

ADLA PROGRAM YEAR

@ A GLANCE

2021-22



APRIL

AFRICAN DESCENT LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION
CAROLYN FOSTER, PRESIDENT

AFRICAN DESCENT LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION (ADLA)

♥ Los Angeles – 2021 ♥

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, Africans 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 special agency appeals

MISSION IN ACTION

ADLA has remained resilient in its efforts to bring relief to families in need, further its work on Skid Row where sidewalks have become homes for so many, and to engage in varying levels of assistance aiding foster care youth who have termed out of the system due to age. ADLA has become a sponsor of a PLTS student and has purchased the naming rights to the synod chapel in honor of the late Bishop Emeritus Nelson W. Trout. Not daunted by the pandemic, ADLA Los Angeles has continued to grow now represented by 13 congregations and The California Lutheran University as members.

ADLA's alliance with My Friends House, Inc., a non-profit food distribution and nutritional guidance center on the neighboring grounds of Ascension Lutheran, Los Angeles has also grown to include My Friends House 2 located at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Inglewood. These Centers are directly supported by the congregations of

Ascension - LA, Community - LA, Lutheran Church of the Foothills - La Cañada, Holy Trinity - Inglewood and Olivet Lutheran - Hawthorne. My Friends House receives grant and gift support from many Southwest California Synod congregations, the

Churchwide Office and certainly, our Synod's mutual ministry programs related to mitigating Regrettably, the hunger. need to ensure that food is placed on the tables of those 1ess fortunate significant remains а challenge. The establishment indicative of of MFH2 is that apparent need.

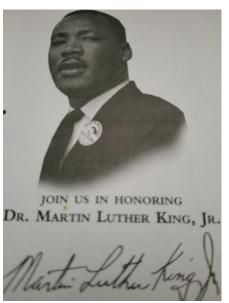




While the assistance lines continue to grow, so has the resolve offered by ADLA's members, giving of themselves their time, talents and treasures - proportionately more each time a campaign is initiated for the good of others. reminds us that the struggle of the disenfranchised, the least, and left out, shall continue and that we are to ready ourselves for this unending challenge. The Coronavirus has no respect for person. It invaded the households of our membership and has negatively impacted the solidarity and security of many families, but, what it has also done is taught ADLA and others a valuable lesson, a lesson that defines time and its existence. We have re-learned to rely exclusively on the Grace of God through Jesus Christ in all things. We may well have been bewildered by the need for masks, social distancing and coordinated injections; but our reliance of God in Christ has not waivered.



The 42nd annual celebration in honor of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was



seen as yet another E-Worship Service that reached many with grace, dignity and the reliance and assurance that God in Christ prevails. This worship service, which was held at the close of the 3rd COVID-19 year was viewed on YouTube, complementing the many worship services across the synod that are very much dependent on this form of e-communication and presentation.

A gift of \$2,000 was directed to The Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service (IRIS) from the offerings received by mail in recognition and support for the thousands of young children held at our southern borders. Many of these kids have resided in detention shelters for months on-end.

The efforts of IRIS have also served as an affirmation of our interfaith work with the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, from which

Bishop Diocesan John H. Taylor brought greetings to our gathered audience in celebration of our unity and collective resolve in making a difference.

Over the years, ADLA and the Southwest Synod have directed the MLK worship service offerings to the following agencies whose mission and purpose aligns with ours:

- ♣ 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)
- ⊕ ELCA Disaster Response (2018)
- ELCA Disaster Response (2019)
- ₱ ELCA Disaster Response (2020)
- → Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service (2021)
- ₱ Interfaith, Refugee and Immigration Service (2022)

ADLA established a \$25,000 endowment with the ELCA (Chicago) acknowledging the life and legacy of the late Rev. Dr. Nelson W. Trout, former Bishop of the American Lutheran Church (ALC). It memorializes the contributions of Dr. Trout while recognizing him as the first African American Bishop of the ALC. Contributions towards achieving the endowments face value are being received and channeled to the ELCA regularly.

