

Ten Things to Know about 1517 Media Spring 2022

1. Over the past year we have added several new **All Creation Sings**, resources including an expanded Indexes volume that includes both ACS and ELW listings, the *Guitar Accompaniment Edition*, the *Ensemble Setting of Setting 12*, and an eBook version of the Pew Edition. We continue to add learning resources that can help you use this hymnal supplement to enliven your congregation's worship in these rapidly changing times. augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings
2. Daniel Erlander's timeless work continues to inspire faith formation at all levels in the church. **Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe** is a family of books and curriculum to support conversations about the Bible with your whole congregation. This collection of resources complements three other series: **A Place for You** (Holy Communion), **Come to the Water** (Holy Baptism), and **Baptized, We Live** (introduction to Lutheranism). augsburgfortress.org/manna
3. Augsburg Fortress continues to support musical proclamation of the gospel with new seasonal choral music, vocal solo offerings, and piano and organ collections, including a new, second series of church year volumes in the acclaimed Augsburg Organ Library. augsburgfortress.org/new-releases
4. We have expanded our seasonal devotion options, with a new devotional for Advent and Christmas each year joining the Lent offering. Quantity discounts make these pocket-sized booklets ideal for congregational distribution and for household use. The accessible, colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into these central times of the year. augsburgfortress.org/seasonal-devotions
5. Fortress Press continues its legacy of publishing compelling theological, biblical, and ethical engagements for the church and the world in which it lives. New releases for 2022 include: **Storycraft: The Art of Spiritual Narrative by Walt Wangerin Jr.**, **20 Myths about Religion and Politics in America by Ryan Burge**, and an expanded edition of Fred Lehr's Clergy Burnout: **Surviving in Turbulent Times**. fortresspress.org
6. Our Broadleaf Books imprint explores the expanse of human experience—seeking to deepen faith and understanding and bring wholeness to readers and society. New 2022 releases include **You Can Talk to God like That**, **The Mindful Grandparent**, and **Unbossed: How Black Girls Are Leading the Way**. broadleafbooks.com
7. Sparkhouse provides digital access for a low annual fee through **Sparkhouse Digital** to a wide range of regularly refreshed resources for early childhood, children, and youth. Subscribers can access new digital activity kits that help congregations provide resources for use in the home or as a supplement to in-person faith formation activities. augsburgfortress.org/sparkhouse-digital
8. This spring Sparkhouse released a collection of poems by Joe Davis written with high school graduates in mind. **We Rise Higher: Poems and Prayers for Graduates** helps youth celebrate, commemorate, and reflect on this transition as they move on to the next phase of life. augsburgfortress.org/we-rise-higher
9. Frolic Preschool, Frolic Nursery, and Frolic Family introduce little ones to faith concepts in age-appropriate ways. This year we have released the award-winning Frolic Storybooks in affordable paperback bundles. wearesparkhouse.org/frolic
10. Beaming Books continues its mission to publish high-quality children's books that help kids thrive in every part of who they are—emotionally, socially, and spiritually. New releases for 2022 include: **God's Holy Darkness**, **The Animals Speak: A Christmas Eve Legend**, **God Made All Your Feelings**, and **Mother God**. beamingbooks.com

Want to learn more? Follow us on social media. Sign up for our free eNewsletters at augsburgfortress.org | wearesparkhouse.org | fortresspress.com | beamingbooks.com | broadleafbooks.com

Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries (ALSM)

2022 Message to the Allegheny Synod, ELCA

Greetings and blessings to each of you from the leadership of ALSM!

Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries (ALSM) is the only regional faith-based not-for-profit organization offering services that span the generations. ALSM has been responding to the needs of our communities for nearly 75 years.

At the heart of our mission is the ability to provide benevolent care for those whose resources have been depleted through unexpected changes in circumstances as a resident. Each year, approximately 370 people who reside in ALSM's senior living communities are provided these funds-- totaling more than \$2.7 million--in order to be able to live as independently as possible. We are grateful that no one has been asked to leave a community because of a lack of funds.

ALSM is able to fulfill its mission and touch the lives of more than 3,000 people because of the partnership we share in this ministry with each of you. As ALSM serves individuals throughout an eight-county area, you may know someone who has received our services or lives in one of our senior communities. I would like to share an example of how ALSM touches the lives of people.

Fay's Story:

For the past three years, Fay, a widowed veteran, has received the services of ALSM at Home. The staff team members visit him twice a week, staying three hours each visit. "I highly recommend them. Everything they do is terrific," said Fay. "I had another group before ALSM at Home and I asked them to stop visiting. It was always someone new coming to my home. With ALSM, I have Tina and Rita who visit me each week. They know exactly what needs done and they get right to it!" The team helps Fay maintain his independence in his home. "I cannot keep my house going without them. They clean, do laundry,

fix me a bite to eat, among other things," he shared. "I look forward to their visits. They are like family to me, like daughters."

"I have bad knees and hips and elbows from years spent on my favorite pastime," said Fay. He was Altoona's beloved "Snow Cone Man" for more than thirty years. Prior to retiring from PPG, he spent four hours nightly in the summer delivering smiles to as many children as possible. In retirement he spent nine hours a day in his Jeep driving three routes, providing joy and delicious frozen treats. "I enjoyed it and continued until it took its toll on my body. Crushing ice is hard on your shoulders, back and legs. I have always believed in supporting the youth in my community, either as a youth counselor or the Snow Cone Man."

