

**Report of Lutheran Services Carolinas 2023-2024
2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly**

Dear Friends,

The year of 2023 was a year of expansion and growth for Lutheran Services Carolinas, your health and human services social ministry of the South and North Carolina Synods of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).

Last year, more than 2,500 LSC teammates, along with 2,429 donors and 4,125 advocates improved the lives of thousands of Carolinians. In South Carolina:

- Dedicated foster parents and case workers served 193 children.
- LSC's New Americans Program assisted 3,473 people on their path to new lives in the U.S., including 935 new arrivals in SC.
- The Transitional Foster Care for Unaccompanied Children program helped 103 children.
- The Day Services for Youth Program opened and served 96 foster youth.
- LSC's disaster services team gave hope and assistance to 27 households in SC.
- LSC's recovery services programs (Kinard Manor, WeCo Cottage, and Trinity Recovery) combined helped over 3,000 individuals; by either giving them a safe and sober home to overcome substance use disorder or providing them with the tools to assist a loved one.

LSC's New Americans Program LSC increased the number of refugees served throughout the year with offices now in Columbia, Greenville, Charleston, and Myrtle Beach.

LSC's Transitional Foster Care for Unaccompanied Children program, based in Columbia, continued to serve a very vulnerable population of children, and expanded the number of children it can serve from 12 to 24.

LSC's regular South Carolina foster care program remained busy, and the new Day Services for Youth Program got up and running. Through a partnership with the South Carolina Department of Social Services, the program offers foster youth a safe place to learn and grow during the day.

LSC also continued to serve through its recovery services programs, assisting people of all ages in SC to overcome substance use disorders. LSC is the only organization in the state with a collegiate recovery home, WeCo Cottage.

In fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, LSC had a solid financial performance. A positive bottom line is essential to strong overall financial health, which will allow the organization to continue to serve where the need is greatest in challenging times. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Yours in Christ,



Ted W. Goins, Jr.
LSC President



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 continue to recover operationally from the effects and challenges of the COVID virus.
- Lutheran Homes of South Carolina provided employment for 1,000 full or part-time TeamMates to fulfill our Mission serving our older adult resident, patient and client 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, Mount 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 resident and patient Priorities and family members about their perception of aspects that affect life at their residence such as direct care and services, staff, meals, life enrichment activities, buildings and grounds. 90.5% of survey respondents would recommend LHSC to others.

The Heritage at Lowman initiated Phase 2 of the 18 unit expansion of the Courtyard pocket neighborhood apartments in the fall of 2022. Development plans are also underway for the addition of 18 new Courtyard apartments at RoseCrest to be built concurrently with a multi-purpose wellness center and dining expansion which also will include dedicated chapel space. Rice Estate completed renovations for both assisted and independent living dining rooms.

- Rice Estate and the Heritage at Lowman Rehabilitation and Health Care Center received High Performing short-term care ratings as recognized as the Best Nursing Homes from US World & News Report. RoseCrest Rehabilitation and Healthcare maintained a Five Star Rating from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services throughout the year.
- Lutheran Hospice supported 559 patients and over 1,667 family caregivers during their end-of-life journey. The program ranked higher than the national averages for all quality measures and 90% of patients and families were willing to recommend Lutheran Hospice to others.
- Across the state, BeWell Home Services caregivers helped 151 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 111 members.
- Due to the generosity of 1,791 donors in 2022, the Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation:
 - Provided \$431,186 to help subsidize the care of residents, clients and hospice patients served in our ministries of care.
 - Funded \$980,825 in capital improvements to enhance and expand facilities, and \$665,153 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

How are the Wolves? The Wolves are well! As a college, we approach the concept of an interconnected community. When one hurts, we all hurt. When one wins a conference championship, we all win. We are interconnected as the faculty, staff, and coaches, making a difference in the lives of our 1,400 students. We continue to combat food insecurity on campus through the Wolves Pantry, and our campus is expanding its physical footprint as well as program offerings. We are connecting with students' spiritual journeys with a spring emphasis on the Beatitudes. We sincerely thank our church partners for their continued support, including \$37,183 in synodical giving this past fiscal year, as well as Bishops Aebischer, Strickland, and Suarez for continued support of Newberry College. May we continue to see Jesus in each other.
— The Rev. David Coffman '97, campus pastor

