

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

LSS of Northern California was incorporated as a public-benefit corporation 501(c)(3) in 1968, but we can trace our roots in Northern California to 1883. That's when a group of West Coast Lutherans joined to provide direct financial aid for California orphans. By 1951 the Lutheran Welfare Council could claim a range of social work and advocacy programs. Starting in the 1970's, we were active in refugee resettlement programs. LSS responded to the AIDS crisis by creating our money management program for people living with disabling HIV/AIDS and expanded it over the years to serve other special needs populations. In 1992 we opened Sacramento's first transitional housing program for families and in 1998 established our first supportive housing program in San Francisco.

Today LSS of Northern California has a budget of \$10 M and a staff of 75 who assist 3,500 formerly homeless individuals every day in rebuilding their lives to achieve self-sufficiency. We manage 22 supportive housing programs in San Francisco, Contra Costa, San Joaquin and Sacramento counties. LSS serves a region that encompasses San Luis Obispo County to the Oregon border, western Nevada and Hawaii. In the next three years we anticipate expanding our supportive housing services to new affordable housing projects in San Francisco, Sacramento and Redding. In addition to our work in ending homelessness, LSS participates in the nationwide Lutheran Disaster Response Network, which provides short- and long-term assistance after disasters such as 2017's devastating wildfires in North Bay.

While the focus of our work has evolved over the past 50 years, our commitment to social justice and

compassionate guidance has remained steadfast. At LSS everyone is treated with dignity and respect and as unique individuals with unique needs. *Then as now, we respond to the words of Martin Luther, who reminded us that as love and support have been given to us, we must in turn render love and support to those who suffer.*

Carol Roberts, Ph.D.

CEO

LSS of Northern California

STABLE LIVES ARE BUILT FROM STABLE HOUSING

When a person has a place to call home, it's easier to begin their journey toward self-sufficiency. That's why LSS uses stable housing as our blueprint for success. It allows an individual or family to rebuild their life, including relationships, confidence and dignity.

We help break the cycle of homelessness by guiding each individual or family we serve in learning to overcome the reasons for their situation: time in foster care, mental illness, disability, chronic disease, unemployment, substance abuse, poverty or surviving a disaster. Using compassionate guidance, we partner with many community organizations and businesses to offer supportive services that are relevant to an individual's or families' needs.

The vast majority of the youth and adults whom we assist have one or more disabilities. Many of the adults have experienced chronic homelessness. Our services encompass all ages and stages of life, including former foster youth, single adults, seniors and families.





Because of your support, former foster youth and formerly homeless youth find a safe place to call home at LSS of Northern California.

LSS CORE PROGRAMS

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING – ADULTS AND FAMILIES

- Program sites in San Francisco and Sacramento counties

Bernal Gateway Apartments, Folsom Dore Apartments, Mosaica Family and Senior Apartments, Polk Street Apartments, Kinney Hotel, Achieving Change Together, Mutual Housing @ The Highlands, Building Bridges, Saybrook Apartments

MONEY MANAGEMENT – ADULTS

- Manage more than \$1MM per month for 1,800 individuals with physical and mental disabilities to ensure rent, utilities and other obligations are paid.
- Offered in San Francisco County only

TRANSITIONAL AND PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING – FORMER FOSTER YOUTH, HOMELESS YOUTH, AND SINGLE ADULTS

- Program sites in Contra Costa, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties

MiCasa, Fostering Future Success, Connections, The Housing Program for Youth, Project Hope, Step Up Sacramento

SHORT-TERM HOUSING AND CASE MANAGEMENT – ADULTS WITH HIV/AIDS OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

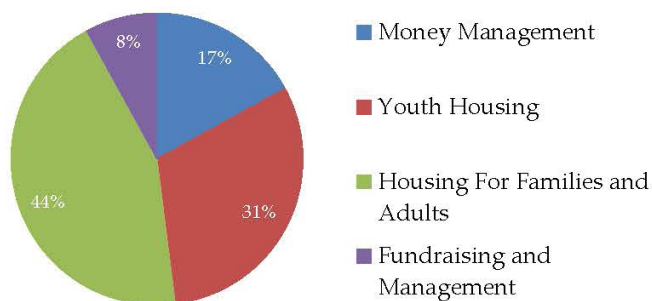
- Offered in San Francisco and Sacramento Counties

Kinney Hotel, Housing with Dignity

DISASTER RESPONSE & RELIEF

- Long-term assistance the national Lutheran Response Network to those whose homes and livelihoods have been disrupted by major disaster

LSS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FY 2016-17 EXPENSES



Visit www.lssnorcal.org to find detailed financial statements for FY 2016-17 and other years.



YOUR DONATIONS TO LSS ARE AN INVESTMENT IN CHANGING LIVES

CREATING HOME

LSS receives government contracts that help to subsidize residents' housing and the case management our staff provides. However, these funds do not cover the full cost of operating a quality program with strong results. Donations from individuals and the synod provide our formerly homeless residents with the essentials they need to set-up their tiny apartments – basic furniture, bedding, towels, dishes, cooking utensils and cleaning supplies. Your donations also support residents' transportation needs, enrichment activities, holiday meals and gifts, and funds for emergencies.

