

LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2022

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.

- All LHSC campuses and programs were in good standing during the year from a regulatory standpoint and continued to successfully operate even in the midst of many operational challenges posed by the Covid virus.
- Lutheran Homes of South Carolina provided employment for 1,604 full or part-time TeamMates to fulfill our Mission serving our older adult Priorities
- Residential and healthcare services were provided for 2,804 independent, assisted living, memory support, skilled nursing long-term residents and short-term rehabilitation 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
- LHSC's annual satisfaction survey received very high marks from our residential and healthcare Priorities and family members about their perception of their community's staff, life enrichment activities, grounds, buildings, meals, direct care and services, and other factors that affect life at their residence. 93% of survey respondents would recommend LHSC to others.
- The Heritage at Lowman opened the new Courtyard pocket neighborhood apartments in early 2021. The innovative residential concept achieved Senior Housing News' (SHN) inaugural first-place winner in the Small Footprint category in its ninth annual Architecture & Design Awards. The SHN recognizes cutting edge design, excellence and innovation in senior living. Future development plans are to expand the Courtyard neighborhood at the Heritage and offer new Courtyard apartments at RoseCrest.
- Franke at Seaside's Rehabilitation and Health Care Center received High Performing short-term and long-term care ratings from US World & News Report.
- Lutheran Hospice supported 478 patients and over 1,434 family caregivers during their end-of-life journey.
- BeWell Home Services caregivers helped 168 clients remain at home with non-medical, supportive services through its Midlands/Aiken, Lowcountry, and Upstate offices.
- BeWell@Home provided continuing care at home wellness programs for 96 members.
- Due to the generosity of 1,689 donors in 2021, the Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation:
 - Provided \$383,196 to help subsidize the care of residents, clients and hospice patients served in our ministries of care.
 - Funded \$1,153,546 in capital improvements to enhance and expand facilities, and \$373,217 to support community programs and services.

As always, we remain most grateful for your partnership in ministry,

Mr. Jack Balling
Chair of the Board

Mr. Frank T. Shepke
President and CEO



2022 Report to the Synod Assemblies of Region 9

Drafting New Mission & Vision Statements

“Seeking Jesus together
in worship, study and service.”

The new LTSS mission statement, above, is still in draft form, but already it is helping us tell our story and focus our work. It points to the way LTSS is moving into a future where vocations in ministry are as varied as the places where God’s Spirit is at work in the world. LTSS will still offer superbly well-trained pastors and deacons to the church; it will also welcome those who are drawn to theological study even as they are still seeking vocational direction.

Hybrid Learning at LTSS

We are currently recruiting for the 2022 fall class, which will feature two paths for our degree programs. **M.Div. Columbia** is for students who live within driving distance of our campus, or in student apartments or dormitory housing. **M.Div. Connect** is for students who need to study most of the time online. All students will take the same classes and will be together for a few days at the start of each semester. Our MA in Christian Ministry will also be available to Connect students. The MA in Religious Leadership is a fully online master’s program, taught by seminary faculty as well as the leadership faculty of the LRU graduate school.

Curriculum Revision

This spring, we announced a new M.Div. curriculum and made similar changes to our MA programs. The M.Div. curriculum includes these changes:

- Requirement of 3 semester hours of biblical languages (the student’s choice of Greek or Hebrew) rather than 9 hours.
- New requirements: 3 semester hours in leadership, and 3 semester hours in exploring theology across contexts and cultures.
- Credit hours have been reduced from 92 hours to 84, while the number of electives has increased.
- Concentrations in disciplines within the university graduate school, such as leadership, counseling, and others.
- A six-year “Bridges to Dreams” BA/M.Div. in cooperation with Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Strategic Planning

Throughout this academic year we have been creating a seminary-specific strategic plan. Our three areas of focus are:

- improving student experience—the curriculum revision is part of that, but so also are upgrades to classroom technology, better internet across campus, a refurbished student gym, and more;
- communicating who we are across integrated marketing and communications efforts, and
- expanding our reach to serve more degree-seeking students and to offer a growing program of non-degree education.

Expanding Partnerships

LTSS Lifelong Learning continues to expand its reach. Most recently, a group of faculty, staff, and students traveled to Charleston, SC, for a hard hat tour of the International African American Museum, which will open in December of 2022. Already we are planning together an event for high school youth next summer. The event will take place on the LTSS campus and at the museum.

Thank You

The synods of Region 9 each provide funds directly to LTSS, offering a combined total of more than 10% of our budget. Thank you! Equally important for the life of the church and the seminary, about half of our students are from congregations in Region 9. We are grateful for your support and the trust you have placed in us.

Grace and peace,

Mary Hinkle Shore
Rector & Dean

NovusWay Ministries
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2022

To proclaim the love of God we first need hear that love in our own faith walk. Many of us have faced challenges to hearing that Word amid the Covid pandemic. Stress and the noise of the world seem like the only voices we can hear as we seek to minister and care for one another.

