

AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS REPORTS

NT-NL AFFILIATED MINISTRIES Agencies / Institutions / Organizations (AIOs)

1517 Media (formerly Augsburg Fortress Publisher)
Good Samaritan Society, ELCA (Senior Living and Care) – Denton Village
and Lake Forest Village – no report submitted
Louisiana Interchurch Conference
Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest (LFSW) – (Endowment Trusts)
Joint report from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and Wartburg Theological
Seminary (WTS)
Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest (LSPS)
Lutheran Sunset Ministries (Senior Living and Care)
Mosaic (a ministry for people with intellectual disabilities)
Seafarers International House (NEW)
Texas Lutheran University (TLU)
Upbring (formally Lutheran Social Services of the South)

Ten Things You Might Not Know about 1517 Media Spring 2018

1. Since last fall, congregations have experienced the Small Catechism in a new way using *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*. The book and video-based curriculum are designed to create deep conversations in small groups about Lutheran foundations. This is a great resource for both new members and seasoned Lutherans. augsburgfortress.org/byheart
2. *In Sure and Certain Hope: A Funeral Sourcebook* has become an indispensable resource for those planning, presiding, and preaching at funerals. This fall, Augsburg Fortress will release a companion funeral handbook, designed to assist congregations in teaching about and planning funerals with families and in small groups. augsburgfortress.org/funeral-sourcebook
3. Augsburg Fortress will be releasing a multi-faceted holy communion learning resource for kids and families later this year. Get ready to see a long-time favorite become something new. Receive updates at augsburgfortress.org/lutheran-learning.
4. Fortress Press, Luther Seminary, and the board of the periodical *Word & World* have partnered to launch a new venture called Word & World Books. Its goal is to invigorate and inspire leaders and communities in their mission to proclaim God's *Word* to the *World* God created and loves. The first book in the series is *Future Faith: Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century* by Wesley Granberg-Michaelson. fortresspress.com/word-and-world
5. Fortress Press is now producing a greater quantity and variety of books for general readers that intersect religion with topics in art, literature, and culture. Grounded in fresh, substantive, timely, and inspiring theological reflection, these titles are perfect for reading groups, Bible studies, and personal growth. Browse the topics, including youth ministry, social justice, Bible study, and more, at fortresspress.com/popular.
6. This spring, Frolic will expand to offer a new Sunday school curriculum for preschool! The new play-based preschool builds faith formation among three to five year olds, and focuses on sharing stories and themes from the Bible. wearesparkhouse.org
7. *Whirl: All Kids* and *Spark: All Kids* are new models of Spark and Whirl for churches with multi-age or single room classrooms. Created for kindergarten through grade five, these programs offer mentoring and leadership opportunities so all kids can learn together! Available this spring at wearesparkhouse.org.
8. Sparkhouse Family Book Fairs will continue this year and can now be hosted anytime, anywhere. Receive a selection of free books and extend to your congregation or school a discount with free shipping on select books. You can even use it as a fundraiser for your ministry. Learn more at SparkhouseFamilyBookFairs.com.
9. Sparkhouse Family has grown since its launch in 2014 and has a refined mission: to publish high-quality children's books that help kids thrive emotionally, socially, and spiritually. In recognition of these changes, Sparkhouse Family has a new identity: Beaming Books.
10. From the empty tomb to Jesus' appearance to the disciples, the story of Jesus' triumph over death is told with vibrant art in a new pop-up book, *Jesus Is Risen!* This book will bring the Easter story to life in a whole new way for children and the adults who love them. Take a peek at beamingbooks.com.

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

LOUISIANA INTERCHURCH CONFERENCE (LIC)

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Executive Director: The Rev. C. Dana Krutz
To Live the Faith We Hold in Common

Originally formed in 1970, and today with a membership of 16 Christian Churches, Associate Member - The Order of St. Lazarus, and Church Women United, the LIC seeks greater Christian Unity through sharing a common faith in witness, worship, study, and service.

