We express continuing appreciation for and celebrate our partnership with the Lower Susquehanna Synod and its congregations for their role in helping to make possible our now-more-than-150-year mission.

Through Many Hands, guided by One Heart, Diakon serves people in need of all ages, especially those with limited financial resources. In 2019, Diakon provided $18.8 million in benevolent care, including $4.4 million within the synod.

Frey Village and Cumberland Crossings continued to serve hundreds of people in an ever-changing health-care environment. Both senior living communities maintained a focus on short-term rehabilitation services but also renovated independent living accommodations to remain market leaders.

Diakon Adoption & Foster Care seeks permanency for waiting children and youths, with local services provided through offices in York and Mechanicsburg. The two offices served more than 1,440 children, youths and families through adoption, foster care and such specialized services as foster care for children with medically fragile conditions. In addition, the local Wendy’s Wonderful Kids recruiter focused on child-specific recruitment for older youths in danger of aging out of the foster-care system without a permanent family. As one example of service, the two offices were responsible for provision of 27,124 days of foster care in 2019, compared to 26,463 care days in 2018. The offices served 153 children and youths, an increase from 137 the prior year.

Separately, Diakon continues to manage Pennsylvania’s Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network, or SWAN, meaning Diakon as an overall organization plays a role in all public adoptions. In 2019, that work had an impact on the lives of more than 2,630 children and youths within the Lower Susquehanna Synod, as well as 2,551 family members.

Diakon Family Life Services offers counseling services at Mechanicsburg and a satellite location in Perry County. Among its specialized programs are family-based mental health care and services for youths who have exhibited or experienced problematic sexual behaviors. Having served more than 1,100 people last year, the counseling centers also offer trauma-focused therapies.

Diakon Youth Services, which offers the Weekend Alternative, Flight, and Center Point Day Treatment programs at the Diakon Wilderness Center, served hundreds of youths from throughout the territory of the synod. The center’s vocationally focused Wilderness Greenhouse & Native Plant Nursery continued to grow, while the Lancaster County-based Turning Point program, Columbia, served at-risk teens from both Lancaster and York counties. Various Diakon Youth Services in York County had significant impact through the accountability-focused Bridge Program and York PREP programs.

We thank God for the gifts of staff, volunteers, congregations, donors and board members who, together, enabled us to touch the lives of thousands of people last year within the synod.

Mark T. Pile, MSHA, MSW, president/CEO
ELCA FOUNDATION

About the ELCA Foundation
As our faith matures and deepens, so does the way we support God’s work in the world. The ELCA Foundation exists to sustain and grow our ministries by stewarding assets for all the related organizations of the ELCA.

Through our national network of 23 gift planners, the ELCA Foundation supports members of the ELCA in their call to live as faithful and generous people. Our gift planners work with congregational members to create life giving plans that ensure successful and lasting legacies are passed on to loved ones and treasured ministries. The Foundation also supports and strengthens ELCA congregations, synods and related entities with gift planning resources and investment management services.

Regional Gift Planners are available to help:

- Work with congregational leaders to identify important considerations, and execute an appropriate plan, to cultivate current and planned gifts
- Develop congregational gift acceptance policies to receive gifts well
- Meet with individual members to develop charitable gift giving plans
- Establish an investment account for endowments and other investable assets utilizing the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust (Fund A)

In 2019, the ELCA Foundation network generated over $124.1 million in total gifts and investment assets. Of that, $91.3 million are future planned gift commitments with over $12m in future planned gifts directly benefitting individual ELCA Congregations. There were $6.9 million in current gifts, including funded trusts, gift annuities and individual endowments, and $25.9 million new assets invested in Fund A. Thank you for the opportunity to work in your synod and trusting your endowment dollars to the ELCA Foundation.

In the Lower Susquehanna Synod:
- $8.4m invested in the Pooled Endowment Trust, Fund A.

Contact your NEW regional gift planner:
Sister Marianne Brock
marianne.brock@elca.org
800-635-3522

The Rev. John Eggen, CFRE, director, gift planning
ELCA REGION 8 STEERING COMMITTEE

The synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are grouped in regions as a partnership between groups of synods and the churchwide organization for the purpose of exercising mutual responsibilities. According to the ELCA Constitution, the functions of regions shall be a means for coordinated responses by synods and the churchwide organization to mission and program opportunities within the region.

Region 8, of which we are part, includes the following synods: Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington DC, West Virginia-Western Maryland.

The Region 8 Steering committee consists of the bishops and vice presidents of the eight synods. The committee meets annually and on occasion more often when need arises. The most recent meeting was in September 2019, at which newly elected bishops and vice presidents were welcomed. The committee reviewed our joint work and our shared finances. The accounts for Region 8 are managed at the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod office. Retired Bishop Ralph Jones attended the meeting as a representative of Bishop Michael Lozano, who was unable to attend, and to share the region’s budget and financial report for the previous year. The Steering Committee determines the amount of money to be contributed to our work by each synod annually, as well as setting a budget for 2020 for the region. The committee elected John Auger, vice president of the Delaware-Maryland Synod to serve as chair of the committee. Lucinda Bringman, vice president of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, was thanked for serving as chair for six years.

Region 8 employed Nancy Gable in a part-time assistant status following the ELCA’s 2017 decision to no longer deploy regional coordinators. This arrangement ended and the bishops decided to continue to make use of a regional assistant, primarily to plan the First Call Theological Education (FCTE) retreat held annually in November. This retreat welcomes all ministers for continuing education and support in the first three years following ordination. The Rev. Beth Martini now serves as assistant to the bishops of Region 8 in a very part-time manner. She will plan and make arrangements for the November FCTE event.

One of the ongoing efforts of our region is to continually consider the question “what can we do better if we do it together?” In addition to the Steering Committee meeting in September, the region bishops met together in February to further consider this question. They agreed to share information about training events on their individual synods as much as possible, so that ministers and lay leaders in all the synods have the opportunity to attend events across the region. Pastor Beth Martini will manage this.

Lucinda L. Bringman, chair, Region 8 Steering Committee
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

The academic year 2019-2020 had been going well for the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and the Chaplain’s Office, up until mid-March, when like most other colleges and universities, we closed our doors and sent the vast majority of our students home. It was a stressful time, and we have been working hard these past weeks to keep connected with our students and support their health and well-being. We don’t know what the fall will bring so we are planning for a variety of scenarios.

The center is fully staffed, with a Director of Catholic Campus Ministries, a Director of Hillel, and an advisor to our Muslim Student Association. All of the religious organizations on campus work well together and our Interfaith Student Club continues to expand its work and develop strong connections.

The center continues to see a great deal of student traffic; students find the house a comfortable, safe place to study and relax. In addition, a variety of groups use the house for meetings and social events. The interfaith meditation room, open 24/7, gets regular use as well.

I continue to provide invocations/benedictions for a variety of public events and really enjoy these opportunities. In addition, I am able to do devotions for the Board of Trustees three times a year, and that is also a great opportunity to build connections.

There are several programming highlights for this academic year:

1. Breathe Gettysburg: This programming continues to grow and has been very successful. Our classes include several kinds of meditation, yoga, Qi Gong, knitting, and reflective poetry study. It has been a platform from which we are partnering with different offices on campus for larger wellness offerings.

2. Fall Choir Concert/Worship Service: We started this collaboration in 2017 and it continues to be a fun program that the students and their families really enjoy.

3. Interfaith Youth Core Campus Innovation Grant: We just found out that we received one of a very few Campus Innovation Grants from IFYC for 2020-2021; we are in conversation with IFYC in case we need to run the first semester of the program virtually. We will use this grant to develop an Interfaith Leadership Certificate, a program we hope will be ongoing.

4. Religions 101 Training: We had hoped to be able to offer two versions of this program during “Stop Bias at the Burg” week—one that the students would lead for other students; and one for faculty and staff. These programs had to be cancelled because of COVID-19.

5. Sunday Evening Worship: We have a small group that meets every Sunday night for a worship/dinner/Bible study combination.

This year was the first year of a new president, Bob Iuliano. He has been warmly welcomed and we all appreciate the work he is doing, particularly with the serious challenges this semester has brought.

My work at the college continues to be very rewarding for me, and I am grateful for my call to this institution.

The Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen, campus chaplain
LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA

In response to God’s love in Jesus Christ, we advocate for wise and just public policies in Pennsylvania that promote the common good. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a shared ministry of seven Pennsylvania synods, the ELCA Domestic Mission unit, and Pennsylvania ELCA agencies and institutions. Through LAMPa, Lutherans who are working to eradicate hunger are supported to voice their faith convictions in the public square with and on behalf of our most vulnerable neighbors and the world we share, while seeking to create a more just Commonwealth. This shared ministry has possibly never been so vital as now, in the face of the pandemic.

Since last year’s assembly, LAMPa celebrated 40 years of advocacy ministry that supported and deepened your congregational efforts to address hunger, poverty, health care, human trafficking, election integrity, immigration, discrimination and hate crimes, criminal justice, environmental threats to health and safety, and an accurate Census. Our decades of advocacy on these issues have enabled us to lift up the needs of your ministries and communities to secure emergency food, shelter, access to medical care and other relief in response to COVID-19. We have shared vital information with synods and our network about opportunities to access grants, assist people in applying for benefits, and offer resources in the state’s emergency response. Though much of our work has unleashed assistance directly to those in need, some – in the form of meals or other aid – has gone to your ministries, enabling you to be the visible presence of Christ as you encounter Christ in your neighbor at your doorstep and in each other as you continue teaching, preaching, singing and praying together virtually.

