AUDIT COMMITTEE

The primary purpose of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Audit Committee is to assist the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of this synod’s accounting and financial reporting, internal control systems, and financial statement audit functions. No officer of this synod or staff member serves on this committee, although the Synod Treasurer serves as a consultant. The Synod Vice President serves as the liaison to the Synod Council. The committee meets the requirements that at least two members of the committee be certified public accountants.

Audit for the Year ended January 31, 2019

The Audit Committee met with representatives of Reinsel Kuntz Lesher (RKL) on May 29, 2019, to review the Independent Auditor’s Report and related communications for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2019. The report included the financial statements of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which comprise the statement of financial position as of January 31, 2019, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows, for the year then ended. RKL issued an unmodified opinion on those statements which are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The committee recommended that the Synod Council approve the financial statements for fiscal year 2019 and made them publicly available on the synod website.

Current Members of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is currently comprised of Edward J. Straley (chair), Linda Bennett, Robert L. Rundle, Terry Snyder and Jeff Fagan. The committee is assisted by Lucinda L. Bringman, synod vice president (Synod Council liaison) and Joseph M. Stepansky, synod treasurer (consultant).

Edward J. Straley, chair
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Criminal Justice System Ministry (CJSM) Committee is dedicated to increasing awareness within the congregations of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of criminal justice issues and to advocating for criminal justice reform throughout Pennsylvania. The Mission Statement of our committee: We are called through the gospel of liberation, hope, and justice to connect the church with the Criminal Justice System, guides our meetings and actions on behalf of the incarcerated. Our Vision/Purpose Statement: To increase awareness of the tremendous needs and ministry opportunities with those in the Criminal Justice System, directs our efforts to educate and inform members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Our committee seeks to offer opportunities to congregations for Encountering Jesus in the lives of incarcerated individuals and their families. Several resources are provided on the synod’s website and we are encouraging and supporting legislation to support the re-entry of paroled and released individuals. Individuals who are released, paroled or have commuted sentences, need personal care and assistance in returning to their home communities. This committee encourages congregations to participate in welcoming these individuals into their congregations and communities.

The Criminal Justice System Ministry Committee is continuing to raise awareness of the enormous problem of mass incarceration in the United States through short educational videos that can be streamed from our page on the synod’s website. We will also provide speakers to congregations interested in learning more about this uniquely American issue. Members of our committee and formerly incarcerated individuals are willing to speak to congregations, Sunday School classes and other groups interested in criminal justice reform. Our speakers are flexible and can speak to any age group, school-age through adult. We also have a collection of primary resources about incarceration and how our criminal justice system fails to provide restorative justice. Please feel free to contact our committee for further information.

We have been blessed by the inspiration and guidance of the late Pastor Sadie Pounder and we continually strive to fulfill her vision and mission addressing the needs of incarcerated people.

Hebrews 13:1-3 (NIV)
Let mutual love continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. 3 Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Debi Dandridge, chairperson
GIFT AND BEQUEST ACCEPTANCE COMMITTEE

The Gift and Bequest Acceptance Committee shall be composed of the bishop, the synod treasurer, one member of the Synod Council appointed by the vice president, and two members of the Finance and Budget Committee appointed by the chair of the Finance and Budget Committee. Development personnel employed or contracted by this synod shall be members of this committee. This committee shall, in accordance with the Gift and Bequest Policy of this synod, be responsible for reviewing all gifts and bequests made to this synod, screening gifts and bequests, seeking legal counsel as needed, accepting gifts and bequests, and making recommendations to the Synod Council on gift and bequest acceptance issues when appropriate. [S11.01.12]

Members of the committee: Bishop James Dunlop; Lucinda Bringman, vice president; Joseph Stepansky, treasurer; Virgil Gibson, Synod Council; Wayne Gongaware, Finance and Budget Committee; and Joyce Frigm, Finance and Budget Committee.

The committee met twice as follows:
October 3, 2019, to consider a bequest from the dissolution of Memorial Lutheran. The committee decided to recommend to Synod Council that the $9,975.74 bequest be designated to go to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Mission Fund.

