

California Lutheran UNIVERSITY

We are grateful for the support from our regional synods that activate our faithfulness to the university's 60-year mission of educating leaders for a global society.



- Celebrated the ordination and installation of Rev. Hazel Salazar-Davidson on Día de los Muertos
- Enrolled 4,377 graduates and undergraduates, 55% from unrepresented populations
- Launched a Mariachi Ensemble
- Center for Economic Research and Forecasting partnered with UCLA to produce Latino GDP report
- Received a million dollar Thriving in Leadership Grant to extend theological education to congregational leaders in collaboration with Region 1 and 2 synods
- Provided access and support to the increasing number of students on the Autism spectrum
- Sarah W. Heath Center for Equality and Justice offered programs on pressing social issues
- Welcomed 400 international students from 45 countries
- HUB 101 offered space for community start-ups and innovation
- Graduate School of Psychology provided adaptive behavior health interventions to assist the community in disaster recovery
- 80 students presented original research at the Fall Research Symposium
- Developed Undergraduate majors in Ethnic and Race Studies as well as Film and TV
- Established Bachelor's Degree for Professionals major in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the Oxnard Center
- Center for Nonprofit Leadership started Nonprofit Resiliency Institute to build capacity for management during crises
- Received quilts and blankets from individuals and congregations to share love and prayers during times of grief and loss
- Counseling Center provided low cost community counseling for victims of wildfires



You can learn about all these things and more by visiting the Cal Lutheran and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary tables or by visiting us online at www.callutheran.edu and www.plts.edu. Your commitment to and involvement in the university makes all the difference as we seek to educate leaders for a global society who are strong in character and judgment, confident in their identity and vocation, and committed to service and justice.

Thank you Southwest California Synod for being a ministry partner!

Your prayers, direct synod gifts of \$38,157 last year, and encouraging our students like Libby Denton who give us strength and courage in our mission of equipping faithful leaders. In addition, there are 82 alums of PLTS that live and work on the territory of your synod, many of them in congregational ministries.

Seminary Received Accreditation for Next Decade

In October 2018, PLTS had its ten-year accreditation visit from the Association of Theological Schools. We are happy to report that the seminary received accreditation for another ten years. This is what the ATS accreditation team identified as the distinctive strengths of PLTS:

1. The ways in which the seminary has weathered significant transitions and emerged a stronger and more contextually engaged institution.
2. The careful attention that the faculty has given to developing a revised Master of Divinity curriculum designed to better serve the needs of its students and the wider church and society, now and into the future.
3. The seminary's clear sense of identity and purpose, the ways in which it fills a real need in the region and in its denomination, and the tangible sense of love and investment in the seminar that is expressed by faculty, students, alumni, advisory board members, Cal Lutheran leadership and other stakeholders.



2019 Region 2 Word and Service Summit



TEEM at PLTS in January 2019

Thriving in Leadership Project

PLTS, in partnership with the Office of Congregation Relations at California Lutheran University, has been awarded a \$1 million Lilly grant. The Thriving in Leadership Project is a collaboration among all eleven synods of Regions 1 and 2 of the ELCA. Our goal is to help rostered leaders thrive in ministry by providing opportunities for further theological education, skills training in things like business administration, and tools for nurturing mind, body, and spirit. We know that ministry is both very rewarding and challenging. And we want to do all that we can to support our pastors and deacons who are serving in your synod to be as effective and healthy as they can be.

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

QUICK FACTS ABOUT PLTS

- Number of Students (including TEEM): 90
- Number of MDiv Graduates (2018): 11
- Number of TEEM Graduates (2018): 18
- Tuition (Full-time M.Div): \$22,460
- Total Average Cost of Housing: \$8,640
- Scholarships Awarded (2017-2018): \$853,129 to 100% of need-based qualifying students

Benefits in Action

Walking Our Promise to Support Those Who Serve

Yes, things have changed in the church, especially in the last decade. But like Martin Luther’s description of faith — “a living, busy, active, mighty thing” — Portico Benefit Services is constantly evolving, finding more efficient ways to help clergy and employees steward their gifts for the sake of the world.

As the ELCA’s benefit ministry, we’re called to live out a 200+ year legacy of service to clergy and employees. Our talented staff leverage Portico’s long-term experience, industry partnerships, and innovation-embracing culture to deliver benefits that can help people live well throughout their service and into retirement.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Blessings on your ministry. It’s a privilege to serve you.

By the Numbers — Helping People Live With More Confidence

<p>640 Members Retired in 2018, and we celebrated with every one!</p>	<p>8,943 Pounds Lost so far by ELCA-Primary members enrolled in our new Omada health improvement program.</p>	<p>621 Employees Joined when four new Lutheran social ministry organizations decided to offer Portico benefits to their staff last year.</p>
<p>23 Companies Screened from ELCA social purpose funds for holding reserves of oil shale and tar sands.</p>	<p>\$1M Debt Paid Off by plan members working with LSS Financial Counseling, as of year-end 2018.</p>	<p>4.5% Baseline Rate Increase for employer health contributions in 2019 — on average, the lowest increase in 5 years.</p>
<p>\$94 Less Per Month paid in premiums by most ELCA Medicare-Primary retired members in 2019 thanks to our switch to Humana.</p>	<p>2,500 Worries Released by ELCA Youth Gathering attendees at Portico’s unbinding prayer station.</p>	<p>6,080 Learning Hours invested by members in Portico’s financial education seminars, webinars, and videos last year.</p>



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



The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) is the lending ministry of the ELCA. MIF makes low-interest loans to ELCA congregations and ELCA-related ministries for building and renovation projects. With MIF loans, congregations and ministries can purchase property, construct new buildings, and expand or renovate existing facilities.

