

LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2020

“For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another” (1 John 3:11).

Dear Friends,

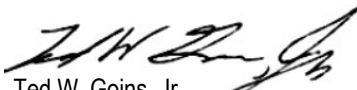
In 2019, Lutheran Services Carolinas child and family programs in South Carolina made a huge impact, thanks to the S.C. Lutheran Synod congregations and to funds raised by LSC’s *Love One Another* campaign. LSC’s Refugee and Immigrant Services program in Columbia began an exciting new program to help older refugees attain U.S. citizenship and become integrated into their communities. Another new South Carolina program, Strengthening Families, supported families by teaching them skills needed to be healthier, more cohesive family units. Several fairly new programs saw impressive growth, including Transitional Foster Care for Unaccompanied Children and Transitional Living for Young Adults, which is being featured in *Living Lutheran* magazine this spring.

In South Carolina in 2019, LSC:

- Served 53 unaccompanied children through its transitional foster care program, up from 33 in 2018;
- Participated in the Strengthening Families program, serving 29 parents/caregivers and 42 children;
- Helped 32 young adults make a successful transition from foster care to adulthood;
- Shielded 142 children through foster care;
- Assisted 207 families affected by hurricane-related disaster;
- Provided 96 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities with safe, supportive living situations;
- Welcomed 152 new refugees and served a total of 405;
- Helped four minors who are survivors of human trafficking.

With the help of 3,221 donors, 3,284 advocates, and more than 1,400 volunteers, 2,100 LSC staffers directly served more than 6,630 Carolinians and also touched the lives of tens of thousands of family members, friends, church members, neighbors, and others. Financially, 2019 was a challenging year for child and family services across the Carolinas with a net operating loss of (\$439,432) after contributions. Making some operational changes to improve the financial health of these important programs, LSC remains committed to its mission of walking together with all we serve, especially the most vulnerable.

Yours in Christ,



Ted W. Goins, Jr.
LSC President



Eric Hoyle
LSC Board Chair



LUTHERAN HOMES OF SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.

OUR MISSION:

Believing in the presence of God, the value of human life and the dignity of the individual, the mission of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, as a ministry of the church, is to promote the well-being of older adults by providing residential, healthcare and hospice services.

- In 2019, Lutheran Homes of South Carolina provided employment for 1,240 TeamMates to fulfill our Mission caring for 2,731 residents and patients at our five continuing care retirement communities:

- Franke at Seaside, Mt. Pleasant
- RoseCrest, Inman
- Heritage at Lowman, White Rock
- Trinity on Laurens, Aiken
- Rice Estate, Columbia
- Lutheran Hospice

- The Heritage at Lowman and RoseCrest earned certification as a VOHRA Center of Excellence for Wound Management and received the VOHRA Centers of Excellence Wound Care Award for their superior wound management programs.
- RoseCrest and the Heritage at Lowman received Providigm's Advanced Quality Assurance & Performance Improvement Accreditation for excellence in improving quality of care and life for nursing home residents. Rice Estate received the program's basic accreditation.
- Lutheran Hospice supported 543 patients and over 1,629 family caregivers.
- BeWell Home Services caregivers provided in-home supportive services for 554 clients through its Midlands/Aiken, Lowcountry, and Upstate offices.
- BeWell@Home provided continuing care at home wellness programs for 67 members.
- During 2019, the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation:
 - received \$1,1613,341 in gifts from 1,694 donors to help subsidized the care of 41 residents, clients and hospice patients,
 - funded \$710,330 of capital improvements to enhance and expand services, and provided \$209,038 to support programs and services.

We remain most grateful for your partnership in ministry,

Donna Millar Potts, MD
Dr. Donna Millar Potts
Chair of the Board

Frank T. Shepke
Frank T. Shepke
President and CEO

**Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2020**

Until this spring, the last time that we know of that the seminary experienced a disruption due to a public health scare was during a smallpox outbreak in 1913. That spring, final exams were canceled, and the students rejoiced! As I write this report, LTSS is finishing our spring semester with faculty and students connecting almost entirely through electronic means in order to limit the spread of Covid-19. One of our faculty members has encouraged us all to reflect on our present circumstances with the help of three questions. I use those questions here to organize my report.