Before the pandemic, LAMPa advocates helped secure election reforms that will enable Pennsylvanians to vote safely by mail and won changes to state anti-trafficking laws to deter traffickers and use increased fines to pay for services to help victims of child sex trafficking.

In its work of equipping disciples, growing leaders and supporting vital congregations, LAMPa staff taught at United Lutheran Seminary, addressed the synod’s day of equipping on actions of the Churchwide Assembly, and offered training for facilitating civil conversations, which was replicated for synod rostered ministers. This spring, though forced to cancel our annual in-person day of advocacy, LAMPa hosted a virtual hearing on the draft social message on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in Democracy, as well as training in facilitating difficult conversations and continues to educate faithful advocates through our website, e-news and other resources. We are working with congregational leaders to prepare for God’s work. Our hands. Our voices. Sunday in September and look forward with hope that we might be able to work side by side on that day.

We give thanks to God for you and for the support of our Lower Susquehanna Synod Policy Council representatives, the Rev. Titus Clarke and the Rev. Matthew Best.

With deep gratitude for all the ways in which you support LAMPa's ministry,

Tracey DePasquale, director
LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION OF CENTRAL PA
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, Wittel Farm

Campers, retreat guests, and others who visit Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and Wittel Farm cannot help but revel in and know the great joy of *Encountering Jesus* at these wonderful outdoor ministries. The children, adults, and families attending summer camps and retreats experience God’s grace and Jesus’ love as they live together, worship, pray, play, and explore God’s creation. The intentional Christian community at Lutheran Camping Corporation (LCC) ministries encourages campers, retreat guests, and camp staff to be the authentic people God created and calls them to be. Christian fellowship in our unique outdoor, faith formation, spiritual renewal, discipleship, and Lutheran leadership development are paramount ministry priorities.

Ministry accomplishments in 2019:

- Supported confirmation ministry of nearly 40 congregations which brought 344 youth to confirmation camps.
- 715 youth attended summer camp at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, 64% of whom came from 90 Lower Susquehanna Synod (LSS) congregations; 3% were from Lutheran churches in other synods, and 33% came from other denominations or had no church affiliation.
- Additionally, 349 children and adults attended family camps, 20 adults attended Elder Camp, 6 adults attended Bring Your Own Craft Camp, 1 congregational day camp was conducted.
- 43 youth attended Kirchenwald’s Diaconos servant ministry camps.
- 80 college and high school aged youth gained valuable Lutheran leadership experience serving on the summer ministry teams as they shared their faith and proclaimed the gospel.
- $31,785 in “Campership” assistance was provided to 91 children who would not have attended camp due to family financial hardship. $30,808 in registration discounts were claimed to help keep camp attendance affordable to families.
- In its fourth year, the Wittel Farm Growing Project engaged nearly 400 volunteers who planted, tended, harvested, and distributed nearly 16,000 pounds of vegetables to food insecure persons.
- Over 90 LSS congregations used the camps and farm for retreats, meetings, picnics and other events bringing around 1,800 persons to the ministry sites. The ministry sites were used for a variety of synod events including but not limited to the ALIVE Middle School Youth Retreat and Leadership Training Camp.
- Over 350 people attended LCC sponsored events including the Winter Youth Retreat, Lenten and Advent Days at Wittel Farm, Winter Fun Days, Fall Foliage Days, Capture the Flag Extravaganza, Women’s Craft Retreat, Book Study Retreat, Quilt Retreat, and work days.
- Thanks to the generosity of many caring donors and congregations that participated in the Seeding The Future Campaign and the Always Being Made New Campaign, the debt on Nawakwa ministry site expansion mortgage has been reduced to $155,000 without impacting the operating budget.
- Facility improvements include a new roof on several buildings, painting multiple buildings inside and out, re-built Kirchenwald high ropes course, and many other smaller yet equally significant projects which keep the facilities safe and attractive.
- The 2020 summer camp Bible study and Worship theme is “*From Generation to Generation*”. Campers will learn how God’s enduring love instilled in the promise to Abraham and Sarah continue through the Old Testament characters, to Jesus, to the early church, and on to US! God’s love endures forever. We look forward to sharing this exciting summer ministry theme and all the joyful, exhilarating, fun-filled programs and activities with our campers of all ages this summer.

As we move through 2020, we thank all those who support this outstanding ministry. Go to [www.lutherancamping](http://www.lutherancamping) to get information and get involved!!!!!

Michael Youse, *executive director*
**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY & LUTHERAN STUDENT COMMUNITY AT PENN STATE**

At Lutheran Campus Ministry, each evening worship service on Sundays and Thursdays begins with an opportunity for students to add their own prayer requests to the prayers that will be offered aloud in worship. While students often ask for prayers about exams and difficult classes, irritating roommates and hopes of getting a particular job, they also seek prayers for family members nearing death, distant natural disasters, complicated family situations, our nation’s political situation, mental health struggles, friends who have cancer or mental illness, the anniversary of a parent’s death, and other difficult and burdensome realities.

Students come to worship seeking to encounter Jesus, and they welcome the opportunity to ask for prayers. They do not seem to expect some magical intervention that puts everything right, yet they find reassurance in the tangible reminder that God is with them through the hard parts of their journey. A prayer offered on their behalf is in fact a powerful encounter with the God who is their source, their hope and their strength.

**Worship**  Word and Sacrament is at the heart of Lutheran Campus Ministry and our presence in the university community. Students gather with the worshipping community at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday mornings. Students also take part in the casual worship on Sunday evening shared by Lutheran Campus Ministry and Grace Lutheran. On Thursdays, Lutheran Campus Ministry offers Holden Evening Prayer with Communion on campus in the midst of religious diversity at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center. Each worship option brings a different flavor and style and has the familiar rhythms of liturgy with Gospel-centered preaching, relevant prayer, and weekly Communion. Students are invited to are invited to “Come as you are” and they encounter God, share prayer requests, learn and grow, and are strengthened for the challenges they will find as their journey of faith unfolds.

**Community Life**  On a campus with 46,000 students, finding authentic community and life-giving connections is a challenge. When students gather each week for meals (dinner after worship Sunday and Thursday, lunch after worship Sunday) they share much more than a meal. Together, they live what it means to be people of God, celebrating one another’s joys and bearing one another’s burdens. Special events like picnics, Christmas celebration, and retreats gather students to relax and enjoy time together. Social media connects students to Lutheran Campus Ministry and each other through Facebook and Instagram, weekly listserv messages, and webpage. Graduate students face their own particular challenges, so they gather for potluck dinners and other time to relax and build connections.

**Deepening Faith**  Opportunities for learning and growth are many and varied in a campus setting. With the help of grants for student organization-led projects in Fall 2019, we joined our ecumenical partners in hosting speakers from two podcasts that engage spiritual life from different perspectives. “Harry Potter and the Sacred Texts” invites listeners to find deeper meaning through the stories and characters of JK Rowling, and “The Liturgists” look at current topics through the lenses of art, science and faith. In late March 2020, we will host Nikole Hannah-Jones from the New York Times’ 1619 Project, exploring the wide-ranging impact slavery has on all aspects of our culture and society. Plans with Hillel are beginning for an Interfaith Seder in April where we can share traditions and experiences with our Jewish brothers and sisters. In partnership with Grace Lutheran Church, “QNA” monthly inter-generational discussions provide students an opportunity to explore a faith-related topic with community members. Topics have ranged from ELCA Social Statements to angels, from schism to Muslim and Christian beliefs.

**Service-Learning**  Students are eager to live out their love of God and neighbor by responding to the needs around them. We joined our local conference “God’s Work. Our Hands. Day of Service” in September with an afternoon volunteering at The Oaks Retirement Community in Pleasant Gap. Partnering with the Muslim Student Association, students continue to help with Free Pizza Friday, handing out pizza on campus to create connections and good-will. Our ministry continues as part of the “Green Team” washing dishes after community meals on Sundays and Thursdays, as well as washing mugs from Grace Lutheran’s Sunday coffee hour each week, eliminating the use of disposable items. We joined Penn State Hillel’s Challah for Hunger for an interfaith bake, learning how to braid dough and baking bread to raise funds for hunger programs. Our connection with Penn State’s new Clothing Transit continues as students find time to help sort and label items between classes. Administered by the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, this resource provides support and help for a truly marginalized population on campus. As part of a grant from the Interfaith Youth Corps, sophomore Eliza Mull helped arrange and facilitate interfaith conversation about Spring Celebrations and a service day at the Penn State Arboretum which brought together students of various faith traditions.