MIF loans expand the capacity for ministry. MIF loans help create expanded worship spaces, updated space for education and youth ministry, new kitchens for community meals and soup kitchens, affordable housing units for the community and much more.

At year-end 2018, MIF had 917 loans outstanding, totaling \$556.6 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2018, MIF investments totaled \$499.1 million.

MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$705.4 million and net assets of \$200.8 million at year-end 2018, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 28.5 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds. For more information, visit mif.elca.org.

MIF loans and investments in the Southwest California Synod (as of December 31, 2018):

- 14 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$4,629,814
- \$10,955,958 in Mission Investment Fund investments

MIF representative:

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

Lutheran Social Services Southern California
Southwest California Synod Report
May 31-June 1



Lutheran Social Services of Southern California is committed to serving women, men and children who struggle on the margins of society. We are called to serve 10 Southern California counties with over 70 different programs for our 50,000 clients, who are as varied as the physical locations of our service centers.

We provide social workers, case managers, program directors and highly-trained mental health professionals, whose talents are combined to assist people with many diverse problems. For more than 70 years, we have created conditions within which volunteers and community partners collaborate with staff to accomplish more together, than any of us could ever have achieved on our own.



Maria Cruz Fernandez is an awesome example of how we work. She came to our Long Beach center when her husband was unemployed, and they could not provide for their four young children. She received groceries repeatedly and benefited from an English as Second Language class, so she could communicate with her friends in the neighborhood.

The rest of the story is that once her husband found employment, Maria wanted to give back to LSS as a way of thanking us for our support. For the last 28 years, she has been responsible for operating our food pantry, five days weekly, as an unpaid volunteer. Even when she underwent treatment for cancer, she never missed a day on the job.

Maria has cared for so many people at our Long Beach center, and her commitment serves as a reminder of what can happen when the community comes together, and we Embrace, Equip and Empower every person who walks through our front door.

We are grateful for our work together, and for the difference your donations have made for many people. We couldn't provide these services without your faithful and dedicated contributions. For more information, about our services, visit our website at lssc.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Drews".

In Christ's Service,
Ron Drews, President/CEO

**Names and images may be changed to protect the privacy of our subject*

AFTER JULY 1ST, GO TO LSSSC.ORG FOR 2018 DONOR AND FISCAL YEAR FINANCIALS

Dedicated to Long-Term Recovery

At the Thousand Oaks office, LSS is seeking to hire a case manager for individuals and families whose lives were affected by the Woolsey fire. We have assisted many already, but the long-term recovery will demand a more focused offer of support. As a uniquely qualified HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency, LSS can also provide input and networking for any housing emergency or situation. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for this purpose.



**Construction will begin soon,
with an opening in early 2020.**

Pictured is a rendering of the new Lynda and Jerry Englehart Renewal Center on the campus of Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino. 70 men will have a bed, access to bathroom sand a laundry room.



WE EMBRACE
THOSE IN CRISIS
WITH SHORT-TERM
EMERGENCY
SERVICES.

VISION

*Sharing the love of Christ,
we are a community to care
and be cared for...
Where the weary will be
given hope.*

A Long Beach/South Bay Story

Willie and Tina had a wonderful marriage, and worked tirelessly to make ends meet. But when Tina died, everything changed for Willie. He had trouble paying the bills, and he couldn't purchase adequate food to make it through the month.

Their daughters told him about us, and once he started coming to our center, his life became better and his stress was reduced. He was just another senior adult asking for assistance, and at our Long Beach location, he was treated with compassion and respect.

Willie said: "The second time I went to LSS, Maxine, the woman at the front desk, remembered my name. 'How are you today, Willie?' she said to me." He was welcomed and treated like a person; like the person God created him to be. That made a huge impact on him.

We helped him pay for his utilities, and assisted him in filling out paperwork that could assist him in claiming additional benefits. Out of gratitude, he sought to give something back to LSS for what we had done for him.

The Rest of the Story

Today, Willie's smile welcomes clients at our Long Beach Center. He helps stock the tables with food, and interacts with all the clients in the same loving and affirming manner LSS offered to him. He has moved into a new residence, where he sees other people regularly. His self-esteem is high, his depression greatly reduced, and his days are filled with both hope and joy.

Willie says: "This is just a building without the people inside. But when all the staff and volunteers show up, it's surprising what this little brown building can do. It has made a huge impact on my life, and on the lives of many others."