1. What have we lost?

The empty campus has brought into focus how much of our thriving comes from simply to being together. We have lost conversations on campus, worship in the chapel, and daily interactions with coworkers.

When this academic year ends, we will also be losing the talents of three faculty members to retirement. They are the Rev. Dr. James Thomas, Associate Professor of Church and Ministry and Director of African American Ministries; the Rev. Dr. Mary Sue Dreier, Professor of Pastoral Care and Missional Leadership; and Ms. Sandy Leach, Associate Librarian and Associate Director of the Lineberger Library. We are grateful for their scholarship, their dedication to students, and their friendship. We will miss them.

2. What have we kept?

COVID-19 only makes it more obvious that the church needs leaders who are able to share the gospel in ever-changing contexts. Our alumni are a source of pride as we witness their combinations of creativity and faithfulness during this time. We have kept sight of our mission and are grateful for the work to which it commits us.

As a result of continued strong annual support and LTSS endowment support, we have been able to offer nearly 40 full tuition scholarships to ELCA candidates this year. This year saw the successful completion of the \$2 million "Open Doors" campaign in the North Carolina Synod. In addition, as I write this, we are over 90% of the way to meeting our New Life (annual) Fund goal of \$350,000 and expect to achieve that goal by May 31. Thank you for your continued support of the seminary and our students.

3. What have we gained?

We are discovering what it means to teach, form, and nurture when face-to-face time is limited. These experiments will make us more effective as we expand our online learning paths for students in the next year. In this work, we have gained tremendous help from the staff of the Center for Teaching and Learning of Lenoir-Rhyne University.

This year, we also gained a Lutheran Studies Professor. The Rev. Dr. Justin Nickel will join the faculty in August. Dr. Nickel is ordained in the ELCA and graduated with a Ph.D. in theology from Princeton Seminary in 2018. We will also be gaining a new librarian in the Lineberger Library, though the present limitations on travel have stalled that search and others at the University.

With about 60 degree-seeking students, LTSS has one of its smallest student bodies in many years. Happily, even with the complications of Covid-19, we are currently well ahead of last year in applications, acceptances, and deposits. Our new coordinator of seminary enrollment, the Rev. Jennifer Shimota, is a particular blessing gained in the last year.

* * *

I look forward to being with you at synod assemblies—whenever they happen! In the meantime, thank you for all the ways we are partners in the work of teaching, forming, and nurturing leaders for ministry.

Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore, Rector and Dean



**NovusWay Ministries
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2020**

Greetings from Camp!

During 2019, NovusWay Ministries and our four sites continued a season of change that began in 2018. This report highlights many of those. During 2019, the NovusWay board of trustees voted to accept an offer to purchase three acres of land on the Lutheridge site along airport road. For more than 15 years, NovusWay fundraising has been focused on capital campaigns for restricted building projects at all four sites. These restricted funds are not available for daily operations, including summer camp and year-round programming. Revenue from program registrations accounts for only 50% of the annual fund needed. The remaining 50% is funded through retreat rentals (25%) and generous gifts to the annual fund (25%) by individuals and congregations. More than seven years of deficits in the annual fund and deferred maintenance carry a cost that limits the ministry's ability to deliver on Lutheridge's promise and great tradition of creating space for intentional community through excellent programs for children and adults. The sale of this land:

- Opens up capital from the annual budget to be used to strengthen programs and expand our reach.
- Provides upgrades to the facilities at Lutheridge to enhance guest and camper experiences.
- Serves to pay down a large percentage of annual operating and capital debt, freeing up funds for program impact.
- Increases our endowment of which the annual distribution may be used for program operations in perpetuity.