Margaret's Story:

Margaret Coleman is "Aging Her Way" in her cottage at Blairmont Commons on the campus of The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg. Margaret moved into the cottage four years ago and she has been receiving in-home care services through ALSM at Home for the past three years. "I am doing better living in the cottage than living in my home."

Margaret's cottage is filled with some of her favorite things, such as her piano and organ. She doesn't play much anymore due to an injury suffered while playing the organ at a local church. "I have had many surgeries as a result of the injury. I even spent 47 days in The Lutheran Home receiving therapy and recovering," she said. "I like having ALSM at Home visit me. Tracy visits five days each week for one hour a day. You can get a lot done in one hour. She assists me with any personal care needs I may have, helps with dishes, laundry, mopping the floor and even accompanies me on walks around



continued

my neighborhood. I also have meals delivered from The Lutheran Home for dinner. I like having that service. The food is good. I am widowed and my children live out of the area. I do not want to move to where they live. This is my home and where I want to be.”

We are truly blessed to be able to serve the needs of people throughout our region with the following programs and services:

- **Senior Communities** (The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg, The Lutheran Home at Johnstown and The Oaks at Pleasant Gap)
- **Rental assistance senior housing** (Lutheran Commons at Berlin Pike and Lutheran Commons at Pleasant Gap)
- **Community Services** (ALSM at Home)
- **Children’s Services** (Head Start, Early Head Start, Family Center, Growing Years Early Learning Centers, Kid Stop before-and-after programs and PRE-K Counts programs)

In 2021, we began to see some normalcy return to our program and communities. The children enrolled in classroom-based programs returned to in-person learning while visitors were welcomed back to senior living, all while adhering to the guidelines of our regulatory bodies. We thank you and the members of your congregations for your prayerful and financial support.

A few highlights from our programs and services include:

Senior Living Communities

- Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries senior living communities continue to take every precaution to keep everyone safe and follow public health recommendations to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- Wello Station X touchless temperature stations were added to our communities to screen visitors and staff team members. The stations assist in the prevention of and the spread of COVID, influenza strains, and other viral diseases.
- Volunteers are welcome on campus again. Volunteers follow the same safety protocols as ALSM team members for safety and protection. If you would like

to discuss volunteer opportunities, please contact:

- Jennifer Helsley – The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg, 814.696.4527
- Cassidy Keilman – The Lutheran Home at Johnstown, 814.255.6844
- Sara Wright – The Oaks at Pleasant Gap, 814.359.2782

Blairmont Commons, Hickory Commons and The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg

- Blairmont and Hickory Commons cottages offer residents a stress-free lifestyle. Exterior and interior maintenance are included in the cost, allowing residents the time to enjoy their favorite activities. The cottages are energy efficient and handicapped accessible so that residents may “age in place” in this secure neighborhood setting. These independent living residences attract individuals age 55 and over. The waiting list for these cottages continues to grow.
- The bright and spacious apartments at Hillcrest are perched atop the famous “Double Dips” in historic Hollidaysburg, overlooking ALSM’s Hickory Commons campus. Small pets are welcome. Meals plans are available with dining room and to-go options.
- The Lutheran Home continues to focus on individuals who are in need of short-term rehab. Many times, persons who have suffered a stroke or are recovering from a broken limb or limb replacement surgery may benefit from therapy services in a nursing home setting. In addition, long-term care residents are also accepted.
- Short term respite stays are available. Respite stays allow family caregivers to take a break from caregiving, tend to their own health care needs, go on vacation or attend a family celebration such as a wedding or graduation.
- For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Gloria Smith at 814.696.4527.

The Lutheran Home at Johnstown

- The continuing care campus is located in the historic Westmont neighborhood of Johnstown. Cottage homes and one and two-bedroom apartments are bright and spacious. The personal

care accommodations with a full bathroom provide comfort and privacy for those who require a helping hand. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Ray Soto at 814.255.6844.

- The Lutheran Home continues to focus on individuals who are in need of short-term rehab. Many times, persons who have suffered a stroke or are recovering from a broken limb or limb replacement surgery may benefit from therapy services in a nursing home setting. In addition, long-term care residents are also accepted.
- Short-term respite stays are available in personal care and health care. Respite stays allow family caregivers to take a break from caregiving, tend to their own health care needs, go on vacation or attend a family celebration such as a wedding or graduation.

The Oaks at Pleasant Gap

- The Oaks at Pleasant Gap campus continues to serve the needs of those who desire personal care services as well as independent living. For those seniors who meet income guidelines, there is also a 14-unit apartment building, Lutheran Commons at Pleasant Gap. There is now a waiting list but applications are being accepted. For information on Lutheran Commons, call Justin Arko at 814.696.4500 or 800.400.2285.
- Additional independent living cottages are under construction. Reservations are now being accepted for new cottage homes. For information or to schedule a tour of The Oaks, call Melissa Hall at 814.359.2782.
- Short term respite stays are available. Respite stays allow family caregivers to take a break from caregiving, tend to their own health care needs, go on vacation or attend a family celebration such as a wedding or graduation.

Community Services

- Services of ALSM at Home include personal care, cleaning, meal preparation, assistance with the activities of daily living (such as bathing, dressing and medication reminders) and companionship. Often, members of our staff team provide respite care for persons who live with their families. Services may be scheduled in one hour increments.

