

LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2021

Dear Friends,

The year of 2020 was a challenging one for Lutheran Services Carolinas, a health and human services organization and a social ministry of the North and South Carolina Synods of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). Dealing with the COVID pandemic was stressful, but our teammates rose to the occasion with grace and compassion.

Last year, more than 1,900 LSC teammates, along with 2,826 donors, 3,391 advocates, and more than 1,200 volunteers, improved the lives of more than 6,000 Carolinians.

In South Carolina:

- Dedicated foster parents and case workers served 114 children.
- Refugee and Immigrant Services assisted 377 people on their path to new lives in the U.S., including 13 new arrivals.
- The Transitional Foster Care for Unaccompanied Children program helped 29 children.
- The Strengthening Families program helped 206 people develop more cohesive family units.
- LSC's disaster services team gave hope and assistance to 165 individuals.
- LSC provided residential living options to 82 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

LSC's Refugee and Immigrant Services continued to serve in 2020 despite having fewer new refugees to assist. That program is ramping back up, however, as more refugees are now legally being welcomed to the United States. LSC has plans to open an office in Charleston to serve refugees and is also planning to open a new "welcome house" to provide short-term housing to newly arrived refugees in the area. LSC is working with churches and realtors in the Charleston area to make those plans a reality.

LSC's Transitional Foster Care for Unaccompanied Children program, based in Columbia, continued to serve a very vulnerable population of migrant children and will soon be expanding significantly, doubling the number of children it can serve from 12 to 24. LSC's regular South Carolina foster care program remained busy, and LSC continued to serve many South Carolinians with intellectual and developmental disabilities through its group homes and host homes.

LSC child and family services faced a tough year financially, with a loss of more than \$700,000, but with contributions added in, the loss was reduced to a little more than \$12,000. Because LSC's overall financial health remains good, we will continue to serve in challenging times with your prayers and support.

Yours in Christ,



Ted W. Goins, Jr.
LSC President



Eric Hoyle
LSC Board Chair



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 2020, Lutheran Homes of South Carolina provided employment for 1,110 TeamMates to fulfill our Mission.
- Residential and healthcare was provided for 2,923 residents and patients across our five continuing care retirement communities:
 - Franke at Seaside, Mt. Pleasant
 - the Heritage at Lowman, White Rock
 - Rice Estate, Columbia
 - RoseCrest, Inman
 - Trinity on Laurens, Aiken
- The Heritage at Lowman began construction for the Courtyards at Lowman, a unique independent living rental program. The two 'pocket neighborhoods,' each offer ten, adjoining 1 or 2 bedroom cottage-style homes surrounding courtyards with common spaces and amenities encouraging a shared resident lifestyle experience.
- The Heritage at Lowman maintained 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 program.
- Franke at Seaside and Rice Estate Rehabilitation and Health Care Center received High Performing long-term care ratings from US World & News Report.
- Lutheran Hospice supported 523 patients and over 1,569 family caregivers.
- BeWell Home Services caregivers provided 170,350 hours of in-home supportive services for 267 clients through its Midlands/Aiken, Lowcountry, and Upstate offices.
- BeWell@Home provided continuing care at home wellness programs for 85 members.
- Due to the generosity of 1674 donors in 2020, the Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation:
 - Provided \$585,128 to help subsidized the care of 39 residents, clients and hospice patients served in our ministries of care.
 - Funded \$907,742 in capital improvements to enhance and expand facilities, and \$348,107 to support community 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



LTSS Rector and Dean's Report to the Region 9 Synods - 2021

Greetings from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary! We continue teaching and learning within constraints imposed by the pandemic. For the most part, our seminary community has been extremely fortunate. We have not lost students, faculty, or staff members to the virus. Students have adapted well to learning and to sustaining community life at a distance from one another.

Faculty have innovated in ways we would not have done without the imperative to do so. We are largely providing course content online and “flipping” the classroom, so that time with the professor is mostly time in discussion (on Zoom, for now). This innovation in pedagogy will inform our practice beyond the time of social distancing.

Enrollment

In the 2020-21 school year, 73% of our students are ELCA candidates for ministry. Our community is enriched also by those among us from other expressions of Christianity. “Diversity” for us means differences in age, gender, sexual orientation, race, class, and location in ministry. We learn much from each other.

LTSS Enrollment stands at 71 for spring 2021, a net loss of three from fall 2020. To put that in recent historical perspective, in the spring of 2015, LTSS enrollment was 97. That year, the last pre-merger entering class graduated. Since then, enrollment has trended down until the last few years, when it has started, slowly, to recover. One of the ways we all support the future of the church is by noticing those whom God may be calling and connecting them with theological education. We are grateful for your work with us to identify Christian leaders and support their discernment.