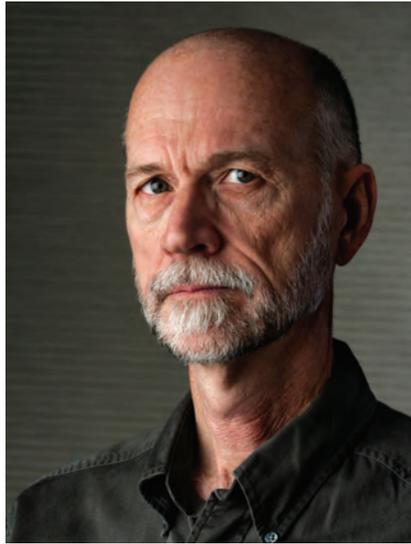
A Thousand Oaks/ Ventura County Story

Gerald Brower worked 37 years in the Mortgage Banking business. During the 2007 recession, he lost his job and sold his family home.

After moving from one humble location to another, he hit bottom. That's when a friend's wife drove him to our center in Thousand Oaks.

We provided him with food and groceries, and referred him to Lutheran Social Services Southern California's interfaith, collaborative shelter and meal program. We also listened to his story. He likens his experience with us as having a new family. "When I had no place to live, and no way out of my situation, LSS embraced me with love and patience, and insisted I still had a future ahead of me."

Diagnosed with Large B-Cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, he endured six rounds of chemotherapy. We accepted him with dignity, and stayed with him through his recovery. So, even when he was by himself, he realized he was not alone.



WE EQUIP INDIVIDUALS
AND FAMILIES, WITH
PROGRAM RESOURCES TO
HELP THEM ON THEIR
JOURNEY

VISION

*Sharing the love of Christ, we are
a community to care and be
cared for...*

*Where the vulnerable are safer
and become stronger
Where the isolated dwell in
community*

The Rest of the Story

Gerald is cancer-free today. With much assistance from staff, he found and moved into his own apartment at the beginning of 2018. He had given up on life when he first arrived, but through his experience, he learned God had not given up on him. Gerald now has a home, a normal life and a future he can move toward with a feeling of hope.

An Apple Valley Story

Catherine and Robert adopted three siblings in 2011, ages 11, 7 and 5. The oldest, Charlene, began acting out in destructive and divisive ways. Over time, it was learned who had been a victim of sexual abuse by more than one member of her birth family. It was a generational malaise that was never addressed or treated.

Charlene entered the LSS **Our Children Project**, a very unique program for children who have suffered the trauma of being sexually abused. She was placed in a group of girls, each of who had encountered the same situation in one way or another. Initially, she was not happy about being in group therapy. But one day, she came home and announced: "I'm not the only one, Mom. Those girls are just like me! They know how I feel!"

That was the turning point in her life. She was accepted by that group of girls, and mentored by her therapist. Over a period of three years, she found a new way of living in the present, without being tormented by the past.

Meanwhile, her mother, Catherine, participated in a parents' support group. In the beginning, she didn't think it was necessary to be in this therapy, which was required by Our Children Project. But after meeting and sharing with all types of parents: biological, adoptive, foster, and grandparents rearing the younger generation, Catherine was enlightened on many levels, and thus prepared for the long journey back to normalcy for her daughter and their entire family.

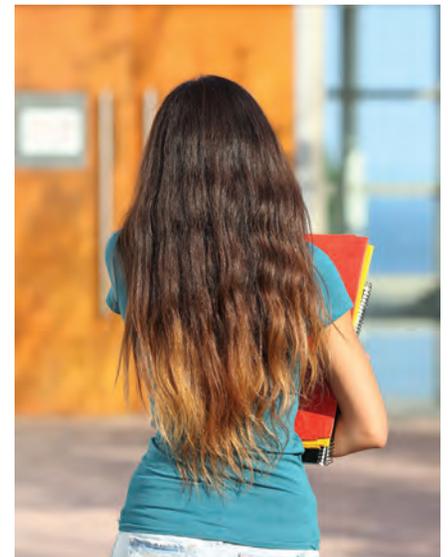


EMPOWER

WE EMPOWER PEOPLE
TO BREAK THE CYCLE
OF POVERTY, LIVE WITH
DIGNITY AND BECOME
SELF-SUFFICIENT
VISION

*Sharing the love of Christ,
we are a community to care
and be cared for...*

*Where the dependent are
self-sustaining*



The Rest of the Story

Charlene is now in college, working in programs that develop support systems for those who have been abused, and is studying to become a Social Worker, so she can give back to others the way others gave back to her.

Catherine said, "We knew the children had been abused before we accepted placement in our home, but nothing could have prepared us (not even the classes through Foster Certification) for the deep wounds our children suffered, and how to help them heal.

"Without the Our Children Project, our family would not have survived the trauma of early childhood sexual abuse. Although it was one child who received services, it was our entire family who received the benefit."

Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences

2019 Synod Assembly Report

Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC) is the outdoor ministry expression of the ELCA serving the Southwest California Synod and the Pacifica Synod.

Currently, we are seeking to recruit our team of summer camp counselors, and we are asking for your help finding 30 willing and able 18-25 year olds. The majority of our summer counselors and year round staff come from our Lutheran congregations, and California Lutheran University.

We operate two camps, one in the Southwest California Synod, ***El Camino Pines*** and one in the Pacifica Synod ***Luther Glen Farm***, formerly YOLIJWA.

We are excited to announce that at El Camino Pines, a new camp director has been hired and will be joining the LRCC team in the fall of this year. We expect to make a more public announcement at the Synod Assembly.