Children's Services

- Growing Years Early Learning Center and Kid Stop managers completed educational courses through the Keystone STARs program for continuous quality improvement. The centers have a rating of 3 STAR out of 4 STAR or higher. Those centers include Bedford and Johnstown Kid Stops and Growing Years in Bedford and Johnstown. PRE-K Counts is offered through Growing Years in Bedford and Johnstown.
- Head Start continued partnerships with the Intermediate Units 08 and 11 to provide inclusive preschool programming to children in Bedford and Fulton counties.
- Head Start continued collaborations with the Chestnut Ridge, Northern Bedford and Central Fulton school districts for preschool programming.
- The Family Center of Bedford County serves families through home visits, monthly playgroups, fathers' groups and special events.

In addition to these program highlights, ALSM's annual golf outing raised more than \$40,000 for benevolent care. We invite you to join us at this year's outing, scheduled for Monday, July 25 at Scotch Valley Country Club. For more information, please contact the Advancement Office at 814.696.4516.

We appreciate your prayerful support and **thank you** for your partnership in our mission of serving people with love, compassion and mercy in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

For more details on ALSM programs, I invite you to visit our website at www.alsm.org. For a copy of ALSM's Annual Report, please call 814.696.4516 or send an email to development@alsm.org.

In His service,



Patricia W. Savage, President/CEO
998 Logan Blvd.
Altoona, PA 16602
814.696.4500 • 800.400.2285
www.alsm.org

"To serve people through a ministry of love, compassion, and mercy in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ."

Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization 2021 Report

With some of the COVID 19 restrictions lifted the Synodical Women's Organization Board met in-person five times in 2021. We were also able to hold an in-person convention on October 23, 2021, at Duncansville Evangelical Lutheran Church. The convention was limited to a morning session and consisted of breakfast, worship and business session. The evaluation forms indicated that the format was very well received by the voting members and guests. We are busy planning a similar convention for October, 2022.

At the convention the out going president, Carol McClure and vice-president, Peggy Thatcher, were recognized for their many years of service on the board of the Synodical Women's Organization.

Fay Dellinger was elected as president; Terri Lingenfelter, vice-president; Jeanne Fleegle, secretary; and two new board members, Mary Ann Wolfhope and Carol Sauter were elected. Board members, Peggy Steinfurth, Donna College, and Treasurer Donna Wilt, continue to serve on the board.

It is no secret that the number of active congregational units has been declining over the years. Covid 19 and the restrictions imposed did not help the situation. I would like to ask each of you to consider encouraging your congregation to become an active unit of the Women of the ELCA. Our newsletter, *The Courier*, is mailed to every congregation in the Allegheny Synod and is available on the Synod website, and it includes all contact information for officers and board members.

One of the important responsibilities of the Synodical Women's Organization has been coordinating the

transportation of the LWR blankets, quilts and kits. The following is the report of the 2021 collection.

Blankets	104
Quilts	1,383
Personal Care Kits	633
Baby Kits	4
School Kits	609
Fabric Kits	17
Baby Sweater/Hats	15

In addition, Bethany, Altoona sent 72 Quilts to St. Francis University Blanketeers that went to 3 countries.

We are currently looking for someone to volunteer to coordinate the transportation for the 2022 collection. This involves contacting the trucking company and supervising the process of loading the truck.

The Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA was held virtually August 3–5, 2021. At that convention several changes to the constitution were approved. The Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization's constitution has been updated to reflect these changes. If you have any questions about these changes please feel free to contact us.

We wish to thank all of you for your continued support of our organization and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted by:
Fay Dellinger, President

Breezewood Trucker and Traveler The Year In Review 2021

Greetings and grace to all in the name of the Lord! We appreciate your partnership in this marketplace outreach. The Breezewood Trucker and Traveler Ministry is blessed to record the following:

(2018) (2019) (2020) (2021)

1168 1043 331..... 533.....trucker contacts.
 1429 1213 397..... 854.....traveler contacts.
 764743 477..... 505.....employee/staff contacts.
 8269 48..... 65.....spiritual/emotional assistance for truckers.
 143132 91..... 104.....spiritual/emotional assistance for employee/staff.
 261273 184..... 246.....pastoral care calls in the community.
 1041 1231 1041.... 1224.....food resource provided.
 85108 199..... 184.....nights of lodging provided.
 3637 44..... 40.....persons assisted with gasoline.
 145164 48..... 49.....persons provided with transportation(including bus).
 2345 55..... 37.....camping gear, bags, showers, gift cards, cash, or clothing.
 271117 131..... 82.....traveler's "Zip Lock" care packages given.
 195202 82..... 80.....Bibles or New Testaments given.
 285210 105..... 52.....families/individuals served through Christmas food drive.
 1491.....1.....local church sponsored holiday hospitality tables.
 3222 14..... 13.....ministry presentations/preaching/special services.
 9389 22..... 21.....Bible studies/ prayer service.
 2177 2130 1803.... 2005.....professional staff hours worked.
 1830 2323 1379.... 1606.....hours served by volunteers.