STABILITY

Because we use stable housing as our blueprint for success, year after year, nearly 97% of our clients/residents maintain their housing, meaning they are not living on the streets or in shelters.

WELL-BEING

LSS staff partners with a broad range of community organizations to ensure each resident knows how to access and receive relevant services concerning their health, wellness and financial needs and employment abilities. This includes public benefits to which they are entitled, such as healthcare, Social Security, Food Stamps, and disability. Among the youth we serve, 76% are employed when they leave our program.

SAFETY AND COMMUNITY

Our presence in affordable housing programs improves neighborhoods. Crime and violence is reduced through intensive community-building with residents. We involve them in maintaining the building and their surroundings, facilitate social interaction and organize cultural enrichment opportunities.

ACCOUNTABILITY

LSS has demonstrated sound financial management and exceptional results with the public and private dollars we have received to provide supportive housing services in San Francisco, Contra Costa, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. We achieve or surpass the stringent benchmarks required by regional, state and federal funders, as well as private foundations and corporate donors.

DISASTER RESPONSE AND RELIEF

In fall 2017 donors contributed more than \$46,000 to assist individuals and communities affected by the devastating North Bay wildfires. Many of those donors were Lutherans in our service region and around the nation, as well as individuals who wanted to assist those in need. These contributions allowed LSS to provide \$18,000 in cash (\$100 VISA gift cards with no fees) to individuals. Some of the remaining funds will send children in Sonoma and Mendocino counties to Camp Noah later this summer to build resiliency skills through participation in creative activities and play designed to help them process their disaster and trauma experiences from the wild fires.

LSS' Board Chair, Chrislyn Carson, is chairing the Emotional, Spiritual and Physical Care subcommittee of Rebuilding our Community (ROC) of Sonoma County to address the considerable needs of those affected by the fires. ROC created a network within and on behalf of faith-based, non-profit, governmental, business and other organizations and agencies to provide for a coordinated recovery effort in Sonoma County.

LSS is also managing a \$50,000 grant from the Russell & Josephine Kott Memorial Charitable Trust, made possible by the Lutheran Disaster Response Network, to support unmet needs of older adults in the affected communities.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN ENDING HOMELESSNESS FOR GOOD

Advent Lutheran Church, Citrus Heights
 All Saints Lutheran Church, Novato
 American Lutheran Church of the Cross, WELCA, Sacramento
 Bethel Lutheran Church, WELCA, Fresno
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, WELCA, Auburn
 Calvary Lutheran Church, WELCA, Rio Linda
 Calvary Lutheran Women's Guild, Oroville
 Christ Lutheran Church, El Cerrito
 Christ Lutheran Church, San Francisco
 Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, San Jose
 Christ the King Lutheran Church, Orangevale
 Coastside Lutheran Church, Half Moon Bay
 Elim Lutheran Church, Petaluma
 Faith Lutheran Church, Los Gatos
 Faith Lutheran Church, Chico
 Faith Lutheran Church, Castro Valley
 Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Concord
 Grace Lutheran Church, Palo Alto
 Grace Lutheran Church, Lincoln
 Messiah Lutheran Church, Citrus Heights
 Messiah Lutheran Church, WELCA, Staten Island
 Napa Valley Lutheran Church, Napa
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette
 Peace Lutheran Church, Grass Valley
 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, WELCA, Saratoga
 Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Berkeley
 St. James Lutheran Church, Redding
 St. Stephens Lutheran Church, El Dorado Hills
 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oakland
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasanton
 Ascension Lutheran Church, Citrus Heights
 Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Newark
 Hope Lutheran Church, Santa Clara
 Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo
 Hope Lutheran Church, Daly City
 Hope Lutheran Church of Rossmoor, Walnut Creek
 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saratoga
 Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Sacramento
 Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Sacramento

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Reno, Nevada
 Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis
 Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Granite Bay
 Marin Lutheran Church, Corte Madera
 St. James Lutheran Church, WELCA, San Leandro
 St. John's Lutheran Church, Antioch
 St. John's Lutheran Church, Sunnyvale
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pleasant Hill
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco
 St. Paulus Lutheran Church, San Francisco
 Thanksgiving Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa



Spring 2018

We are church together.

This call from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is at the core of Portico's identity: We serve those who serve the church, so they can serve others. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reads, "a three-fold cord is not easily broken."

Imagine, then, the resilience that comes from a community more than 50,000 strong that includes:

- Active and retired rostered ministers, lay employees, and family members
- Congregations, synodical and churchwide ministries, and social ministry organizations
- The dedicated and talented staff at Portico Benefit Services

Together, we pool our resources and carefully steward our gifts, leveraging our collective strength to provide the care our members need. Together, we walk the path toward financial, emotional, and physical well-being, so all might experience God's abundant life. Together, we are church.

In 2017, our community's size and scope allowed Portico to:

Deliver personalized support that helps our members live well.