SPECIAL THANKS

ADLA thanks its affiliate churches and university as they provide the impetus and the catalyst in offering their time, talents and treasures for effective outreach and service to the community:

- Another Level Ministries Los Angeles
- ♥ Ascension Lutheran Los Angeles
- California Lutheran University Thousand Oaks
- Central Lutheran, Van Nuys
- Chapel of Peace Lutheran Inglewood
- ♥ Lutheran Church of the Master Los Angeles
- Christ the Shepherd, Altadena
- ♥ Community Lutheran Los Angeles
- First Lutheran Carson
- Holy Redeemer Lutheran, Bellflower
- Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Inglewood
- ♥ Messiah Lutheran Los Angeles
- Olivet Lutheran Hawthorne
- ♥ St. Mark's Lutheran Los Angeles

PLANS ON THE HORIZON

ADLA Los Angeles shall be participating in both the ADLA National Biennial Assembly in July and the ELCA Biennial Assembly in August as voting members and committee representatives. As was the case in August 2019 when the National African Descent Lutheran Association presented the Los Angeles Chapter with its Chapter of the Year Award, it is highly likely that similar acknowledgements may be forthcoming in 2022. Through God's intervention, ADLA Los Angeles has been walking along side the newly formed Northern California (Oakland) Chapter and the revitalized Metro Chicago Chapter, providing advice and service as needed.

Plans are being conceived for a My Friends House 3 in the Pico Union area, while ADLA has spent much of the Spring season working with its member congregations that do not have permanent pastoral guidance. Collaborative approaches to ministry have evolved, including a joint Lenten Journey comprising 8 congregations under the theme "Embracing the Uncertain". These were Wednesday worship opportunities have helped bond the participating congregations together under the assurance that God doesn't waiver in His commitment. The entire worship series can be found on ADLA-LA.org.

ADLA's ministry, dedicated to the service of others is unending, as is the Grace of God!



SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT - 2022

Southwest California Synod

Founded in 1948, California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services (CLH)*, provides funding and other assistance for those in need of housing and human services through partnerships with churches, community-based organizations, and local agencies. CLH demonstrates God's grace and love through

- Financial and Program Support of Lutheran Church bodies
- Seed Capital for developing affordable housing projects
- **Sponsorship** of subsidized housing projects
- **Direct Ownership** of properties providing housing and services for current and former foster youth and their families
- Charitable Care funds to support seniors who experience financial hardship

LUTHERAN CHURCH SUPPORT CLH is a direct financial supporter of the Southwest California and Pacifica synods, and of *Lutheran Services in America*. Most recently, CLH has financially sponsored *Living the Resurrection* so that Southwest California and Pacifica Synod congregations can participate at little to no cost. The Rev. Marjorie Funk-Pihl has engaged eleven congregations in the eighteen-month *Living the Resurrection* congregational vitality process. Additionally, we meet with congregations to provide nonprofit counsel as requested.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Affordable housing remains a primary emphasis for CLH. This year, we partnered with a Los Angeles based nonprofit to develop an affordable housing project in the heart of the city. We also purchased a property in Santa Barbara to eventually increase the number of affordable housing units at Grace Village. CLH has developed expertise in helping Lutheran congregations and Synods/Districts in numerous geographies to utilize land resources for the provision of affordable housing as "Legacy Ministries."

FORMER FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES Our partnerships with the Biddy Mason Charitable Foundation and OC United provide low-cost housing to young women and their families who have the foster care system in their history. The Biddy Mason Charitable Foundation, a ministry of First African Methodist Episcopal (FAME) Church, Los Angeles, provides resources for current and former foster youth as well as housing for emancipated young women enrolled in local colleges and universities. OC United manages low-cost housing and wrap around services to young women and their families who have "aged-out" of the foster system. These sites were purchased by CLH and are rented to our partners for \$10/month.

RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES CLH provides direct funding to support the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of seniors at Front Porch communities.

Because of the generous support of our donors and collaborations with non-profit partners and long-time partner Front Porch, CLH continues to serve those who are most vulnerable. THANKS be to God!

LEARNING IN ACTION

Our programs are designed to help students discover and build their own sense of purpose, while building a support system of faculty, mentors and peers that lasts far beyond graduation. We offer hands-on, high impact learning experiences that include:

- Coursework focused on real-world scenarios
- Undergraduate research opportunities
- Study abroad and travel seminars
- Internships
- Creative projects, performances and exhibitions

With challenging academic programs, outstanding faculty, small classes, and an emphasis on hands-on learning, each program at Cal Lutheran positions our students to succeed.



500+

STUDENTS LANDED

INTERNSHIPS LAST YEAR

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

U.S. STATES
REPRESENTED

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS
TO JOIN

2,804
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

OF STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID

NCAA DIVISION III TEAMS CONGREGATIONAL
PARTNER IN EDUCATION
AND
ROSTERED LEADER
AWARDS



Take a virtual campus tour at CalLutheran.edu/tour















Synod Assembly Report

Thank you for your faithful and very generous support! Because of your prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts, PLTS is growing and helping meet the ELCA's leadership needs.