Campus landscape continues to expand

In the past year, Newberry College celebrated the grand opening of two major capital campaign projects. The Darby Nursing & Health Science Center opened its doors in August 2023. The 11,000-square-foot facility is the state-of-the-art home to the college's growing health care programs. Adjoining the facility is a daytime health clinic operated by Newberry County Memorial Hospital. The clinic opened in September and serves as an urgent care center for the community, as well as a prime location for student nurses to gain hands-on experience. In September, the College cut the ribbon on Founders Federal Credit Union Field House. The 18,000-square-foot field house provides well-needed space for growing Wolves athletics. Along with new east-side seating, the facility comprises the second of three phases of renovations to the college's athletic stadium. In addition to these two buildings, construction is underway on the College's ninth residence hall with an estimated opening of fall 2024.

Newberry rises as a leader among southern colleges

Newberry College took its place among the South's top 10 colleges in multiple categories, according to last year's rankings by U.S. News & World Report. Newberry rose in three categories – value, social mobility, and overall best – and crested a fourth, having been named in ideal college for veterans. The College was recognized in the following categories:

Best Regional Colleges – South: No. 10

Best Value – Regional South: No. 3

Social Mobility – Regional South: No. 4

Best Colleges for Veterans – Regional South: No. 2

This was the first time Newberry reached the top 10 among Best Regional Colleges in the South.

Newberry adds third master's program

In January, the College launched its third graduate-level program; a Master of Arts in criminal justice. The 100% online program can be completed in as few as 12 months and coursework can be completed anytime, anywhere. Criminal justice is a vast field, including policing, corrections, security, judicial administration, and social services. As the field continues to grow and evolve, Newberry College's master's degree is designed to prepare criminal justice practitioners with knowledge of modern demands and dynamic changes. Students are invited to enroll in the Master of Arts in criminal justice program six times a year, with new classes beginning every eight weeks.

Newberry launches online professional certification programs

Newberry College now offers a host of online professional credentialing through a new partnership with MindEdge. The programs are available to anyone and enrollment is open 24/7. The course offerings cover a wide variety of subjects and are "a la carte," with clients able to choose individual courses, learning resources, and certification programs to fit their needs. The courses are designed for adult learners and combine exercises, videos, and practical examples in coursework. To learn more, visit newberry.edu/certifications.

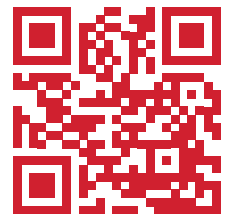
Historic MacLean Gymnasium takes on new life

MacLean Gymnasium has fortified the Newberry College skyline and its campus community since its construction in 1923. One hundred years since it first opened its doors, the gymnasium underwent a comprehensive restoration. The iconic playing floor was refinished, repainted, and damaged boards were replaced, new windows were installed, and heating and air conditioning were added. The playing floor has also been named in honor of legendary men's basketball coach Nield Gordon. The renovated building will serve as a refreshed practice space for cheerleading, the Newberry College Dance Team, the women's acrobatics & tumbling team, intramurals, and other student events.

College raising funds to repair Wiles Chapel organ

After 57 years of commencements, weddings, funerals, concerts and much more, the College is raising funds to repair Wiles Chapel's majestic pipe organ. Equipped with 35 ranks and 1,994 pipes, the organ was built in 1967 by the Schantz Organ Company. The grand instrument was designed for the space

by longtime College organist and music professor Darr Wise (1929-2021), who commanded its keys for three decades until his retirement. Today, due to a number of factors, the organ's functionality has become limited. The College is raising \$350,000 to not only restore playability, but also to outfit the instrument for many more decades of holy harmonies. To give, please visit newberry.edu/give or scan the QR code, and enter "Wiles Chapel Organ in the designation box. You can also send a check made payable to Newberry College to 2100 College St. Newberry, SC 29108, with "Wiles Chapel Organ" in the memo line.