Professional Corporate Chaplaincy: Spiritual Care Association Membership

After 2020 our insides ached for a return to "normalcy," but 2021 brought more great shaking of cultural / commercial/civic foundations. Many lost loved ones; grief is very real. Breezewood has been invited along with the rest of the world to steady ourselves and align our recovery with a Higher Authority. At the crossroads we encounter people wrestling with the dissatisfactions of under-employment or the over-employment of weeks of pressure deliveries or staffing shortages. We walk with the grieving and pray for communities affected by

COVID, and those individuals socially isolated by virus fears who turn to illicit activities to fill the void and assuage trauma. Through it all the ever-present sources of electronic media have flooded brains and distracted us from the truths that God would rather explode into our social media accounts, phones and computers. The prophet Jeremiah spoke of great laments for an exiled people who lost their national identity when Jerusalem was burned/destroyed, yet his message contained hope! Within 70 years the exiles returned to their beloved

continued

Palestine, and a SPIRITUAL return to faith was set before the people in a promise(prophecy) of a Messiah. Jesus entered history a few centuries later and fulfilled what peoples in all ages could not accomplish in their own good efforts. God continues to enter history(ie: our day and age)as the Highest Authority, offering a game changing reconciliation through Christ in a world such as we know in Breezewood. At a hub of highway commerce, we are blessed to offer pastoral care and share messages of hope and promise for the challenges of any age!

We continue to coordinate for food, fuel, care packages, transportation, and emergency lodging for those in need. We give thanks for a management team, partner

churches, businesses, and individuals whose faithfulness multiplies resources for ministry! In a year of recovery, we are thankful for ELCA congregations, and very dedicated/creative management members including David Wright(St. Peter's and Messiah), and Judith Simonson (Mt. Zion, Breezewood)!

(HE) WILL WATCH OVER HIS FLOCK LIKE A SHEPHERD

Jeremiah 31

P.O. Box 286, Breezewood, PA 15533; (814) 977-6964

Grace Delivered Lutheran Mobile Ministry

A mobile ministry uniting ELCA congregations in Somerset County to impact our communities and inspire people with God's grace.



LUTHERAN MOBILE MINISTRY

2021 Annual Report

After many delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Grace Delivered officially launched in 2021 with a celebration at Faith Lutheran Church, Somerset. At the launch, people were invited to get hands-on with the trailer, tents, and generator that Grace Delivered has available for use. We shared refreshments, collected cases of water and other drinks to donate to the volunteer fire companies across Somerset County, and attendees were given forms to use to apply for use of the trailer/equipment for their projects.

We had our first official board election at the Laurel Highlands Conference Spring Assembly on May 6, 2021. In addition to purchasing the trailer and planning the launch, the board has been hard at work continuing to organize, including securing insurance and creating the application for use of equipment.

We spent some time working with Scott Ash and his team of designers to create a new logo for our ministry, which we are excited to be unveiling. The logo captures the dynamic movement of our ministry-on-wheels and is presented in the same colors as the logo of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to honor our particular Lutheran way of embodying the grace of Christ in our communities.

We did not hold any fundraising events in 2021 as we felt it was important to get out into the community and make a difference before we ask for any more financial support.

The trailer and other equipment are being stored at Camp Sequanota when not making the rounds to the congregations in Somerset County. We are grateful for the space and hope we will find more ways to partner with Sequanota as we get creative with our ministry.

Thank you to our board members who have been working hard to get Grace Delivered organized and on

the road. We are excited to see the next phase of this ministry as congregations creatively engage to impact our communities and inspire people with God's grace.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dena Gable
Chair of the Board

P.O. Box 996, Somerset, PA 15501
info@gracedelivered.org

Board Members

The Rev. Dena Gable (Chair)
Lavansville-Bakersville Parish

Josh Spangler (Vice-Chair)
Mt. Calvary, Lavansville

Hanna Weimer (Secretary)
Laurel Trinity, Jennerstown

Vicar Allen Stump (Treasurer)
Christ Trinity Parish

The Rev. Jonathan Adams
Benscreek

Nicholas Carroll
Trinity, Somerset

Elizabeth Thomas
Benscreek

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State /Lutheran Student Community

Each year, students from across the country and across the globe pack their belongings, their hopes and dreams for the future, along with their fears and uncertainties, and head to college or university. On campus, they will encounter academic and personal challenges and joys while they grow and learn about the world and about themselves. Through Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State, students at Penn State encounter Jesus on this part of their journey into adulthood.

Lutheran Campus Ministry is your presence on campus. On behalf of the synod and the whole church, we walk with students through their years at the university, offering opportunities for connection, growth, and service. We provide ongoing reminders of God's love and presence in the world for individual students and the campus community as a whole.

Worshipping Community – Students gather for worship on campus with Lutheran Student Community mid-week at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center. Using the ancient texts of Evening Prayer, students sing, pray, share readings and reflections, and encounter God in this secular university setting. On Sundays, students are welcomed at Grace Lutheran Church near campus, connecting with campus minister, Deacon Alicia Anderson, at either Sunday morning congregational worship, or Sunday evening hybrid worship led by a music team and the staff of Grace and Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Community Connections – Students are grateful to connect with each other in faith-based settings. Over meals, at volunteer opportunities, through discussions, and in worship they build supportive friendships with other students of faith. These are people who can truly share the journey together, supporting and caring for each other in the highs and lows of university life and the years beyond. They laugh together, share their challenges, pray for each other, and embody the presence of God with and for one another.

Service and Learning – Students are eager to share their time and abilities to help those around them. Through service both on campus and off campus, they find the joy of helping and learn more about the complexities of need, generosity and justice. They also

learn about themselves while serving as God's hands in the local community and wider world.