Growth in Enrollment

PLTS enrollment continues to grow. In 2021, the seminary had the largest enrollment in several years. Approximately fifty percent of the incoming students have been choosing the Distance Learning (DL) option, in which they view and participate in classes on their own schedule and gather together in Berkeley three or four times during the course of the program.

The Center for Climate Justice & Faith has a new website!

https://centerforclimatejusticeandfaith.org/



Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith

This year, PLTS launched a one-year, online Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith. The inaugural certificate class includes 30 people from 12 countries ranging in age from 21 to 70. In addition to pastors and other church staff, there are teachers, a farmer, a

therapist, a journalist and a range of other professionals. At the end of the program, each of them will develop a "sacred action project" to serve their communities.

MA in Spirituality and Social Change

PLTS will launch a new master's degree program in Spirituality and Social Change in September. The MA was developed to address the need for theological education and spiritual formation for those called to serve as Deacons in the ELCA, and for anyone interested in spiritually grounded and theologically informed social change. Students can choose a residential program in Berkeley or one that is a mixture of online learning and occasional gatherings in Berkeley for orientation and intensive courses.

Certificate in Racial Justice and Faith

PLTS received a planning grant to develop a certificate program in Racial Justice and Faith. A faculty from around the country representing the African American, Latinx, Native American and Asian-Pacific Islander communities gathered in Berkeley in February to begin working on the curriculum. This will be an online program with modules that will be taught exclusively by instructors of color who can authentically represent their lived reality in ways that promote understanding, authenticity, and solidarity.





Providing a full array of financial services to ELCA members, congregations and ministries

The ELCA Federal Credit Union, founded in 2016, provides a full suite of financial products and services to members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA. We are the first of the ELCA's financial ministries to offer loans to individuals. The Credit Union offers a rich variety of products—from savings and checking accounts and CDs ... to loans, lines of credit and credit cards. We serve ministries with deposit accounts, a flexible credit card program, auto loans and unsecured ministry loans up to \$100,000 for small projects such as building repair and purchases. Our strong online presence allows members to access their funds anytime, anywhere—as consumers expect today.



Why choose the ELCA Federal Credit Union?

"To use and share what God has given for the sake of all."

The ELCA Federal Credit Union supports the ELCA's mission of good stewardship. We provide full services to all ELCA members, congregations and related ministries.

Our mission is to offer the most competitively priced products and services. Because we exist solely to serve our members, we can offer better rates and lower fees than many traditional banks. We have demonstrated success in providing significant savings to our borrowers.

With the church as our sponsor, we operate in ways that are consistent with the church's values. We offer a socially responsible way to do your banking.

ELCA Federal Credit Union | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631 | Tel: 877-715-1111 | Web: elcafcu.org



Throughout the past year, we continued to serve the church and its members.

The Paycheck Protection Program drew to a close in 2021. With assistance from the Mission Investment Fund, we provided loans in 2020 and 2021 to ELCA congregations and ministries that required financial assistance during the pandemic. Covering payroll and operating expenses, these PPP loans proved to be a lifeline to a number of congregations and ministries in need. The loans were particularly meaningful to smaller congregations that didn't qualify for loans from local or national banks. Over the course of the full PPP program, the ELCA FCU provided a total of 360 loans totaling \$13.9 million. These loans helped continue payroll for some 2,100 congregation and ministry employees and continued in-person and virtual worship and ministry services for more than 95,000 church members throughout 2020 and 2021.

In 2021, we ushered in the third cohort of participants in the ELCA's Resourceful Servants program, designed to improve financial wellness and assist rostered leaders in building emergency savings funds. In this matching program, ELCA rostered leaders make ongoing deposits to their Credit Union emergency savings accounts, and our partner MIF matches those funds up to an established amount. Together, we already have served more than 645 rostered ministers who, collectively, have made emergency savings deposits of more than \$1 million.

Membership is open to every ELCA member, synod, congregation and ministry—and their employees.

For more information about the products and services of the ELCA Federal Credit Union, please visit our website, *elcafcu.org* or call us at toll free at 877-715-1111.

Updates from the ELCA Foundation

Synod Assemblies 2022

The vision of the ELCA Foundation is to be a thriving ministry that develops a culture of intentional generosity and financial stewardship to expand the work of the ELCA. Our mission is to support and sustain ELCA ministries by enhancing gifting capacity and stewarding resources.

As a ministry of the ELCA, we serve individuals, congregations and worship communities; synods; the Churchwide Organization; and institutions, agencies and other related ELCA organizations.

