

AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS

DIAKON LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries celebrates our continuing partnership with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and its congregations, as we live out our mission, through Many Hands and One Heart, to demonstrate God's command to love the neighbor through acts of service. Diakon maintains a 140-year tradition of care for people of all ages, especially those with limited financial resources. In 2007, Diakon provided \$12.1 million in uncompensated care, including \$3.93 million within the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

As part of our focus on continuum-of-care senior living communities, key to future services for older adults, Diakon completed **Southgate at Luther Crest** and successfully sold these new senior living homes; we also began to market the next phase of expansion at **Luther Crest, Bridgegate**, a community of new apartment homes. Planning continues on potential expansion at **The Lutheran Home at Tipton**, while Diakon also focuses on piloting a range of technological devices and concepts to aid older persons in remaining independent longer. Within the synod, Diakon also operates **Pocono Lutheran Village** at East Stroudsburg and **Lutherwood**, a rental-assistance senior housing community in Scranton.

In other developments, effective Jan. 1, 2008, Diakon assumed operations of Inroads EAP, a Reading-based employee assistance program, as part of a similar program offered by **Diakon Family Life Services – Northeastern Pennsylvania**. The new **Diakon Inroads Employee Assistance Program** is serving more than 100 organizations and corporations within the northeastern Pennsylvania region. In addition, Diakon Family Life Services continues to expand its **Girls on the Run** programming in Lehigh County.

Diakon Hospice Saint John continues to serve the region from offices in Allentown, Wyomissing, Allentown, and Honesdale, also offering **Diakon Home Health** palliative care from each office location, as well as non-medical, in-home services known as **Diakon Help at Home** within the Reading market. The Northeastern Pennsylvania office of **Diakon Adoption & Foster Care** served some 600 children and families, placing 31 children with permanent adoptive families and serving an additional 106 children through foster care. During 2007, **Senior Corps RSVP for Lehigh, Carbon, and Northampton counties**, which Diakon sponsors, coordinated 779 volunteers who contributed more than 103,000 hours of service. The program's

Benefits Ambassadors helped area older persons in accessing governmental benefits.

We thank God for the gifts of staff, volunteers, congregations, donors, and board members who, together, enabled us to touch the lives of some 70,000 persons last year, including more than 23,000 within the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Daun E. McKee, president/CEO

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA LUTHERAN CAMP CORPORATION (BEAR CREEK CAMP)

Bear Creek Camp and Conference Center is the year-round outdoor ministry of both the NE and SE Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. In our mission to provide opportunities for adventure and discovery within God's creation and within Christian community, we served 1,300 children through our summer church camp programs last year. Over 4,000 were impacted by our Nature Center, and retreat programs ministered to another 1,600 adults and children. Also, thousands used our two retreat facilities for programs of their own churches and groups.

Last year, we embarked on our most ambitious Fix-It-Up Campaign ever in the camp's 33 year history. Forty-nine churches and families contributed almost \$70,000 and countless volunteer hours to accomplish a huge number of renovations and improvements. A big thanks goes out to everyone who made this endeavor a success.

- Entrance road traffic signs
- New canoes
- Office/Reception area improvements
- Retreat House kitchen
- Cabins #3-6 overhaul
- Retreat Center exterior resealed
- Basketball court improvements
- North Site Program Building overhaul
- New fences
- Lighting and bathroom changes
- Conference Room kitchenette
- Replaced 6 platform tents

Bear Creek Camp asks all of our churches and supporters to please consider adopting a project in 2008. The many projects and equipment needs are listed at www.bearcreekcamp.org and the

camp staff is ready to host your crew's work day throughout the year.

A new outdoor chapel facility on the banks of Bear Creek was built last fall. Stonework and landscaping will be completed this spring, with the bishop dedicating the Sanctuary on June 14. All churches and camp friends are invited to join us for this festive occasion. The massive fireplace, seating for 180, and beautiful location will make this chapel an asset for many groups, campers, and worship services throughout the future.