- Skillful Portico Care Coordinators by Quantum Health helped more than 70% of members with ELCA-Primary health coverage navigate the complex world of health care.
- More than 400 members enrolled in Livongo's innovative diabetes management program to make living with diabetes easier and more cost-effective.
- 35% of our sponsored members used Portico's Retirement Planning Tool to get a comprehensive picture of how much they're saving, and how it might last in retirement.
- 3,500+ members gained a better understanding of their financial picture after talking with our new in-house team of credentialed Portico Financial Planners.

Exceed our goals for practicing good financial stewardship.

- Over and above a record-breaking year for the markets, the expertise of our investment management team demonstrated our commitment to a long-term, diversified approach to investing.
- For the second year in a row, administrative efficiencies and innovative plan adjustments allowed us to hold our baseline increase for ELCA-Primary health benefits to 5% — below the national trend of 6.5%.
- Benefiting from the run of growth in the markets and strategic fund management, we announced a 4.0% increase in the ELCA Participating Annuity payments for 2018, the sixth consecutive annual increase.

Speak with one voice on behalf of those who serve the church.

- As part of the Church Alliance, Portico joined with 37 other denominations to advocate for legislation to protect 403(b)(9) plans designed to help churchworkers save for retirement.
- On behalf of ELCA investors, our shareholder advocacy team championed a history-making climate-change resolution at a major energy-producing company.

The church is a shining example of what happens when we come together to care for one another. Lives are changed, hearts are touched, hurts are healed, hope is shared. We are grateful to lead the ELCA in the good work of wellness, and thankful for your partnership that makes this possible.

We are church together — and together, in Jesus' name, we are creating abundant life for those who serve.

In Christ,

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann
President and CEO



Lutheran Campus Ministry in the Sierra Pacific Synod takes on many forms. Here are some glimpses into a few of our ministry settings:

+ At *The Belfry Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry to UC Davis*, the community gathers for Worship and Dinner every week, as well as for weekly student groups that vary by quarter (on such topics as book study, bible study, spirituality, etc.), and for quarterly interfaith events like “Moveable Feast,” service projects, and “Interfaith Games.” For more information, visit www.thebelfry.org or contact the Rev. Casey Dunsworth.

+ *University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley*, a university setting parish at the University of California values ancient traditions, honors intellectual curiosity, and promotes hopeful faith among the people of Berkeley, including faculty, staff, and students at Cal. Events include Sunday morning liturgy and *Engage Faith* classes, an annual retreat, small *koinonia* groups for people of all ages, campus interfaith activities and community organizing, and partnering with social justice organizations. ULC is a Sanctuary and Reconciling in Christ parish, ‘at work in the world’ at the university. The Rev. Jeff R. Johnson is the lead pastor. www.ulcberkeley.org.

+ *Lutheran Campus Ministry in Fresno* hosts a midweek gathering called Common Ground where students share dinner over conversation and study involving scripture, faith, and Life. Additionally, LCM Fresno has a history of empowering students to serve the needs that they observe in the surrounding community. Currently we host an entirely student run food pantry that also serves as a laboratory in which various student groups complete projects related to marketing, nutrition, and management each year. And each year we explore a variety of creative ways to extend grace and life to the campus community, such as our end of the semester “creativity breaks.” Find more info at www.lcmoffresno.org.

+ *University Lutheran Church of Palo Alto* is an intergenerational community that gathers for Eucharist every Sunday morning (evenings in Lent), has student, faculty, and staff representation on the church council, engages issues of justice and equality, and has been hosting a shelter in the winter months. This year, Storytelling Night was added, and next year a Mentoring Program will take shape. The weekly dinner and Bible study of the Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry student group at Stanford, for whom our pastor, the Rev. Greg Schaefer, serves as Advisor, also uses space at UniLu. Visit www.UniLu.Church.

Of course, all of this is in addition to what ELCA Program Director for Campus Ministry, the Rev. Don Romsa (formerly of this synod) calls “the community that never gathers” – those people and groups who rely on the presence of a Lutheran Campus Minister for pastoral care, vocational discernment, premarital counseling, and more. We (the Sierra Pacific Synod, the ELCA, the body of Christ) are present in the lives of thousands of college, graduate, and professional students who will be shaping society in the next generation. Thank you for your support.



PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Thank you Sierra Pacific Synod for being a ministry partner!

Your prayers, direct synod gifts of \$101,131 last year, and encouraging our students like Taylor Hagbo, Ashley Wai'olu Moore, and Isai Garcia who give us strength and courage in our mission of equipping faithful leaders. In addition, there are 291 alums of PLTS that live and work on the territory of your synod, many of them in congregational ministries.

New Curriculum for a New Day

We are excited to share the news that our faculty have collaborated to develop a new curriculum which will be implemented in the fall of 2018. The new curriculum can be completed in three years instead of four, including internship. This addresses concerns regarding student debt by saving a year of residential costs. The new curriculum is shaped by four orienting perspectives that emphasizes cultivating spiritual practices and skills for building community, putting Christian beliefs and practices into collaborative engagement with other religious traditions and secular disciplines, and faithful social transformation grounded in the good news of Jesus Christ. The curriculum maintains the solid theological, biblical and ministerial formation that is the hallmark of Lutheran theological education and aims to prepare pastors for both traditional and emerging forms of Christian communities that are centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ, social justice, and ecological well-being. The new curriculum will take advantage of our central location in Downtown Berkeley, California by providing a growing number and expanding opportunities for community engagement.