Faculty

Last fall, we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Justin Nickel as the Frances and Baxter Weant Assistant Professor of Lutheran Studies. This spring, we opened a search for a new faculty member in the fields of African American Studies and Practical Theology. We expect that a new colleague will be in place for the start of the fall 2021 term. Finally, thanks to a generous estate gift, we have begun building an endowment whose draw will fund a faculty chair in worship.

Financial Aid

This academic year, LTSS has offered **more than \$900,000 in scholarship aid** to our students. This number includes dozens of full-tuition scholarships. We can do this only because donors, past and present, have directed millions of dollars in gifts designated for student aid. We are grateful to be able to offer this aid to students. Thank you!

ATS Accreditation

We received official word from the Association of Theological Schools/Commission on Accrediting that LTSS academic programs are accredited for another ten years. This is great news! The accreditors cited as a particular strength the seminary’s “relationship with the university that significantly strengthens the seminary’s resources, including the Center for Teaching and Learning and expertise in educational assessment.”

Staying in Touch

Thank you for all the ways you support the mission of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary to “teach, form, and nurture women and men for public ministry in a context that is Christ-centered, faithfully Lutheran, and ecumenically committed.” Please stay in touch with us by signing up to receive our e-news for alumni and friends at www.lru.edu/ltss.

Grace and peace,

Mary Hinkle Shore
Rector and Dean

Greetings from Camp!

In 2019, we undertook a significant realignment of our leadership team, organizational structure, and marketing strategies to address the financial burden caused by recent operating deficits and growing deferred maintenance costs. As a result, in January and February of 2020, we experienced significant growth in all three of our main revenue streams – program, hosted ministry (retreat rentals), and giving.

Then, in March, like the rest of the world, everything at camp came to a devastating halt. As of May, we projected a \$3 million loss in revenue to the ministry during 2020. On May 22, we canceled summer camp, a \$1.8 million loss. With our leadership team and improvements in place from work done in 2019, we quickly pivoted, adapted, and changed course.

Upon canceling summer camp, we launched a Light the Fire - Summer Camp 2021 fundraising appeal and raised over \$250,000 in one day during our very first 'Day of Giving' on July 29. We moved from 11 recurring/monthly givers to more than 200 by the end of 2020, an additional of \$200,000 of annual sustainable revenue to the ministry for long-term planning and impact. More than 450 new donors gave to the ministry for the first time. The response to our Light the Fire appeal has been overwhelmingly positive. By the end of 2020, camp friends had gifted more than \$1.3 million toward our \$1.8 million goal (deadline May 31, 2021). This amount includes increased giving from individuals and congregations across the southeast. We received additional support from the NC Synod Peeler Casey Endowment and a legacy gift from Holy Cross Lutheran, Marietta, GA, after a holy closure.

Upon the cancellation of summer camp, we immediately ramped up our on-line engagement with virtual cabin times, vespers, and ministry impact stories. We opened our sites safely and marketed to families and small groups for their emotional and spiritual well-being during the pandemic. Families who requested them received 'camp in a box' during their visits. We secured a contract with the local YMCA for 75-100 children per day five days per week to have socially distanced remote learning at Lutheridge for the current school year . . . and many more positive accomplishments.

At the Board level, we quickly formed a Cash Flow Task Force that helped navigate these trying times and monitor cash position to ensure we had the funds each week and month to pay the bills and make payroll. This Task Force also helped us think through and supported us in extremely difficult and painful expense-cutting plans. Some of these included:

1. reducing payroll by 10% for all staff,
2. freezing all pension contributions,
3. furloughing employees whose areas were inactive during the pandemic,
4. eliminating positions affected by the pandemic,
5. putting into effect a hiring freeze for all open positions,
6. cutting all non-essential spending,
7. shopping and renegotiating all vendor and service-provider relationships to cut costs,
8. liquidating older equipment and vehicles to reduce maintenance and insurance expenses.

These expense cuts, together with strong fundraising, creative problem-solving, and adaptive changes implemented by our team, allowed us to cover our top line registration losses during fiscal year 2020 almost dollar for dollar. (Note: At the time this report for 2020 was written, March of 2021, some of these cuts have been restored and our furloughed staff have been brought back to prepare for summer camp. While we have restored budgeted payroll for all employees, we are still operating with less than our full complement of staff, with plans in place to remedy this reality as cash flow improves.)

Ministry & Site Updates:

Despite the pandemic closures, there are events to celebrate at our sites.