The camp was very concerned about an 8% drop in summer camper numbers last year. In response, we have increased marketing, added more visits to churches and pastor cluster meetings, created on-line registration/payment, and we are doubling our available camperships in an effort to turn around this trend. Though there are many societal challenges to attracting young people to church camps today, we still believe a summer camp experience plays a significant role in faith development and leadership for tomorrow's church. Please partner with the camp in encouraging your church's young people toward a week at camp this summer.

There are many exciting developments underway for 2008:

- Finalizing a conservation easement on 1,880 acres to secure the camp's pristine environment for future generations
- Creation of an endowment with the easement revenues for the purposes of providing camper scholarships, dealing with deferred maintenance, and enabling new program ventures
- Determining the next steps toward developing a new adult and family retreat facility to better meet the needs of our synods' churches

Thank you for being a partner with us in offering excellent outdoor ministry to the churches of eastern Pennsylvania.

Robert Stover, executive director

GOOD SHEPHERD HOME AND REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

On February 21, 1908, The Rev. John H. and D. Estella Raker took Viola Hunt, a young orphan with a disability, into their home in south Allentown. On that day, the Good Shepherd Home for Crippled Children and Old People was born.

One hundred years later, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network serves more patients, clients

and residents in more areas than ever before. Last year, Good Shepherd provided care and services to more than 36,600 men, women and children at 31 sites in 7 eastern Pennsylvania counties.

In July of 2008, Good Shepherd will bring the Raker spirit of compassion and innovation to a new market when Good Shepherd Penn Partners (GSPP) opens for business in Philadelphia. The joint venture between Good Shepherd and the University of Pennsylvania Health System (UPHS) represents the culmination of years of progress toward developing a relationship with a respected academic health-care system. Good Shepherd Penn Partners will provide post-acute care for the entire UPHS network, including long-term acute care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.

The opening of GSPP comes on the heels of another successful year at Good Shepherd. Fiscal year 2007 marked the 5th consecutive year with a positive operating margin.

Our impressive financial results are a reflection of the impressive outcomes that patients see when they receive care at Good Shepherd. Last year, the Stroke Rehabilitation Programs offered at Good Shepherd's inpatient rehabilitation hospitals in Allentown and East Stroudsburg became the only such programs in the region to have earned national accreditation from CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). Good Shepherd also received CARF-accreditation for its Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Program and Brain Injury Inpatient Rehabilitation Program.

Our inpatient Stroke Rehabilitation Program has done especially well producing positive outcomes that matter most to patients. Stroke patients who receive care at Good Shepherd's inpatient facilities in Allentown and East Stroudsburg go home sooner than patients receiving care at similar facilities in the region and nation. And, those patients demonstrate more functional improvement in less time.

In 2007, Good Shepherd welcomed a second board-certified developmental pediatrician to our Pediatrics Program. Karen Senft, M.D., and Nandini Iyengar, M.D., are the only two developmental pediatricians in the greater Lehigh Valley region. Each year, they serve hundreds of children with developmental issues like autism, cerebral palsy and developmental delays.

Last year, Good Shepherd enhanced our status as a Center of Excellence in Assistive Technology. The Assistive Technology team was honored with the INDE award from the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA).

This national award recognizes Inspired, Notable and Dedicated Efforts in rehabilitation. Also in 2007, Good Shepherd's Technology Program partnered with the Pennsylvania Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT) to be the official Assistive Technology Resource Center for an eight-county region. As one of only nine AT Resource Centers in Pennsylvania, Good Shepherd oversees the outreach, education, evaluation and training efforts of PIAT for the region.

For 100 years, Good Shepherd has been serving the men, women and children of eastern Pennsylvania. We are proud of the care we provide, we are proud of the Raker legacy that guides our mission and we are excited about the amazing rehabilitation breakthroughs and success stories that the next century will hold.

For more information on Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, please call 1-888-44-REHAB (73422) or visit www.GoodShepherdRehab.org.

Sally Gammon, president and CEO
Richard Drobnicki, chair, board of trustees

LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES, INC.