Summer camp is just around the corner at both camps, and we are happy to come visit your congregation to promote. We encourage pastors and youth leaders to attend camp with the children from your congregation. When it comes to faith formation in children, ***experts agree that a week at Bible camp is as important as a year of Sunday School.***

Several substantial facilities improvements are happening at both camps. At ***El Camino Pines***, our cabin remodeling project is about 80% complete, with only two and a half cabins left to complete. A new low ropes challenge course is being built (as a memorial to Pastor Susan Wolfe Devol), the Shower House is soon to be improved to provide more privacy for our guests, and new water heaters will make every shower hot! And, a new patio is being installed next to the Dining Hall this year.

Meanwhile, at the ***Luther Glen Farm***, a new barn has been built and was dedicated just a few weeks ago. The new farm/Bible camp program is moving forward with new opportunities that bring children in close contact to our vegetable garden and our farm animals, including sheep, goats, chickens, pigs, horses, dogs and alpacas.

LRCC relies on your donations and encourage every congregation to support the future of our Lutheran churches by keeping your Bible camps funded and healthy. ***Please remember LRCC in your estate planning!*** Connect with LRCC at the synod assembly by contacting Pastor Glen Egertson at (661) 742-6261.

Lutheran Office of Public Policy Synod Assembly Report

The Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California (LOPP-CA at www.loppca.org) advocates the cause of those suffering injustice. Our advocacy ministry is rooted in Scripture, Lutheran theology and our baptismal calling to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. It is expressed by advocating with and for our neighbors in need, for the sake of the common good, in places where important political and economic decisions are being made.

LOPP-CA is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), serves as a State Public Policy Office of the ELCA, and addresses the objectives of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal by providing advocacy to California public officials in addressing the systemic causes of hunger.

2019 promises to be exciting and spirit-filled with the addition of our new Director Regina Q. Banks. She joins LOPP-CA from a legal and policy background that includes stints as legislative staff in the California Assembly and Legislative Director for statewide membership organizations. Her hire follows the retirement of Mark Carlson whose successful tenure sunset at the first of the year.

Among the plans that the Policy Council of LOPP-CA has for the 2019-2020 legislative cycle is our first **Lutheran Lobby Day at the State Capitol on Wednesday, May 29, 2019**

Plan to join your fellow Lutherans and invited guests as we build relationships with decision makers, advocate for those in need and amplify the voices of those who cry out for justice. Our efforts will center around the End Child Poverty Now campaign, Immigration and Migration Issues and Water Justice.

<https://community.elca.org/lutheran-lobby-day-at-the-capitol>

The communications committee of LOPP-CA has been investing in our social media presence and invites to and your congregations to join us on Facebook as Lutheran Office of Public Policy- California and follow us on Twitter. We are trying to stay connected to you!

– Respectfully submitted Regina Q. Banks, Director



**ADLA PROGRAM YEAR
@ A GLANCE**

2018

APRIL

AFRICAN DESCENT LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION

CAROLYN FOSTER, PRESIDENT



AFRICAN DESCENT LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION (ADLA)

♥ LOS ANGELES – 2018 ♥

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The ADLA Los Angeles Chapter is 1 of 9 such chapters across the country. The Association serves as a collective “voice” for African Americans and those of African descent in the Caribbean who are Lutheran.

The Los Angeles Chapter seeks to improve our communities with direct assistance programs, promote the qualities of higher education through scholarships & support the Southwest California Synod and the ELCA with its special agency appeals.

MISSION IN ACTION

The year began by coordinating and hosting with the Synod, its 38th Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration and Celebration Worship Service. This is the 5th year in which ADLA has facilitated this synod-wide worship event, which has over time become the 2nd highest attended synod annual event. Each year, the host sanctuary has been filled with the presence of our synod family (over 600) offering praises and thanks to God for the life of Dr. King, while recalling our respective responsibilities in “keeping the candle of justice lite”.



A gift of \$1,109 was offered to ELCA Disaster Response from the offerings received in recognition of the horrific fires in California and the unceasing floods in the mid-west. Here are other notable programs that have received financial support as a result of the annual MLK worship service over the years:

- ♥ First Call Theological Education (2015)
- ♥ Synod’s Unaccompanied Minors Initiative (2015)
- ♥ Showers of Blessings (2016)

- ♥ Guardian Angels (2016)
- ♥ TruEvolution – Aids Intervention Service (2016)
- ♥ Guardian Angels (2017)
- ♥ Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service-IRIS (2017)

Later in the Spring, ADLA held its 4th Gala and Awards Dinner in recognition of those nominees whose “walk with Christ” serves as an example for others to follow and as a platform for raising funds in support of the ELCA Robinson-Conway Scholarship Fund. To date, ADLA has contributed \$5,000 towards this scholarship, which seeks to aid qualified female seminarians, pursue their graduate education.