The 48th Annual Assembly of the LIC was held on March 5-6, 2018, at First United Methodist Church in downtown Baton Rouge, LA. The theme was: “*Outlines of the Future Shape of Christian Unity.*” The keynote speaker was: **Dr. Elizabeth Smith, Ph.D.**, a Catholic theologian working in scholarly and pastoral roles in the Boston area. The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Bishop of the United Methodist Church-LA Annual Conference, was installed as President during the Assembly Worship service held at First UMC on Monday evening, March 5th. **Bishop Erik Gronberg** serves *ex officio* as a Board Member and **Mr. Joel Hicks** is his newly appointed Designate. Our sincere appreciation goes out to recently resigned Board members: **Pastor Dale Farley** who served for 27 years, beginning as a Regional Coordinator, then as a Board Designate and as a Secretary on the Executive Committee, and **Mrs. Arlene Lathrop** who served as a Delegate & then a Board Member at Large for 30 years.

The annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, “Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power” (from Exodus 15:6), was commemorated with several events around the state. The LIC task force on Social Justice and Public Policy continues with its Bread or Stones campaign to equip member churches with practical avenues of reducing child poverty, especially in LA, but with TX in mind as well. Mr. Samuel Rottman is the coordinator for the program. We urgently request ALL Synod churches to become covenant partners in this program.

The LIC Board met in September in Alexandria, LA, and addressed the theme: “*The Church, the Reformation and the Quest for Unity*”. The keynote speaker was **Dr. Denis R. Janz**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Religious Studies at Loyola University, who is well versed on Martin Luther and the Reformation.

Among LIC Commissions, the Stewardship of the Environment continues advocating for the Restore Act that involves coastal restoration working in coalition for rebuilding the gulf coast.

The Criminal Justice Commission continues to focus on juvenile justice reforms, implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act for adult offenders, and ending capital punishment in Louisiana. Dr. Stephanie Gaskill has been employed as the coordinator for the new Seven Times Seventy Initiative, a program that provides an educational experience for people of faith that seeks to find ways to minister to those returning to society who were originally convicted of violent crimes and/or were sex offenders. Farmer’s Advocate, Mrs. Betty Puckett continues to work as a contract employee, ready to assist farm families on an as-needed basis.

Largely funded by the member churches, we are grateful for the support of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod of the ELCA and its commitment to ecumenical relationships that keep before the churches Christ’s vision of unity in mission, service and witness.

Our website is: www.lainterchurch.org.

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NORTHERN TEXAS-NORTHERN LOUISIANA SYNOD

2017 was another great year. We did over \$11.6 million dollars of legacy planning.

The total breakdown is as follows: \$288,901 of current gifts, \$3.3 million of current legacy gifts (currently funded endowments, charitable trusts, managed assets), and \$6.65 million dollars of future legacy gifts (future endowments, charitable trusts, and outright gifts). We also worked with churches that invested over \$1.4 million in the ELCA Fund A investment fund.

We also paid out over \$790,000 in endowment income and outright gifts to our Sponsors. In addition we distributed \$297,490 to ELCA churches in Texas, \$147,126 to ELCA seminaries, and \$69,970 to Lutheran universities outside Texas.

Below is a snapshot of what we did for your organization in 2017.

current legacy	NTNL Synod	0.00
future legacy		0.00
current gifts		0.00
FundA		0.00
Endowment Payments		39,944.27
Current Gifts		5,174.00
		\$45,118.27
current gifts	Churches in Synod Area	100,000.00
FundA		0.00
Endowment Payments		100,000.00
Current Gifts		9,393.40
		43,000.00
		\$52,393.40
	grand total gifts	\$100,000.00
	grand total pmts.	\$97,511.67

We hope to continue growing legacy gifts you will benefit from, as well as growing your annual checks that will enhance your ministries now.

Peace
 Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest
 Mark S. Armstrong
 Executive Director



Joint report to synods from LSTC & Wartburg Theological Seminary

Dear Partners in Ministry in the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod,

We know that you seek out and value excellent leaders for your ministries. Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS) and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), the two seminaries that the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod supports, is dedicated to forming such leaders. This report reflects the spirit of collaboration between our schools and highlights the benefits of the distinctive ways we form leaders.

Of all ELCA students enrolled in our church's seven seminaries, 29% of them attend LSTC or WTS. In fall 2017, Wartburg saw a 77% increase in enrollment in the first year class over the previous year, with many of those students enrolled in the distributive learning program. The two schools have over 150 students who hail from our 18 supporting synods in Regions 4 and 5.