**Spring Break**  Alternative spring break trips provide a welcome chance to discover the world away from campus. During Spring Break 2019, we traveled to the Arizona/Mexico border in partnership with three other campus ministries at Penn State to explore issues of migration, poverty, faith and ministry along the border, working with Frontera de Cristo. It was a powerful experience of boundaries, privilege, hospitality and welcome. Students talked with a variety of humanitarian and faith groups, migrants, and US Border Agents. They also remembered those who have died crossing the border with a prayer vigil near the border checkpoint and with a cross planting far in the desert. Students left with more questions than answers from this complex context, but with a deeper awareness of the struggles and beauty there at the border. In March 2020, again in partnership with three other campus ministries, alternative spring break will take students to rural Alabama to help in tornado recovery near Tuskegee and learn about the civil rights struggle through conversations with local historians and visiting important civil rights sites.
Focus on Vocation  Through a Lilly Endowment funded project called discernPSU, Lutheran Campus Ministry works with Presbyterian Student Fellowship, inviting the wider campus to explore how our beliefs and values shape our work, activities and relationships. Speakers, quotes, interviews, lunch conversations, and retreats provide students and those who work with them opportunities to explore their sense of vocation in the broadest possible sense. This year’s “Journey Inward” retreat was well-received and helped students discover how their identity shapes their faith life and their vocational journey. DiscernPSU was able to work with Schreyers Honors College SHO Time Mentors and Team Leaders this year, inviting them to remember and reflect on their own transition to college as they helped incoming students adjust to the start of their life on campus. Learn more about discernPSU at sites.psu.edu/discern.

Connections  A wide and complex network of relationships make the work of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State possible. On campus, connections to the university and various Student Affairs units help maintain our presence on campus and provide opportunities to truly be part of campus life. Ecumenical and interfaith connections keep our work grounded in the diverse and challenging context where our students live and study and provide unique opportunities to work cooperatively. Connections to alumni, friends, parents, faculty and staff from the Penn State community provide important support in so many ways, including financial, volunteer help, and speakers. Connection with the three synods that support our ministry is vital to our very existence. We are deeply grateful for the many ways Lutheran Campus Ministry is supported by the Allegheny Synod, the Lower Susquehanna Synod and the Upper Susquehanna Synod. In addition, support from congregations and rostered leaders (some near, some far away) enhance and bless our work. We are truly blessed that Lutheran Campus Ministry is part of the whole body of Christ.

Year after year, Lutheran Campus Ministry walks with students through the joys and challenges of campus life, offering a faith community that provides care and support throughout their college years. Students are welcomed just as they are, with their questions and mistakes, their insecurities and fears. They are encouraged, pulled, and challenged as they live their faith and grow in it, too. Each time they gather, these children of God reassured of God’s presence and forgiveness and reminded of God’s unconditional love and constant embrace. Visit our website: www.lutheranpennstate.org; Sign up to receive our e-newsletter for friends and alumni; Add a student to our weekly student listserve; Find us on Instagram: LutheranPennState; Like us on Facebook: Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State

Deacon Alicia Anderson, campus minister
LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.” Ephesians 2:19

Rich Legacy Shapes Current Work

In 2019, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) marked its 80th year of welcome in the name of Christ. Luther speaks of the “left hand kingdom of God” as our involvement in God’s care for the world. The Board of LIRS affirmed its commitment to be on the front lines of public engagement with the world as it welcomed a new President and CEO, Krish O’Mara Vignarajah.

Through partnership with community based social services, LIRS resettled refugees; placed unaccompanied children and youth in foster care; arranged for asylum seekers in immigration detention to receive comfort from pen pals and visitors; assisted congregations and individuals to understand current immigration issues and discern ways to get involved.

Respite and Welcome Centers in Phoenix and Albuquerque received asylum seekers as they were released from detention visitation and provided one- or two-nights of shelter, food, clothing, and coordination of travel to their final destination.

“Hope for the Holidays” card campaign resulted in congregations and individuals submitting 14,000 cards and $30,000 for gifts for children spending the Christmas holidays in detention with their families.

On World Refugee Day, 10 Migrant and Refugee Leadership Academy alums joined five ELCA synod bishops in making 40 visits to members of Congress to ask for higher refugee admissions and more funding to help refugees make a good start in the United States.

Blessing of Partnership Empowers Us to Continue

We are living through the largest refugee crisis the world has ever seen. Extreme weather, poverty and violence are pushing people in various parts of the world to leave their homes in search of food, safety, and welcome. In these challenging times, LIRS relies on congregations to support our work; and offers assistance as people of faith discern their call to welcome the stranger.

- Congregations prayed and preached and learned about migrants and refugees through the wealth of resources available on the LIRS Migrant and Refugee Sunday web page (https://www.lirs.org/migrant-refugee-sunday/).
- Lutherans called and wrote letters to Members of Congress urging higher refugee admissions and proper care for children at our southern border.
- Congregations proclaimed God’s presence to families and children held in immigration detention by sending Christmas cards and money for gifts through LIRS’ Hope for the Holidays campaign; and volunteered as pen pals or detention visitors.
- Lutherans wrestled with God’s call to welcome all as members of the household of God through “Entertaining Angels” training events, and discernment of their role in a sanctuary church body.
- Lutherans supported the work of LIRS with offerings and individual donations.

As members of the household of God, we encourage you to explore how you and your congregation will welcome the stranger in the coming year, and to contact LIRS for information and resources to assist you.

Sue Ellen Spotts, manager for Congregational Outreach
LUTHERCARE

Luthercare continues to celebrate its on-going partnership with the Lower Susquehanna Synod as we provide care and support throughout Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. Through our three senior living communities - Luther Acres, Spang Crest and St. John’s Herr Estate - and three early learning centers - in Marietta, Reamstown and Annville - we have been able to reflect the love of Christ with those we have the pleasure to serve.

Luthercare’s commitment to the health and well-being of our seniors flourished in 2019. Luther Acres and Spang Crest continue to be recognized as preferred providers of rehabilitative and restorative care by the Wellspan Health System, the Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine Health System and the UPMC Pinnacle Health System. Newly renovated rehab wings at both healthcare centers have made our facilities a top choice for those seeking care. Quality of care continues to be a core priority at Luthercare and we are pleased that both of our healthcare centers received a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Building renovations and upgrades continue throughout our healthcare centers at Luther Acres and Spang Crest and in personal care at St. John’s Herr Estate where new dining facilities and a secure memory support wing will be available!

Luther Acres was able to grow and expand in a new and exciting way – Luther Acres on Pin Oak Drive. It is an independent living project in a neighborhood setting near our campus in Lititz. This new twist on campus living enabled us to offer brand-new townhomes with the full benefit of the continuum of care provided at Luther Acres. St. John’s Herr Estate is in the planning stages for a new 14-cottage neighborhood. We are excited about these new and innovative residential offerings.

Luthercare for Kids continues to be a leader in providing quality care for children in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties! Whether in one of our three early learning centers or through the influence and impact of our mentoring program, Luthercare for Kids is making a difference in the lives of children and enabling young people to have the skills they need to succeed in school. We continue to enjoy the collaboration with our partners in the SAIL (Systems Aligned in Learning) Initiative and we are thankful for the publicity and recognition these efforts receive as unique programs making a tangible difference in our communities.

Luthercare also continues to celebrate the work of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Lutheran Disaster Response Network, coordinated by the Rev. Glenn Beard, Jr., Luthercare’s Director of Church Relations & Pastoral Care. The LSS LDR network continues its work of recruiting, training and mobilizing volunteers to provide long-term recovery work in disaster zones across the country. The Network has also provided congregational security workshops and assessments and disaster preparedness education as well. Local disaster response efforts continued through 2019 in Lancaster, Lebanon and York Counties following summer floods of 2018. Our synod network coordinated volunteer support for local clean-up and rebuilding efforts, along with financial support to allow volunteers to work through the PA VALOR program. Our synod disaster response team completed three long-term recovery trips in New Jersey and Puerto Rico to provide much needed disaster relief. 2020 will bring three more service opportunities in West Virginia, New Jersey and Puerto Rico. At the end of this year a total of 25 trips will have been completed by this team. Luthercare is pleased to be an active partner in this very important ministry.

In 2019 we launched Greenstone Living which is a vehicle that was formed to enable Luthercare to realize its vision of growth through collaboration, affiliation, acquisition and management opportunities. As part of our strategic vision, Greenstone Living will enable like-minded partners to join together to meet the challenges and opportunities that the Senior Service industry faces. We will be able to diversify our revenue streams and reduce our dependence on healthcare reimbursement. Through Greenstone Living, partner organizations will be able to maintain, as desired, their own identity and tradition while enjoying an expanded network of talent, geography and financial resources.

The philanthropic support of individuals and congregations across the synod, through the giving of financial resources and volunteer time, is a crucial part of what we are able to do each year. 2019 was a successful year due, in large part, to the generosity of so many. Generous lifetime donors remembered us in their final plans and estate and planned gifts; our appeals were met with a strong response and our annual Luthercare for Kids Golf Tournament generated significant support to provide scholarships for children and families we serve in our early learning programs. Through the generosity of so many Luthercare was able to provide more than $9.3 million in benevolent care (direct benevolence and undercompensated care) and nearly $120,000 in childcare scholarships.

For more than 70 years Luthercare has been serving residents of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. We look forward to all that the future will bring as we partner with the church in reflecting Christ’s love through service to others!

Carl McAloose, president and CEO
MISSION INVESTMENT FUND, ELCA

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) is the lending ministry of the ELCA. MIF makes low-interest loans to ELCA congregations and ELCA-related ministries for building and renovation projects. With MIF loans, congregations and ministries can purchase property, construct new buildings, and expand or renovate existing facilities.

MIF loans expand the capacity for ministry. MIF loans help create expanded worship spaces, updated space for education and youth ministry, new kitchens for community meals, affordable housing units and much more.