For many, just getting through the day, retrieving a meal and finding a place to sleep for the night is a ritualistic challenge. ADLA is reminded of those among us who are without as it doubled its **“God’s Work, Our Hands”** efforts in providing much needed hygiene products and other personal items to those persons residing on Skid Row, downtown Los Angeles. In keeping with the **500th Year of the Reformation**, over 500 kits were assembled and distributed in 2018, half during Easter and the remainder as part of the September outreach. Personal greetings and prayers are among the wishes we extended to the massive number of recipients in our receiving lines. Not surprisingly, a cold bottle of water was seen as a precious commodity. Pastors, catechism students, ADLA members and, just this year – members from The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles via Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) – joined in the distribution. Even with their presence, we were reminded that: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few”. *Matthew 9:37*



Then came the summer months, where ADLA elected to host workshops on the subject of self-help in Christ. Grown Woman, Real Talk is an annual gathering that affords women the opportunity to express their personal concerns, having them addressed through scripture. Questions are raised and shared by the audience and the facilitator guides the group through scripture for the answers. The bible is the place for answers! Additionally, this year, we included suicide prevention as a topic of discussion, warranting its own workshop. This was an all day event with much reflection, contemplation, and prayer.

Sometimes it is necessary to set some time aside for fellowship. By the Fall, ADLA had chartered a bus for a trip to Veijas. Yes, a few hours of financial intrigue and prospecting. While much fun and camaraderie occurred, much of the net proceeds were channeled to Hope Lutheran Church in direct support of its **prison ministry** as the resources were used to purchase “recovery bibles” for the incarcerated. “The Word of God will never return to Him void”. Isaiah 55:11

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks goes out to our affiliate churches and university that help form the basis for ADLA’s outreach and service to the community:

- ✠ Another Level Ministries – Los Angeles
- ✠ Ascension Lutheran – Los Angeles
- ✠ California Lutheran University – Thousand Oaks
- ✠ Chapel of Peace Lutheran – Inglewood
- ✠ Church of the Master – Los Angeles
- ✠ Community Lutheran – Los Angeles
- ✠ First Lutheran – Carson
- ✠ Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran – Inglewood
- ✠ Messiah Lutheran – Los Angeles
- ✠ Olivet Lutheran – Hawthorne
- ✠ St. Mark’s Lutheran – Los Angeles

PLANS ON THE HORIZON

ADLA members play an integral role in helping to shape ADLA on a national level, having served on various Chicago-based committees, led national assembly plenary sessions, conducted parliamentary services, while offering “chapter best practice models”. This August 2019, the National African Descent Lutheran Association will be hosting its biennial assembly the week just preceding the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, both occurring in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. ADLA Los Angeles will certainly have a presence there, amplifying its aforementioned work on and in behalf of the Southwest California Synod.

ADLA’s ministry on behalf of others is unending, as is the Grace of God!



FirstServe *Community Services of the South Bay, Inc.*
“Inspiring People, Transforming Lives”

1725 Flower Avenue • Torrance, California 90503 • Tax ID # 32-0187458
310-320-3818 • www.first-serve.org • firstservesouthbay@gmail.com
The Rev. Dr. William L. Hurst, Jr., Executive Director • firstserve.hurst@aol.com

Annual Report to the 2019 SWCS Assembly

For more than 10 years, FirstServe Community Services has pursued a mission of inspiring people and transforming lives. In cooperation with First Lutheran Church and School, Torrance, and other community partners, we continue to respond to a wide range of human community needs.

Support with elders is a major emphasis for FirstServe. We cooperate with local services for the elderly, helping to guide individuals and families to agencies and sources of important information. Monthly “Prime Timers” luncheons offer nutritious lunches, community speakers, and good companionship. Our newest initiative is the **Community Wellness Center**, offering health care advocacy and advisement to South Bay area seniors and training for caring companions to accompany seniors to medical appointments and emergency care.

FirstServe also focuses on support for children and adults. **FirstKids**, a creative arts program offered on the campus of First Lutheran, offers dance, theatre and other creative arts training for elementary and middle school age children. Through these classes, children develop self-esteem and confidence, and get in touch with their creative energies. **First Friends** is a growing group of adults with special needs. They gather monthly to visit with friends, share in craft projects, play games, go on field trips, share dinner, and participate in worship.

Bereavement and emotional support is another facet of our work. One of these programs is the **Hope Circle support group**. The monthly meetings include therapeutic presentations, reflection, and time for group sharing. New participants are welcome at all sessions. We appreciate the 2009 Synod Mission and Ministry Endowment Fund that helped begin this program, now completing a decade of continuous service.

Support for Foster Youth is one of our newest initiatives, in cooperation with the LA County DCFS. We are also unveiling an **Inclusion Program** for special needs children and their families this year.

New and expanding efforts include: the ongoing nutrition and social service partnership with St. John’s Lutheran in Gardena; a growing partnership with Classical Crossroads, offering free classical music concerts in the South Bay; and expansion of staff with the addition of a development and advancement professional to join our team. Our plan this year is to be recognized as a member organization of **Lutheran Services in America**, joining the many Lutheran social ministry organizations serving our neighborhoods in a spirit of grace.

Special events and fund raisers continue to be very important for us. Performance events like the annual Basket Social, “Broadway at First” and “Pastor and Friends” gather people for great evenings of music and theatre, and help us a great deal in our funding efforts. Our newest event series, “First Person: the Soul of Inspiring People,” profiles people making a difference. Keep an eye out for these events, and plan to join in the fun and support!