The distinctiveness of our locations and programs mean that those following their call to leadership in the church can find the best fit for their circumstances and passions.

LSTC is located in a bustling, racially and ethnically diverse neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. As the ELCA seminary with the highest percentage of residential students, students are able to take advantage of all of the resources and learning opportunities the Chicago area has to offer. LSTC's new strategic plan for 2018-2020 focuses the school on being a community that forms leaders to form communities. In a time of deep polarization in our society, we believe that Christian leaders will play a crucial role in bringing people together. This emphasis is part of LSTC's innovative public church curriculum.

Wartburg Seminary has been forming leaders for over 160 years. Our deep roots allow us to be nimble and explore new ways of preparing people to lead. Although the central location is a castle in Dubuque, Iowa, the technology within these stone walls is far from ancient. In classrooms equipped with newly updated video technology, students from Florida, Colorado, Iowa, Texas, and around the country learn together in real-time. This allows students in our Master of Divinity – Collaborative Learning (CL) program to serve in a congregation or other ministry all four years while learning via video technology. With this program and the help of our partners, we are able to address nearly every education expense a student faces in considering seminary – housing, insurance, tuition, and fees.

Whether face-to-face or online, outstanding faculty and staff at our seminaries form leaders in critical ways.

Gordon Straw, Cornelsen Chair for Spiritual Formation and Coordinator of Candidacy at LSTC, draws on his Native American roots to communicate to his students that spiritual formation is about how we live our lives every day, and that how we live honors God, those around us, and

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ourselves. We are formed through life experience, he says, as much as through traditional spiritual practices.

Lindsey Queener, WTS Director for Admissions joined the team in early 2018. She said, "When I joined the Lutheran church, our congregation used to pray this prayer: 'Bring to this church those who will be nourished here, and those who will nourish us.' That prayer is my prayer as I begin my work on the WTS Admissions team; that this next generation of leaders will be formed in all kinds of new ways, and we too will be formed in all kinds of new ways by them."

Finally, we'd like to introduce you to just one alum from each of our seminaries.



JustChurch is the name of an ELCA Saturday evening worship service supported by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Iowa City, Iowa. "We offer gritty preaching, engaging those uncomfortable, authentic and exhilarating places where the world intersects the kingdom of heaven, those same places where God calls us to be. *Just church*," Rev. Sarah Goettsch, WTS '01 explains. "We commend it to those who find themselves disenfranchised from organized church, who feel harmed or skeptical towards denominational religion, who are seeking to worship, but not necessarily join."



While a youth director, Kara Baylor was called on to preach when the pastor was ill. That sermon must have gone well, because after that Sunday she had plenty of people urge her to consider seminary. The idea wasn't new to her, of course, but it made her seriously consider it. "The call of the community to leadership is very important to me," said Baylor, who graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2000. She is now campus pastor at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis., where she "loves the opportunity to be on the faith journey with students, faculty and staff. The college environment is a place where we are supposed to ask big questions and do it within community. It is a great place to help constructive conversation take place."

We invite you and members of your congregation to visit our seminaries to participate in worship, attend a continuing education event, discern a call to ministry or visit with some of the future leaders that you and your synod support through your gifts to Wartburg and the LSTC. To learn more about your seminaries and the innovative and distinctive ways that we are forming leaders, please visit www.lstc.edu and www.wartburgseminary.edu.

Your partnership is essential for LSTC and Wartburg to continue our shared mission of providing effective theological education and developing leaders for the many ministries of your congregation, synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Nieman".

James Nieman
President
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise N. Johnson".

Louise N. Johnson
President
Wartburg Theological Seminary

LUTHERAN SEMINARY PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHWEST
P. O. Box 4790, Austin, TX 78765 / 512-477-2666 / www.lsp.edu

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to share with you a brief reflection that I shared with my friends on [my](#) Facebook page as we began the Lenten season:

"This Ash Wednesday service at Christ Chapel at the Seminary of the Southwest was a beautiful service as ashes were placed on our foreheads. I experienced many moments of grace in that one hour of worship, but of particular note was the moment in which the entire Body of Christ knelt to examine our individual and corporate conscience, all of us in unison and unity bowing our heads to the Holy in our midst. It reminded me of my childhood when I knelt with my parents in that old wooden church in south Texas that was built for Hispanic Lutherans in 1925. That memory of the faithful kneeling and bowing in worship is timeless. It connected me to the entire church catholic of all the ages and allowed me to make their prayers my own. There is something beautiful in reverence. By it we see ourselves as Sacred. In that moment we recall those who have gone before us, those who shaped and formed our faith by their devotion. We are indeed the extended and beloved family of God!"

