

AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS

DIAKON LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries celebrates our partnership with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and its congregations as we live out our mission—Many Hands guided by One Heart—to demonstrate God’s command to love our neighbor through acts of service. In 2010, Diakon provided \$14.4 million in benevolent care, including some \$4.5 million within the synod.

Diakon finished construction of phase one of Bridgegate at **Luther Crest**, the apartment homes following the opening of a Wellness Center with indoor pool; apartment renovations continue in other parts of Luther Crest. **The Lutheran Home at Tipton** serves as site for the Diakon Smart Home, a model home that incorporates cutting-edge design and technology to help older adults remain independent longer. **Pocono Lutheran Village** continues to market the potential introduction of *Senior LivingPlus*, a catered living-style program.

Diakon Kathryn’s Kiosk expanded connections with partners throughout Pennsylvania. The Baltimore warehouse program serves as a pipeline for corporate donations of new, unused personal-care products that serve the basic needs of people. The program solicits and stores merchandise for pick-up by shelters and other non-profit organizations, which in turn distribute the goods, free of charge, to people in need. Estimates indicate goods distributed through the program touched the lives of up to one million people last year, including local collaborative efforts with the West Berks Mission District and, jointly, with Lutheran Congregational Services and Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network.

Diakon Family Life Services formed a partnership with the Eastern Pennsylvania Down Syndrome Center to provide a 2011 “Lose the Training Wheels” bike camp and continued to expand **Girls on the Run – Lehigh County**, which included its first church-based program, providing opportunity for a spiritual component to the curriculum.

As part of enhancement, Berks-based **Diakon Help At Home** was licensed by the state Department of Health. The Berks office of **Diakon Volunteer Home Care** served 431 persons last year, while **Diakon Hospice Saint John** held another successful Camp Evergreen for youngsters affected by the death of a loved one. **Diakon Adoption & Foster Care** served more than 1,000 children and families within the synod; **Schuylkill**

County-based Community Services for Seniors aided 8,847 persons.

We thank God for the gifts of staff, volunteers, congregations, donors, and board members who, together, enabled us to directly serve more than 70,000 persons last year, including some 37,000 within the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Mark T. Pile, President/CEO

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA LUTHERAN CAMP CORPORATION (Bear Creek Camp) www.bearcreekcamp.org

Bear Creek Camp and Conference Center is the **year-round outdoor ministry** of both the NE and SE Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. It is our mission to provide opportunities for adventure and discovery within God’s creation and within Christian community.

We enter into 2011 as a time of great opportunity at Bear Creek Camp. Our board stands strongly committed to several areas of growth:

- Reversing the downward trend in summer camper numbers. While the declining numbers may be a national trend, we are committed to reversing it at Bear Creek Camp through strong programming, marketing, and partnership efforts with the congregations in the two synods.
- Focusing on building and strengthening relationships with the congregations in the two synods. We are redesigning our Outreach and Ambassador teams so that we can provide more visits with congregations and have more conversations about how Bear Creek Camp can be a resource for your ministry.
- Re-visioning who and what Bear Creek Camp is by entering into an 18 month process with A Renewal Enterprise. We have already begun conducting interviews and focus groups designed to have conversations with people throughout the two synods. We will use this information to help us discern where God may be leading Bear Creek Camp and what we can all do to move this ministry in His direction. We are excited to be hearing what your thoughts and opinions are in this process and we look forward to where we will emerge.

What would a year in ministry be without challenges? We enter into 2011 with a definite

leadership challenge. Pastor Robert Stover, our Executive Director and Rick Frederick, our Assistant Director have both resigned in the first quarter of 2011. Rick has moved on to an Executive Director position at a camp in Western PA and Pastor Stover felt it was time that he pursues other opportunities. Both of these men and their families have served the camp well and have left the camp better off for having been with us. We have been blessed by their service and we ask that you join us in praying for their time of transition.

