Zion Lutheran Church Food Pantry recently received a $5,000 Lutheran Community Economic Outreach Bridge Grant from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation.

The funding was awarded to the food pantry based on its effectiveness in addressing basic needs of the local community, such as food, clothing or shelter.

Zion Lutheran Church Food Pantry has also elected to participate in a complementary two-to-one challenge grant program sponsored by the foundation. For every dollar raised by the food pantry from donors by March 31, the foundation will provide an additional 50 cents—up to $5,000—in support of the organization's food ministry.

"Difficult economic conditions and high unemployment rates have caused many Americans to seek support for basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter from local nonprofits," said Kathy Larson, grants program manager for the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation.

"This grant program is designed to help effective organizations maintain their financial stability in the face of increased demand on their resources."

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping approximately 2.5 million members achieve financial security and give back to their communities.

Thrivent Financial and its affiliates offer a broad range of financial products and services. The organization creates and supports national outreach programs and activities that help congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. For more information, visit Thrivent.com .

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