Growing in Faith and Knowledge – Students seek out safe places to ask questions and discover new understandings. Through informal conversations, discussion events, campus-wide speakers, and one-on-one conversations our campus minister, students can explore questions and delve into the intersection of faith and daily life. They discern how God is calling them to serve the needs of the world through their life's work, their activities & interests, and the relationships they have.

Pandemic Impacts & Programs – Covid-19 has continued to shape ministry and life on campus this year. Spring semester 2021, before vaccines were available for most of the campus population, safety restrictions kept our community masked and distanced for worship. Singing and eating together was not allowed until the end of the semester, but the opportunity to worship together, pray with one another, and "sing in our hearts" while listening to the music of the liturgy helped students encounter God despite the challenges. Fall semester 2021, with over 90% of the Penn State student body fully vaccinated, restrictions did allow worship in a circle and singing again. Sharing meals together resumed and the students are grateful for the community as well as the dinner.

Grace Lutheran Church continues to be an important partner in ministry with and among students. In-person worship resumed in the summer of 2021 and students returning after two and a half semesters away from the building. Meals and other student-focused programming at Grace Lutheran have been delayed by Delta and Omicron and uncertainties about spread of the Covid-19 on campus. Student vocalists are an important part of the Sunday Morning Choir at Grace, where they help led singing in masks with physical distance on Sundays and occasional mid-week worship since mid-fall.

Uncertainty about Delta and Omicron limited options for some service event and led to the cancellation of the winter Vocation retreat. Student were able to volunteer at the Penn State Arboretum in both the spring and fall of 2021 and with the Hunger Awareness Taskforce. Plans are in place for a Service & Learning Pilgrimage in

continued

Washington, DC for a portion of Spring Break in early March 2022. As case numbers and hospitalization rates decrease, we are cautiously optimistic about more events in the months ahead. As of February 2022, Penn State continues to require masks for all indoor events.

Campus Partnerships – Lutheran Campus Ministry and Lutheran Student Community continues important connections with other groups on campus. With our office in Pasquerilla Spiritual Center provides regular opportunities to work with the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Development (CSED) on events and projects, including Candlelit Labyrinth Walk in Eisenhower Chapel this spring.

In the fall, we led a team including CSED, Presbyterian Student Fellowship, Wesley Penn State, and Bellisario College of Communications to host award-winning journalist and 1619 Project creator Nikole Hannah-Jones at events with both student leaders and the general public, thanks for funding from University Park Allocation Committee.

Partnership with Hillel at Penn State has led to plans for the Interfaith Fellowship which will bring students from various faith backgrounds together to explore what it means to be a “person of faith” on campus. Over spring break, we will partner with Presbyterian and United Methodist ministries for Explore DC: A Service & Learning Pilgrimage. In partnership with State College Presbyterian Church, DiscernPSU continues to invite students and those who work with them to look at issues of calling and vocation, despite some Covid-19 related setbacks this year.

Online Presence – Online presence has become even more important for Lutheran Campus Ministry through the pandemic. When students were sent home, were isolating because of illness or exposure, or are simply weary from masking and tending safety precautions, virtual ways to connect with our community have been especially welcome. Through regular Facebook and Instagram posts, weekly listserv messages, and our website, students (and others) can find reflection and prayer resources, get updates on events and opportunities, and request prayers.

Joy on the journey – As Lutheran Campus Ministry has continued to accompany students in their Journey with Jesus through the college years, we have encountered many gifts unique to the pandemic times. The resilience of students has been remarkable. Their openness to change and adjust plans or routines for safety’s sake has eased the stress from the constant need to adapt. It has been beautiful to see how deeply grateful students are for opportunities to actually be together, and

to how sincerely they explore God’s word and God’s work in the world. They have learned important lessons about how to care for each other, welcome each other, and make room for each person’s gifts in these challenging times.

We are grateful – We truly are grateful that the Allegheny Synod sees the vital need for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State and our work on campus. Our work could not continue without ongoing synod support, congregational gifts, and individual donations. Your financial contributions, volunteer time, leadership skills, student referrals, regular prayers, and other support help us continue to bring the good news of Jesus on campus.

We invite your continued prayers for campus ministry and for students as they face the unique challenges of university life in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. Please pray especially for those who will graduate this year and those who will arrive on campus for their first year this fall.

Thank you for the important partnership we share in this ministry.

Peace,

Alicia Anderson, Minister of Word and Service
(ELCA Deacon)

Website: lutheranpennstate.org

Social Media on Facebook and Instagram: [@lutheranpennstate](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranpennstate)

Weekly listserv for students: [Sign Up Here](#)

NEW! Beginning May 2022 - Quarterly messages for friends of Lutheran Campus Ministry: [Sign Up Here](#)

You Can Help Connect Students – Lutheran Campus Ministry sites at more than 250 schools across the country invite your help connecting students to campus ministry. If you know students at a college or university anywhere in the country, you can visit the LuMin Network website to share the student’s contact information with campus ministry, (luminelca.org/refer-a-student/) or to find information to share with the student about campus ministry at their school (luminelca.org/ministries/). You can do the same with students who are enrolled or enrolling at Penn State.

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State is the ELCA’s presence on the Penn State campus, supported through grants from the Allegheny Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA Churchwide, plus individuals and congregations who are committed to fostering spiritual growth of students on campus which lays a groundwork for their lives after graduation.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Siblings in Christ of the Allegheny Synod,

2021 was many things — frustrating, surprising, heartbreaking, and heartening — to name a few. At Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, however, the word we find ourselves using the most is transformative.