Our second meeting, January 30, 2020, considered a bequest of $35,909 designated for Christian Education. The committee recommended to Synod Council to take $1,800 now for Christian Education with the remaining $34,109 going to the Legacy Fund in a restricted category designated for Christian Education.

With grateful appreciation to all the members of this committee, especially to recorder Joyce Frigm.

Virgil Gibson, Finance and Budget Committee chair
GLOBAL MISSION COMMITTEE

No report submitted by May 1, 2020.
LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

At the end of 2019, the Synod Council authorized the formation of a synod task force to focus on homelessness. The Rev. Matthew Best and the Rev. Jillian Riddle volunteered to work on this task force. Our first task was to reach out to some of the conferences in the synod to gather further support for the task force. We continue to reach out to our conferences to talk about homelessness and recruit clergy and lay people to the task force. It is our hope that we will be able to start doing the actual work of the task force starting this summer, since the need is very high. Some of our goals include:

• Creating and maintaining an up-to-date resource list for homeless assistance in our area.
• Educating leaders about homelessness in our area.
• Working with Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) to find ways to advocate for system, legislative, and policy changes in an effort to reduce homelessness.
• Explore ways for congregations and conferences to join together in developing affordable housing options within our synod.

If you would like to join in the work that we are undertaking, please contact Rev. Best by email matthew@laceduplutheran.com or by phone 717-805-7598. Thank you.

The Rev. Matthew Best, chair
KONDE DIOCESE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Konde Diocese Committee is to assist congregations and the bishop to fulfill the covenant agreement between the Lower Susquehanna Synod and the Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. This mission is fulfilled by providing opportunities to learn about our covenant relationship; encourage dialog, discovery, and ministry opportunities among congregations of this synod and congregations of the Konde Diocese; and, where possible, encourage personal meetings by way of visits to our companion congregations.

We offer you this report of the past year:
This was the second year in office for Bishop Edward Mwaikali. As the transition to new leadership began, the bishop and the staff of the diocese took time to establish new work patterns and relationships. We, as a companion, are developing a trusting and faith-centered relationship with the new bishop and his staff. Our work as companions continues to grow and deepen in the name of Jesus Christ.

Relationships were enhanced by the visit of five members of our synod during the month of July 2019. The group stayed at the Lower Susquehanna Synod house located at Manow Lutheran Junior Seminary. The members spent time learning of the operations and dynamics of the school and how our synod could continue to support secondary education in the diocese. The group also performed some maintenance to the house including painting and minor upgrades to the electricity and water utilities. They visited their companion congregations and the diocesan office and Matema Lutheran Retreat Center. Approximately 10 members from our synod will be visiting the diocese in July 2020 with the Reverend Cliff Eshbach.

The Medical Needs Task Force chaired by Pastor Cliff Eshbach continues to make major achievements. Our work is with the Itete Hospital. The hospital has developed a master plan for development and expansion. Our task force follows the lead of the hospital’s plan to support them with prayer, advice and material support. Working within our synod, as well as with third party organizations with an interest in health care, we were able to help the hospital secure: a new machine to sterilize medical instruments, which was purchased with gifts from our synod, and the installation of a second hydropower generator that provides increased, reliable electrical power. They have purchased the new washing machine which we promoted last year. They are waiting for it to be delivered. It is another step in the process to acquire the necessary items needed to improve health care in that rural region of the country.

The committee continues to work on improving the lines of communication between our churches. This is easier said than done. It requires persistence and patience on our part. While personal visits are the best way to solidify this communication, we continue to work with the bishop and his staff to find ways to improve communications between congregations.

The committee strives to work with individuals, congregations, and other third-party organizations to further the mission of our covenant agreement. As previously mentioned, such partnerships have helped to support the expansion of the Itete Hospital, especially their ability to provide health care to women, pregnant women, newborn and young children. The hospital has opened a new building to provide care to these groups, and cherishes its partnership with the Lower Susquehanna Synod and their international partners, who together are helping to improve health care in this rural area.