Photo Captions

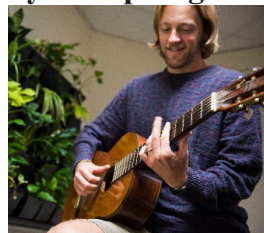
Left: Ray Pickett, Rector

Center: PLTS Faculty

Right: Students in
Liberacion Classroom



Synod Spotlight: Taylor Hagbo, M.Div.'19



Taylor Hagbo is a third-year seminarian from the Lutheran Church in Arcata. He is a Western Washington native who landed up past the Redwood curtain and found love and a mission. He is a talented musician/songwriter who writes brilliant hymns and liturgies. (Contact him at thagbo@ses.plts.edu for his Be the Light liturgy. You'll love it.)

Taylor has been an integral part of the new Green Seminary Initiative at PLTS, studying environmental sustainability, ecojustice and the spiritual, theological and liturgical aspects of that movement. He will be interning next year at The Bridge Coffee House and Fair Trade Market in St. Charles, Missouri.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT PLTS

- Number of Students (including TEEM): 89
- Number of Graduates (2017): 16
- Tuition (Full-time M.Div): \$13,920
- Total Average Cost of Attendance: \$35,312
- Scholarships Awarded (2016-2017): \$436,286 to 100% of need-based qualifying students
- Average Total Educational Debt for Seminarians Upon Graduation: \$46,386

To learn more about PLTS, or to make a gift, visit PLTS.edu.

California Lutheran
UNIVERSITY

California Lutheran

UNIVERSITY

With joy I share with you about the work of California Lutheran University who as member of the Network of Colleges and Universities of the ELCA equips graduates who are called and empowered to serve the neighbor so that all may flourish.

You may be surprised to learn that our total enrollment is 4,236 students who learn at 5 different centers in California. We offer 36 undergraduate majors and 12 graduate programs of study. 49% of our undergraduate students are from underrepresented populations and one third are the first in their family to attend college. Our students come from 38 states, 45 countries, and 30 denominations and faiths. There are 27,000 alumni who from our founding in 1959 until now have discovered their purpose and are transforming their community and the world.

The **William Rolland Art Center** opened this fall providing modern facilities for the Art and Multimedia departments. The venue contains spaces for visual arts such as painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, and sculpture as well as video, virtual reality, and audio editing and production.

History was made when the last of the converted chicken coops that served as the university's original classrooms and buildings were demolished in January making way for a **new Science Center**. To be completed in 2020, the new three-story, 47,000-square-foot facility will more than double the amount of space dedicated to science featuring 12 labs for teaching biomechanics, organic synthesis, physiology and neuroscience, marine biology, cell and developmental genetics, exercise physiology ergometry, and nuclear magnetic resonance and 8 labs designated for faculty and student research.

More history was made when the Kingsmen Baseball team captured its first **NCAA Division III National Championship** in program history after rallying for two winds over Washington & Jefferson.

Cal Lutheran professor Dr. Schannae Lucas is teaching the first college class inside a Ventura County jail for both incarcerated and traditional students in the **Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program**. "Examining Social, Crime and Justice Issues" is the only program, which provides incarcerated students with college credit.

Seven centers serve our community and enhance the quality of life for the region: Center for Nonprofit Leadership, Autism and Communications Center, Heath Center for Equality and Justice, Community Counseling Center, Center for Entrepreneurship, Center for Economic Research & Forecasting, and the Center for the Study of Economics of Social Issues.

A new personal and professional education event for youth and family ministers is offered August 2-4 this summer. **Essential Skills for Youth Workers** includes TED-style talks on youth ministry, round table discussions with speakers, small group reflection to translate context from speakers to one's own, and workshops and space to draft and/or collect resources to use.

The university has expanded the "[Executive Skills for Church Leaders: Learning from the world of the MBA](#)" so that church leaders from outdoor ministry, social ministry, congregations, and clergy can apply concepts from management to the complex arena of ministry today. Levels 1, 2, and 3 are offered July 16-20 this summer. Scholarships are available.

Cal Lutheran will be the summer 2020 site of the [Western States Youth Gathering](#), welcoming high school students and adults from Regions One, Two, Three, and Four. A one-day leadership event for youth from racially diverse congregations will be held one day in advance. Plan now to bring students from your congregations. www.wsyg.com

You can learn about all these things and more by visiting us online at www.callutheran.edu. We are your Lutheran university in the west serving the church and world.



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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 and soup kitchens, affordable housing units for the community and much more.

At year-end 2017, MIF had 888 loans outstanding, totaling \$539.1 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 2017, MIF investments totaled \$506 million.

MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$715.7 million and net assets of \$203.9 million at year-end 2017, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 28.5 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 Sierra Pacific Synod (as of December 31, 2017):

- 20 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$11,988,148
- \$10,914,507 in Mission Investment Fund investments.