Like all of you, we found ourselves facing parallel crises: the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, an influx of vulnerable immigrant children at our border, and the devastating refugee crisis in Afghanistan. While it was an incredibly difficult year in many ways, it was also one of the most inspiring in our 83-year history.

People of faith and communities like yours stepped up in ways that we never could have expected to meet this moment and fulfill our Biblical call to welcome the stranger. In the last year alone:

- **100,000 volunteers** signed up to support our refugee and immigrant neighbors
- Supporters provided more than **\$30,000 worth** of essential items like cell phones and gift cards to our Afghan brothers and sisters
- **14,000+ generous donors** opened their hearts to the ministry of welcome
- LIRS welcomed more than **10,500 Afghans** through our nationwide resettlement network
- Our team assisted in reunifying or placing nearly **33,000 children** in loving homes
- We sent nearly **20,000** holiday cards and **1,750+ gifts** to families affected by immigration detention
- LIRS launched several exciting new programs and offices, such as field offices in Northern Virginia and Fargo, ND; the New American Cities economic empowerment program; Mental Health services for refugee children and families, and more.

Our resettlement and immigration services were complemented by our ever-growing slate of annual programs, which offer the public opportunities to **ADAPT**: Act, Donate, Advocate, Pray, and Teach. We invite you to engage with LIRS, as an individual or community, through one of our five key programs:

- Stand Up Speak Up — Our interfaith advocacy program organized each spring
- Gather — A cultural education program hosted in the fall
- Hope for the Holidays™ — LIRS' flagship winter program for supporting families impacted by immigration detention
- EMMAUS Congregational Network — Our network of congregations who receive resources and support from LIRS
- LIRS Ambassador Network — A community of change-makers from around the US

In 2022, we are deepening our commitment to the work of welcome and believe that together, we can realize Matthew 25:35 in communities across the United States. We are so grateful for your astounding support and look forward to welcoming our newest neighbors alongside you.

In peace,

Dr. Kristin Witte, Director for Outreach

Mission Investment Fund



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

With faith and finance at our core

The Mission Investment Fund, a financial services ministry of the ELCA, provides a strong, stable, faith-based way for individuals, congregations and ministries to achieve their financial goals.

MIF provides a range of investments for individuals, congregations and ministries. We put those investments to work to fund building and renovation loans for congregations and partner ministries, including social service agencies and outdoor camps.

The result? Impact investments, with a transformative impact on our communities: Expanded worship spaces ... new space for education and youth ministry ... much-needed day care centers for working families ... industrial-grade kitchens and fellowship halls for community meals.

We were present for our investors and borrowers that needed assistance during the pandemic. We collaborated with our ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, to offer expedited loans for congregations, ministries and individuals, as well as 360 Paycheck Protection Program loans totaling

\$13.9 million. The PPP loans helped continue payroll for some 2,100 congregation and ministry employees and continued in-person and virtual worship and ministry services for more than 95,000 church members throughout 2020 and 2021.

MIF has a longstanding tradition of strength and stability. At year-end 2021, MIF had 820 loans outstanding, totaling \$575.4 million. Investment obligations totaled \$575.4 million. With total assets of \$822.0 million and net assets of \$226.4 million at year-end 2021, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 27.5 percent-positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.



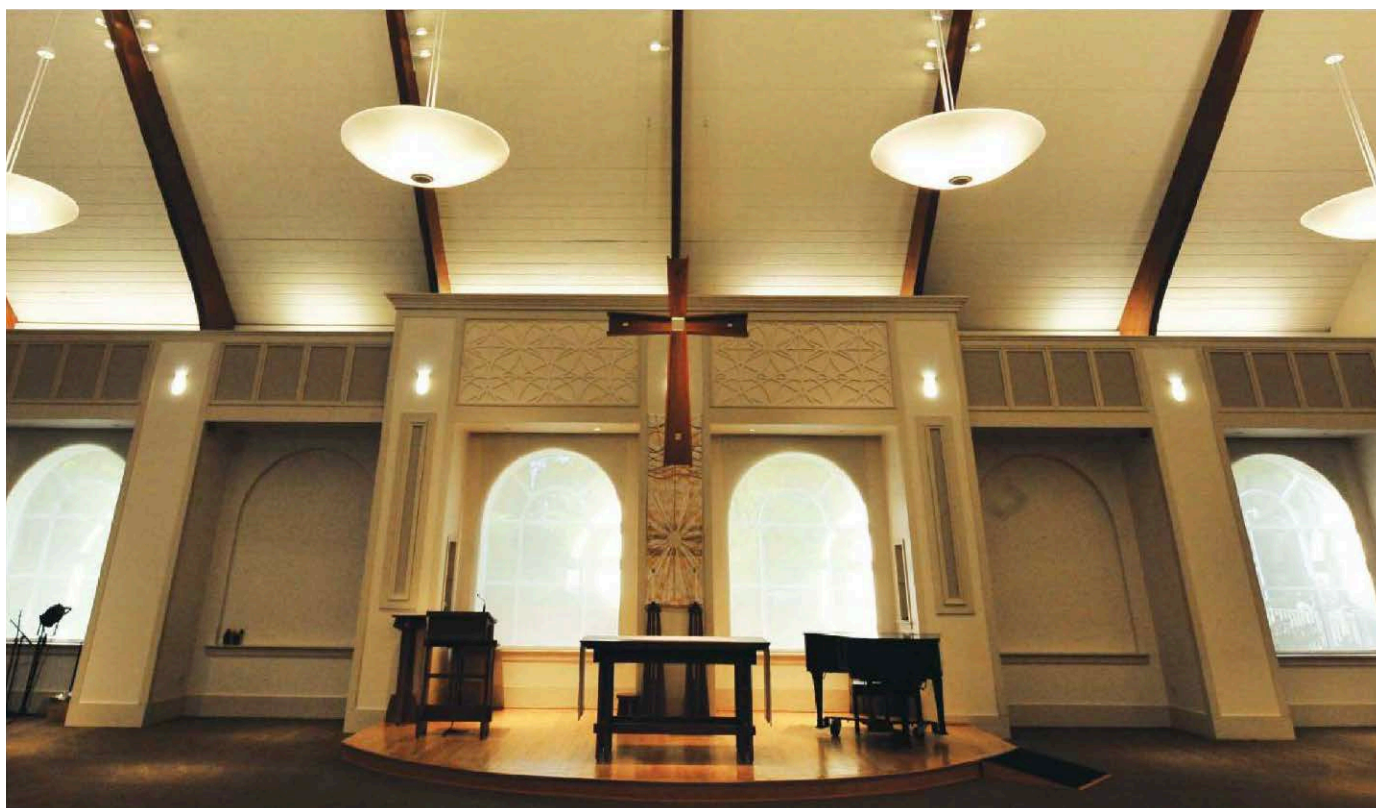
Our steadfast support continues for the members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA and the many ways you minister to a world in need. We are honored to walk alongside you as a trusted partner.