We are excited to announce that we have completed a search for an interim director who will start June 1. Pastor Don Hayn has served as Senior Pastor at Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield, since 1998. He brings many qualifications that the board believes will enable him to effectively lead Bear Creek Camp during the transition and re-visioning process.

The board has been working on supporting the staff at Bear Creek Camp so that we are prepared to enter into the summer season fully energized and ready for the people that God will send to us for care, instruction, inspiration, and relaxation.

Thank you for being a partner with us as we move forward and strive to become the best outdoor ministry resource to the churches in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Mark A. Ristine, Bear Creek Camp board chair

GOOD SHEPHERD HOME AND REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

We are proud to report that, over the past year, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network has lived its mission by providing care to more people in more places than ever before. Last year Good Shepherd, including Good Shepherd Penn Partners, our joint venture with Penn Medicine in Philadelphia, served more than 60,000 men, women and children who are recovering from injury or illness. We provided services at 49 locations, including 37 in the greater Lehigh Valley and 12 in the Philadelphia area.

Good Shepherd's Pediatric Rehabilitation Program is a shining star in our network. Last year, 75 children recovering from acute illness or injuries received care at the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital Pediatric Unit, the only inpatient rehabilitation unit for children in the region. In total, our Pediatrics Program served more than 4,000 children on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

Last year, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) invited Good Shepherd to manage its rehabilitation services. This is an exciting collaboration with a premiere health-care institution that consistently ranks as one of the top three children's hospitals in the country by *US News & World Report*.

Other highlights from the past year include:

- Good Shepherd's long-term care homes received rankings of five stars overall in *US News & World Report's* Best Nursing Homes. Only five nursing homes in the region (including two Good Shepherd locations) received this designation.
- The National MS Society designated Good Shepherd and Lehigh Neurology, a practice of Lehigh Valley Physician Group, as a Comprehensive Care Center for the Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. It is the only such center in the Lehigh Valley and one of only 42 in the nation.
- Good Shepherd continued to foster a Center of Excellence in the early adoption and use of assistive and rehabilitation technologies. Last year, Good Shepherd became the first health-care facility in the country to use the Tibion Bionic Leg in the inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation setting. The Tibion uses robotic technology to help patients with neurological issues regain lower extremity function.

Of course, the best success stories at Good Shepherd are found in our patients, residents and clients who often overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges with the help of tireless spirit and Good Shepherd's expert clinicians. To learn more about Good Shepherd, and to read some of our patient's most heartwarming stories, visit www.GoodShepherdRehab.org.

Thank you for your support, which is vital to helping Good Shepherd continue our mission and the legacy of our founders, the Raker Family.

Sally Gammon, president and CEO
David G. DeCampli, chair, board of trustees

LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES, INC.

Last year (2010) was an amazing year of change and growth for our tiny agency. Early in the year LCS entered into talks with Liberty Lutheran Services (LLS), an SMO located in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, around the possibility of be-

coming LLS' newest family member. Talks moved forward quickly and by May both Boards took action to pave the way for LCS to become the newest member of Liberty. Both our Synod and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod approved the new relationship later that spring. Legal documents were developed, signed and filed, finalizing this new reality on July 15, 2010. At that point the work of developing the relationship and engrafting LCS into the fabric of its new parent began. As of this writing, the transition is well underway, and for the most part it has gone well. The good news is that Lutheran Congregational Services is a stronger and more vibrant organization today.

In its new relationship with LLS, LCS is now the Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate for the 19 counties covered by our two synods. This reality will make it more effective and efficient as it interacts with a variety of governmental, not-for-profit and faith based organizations that work to address needs when disasters strike. Finally, this new relationship increases the capacity of LCS for ministry in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod by the addition of a staff person to coordinate the agency's work in the SEPA Synod.