Leadership made additional decisions to continue to strengthen the ministry's financial position and our ability to impact lives. The final pieces of a new leadership team were completed with the hiring of Deacon Chandler Carriker as Vice President for Program and Engagement in March of 2019 and Deacon Mitzie Schafer as Vice President for Development in August. We welcomed Gretchen Arnes as the new Program and Equine Director at Lutheranch. Deacon Sue Mendenhall was welcomed as a full-time Program Director for Luther Springs. Jen Bacher, recent graduate of Luther Seminary, was hired as the new Program Director for Lutherock. These mission critical staffing decisions opened the doors to improved marketing strategies, program capacity and a new emphasis on annual fund support, all of which were identified as areas for improvement.

New Things Happening

- A group of dedicated summer camp staff alumni have gathered to create an official Summer Camp Staff Alumni Network. The purpose and mission of this group is to keep summer staff alumni connected to the ministry and to each other. Learn more at novusway.org/summerstaffalumninetwork/

Registration Updates

- 2609 Summer Youth Campers in 2019 up nearly 10%
- 700 Summer Adult Campers up nearly 9%

This is in large part due to an increased emphasis on Camp Sundays. We are stronger when we partner with our congregations. NovusWay has set a goal of 400 Camp Sundays in congregations annually by 2025. If your congregation would like to participate in a Camp Sunday to encourage registration for summer camp and programs as well as financial support of the ministry visit, novusway.org/campsunday

- NovusWay gave more than \$116,000 in camper scholarships to nearly 400 children during the summer of 2019. We continue to strengthen relationships with community partners who support low income/at risk children in our communities.

Site Updates:

- Lutheridge: Pastor Tim and Pastor Mary Canniff-Kuhn retired after 25 years as Program Directors. A service was held on February 1, 2020 with nearly 500 people in attendance and more than 2000 watching live online.
- Lutherock: In July, after a significant amount of support from the community, the new Sky Park Zip Line was erected in the Saddle at Lutherock. Pastor Frank Wagner took the inaugural ride. In partnership with a major donor, 600 *Iaricobius nigrinus* beetles were recently released to eradicate the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) threat to hemlock trees on Lutherock's 768 acre site, which contains a 518 acre conservation easement protected into perpetuity.
- Luther Springs: The iconic dock has been updated with environmentally friendly materials that will last for years to come.
- Lutheranch: Held it's first official summer camp program utilizing the property. A new Printz Athletic field was finished, a craft lodge was added and an archery range.

MINISTRY IMPACT:

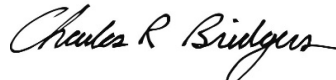
- NovusWay is proud of the high quality of our summer staff. We are also proud that 9 of our 2019 summer staff went on to serve the ELCA as Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM).
- Our new website is full of ministry impact stories. To read more visit novusway.org/category/impact-stories and get inspired.

Our continued gratitude for all the campers, participants, congregations, donors and guests who visit our sites and support this ministry we all share.

Respectfully submitted,



Boyd W. Harris, IV
Executive Director-CEO



Charles R. Bridgers
President, Board of Trustees

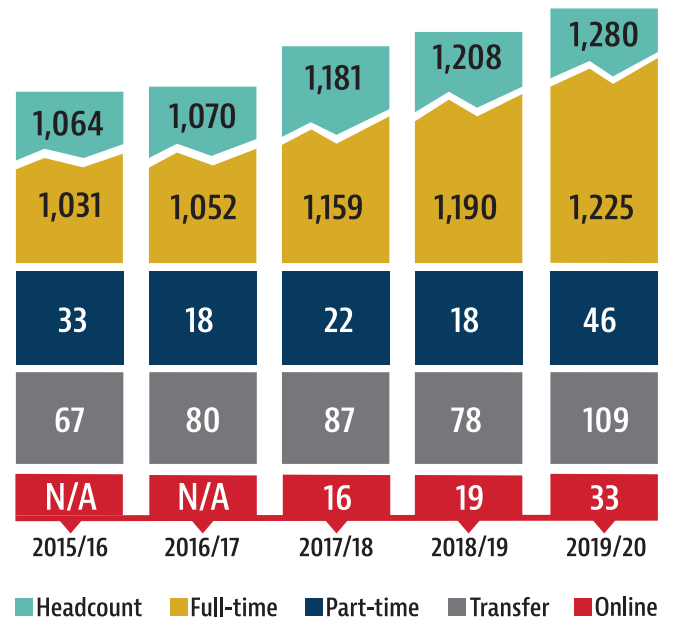
Newberry College has achieved many milestones in the past year, from additions and continuations, to accolades and innovations. Just as the Church is constantly reforming, so is the College. Every step along the way has been toward providing a more engaged, more inclusive and more affordable Lutheran liberal arts education. Thus, we are pleased to provide just a sampling of our year in review.