MIF representative:

Joel S. Wudel, Regional Manager, Tel: (773) 682-1765; email: joel.wudel@elca.org



Mt. Cross

70 years of providing profound experiences in God's creation

Thank you for your support of Mt. Cross Ministries!

Mt. Cross has existed for 70 years because of you, our friends and supporters, who have bathed this ministry with prayer and love, as well as your resources of time and money. The road has not always been smooth and easy at Mt. Cross, but despite whatever difficulties this camp has faced, God has been faithful. The Gospel was proclaimed. Relationships were born and tended to. Profound experiences in creation were had.

Summer Camp, Day Camp, and Rental Groups by the Numbers

- 296 summer campers
- 186 day campers
- 13 day camp congregations
- 1,300 rental group members
- 81 rental groups from 41 organizations



2017 Summer Staff

We couldn't have summer camp without our summer camp staff. These overworked and underpaid individuals, who want nothing more than to partner with the Holy Spirit and share the love of Jesus with the campers, are what make camp such a transformative experience in the lives of children and youth. Our 2017 summer staff included: *Virginia Anderson, Joshua Armstrong, Kristine Bouchard, Alexander Cadell, Kara Der, McKenna Duncan, Shenoa Erny, Elizabeth Forbes, Angel Gibson-Larias, Jacob Gibson, Madison Haase, Colbee Jones, Morgan Kaus, Jonathan Kieffer, Jacob Moore, Jarod Rischpater, Abigail Schneider, Maise Sila, Catherine Slaubaugh, Tyler Stanley, Austin Stone, Fernanda Tranquillini, Christopher Wilson, Erin Woodell*

2017 Year-Round Staff

The year-round staff of Mt. Cross are a small, extremely dedicated group of folks who give their heart and soul to this ministry. 2017 staff members included: *Joshua Armstrong (Ministry Assistant), McKenna Duncan (Ministry Assistant), Rev. David Dykes (Interim Executive Director), Shelby Harrah-Ferguson (Rental Coordinator), Rev. Jim Lapp (Interim Executive Director), Dalton Lewis (Camp Hand/Cook), Deauna Mansfield (Registrar), Krystal Minniefield (Bookkeeper), Abigail Schneider (Ministry Assistant), Daniel Sorrick (Director of Maintenance), Ondrea Starzhevskiy (Bookkeeper), Allison Westerhoff (Associate Director), Erika Wilson (Office Manager/Registrar), Suzanne Wilson (Director of Food Services), Zach Wilson (Kitchen Staff)*



New Executive Directors

After a year-long, international search process, the Rev. Sarah and Adam Erickson were called as Co-Executive Directors of Mt. Cross, and began their ministry on January 1, 2018. The Ericksons have served congregations in Wisconsin, Missouri, and Kansas, as well as a call with ELCA Global Mission. Their vision for Mt. Cross is to expand the relationship between congregations and camp from the 1-week summer camp experience and integrate more deeply and profoundly with congregations and their members of all ages.



Harbor of Hospitality

Seafarers International House

123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003
212-677-4800 (seven days a week, 24 hours a day) — info@sihny.org — www.sihny.org



Rev. Marsh Luther Drege
Executive Director

We plan to make a difference. We plan to be part of God's plan. That's why we stand with seafarers. We stand with immigrants. We stand with domestic violence survivors and victims of human trafficking.

The numbers to the right tell part of that story, but what they mostly tell is that Seafarers International House is in the most unique position to visit seafarers in seven different ports, and house immigrants who are just coming out of detention or other challenging circumstances. What these numbers tell is that, while we continue our ministry of presence to seafarers who come into the ports or who stay at our guesthouse, our robust growth has been especially seen in the number of individuals and the number of nights (1,971 nights provided in 2017 compared to 805 in 2016) where we provide room in the inn for the most vulnerable of immigrants.

Indeed in 2017 we budgeted \$92,000 for aiding the asylees who come stay with us and yet actually invested over \$128,000 to assist and house those asylees who came our way. Obviously the need was greater than our plans and that is okay. "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). We are planning for the need by being open to where the need is. We plan to

Mission Highlights

Seafarers

	2017	2016	2015
Ships Boarded	1,335	1,686	1,852
Seafarers Visited	17,438	18,970	21,500
Van Trips	2,680	3,145	4,074
Seafarers Transported	8,679	7,661	11,478
Christmas-at-Sea Gifts	1,775	1,771	2,226

Immigrants

Refugees - Asylum Seekers	31	23	12
Lodging Nights	1,971	805	709

Community

Domestic Violence-Human Trafficking	27	8	14
Local Disaster Victims	168	72	56
Youth Service Gatherings	10	5	4
Church Gatherings	225	181	179
Community Gatherings	497	398	447

2017 was an unusual year for the port mission. Two port chaplains experienced serious health issues (shoulder surgery and stroke), removing them from service each for a month, another port chaplain experienced family health issues, removing her from service for one month, and two of the ports (Connecticut and Philadelphia) experienced a significant drop-off of ship arrivals in the last two months of the year. Based on the first nine months experience and adjusting for the impact of these health issue and ship arrival factors, the number of ships boarded would have been 1,800, the number of seafarers visited would have been 19,200, the number of van trips would have been 3,000 and the number of seafarers transported would have been 9,000. We are grateful that these health issues have passed, and we are encouraged that ship arrivals in Connecticut appear to have recovered thus far in 2018.

serve where the grace of God is most needed and our board of directors and supporters back that plan with all their resources and passion.

