



Leave no ornament behind!

2018 LMVFM Christmas Ornament Adoption Appeal



Each year, November 1st marks the beginning of the LMVFM annual Ornament Adoption Appeal. Your generous gift received between **November 1-January 31** will be recognized with a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted Christmas ornament, made by a veteran or family member, like the ones pictured left, that will hang on the Christmas tree here at LMVFM in Fort Wayne.

You and those you honor will be able to see your ornament on LMVFM's Facebook Page, and website. You will have the joy of knowing that your gift gives hope to those who have sacrificed for the freedom to worship and celebrate the freedoms that we enjoy.

Adopt your ornament today with a gift of any size to LMVFM, online at lmvfm.org or by mail to: **LMVFM, 3480 Stellhorn Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46815.**

Your Donations of these items help us to keep our programs and services free to those we serve.

Gift Cards of any amount, unused postage, large and small business envelopes.



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible **AmazonSmile** purchases.

On your next visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) simply select:

Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries as the organization you want to support. Smile Amazon will remember your selection, and then make a donation from all of your *eligible purchases made at smile.amazon.com.*

Note: Purchases made at the regular Amazon.com site do not qualify. You must use SmileAmazon to have a donation made to: Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

War is a disaster, too. That's why your Thrivent Choice Dollars are so important to us.

Hurricanes, floods, and fires are the Disasters that usually grab headlines. But the Disasters that LMVFM fights every day rarely get any notice such as:

- ♦ 22 military-related suicides a day.
- ♦ 22 sets of families and friends left behind.



Day by day, without headlines or fanfare, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries' counselling staff provides free Christ-centered care and programs to veterans, military contractors and their families who are at grave risk of suicide or other destructive behaviour.

Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries accepts no government funds. We rely solely on gifts of supporters like you to keep our services free to all veterans, military contractors and family members.

Please Help us help them by Donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to LMVFM Today

Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries is a faithbased 501(c)(3). All donations are tax deductible



Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc.

3480 Stellhorn Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46815



One Mighty Witness:

The "Widow's Mite" Star



From its beginnings in 2007, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries has been a faith-based mission in every sense of the word. From the widow's mite to major gifts, the Lord has supplied everything needed to serve veterans, military contractor and families with Christ's love as they recover from the unseen spiritual wounds of war.

One particular gift and giver shines like a star in the heavens, even as it shines on the Christmas tree at LMVFM headquarters here in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The original giver was a dear elderly lady who supported LMVFM with a monthly gift of \$5.00. Regular as clockwork, her envelope arrived. Sometimes it contained a crisp \$5.00 bill, other time, five ones. Her faithful giving reminded us of the mighty testimony of the widow's mite (Luke 21:2-3). So, when the time came to place ornaments on the tree during that first LMVFM Christmas Appeal, the Widow's Mite Star was crafted and hung. In keeping with her sacrifice each year since her passing, we have selected a donor to honor with the star.

Christmas after Christmas, the Widow's Mite Star recalls God's faithfulness to and through those who have given their all – whether in service to God and country, or in generous support of this ministry, or both.

Whatever the size of your gift, LMVFM honors your faithfulness by caring for those who have given their all:

- Counseling warriors whose souls are wounded.
- Providing military widows and widowers – with spiritual care as well as practical support in navigating the process of applying for survivor's benefits.
- Assisting spouses and families during their a loved one's deployment.

May the Widow's Mite star, the giver that inspired it and the LMVFM clients who benefit from such generosity inspire us all.

A blessed Christmas to you from all of us at LMVFM.

Leslie

Serving with Christ's Love Those who Serve



**Compassion beyond words,
provided by Paws and Effects
Emotional Therapy Dogs....**



*From compassionate counseling
to practical assistance with
securing survivor's benefits,
LMVFM cares for the warrior's
widow and family.*

LMVFM Education Mission: Our Mission to the Church



Above: LMVFM team members go into congregations and provide members with everything from a basic overview of the issues that veterans and their family members experience. We also offer affordable half and full day seminars for a more intensive study of the issues and how churches and participants can be more effective in their military ministry outreach.

LMVFM, the Church and Military Outreach

Along with LMVFM’s mission of providing direct care to veterans and their families is our education mission. Chief among complaints by veterans and their family members is that the majority of civilian caregivers, including clergy they go to for help have never served in the military, know little to nothing about military culture, much less the issues that veterans and their family members confront on a daily basis.

A growing body of research links poor spiritual health, negative religious coping to elevated suicide risk and symptoms of PTSD. Research also links involvement in a community of faith and structured practices of faith (church attendance, liturgy, rituals, devotional practices...)with a decreased risk for thinking about suicide, and the reduced severity of PTSD symptoms in veterans.

In order to effectively minister to veterans and their family members you must first get past the cultural divide that separates civilians from those coming from a military background. Lutheran Military Veterans & Ministries addresses this in a very practical and affordable way

Our programs are designed at all levels, and can be tailored to any group or organization who are

interested in learning more about helping our military. One of the most effective ways LMVFM addresses the help veterans

DoD Service and Component	CY 2017			CY 2018		
	Q1	Q2	Total	Q1	Q2	Total
Active Component	75	57	132	79	75	154
Air Force	19	12	31	9	19	28
Army	33	23	56	35	30	65
Marine Corps	7	9	16	12	13	25
Navy	16	13	39	23	13	36

By June, 2018 Active Duty military suicides had surpassed those that occurred during the same period of 2017

and their family members for is by offering civilians and community care providers affordable military awareness programs and training seminars that target specific military related issues.

These seminars are available to civilian caregivers (clergy; counselors; therapists; social workers; congregations and others who work with the military population) to educate, assist and equip them with insights into military culture and the common issues that military members and their family members struggle with, and strategies to help those who come to them for care. **For more information about our programs please call us at: 260-755-2239.**

Paws & Effects Traveling Team



Stanley-Tucker, our non-traveling team member is very content to mind the office during our mission trips.

LMVFM Emotional Therapy Dogs are a perfect example of what unconditional love and compassion looks like.

LMVFM’s traveling team wouldn’t be complete without one or both of our **Paws & Effects** traveling team members. On “normal” occasions we would only take one of our therapy dogs, however, Patrick-Dooly, our youngest is in training for his role as a team member will be under the firm furry paw of CPL Lilly-Bell.



Celebrating 11 Years of Military Ministry

Surrounded by friends and family, LMVFM celebrates 11 years of military ministry



Thanks be to God and our ministry partners for your support of LMVFM. Your support over these 11 years has allowed us to continue providing **free** care and counseling services to military members, veterans, contractors and their family members.



On the Road Again



LMVFM on the Road:

Not counting the in-and-around travel (anything within 60 miles of Fort Wayne), the LMVFM team has logged more than 16,210 miles this year providing programs and information to congregations and groups around the country.

In 2018 we added three new states, Idaho, Oklahoma and New Jersey to our Mission trip portfolio. Mission outreach trips for 2019 are being booked on a first come first served basis and we’d welcome the opportunity to share our ministry work with your church. Please contact us to book your congregational or ministry organization’s visit now!