NovusWay Ministries is committed to create places apart from those noises to intentionally hear and experience the Good News of God's love. Our four ministry sites, Lutheridge, Lutherock, Luther Springs and Lutheranch, provide opportunities for children, youth, and adults to be immersed in a Christ centered community whether at camp, retreats, personal reflection, or hosted ministries. Maybe there has never been a greater time when such intentional time in the Word and community is needed than in these days.

Like all ministries we suffered as we faced and ministered during the pandemic. We had to cancel or adapt many of our ministries for the sake of community health and wellbeing. We faced staff changes and staff shortages. But as opportunities presented themselves, we proclaimed the love of God in new ways. Despite relentless Covid variants, Delta and then Omicron, that required us to limit our summer camp schedule and cancel some fall and winter programming, our total revenue for year ending 12/31/2021 was \$3,612,000. This is an increase of \$1,087,000 over total revenue for 2020 and only \$516,000 behind pre-pandemic's 2019 total revenue.

In a typical year for NovusWay our business model is supported by about 75% of income from programming and hosted ministry; the remaining 25% from the generosity of individuals, congregations and synodical benevolence. Covid changed all that for us in 2020. With camps closed, programs and hosted ministry cancelled or were limited, God provided a dramatic increase in synodical gifts, grants and individual contributions to sustain the ministry. In 2020 only 9% of operating funds came from programs; 19% from hosted ministry, and 72% came from contributions, most of that through the very generous response to our Light the Fire special appeal.

We planned 2021 to be the beginning of a "covid-comeback" for our faith forming ministry. Covid's Delta and Omicron variants impacted plans and reduced our offerings. By the grace of God, the boldness of those who participated in the camp, programs and hosted ministry opportunities, and the generosity of individuals that exceeded the generous response of 2020 to the annual fund by \$139,445, we're growing again! *"And our total income in 2021 shows us moving back to our strong business model,"* said Acting Interim CEO Bishop Leonard Bolick. *"Our income distribution shows that, with 35% of income from programing, 18% from hosted ministry and 47% from gift income."*

Much of that has been made possible through the generous support of our Synod Partners and members. We are deeply grateful for the special financial giving from the Synods which supported us through times of limited program income. Many members of the Synod offered personal support and prayers. Through such generous support we were able to offer \$64,083.25 in scholarship support across our four sites and end 2021 better than 2020.

We highlight some amazing congregations who are supporting our ministries and truly bringing the love of God to the world. In the Knoxville, TN area the program, *Come to the Waters*, works with school and local agencies to identify young students who would benefit from a week at camp and then fully fund scholarships for these youth. Christ Lutheran, Charlotte works with a local school to identify students who would be blessed by a week at camp. They partner with us to offer scholarships to these young people. For some this is their first exposure to the love of God through a church ministry. We hope other congregations and groups will consider such an outreach effort. Lives are changed.

People make up our ministry and so we are grateful to many for their incredible efforts on behalf of our ministries. This year, 2021, has been a painful year. We lost several valuable staff members who worked diligently to see us through the summer and beyond. Special thanks to Bishop Emeritus Leonard Bolick who stepped in following the resignation of Mr. Boyd (Bo) Harris in August to serve as our Acting Interim CEO. His faithful and quiet leadership has been invaluable. We also are extremely grateful to our year-round and summer staff whose faithfulness and commitment has allowed us to continue with ministry through the challenges that faced us. We look to 2022 with renewed enthusiasm, excited by some staff changes and additions in process as 2021 comes to a close.

Despite a lingering Covid variant of one form or another, we enter 2022 with renewed determination and gratitude to God to step out in faith to steadily build back our full year-round schedule of programs for all ages, hosted ministry opportunities for congregational and non-congregational groups, and a full Summer Camp 2022 program. We are grateful for our partnership with the Synod in God's great work of forming faith in all ages. To learn more about this exciting ministry that you support with your prayers, your financial gifts and faithful participation, please visit our website: <https://novusway.org>.



Charles R. Bridgers
President, NovusWay Board of Trustees



Leonard H. Bolick
Acting Interim CEO



Newberry College has enjoyed 165 years of partnership in education and ministry with the Lutheran church. As the church continues to reform and grow, so does the College. Let this report serve as a review of our accomplishments, impossible without the support of our partners in faith, and as a token of gratitude for the \$19,959.22 in synodical giving in 2021.

“Building The Berry”

This spring, Newberry College broke ground on three major construction projects, benefiting every aspect of the College community. The Nursing & Health Science Center, an 11,000-square-foot facility with state-of-the-art classrooms and simulation labs, will become home to the nursing, health science, respiratory therapy and health science programs. Stadium Phase II, the second of three waves of renovations to the athletic stadium, will bring new east-side seating and an 18,000-square-foot field house, including locker rooms, coach's offices and classrooms. The College will also add its ninth residence hall, set to house 104 upperclassmen, adjacent to the Alumni Music Center.