Several people from the committee are available to come to your congregation to discuss this unique partnership in ministry. We also are seeking persons interested in serving as a member of the committee.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support of this most vital ministry of our synod. We continue to focus on education, health care and church-to-church relations as our priorities. Your ongoing support ensures that these goals may be addressed. There is more to accomplish, and we invite your participation in future endeavors.

Seminarian/Vicar Angela Hammer, chairperson
LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD MISSION FUND COMMITTEE

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Mission Fund Committee (formerly the Bishop’s Congregational Mission Fund Committee) has been constituted to administer the LSS Mission Fund. This fund, established by the Synod Council, is supported by bequests, trusts, endowments, planned and deferred gifts, assets from closing congregations, gifts from merging and consolidating congregations, gifts received through the Always Being Made New Campaign, and gifts from other congregations, individuals, and entities. The assets of the fund shall be invested in a manner consistent with the purpose of the fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide initial funding support for the growth of Word and Sacrament ministries within the territory of this synod, such as funds to acquire sites and to provide grants to new mission congregations, funds to provide grants to congregations who have committed to special plans to expand their ministries, and funds to provide grants to congregations who have elected to relocate or consolidate with other congregations. In addition to the expenditures for these purposes, the fund may make loans to congregations, if, in the judgment of most of the committee, the purpose of the loan is consistent with the purpose described above and the loans are adequately insured.

The amount of money in the LSS Mission Fund as of January 31, 2020, is $206,565. Most of this money is deposited in the Mission Investment Fund in Mission Plus or Mission Term Select 2-year funds. Not included in this amount is the $44,500 in an outstanding loan to Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Lancaster.

For the 2019 Fiscal Year, which runs from February 2019 through January 2020, the fund received $67,727 in contributions.

During the FY 2019, the LSS Mission Fund distributed $43,500. The committee determined these distributions based on the ministry partner fund request applications that were received. The distributions were as follows:

- $1,000 to Christ, New Bloomfield, for a ministry called Young Voices, an afterschool program for elementary students
- $20,000 to the Sudanese Authorized Worshipping Community, to support the pastor’s salary
- $10,000 to St. Peter, Middletown, to support their afterschool program
- $10,000 to Union, York, to support their seminary intern
- $1,000 to St. Paul, Dillsburg, for work on their parsonage for its use by Family Promise
- $1,500 to St. Stephen, New Kingstown, for a podcast ministry

Grant applications received in 2019 and pledged to be distributed during 2020:

- $14,750 over the course of two years to Trinity, Mechanicsburg, for Stepping Out and Bridging the Gap, ministries aimed at serving the congregation’s immediate community and basic and spiritual needs (The fund committed $18,500 to Trinity in 2021)
- $4,000 to Salem, Ephrata, for Managing Motherhood, a ministry that distributes diapers and other essentials for mothers and children
- $850 to St. Peter, Mechanicsburg, for Wee Worship, a new worship service designed for small children and their adults
- $10,000 to St. Paul, Carlisle, for Cultural Competency and A Special Place, a program for neighborhood youth

The members of the committee are Bishop James S. Dunlop; Joseph Stepansky, synod treasurer; the Rev. Richard E. T. Jorgensen Jr., director for evangelical mission; the Rev. Elizabeth Martini, assistant to the bishop and administrator of the fund; the Rev. Robert J. Myallis; the Rev. Jack Horner; Rose Tonkin; Terry Snyder; Angela Thomas; Lucinda L. Bringman, synod vice president; and Jennifer Lau, Synod Council liaison. Jennifer Lau served as scribe in 2020. The committee met on April 11, 2019, October 10, 2019, and January 20, 2020.

In 2019, the Rev. Jennifer Hope-Tringali standardized the grant application and made it available as a fillable form on our synod website. She advertised this option from the floor of the synod assembly.

The members of this committee urge our rostered ministers, lay leaders, and congregations to support the Lower Susquehanna Synod Mission Fund with gifts and offerings. Your generosity will enable our congregations and other ministries to expand their mission, to take advantage of new opportunities, and to meet new challenges in order that we may be a vital church, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in this new day. Likewise, the committee is encouraging submission of thoughtful applications for fund monies for ministries that support the growth of Word and Sacrament ministries.