2024 Report to Synod Assemblies/Gatherings

The Mission of NovusWay Ministries is to provide experiences for all people in God's creation that inspire faith, build relationships, and transform lives. Our Vision for this mission is, "Trusting in God's promises, lives are transformed to love and serve as part of inclusive communities." In fulfillment of this vision, the following Values are central: inclusion, renewal, stewardship, hospitality, formation, and discipleship.

- In 2023, we welcomed over 2,000 youth campers and nearly 650 family campers for summer camp programs at our four sites. These camper numbers represent our largest summer of camp since before the pandemic. We are excited that more youth and families are experiencing this transformational ministry.
- We also welcomed nearly 1,100 youth and adult participants to year-round programs in 2023. Retreats for confirmation students, women, men, and families provided time away for learning, fellowship, worship, and renewal. We celebrate the Spirit's movement among those who experienced camp all year long.
- Nearly 200 young adults served on the summer staff at one of our camps in 2023 where they learned to share their faith and be servant leaders among campers and in the wider world.
- Hosted ministry at Lutheridge, Lutherock, Luther Springs, and Lutheranch continues to be a significant part of our ministry. In 2023, hundreds of hosted ministry groups spent time on one of our NovusWay sites for a wide variety of events including quilting programs, business meetings, council retreats, festivals, and family reunions.
- NovusWay faced some financial challenges in 2023 including a significant budget shortfall. Through the leadership of interim Co-CEOs Mitzie Schafer and Mike Ward, a new financial roadmap is in place which includes a balanced budget in 2024. We are grateful for the generosity of those who love camp and have responded in ways that are strengthening the ministry for the future.
- Camp Lutheridge will celebrate its 75th Birthday in 2025. In celebration of this ministry milestone, the Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Campaign will launch in 2024. The gifts received through this campaign will provide upgrades to the Lutheridge facilities and pay off internal debt to the benefit of all four NovusWay camps. An important Lutherock project will also be included in the campaign.
- The greatest impact of NovusWay is in the lives of children, youth, and adults who continue to have life changing experiences at camp. The gifts of individuals, congregations, and synods empower ministry that embodies some of our deepest hopes and joys as the church. At camp, children of God are growing in faith, young leaders are being formed for service in the church and the world, and all people are experiencing the peace of Christ and the blessing of Christian community.

Thank you for your generous prayers and support
for Lutheridge, Lutherock, Luther Springs, and Lutheranch and for all we serve!



2023 Annual Report to the Synods

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Guided by our vision, we are answering the call to prepare resilient leaders of positive change for service in a complex world. This will be realized by building on our distinctives and embracing new opportunities to be the leading institution in educating the whole person.

Enrollment

- Fall 2023 enrollment was 1,472 students from 41 U.S. states and 44 countries, which includes 196 U.S. students of color and 92 international students. More than 20 Christian denominations and several world religions are represented. Our enrollment saw its largest year-to-year percentage increase since 2016.
- The five majors with the highest enrollment are business administration, biology, exercise science, elementary education, and psychology.
- The online Master of Arts in Leadership program enrolled a new cohort of eight students as well as one pursuing the Graduate Leadership Certificate.