MIF at work in the Allegheny Synod (as of December 31, 2021):

- 1 Mission Investment Fund loan, with a balance of \$27,861
- \$2,509,502 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

Mission Investment Fund
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631
Tel: 877-886-3522
Web: mif.elca.org

continued



The Mission Investment Fund can be your financial resource and partner of choice.

Why MIF?

MIF has demonstrated expertise in church and ministry financing. As a ministry of the ELCA with longstanding experience in congregation and ministry building projects, we're unique among lending institutions. We're prepared to listen to what you need, we understand your requirements, and we'll serve as your strategic partner.

We offer competitive rates and terms. MIF consistently offers competitive rates. And now, interest rates on loans remain at historic lows.

We offer a full suite of financial services. In addition to loans, MIF offers congregations, ministries and individuals a host of investment options. Our financial ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, offers an additional array of financial services.

The faithful stewardship of Lutheran congregations and their members funds our loans. We use the money invested in MIF to finance hundreds of capital projects across the church.

For more information about MIF capabilities, please visit our website, mif.elca.org or contact your Regional Manager the Rev. Kent Peterson: 276-698-7970 kent.peterson@elca.org

Portico Benefit Services

Benefit Stability in Uncertain Times

PORTICO®

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

As the pandemic ebbed and flowed in 2021, Portico's benefits remained a reliable constant for ELCA congregations and organizations, affirming the importance of church together.

- ELCA-Primary health benefits helped to lower stress levels and provided virtual access to health care.
- The ELCA Retirement Plan continued to deliver strong investment returns while offering no- or low-cost access to financial planning and coaching services.

In recent years, we've brought added stability to our program by extending quality, cost-effective benefits to more of those who serve. As we include more ELCA-affiliated social ministry organizations, colleges, and universities, as well as full communion partner denominations, we grow the size of our pool, which, in turn, allows us to secure lower administrative fees and innovative benefits not typically available to smaller groups. In this way, we continue our mission to serve those who serve.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2021

869

Plays of New Portico Podcast

Hosted by an ELCA pastor on current issues impacting our faith community.

34%

Chose New Voluntary Benefit

Through our cost-saving vision care services provider.

643

Retired

In Portico's bundled benefits program — Well done, good and faithful servants!

7.3%

Annuity Payment Increase

Approved for ELCA annuitants in 2022.

2,564

Medical Visits via Text

Through 98point6®, our virtual primary health care service.

8

Large Organizations Joined

In 2021 — 1 ELCA college, 6 ELCA-affiliated social ministries, and 1 full communion partner social ministry.

2,880

Classes Completed in 2021

On Bernalong, Portico's new online fitness and wellness benefit.

76%

More Accessed Financial Coaching

Through LSS of Minnesota in 2021 than during the same period in 2020.

87.8%

Very Satisfied

With our Customer Care Center service.

Sequanota Lutheran Conference Center & Camp

Sequanota is turning 75 years old this year.

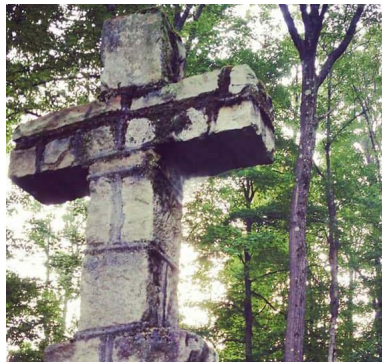
The people of this Allegheny region purchased and built Sequanota to be a place set apart to develop leaders for the church. It is through the hard work and donations from the local families and congregations that Sequanota has made a legacy in faith formation for believers of all ages. June 24-26, 2022 Sequanota is hosting a celebration on site to welcome back all camper and staff alumni. Lodging is completely full for the event, but individuals and families can join us for either Saturday's full day of events or Sunday's worship service (11 a.m. at Luther League chapel - shuttle service available). Meal purchases can be made online at www.sequanota.com under the events tab. Please invite your friends and family to join us for a memorable weekend. Many past directors and their families will be joining us for the festivities.