We currently plan also to take stock of our mission center- which is our guesthouse in Manhattan. After more than 50 years it is showing its age, and we are called to be good stewards of this valuable resource. Our Facilities Working group is seriously looking at the infrastructure of what our building needs are for another 50 years of service.

Concurrently, our leaders are looking at our mission strategy and planning for emerging needs.

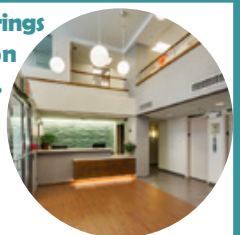
This much is true: we are the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and sojourners and, with your help, we will continue to plan for those needing our unconditional love today and into the hope and future of tomorrow.

Blessings,

Marsh Luther Drege

Remember, our Guesthouse also accommodates church gatherings and civic groups traveling to New York City in connection with their missions and needing safe, affordable lodging. Through these accommodations, we support your missions. And by staying here, you help to support our mission to seafarers, immigrants and other displaced persons.

Sleep Well, While Doing Good



YEAR IN REVIEW

Leadership Discipling Team

“The Leadership Discipling Team (LDT) is one of the seven discipling teams serving the synod. LDT seeks to cultivate the professional development of the Rostered ministers in the Sierra Pacific Synod, and to encourage their health and well-being. The team is concerned with the spiritual, relational, theological, professional, financial, physical and inter-personal aspects of the lives of our Rostered professional ministers. LDT provides support through the call process, synod guidelines for pastoral compensation guidelines, coaching, interim ministry, first call education, dean’s meetings, spiritual care, and the annual Professional Leaders Conference.”

Perhaps you recognize this description of our Team’s task from the synod website. There you can also find the goals which help shape and give focus to our work.

Annually this team, in consultation with the Bishop and Synod Council, presents to the Assembly the recommended salary and compensation guidelines for rostered ministers. Last year the Assembly requested that the Synod Council, in conjunction with the LDT, review how the guidelines might “be used to facilitate less that ‘full-time’ calls and contracts for service, offer clarification about equitable remuneration for pulpit supply, and facilitate greater flexibility in compensation negotiations between congregations and rostered [ministers].” (Resolution 2017-1).

We believe that we have responded to that direction in this year’s resolution.

This year the LDT was able to support, by way of scholarships and grants, several rostered ministers to attend the Professional Leadership Conference, Interim Training events, a Mutual Ministry workshop, a small group ministry workshop, and the Retired Clergy Retreat.

We ask for your continued prayers for your pastors and deacons as they seeks to serve the ministries that we all share in Christ’s church.

God’s blessing and peace,
Pr Kemp Segerhammar, Chair



LUTHERAN ENGAGEMENT and ADVOCACY IN NEVADA (LEAN)

At the time of the last Synod Assembly, the Nevada Legislature was in the final days of the 2017 Session. Because Nevada convenes the Legislature only 120 days in odd-numbered years, in 2018, Advocacy is less visible but in many ways more effective. LEAN saw several of its concerns addressed in the 2017 Session, and many of the issues that did not have good outcomes will return in the 2019 Session. LEAN is already planning for that.

LEAN is especially proud to have hosted, together with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Reno, a **commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation**. This effort was led by Rev. Mike Patterson, a former LEAN Advocate and Director, and until his retirement, Pastor of Gift of Grace Lutheran Fellowship in Fernley, Nevada. Lutheran and Catholic clergy from several parishes participated, along with choir singers from all. Offering was shared, and LEAN gifted its half to a food pantry operated by Faith Lutheran Church of Reno.

Allan Smith, LEAN's Advocate for the 2017 Legislative Session, retired from that post but remains on the LEAN Board, as does Rev. Patterson. LEAN is very pleased to have as the **new Advocate William (Bill) Ledford**, a young seminary student from a not-Lutheran tradition. He brings a fresh perspective to our work, as well as a lot of enthusiasm and talent. His priorities are connecting with each parish in Nevada and preparing for the 2019 Legislative Session.

LEAN was well represented at the **2018 Nevada Prayer Breakfast**. This event is sponsored by the Nevada Interfaith Association, and is a community gathering at which people of all faiths offer prayerful support for our State and our leaders. The breakfast provides an opening for LEAN to reach out to collaborate with others of faith for the good of the State of Nevada. This year's event included a video message from Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto, who referred to her strong Catholic values.

LEAN is at this time planning for an event in August known as **ULegislate**. The Nevada Legislature offers a unique learning experience that involves role-playing by parishioners. The exercise simulates introduction, debate, and passage (or not) of an actual bill. Participants play the roles of legislators and other interested parties, and they learn how difficult it is to foresee unintended consequences and reach compromise, in order to pass a bill.