The ELCA Foundation exists to:

- provide gift planning, administration and processing;
- manage endowment funds and offer investment management services as an acknowledged fiduciary; and
- engage individuals and organizations in thoughtful planning to pass on philanthropic values and support ministry passions.

In 2021, the ELCA Foundation and our network of regional gift planners walked alongside 169 donors/families in developing their gift plans, resulting in \$65.4 million in future planned gift commitments. Over \$12 million in these commitments will go to provide direct support to individual ELCA congregations. The network generated \$107.9 million in total gifts and investment assets. This includes new planned gift commitments, \$14.9 million in current gifts, including funded trusts, gift annuities and individual endowments, and \$57.2 million new assets invested in the Ministry Growth Fund (previously known as Fund A). Thank you for the opportunity to work in your synod, trusting your endowment dollars to the ELCA Foundation, and allowing us to work alongside your ministries.

The ELCA Foundation, and your regional gift planner, are here to support your ministry through shared expertise with endowments, gift acceptance policies and practices, and planned giving. We also work with individual donors to ease the complexity of estate plans, planned gifts, charitable trusts, and non-cash gifts. Our services are free of charge to your congregation and its members. A local representative from our network of regional gift planners is available to work with you. Learn more about the ELCA Foundation by watching "ELCA Foundation: Make a plan. Change the world" and contact your regional gift planner to help your congregation grow its culture of giving today.

Contact your regional gift planner:

Lisa Higginbotham, CFRE lisa.higginbotham@elca.org 805-901-5048 ELCA.org/Foundation

Living the Resurrection Helping Congregations Thrive

in the Pacifica and Southwest California Synods of the ECLA

How it began ...

Last fall, everyone in Pacifica and SWCA synods was invited to consider participating in an 18-month vitality process called Living the Resurrection. Some folks doubted that anyone would have the energy to even think about such a venture! But you proved them wrong! 32 people attended informational 700m conversations and 58 attended a three-hour workshop to explore the possibility further. In February of 2022, teams from 11 congregations began the process!

God is up to something in our synods – you feel it and you are responding!

www.livingtheresurrection.com



Founded in 1948, California Lutheran Homes and Community Services provides funding and other assistance for those in need of housing and human partnerships services through with churches. community-based organizations, and local agencies. CLH-CS partners with Living the Resurrection to 18-month vitality process provide the congregations of the SWCA and Pacifica Synods of the ELCA. Because of CLH, the cost to each congregation is only \$350.

How it's going...

Ten congregations are participating in the 18-month long Living the Resurrection vitality process.

From Pacifica:

·Carlton Hills, Santee
·Cross and Crown, Rancho
Cucamonga
·Gethsemane, San Diego
·Mt Calvary, Cypress
·Trinity, Riverside
·Woven in Faith (Salem/Whittier)

From Southwest California:

·Resurrection, Long Beach
·Shepherd of the Valley, West Hills
·St. Andrew's, Van Nuys
·St. Stephen's of the Valley,

Palmdale

The Goal of Living the Resurrection is to strengthen our relationships with God, one another, and their neighbors!

If you want to know more about what your friends are up to in this process follow Living the Resurrection on Facebook or go to://www.livingtheresurrection.com/



Photos are from the second workshop of the process.

Everyone is working together to learn and practice the Congregational Timeline

Activity. Each team will guide their congregation through this activity in the fall.





Siblings in Christ of the Southwest California Synod,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In peace,

Dr. Kristin Witte, Director for Outreach



Wednesday, May 4, 2022

The Lutheran Office of Public Policy — California (LOPP-CA) works to implement social policy teachings and other commitments of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America related to hunger and poverty via public policy advocacy in California. Our focus is on the California legislature and executive branch. We engage in public policy analysis, education and advocacy, and support members, congregations, rostered leaders, synods, and other expressions in their call to public witness. Jesus' teaching to care for our neighbors, the constitutional mandates of the ELCA, and the vision of the ELCA to be the Church together for the sake of the world, inspire and inform this collaborative endeavor. California is the world's fifth largest economy. It is noted for its great wealth, great poverty, and its diverse population including a high proportion of immigrant newcomers- many undocumented. LOPP-CA is committed to working cooperatively with the ELCA Advocacy office in Washington DC, its three synod partners, and with all expressions of the ELCA as common goals converge in this great state.