A BIG word of thanks to all the supporters of Sequanota, who made donations of time and treasure to help camp survive through the pandemic. It was an uncertain time, but because of you - Sequanota will be here for the future to help pass on God's love and the values we hold as important in these Allegheny hills and valleys. This pandemic has assisted in drawing in stronger support from alumni and is a trend that will need to continue to make Sequanota sustainable.

Sequanota continues to serve the congregations and people of the Allegheny Synod despite the struggle of managing the effects of the global pandemic. Sequanota is adapting to the new normal and hoping that retreat guests will return as the pandemic stabilizes. Things are not back to normal, but our guest groups are slowly returning. This summer we will see two of our larger guest groups return. Sequanota over the last decade plus had served more adults than children with our year round ministry and retreat facility. Sequanota has not seen a return to this level of usage. We strongly believe that the church and its people will need time away to nurture faith and grow in community. Sequanota is ready to support our congregations as you make plans for the future.

There are still a few spaces open for summer camp and if campers need it. We still have scholarships available. Sign up for both online at www.sequanota.com.

Office: 814-629-6627 • contact@sequanota.com • www.sequanota.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 245, Jennerstown, PA 15547



Susquehanna University

Life of the University

The 2021-2022 academic year marks the 164th for Susquehanna University. The University continues to serve a religiously diverse student body, about 8% of whom self-identify as Lutheran and who hail from 35 states and 22 countries. Dr. Jonathan Green, Susquehanna's 15th president, is completing his fifth year of service.

Campus Religious Activities

Susquehanna has been resilient in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Religious Life continues to help members of the academic community integrate faith, life, and learning. Many religious life organizations and various ministries and programs offered by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life help students grow spiritually as they grow intellectually.

Sunday worship services are held in Weber Chapel when classes are in session, welcoming students, faculty and staff as well as people from the surrounding community. The student leadership intern program allows select students to explore Christian service through formal servant-leadership roles.

Interfaith engagement is a strong commitment of ELCA institutions of higher education generally, and Susquehanna in particular. Twelve different religious student clubs and organizations attest to the vibrancy of

religious life on campus. In February, a panel discussion was hosted: "Interfaith Perspectives on Racial Equity in the Susquehanna Valley," featuring regional religious leaders from a variety of traditions.

Ours is a religiously diverse campus, a reality which we embrace not in spite of but because of our Lutheran tradition, which teaches that the other is to be welcomed as Christ and that education serves the common good.

In our world where religious conflicts are routinely in the headlines, the work of building bridges of understanding and cooperation across lines of religious and philosophical difference is an essential civic and spiritual task. Such work has been an important part of religious life at Susquehanna in the past year.

In Conclusion

Susquehanna University deeply appreciates the ongoing support and encouragement that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Allegheny Synod give to its efforts to be a strong and successful college of the Church.

The Rev. Scott M. Kershner
Chaplain to the University

United Lutheran Seminary

United Lutheran Seminary (ULS) is one of seven seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). ULS is comprised of two physical campuses, Philadelphia, and Gettysburg, and distributed online learning. ULS is a Reconciling in Christ seminary. The ULS Community is a welcoming and diverse learning community equipping people to proclaim the living Gospel for a changing church and world. The seminary offers six graduate degree programs, with flexible learning options, and lifelong learning programs that equip rostered and lay leaders to serve with deep faith and excellence—in congregations, social ministry agencies, campus ministries, military settings, and global missions.

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin was appointed president of United Lutheran Seminary and Ministerium of Pennsylvania Chair and Professor of Reformation Studies on August 1, 2020. Prior to this appointment, he was fourth bishop of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

United Lutheran Seminary is blessed to be able to offer financial support, in the form of scholarship awards, to all students who are enrolled in degree seeking programs. First level professional degrees include the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and the Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership (MAML). Academic first level degrees are the Master of Arts in Public Leadership (MAPL) and the Master of Arts (MA). Second level theology degrees include the Master of Sacred Theology (STM) and the Doctor of Ministry (DMIN). In the fall of 2021, United Lutheran Seminary has a total of 356 enrolled students.

In addition to the general curricular offerings, there are other learning opportunities that directly and indirectly support the pedagogical tasks of unifying, learning, and serving. The Urban Theological Institute enables engagement with African American theology, preaching, and church history throughout the curriculum. The Town and Country Church Institute offers students the possibility of honing ministry to meet the needs of rural and small-town churches in a time of profound change. The annual Asian Theological Summer Institute enables mentorship of Asian and Asian-American doctoral students.

Contributions to the seminary provide hope for the future of our church. Your gift empowers seminary education for our future faith leaders. These leaders will take what they have learned at ULS and apply it to where God calls them in their future ministry contexts, continuing what God has started during their time at the seminary. A variety of giving options are available. Contact us at advancement@uls.edu to learn more or give online at uls.edu/give.

United Lutheran Seminary is a place of rich history and excellent theological education. Explore a brief history of the two predecessor bodies at our website. Contact us today at info@uls.edu to learn more or explore how we can help you live out your call as a servant of God and neighbor. If you have ideas that we can share in our expanding continuing education program, send them to us at learningwishlist@uls.edu.