Grants and donations from foundations, endowments and individuals also assist FirstServe in providing these important programs without charge to participants. We offer to share our experience to congregations or organizations interested in developing similar programs in your community, or would like to join us in our work.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. William L. Hurst, Jr.
Executive Director

SOCALLUTHERANS.COM - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT 2018

[updated for Synod Assembly 2019]

Grace, mercy and peace be yours from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The past year has been a rather topsy-turvy year for SoCalLutherans.com. Over the past year, your Board, Clergy, and a number of Lay Volunteers have continued to be involved in a variety of projects and activities.

A major highlight of the year came in the presentation of the 2018 Clarence Anderson Peace and Justice Award at the Synod Assembly. Long-time Executive Director of Lutherans Concerned/North America (ReconcilingWorks) Emily Eastwood was this year's recipient. Emily and her wife Jan made the trip from Minnesota to accept the award and Emily gave an incredibly moving speech giving an overall history of the work of the organization and the struggle for LGBT equality with the church. Another highlight came in July, when the chapter once again served as a "Community Collaborator" for Outfest, sponsoring a series of faith-based short films at the Harmony Gold Theater on Sunset Boulevard. A number of chapter members were present and the chapter received a warm round of applause from the attendees.

For yet another year, LC/LA partnered with St. Paul's, Santa Monica to sponsor an LGBT Pastoral Internship. Vicar Kelsey Brown served $\frac{3}{4}$ time at St. Paul's and $\frac{1}{4}$ time for LC/LA assisting with both Long Beach and Los Angeles Pride festivals under the leadership of the Board and especially Pastor Caleb Crainer. Vicar Brown has finished her time here and has returned to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to complete here M.Div. studies at United Lutheran Seminary. [Our new Intern, Drew Stever, took over from Kelsey in late 2018. Drew will be the last Intern to serve SoCalLutherans.com. However, St. Paul's, Santa Monica will continue in the internship program.]

From afar, the Board continued to monitor the progress of our other former interns. Pr. Brenda Bos continues to serve a part-time pastorate in San Juan Clemente. Pr. Becca Seeley is now serving in campus ministry in New York City. Pr. Joel Bergeland now serves in a congregation in the Twin Cities. Chelsea Achterberg seems to be pursuing a role in the military while her wife Mandy explores opportunities for ordained ministry. And Pr. Kristian Kohler is now serving a parish in East Hartford, Connecticut.

May especially, and June, to a lesser degree, were again busy this year with LC/LA's presence at Long Beach Pride and at Los Angeles Pride in West Hollywood. Due to a lack of volunteer commitment, the chapter decided not to participate in the Long Beach Pride Parade this year. While the chapter did have a booth at the Long Beach Pride festival, very few people volunteered placing an undue burden on the shoulders of the Intern. [Sarah Swagler of Christ, Long Beach has stepped up to recruit volunteers within the Long Beach Conference for 2019 and Pr. Kenny Bowen has been actively pursuing volunteers within the South Bay Conference.]

Bishop Guy Erwin and his husband Rob Flynn, along with "Fairy Godmother" of the chapter Shirley Egertson, rode with a decent sized contingent in the Los Angeles Pride Parade after a Street Eucharist at which Bp. Erwin presided, Intern Brown preached, and Deacon Agnes McClain assisted. Sadly, our ECUSA counterparts were unorganized [...] this year and our UMC counterparts were in the midst of a staff change which broke down communication. [Efforts are being redoubled for 2019 to organize an Ecumenical Eucharist, especially to stand with our UMC brothers and sisters in light of their denomination's continuing lack of openness to their LGBT members.] On the most troubling note, the chapter was not granted a booth at the LA Pride festival this year (nor was ANY faith-based group) with the stated reason of "lack of space..." [It appears as if a booth space will be again allotted in 2019 – although that is still unclear as of 04/09/2019.]

[Newly ordained and installed] Pastor Joseph Castañeda-Carrera and the people of Adore once again led a presence at TransPride, Pastor Dawn Wilder led a presence at Bakersfield Pride with the assistance of Vicar Kelsey Brown, and Pastor Nancy Switzler and others [continue] a presence at Ventura County Pride...

Many thanks to all of the members of the Board, all of our members, supporters, and friends, as well as to Aubrey and the national staff of ReconcilingWorks. And also many thanks to Pastor James Boline, Intern Drew Stever, and the people and staff of St. Paul's for hosting our Annual Meeting [in 2018].

May we all go forward into [the coming year] proclaiming the name of the One who bids us ALL to come to the table of grace.

INJ,

The Rev. Pr. K. G. Banwart, Jr.

LUTHERAN MARITIME MINISTRY
Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles
International Seafarers' Center
120 Pico Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802
Telephone: (562)234-8742
Rev. Samson Chauhan, Chaplain

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
(2019 Southwest CA Synod Assembly)

MISSION STATEMENT: Maritime Ministry reaches out to seafarers of all nations and cultures with Christian witness and word, meeting personal needs, and encouraging spiritual growth working with the International Seafarers Center

Lutheran Maritime Ministry is supported by congregations, individuals, the Synods in Southern California and is affiliated with NAMMA (North American Maritime Ministry Association), a national group of ministries in the ports around the country and Canada.