LEAN Board Member Vic Williams has done a lot to increase LEAN's visibility through his skills as webmaster and moderator of our Facebook page. The website is www.leanforjustice.org.

LEAN continues to be grateful for financial support from ELCA hunger funds, but depends on support from local parishes as well. **Second Mile Giving** is an important source for LEAN, and the Board is grateful for the opportunity to explain throughout the Synod what we do and why.



Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

We are church together: This is our neighborhood – The Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California (www.lopeca.org) listens to, accompanies, and helps amplify the voices of those who tell stories of hunger, poverty, injustice, and discrimination, connecting faith and life, ethics and public policy, and congregations, members, and California's Capitol. We have been blessed with the freedom of our redemption in Christ, with the example of Jesus' life, with voices, hands, feet, and votes, and with a rich body of [ELCA social statements](#) and messages (some currently in the works!). May we be a church that blesses together all California neighbors – and all mean all!

2017 was a good year, and LOPP engaged in helping move significant legislation through the process in “all hands on deck” style: The extension of our greenhouse gas reduction law, and new air quality legislation; the California Values Act and other immigrant and refugee protection bills; a new housing fee for permanent funding of low-income housing; and campaign spending disclosure for ballot measures. Legislative priorities for 2018 are addressed in a dynamic process that calls for flexibility. Together with other faith advocates, LOPP supports raising the CalWORKS/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant, attending to deep (and traumatic) childhood poverty. LOPP supports a water fee to respond to the need for safe, affordable, water for drinking and hygiene in disadvantaged communities with contaminated water or inadequate infrastructure. Bail reform, a factor in impoverishing families, is our top criminal and racial justice priority. Immigration, access to food, health care, and child care, care for creation, and violence prevention are ongoing areas of work at the state level, as well as at the national level in collaboration with www.elca.org/advocacy. The ballot propositions (a blessing and curse) on the 2018 ballots are again calling for our collective action. In June ballot, LOPP supports [Prop. 68](#), a bipartisan parks and water bond with strong social equity and environmental justice components. We oppose Prop. 70, requiring a 2/3 vote for allocation of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds in 2024, because of the potential for fiscal gridlock and special interest influence. The housing bond on the November ballot is the top LOPP priority for the year. November could get more “interesting,” with the possibility of rent control and various tax measures reaching the ballot. Let's be church together for the sake of the world, and learn and share how these measures enable our neighbors and neighborhoods to thrive in harmony and equity, or threaten to increase poverty, deprivation, degradation, division, and exclusion.

LOPP priorities are pursued through direct advocacy, by supporting congregations and members engaged in advocacy, and by providing hospitality to groups visiting the Capitol at facilities at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento, which generously donates office space for LOPP. In 2018, the projected LOPP budget is about \$135,000, including \$114,354.77 provided by the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit, through an ELCA World Hunger grant to address systemic causes of domestic hunger and poverty. Other income includes support from the Sierra Pacific (\$5,092), Pacifica, and Southwest California Synods, and congregational and individual gifts. Thank you Sierra Pacific Synod congregations for \$2,061 in 2nd Mile giving in 2017!

As my “retirement” nears at the end of the year, deepest thanks to Policy Council members representing the Sierra Pacific Synod: Jo Ann Anderson, Rev. Jason Bense, Edie Lott, and many others over the years. Carol Roberts represents LSS – NorCal. Thanks to rostered and lay leaders, bishops, and all who have blessed this justice ministry for so long. Please continue to do so!

– Respectfully submitted, *Mark E. Carlson*, Director



provides crisis intervention, counseling, referral services and a spiritual presence every night of the year between the hours of 10:00 PM and 4:00 AM. We staff a Crisis Telephone Line and support Night Ministers who literally walk the streets of San Francisco, offering face-to-face conversations to those who are lonely, anxious, and afraid in the middle of the night, when crises are most acute and social services not readily available.

In addition, Night Ministry sponsors two outdoor worship services, three feeding programs, a wellness program, a volunteer night chaplain program, and several community-building and educational programs including Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), Internships and other ways that extend our outreach to many more people in need.

We believe that our work helps to make San Francisco a city that is healthier, safer, and more stable for all who live and work here by offering the following:

Bridging the Gap between the times when social services are offered

Building Healthy Communities and neighborhoods

Offering Companionship to those who are lonely and isolated

Attending the Mental & Physical Health of those who are compromised

Providing Harm Reduction for those at risk to themselves and others

Encountering and Assisting many of the most vulnerable who fall between the cracks of our social service systems

Healing the physical, emotional and spiritual wounds for those suffering

Night Ministry, now in its 54th year, receives no public funding, nor does it charge for any of its services. Last year we engaged in over 30,000 significant conversations, served over 10,000

meals, and provided several hundreds of emergency interventions.

Night Ministry can offer informational and educational events, as well as compelling and rewarding volunteer opportunities as we partner together to provide an important bridge and steady support for many people as they face the darkness of the nighttime, but not alone.