Strategic Positioning

- After almost two years of research and planning, the college announced the Wartburg Commitment, a new pricing model and value proposition designed to help students consider, afford, and experience Wartburg College. Starting in Fall 2024, the comprehensive program includes a new competitive price, reduced financial barriers for lower- and middle-income families, and funding to increase access to immersive experiences.
- A new Wartburg brand, Experience More, was launched in conjunction with the Wartburg Commitment. Extensive research found the distinctive experiences students have at Wartburg involve a nurturing community, connection, and engagement. These common threads of the Wartburg experience resonate with students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Academic and Co-Curricular Programs

- The first 15 students to earn a master's degree from Wartburg College graduated in May with a Master of Arts in Leadership. The students came from as far away as Ohio and California and represented an array of work sectors, including business, K-12 and higher education, public administration, the military, and faith communities.
- In January 2023, Wartburg faculty approved a new THRIVE General Education curriculum to be implemented in the 2024-25 academic year. THRIVE stands for Thinking Critically, Human Culture, Reasoning, Information Fluency, Vocation, and Effective Communication.
- Dr. Ethan Blass was inducted into the newly established Herbert and Mildred Kleinfeld Professorship in German Language and Culture. The professorship, provided through the generosity of Gerald Kleinfeld in honor of his parents, will support teaching and learning in the German Department.
- As a member of the Iowa Private Transfer Collaborative, Wartburg received a three-year grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and Teagle Foundation to make the experience of transferring from an Iowa community college more transparent.
- The college launched Knights to Know, an educational web series that introduces influential alumni to the greater Wartburg community. The first year's theme is Women of Wartburg and has featured women in STEM and leaders in service.

Report of South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers 2023-2024 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly

It is with great joy and gratitude that we celebrate the past year here at South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers. This year has been filled with blessings, growth, and transformation as we continued our mission of "Providing holy spaces for God to change lives."

Despite the challenges posed by the aftermath of the global pandemic, we have seen a growing demand for our retreat centers and we were delighted to see an increased usage at both sites over the previous year. Individuals and groups from across South Carolina and beyond have sought refuge and renewal in the serene landscapes and sacred spaces of Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat. Through our various offerings, including youth camps, family retreats, and spiritual gatherings, we have witnessed countless lives being touched and transformed by the power of God's presence.

At Camp Kinard, nestled amidst the tranquil beauty of nature, campers have experienced moments of joy, wonder, and spiritual growth. From hiking trails to campfires under the stars, every experience is an opportunity for connection and discovery. Similarly, at Coastal Retreat, with its breathtaking views of the ocean, guests have found solace and inspiration in the rhythmic sounds of the waves and the gentle sea breeze. These holy spaces have become sanctuaries for those seeking refuge from the busyness of life, allowing God to work in their hearts and minds.

One of the highlights of the past year has been the completion of our new, fully accessible swimming pool at Camp Kinard. We were excited to "Make a Splash" at the dedication, which included the inaugural swimmers Pastor Rebecca Wicker, Pastor Matt Titus, Pastor David Coffman, Bill Newmyer, Elliott Cox and Nevin Rodgers. This project has been a labor of love, and we are thrilled to announce that it is now open to all, providing a refreshing and inclusive space for relaxation and recreation. This new addition not only enhances the physical amenities of Camp Kinard but also reflects our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity in all aspects of our ministry.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we are excited about the plans to further enhance our facilities. We look forward to finishing the area where the old pool was filled, adding amenities such as volleyball, gaga pit, tetherball, and a gathering/worship area. Additionally, we will be moving forward with long-awaited plans for a new chapel and a new entrance at Camp Kinard. These projects will not only improve our physical spaces but also provide more opportunities for spiritual growth and community building.

In addition to the spiritual growth and transformation we've witnessed, we are also pleased to report that giving to the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers has increased approximately 14% from the previous year, highlighting the continued support and commitment of our community to our mission.

As we reflect on the past year, we are humbled and inspired by the countless stories of transformation and renewal that have taken place on the grounds of these retreat centers. Lives have been changed, relationships have been deepened, and faith has been strengthened, all thanks to the grace of God and the support of our community.

In conclusion, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve as stewards of these sacred spaces. We are committed to continuing our mission of providing holy spaces for God to change lives, and we invite you to join us on this journey of faith, hope, and love.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in ministry. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Deacon Dallas J. Shealy
Executive Director

Jane G. Holmes
Board Chair