Amidst change the agency initiated a new ministry in partnership with food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in 7 counties, Diakon Kathryn's Kloset in Baltimore, Good Shepherd in Allentown, J & E Trucking (a family owned and operated trucking company) in Macungie and a for profit development partnership in Easton. On a monthly basis a tractor-trailer goes to Baltimore and brings back to two sites laundry products and personal care items (when available). Volunteers prepare them for distribution and each month, on the 2nd Wednesday and the 2nd Saturday, organizations come to the two sites to pick up their items, which they provide to residents in their community free of charge. As of March 2011 the total value of products distributed came to \$346,000 since May of 2010.

LCS continues to be blessed with a dedicated staff, generous supporters and a heart for mission. Thank you to everyone who has allowed us to partner with you in 2010!

Dennis S. Ritter, president and CEO

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

2010 was a good year in the life of Muhlenberg College. The College continues to receive local, regional, and national publicity on its academic, athletic, arts and service learning programs, as well as articles on the results of research carried out by its faculty and students.

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 community. The annual Advent Candlelight Carols service collected over \$1400 for Friends of the Allentown Parks. Muhlenberg continues to host groups from congregations to many college events and facilities.

Muhlenberg hosted a congressional debate between Charlie Dent and John Callahan. After months of preparation, the College adopted a new 5-year strategic plan entitled "Momentum" that will guide every aspect of the life of the College. Muhlenberg was named a Kiplinger's "Best Value." Three important building projects were completed – the new Wood Dining Commons, the major portion of Seegers Union renovations; a Music and Dance Rehearsal House; and an addition/renovation of the Hillel House that includes space for the department of Sociology and Anthropology. In Athletics, Men's Soccer went deep into the NCAA tournament and Bobby Torphy was awarded the prestigious NCAA Elite 88 award. A number of male and female students earned NCAA Academic All-American honors.

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. Students volunteer in schools, health clinics, and with a program that helps low income citizens prepare their taxes. Students also run homework clubs, teach English to new immigrants, help out at shelters and raise thousands of dollars for a variety of local and global causes.

Lutheran students Matt Balaban and Amanda Tompkins began service overseas. Matt is teaching in Bangladesh through a Fulbright scholarship and Amanda is serving in South Africa through the ELCA program Young Adults in Global Mission.

Despite a struggling national economy, Muhlenberg College's Admission efforts were very strong, welcoming a class of nearly 600 in August. Additionally, the College completed its fundraising campaign, raising \$110 million dollars.

This year, as in each 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

Our Mission

Article 12 of the Council's *Constitution and Bylaws* sets its mission: "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." This brief annual report illustrates how the Council tried to fulfill its mission in 2010. For additional information, visit www.pachurches.org.

Fellowship

The former presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Pr. H. George Anderson, once noted that "it is clear that personal relationships between our bishops and leaders of other traditions enabled them to take the lead in ecumenical arrangements of all sorts." The Council has focused on building and sustaining personal relationships and fellowship among the leaders of its member church bodies by

- engaging in common prayer and worship at its board meetings,
- encouraging leaders to share stories of their coming to faith and their call to ministry,
- encouraging the sharing of both the opportunities offered by and the concerns of member church bodies around Pennsylvania, and
- hosting an overnight gathering for religious leaders at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College.

Common Ministries of Witness and Service

Witness for Social Justice

Through its public advocacy ministry, the Council witnessed on behalf of social justice and for the common good. Highlights in 2010 include writing and promoting "God's Kingdom is for Everyone: Discussing Poverty in a Christian Framework," a four session study guide exploring poverty and ways Christians can work toward addressing it; advocating for comprehensive health care reform; while the legislation enacted did not address all the concerns deemed significant by the Commission, it continues to educate constituents about the effects of the law; drafting a resolution on

Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction for consideration and endorsement by the Council's Board of Directors at its October 2010 meeting; and raising awareness about regional opportunities and equity issues in Pennsylvania through Building One Pennsylvania and screenings of "The New Metropolis." Information about these highlights and other activities, including the study guide on poverty, can be found at www.pachurchesadvocacy.org.

