



North Dakota Junior Master Gardener Program Grants

2019 Grant Application

Project name: Gethsemane Garden

County: Cass

Project Coordinator: William Robinson/Julie Garden-Robinson

Lead Organization: Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral

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Fargo, ND 58104

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Location of Garden: Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral

1. Briefly describe your garden project including its major goals. Please include a description of activities. (150 words or less)

Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral is located at 3600 25th St S, Fargo on former farmland uncultivated for 25 years. While the property is landscaped with several types of perennial plants, vegetable gardening was not undertaken until 2014. Gethsemane Cathedral is one of the local “FaithCommunityAlive!” congregations, which promote nourishing the spirit and the body through outreach to the broader community. We currently have eight square-foot gardens, which have been very popular with children and families.

The goals of the project are:

- To increase knowledge of seed starting and vegetable gardening techniques among children and families through hands-on education and tending garden boxes (planting, watering, weeding and harvesting).
- To provide gardening handouts to families and opportunities to ask questions and learn about gardening.

- To implement a “family schedule” with specific tasks to accomplish (watering, weeding).
- To provide opportunities for taste testing fresh produce.
- To share vegetables with the community through donations to food pantries.

2. How will your project make a difference to its *children*? (150 words or less)

We have done the gardening project for a few years, and the children have responded enthusiastically especially during planting and harvesting. We have been able to integrate the gardening messages into the youth programming, and Gethsemane has a youth director to help. As research studies have shown, involving children directly in gardening activities encourages the children to eat more vegetables, get more physical activity and understand the origin of their food. This project will provide an opportunity for the children to experience firsthand how to plant, how to identify weeds, how to harvest and prepare/preserve vegetables. In the short-term, they will improve their knowledge of gardening practices and try new foods. A positive experience with gardening may make them gardeners for life. We will provide at least five hands-on opportunities about gardening including seed starting, hands-on planting, weeding and watering activities throughout the summer.

3. How will your project make a difference in your *community*? (150 words or less)

We plan to broaden our educational program to enlarge the garden and try “crawling” varieties such as pumpkins. Gethsemane has acres of land so much potential for expansion. At the outset, we will continue to contribute produce to those in need, through local food pantries and others in need. We will photograph and document this garden in order to serve as a model for other faith communities. We will visit with volunteers from other local faith communities who have planted large community gardens. In this way, we will learn from their experiences. This manageable garden could lead a much larger effort.

4. Please estimate the number of participants directly involved in the project:

Young children (3–12 years old): 20

Teens (13–17 years old): 10

Adults: 30

5. **Briefly list any partners** (such as 4-H, FFA, school, church, garden center, parks department) that are involved. **Briefly describe their roles in the project.** Be very brief.

We are inviting adolescents who are in the confirmation class as well as elementary- and preschool-aged children who attend the religious educational classes at the cathedral to participate in both a classroom setting and help the younger children. They will be involved in planting, watering and harvest. In addition, we will involve a Girl Scout Troop and Uniter 4-H Club members (members of Gethsemane Cathedral), the youth coordinator, Vacation Bible School Committee, and master gardeners in the development of the garden.

6. Budget

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Soil to top-up last year's boxes	\$150
Plants, pots and seeds	150
Supplies (copies, plastic bags)	50
TOTAL	\$350