

APPLICATION FOR MISSION GRANT

I. APPLICATION INFORMATION

Name of congregation: **Our Savior Lutheran Church**

Street Address: **858 Washington Blvd.**

City, state, zip: **Fremont, CA 94538**

Contact person's name: **Rev. Lenny Szeto**

Position: **Senior Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Fremont, CA**

Contact Person's Signature *Pastor Lenny Szeto*

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II. Proposal

Our Savior is located in the historical mission district of Fremont, CA. The mission district boasts some of the finest public schools in the nation. Our Savior is close to Silicone Valley. With high-tech jobs in the area and top-notch schools cultures that highly value education are moving into the area. This has given our community an international flavor.

Our Savior has a preschool and by looking at some of the statistics from the school, we can see our challenge:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Churched	55%	52.4%	54.4%	48.7%	33.8%	35.2%
Unchurched	37.2%	47.5%	45.7%	51.4%	65.4%	64.8%
Asian	42.6%	46.8%	44.9%	60.4%	66.9%	67.2%
Black	1.4%	2.8%	0%	0%	.8%	.8%
White	52%	39%	43.5%	26.4%	22.6%	19.2%
Other	0%	9.2%	9.4%	10.4%	9.8%	6.4%

Out of the 140 children enrolled in our school, we could see a dramatic shift from those who are churched and those who are unchurched. In 2000, 55% were churched and by 2005, 35.2%, a difference of 20%. The unchurched population has grown from 37.2% to a staggering 64.8% in 2005, a difference of 27.6%. This means people of different cultures and religions are moving in the area in an alarming rate, with most of them being immigrants.

Not only are we presented with this opportunity of sharing the gospel with various cultures in our school, but the Asian community has grown dramatically. In 2000, 42.6% Asians came to our school and by 2005, 64.8%. This means we need to bring the good news to the largest ethnic population which is Asian. In the next five years, the Asian population in our area could possibly reach 70%.

With John Whaley's suggestion, I decided to use the demographic tools offered through our district to see if there are any correlations. What I found directly reflects the changes going on at our preschool. Based on the link2lead.com data from the Census, the non-anglo population in the 94539 area is 70%. And the fastest growing racial / ethnic group

are Asians. In five years the projected growth for the Asian population will be from 59.4% to 74.8%.

While conversing with some of the parents, I realized that the largest group of our Asian population come from Taiwan and speak Mandarin. Many of them don't speak English, but would like to learn. They desire to assimilate to their new life in America. Most of them are here because of their jobs. Many of them have never heard the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

The leadership at Our Savior Lutheran realize the challenge of bringing the gospel to people of different cultures. At the same time, we realize that it is the Lord's command to make disciples of all nations. And so, we are willing to do whatever we can to bring the good news to people of different nationalities.

We have identified a candidate who is a graduate of Concordia Irvine with a degree in the DCE program with an emphasis on family and youth ministry. The candidate is multicultural and can speak, read, and write in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese. This candidate has been volunteering in various ministries and has a deep love of sharing the gospel with families.

Future goals include:

Connecting with the Community

- Yearly Community Events. Develop events that encourage families with children to gather at our church. Kite festival, VBS program, Easter egg hunts are free events we could offer to families with children.
- Parenting Classes. Develop and train leaders to teach parenting classes by the first year. Some parents have expressed difficulty parenting their children especially in the area of discipline. Offer parenting classes will offer us another avenue in getting to know the people of our community.
- ESL Classes. Evaluate and build on our ESL Classes to help immigrants learn the English language and assimilate to our culture. Build continuity with students.
- Family Enrichment Courses. Develop Family Enrichment Courses to strengthen the family. For children growing up in America and parents with strong traditional cultural values can be a source of stress and conflict. In addition to conflicting cultural values, generational gaps exist to strain the family.

Praying For the Lost

- Identify prayer warriors and form prayer teams to pray for the lost by the first year.
- Compile a list of names from Relationship Building Events and submit to prayer teams and have the congregation pray for the salvation of the families.
- Submit names and specific prayer requests regularly to the prayer teams

Ministry

- Children's Ministry. Develop a multicultural children's group and have 20 children attending weekly by the first year. Train lay people to continue to grow the program.
- Adult Ministry. Visit homes and bring lay people.
- Worship Services. Connect families to our worship services and explore the need for additional worship services for young families. Explore the possibility for language specific services.

Goals in three years

- 40 new committed children attending our children's ministry
- 30 new committed adults attending small groups
- New worship service or an enlarged 9:00 service with translation

III. Amount of Grant Request: \$53,000 (3 years)

IV. **Start Date:** January 1, 2007 **Completion Date:** December 31, 2009

V. Financial data:

	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Income				
District				
Grant	26,000	18,000	9,000	0
Congregation	4,500	13,500	23,400	33,400
Expenses				
Salary	21,000	21,700	22,300	22,900
Benefits	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,300
Operations	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,500
Programs	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,400
Conferences	300	300	300	300
Total Expenses	30,500	31,500	32,400	33,400

VI. Evaluation

This mission will be evaluated by the church council of Our Savior Lutheran Church and the MAC. Quarterly reports will be submitted to the church council as well as to the MAC to evaluate the effectiveness of carrying out the mission plans. Any revisions to the mission plans will be communicated with the church council as well as the MAC.