At year-end 2019, MIF had 898 loans outstanding, totaling $575.1 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2019, MIF investment obligations totaled $493.4 million.

MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of $712.3 million and net assets of $211.9 million at year-end 2019, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 29.75 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds. For more information, visit mif.elca.org.

MIF loans and investments in the Lower Susquehanna Synod (as of December 31, 2019):
• 12 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of $3,011,329
• $13,128,421 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

MIF representative:
Gerry Lauro, Regional Manager, Tel: (312) 805-6502; email: gerry.lauro@elca.org

Gerry Lauro, regional manager
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is church bodies and agencies representing Anabaptist, Episcopal, Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Protestant communions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania working together for Christian unity for the sake of the world. [John 17:23]

IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Looking Ahead. The Board of Directors made the determination to move ahead with a search for a new executive director. The Personnel Committee will be working to develop a job description and to conduct a search during 2020. Director of Finance and Facilities and Interim Executive Director Jan Gulick has announced that she plans to retire at the end of January 2021, and a search will also be taking place for this position later in 2020 to provide time for overlap/training before she retires. The board has also authorized new contracts for Gulick and for Rev. Sandra Strauss, Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach, and the Personnel Committee will be working to develop those contracts.

Conferences and Meetings. The council did not hold a single statewide conference in 2019 but conducted workshops around the issues of criminal justice reform, gun violence, and public education funding.

The council held a session in Lancaster in November 2019 called “Faithful Advocacy for Gun Violence Prevention: Principles and Practice,” following a similar but updated format to an initial session in 2018. The session focused on gun violence prevention legislation designed to remove guns from domestic abusers and others who could be a danger to themselves or others (Extreme Risk Protection Orders, already law in a number of other states) and universal background checks. More workshops are planned for 2020.

Work has also proceeded on solitary confinement, funded by a grant from the Van Ameringen Foundation. The first was held in Harrisburg in June with the Abolitionist Law Center to introduce the audience to solitary confinement, how it is used in Pennsylvania, why it needs to be reduced, and why it is an issue for the faith community (it is viewed as torture as defined by the United Nations). This session included stories from individuals who had experienced solitary confinement and their families. A second and somewhat different approach was employed with a selected group of advocates in November, involving experiential techniques from “Theater of the Oppressed” that involved the audience in activities to help them understand incarceration and solitary confinement. It also included information with statistics and how solitary is used, as well as stories of several reentrants who had experienced solitary. A number of sessions are planned already for 2020, and more are in the works.

A joint session with POWER in Harrisburg in May helped to introduce participants to equitable public education funding, educating them about existing gross inequities in funding from the state and how this fuels vastly different outcomes for students based on where they live. They also learned that this is a justice issue for people of faith. They were introduced to legislation that would work to ensure that all state-based education funding (not just a small portion, as it is now) will be run through the state’s education funding formula to ensure more equitable funding in the future.

Council staff led two interfaith vigils at the Berks County Residential Center, an immigrant family detention facility that the council and other coalition groups are seeking to have closed.

Finally, the council conducted a Healing Communities training in Pittsburgh in October for over 20 participants from the region. Healing Communities aims to train congregations to be welcoming and supportive of formerly incarcerated persons.

Support for Collaborative Efforts. The council has worked collaboratively with other organizations based on grant funding received.

- The Mennonite Central Committee’s grant to support advocacy in areas that are particularly important to Anabaptist traditions: criminal justice reform, immigration, gun violence, and education. The grant runs through March 2020. The MCC viewed their multi-year granting as an experiment in state-level advocacy and has said it is unlikely to renew the funding for another year. On the other hand, they are eager to continue in partnership, and have expressed willingness to provide support for joint programs in the areas of mutual interest to ensure that they are able to continue.

- A grant of $16,000 from the William Penn Foundation (through POWER; $8,000/year for 2 years—an increase from the previous grant amount) continues to support the council’s efforts to reform school funding in Pennsylvania. The funds have been used to do basic education on equity and adequacy of public school funding in Pennsylvania.

These grants have been used to support part-time efforts by John-Michael Cotignola-Pickens, former Advocacy Programs Coordinator (now working for the MCC), and for nearly full-time efforts (since September) by Emily Schmid, and Episcopal Service Corps Fellow in Harrisburg through Sycamore House, a project of St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Harrisburg and associated with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Emily will be with the council through July 2020 and is eligible for renewal if desired.

- A third grant from the Van Ameringen Foundation, received in late 2018, is shared with the Abolitionist Law Center to do work in the area of criminal justice reform, particularly with regard to the use of solitary confinement and treatment of incarcerated persons
with mental health conditions. Some of the work underway has already been described above. This grant is supporting the lion’s share of Emily’s work.

Other Activities
• The council offered official greetings to the Middle PA District of the Church of the Brethren.
• Both of the council’s websites, www.pachurches.org and www.pachurchesadvocacy.org, have continued to evolve.
• The Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach was named to the Governor’s Census 2020 Complete Count Commission.

COUNCIL MINISTRIES
Commission on Public Witness & Public Witness Ministry. The council’s advocacy efforts in 2019 focused on the following areas:
• Advocacy for a Pennsylvania budget with sufficient revenues that addresses the concerns of people of faith.
• Human needs/poverty-related work.
• Efforts to raise the minimum wage, primarily in coordination with the Raise the Wage PA Coalition.
• Public education funding, primarily in coordination with POWER.
• Criminal justice reform, primarily in coordination with the Abolitionist Law Center and other partners.
• Immigration, particularly around calling for the closure of the Berks County Family Detention Center that is holding refugee families for long periods of time, and for ending the separation of families at the border.
• Environment, primarily climate change and protecting water resources, in coordination with several organizations.

The commission continues to work on efforts aimed at improving the lives of people on the margins and addressing problems with our political system.

Commission on Unity & Relationships. The council joined with other faith partners to present a session on Civil Conversations in Harrisburg in May, modeled on the Civil Conversations Project related to Krista Tippett and On Being.

Commission on Common Ministries. The council has continued to provide support to its Trucker/Traveler Ministry, Campground Ministries, and Farmworker Ministries. Work continues on building a Healing Communities network in Pennsylvania.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
Council staff continue to discuss activities and areas where the council might engage to be of service to our members, the wider faith community.

Jan Gulick, interim executive director and director of finance & facilities
PORTICO BENEFITS SERVICES
A Ministry of the ELCA

So You Can Embrace Every Day
We are a church that takes care of each other. Portico Benefit Services is proud to continue a 200+ year Lutheran legacy of caring for those who serve, from pastors and their families to staff at social ministry organizations. As the ELCA’s benefit ministry, seeing the diverse needs of our national church community drives us to innovate: to control health care costs and increase total well-being, to help plan members retire with confidence, to advocate on behalf of church organizations, and to serve more people well.

At Portico, we’re inspired daily by those who commit to a life of service, and we’re grateful to walk alongside our plan members — providing benefits designed to help you embrace every day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Benefits Making a Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>65%</strong> Members Preparing for the Future* by making their own pretax retirement contributions during 2019 in addition to the contributions from their sponsoring organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10,648</strong> Pounds Lost* by ELCA-Primary health plan members since 2018, when we added a chronic condition management program by Omada® to help reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1,728</strong> New Members Welcomed to Portico’s benefit plans in 2019 when we added three ELCA social ministry organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> Pro-Church Bills enacted into federal law in 2019 thanks to Portico working alongside other denominations to advocate for legislation favorable to church benefit plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>605</strong> Members Made the Leap into retirement in 2019. Over 80% of ELCA retirees report feeling financially prepared for this next chapter of their lives. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>65%</strong> Members Being Proactive with their health by using ELCA-Primary preventive services in 2019.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>70%</strong> Members With Diabetes See Improvement in their ability to manage their condition due to participation in our Livongo® Diabetes Management program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,297</strong> Additional Students attending schools in low-income Midwestern communities thanks in part to a social purpose fund investment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>96%</strong> Users Satisfied* or very satisfied with their experience on Portico’s member and employer websites.</td>
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*Data as of Dec. 31, 2019; sources available upon request.

The Rev. Jeff Thiemann, president & CEO
There is an old saying – many hands make for light work – that could not be truer than at SpiriTrust Lutheran where more than 4,900 team members and volunteers labor to serve in Christ’s name. The year 2019 was an exciting, but challenging year for us. Our board and team members wrestled with the challenges of daily operations and new opportunities while skillfully and successfully overcoming several unexpected challenges.

In April, we dedicated the new skilled care and rehabilitation center at The Village at Luther Ridge in Chambersburg and, shortly thereafter, welcomed our first guest. When fully occupied, the new residence will have the capacity to provide care and comfort to 40 individuals. We are eternally grateful to everyone who made this project a success and are especially appreciative of the 160 donors who generously provided $1.5 million in support of the Completing Our Family of Services capital campaign.

Our Annual Cornerstone Dinner in April raised almost $200,000 to support our life enhancing services. This event increased the total raised to more than $2.7 million since the dinner’s inception in 2004. This outpouring of community support allowed SpiriTrust Lutheran to help more than 9,700 persons achieve a higher quality of life in 2019. Also noteworthy is that in 2019 our VITA program assisted nearly 7,700 clients in filing their tax returns, resulting in an estimated $8 million being returned to York County in federal and state tax refunds.