The scope of the work we do massive; the governor and legislature passed a \$352 billion budget last year. Attempting to tackle every issue that could possibly have an impact on poverty within an economy this large would quickly outstrip resources and would probably fail to appreciably change the landscape. Therefore, we have concentrated on a few key subject areas: 1) immigration and migration; 2) ending deep childhood poverty; 3) the California housing crisis; and 4) food, clean water, and sustainable farming policy. We look to influence policy on these areas primarily. And we have had quantifiable success. Along with our faith-based and secular partners, we saw the formation of a Clean Drinking Water Fund. We secured the expansion of MediCal to cover undocumented Californians up to age 26 and many legal protections for our undocumented neighbors. Last year, the legislature used a sixth year of tax revenue surplus to continue to reconstitute the social safety net that was aggressively slashed during the last recession. Most notably they addressed the state's affordable housing crisis and passed a 10-year limitation on rent increases and bolstered services to those experiencing homelessness. Though they stopped short of true rent control, advocates of such measures are gaining signatures to put that issue to the voters in 2022 in the form of a ballot proposition.

Though we concentrated our work on our primary subject areas, in our role as ally to other social and economic justice organizations, we did brush upon other justice issues in the state. We had the opportunity to add support to the Governor's death penalty ban. We engaged in education and advocacy around environmental protections and single use plastics. We wrote letters in support of livable and walkable streets. And we protested and agitated for better laws and training for law enforcement officers' use of force. But LOPP-CA did more than just staff-level legislative advocacy this year.

In 2019, LOPPCA launched the first year of a signature education initiative: Lobby Day 2019. About 115 Lutherans from throughout our diverse state gathered in Sacramento on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 to talk to policy makers about childhood poverty, a MediCal expansion to cover undocumented adults and water justice. Due to Covid 19, Lobby Day 2021 was a virtual event. But despite the circumstances the turnout was better, roughly 140 participants, and more legislative meetings.

Lobby Day 2022 is on Wednesday May 18, 2022.

Our advocacy will continue to help Californians engage in direct democracy as 2022 is an election year and California has a robust initiative system. LOPP-CA is a trusted resource for Lutherans and other faithful and justice-minded voters in their deliberations and voting on ballot initiatives. We have plans in place to do an electronic voter guide and two in-person issue forums. We will know what issues will be on the ballot by mid-summer and will reach out to organizations sponsoring and opposing ballot initiatives to speak directly with voters in our communities.

We will stand ready to be a resource for our Lutheran communities following the November election and the January 1, 2023 effective date for laws passed in the current session. Life in California is always dynamic and the flexibility to minister in our context continues to be a blessing that we can be in our Golden State.

PAX

Regina Q. Banks, JD-Director,

Lutheran Office of Public Policy- California

Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC) 2022 Synod Assembly Report

The negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic continue at your local Lutheran Bible camps, El Camino Pines and Luther Glen Farm.

Last year at the synod assembly, both So Cal synods passed our resolution, called the *HELP*Campaign. This resolution called on all our ELCA congregations and members to assist LRCC in four key ways:



- 1. Help kids get to Bible camp
- 2. Encourage young adults to serve as counselors
- 3. Lean in to our financial recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic, which shut down camps for almost 18 months, and continue to scare many of our user groups from returning to camp.
 - 4. Pray for our camps and our partnership in ministry.

All of those needs are still very real. Today, your Bible camps have not found the counselors we need to run our summer camps. We are about 10 young men and women short, right now. Again, we ask for your help in finding counselors and volunteers to work with us this summer.

We are grateful to report some good news... no, GREAT news: this past winter, the leadership of the Pacifica Synod invested \$300,000 into Luther Glen Farm. This money is designated exclusively to improve the facilities of Luther Glen Farm, and not for salaries or program needs. This investment will allow us to modernize all our cabins, the pool, the lodge and retreat center, and thus, secure our future as an ELCA camp for the next generation.

Finally, a thank you. Throughout the pandemic, LRCC endured largely because of government subsidies and the generosity of our donors. So many things about operating a Bible camp have changed; but what has not changed is the love of God that so often comes to us as a donation, or a kind letter of support from one of friends. We thank God for each and everyone one of you!

We are blessed, and grateful!
Pastor Glen and Lauri Egertson, Executive Directors, Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

To my Sisters and Brothers in Christ in the Southwest California Synod:

Greetings from the Board, staff, and clients of Lutheran Social Services Southern California.

The last twelve months have allowed us to begin moving back toward life as it used to be, but it has been anything but normal. I have met some of you on zoom, and others in meetings, but Covid is still forcing all of us to change the way we work and live.

However, there is one reality that did not change: our service to the marginalized and struggling women, men, and children throughout Southern California.