The Reverend Elizabeth Martini, administrator of LSS Mission Fund
TOWARD RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

In 2019, responding to the call of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Lower Susquehanna Synod, and a spiritually discerned call toward facilitating authentically welcoming and invitational spaces that allow Lutheran theology and community to be experienced by all God’s people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or culture, the Racial Justice Committee reorganized as the “Toward Racial Justice Task Force”. We believe the promises found in Zechariah 9, that the oppressed will be set free and the children of God will be restored. We believe in the servant’s mission of Isaiah 49, that the scattered survivors of oppression, if seeking a haven, can be brought together by those who lift up a light of calling. We believe in the promise that Romans 4 affirms, that many diverse nations are to be gathered unto God through grace. In short, we do not believe that racism, fear, or division will have the final word in Christ’s church or in Lower Susquehanna Synod’s counties and communities.

The Toward Racial Justice Task Force exists to actively encourage, equip, and empower members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA in and for the faith-based Gospel call to racial justice. Some of the tools we employ in service of this mission are designing and facilitating required six-hour anti-racism trainings for rostered ministers (which are also open to lay leaders and congregational teams), and providing requested pulpit supply, coaching, and small group facilitation for congregations. We also develop and support opportunities for ongoing engagement and resource, including a resource page on our synod website and a Toward Racial Justice blog which highlights resources and offers entry points for thought and conversation. We also serve in partnership with other formative ministries of our Lower Susquehanna Synod to support culturally competent policies, procedures, and programs at a systemic and institutional level.

Membership includes: synod liaison, the Rev. Beth Martini; co-chairs, the Rev. Carla Christopher Wilson and the Rev. Tim Seitz-Brown; pastors Titus Clarke, Matt Lenahan, Denise Horn, Brian Biery, Jay Eckman; deacons Dottie Almoney and Megan McClinton; Bishop Penrose Hoover; and laypersons Stacy Schroeder, Gale DuPont, Moses Kavishe, and Alyson Thomas Yost.

In 2019, the Toward Racial Justice Task Force hosted two required synodical training days which served rostered ministers and guests from Upper Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, and Allegheny Synods. We launched the Toward Racial Justice blog featuring two to three articles a month by a host of writers from multiple cultures and perspectives and the Toward Racial Justice resource page on our synod website featuring both ELCA and secular resources. We partnered with our synod office to offer a comprehensive anti-racism training to all members of our synod staff. We partnered with the director for faith formation and youth ministry to offer racial justice workshops for both teens and youth leaders at the youth event, Winterfest. We partnered with the R3 initiative to offer cultural competency modules at R3 retreat days beginning in 2020. We partnered with Outdoor Ministries to develop training modules for camp counselors and staff beginning the summer of 2020. We partnered with the United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg to host a day of equipping around the racial and social justice actions of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. We partnered with LAMPa to share action alerts, supply narrative stories and photos for communications, and participate in vigils at the immigration detention center in Reading with the Pennsylvania Council of Churches and at awareness raising events at the State Capitol.

The Rev. Carla S. Christopher Wilson and the Rev. Tim Seitz-Brown, committee co-chairs
The Stewardship and Education Mission Support Committee has been meeting and exploring ways to provide support and guidance to the stewardship and financial ministries of Lower Susquehanna Synod congregations and our synod office. The committee is endeavoring to look afresh upon fulfilling its mission in this new decade, which has brought with it new challenges and opportunities than the church has seen in the past. To formulate a path forward, the committee has been working with three initial questions:

- What are the stewardship education needs of congregations in our synod, and how can we best meet them?
- Why is mission support to the wider church dropping, and what can our synod do about it?
- What questions should we be asking that we aren’t asking?

These questions will help guide the committee to crafting a revised Stewardship Education and Mission Support Strategy for our synod. The most recent strategy documents had received the Synod Council’s approval in 2010 and 2013. The Synod Council officially “archived” those documents at its meeting of April 18, 2020. In drafting a new strategy, the committee hopes to retain the best from those strategies while adapting to the current needs and opportunities.

While working to revise a new strategy, the committee is continuing and, where possible, expanding current stewardship education to congregational leaders through our synod stewardship webpage as well as webinars and workshops across the synod.