The year did not come without challenges. In mid-March, a retaining wall failed at The Village at Utz Terrace in Hanover. By the grace of God no one was injured, but we did have to evacuate 27 cottages. Our core value of service – committing ourselves to the total well-being of those who place their trust in us – was never more evident as team members throughout the agency lent their direct and indirect support to their colleagues at Utz Terrace. We are extremely thankful for this amazing demonstration of support, patience and compassion during this challenging time for our residents and team members.

We are equally thankful for your support of our mission in 2019 and the many gifts that we were able to share with those we serve as a result of your generosity. All we do is possible because of the dedication and commitment of more than 1,400 team members, 3,500 volunteers and 1,800 donors who choose to be a part of the SpiriTrust Lutheran family. Because of their collective support of our mission, SpiriTrust Lutheran was able to witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ in service to 19,305 clients, residents and participants.

For all of this and your partnership and prayers, we give thanks through the grace of God's glory. May we all find the love of God in the work we do.

Robert Rundle, president & CEO
ST. BARNABAS CENTER FOR MINISTRY

In keeping with a 26-year tradition, St. Barnabas Center for Ministry held its summer camp at St. Paul Episcopal Church at 248 Seneca Street in Uptown Harrisburg, PA. Starting on June 17, 2019, under the leadership of returning summer camp director, Rodger Hines, the camp was in session for eight weeks Monday through Friday from 7:30 prebreakfast until 4:00 dismissal. Preregistration was about 100 with an average daily attendance of about 80 campers. Daily activities followed the previous year’s schedule with Bible study for all following breakfast. The Bible lessons follow the camp’s Seven Pillars of Character: Respect, Caring, Fairness, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship and Forgiveness. Local clergy are often invited to participate in the Bible lessons. The campers then are divided up into their age groups and do age appropriate outdoor or physical activities. Planning for the camp’s closing ceremony begins early in the camp session as the campers write, practice and perform their group’s presentation. Other morning activities include Zumba, movies, math, science projects and learning activities. As in past years, the campers go swimming three afternoons a week.

Traditionally, St. Barnabas Center for Ministry has provided a free field trip every Wednesday of camp ending with a trip to Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, Pennsylvania. Although admission is free as is parking and St. Barnabas brings food to feed the campers and staff, the trip is usually the most expensive trip of the year since St. Barnabas supplies every camper with a book of tickets for the rides. By supplying the tickets, it allows every camper to choose which rides they want to ride and plan their own day. This year Mr. Hines secured a very large grant of $10,000 from the Stabler Foundation specifically for field trips and transportation. He was able to add additional trips including a trip to Hershey Park. Some weeks had two field trips instead of the traditional one. The campers and parents were very excited about the new additions. In addition to running the camp and making sure things go smoothly all summer, Mr. Hines writes at least three grants to secure extra funding to cover the costs of the camp and keep the cost to campers affordable. Even with Mr. Hines efforts, St. Barnabas has applicants that cannot afford to send their children. St. Barnabas offers different levels of scholarships based on the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare guidelines.

The board set up committees to address three major issues identified in its strategic planning process. The board was able to add new board members to assist in areas that needed more expertise than presently exists on the board. New financial processes were put in place, but unfortunately for St. Barnabas, the Assistant Camp Director, Kathy O’Neal Sloan, left for a full-time position starting the second week of camp, leaving Mr. Hines to cover her duties. An existing counselor was appointed to the assistant position and Kathy was able to come every day after work to assist with dismissal and other duties such as tuition payments, so the transition would go smoothly. The board continues to work to strengthen policies and procedures but still found itself at camp’s end once again in a strained financial position due to the extra salaries.

Once again, the board and staff of St. Barnabas would like to thank the Lower Susquehanna Synod for its continued support of the program. We are especially grateful to have Pastor Tom McKee remain on the board in his retirement. He is an important part of the board and a true blessing.

Carol Witzeman, board chair
SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

Life of the University
The 2019-2020 academic year marks the 162nd for Susquehanna University. The university continues to serve a religiously diverse student body, about 8% of whom self-identify as Lutheran and who hail from 35 states and 22 countries. Dr. Jonathan Green, Susquehanna’s 15th president, is completing his third year of service.

Campus Religious Activities
Religious Life continues to help members of the academic community integrate faith, life, and learning. Many religious life organizations and various ministries and programs offered by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life help students grow spiritually as they grow intellectually.

Sunday worship services are held in Weber Chapel when classes are in session, welcoming students, faculty and staff as well as people from the surrounding community. The student deacon program allows select students to explore Christian service through formal servant-leadership roles.

Interfaith engagement is a strong commitment of ELCA institutions of higher education generally, and Susquehanna in particular. Twelve different religious student clubs and organizations attest to the vibrancy of religious life on campus. An interfaith dialogue in February 2020 brought together a panel of Lutheran, Catholic, Evangelical, Muslim and Jewish leaders for a panel discussion around the theme, “What does it mean to live a good life?”

Ours is a religiously diverse campus, a reality which we embrace not in spite of but because of our Lutheran tradition, which teaches that the other is to be welcomed as Christ and that education serves the common good.

In our world where religious conflicts are routinely in the headlines, the work of building bridges of understanding and cooperation across lines of religious and philosophical difference is an essential civic and spiritual task. Such work has been an important part of religious life at Susquehanna in the past year.

In Conclusion
Susquehanna University deeply appreciates the ongoing support and encouragement that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lower Susquehanna Synod give to its efforts to be a strong and successful college of the church. The university is grateful for synod members Mr. Frank Leber (’64), Mr. James A. Dunlop (’01), and the Rev. Linda Shank for their service to the university’s Board of Trustees.

The Rev. Scott M. Kershner, university chaplain
UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT MILLERSVILLE

No report submitted by May 1, 2020.
UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY
Cora I. Grove Spiritual Center

Sometimes it is hard to find a community of folks you can trust and rely on to encourage you and value you. We who are a part of United Campus Ministry invite students to be a part of that kind of community with us.

United Campus Ministry welcomes all students to our ministry. We believe that Jesus loves you just the way you are. We reject the hate and division that has been spewed in the name of Jesus. We believe in faith, friendship, and living our Christianity with integrity in these tumultuous times. If you hope for a better world or have lost hope join us in a family of love and support!

Hard work, great fun, and spiritually challenging describe United Campus Ministry’s annual mission work trip over spring break. This March we traveled to the deep south to serve others in the name of Christ through the ministry of the MacDonell Children’s Services in Houma, Louisiana. Students worked doing painting and repair on the facilities. They sampled local culture by having Cajun food and visiting the Tabasco factory. We reflected daily on God’s word and lived in intentional Christian community as we served others. It is a life changing experience for our students who attended.

United Campus Ministry (UCM) is an ecumenical ministry sponsored by the ELCA, United Methodist, Presbyterian(USA), UCC, and Episcopal denominations. UCM offers opportunities for our students and larger community at Shippensburg University to grow in faith, fellowship, build community, and serve others. Our local sponsoring congregation is Memorial Lutheran Church in Shippensburg. We have two congregation members serving on our board.

We offer opportunities for spiritual growth and worship through study and retreats and special services. We also offer fellowship events such as game nights, progressive dinners, and bowling. We strengthen our faith through service with a Spring Break mission trip. The United Campus Ministry also supplies spiritual direction, counseling, and crisis resources to the campus community.

Our programming strives to develop our young adults into future leaders for the Body of Christ. We challenge, strengthen, and encourage our students to grow in their faith as they prepare themselves for their future vocations. We are blessed to represent Christ and the ELCA in this important ministry. Due to the pandemic and uncertainties for the fall, our programming and outreach is in flux. The campus minister is in contact with students via electronic communication.

Rev. Jan Bye, campus minister
Every Student. Every Day.
In our third year of raising up leaders for the church and world, United Lutheran Seminary is building on our rich heritage while faithfully educating future church leaders. We are grateful for the wisdom and ministry that the former Interim President, Dr. Richard Green, brought to our school during the past year. We are blessed with over 350 students from over 28 denominations who learn and live on two campuses and all over the world. We celebrate the gifts of our faculty as they teach and converse with our students, equipping them for the work of ministry in a myriad of contexts. This spring, we conferred degrees on 70 students, of which 47 were Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership recipients. In addition, 14 students received certification from the Urban Theological Institute. Other degree programs included the Doctor of Ministry, Master in Public Leadership, and Master of Sacred Theology.

Our financial picture is hopeful. The ULS endowment is strong, thanks to the legacy gifts and contributions of saints past and present. Because of this, we are able to offer up to full tuition for all degree-seeking students. Our annual fund goals are aspirational, yet we are continuously amazed by the generosity and passion of seminary supporters.

Much of our annual operating fund comes through direct synodical support. In the last fiscal year, over $1.2 M was received from the fourteen synods of ELCA Regions 7 & 8. This is a significant portion of how we provide for every student, every day. Individual congregations have also made significant contributions. In the last fiscal year, 219 congregations gave a total of $147,305 in support of theological education. Funds went to our food pantries, libraries, worship facilities, and other areas to enhance the faith formation of all students.