Below you will find an annual update of what LSS has done since last year. We have had to change some hours of operation, methods of service, and deployment of staff. But our clients are still receiving help and hope and moving toward a better and more stable existence.

We could not accomplish what we do without your prayers, collaboration, and financial support. Thank you so much for partnering with us as we seek to fulfill Christ's command to love those who turn to us in emergencies.

LaSharnda Beckwith

LONG BEACH

- The LSS team in Long Beach provides a myriad of services designed for those in crisis and need.
 Programs include Benefits Entitlement; Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program;
 Intensive Case Management Services; and a Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Every month we serve over 1,200 individuals and families and distribute 1,300 meals and bags of groceries. In addition, our County Benefit Entitlement Services Teams (CBEST) case manages 200 clients each month.
- Ms. B had Anthem insurance when she was referred to us, and our peer navigator and program
 manager performed a housing assessment and submitted a request for authorization for the Cal
 AIM Housing Navigation Program. She was approved within two days and was recently awarded
 an Emergency Housing Voucher. Soon we will be able to house her in her own apartment where
 she will be safe.

AVANTI

- We have 27 participants being served: 14 are receiving in-person support and 13 are being served remotely. Currently two new referrals are being processed.
- Our staff is exploring the Upward Bound Educational Program for at-risk, inner-city, low-income
 high school juniors and seniors. We are also researching the possibility of opening Enhanced
 Behavioral Supportive Housing for Adults with disabilities through our vending Regional Center.

VENTURA

- We are fully staffed in our Ventura County center and searching to hire a Program Manager to enable our site to serve more residents of the City of Thousand Oaks. We just received \$76,000 for our Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).
- A client, Mr. Webb, had been homeless since 2015. After trust was established, our LSS case manager connected him to our local One-Stop, online addiction treatment services, Ventura County Behavioral Health, a primary care physician and a treatment center called Jackson House. When the client became ill, he was taken to Los Robles Hospital.
- Our staff went to the hospital and communicated with the medical team assisting. Our area director persuaded the hospital to keep the client and he was admitted from the emergency room. After the patient was stabilized, he was released from the hospital to an addiction treatment center; a situation that had been put in place through the LSS staff. Now the client is safely being treated in the center and not living in the street.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

- LSS is still looking for a new permanent location in the SFV, but services are offered to those in need on a limited basis. Two social workers continue to provide case management for three apartment buildings, serving 114 clients. Our area director receives an average of ten calls/contacts daily from persons needing assistance. They are referred to partner agencies with whom LSS has worked over the years. Food and clothing donations from churches are picked up by our staff on a regular basis and distributed to those in need.
- One client in Pasadena was overwhelmed while going through an unexpected divorce. Our
 director put her in contact with five home healthcare agencies where employment for her might
 be obtained. She was advised on the best way to sell some of her valuables to increase her cash
 flow and was informed about the process of going online to seek a pro bono attorney to guide
 her through the situation. Even without a physical location, LSS continues to serve the SFV.

With faith and finance at our core

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

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

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

We were present for our investors and borrowers that needed assistance during the pandemic. We collaborated with our ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, to offer expedited loans for congregations, ministries and individuals, as well as 360 Paycheck Protection Program loans totaling \$13.9 million. The PPP loans helped continue payroll for some 2,100 congregation and ministry employees and continued in-person and virtual worship and ministry services for more than 95,000 church members throughout 2020 and 2021.



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

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

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

- 14 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$4,188,833
- \$16,622,859 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

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



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

Why MIF?

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

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

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

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

For more information about MIF capabilities, please visit our website, mif.elca.org or contact your Regional Manager Joel S. Wudel: 773-682-1765 joel.wudel@elca.org



Temesghen Starr Executive Director

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Judith Tutt-Starr Cooridinator of Volunteers, Food Retrieval & Distribution

Carolyn Foster Board Member

Gwendolyn Jackson Board Member

Marqui Lyons Board Member

Stacy Cole Smith Board Member To the Voting Members of Southwest California Synod Assembly 2022

Grace and peace to you in the name of Our Risen Christ

The Mission Statement of the My Friends House, Inc. Board has been reviewed and relived numerous times during this last year. Mission Statement: Hunger hurts and poor nutrition kills. My Friends House, Inc. works to end hunger and promote healthy living in our community. We offer hope for tomorrow by sharing the love of God through caring for others.

We are living into our Mission Statement, with the help and support of an amazing volunteer base. An energetic group of fifteen gather products from warehouses, grocery stores and restaurants Monday through Friday to prepare for the weekly distributions. We are grateful to their dedication, perseverance and resilience shown through this pandemic.