Members of the Stewardship Education and Mission Support Committee are Ms. Linda Bennett, the Rev. Matthew Best, the Rev. Liz Polanzke, and the Rev. Kevin Stout. Serving as consultant is the Rev. Katie Brantner. Synod Council liaison is Mr. Zachary Weiss. Synod staff liaison is the Rev. Robert Blezard.

Zachary Weiss, Synod Council liaison, and the Rev. Robert Blezard, synod staff liaison
SYNODICAL WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Lower Susquehanna Synodical Worship Committee works to plan and provide for meaningful and creative worship services that use leadership from around our synod. We seek to utilize resources from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and other worship resources in order to serve the bishop and the synod in our corporate worship life. That includes worship for Synod Assembly, Vow Renewal, Ordinations/Consecrations, Synod Leadership Retreat, as well as other services at the request of the bishop’s office.

Current members of the committee include: Debra Reeder, Rev. Jillian Riddle, Steve Strauss, Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg, Rev. Kevin Stout, Dan Deitzel, Margaret Folkemer, Rev. Carl Rabbe, Rev. Dana Blouch-Hanson (synod staff), Rev. Joel Folkemer (Synod Council liaison), and the Rev. Rebecca Ajer Frantz.

Since the 2019 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly, the committee has worked on a number of synod worship services:

- **2019 Bishop’s Convocation Worship**: October 17th at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in York
- **2020 Healthy Leader’s Retreat**: February 10th—11th (Evening Prayer and Closing Eucharist)
- **Ordination**: January 26th
- **2020 Renewal of Vows Service**: April 7th at Christ Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown
- **Morning Prayer for Synod Assembly Edification Days**: May 16th and 30th
- **2020 Synod Assembly worship with Holy Communion, Ordination, and Necrology**

We have also spent time this year reviewing, revising, and updating the planning documents for synod worship services to ensure that they are up-to-date, effective, and clear in their purpose.

I give thanks for the hard work of this group of people in crafting beautiful, meaningful, and spiritual worship experiences for our synod.

The Rev. Rebecca Ajer Frantz, *chair*

NOTA BENE: Other worship services were planned at the time this report was prepared and were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations to suspend public gatherings of people.
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR RELIEF PROJECTS

The Lutheran World Relief (LWR) mission statement reads, “Affirming God’s love for all people, we work with, Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice, and human suffering.” Its vision statement is “Empowered by God’s unconditional love in Jesus Christ, we envision a world in which each person, every community, and all generations live in justice, dignity and peace.” It is through this organization that 114 Lower Susquehanna Synod congregations along with 23 sister congregations outside of our synod continue their commitment and dedication to share Jesus’ love with individuals around the world who are suffering due to poverty, fleeing war-torn countries with only the clothing on their backs, or recovering from natural disasters.

Jesus’ love shines through not just with the phenomenal gift giving in our synod, but also through the following 14 Conference Coordinators who reach out and provide the needed information supporting the congregations in their conferences. This dedication was key in making the October 2019 Annual LWR Ingathering appeal successful. A big THANK YOU goes out to the following volunteers: Sandra Brandt, the Rev. Katie Brantner, Linda C. Brocious, the Rev. Cynthia Chambers, Susan Delong, Pamela Dobbs, Karen L. Fisher, Norma R. Good, Donna L. Greifzu, Elaine B. Hock, Sarah Krumbine, Susan Lyons, the Rev. Judith McKee, Kathleen Moe, Theda Raffauf, the Rev. Edgar C. Reed, Carolyn A. Reeder, Janet Schroeder, Pamela W. Wagner, and Linda Zilinski.

The 2019 Ingathering provided both material aid items made and collected by congregations, and money donated to ship these gifts to areas where they were most needed. The 2019 reports show these 137 congregations donated the following: Mission Quilts – 5,209; Personal Care Kits – 3,551; School Kits – 7,787; Fabric Kits – 100 Baby Care Kits – 136; Blankets – 245; Fleece Blankets – 301; Bars of soap – 4,833.

Additionally, congregations reported that they distributed 728 quilts and blankets locally.