- **Lutheridge:** In February, we celebrated the work of both Pastor Tim and Pastor Mary Canniff-Kuhn as more than 500 past summer staff gathered for sending worship in the Faith Center. During the school year, 75-100 YMCA children received support for virtual school, making it possible for parents to continue working during these difficult times.
- **Lutherock:** In partnership with a major donor, the 600 *Iaricobius nigrinus* beetles released last year are doing their job to keep the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid threat to the hemlock trees under control. A new SALT, Servant Adventure Leadership Training program was developed for launch in summer 2021 to recruit high schoolers interested in serving on staff at Lutherock during college. And Jen Bacher, Lutherock Program Director, was approved for ordination to word and service by the North Carolina Synod. Jen's service of ordination will be at Lutherock in April of 2021.
- **Luther Springs:** We made significant progress on moving the long-awaited Atonement Chapel building project toward completion. This chapel was the last Mission Possible project, held up by permitting in the recent past. There are plans to use the new Chapel in 2021.
- **Lutheranch:** We scheduled an official Barn Grand Opening for March 2020. We rescheduled due to health and safety concerns and held the event virtually in September. The horses arrived at Lutheranch during the start of the year, and because horses are outside and more than 6-feet in length, we officially launched Lutheranch's Equestrian Program. We now offer trail rides, therapeutic riding lessons, regular riding lessons, and more.
- **Welcome Statement:** During the March 2020 meeting of the board held at Lutherock, the board adopted the following welcome statement: *At NovusWay Ministries, we welcome all who seek God's love and grace in an outdoor ministry setting. We welcome all as God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family status, socio-economic circumstances, physical or mental abilities, or citizenship. Our unity is in Christ.*
- **Planned Giving:** During 2020, 10 individuals/couples took the necessary steps to include NovusWay in their charitable estate plans, either by working with one of our ELCA Gift Planners or working with our development staff.

We acknowledge that the loss of a summer of camp was devastating. Not only were we not able to gather in a time when we needed community the most, but we also lost a summer of faith formation for campers and leadership development for young adults. As we turn our hope toward summer camp 2021, we will continue to work with our camp friends, congregations, and synods to strengthen the ministry and welcome you all back at camp safely. We remain grateful for your support of and partnership in this important work that God has given us to do . . . together. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,



Boyd W. Harris, IV
Executive Director-CEO



Charles R. Bridgers
President, Board of Trustees



NEWBERRY COLLEGE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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.

Newberry College has Unique Opportunity through NetVUE Grant

Newberry College has received a \$25,000 Vocation across the Academy Grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education. The grant will support ongoing professional development, new co-curricular opportunities, internships, and more. The program even provides for the development of off-site travel courses through grants for faculty who design the courses, and scholarships for students who participate. What's more: this amount could more than triple if Newberry College supporters can match at least \$25,000.

For more information or if interested in supporting the initiative, contact Whitney Metz '09, assistant vice president for institutional advancement, at Whitney.Metz@newberry.edu, or 803.321.5694.

Enrollment Holds Steady Amid Pandemic

In an attempt to cope with the challenges of the pandemic, many colleges and universities eliminated academic and athletic programs, furloughed faculty and staff, curtailed co-curricular activities, or reverted to teaching courses entirely online. Newberry College, however, brought students back to campus safely for in-person instruction in fall 2020 and spring 2021. Despite all odds, the College has sustained enrollment near pre-pandemic levels and even grown spring-to-fall retention to a four-year high.

Graduate Program Clears Institutional Hurdles

Newberry College is one step closer to a graduate program, after the Board of Trustees approved a proposal for a new master's degree in organizational development and leadership. The program will now go before the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges for final approval. If ratified, the degree will be Newberry's first graduate-level program since 1928, and the first of many prospective programs to take Newberry College education to the next level.

Nursing Program Earns 100% Exam Pass Rate

Newberry's graduating nursing class of fall 2020 earned a 100% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN, a standardized exam used to assess the readiness of new nursing graduates. The percentages of first-time successes help measure the effectiveness of nursing programs. All three fall graduates, Brooke Baker '20, Iyteria Smith '20 and Taylor Marie Smith '20, are gainfully employed in hospitals around South Carolina, and all three hope to pursue graduate degrees in the future.

How Newberry Ranked in 2020

- Least student loan debt per borrower in South Carolina, No. 32 in U.S. (LendEDU)
- Third-highest for social mobility in the South (U.S. News & World Report)
- No. 6 for best value among southern colleges (U.S. News & World Report)
- Recognized on unranked list for economic diversity (U.S. News & World Report)
- No. 11 among Best Regional Colleges in the South – our highest placement to date (U.S. News & World Report)

Campus Pastor Ernie Worman Retires After 12 Years

Known for his rocking chair ministry and distinctive red shoes, the two-time Navy veteran has returned to Louisville, Kentucky, for a well-deserved retirement with his beloved wife and fellow Navy vet, Annie, their two daughters and three grandchildren. The Rev. Matt Titus '05, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry, currently serves as interim campus pastor.