I share this reflection with you to remind us that our legacy of faithfulness has far-reaching implications. Those German missionaries who reached out to my family in 1917 did not realize then that a son of the church they helped to start would become the director of a seminary program in Texas. They had no clue that in 2014 a Hispanic Lutheran pastor would continue the work they began almost one hundred years later! They were simply doing what they knew best – serving the neighbor by sharing the love of God with my community.

We at LSPS continue this legacy by preparing pastors to serve in emerging ministries. Since 1975 you have helped us to provide theological education for over two hundred pastors who are serving in twenty-five states and three countries. We are able to do this because of your faithful contribution. Our sustainability and longevity depends on it. Please help us to continue this significant ministry with financial support in your annual budgets that will assist us in preparing the leaders who will shape the lives of so many in the future. Like those early missionaries in south Texas, make a difference that will allow others to tell your story. Your legacy depends on it!

Together we can make a difference!

Muchas gracias!



Rev. Javier (Jay) Alanis, PhD, JD
Executive Director

LUTHERAN SUNSET MINISTRIES

Report to the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Assembly

Lutheran Sunset Ministries (LSM) continues to provide services to more than 200 people on a daily basis within our seven comprehensive programs: Sunset Home, a 96-bed skilled nursing facility; Hope Center, a secure 32-bed skilled nursing secured neighborhood for memory loss/dementia residents; Heckmann Residence, a 24-apartment licensed assisted living facility; Rainbow Retirement Community, 54 independent living apartment; and Hospice Sunset; Sunset Companion Services serving Bosque County and a 25-mile radius of Clifton and Windmill Café, a community outreach program.

LSM's website (www.luthersunset.org), which was renovated in 2014, has been attracting users to pages such as the Sunset Senior Guide Blog, Sunset Lifelong Learning and information on our various programs. The Sunset Senior Guide Blog went live in November 2014. Since then, we've posted more than 150 blog articles covering senior living, lifestyle, helpful tips and decisions that individuals and families face as their loved ones grow older. It has been our third most viewed page on the website, behind "Our Residences" and "Contact Us." We encourage you to check it out at www.luthersunset.org/news.

Social media has been a fantastic way for us to give people a glimpse into our culture here at LSM. On a daily basis, we are posting and sharing engaging photos, articles, links and videos to capture the attention of our target audience. Through Facebook and YouTube, we've been able to connect with people on a personal level, showing all that LSM has to offer in real time. Links to both are located at the bottom of the homepage of our website.

As a Masterpiece Living community embracing the tenets of successful aging, LSM strives to be a leader in health and wellness services, social engagement activities, opportunities for spiritual growth, and last but not least, education programming. With this in mind, LSM has launched a community-wide education series — *Lunch & Learn Speaker Series*. Throughout the year, residents, staff and members of the community can gather for a noon meal and a short educational presentation by various expert speakers throughout the year. These events will be listed at <http://luthersunset.org/sunset-lifelong-learning/> as they are scheduled.

This Masterpiece Living philosophy spills over into everything we do at LSM. From more engaging and diverse activities to empowering our residents to take on projects that fill them with meaning and purpose, we are constantly looking for ways to maintain and improve our successes.

The Sunset Home recently implemented *It's Never 2 Late (iN2L)*, a computer system that empowers residents to connect, engage and enjoy life. iN2L integrates the hardware, software, media and various components necessary to allow virtually any person with any interest in using a computer — regardless of background, physical or intellectual abilities — to do so pleasurably, engagingly, and without frustration. The system is built on a picture-based, touch-screen interface that allows users to simply "touch" their way to find engaging, educational, spiritual and personalized content that is appropriate to their own level of ability. From using e-mail and web cams to connect with family and friends, to enjoying mind-stimulating activities, to improving hand-eye coordination as part of a rehabilitation program, elders with a wide range of physical and cognitive abilities, most of whom have never used a computer, are now enjoying technology using systems adapted especially for them.