MFH, is more than a supplementary food option for our community. We have continued with our cooking classes, albeit virtual. We also offer a nurse from Dignity Hospital Los Angeles once a month to do screenings and check-ins. Our guest wellness exercise leader is a former silver medalist Olympian Volleyball player, whose thirty minute virtual classes work out the mind and body.

Our newest ventures feature working with emancipated foster youth, providing life skills and continued mentorship with the support of ADLA members and supporting other congregational ministries with food emphasis, by mentoring these congregations.

A volunteer of My Friends House gives you his perspective on support to another congregation:

"It was the 2nd service day for My Friends House 2 on the grounds of Holy Trinity, Inglewood. The season of Spring was in the air, marking the start of something new which would also come to define MFH2. Clients began to arrive noticing first the new set-up: a more attractive and inviting outdoor market concept bordering Crenshaw Blvd. Unlike before when bags of commodities were offered, this new initiative brought with it fresh fruits and vegetables, assorted meats enough to feed families of four or more. Desserts were plentiful as were beverages, juices and milk. A new local - church based - outlet had come to Inglewood. My Friends House, Inc. in Los Angeles through its zip code analysis had come to realize the increasing number of clients seeking assistance from the Inglewood corridor. Establishing MFH2 seemed a given! And, as the old adage goes: 'Timing is Everything'.

Families headed by single women aggregated around this renewed service to the community. I was tasked with carrying the boxes of food, staples, liquids and the like to the clients' cars or homes, if they lived within a few blocks. This afforded us plenty of time to talk as we walked; giving Almighty God the praise for allowing this cadre of volunteers to be a blessing to others; meeting them where they were in life while offering what was to so many a measured escape from food insecurity. It was not uncommon to watch as the eyes of our clients swelled with 'unspeakable



joy' and proclamations of thanks. The Great Commandment reminds us to Love God & Love Neighbor as ourselves. Ensuring that people are fed - at least for My Friends House this defines 'love of neighbor!' May our days remain open."

Sometimes the work may feel overwhelming especially as funders and grantors, who are so generous, are looking for results – they want to know what do the numbers of people being served really mean, are the people being served shifting their attitudes or simply looking for handouts? We can't always give succinct direct replies, but are humbled when people come to us, thanking us for our time and not making them feel humiliated.

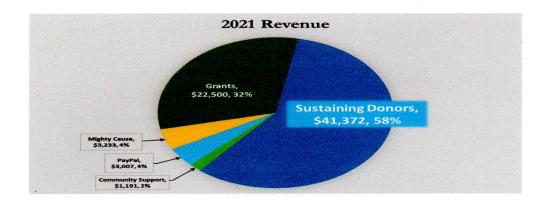
My Friends House, Inc., a Social Ministry Organization of the ELCA continues to take seriously our call to advocacy and is grateful to be a ministry partner of the Southwest California Synod.

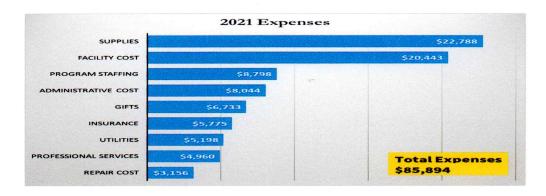
Mark 6:43 "And they all ate and were satisfied." (NASB)

Respectfully Submitted,

Temesghen A. Starr, Executive Director April 2022

Financial Information





My Friends House, Inc. does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Benefit Stability in Uncertain Times PORTICO

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Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

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

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

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



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2021

869

Plays of New Portico Podcast

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

34%

Chose New Voluntary Benefit

Through our cost-saving vision care services provider.

643

Retired

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

7.3%

Annuity Payment Increase

Approved for ELCA annuitants in 2022.

2,564

Medical Visits via Text

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

8

Large Organizations Joined

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

2,880

Classes Completed in 2021

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

76%

More Accessed Financial Coaching

Through LSS of Minnesota in 2021 than during the same period in 2020. 87.8%

Very Satisfied

With our Customer Care Center service.

2021 ANNUAL REP®RT

HIGHLIGHTS Seafarers International House

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: A New Normal

ear friends of Seafarers International House (SIH):

"You rule over the majestic sea; when its waves surge, you calm them." Psalm 89:9

While 2020 was a year of maintaining our services to seafarers and immigrants who were particularly affected by the pandemic, 2021 has been a year of adjusting toward a new normal with innovative service adaptations -- thanks to your generosity.