This year, we want to continue lifting up and celebrating those congregations that are already contributing to the ULS scholarship and general fund on a regular basis and make a special invitation to your congregation to join in the ranks of those who support us through prayers and gifts. Through the United Partner Initiative, your congregation can journey with seminary students as they experience faith formation, learning, and finding their own unique way to answer God’s call for them in a broken world. Information about this new initiative is available at www.uls.edu/UnitedPartners or by speaking to the representative from ULS at the assembly.

What do United Partners gain?
- Invitations to an annual summit of partners with the President and Cabinet on either campus
- Periodic Zoom meetings to share information and ideas with the Director of Church Relations
- Discounts on overnights at campus facilities and lifelong learning opportunities
- Visits from guest preachers associated with United Lutheran Seminary (subject to availability)
- A partnership certificate, Advent Star, Lenten Devotionals, etc.

What does ULS gain?
- A better understanding of the congregations for whom we seek to provide rostered leadership
- A possible resource/think tank of people from different walks of life who have a passion for the church and its ministry in the world
- Monthly financial contributions from member congregations

How do congregations determine their contribution?
Partner monthly gifts are determined by the church’s weekly attendance. Thrivent members are also able to allocate their Thrivent Choice dollars for this program.
- 0 – 50: $25 - $50
- 50 – 100: $50 - $100
- 100 – 150: $75 - $150
- 150 – 200: $100 - $200
- 200 +: $200 - $500

I hope that as a representative from your congregation, you will prayerfully consider sharing this second mile giving information with your congregation council. Folks from the advancement team at ULS are available to Zoom conference with your congregation council, and a YouTube video about the program is available from the web page. We already have over 70 congregations from all over ELCA Regions 7 & 8 that are actively partnering with us. A “United Partner Press Packet” is available by request. Please join us in the journey!

As we move into the next academic year, I am filled with a deep sense of humility and gratitude for the great cloud of witnesses who make Lutheran theological education possible here in the Northeastern United States. Thank you for your partnership and prayers.

The Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann, interim president
WARTBURG COLLEGE

Enrollment
Fall 2019 enrollment was 1,505 students from a record 38 U.S. states and a record 59 countries. This number included 123 international students and 189 U.S. students of color. The top five majors are business administration, biology, elementary education, psychology, and music therapy.

Academic Programs
- Wartburg received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer its first complete online programs – an English as a Second Language (PK-12) endorsement for educators and a graduate certificate in leadership. Both are 12-month programs and will launch in Summer 2020; the leadership certificate requires two brief on-campus summer residencies at the start and end of the program.
- As the new Irving R. Burling Distinguished Professor in Leadership, Dr. Michael Gleason will guide the launch of the online graduate leadership certificate and oversee a new Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Leadership. Both programs leverage the popular leadership minor for undergraduates and promise to extend Wartburg’s reach to new audiences.
- Dr. Stephanie Toering-Peters was inducted into the new Dr. Richard L. and Sandra K. Wahl Professorship in Biology. Both Waverly natives, Richard ’74 is an internationally recognized physician scientist and Sandra is an accomplished math educator.
- The College continues raising funds to renovate Wartburg’s current strength and conditioning room to house the Department of Health and Human Performance and create new laboratory space for exercise science. A new Strength and Conditioning Center will better meet the needs of a growing intercollegiate athletics program and integrate with student-faculty research opportunities in exercise science.
- In October, the Board of Regents authorized a collaborative planning effort involving Regents, faculty, and staff to clarify a vision for the College and produce a three-year plan of action.

Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry
- On the occasion of the Wartburg Chapel’s 25th anniversary, the College dedicated Lebenskreuz (Life Cross), a sculpture based on the wooden crosses handcrafted in Neuendettelsau, Germany, that depict the Seven Acts of Mercy found in Matthew 25. Other highlights of the Homecoming weekend included an open house, dinner, and worship service. More information can be found at https://www.wartburg.edu/chapel-25/.
- Adrian Miller, award-winning author and executive director of the Colorado Council of Churches, was the 2019 Graven Award recipient. The annual award for Christian vocation continues to highlight the powerful and positive effect of a strong sense of Christian vocation as it interfaces with service to community, the church, and the world.
- Rebecca Baird ’18 became the first four-year pastoral intern at an ELCA college when she assumed the role at Wartburg in August. Baird is working part-time (20-25 hours/week) while taking classes online through Wartburg Theological Seminary’s Collaborative Learning Program.
- The cooperative articulation agreement with Wartburg Seminary continues to mature. Nine students are currently at the College pursuing the joint B.A.-M.Div. Programs to prepare for ordained ministry. Two challenge grants from O. Jay and Pat Tomson will provide scholarship funds for these students. The program’s founding director, Halcyon Bjornstad, accepted a call to become a congregational pastor in December. Wartburg’s Dean of Spiritual Life Brian Beckstrom is leading efforts to ensure the program’s success.
- The Spiritual Life Guiding Team comprising faculty, staff, and students continues to work on initiatives that provide a theological center for ministry on campus while inviting those of different perspectives to be full participants in the religious life of the College. A new interfaith prayer space in the Chapel Commons allows students of different traditions a place for prayer and reflection. A Muslim Student Association has become a new Faith Expression Group.

Recognition
- Longtime Wartburg men’s basketball coach and professor emeritus Lewis “Buzz” Levick and Harold ’58 and Grace Jahn ’61 Kurtz, loyal alums and devout Lutherans, received the Wartburg Medal in recognition of sustained service to the College.
- New Regents include Barbara Gamez ’98, laboratory services and partnership development director for Mayo Clinic; Tammy Jackson ’83, director of the ELCA International Leaders Program, and Paul Mугan ’91, biology teacher at Waverly-Shell Rock High School and Alumni Board president-elect. Bishop Jim Arends stepped off the Board in October.
- For the second year in a row, Wartburg was second in the 2019 Break Away National Alternative Break Survey. Nearly 10 percent of students participated in 13 trips helping with flood recovery, sustainability, homelessness, hunger, and several other social issues.
- Campus Compact named Joshua Voigt ’20 of Ezulwini, eSwatini, a Newman Civic Fellow for his contributions to community and civic engagement. Student Body President as a junior, Voigt worked to reduce summer housing rates for international students, organized campus Peace Dialogues, and championed an international flag display, among other diversity-related initiatives.
- Sophomore Rachel Nduluwa and juniors Saffa Bockarie and Tyler Bitting each received $10,000 grants from the Davis Projects for Peace to construct a classroom in Namibia and improve access to clean water in Sierra Leone, respectively.
- Eleven athletics teams qualified for their respective NCAA tournaments/championships. Seven student-athletes were named Conference MVPs in football, women’s cross country, women’s soccer, women’s basketball, softball, and wrestling. Matt Sacia won an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, bringing the total to 42.
- President Darrel Colson was named to the board of directors for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, serving on its taxation committee. He continues to serve on the board of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU) and on the Council of Independent College’s NetVUE Advisory Board.

We are blessed to work with gifted students who are committed to changing the world through leadership and service. Thank you for encouraging your students to join Wartburg’s rich tradition as they share their gifts to enrich our community of learning.

Darrel D. Colson, president
CHRIST LUTHERAN HEALTH MINISTRIES
http://www.pcvsoftware.net/christlutheran/index.html#health
Prenatal Clinic

Mission Statement
Our mission and the job description for volunteers are synonymous: to provide high-quality prenatal care to low-risk obstetrical patients in the neighborhoods surrounding Christ Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. These women are uninsured and will be asked for no fee or other type of donation in return for their care.

Budget
+ $0
+ No paid staff; all volunteers
+ All medications and supplies are donated
+ The Center for Women’s Health physicians deliver our babies and accept payment by the baby’s Medicaid; other charges are written off to the hospital’s charity budget
+ Labs and ultrasounds are written off to the charity budget by Geisinger-Holy Spirit Hospital
+ In addition to prenatal care, we give out pack-n-play cribs, car seats, baby clothing and diaper bags that are donated by church members from a number of area churches

Board
+ The Church Council of Christ Lutheran Church, Harrisburg
+ Rev. Drew Stockstill, Executive Director
+ Holly Hoffman, MD, MAMS, ELCA Deacon and Medical Director

Accomplishments
+ There were 121 patient visits and 40 clinics held across the 13th year of operations
+ Since inception 13 years ago, 182 babies have been born at Geisinger-Holy Spirit Hospital from the clinic and 218 pregnancies have received care through the clinic.
+ The clinic was the first free-standing prenatal clinic in the United States to become certified as a federal employee for malpractice purposes through the FTCA (Federal Tort Claims Act). The application and recertification process for this program is rigorous and annual. This status has allowed Christ Lutheran Health Ministries to add volunteer dentists and physicians who would not have otherwise been able to volunteer their skills due to lack of coverage (primarily retired or insured by an institution and only covered there).

Health Ministries Overall
+ Because of the availability of FTCA coverage, Dr. Margaret Groff has been able to provide acute care visits once a week in an adjoining room at Christ Lutheran church since 2014.
+ Health Ministries is also the umbrella organization over a busy free dental clinic. A team of volunteer dentists, support staff and translators offer care three days a month for urgent dental conditions requiring simple extractions and fillings. Preventive dental care was just added through partnership with HACC dental hygiene students. They have prioritized the prenatal clinic patients.

Relationship to the Lower Susquehanna Synod
Most current board members are LSS-ELCA members. The ministry is supported by donations and volunteers from many congregations in the area, both Lutheran (LSS-ELCA) and other denominations/churches.