As the celebration of the agency's 35th Anniversary draws to a close there is much for which to give thanks to God. In fact as you read this report, we hope that you will experience some of the excitement that the Board and staff sense as LCS moves through these times.

A new venture for LCS in 2007 was a creative arrangement through its insurance carrier to provide a background check service for congregations. This service meets the growing need of congregations to ensure that their staff and volunteers are clear of criminal and sexual misconduct issues. It is a simple, timely and cost effective search process that accesses national, web-based data.

Two growing ministries for LCS were its *Journeys Through Grief* seminars which expanded to four locations (East Penn, Oley, Easton & Nazareth-Bath-Northampton) during 2007 and its *Workshops for Confirmands*. There are plans to initiate a group to service the Slatebelt area and possibly the Fogelsville – West Allentown area in 2008. LCS continues to look for qualified counselors and/or pastors to lead these groups. A total of 55 people benefited from this ministry. Concerning *Workshops for Confirmands*, 162 youth and 57 adults from 22 congregations participated in this ministry during the year. A new and popular inter-faith experience was created at the Congregation

Keneseth Israel in Allentown. This was accomplished in partnership with the Institute of Jewish-Christian Understanding at Muhlenberg College and its director, the Rev. Dr. Peter Petit. The cross-cultural workshop at San Martin de Porres, Allentown continues to be a popular offering. There is some discussion regarding the addition of an Islamic workshop for 2008-09.

Last year LCS's Marriage Preparedness Series was offered in 9 locations around the Synod and served 84 couples. In September we embarked on a new venture with this ministry as we partnered with Thrivent representatives to lead the finances segment of the series using Thrivent's "From Me to We" material. Thrivent assisted in this transition with a grant as well.

LCS continued to offer retreats for congregation councils, spiritual growth events and its Lay Eucharistic Visitor training and to support Christmas Ingathering throughout the Lehigh Valley.

During last year the Board authorized a first ever endowment campaign (*Stepping out in Faith*). It is a four-year campaign that seeks to raise \$600,000 for the agency's endowment to provide funding for new start-up ministries, family ministries and disaster preparedness. To date pledges and gifts totaling \$90,000 have been received.

Response to the June 2006 flooding continued throughout 2007. Ninety-nine volunteers put in 1936 hours of labor, working in 5 counties on 20 separate properties, completing 15. Construction was begun on the first property we are rebuilding from the ground up. Another team from Friedens, Oley was sent to the Gulf Coast to lead a Camp Noah recovery camp. In addition, we held the first family weekend retreat for victims of local flooding and a "Thank you Volunteers" Celebration at Union, Schnecksville. Finally, LCS sponsored a general training for 60 disaster recovery volunteers, as well as, specific training for assessing damaged properties.

David A. Newman, board chair
Dennis S. Ritter, president and CEO

THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA

The Capital Campaign and Seminary Fundraising

The campaign is currently in full swing in South-eastern Pennsylvania, Metro New York, and New England. We are so grateful for the support of all our donors and friends. As of this writing we are approaching \$17 million towards our \$20 million goal. We are especially grateful for the increasing

contributions to the Leadership Fund that directly supports our students and faculty. Despite the faithful support from synod budgets, LTSP is becoming increasingly dependent upon the regular giving of laypersons and congregations for the Leadership Fund. For example, in the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 2008 we have to raise \$650,000 to meet the budget. This is a significant campaign every year. Despite all the good efforts at sustaining our operations, we had to cut back the seminary's staff this year as a result of the recession. We are good stewards of the resources that the Church and individual donors provide to prepare leaders for congregations and the Church. We know that those who understand the value of theological education understand the need to support the seminary's Leadership Fund and other funds with generous gifts. Thank you for your support.