Thank you for your faithful support! In 2017 ***43 Congregations and ministries of the Sierra Pacific Synod***, and many individuals partnered with Night Ministry through direct financial contributions in response to the ***Second Mile Giving Program***. Several congregations have taken up collections of ***socks, coats, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, health kits and other items*** that can be distributed to those in need. Several others have been faithful in providing lunches for our Open Cathedrals. In addition, three Governing Board members, two Advisory Board members, six staff members and several Crisis Line Counselors and other volunteers come to us from congregations of the Sierra Pacific Synod.

Please remember us and those whom we serve in your prayers. Please know that we exist as an extension of your congregation's ministry to the troubled, lonely, anxious, the poor and those on the margins in our midst, and that we are available at a time when distress is often the most acute – in the middle of the night.

Thank you for helping us live out our mission – to ***"lighten the darkness and rekindle the hope"***.

In Christ,
Lyle J Beckman, Night Minister
April 2018

San Francisco Night Ministry
1031 Franklin Street
San Francisco, California 94109
Crisis Line – 415-441-0123
Office (for messages) 415-935-7862
www.sfnightministry.org
office@sfnightministry.org

Sierra Pacific Synod Women of the ELCA

The year 2017 was a challenging one for the Sierra Pacific Women of the ELCA. We began the year with the death of our treasurer Sandy Poirier. This necessitated changing positions on the Board. Cindi Eckert became treasurer moving from the position of Secretary and Nancy Marvits became Secretary moving from the position of Board Member.

President Linnea Laufer posted daily prayers to end human trafficking on Facebook during the Super Bowl period.

In March our Vice President Cynthia Allas resigned and was replaced by the Board with Pennie Sheaffer.

In June all Board members attended a one day retreat at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa joining with the women of Bethlehem.

Planning took place for much of the beginning of the year on our fall convention which was scheduled for ECCO Conference Center. It was set for September 8-10. When the time came, there was a fire in the Yosemite area and the conference center was closed. It was not possible to reschedule with ECCO as they were booked for the rest of the year. We decided to pare down the convention to one day and have it at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa on October 14th. On the night of October 8th, three fires broke out in and around Santa Rosa. In Santa Rosa itself, 1,300 homes were lost in the area of Coffey Park and another 500 in the area of Fountaingrove. Once again, our convention was disrupted by fire.

It was decided not to try to find another location for the convention and we received permission from National WELCA to have our elections for officers and Board members via email/mail. The results were as follows: Nancy Marvits, President; Laura Mott, Vice President; Pennie Sheaffer, Secretary; Cindi Eckert, Treasurer.

We are looking forward to a better 2018 and have already made plans for a one day Retreat to be held in Fresno on October 13th. More information about it to follow as we work on putting together a great program.

The Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center Year in Review (February, 2017 through April 24, 2018)

Your Synod Resource Center has had direct contact with well over 64 congregations in our Synod during this past year; Pastors, Lay Leaders and members have checked out a variety of resources including Bible Studies, Sunday School Curriculum, books, DVD's, and digital resources shared in the form of links; many congregations have received copies of Luther's Small Catechism; we have distributed numerous Traveling Luther's for Reformation 500; approximately 176 unique transactions took place. The topics that have been requested most this year have included: Martin Luther, Luther 500, Small Catechism, Stewardship, Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, Sunday School materials, and a variety of Bible Studies.

To be excellent stewards of resources we receive, we have found success in the following three areas:

1. Materials are ordered per request from our users. If we do not have what you want, we will search for and order it and have it sent directly to you, expecting it to be returned to the Resource Center when you are finished with it. This has been an excellent change in our ordering!
2. We are offering significantly more digital resources, in the form of links and digital books, when available. Once we find good digital materials, we are posting them in our Newsletter and on our Facebook page (Resource Center for the Sierra Pacifica Synod-ELCA).
3. Your Resource Center is a 'resource of its own.' Our advisory Board is a wealth of information, and members of the Association of Lutheran Resource Centers are always available to help find a resource or dig into a topic. We encourage you to check out our Facebook page and dialog with others who may be experts in the area you are seeking information. The Sierra Pacific Synod is filled with people who have unique areas of passion and knowledge. One of our goals is to connect you with the right people to meet your resource needs.

We have changed the frequency of our newsletters, waiting until we have new materials, links and information to share before creating a newsletter. Each newsletter will have current resources listed, often brand new to the Center.

I want to thank each person, congregation and organization in our Synod that has sent personal and congregational donations, Thrivent Choice Dollars, Thrivent Your Cause Grants, Thrivent Action Grants, Thrivent Chapter Grants to the Synod Resource Center. We have also been the recipient of numerous resource donations from a variety of congregations and individuals. Unable to name them all, thank you! We are sincerely thankful for your support. Our entire Synod is reaping the benefits of your generosity.

We are currently cataloguing a 97-book donation of materials about all things Islam and Eastern Religions donated by a former Missionary/Pastor and Teacher who spent much time in Indonesia, among other places. Contact me for a listing of these materials if you are interested. Thank you to Steven Haggmark and Nancy Johnson for this comprehensive collection!

A financial audit is being completed this month, April 2018.

Please continue to place your Resource Center in your prayers and pledge to support and use your Resource Center to its fullest.

In Christ,
Sierra Pacific Synod Resource Center
Janet Lane, Director