Holly C. Hoffman, MD, MAMS, deacon at St. Paul ELC, Carlisle
COMMUNITIES OF HOPE
Synod- Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC)

According to its founding pastor, the Rev. Jennifer Hope-Tringali, Communities of Hope (COH) began in 2013 on the roof of her home in Guatemala. In 2016 Communities of Hope became a Synod- Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC), and in June, Pastor Hope-Tringali was issued a letter of call. 501(C)3 Articles of Incorporation were issued in 2017, along with the bylaws in March 2017.

By 2019, several communities had been established including Creative Connections “Salon Church”; VFW “World Café” Church; Communities of Hope at Salem; The Tribe in Steelton, New Cumberland, and Harrisburg; ministry to at-risk youth in the Steelton-Highspire School District; and Parking Lot Church. Leaders included Carol Caring, Rose Tonkin, Melissa Speziele, Jim (and wife Karen) Withrow, and Deacon David Hope-Tringali. As the work increased, Kristen Mam was employed for administrative work.

By March 2019, Pastor Jennifer Hope-Tringali and her husband Deacon David answered a call to open Hope Academy in Guatemala, and so the process to find a new pastor for COH began. At the same time, Pastor Sharron Blezard agreed to leave her call to care for her health. As part of her call, Pastor Blezard served as the interim pastor for a congregation in renewal, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in New Cumberland. While there, she began a new ministry called Welcome Table. Welcome Table is a dinner church for people in recovery (AA, NA, etc.).

After a process of meetings among synod staff, the pastors and leaders of COH, and St. Paul’s, the Lower Susquehanna Synod Council issued a call to me to serve as pastor to COH and to share my time/life with St. Paul’s. I began my work in May 2019. A board of directors had been established: president, Carol Caring; vice president, Brian Atkinson; secretary, Jim Withrow; treasurer, Keith Shively; Joleen Leisure; Kristen Mam; and Mindy Shively. However, by the time of transition to a new pastor, some of the leaders had moved into new areas of ministry and the board had disengaged its work with COH. Establishing a functioning board is a priority for us.

Ministries are constantly in flux and challenged, especially now with COVID-19. Some may not survive the separation of social distancing and sheltering at home, which is true of many things right now. Finding ways to be connected while apart is a priority for us.

Communities of Hope has (as its core value) created places where people can come and find a safe space to encounter Jesus. At the beginning of every gathering an apology is shared, and everyone is invited to enter into a sacred time. One of those who participated in the early stages of COH shared that it was after hearing this apology spoken over and over again that she was able to heal. She bore witness to the power of this ministry at the joint conference gathering of clergy (Harrisburg and West Shore) with Bishop Dunlop in February 2020. She is an artist, and she superimposed the words of the apology onto a photo that she had taken and gave a copy of it to every pastor in attendance that morning. Please see the apology at the end of this report.

Another one of our leaders gave testimony at that gathering of clergy of going regularly to her local VFW and gathering people from the bar to attend a time of Bible study and worship. On my first encounter with this worshiping group, this leader stood before her people and said that she had a gift for one of them who had been asking where she could get one of the Bibles that they were studying. Both faces beaming, the group applauded as she received her very own copy from our leader. Encountering Jesus is an essential part of Communities of Hope. As a result of her identity being formed through her work in COH, this leader has also been discerning a call into ordained ministry.

It is critical that our church continue to work with Communities of Hope and other newly forming ministries. This is a growing edge for our life in Christ as church. It is most definitely a place where people who may never darken the door of our Sunday morning worship services will encounter Jesus. Recently, the Recovery Church at St. Paul’s agreed to identify itself with COH. There may be other ministries that you know about that would like to connect with this SAWC. We gather as leaders for worship, mutual support, and then we go out refreshed and ready to meet people where they are. COH is an exciting vibrant ministry. I encourage you to visit and bring a friend or church leader with you.

Before I close with the apology, I would like to thank our bishop and his staff, especially Pastor Richard Jorgensen who has taken such good care of us/me. I would also like to thank all the pastors who have actively worked with our leaders and encouraged COH to keep going! There would be too many individuals, and I’d be afraid that I’d miss someone, to name all who have worked alongside of us, and I thank you too for cheering us on and offering a comforting ear when difficulties arose. And thank you to the Synod Council for this call! We are both taking leaps of faith here.

The Apology: May I offer an apology on behalf of the church for the ways the church may have ignored you, judged you, and rejected you, for any pain, hurt, division, or betrayal the church may have caused. I am sorry. Nothing can undo the wrong you have endured. I hope for you deep inner healing and peace.

The Welcome: No matter where you are in the journey, if you feel young or old, if you are married, single or divorced, if you are happy, sad, or anxious, if you struggle with your identity, if you are rich or poor, sick or well, you are welcome here. You will be embraced for
who you are and right where you are on the journey. If you believe in God all of the time, some of the time or not at all, you are welcome. Come with your pains and sorrows. Come with your fear and brokenness. Come with a mind that is open and a heart that is ready to give. Receive love and compassion. You are welcome in this community.

The Rev. Jennifer Hanus Richards, pastor
HARRISBURG AREA YOUTH INITIATIVE (HAYI)
A Lower Susquehanna Synod Partnership Ministry

The Harrisburg Area Youth Initiative (HAYI) emerged out of a desire to offer spiritual and faith formative conversations to youth from a number of Harrisburg Conference congregations and to engage them in service-learning experiences within the city that might expose those same young people to shared opportunities for living out their faith. In late-2016, a group of six congregations from the Harrisburg Conference began to pool their resources, in an effort to gather their youth for shared faith formation and community building.

Our synod Office for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry acted in an advisory role, assisting the congregations as they discerned vision and direction. At the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year, in consultation with our office, and working cooperatively with their peer congregations, a more intentional partnership was formed. Congregations chose whether they would invest in supporting a paid-staff person and constructed a job description with expectations for that role.

Knowing that the new role would align with our synod’s goals of **equipping young leaders, encouraging cooperation, and engaging in new mission**, our synod Director for Evangelical Mission working alongside our synod Director for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, proposed that our synod office invest mission dollars into this emerging ministry to further support the financial investment being made by the partner congregations. Synod Council approved a three-year missional partnership and the new position description in May 2018, with the synod extending the call to the new director. The first HAYI director was a rostered deacon.

At the end of the first year of the partnership in May 2019, the HAYI director resigned to pursue a ministry opportunity abroad, and the position was reimagined. It was determined that a full-time called position was not what was needed. Instead, pastors from the partner congregations, working cooperatively with our office, began a process of identifying and hiring a part-time lay youth director. As a result, the portion of the annual salary supported by the synod mission fund was reduced for the final two years of the partnership.

Zach Hartman, a college student at Messiah College and a member of Tree of Life Lutheran Church, was identified and hired as the new HAYI director. He began his employment in October 2019 and has been contracted to fill the remainder of the initial three-year term, scheduled to end in June 2021.

HAYI youth meet for faith formation and service two to three times a month. Some congregations have assigned adult liaisons to minister alongside the director and the young people, in an advisory role, which is in keeping with the covenant established between the congregations, our synod, and the director. Zach brought a new level of communication to the role, more intentional relationship building between himself, the youth and their families, and a desire to connect HAYI youth to their peers from other congregations, and at annual conference and synod youth events.

Members of Messiah Lutheran in Harrisburg, one of the member congregations, began meeting with Zach and our office in February 2020, exploring opportunities to reach into their neighborhood and minister with local children who have been a part of their annual VBS.

Like so many of our existing ministries, this conversation and the initiative itself have been impacted by the COVID-19 interruption to our ministry rhythms. At the time of this writing, the HAYI ministry partnership is poised to continue positive growth.

Charlie Roberts, director for faith formation and youth ministry
HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

The Lower Susquehanna Synod works in cooperation with Heifer International to educate about the hunger problems and to solicit support for this non-profit humanitarian organization. The mission statement reads, “Heifer International works with communities in need around the world to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth.” This is done by supplying food and/or income-producing animals plus training in their care to the neediest people. Heifer has been helping the hungry and unemployed for 76 years. The work continues because of the “Passing on the Gift” commitment, whereby recipients of training and animals agree to give the first-born female animal and training in its care to another person in need in their community.

Lutherans from our synod that serve on the Southeast Pennsylvania Heifer Volunteer Committee are Norma Good, Kathleen and Ron Kerr, Mark and Hazel Nestleroth, and Vinton Smith.

In 2019, educational and fundraising activities were held by many congregations. Contributions of $8,905.78 were sent to Heifer through our synod treasurer’s office. There are other congregations who send donations directly to Heifer in Little Rock, Arkansas, but they are not included in this figure, as we have no way of knowing which congregations gave and the amount of these contributions. There were 11 congregations that gave through the synod and many of them gave during several months of the year. These 11 congregations are as follows: St. Luke, Felton (New Bridgeville); Muddy Creek, Denver; Trinity, Mount Joy; Evangelical, Waynesboro; Redeemer, Lancaster; Holy Trinity, Lebanon; St. John, New Freedom; Mt. Zion, Boiling Springs; Trinity, New Holland; Lower Bermudian, East Berlin; St. Peter, Middletown.

For assistance in planning programs for your congregation and for supplies and displays, you may contact Norma Good at (717) 869-6527 or Mark or Hazel Nestleroth at (717) 664-6296. These local committee members will be happy to help you.