Ministries of Service

The Council supported local churches engaging in trucker and traveler ministry along a portion of I-80, where a chaplain served along with volunteers and local church leaders. The Council also supported local churches engaged in ministry with migrant and seasonal farm workers. Field chaplains and volunteers offer farm workers and their families worship services, spiritual counseling, clothing and other material aid, assistance with immigration issues, emergency transportation for medical care, translation services, emergency housing and food, and recreation.

Witness Among Persons at Leisure

The Council also worked with local park ministry committees to assist in chaplain recruitment and program administration. The annual training held just after the Memorial Day holiday ensured that chaplains were equipped for their ministry. Twenty chaplains served campers in 33 state, federal, and private campgrounds.

Continuing Education for Church Workers

The Council sponsored a three-day continuing education event for clergy and other church workers, the Pennsylvania State Pastors' Conference. Planned by a committee of representatives from member bodies, the conference featured Shane Clairborne, Eric Law, and a host of workshops on evangelism and stewardship.

Gary Harke, executive director

THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA

The Seminary's Mission

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia prepares leaders for the church who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ from the scriptures for the sake of the world's salvation. We understand being Lutheran as a particular way of theologically confessing and professing the Christian faith. It is not a claim of exclusivity, but recognition of being a part of the wider Christian communion.

The 30th Anniversary of the Urban Theological Institute

In October 2010 the Urban Theological Institute celebrated its 30th anniversary with an anniversary service at Grace Baptist Church of Germantown, a Celebration of Black Sacred Music at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, and a gala banquet at the Brossman Center at LTSP with the Rev. Dr. James Forbes as the keynoter.

The Muhlenberg Anniversary

In 2011–2012 LTSP will join in the international celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, patriarch and pillar of Lutheranism in North America. The Muhlenberg Year will begin at LTSP on September 6 with a festive opening of the academic year, featuring presentations by Muhlenberg scholars and a traveling exhibit prepared in Germany. You may sign up for newsletters and event notifications on the seminary's website, and stay tuned for details on joint programs with Muhlenberg College, the University of Pennsylvania and many other institutions, as they join LTSP in celebrating the anniversary of this most important figure in American Lutheranism.

By God's Grace LTSP Will Celebrate Its 150th Anniversary in 2014

By the grace of God and with an outpouring of support from the Region 7 synods, our alums, and friends, we hope to complete the planned renovation of the Krauth Memorial Library and construction of the Timothy Breidegam Connector between the Library and the Brossman Center this summer. Once this project is done, the campus renewal master plan will have been completed. (We do have a postponed project still on the agenda: renovations of the Chapel, including a new baptistery and provisions for SEPA synod offices under the Chapel.)

With the completion of building and technology projects, LTSP will increase its efforts to address what has become a critical need: student financial aid. Our future pastors and ministry leaders often begin their service to the church with crushing student debt. Through the church God has called an extraordinary generation of talented and motivated seminarians to replace the record number of clergy who will be retiring in the next ten years. We need to provide those seminary students with the same resources to serve that were provided for previous generations of pastors and leaders.

The goal, therefore, is to raise sufficient endowed financial aid funds to make it possible for those who wish to serve in redevelopment settings to

serve debt-free and to provide up to 70% of the tuition, room, and board for all other students. This financial aid initiative will be made up of many smaller initiatives, including a \$500,000 Muhlenberg Scholarship Fund in celebration of the 300th anniversary; a \$2.5-million campaign in NEPA for candidates from that synod; a \$500,000 campaign for students from Upstate New York; and a \$500,000 women's scholarship fund.

The New Economy for Theological Education

The economy of theological education has become much more complex. Nonetheless, it works when there is generous and ongoing support from synods, congregations, friends who make annual contributions and major gifts, and friends who leave planned and estate gifts for the endowment. LTSP is most grateful to all those who are generous in supporting the school's mission so that it can prepare the best possible leaders for the church.