During the year, LTSP was pleasantly surprised by two developments. The SEPA Synod of the ELCA asked to move their offices into the undercroft of the seminary chapel and the Commonwealth of PA began to rebuild Germantown Avenue in front of the seminary campus. Part of the renovation of the avenue will be the creation of a plaza in front of the chapel. A part of the renovation of the chapel will be a handicapped accessible entrance to the Chapel from the campus and a baptistry. The seminary is in the process of raising \$500,000 towards the handicapped accessible entrance and the baptistry.

With the death of Dr. William Lazareth, a former Dean and Professor of LTSP, the Seminary hopes to establish a Lectureship in Theology and Ethics in his memory. We have a goal of \$450,000 for this lectureship.

Faculty Searches and Curriculum

We are delighted that the Faculty has re-nominated as LTSP Dean, The Rev. Dr. J. Paul Rajashekar, to serve another four-year term. He will have begun his third four-year term after the Spring 2008 Board meeting. We conducted a successful search to fill the vacancy of Director of Graduate Studies with Dr. Margaret Krych's retirement. Dr. David Grafton, a specialist in Christian/Islamic Dialog, assumed this role on April 30. The PhD program has grown steadily and will have its first graduate in 2008. In fact, the whole graduate program, with increasing numbers in the DMin and STM programs, is stronger than ever. We were saddened to learn that Dr. Pamela Cooper-White will be leaving LTSP for Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. LTSP has launched a search for her replacement in Pastoral Care and Theology.

The Urban Theological Institute

A new certificate program and program in Black Sacred Music have been launched. The campaign for the Jeremiah Wright Sr. Chair in African American Studies has surpassed the half way mark, exceeding \$800,000 in gifts and pledges.

Enrollment

We had another strong enrollment this academic year, with 76 MDiv and MAR students from all over the nation and the world, and about 35 new graduate students. About 50% of the new students are in their 20's. This year we received a Carpenter Foundation Grant to advocate for students who cannot be ordained or do not wish to serve in Word and Sacrament ministry. We continue to be excited about the Connect: Calling Leaders for a Changing Church project, funded by Lilly Endowment. The project director, Don Johnson, has given order and strategy to this ambitious program. Over time, this should make our admissions process more systematic and consistent, with more applicants. As always, we encourage those who feel called to serve as leaders in the church to be in touch with their candidacy committees and our admissions team. Please feel free to call or write The Rev. Louise Johnson, Director of Admissions at LTSP (ljohnson@ltsp.edu or 215-248-6321).

An Invitation

We invite you to stay in touch with LTSP and learn more about your seminary. Visit our Web site – Ltsp.edu – regularly. Learn what's going on by signing up for @PS, our eNewsletter: Ltsp.edu/enews.

Thank You

I thank God for you every time I reflect on all that God has accomplished at LTSP over the years. By God's grace and your constant support, we are a vibrant and lively community of learning and worship. This could not happen without the support of the bishops, synod councils, pastors, congregations, our board of trustees with Dr. Adie Butler, Chair, and all of you, I am overcome with an enormous sense of thankfulness to God that I am privileged to serve as President of this wonderful school. Thank you for this opportunity. I am so grateful to the Dean and the senior staff, the faculty, and all the support staff who spend countless hours making sure that leaders are prepared with a theological education for a church in mission. God is good to us.

Philip D.W. Krey, president

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

2007 was another successful year in the life of Muhlenberg College. Muhlenberg College continues to receive local, regional and national publicity on its academic, sports, arts and service learning programs, as well as articles on the results of research carried out by its faculty and students.

Construction was a theme on campus for another year. The renovations to the existing science buildings were completed. Six new residence halls were constructed which brought more students onto campus, which continued to enhance the college's residential atmosphere.

The college is celebrating the 50th anniversary of co-education at Muhlenberg in 2007-2008. Muhlenberg received a major gift to endow the William '49 and Virginia Miers Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies, the Center for Ethics concentrated on the theme "Globalization from Above and Below", and the college received a National Science Foundation grant to conduct a genetic analysis of a particular gene. *Doonesbury* cartoonist Garry Trudeau spoke at the 2007 Commencement exercises, and Muhlenberg football earned an unbeaten regular season for the first time in the 106-year history of the program.