Norma R. Good, synod contact for Heifer International
LIVING WATER DENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY
https://www.facebook.com/LivingWaterDentalHealthMinistry/
A ministry of Carlisle Area Religious Council, Carlisle

Mission Statement
The Living Water Dental Health Ministry is a Christian outreach clinic whose mission is to provide quality comprehensive and emergent dental care to indigent patients using volunteer service providers.

Founded in 2012, the clinic is a ministry of the Carlisle Area Religious Council, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. No fees are charged, and the providers involved are not reimbursed for their time and services. This clinic exists to serve the needs of migrant workers in Adams County and to care for others of low income who would otherwise lack access to dental services. Patients are eligible for the clinic if:
   a) they currently reside in Adams, Franklin or Cumberland counties (Franklin was added in 2014 because of the need in Haitian migrant camps there and the lack of other services)
   b) they have no dental insurance
   c) their income is 200% or less of the 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines

The target population benefits not only from acute dental care but also from preventive dentistry teaching and services and dentures. The clinic is also able to offer free endodontics, at-cost implants and even bone grafting, due to the skill sets and enthusiasm of the professional volunteers.

Board
➢ Sharon Kaya, Chairwoman (Latino Missioner for Gettysburg Conference)
➢ Casey Williams, DMD Vice-Chairman (volunteer dentist and provider of office space)
➢ Holly Hoffman, MD, Secretary-Treasurer (Diaconal Minister St. Paul Lutheran Church)
➢ Bill Currie, DDS (volunteer oral surgeon)
➢ Cynthia Reinecker, RDH (Concordia Dental, Dental Hygienist)

Accomplishments
• The clinic has received grant funding from Wheat Ridge and the Lutheran Deaconesses of the ELCA.
• The clinic has provided comprehensive dental care, with 170 patient visits over the past year (as of February 2020) and 1,545 patient visits across almost eight years of operation. Sixty-two patients received cleanings, 59 had restorative work and 50 had extractions.
• The clinic has provided free dentures to eight patients over the past year and 33 patients overall, a unique service that was so joyously supported by the Deaconesses that they gave us double the amount of funding we requested in 2016! Implants were provided for two patients.
• Students from nearby Boiling Springs High School Spanish Honor Society and Dickinson College provide volunteer service hours as interpreters at the clinic. Community volunteers also consistently have started showing up!
• The clinic provides user-friendly scheduling and communications by providing a fluently bilingual scheduler.
• Unsolicited patient donations continue to fund about one third of our operating expenses (supplies plus panorexes); this is “ministry with” rather than “ministry for” our patients. Patients and providers are a TEAM, working together to provide what is needed.

Relationship to the Lower Susquehanna Synod
The clinic was co-founded by LSS-ELCA members Sharon Kaya and Holly Hoffman. The ministry is supported by donations and volunteers from many other congregations of Lower Susquehanna Synod, as well as individuals and congregations from other denominations.

Holly C. Hoffman, MD, MAMS, deacon, St. Paul, Carlisle
SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003
212-677-4800 (seven days a week, 24 hours a day) -- info@sihnyc.org -- www.sihnyc.org

Mission
Seafarers International House (SIH) is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants. SIH offers hospitality, social assistance, and advocacy to a multi-national and multi-faith community in maritime ports on the Eastern Seaboard and in an 84-room Guesthouse in New York City.

Thanks to the support of friends like you, we broke all records in 2019!

Most seafarers come from low wage countries including China, the Philippines, Indonesia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. They make huge sacrifices often leading lonely and dangerous lives at sea, months on end. Injury, kidnapping, and even death are relatively frequent occurrences.

To brighten their holidays, a record 2,601 Christmas-at-Sea satchels were donated by congregations, businesses senior groups and knitters. A record 905 Christmas-At-Sea satchels were donated by members of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Bishop Barbara J. Collins helped put them into the two vans (with benches removed) needed to bring them to the ports.

In the ports of Baltimore, Connecticut, Philadelphia, and New York & New Jersey, the SIH port chaplains boarded 1,894 ships to bring seafarers connectivity and counsel and to transport those that were allowed to enter the US to the mall or medical facilities, serving a record total of 31,286 mariners. This work was largely supported by attendees of the Setting the Course Banquet, which helped raise a record of $230,000 from representatives of the shipping industry and unions.

Global displacement reached a high record of 68.5 million people by the end of 2017, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Approximately 25.4 million of these individuals were formally designated as refugees, 40 million were internally displaced persons, and 3.1 million were asylum seekers.

About 50 SIH volunteers visited some 20 asylum seekers at the Elizabeth Detention Center, where conditions are prison-like. They brought them hope and the prospect of avoiding homelessness or exploitation once released and granted the legal right to stay in the U.S. For these asylees we increased the number of rooms reserved for them from four to six. That means SIH lost the income that supports our mission for those two extra rooms. However, contributors helped us make up for that. In addition to generous individuals the Advent Mission Fund, Hyde & Watson Foundation, and Metro New York Synod, helped SIH support the work with immigrants.

As a result we served a record number of 36 asylees in 2019 (up from 28 the year before) in addition to 68 human trafficking, domestic violence and local disaster survivors. Twenty asylees and asylum-seeking guests were men and 10 were women. They came from Dominican Republic (1), Ethiopia (1), Jamaica (1), Nepal (1), Philippines (1), Russia (1), Venezuela (1), Mexico (4), Nigeria (4) Uganda (4), Honduras (5), and unknown or not identified (12).

I don’t want to sound like a broken record – pun intended – but YOU helped us achieve so much in 2019. Please accept our heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the record 38,225 people (including youth and community groups) we were able to assist together with you.

2019 Program Impact
38,225 immigrants, seafarers, and community members directly benefited from SIH services (up from 33,985)

2,601 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers (up from 1,853)

36 asylees found their first home in the US in our guesthouse, staying a total of 1,651 nights (up from 28 asylees and 1,182 nights)

50 volunteer visitors brought hope to 26 asylum seekers, who were locked up in detention centers

1 advocacy events hosted to draw attention to the plight of asylum seekers

31,286 total of seafarers who were either visited or transported from 1,894 ships (up from 25,183 and 1,793 vessels)

451 youth, church and community gatherings accommodated serving about 6,765 people (up from 432 and about 6,480 people)

68 survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and local disasters were accommodated (up from 57)

45 guest rooms renovated

1 Instagram account established: follow us on Twitter as well, both have the handle @SIHNYC
2019 Financial Report

In 2019, SIH allocated $162,610 to accommodate asylees as well as domestic violence and human trafficking survivors and provided a room subsidy of $128,100 to seafarers. The operating expenses exceeded revenues $28,975 because of unexpectedly lower guesthouse occupancy. Program services accounted for 84% percent of expenses with only 16% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets increased from $5,374,369 in 2018 to $6,150,830 in 2019.

The figures below reflect unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change once audited. You may request the audited 2019 financial statements by email (henryk@sihnyc.org), call (212) 677-4800 ext. 1203, or mail your request.

Marsh Luther Drege, pastor and executive director
TECH4TANZANIA
An outreach ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Enola, Pennsylvania

We are sad to report that in 2019 we officially stopped trying to send ocean going shipping containers of educational, medical and technological equipment and supplies to support Lutherans in ministry in Tanzania. It was a difficult decision because the need is still clear and the desire for partnership is still strong. However, the political climate in Tanzania and business climate in the United States have combined in a “perfect storm” that brought such efforts on our part to a standstill. Inspections and import charges in Tanzania have slowed us down and cost more than we can raise in donations. Many of our sources in hospitals, schools and medical supply houses have changed or curtailed their donation and relief efforts for tax, reorganization or perceived liability issues.

These changes were not a surprise to us. We have been working on relationships here and in Tanzania to enhance life in smaller and more direct ways. We have been raising funds to support identified Tanzanian Lutheran leaders. Deacon April Trout of the Saint Paul Area Synod has helped connect us to some of her synod’s people traveling to Tanzania in a “pony express” style of delivery system for laptop computers and personal notes of support and encouragement. We are thankful to still be “Developing partnerships for life!”

Education Support
1. Celebrated the graduation of Eliezer Mwankenja from Messiah College with a degree in Computer Information Services and brought his parents here for several weeks to enjoy their son, meet some synod leaders and bring news of ministries in Tanzania.
2. Provided financial support for:
   - Ebita Mwankenja’s sister to study nursing
   - Pastor Kumbuka Mwasanguti’s daughter to start college
   - Naomi Mwamasangula preparing for ordination from the Lake Tanganyika Diocese
   - 23 pastors and evangelists in the Lake Tanganyika Diocese

Equipment Support
- Dr. Gwamaka Mwankenja and his work as Director of Christian Education and Biblical Studies, Konde Diocese
- Naomi Mwamasangula in her studies at Iringa University
- Deacon April Trout
- Choir directors - referenced by Deacon Trout
- Financial adviser/Treasurer - referenced by Deacon Trout

In 2020 we will continue financial aid for Lutheran leaders in the Lake Tanganyika Diocese and find ways to send laptop computers and other small equipment and supplies as requested. Thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement and financial support. Together we thank and praise God for such opportunities to live in God’s mission and serve through our ministries.

Randy Barr, president, T4T