Record Enrollment and Student Persistence

In fall 2019, 1,280 students enrolled – 1,225 at full-time status – comprising the **largest student population** in the College’s 163-year history. Also this term, a record 109 students transferred into Newberry from other institutions, making this the fifth time in the last six years the College has broken multiple enrollment records

The enrollment milestone is attributed in large part to an unprecedented **7 percent rise in freshman-to-sophomore retention**. The College saw notable increases among Pell Grant recipients, African American males, and non-athletes. The initiative to improve student persistence has been led by Dr. Sandy Scherrens, associate dean for student success, in partnership with a small college consulting firm, Credo, and funded by a generous gift from the Kadilhen Foundation.

Enrollment & Retention



Leading in Social Mobility, Ethnic Diversity

In a new category to U.S. News & World Report rankings, Newberry took the **No. 1 spot for Social Mobility** among southern colleges. The list measures graduation rates of students who received federal Pell Grants, available to students coming from households with total annual incomes below \$50,000. Most of these funds benefit students with family incomes below \$20,000. At Newberry, graduation rates of students who received the grants are virtually identical to those of students who did not.

In an unranked list highlighting diversity, Newberry was also recognized for having **one of the most diverse student populations in the region**. An examination of enrollment data showed that the diversity of Newberry students was similar to that of the general population of South Carolina, seen as exceptional among southern institutions.

**US NEWS & WORLD REPORT
BEST COLLEGES 2019**



Synodical Gifts Support Lutheran Education

As South Carolina’s Lutheran college, we greatly appreciate the prayers and support of our church bodies, rostered leaders and individual Lutherans. As a tuition-driven institution, the generous financial support of our church family is instrumental in helping Newberry College provide a quality liberal arts education in the context of our Lutheran values.

During the 2019 fiscal year, the South Carolina Synod contributed \$35,492.32 to Newberry College. Additionally, 33 Lutheran congregations from our three supporting synod partners gave a total of \$53,634.09 in direct gifts to the College.



Called to the Common Good

Now in its fourth year, Called to the Common Good — Newberry's theological institute for high school youth — offers the chance to actively address questions about faith and society, all with a unique introduction to the college experience. The **eight-day summer program** allows high school students — grades 9-12 — to live in Newberry College's residence halls, learn from professors and undergraduate students, develop leadership skills and thoughtfully reflect on beliefs about God, self and community. The program is sponsored by the **Muller Center** at Newberry College, established in 2015 to help students connect academic learning and civic involvement.

When: July 5 - 12, 2020

Cost: \$300 enrollment fee covers lodging, materials, meals and programming. Limited scholarships available. Home congregations of accepted candidates are encouraged to provide financial assistance to help cover costs of attendance.

Apply now or nominate someone at newberry.edu/CommonGood



CALLED
TO THE COMMON GOOD

Newberry Confers First Respiratory Therapy Degrees

In May 2019, the College conferred degrees upon an inaugural class of nine graduates in the respiratory therapy online degree-completion program. The 12-month program, completed entirely online, is designed for licensed respiratory therapists seeking to earn their baccalaureate degrees and advance their careers. Newberry is one of the first colleges in South Carolina to offer a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy, and the first to confer such a degree.

The online program is one of four that Newberry offers — along with RN-to-BSN, psychology and criminal justice — and the College plans to soon add business administration and healthcare management to the online curriculum.



Front row (L to R): Erin Mosley, Mandy de Vries, Dr. Jerry Alewine, Janet Carter, Brittany Williams; Back row: Joseph Ariale Jr., Norma Pineda, Tammy Marshall. Not pictured: Kevin Berry, Elizabeth Richey.