Faculty and Staff

As of this writing a search is being conducted for a worship professor. In 2011 LTSP welcomed two new faculty members, Dr. Karyn Wiseman as Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Dr. Wayne Croft as Associate Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics in African American Studies.

Other Transitions

Professor Richard Stewart, Associate Professor of Communications and Parish Administration, has announced that he will retire from full-time teaching on Epiphany 2012. We will miss his great collegiality and can-do spirit on the faculty, but we are grateful that Professor Stewart will continue to teach on a part-time basis.

Planned Curriculum Review

Every ten years the Faculty of LTSP conducts a thorough review of its curriculum to determine that the seminary is preparing the best leaders for the church of the future and not the church of the past. We will be listening to a wide variety of voices, including bishops, pastors and other rostered leaders, alums, students, laypersons, and specialists as we revise the curriculum to prepare leaders who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the new context to which God has brought us. We invite you to share your ideas with us over the next year.

Enrollment Trends

The Connect program of the Eastern Lutheran Cluster, supported by a Lilly Endowment grant

that was recently renewed, has continued to provide LTSP with a growing number of young students right out of college. Our newest accredited degree program, the Master of Arts in Public Leadership, is growing in enrollment. The first graduates will receive degrees this May, and they are already being recruited by faith-based institutions. This program, offered in cooperation with Gettysburg Seminary through our joint Intersections Institute, prepares leaders particularly for nonprofit faith-based institutions through an academic curriculum that combines preparation in both theology and other professions, including business and social work.

Philip D. Krey, president

EASTERN CLUSTER OF LUTHERAN SEMINARIES TO REGIONS 7, 8 AND 9

Introduction

Since its founding over 15 years ago, the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries (ECLS) has fostered strong collaboration between the three schools, enhancing our common task of theological education for a broad spectrum of students. A separately incorporated entity, the Cluster is governed by a Board of Directors made up of board chairs and key academic and administrative leaders from each of the three schools. Ongoing permanent Cluster-related programs include diaconal ministry formation (based at Gettysburg), a Doctor of Ministry degree (Philadelphia-based), and partnership in the Atlanta program centered in the predominantly African-American Interdenominational Theological Center (with Southern being the Cluster connection point). One of the three seminary presidents serves in rotation as Cluster executive director. With only modest core funding from the seminaries, the Cluster has been blessed to receive nearly \$6 million in grants from foundations. Churchwide support to the seminaries flows through the Cluster.

Current Collaborative Programs and Initiatives

- The Cluster's *One Library Under Three Roofs* links the collections at Gettysburg, Philadelphia and Columbia, providing students, faculty and other borrowers with access to a vast array of books, periodicals and e-resources.
- Vocational discernment emphases focused on young adults is carried out by means of *Project Connect*, which works in close concert with the Admissions offices of each school. A second major grant from the Lilly Endowment was awarded to the project, recognizing its effectiveness over the past five years.

- *Theological Education with Youth* (TEY), a program jointly sponsored by the two Pennsylvania schools, is in its 12th year of providing in-depth study, fellowship and service opportunities for junior- and senior-high young persons.
- *Intersections Institute* is the Cluster's newest venture, providing both theological-ecclesial and managerial-leadership education for social ministry organization staff persons and students aspiring to such service. Currently, *Intersections*-related work includes a Master of Arts in Public Leadership at LTSP and a Certificate in Faith-Based Leadership centered at LTSG.
- Attempts to expand a *Lifelong Learning Network* have produced modest results, including annual gatherings of other partners beyond the seminaries that field a variety of programs and educational experiences for the baptized. In recognition of the complexity involved in coordinating work in such an expansive territory, the current trajectory calls for regional gatherings.

With Appreciation

The Cluster is grateful for support to theological education and our seminaries from the synods and ELCA churchwide organization.

John Richter, cluster board chair

Michael Cooper-White, executive director