Newberry College Now Offers Master's Degrees

In July 2021, the College announced its first new graduate program, an online Master of Science in Organizational Development and Leadership. Classes began last fall, and the first class of graduates will receive their degrees in August 2022. The program is headed by Dr. Kelli Lynn Fellows, dean of online and graduate programs. Newberry College has offered graduate degrees before, however, awarding 54 degrees between 1885 and 1928, in subjects including mathematics, philosophy, physics, Latin and Greek.

Coffman Becomes Campus Pastor

The Rev. David W. Coffman became Newberry College's campus pastor in December 2021. He returns to his alma mater after serving in hospice care since 2013. Coffman is a 1997 graduate of Newberry College and a 2001 graduate of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Coffman succeeds the Rev. Ernie Worman, who retired in December 2020 after 12 years in the role.

First Endowed Chairs Secure Lutheran's Legacy

Near the end of a life well lived, World War II veteran and devoted Lutheran Cecil Harvey Bowers set aside funds to establish two endowed chairs at Newberry College. Now, that legacy is coming to fruition with the Cecil Harvey Bowers Chair in Religion and the Edith Counts Bowers Chair in Accounting.

Newberry Edge to Prioritize Student Advising

Newberry Edge, the College's new Quality Enhancement Plan, is designed to pave clear pathways for students to graduation. Officially launching in fall 2022, the comprehensive plan seeks to enhance academic advising, a process through which students work with advisors to find courses, internships and other academic opportunities that lead to graduation and further career success.

Newberry College Among Top Five For Best Value

U.S. News & World Report named Newberry College No. 4 for Best Value among colleges in the South, our sixth consecutive year in the top 10. Newberry College also held its place among the top 10 for social mobility and retained its No. 11 position among the overall best colleges in the region.

Newberry College Signs Agreement with S.C. Technical Colleges

In 2021, Newberry College and the South Carolina Technical College System signed an agreement designed to enhance the smooth transfer of respiratory therapy graduates from the state's 16 technical colleges. The move will help meet demand for respiratory care professionals as the bachelor's degree becomes the industry standard. Newberry College's program is the only one of its kind in South Carolina.

Synodical Gifts Support Lutheran Education

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 partner churches, 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 rooted in our Lutheran values. If you would like to make an individual gift, please visit newberry.edu/giving, or contact Whitney Mitchell '09, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement, at Whitney.Mitchell@newberry.edu, or at 803.321.5694.

The total 2021 calendar year Synodical giving is \$19,959.22. This includes the South Carolina Synod, Southeastern Synod and the Florida-Bahamas Synod.



In 1972, at Camp Kinard, our first buildings were dedicated to the Glory of God. In 1982, the building at Coastal Retreat was dedicated to the Glory of God. In 2022, we celebrate 50 years of providing holy spaces for God to change lives! We are grateful to the SC Synod, to the congregations and to the individuals who have supported South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers with prayers, with volunteer help and with financial gifts and for all the groups and individuals who have spent time at a camp or on retreat at these holy spaces!

Like many nonprofits and outdoor ministry organizations, Covid 19 provided challenges and opportunities. From 2020 until now, we have had a Covid 19 Task Force that has met regularly to review protocols and policies in an effort to keep our guests safe. We learned that people long to spend time in community and will take necessary precautions in order to be together! Covid 19 also helped confirm what we already knew: the importance of being outdoors in God's glorious creation!

2021 brought sadness but also joy as we experienced some staff changes. We bid a "Happy Retirement" to Terry Shealy who served SCLRC for over 17 years, first as bookkeeper/business manager and then as Director of Camp Kinard. Grounds keeper Bobby Sledge also retired. We were joyful to add Mary Katherine King as Hospitality Coordinator/Registrar and Lauryn Shuler as bookkeeper. And we were delighted that Larry Hamrick returned to Camp Kinard as Interim Director as we search for a new fulltime person to fill that role.

A wonderful addition to Camp Kinard this year is The Jesus Way, a gentle trail that loops around the camp, featuring fourteen signposts around the moderate 1.5-mile trail that allow individuals and groups to stop for scripture, prayer, and meditation at each station, providing a perfect way with our feet by worshipping outdoors, socially distanced, in God's beautiful creation! Portable signs are also now available for use at Coastal Retreat. We were also able to add additional single day and over night retreats especially designed for small groups at both sites.

And now, as we celebrate the previous fifty years of ministry with SC Lutheran Retreat Centers, we realize that it is time for us to make some important changes at Camp Kinard to prepare for the next fifty! We are excited to announce that we are embarking on a Capital Campaign to raise \$2.2 million so that we can build a new, fully accessible swimming pool, create a new, picturesque entry way, and most importantly construct a new multipurpose chapel to the glory of God! We look forward to providing updated information to the people gathered at Assembly.

We are grateful for all our partners in ministry, and we invite you to join us in on the next exciting journey as we provide holy spaces for God to change lives!

Deacon Dallas J. Shealy
Executive Director

The Rev. David Coffman, Chair
Board of Trustees