College Singers, Chamber Orchestra Perform International Tour

In June 2019, the Newberry College Singers and the Newberry Chamber Orchestra conducted a 10-day performing and sightseeing tour of southwest Germany. The 21-member entourage resided in and around the town of Kaiserslautern, making day trips between concerts and rehearsals. The group performed two special-invitation collaboration concerts with German a capella chorus, and with friends from the local orchestra.

Sightseeing opportunities led the group to the medieval city of Heidelberg; Mainz, the home of Johannes Gutenberg; Worms, where reformer Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church; Strasbourg, France, on the German border; and Ramstein Air Force Base, to visit members of the U.S. Air Force Band of Europe.

The trip was financed in large part by contributions from local corporate and individual sponsors. The venture was the first time a Newberry College musical ensemble performed internationally in nearly 50 years.

SCALING THE SUMMIT

- CENTER FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (Major Renovation)
- NURSING BUILDING (New Construction)
- MELVIN AND DOLLIE YOUNTS ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE CENTER (Stadium Phase One)
- ATHLETIC FIELD HOUSE (Stadium Phase Two)



**South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2020**

Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy. Joshua 5:15

At the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers' Board Retreat in 2019, the trustees had an earnest discussion about the dreams and visions that they had been considering for the past several years. We agreed that God is busy at work in our retreat centers, helping people grow in faith and relationship and having a glimpse into the Kingdom yet to come. Looking back over the nearly 50 years of ministry, beginning at Camp Kinard and expanding to Coastal Retreat, the board realized the magnitude of the cloud of witnesses who had come before and the opportunities for those who will be impacted by this ministry in the years to come. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the board adopted a new mission statement: "Providing holy spaces for God to change lives."

A new mission statement and vision starting to take shape was a perfect way to begin 2019. This past year allowed us to complete the 2nd phase of the Building+RENEWING+Believing Capital Campaign. New flooring was installed at Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat with repairs to the roofs being completed at Camp Kinard. We were able to add two key staff members with Rev. Christi Pursey as Chaplain to Camp Kinard and Spiritual Direction Coordinator and Rev. Mary M. Finklea as Community and Congregation Engagement Coordinator.

In the past year, this ministry was able to add some additional programming for adults, including a weekly book study, weekend retreats, and several week-long events. We were also delighted to finally have a labyrinth installed at Camp Kinard.

In 2019, we were blessed to serve over 6,500 people from over 200 different groups at these holy spaces. Guests at Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat included congregations, professional groups, schools/universities, scouts, and camps for those with special needs. Over half of the groups we served were our own South Carolina Synod Lutherans! SCLRC is continually blessed to have an ecumenical outreach as we serve Roman Catholic, Episcopal, United Methodist, AME, Baptist, Presbyterian, Seventh Day Adventist, Buddhist, and Non-Denominational groups.

Sadly, we said goodbye to a few of our groups as their programs grew beyond our capacity. Additionally, we are consistently receiving more and more requests from groups which we are unable accommodate due to their requirements for lodging and meeting space.

With an eye towards the future and with a mission statement pointing the way, our Vision Team has been hard at work drafting plans for this ministry's future. They will soon be sharing our building plans at Camp Kinard which will include a new entry way, new lodging, and finally a new chapel! We hope these new additions to these holy spaces will help SCLRC reach even more people to be touched God.

We ended 2019 on a bittersweet note with the retirement of our long time director, Larry Hamrick. Larry served as Resident Director of Camp Kinard for five years and then as Resident Director of Coastal Retreat for eight years. His impact on South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers will always be remembered! We rejoice that Larry and Margie can enjoy retirement in the Piedmont of South Carolina and we hope to see them regularly at SCLRC events.

We invite you to visit our web page regularly and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to keep up with these new ventures. But more than that, we invite you to Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat to take off your sandals or shoes, feel the holy ground beneath your feet, and let God work in you!

The Rev David Coffman
Chair, Board of Trustees

Deacon Dallas J. Shealy
Executive Director