Muhlenberg faculty, staff and students continue to contribute thousands of hours of service in the Lehigh Valley and the region. Faculty are offering lectures at community organizations, generating useful polling information, and supporting and advising school districts. The staff is helping to organize student community service initiatives, and Alternative Spring Break service trips. Students are volunteering in schools, health clinics, and with a program that helps low income citizens prepare their taxes. Students also run homework clubs, teach English to immigrants, help out at shelters and raise thousands of dollars for a variety of local and global causes.

Muhlenberg College's Admission efforts were record-setting once again. The College received 4,703 applications for freshman admission. The acceptance rate was 37%, and the freshman class numbered 551.

Religious Life is vital to the mission of Muhlenberg College. Students of many faith traditions find a supportive environment in which to practice, learn from one another and serve the surrounding community. Lutheran students have found a renewed energy for Lutheran Student Movement, attending a number of regional and national events. Religious Life continues to implement the recommendations of the recent Board of Observers report. The annual Advent Candlelight Carols

service was a highlight of the year and collected over \$2300 for Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley. Muhlenberg continues to host groups from congregations to many college events and facilities and hosted the Synod-wide Lutherans in Faith Together (LIFT) event in June 2007.

Through this exciting year, Muhlenberg College remains committed to the student experience through faculty teaching, community service, spiritual enrichment and public engagement opportunities. You can see more about Muhlenberg College at www.muhlenberg.edu.

Peyton R. Helm, president

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

In 2007 the Council reordered its structure, creating

- a Board of Directors, made up of church body executives and bishops, to provide direction for the Council and model ecumenical fellowship and commitment;
- an elected Executive Committee, that includes both lay and clergy members, to oversee the administration of the Council's programs and resources; and
- three newly configured program commissions to oversee the Council's activities promoting Christian unity and its common ministries of witness and service.

Further, we clarified our mission, stating that the Pennsylvania Council of Churches is a voluntary association of separate and autonomous Christian churches, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through which its members seek to manifest their fellowship (koinonia) with one another, to engage in common ministries of witness and service, and to advance towards the goal of visible unity. (*Constitution and Bylaws* §12)

To carry out this mission, Council members (among other things)

- worship and pray together,
- advocate for a just and humane society,
- provide pastoral care for truckers, travelers, and truck stop employees, for seasonal farm workers, and for persons at leisure, and
- sponsor continuing education events for pastors.

Among the highlights from the past year of this common ministry are:

- The Council's Public Advocacy Action Team carried on its witness on matters of public policy, with an emphasis on health care reform and governmental reform. To participate in the Council's public advocacy efforts, go to www.pachurches.org for issue updates and action alerts.
- The Leisure Ministry program, which trains and places summer chaplains in parks and campgrounds around the state, took significant steps toward becoming financially self-sufficient. In 2007, 27 chaplains served in 45 state, federal, and private parks and campgrounds across the state from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- Clergy and church workers were challenged and inspired by the 2007 Pennsylvania State Pastors' Conference on "Being Christian in a Hi-Tech Culture."

While the Council thanks you for your past support of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, it continues to depend on you for:

- **Financial support**—Member church bodies to provide nearly seventy percent of the core budget income. While the Council ended 2007 with a deficit in its core budget of \$10,400—much lower than projected, it does project more significant deficits for 2008 and 2009.
- **People**—The Council needs each church body to identify people willing to engage in its common ministries of witness and service.
- **Prayers**—When you meet, include intercessions for the Council and its ministries in worship. Urge congregations to mention the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, as well as their own local ecumenical agency, in Sunday intercessions. Pray for fellow Council members regularly.
- **Promotion**—Visit the website (www.pachurches.org) and publicize its address; mention Council activities in your own church body communications; interpret the Council and its mission to congregations and clergy.

Thank you for helping your 42 ecumenical partners in Pennsylvania continue their witness for Christian unity and the common good of *all* God's people.

Gary Harke, executive director