responsibility is what brought veterans from the ELS and WELS together in 2015 to form the Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG). Today, more than 320 congregations have formed local chapters to broaden our outreach to our military, veterans and those connected to them. The LMSG board of directors is encouraged by the sincere interest in growing these numbers because the needs are great.

We encourage you to pray every day for the ministry needs of our military and their families. Prayer is a powerful tool! You can also help through financial gifts. Look for the AMMO can at your church. This is another way to show your Christian care and concern for those who are willing to go into harm's way for the sake of our country. May God continue to bless you and our nation on Veterans Day and always.

In Christ,

***Erhard Opsahl***

Erhard Opsahl, President  
Lutheran Military Support Group



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## How has LMSG served our military?

In 2016, LMSG donated more than \$56,000 to the following:

- European chaplaincy (WELS)
- Grants to local congregations for events/recognitions/family support
- Special services for military members serving in Guam
- Blue Star Mothers to assist those on active duty and their families

Year to date in 2017, more than \$58,000 has been contributed to the following areas:

- *Time of Grace* Armed Forces Network broadcasts and advertising
- 2018 Military Contact Pastor Conference for ELS/WELS pastoral participation
- 10 Chaplain Certification Scholarships to military contact pastors
- WELS National Civilian Chaplain's Office for visits to bases and military contact pastors
- "Member Assistance Program" counseling for military personnel
- Grace Lutheran Church (WELS mission), Minot, ND, to strengthen its ministry to the military families stationed in and around Minot Air Force Base
- LMSG website and Facebook page enhancements to support communication with our stakeholders

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Visit [LutheranMilitary.org](http://LutheranMilitary.org) and our Facebook page to learn more about LMSG and how to get involved.

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