Bishop Herman Yoos Honored as Outstanding Friend of Newberry College

The Newberry College Alumni Association has presented the Rev. Herman Yoos with the Noah & Pansy Derrick Outstanding Friend of the College Award, for his service to the College, to the church and to South Carolina.

Bishop Kevin Strickland '04 Elected to Board of Trustees

In its February meeting, the Newberry College Board of Trustees ratified membership for the Rev. Kevin L. Strickland '04, bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA. Strickland is expected to take his seat on the board later this spring.

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.

The total 2020 calendar year Synodical giving is \$25,161.72. This includes the South Carolina Synod, Southeastern Synod and the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

BULLETIN OF REPORTS CHAPTER FIVE - 7
South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers
2021

Unprecedented Year, Unparalleled Gifts, Unsurpassed Thanks

In January 2020, the SCLRC Board gathered at Coastal Retreat to dream dreams and to plan for the future. We excitedly talked about “2020 Vision” and “Seeing Clearly”. We had important conversation about how we could grow our capacity and better serve our guests and groups. We looked ahead to a very busy 2020.

And then the world shifted. Groups started cancelling. Before we knew it, we were in a full-blown pandemic and camps and retreats were no longer possible. Just as activity at Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat generally starts rising, we were shut down. It is hard to live out a mission of “Providing Holy Spaces for God to Change Lives” when people cannot come to the holy spaces!

And yet, the Holy Spirit continued to dwell at both Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat and provided direction for our Board of Trustees and staff to move forward. Thanks be to God we not only survived 2020, but we also have good news to tell!

STAFF: SCLRC has always had wonderful and amazing staff. With great joy for him and sadness for SCLRC, we bid Larry Hamrick “Happy Retirement” at the end of 2019. We were tremendously gifted to have the Rev. Thulie Beresford serve as interim Director of Coastal Retreat from January until June of 2020 (yes, she got to be there to usher in the effects of Covid 19!). Elliott Cox took the reign in June and moved to the Isle of Palms with his wife, Deacon Ashlyn Cox and their three children. And in January 2021, we were thrilled to welcome Khabo Beresford as Coordinator of Hospitality and Registrar.

PROGRAMMING: Covid 19 also had a significant impact on the programs we offer. Because of loss of travelers, Road Scholar decided to cancel all our programs with them. This will provide us the opportunity to focus more on our own offerings through our *Laugh, Learn and Lunch* program. We also plan to add more overnight programs in keeping with our *God Gullah and Grits* program that we offered in 2018.

FINANCES: We were thankful to receive a PPP loan in the spring of 2020. It was forgiven in January 2021 and we were able to secure a second PPP loan shortly after that. We were also able to secure a Covid Relief grant for nonprofits through the State of SC. Thanks to these forgivable loans and this grant, we were able to fully pay our staff during this difficult year. We also received generous gifts and grants from many individuals and congregations that are outlined in our giving report. Every day we were reminded of God’s gracious love that was poured out through our friends and supporters.

PALM AND PINE SOCIETY: Thanks to anonymous gifts totaling \$30,000 we were able to offer dollar to dollar matches in late summer 2020 which allowed us to launch our new annual giving society. Aptly named the Palm and Pine Society, this fund will support daily operational expenses at Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat.

VISION COMMITTEE: Our vision committee continued to work diligently, preparing plans for Camp Kinard. We will soon be rolling out plans for a new entranceway, a new chapel, and a new swimming pool!

THEFT AND LOSSES: Yes, even these were blessings to us, as odd as that may sound. We had three kayaks and a 1994 Gator stolen from our property. Thankfully, our insurance provided replacement cost minus deductible. Our wonderful friends and supporters rallied around us and provided gifts to cover the deductibles so now we have a brand-new Gator! AND a neighbor donated a wonderful canoe to our “fleet”!

We are not sorry to put 2020 in the rearview mirror! We are forever grateful to the Holy Spirit for helping us navigate this most difficult year. We give thanks to our friends and supporters who so generously provided heartfelt prayers, volunteer assistance and financial gifts. Without all of you, we would not be ready to return to providing holy spaces for God to change lives! “Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God.” *Phil 1:3*

The Rev. David Coffman, Chair
Board of Trustees

Deacon Dallas J. Shealy
Executive Director