With Breaking Ground, an organization that provides transitional housing to community members, we found a partner that aligns with our mission. In early 2021, they started renting our original guesthouse to assist people with housing needs. We have always provided a home to those in need of shelter and Breaking Ground is doing just that as a parallel to our own mission, while providing income that, combined with your donations, enables us to fulfil our mission to vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.

In early 2021 we continued to provide lodging to seafarers and immigrants at "SIH Relocated", a midtown hotel. Beginning in October of 2021, we rented 10 mission-based lodging rooms at the Markle Residence, which is run by the Salvation Army. Seafarers as well as asylees feel at home at the location close to our original Union Square area site. It is conveniently located between subway stops with easy access to medical facilities, the SIU Union Hall and government agencies.

In the ports of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Haven, and New York & New Jersey, crew members on container ships and bulk carriers who have not been allowed ashore because of COVID-19 restrictions, continue to rely on our 5 port chaplains to bring essentials on-board. Our chaplains assisted medical staff in inoculating seafarers on their vessels or they transported crew members with visas to vaccination sites. Since most mariners hail from countries with limited access to vaccines, they embraced becoming vaccinated. As one seafarer said to me "I can now re-enter the world again after my vaccination".

This Port Mission was supported through grants and generous individuals with major funding from the shipping industry and unions, who participated in the 2021 Setting the Course event, which was hosted as an in-person Cocktail Reception, limited to 100 vaccinated guests.

Immigration to the US remains stalled so only a few asylees were released from detention in 2021. Some immigrants needed a few lodging nights with us to obtain government issued papers or to travel to family members, - and we gladly accommodated them, hoping there will be more normalcy in our immigration process in 2022.

Leading into fall and the holiday season, we were delighted that many individuals and congregations continue to embrace our Christmas-at-Sea holi-

MISSION

Seafarers International House (SIH) is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.

SIH offers hospitality, social assistance, and advocacy to a multi-national and multi-faith community in maritime ports on the Eastern Seaboard and in New York City.

day initiative, knitting hats and scarves, assembling satchels, or contributing financially. We received 2,162 satchels, which our port chaplains delivered to seafarers, who felt the holiday spirit despite their isolation knowing that their sacrifices are appreciated.

Looking ahead: Our operations may look different in the future, but our services – providing lodging to immigrants and seafarers, visiting ships and transporting mariners to malls and vaccination sites, supplying seafarers with necessities, and advocating for those invisible to society – remain robust in this new normal, thanks to your loyal and often increased support. 🕆

Marsh Luthor Vrage
Pastor and Executive Director

Photo below: Pastor Marsh returning with seafarers from a vaccination site.



2021 Program Impact

18,523 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services during the challenges of the second year of the pandemic.

2,162 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize these essential workers.

immigrants received free lodging for a total of 238 nights. They hailed from Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, a country in the Middle East, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, and Slovakia. Our temporary accomodations allowed us to care for an asylee along with his wife and two toddlers, - a whole family!

1,081 lodging nights provided to 101 seafarers in Manhattan.

15,232 seafarers were visited and counseled on 1,477 ships, receiving essentials they had requested.

791 seafarers were transported to the mall or medical facilities.

400 number of hand-knitted scarves sent to us from one of the most land-locked congregation in North America - Pastor Marsh's home congregation of Christ Lutheran Church in Minot, ND.

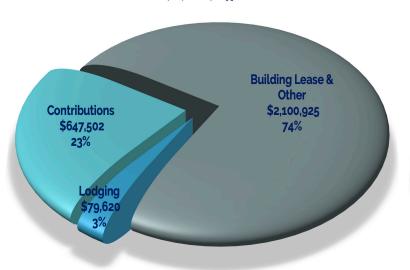
202 seafarers were vaccinated either onboard their vessels or at a vaccination site.

365 days of uninterrupted service provided to seafarers and immigrants in 2021.

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

After an operating loss of \$506,324 in 2020 because of COVID-19 related challenges in adjusting our operations, 2021 helped us recover those losses and replenish our endowment for future emergencies. Thanks to you, our supporters, contributed income grew from pre-audited \$524,875 in 2020 to \$647,502. Our partnership with Breaking Ground was a major factor in 2021's financial recovery, providing building lease revenue to support our mission to seafarers and immigrants. Program services accounted for 83% percent of expenses with only 17% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets increased from \$6,255,361 in 2020 to \$7,870,434 in 2021. These figures reflect unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change once audited. To request the audited 2021 financial statements send an email to henryk@sihnyc.org.

Operating Revenue 2021 (pre-audit) \$2,828,047



Operating Expenses 2021 (pre-audit) \$1,752,786