We have a trusted relationship with federal agents, and the various terminals as well as the officers and seafarers on the ships. They contact our chaplain as they approach our harbors to arrange for visits and transportation to stores and local communities. We provide Bibles, worship, and communion. We visit our local congregations and Conference Assemblies to connect them with outreach ministry.

As an example of our outreach in the ports, for the month of December 2018: 26 ships visited, 10 prayer meetings, 2,576 miles driven, 129 people served, individual care for 37 "Christmas packets" were distributed- many of which were provided by our congregations. We supported the annual fundraiser for the Seafarers Center on the Queen Mary. Chaplain Samson Chauhan led the invocation. Samson is an active partner with the staff at the Seafarers Center.

The LMM could not exist without the support of our Synod, congregations, and some very generous individuals. Thanks to the synod for its grants and mission support. We are looking to expand our outreach in 2019 and 2020. We had a successful luncheon for our supporters on rainy January 31, 2019 at Christ Lutheran Church Long Beach and we are planning a 25th Annual Celebration on January 30, 2020 at First Lutheran Church in Torrance. Y'all should come-- put it on your calendars and plan to attend.

Consider serving on our Board of Directors!

Gratefully,

Ron Nelson, Cathe Erickson, Terry Wall, Chim Mandalia, Pastor Roy, Rev. Samson Chauhan



April 2019

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

My Friends House, Inc. (MFH) celebrated 10 years as a non-profit organization working to end hunger and promote healthy living in addition to the 14 years as Neighborhood House, a ministry of Ascension Lutheran Church, Los Angeles.

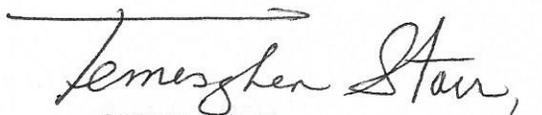
This year our organization increased its visibility in the community. We hosted our first Wellness Fair which included tours of the Lorna and Frank Harrison Community Distribution Center (our food pantry), demonstrations from experts in healthy cooking and stress reduction, and an opportunity to meet with representatives of Cal Fresh (SNAP) and check their health with a medical professional and other vendors. Participants had a chance to win gift cards, Laker tickets, and much more. We were presented with a \$5,000 donation from American Life Insurance Company, which also has 2 staff members who serve on our board.

We hosted 2 open houses so that community members could meet and greet our board of directors and volunteer staff. Our increased community visibility resulted in a small grant from the Park Mesa Community Neighborhood Council and several new donors.

MFH was the only Southwest California Synod organization to receive a 3 year ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant totaling \$22,700. These funds will help us expand the popular Creative Chefs program. Creative Chefs and Cook N Connect are programs that use local chefs to promote healthy eating and cooking with the goal of improving the community's health. Chefs introduce participants to recipes that use a variety of fruits, vegetables, legumes, lean meats, and healthy alternatives to processed and fast foods. Participants assist in the preparation of the recipes and then get to eat the final product. The grant will be used to work with youth groups in several congregations in the synod.

Our Hunger Prevention and Wellness Programs continue to serve the community. Our strong relationship with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and other food donation partners enables us to provide for the over 150 households we serve every week and to share with our New City Parish congregations and others.

We are blessed to be a blessing!


3533 W. 58th Place
Executive Director



Los Angeles, CA 90043

(323) 292-4939

www.myfriendshouseinc.org

My Friends House, Inc.
Profit & Loss
 December 2018

	<u>Dec 18</u>
Income	
41100 · Direct Public Support	
41110 · Individual Contributions	2,880.00
41140 · Business Contributions	6,327.45
	<hr/>
Total 41100 · Direct Public Support	9,207.45
45000 · Investments	
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	0.09
	<hr/>
Total 45000 · Investments	0.09
Total Income	<hr/> 9,207.54
Gross Profit	9,207.54
Expense	
60200 · Donated Facilities	
60201 · Insurance	247.55
	<hr/>
Total 60200 · Donated Facilities	247.55
60300 · Awards and Grants	
60320 · Healthy & Wellness Programs	
60322 · Cook N Connect	350.00
	<hr/>
Total 60320 · Healthy & Wellness Programs	350.00
Total 60300 · Awards and Grants	350.00
62800 · Facilities and Equipment	
62810 · Depr and Amort - Allowable	120.78
62840 · Maintenance and Repairs	165.00
	<hr/>
Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment	285.78
65000 · Operations	
65001 · Administrative Office/General	169.98
65030 · Dues & Subscriptions	905.00
65040 · Groceries	345.03
65045 · Holiday Gifts	1,536.96
65065 · Gasoline	114.65
65080 · Telephone, Communications	297.55
65085 · Utilities	590.79
65110 · Advertising Expenses	35.00
	<hr/>
Total 65000 · Operations	3,994.96
65055 · Promotions	106.62
	<hr/>
Total Expense	4,984.91
Net Income	<hr/> <hr/> 4,222.63

The Recovery & Spirituality Task Force Report 2018-19

I had the privilege of serving on the planning committee for our first annual churchwide *Addiction & Faith Conference* that was held at the DoubleTree Inn in Bloomington, Minnesota, 9/27-30/18! This event featured a wonderful array of internationally-known speakers, interactive workshops and breakout sessions. Thanks to the *Southwest California Synod* for finding some funding in order for me to be part of this historic, groundbreaking event!