Congregations in other synods and Lutheran church bodies also collected and transported items. In our synod, 33 congregations donated a total of $11,547.52 to the LWR Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. Moreover, 12 more bricks were engraved in the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza at LWR headquarters located in Baltimore, Maryland, as a result of contributions of at least $500 being sent through our synods’ office from July 2018 through June 2019.

We give thanks to God for the gifts we have been given and for moving us to share with our brothers and sisters. In faith we walk beside our neighbors around the world that all might know the love of God.

Looking Forward

This has been an exciting year due to the unification of LWR and IMA world health. Together they are pursuing new opportunities, implementing stronger programs and supporting deeper and more lasting results for the health and well-being of the individuals and communities we serve. Working jointly with IMA world health, medical needs are able to be addressed along with addressing basic living needs for those most needy in our world. Not only do they respond to emergency needs by distribution of food, water, tools, medicine, tarps, quilts, blankets, kits, and soap, they provide training in new farming methods, irrigations, food as well as supplying tools, seeds, trees, safe water, and food-producing animals.

In 2019 our synod congregations contributed $33,926.11 to the LWR General Fund that allows these development programs to happen.

Fair Trade sales programs assure that farmers and craftspeople receive wage for their products, enabling them to buy food for their families, educate their children, and have better housing and medical care.

As we look forward to 2020, Lutheran World Relief has decided to not accept fleece blankets or soap. Congregations are encouraged to donate extra soap and fleece blankets to local shelters or local needs. Soap will continue to be a part of the Personal Care Kits and Baby Kits.

Our focus this year is to encourage congregations to work in partnership with other congregations in our synod or around them to share the gift of giving to those around the world most in need. We plan to gather information on when, where, and the time congregations currently meet to make quilts or kits, then place this information on the synod’s and LWR’s websites so individuals who would like to participate will have the opportunity, along with providing information/stories on who received donations, the location, and the impact it had on those in need. Lastly, we will continue to place packet information on the synod website and include how to find supplies on LWR website. This will enable us to use funds most wisely.

Sue Gordon and the Rev. Martha S. Boyd, Lower Susquehanna Synod representatives for Lutheran World Relief
WORLD HUNGER COMMITTEE
The ELCA Lower Susquehanna Synod’s World Hunger Committee (LSS-WHC) is tasked with serving as hunger advocates, sharing information about local, national and international hunger issues, and with an ongoing financial support for and engagement with ELCA World Hunger. The committee meets periodically and works with both our synod and churchwide organization.

Rostered ministers and laity from across our Lower Susquehanna Synod serving appointments to the committee in 2019 include: Cheryl Burns, the Rev. Ronald Costen, the Rev. Godfred Effisah, Crystal Houser, Stephanie Johnson, Shirley McGowan, Fay Nichols, Andrea Oslikova, the Rev. Jillian Riddle (Synod Council liaison), the Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown, Keith Shively, and the Rev. Maureen Seifried. Tracey DePasquale, LAMPa executive director, serves as consultant; and synod staff representative, the Rev. Beth Martini, advises the committee.

The committee continues to support hunger education and advocacy within the synod and throughout the state by collaborating with the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa). Display kits containing samples of materials developed by ELCA World Hunger, as well as current handouts relating to synod specific activities are available upon request to congregations, youth groups, and Legacy Fund Hunger Grant recipients. Visit www.elca.org/hunger to view examples or access ELCA resources.

Each year the committee oversees the distribution of a portion of the Legacy Fund to benefit local hunger initiatives. In 2019, the committee distributed approximately $25,000 across nine ministries and projects working to fight hunger throughout the synod. Most of these projects requested funds during the 2018 grant cycle and were able to be delayed until 2019 due to their project timelines, which enabled us to fund more projects in 2018. A new request for proposals will be distributed in 2020.

The Lower Susquehanna Synod World Hunger Committee looks forward to continuing the important work of hunger education, financial support, and community outreach in 2020. If you are interested in assisting the committee with events, activities, grant management, or serving as a committee member, please contact Pastor Beth Martini or Cheryl Burns.

Cheryl Burns, chair