I attended the 3rd Annual *Alcohol Alliance Policy Summit* that was held at the Center for Healthy Communities/The California Endowment in Los Angeles, CA, 10/11/18. Such events as these are helpful in understanding the legislative process, lobbying, etc., and I was able to make some good connections. One of our task force members, *John Halbert*, has agreed to serve as our point person for advocacy matters.

Pastor Julie Kelly, our member from the Pacifica Synod, offered an informative presentation on our task force at this year's *Theoasis* event at the Embassy Suites, Palm Desert, CA, 10/22-25/18.

My Co-Chair, *Deacon Shannon Savage-Howie*, co-led a great workshop on spiritual care in addiction treatment at the annual *Evolution of Addiction Treatment* at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Los Angeles, CA, 1/24-27, 2019. Her co-presenter, *Jack Abel*, is a colleague from *SCATP (Spiritual Care Addiction Treatment Professionals)*. Both this network and conference serves as a resource for spiritual care professionals who are actively working in the treatment of substance abuse.

The Recovery & Spiritually Facebook Page remains a great online resource for useful information, timely news and upcoming events. Both the task force and site members serve as contributors.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 15th, as we go *Soul Surfing* under the myths and misconception of addiction! We will also be uncovering the *buried treasures* that lie within ourselves. 7pm, First Lutheran, Torrance, CA! All are welcome! For more information, email me at dwgibson61@gmail.com

Our members include: *Deacon Shannon Savage Howie, John Halbert, Rev. Lynn Enloe, Rev. Julie Kelly, Mary Tabata, PhD, Deborah Langton, Janice Smith, & Rev. Mark Rasbach.*

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dan Gibson, Co-Chair

Women of the ELCA Southwest Synodical Organization

2018 – 2019

Purpose: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world.

The purpose of the synodical women's organization shall be to assist congregational and inter congregational units within its territory to fulfill the purpose of Women of the ELCA.

Convention: October 5-7, 2018 at Cal Lutheran University "Drop Everything –Be still and know that I am God" The Southwest CA Synodical Women of the ELCA met in convention at Cal Lutheran University with three officers, four board members and 60 women in attendance. We elected new officers and board members plus Churchwide Triennial Convention voting members. The elected officers are: Dixie Hanson, President; Rosemary Lawson, Vice President; Beth Bunnell, Secretary; Karil Drake, Treasurer and board members: Keia Morris, Lillian Simons, Mary Ridenour-French, Janet Simmons, Mary Stewart, Diane Tillman and Tracy Williams. The triennial delegates are: Dianne Tillman. Tracy Williams and Dixie Hanson with Dorothy Cole as an alternate.

Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp led the Bible study on Psalm 46, Pastor Nikki Fielder was our Chaplain, Karen Voris our churchwide representative and the Sunday morning worship was presided by Bishop Guy Erwin.

Offerings collected in the amount of \$1552 were split equally between LSS Ventura and Churchwide. Attendees contributed \$1440 for the partnership offering. In kind gifts collected for the CLU student for meals program were \$159 with \$545+ in gift cards.

Winter Gathering: February 9, 2019 at Westchester Lutheran Church "Strength in Numbers" There were 60 women in attendance. The theme "Strength in Numbers" was based on the message found in Numbers 11:17. The participants shared their local projects that reached out to the community as we celebrated what we can do

together. The morning included breakfast, music led by Dianne Tillman, devotions led by Pastor Tracy Williams and speakers on human trafficking.

Jane Creighton, Special Assistant LA County District Attorney's Office gave a presentation on the profile of those who are groomed for trafficking and those who do the trafficking.

Michelle Chavez described the organization she co-founded called The Tote Project whose mission is to end slavery through spreading awareness, ethical manufacturing and giving back.

Other anti-trafficking organizations lifted up were: Journey Out, Children of the Night and CASA LA. Human trafficking is the third-largest criminal industry in the world after drugs and weapons trafficking.

Cherish All Children and the Polaris Project have resources for congregations to educate, advocate and act in this area of human need.

\$669 was collected in offering. Half of the offering was sent to Churchwide Women of the ELCA and the other half distributed to the organizations that participated in the event.

Looking ahead:

The synodical board meets quarterly and is currently planning the Autumn Renewal scheduled for October 12-13, 2019 at Cal Lutheran University. The theme is "Sharing God's Love through Gratitude" with 2 Corinthians 4:15 "Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God."

We also look forward to the Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, Arizona July 16-19, 2020 with the theme "Just Love".

Our synodical newsletter "What's News" is published quarterly and highlights the events of the synodical women as well as those of clusters and congregational units. There is also a regular column by Sharon Heck on Peace and Justice. Thanks to Maxine Cameron Stenstrom, editor and graphic designer, Karil Drake point person editor and Julie Jensen, Database Manager for facilitating this publication. It is now available to anyone who desires it on line as well as through a subscription price of \$8 for a mailed out copy. For email copy send your email to juliejnsn1@roadrunner.com and for hard copy send your address and \$8 check to Julie Jensen, 921 Gill Ave., Port Hueneme, CA 93041.

Dixie Hanson, President