In partnership with the Bosque Arts Center, our Resident Art Show has been a huge success. Resident art is displayed and an artist reception takes place, honoring our residents for their creativity. This year's event will take place on March 17.

In 2017, LSM was also voted "Best Retirement Living" and "Best Assisted Living" for the third year in a row in Waco Tribune-Herald's 2016 Readers' Choice Awards.

Lutheran Sunset Ministries appreciates the ongoing support of congregations and individuals of the Synod. Special mention and appreciation to the people in congregations who send quilts for the annual quilt auction in October. The 2017 Volunteer Auxiliary Quilt Auction was a success, bringing in more than \$25,000. We'd like to thank our talented quilt donors, auction bidders, and hardworking Volunteer Auxiliary for another amazing year. The funds raised will fund numerous projects and equipment for the residents of Sunset, significantly adding to their quality of life. Due to the diminishing art of hand quilting and the increased success of the Pot O' Gold Thrift Store, our volunteers have voted to forgo this event. On behalf of the Volunteer Auxiliary, we thank everyone for their participation in this event. In the last 26 years, you've helped our ministry raise thousands of dollars, which were invested back into Lutheran Sunset Ministries. We cannot thank you enough for your support throughout the years. We ask that our donors find other worthy causes to donate their beautiful quilts to in the future.

The health risks of prolonged isolation are equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day and 51 percent of people who are 75 or older live alone (AARP). If a strong

support system isn't available, these older adults could run the risk of experiencing dire physical, mental and emotional consequences that are commonly associated with isolation and loneliness. Whether it's due to the inability to drive, lack of assistance or low income, these older adults need a helping hand and access to the right resources. With these stats in mind, LSM decided it was time to offer the same enriching opportunities they provide their residents to the community at large. After brainstorming, some research, and visiting café's with similar models, it was approved in 2016 by the Board of Directors to pursue the idea of Windmill Café.

More than a café, Windmill not only offers lunch to the Clifton Community, but offers programming for those who are 55 or better. This programming includes opportunities such as educational speakers, art classes, exercise classes, computer basics, health fairs and more. For more information, visit

www.lutheransunset.org/windmill-cafe.

Clifton is a great place to retire. LSM has all the services needed with the continuum of care available on our campus, which is particularly beneficial to couples who may require different services in the future as they age, plus the local clinic and hospital across the street. Clifton has been designated by the State of Texas to be a Certified Retirement Community and a Texas Cultural Arts District. To learn more about Clifton, visit www.cityofclifton.org. To learn more about LSM, visit www.lutheransunset.org or our Facebook page, Lutheran Sunset Ministries. To set up a visit for your church group call Andrea Hikel at 254.675.8637 ext. 2224. Come and visit!

To our friends and partners in the

Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana Mission Area

where Mosaic provides services out of Corsicana,
Dallas, Lubbock, San Angelo and Waco:

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Mosaic's Mission

Embracing God's call to serve in the world, Mosaic advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and provides opportunities for them to enjoy a full life.

Mosaic Allied Voices

If you'd like to help people with disabilities in a direct way, please join our advocacy group, Mosaic Allied Voices (MAV). You'll learn about the important issues facing people with disabilities and how you can help in simple ways, like a phone call or email. Visit www.mosaicalliedvoices.org to learn more.

Rejoicing Spirits

Rejoicing Spirits, a ministry of Mosaic, celebrates and values every person's talents and gifts, offering people of all abilities an opportunity to lead and serve their faith community. For more information, please visit www.rejoicingspirits.org.



A life of possibilities for people with intellectual disabilities.



Dear friends,

Our work at Mosaic is filled with surprising, spontaneous moments that regularly remind us why we do what we do. As example, the following conversation took place after a woman Mosaic supports surprised everyone with her piano talent, playing a wide repertoire of songs.

Employee: Shari, did you have a piano growing up?

Shari: Oh, no.

Employee: Did you ever take piano lessons or have a piano teacher?

Shari: No. No, I didn't.

Employee: Did anyone in your family play the piano?

Shari: No. Just me.

Employee: So Shari, who taught you how to play? How do you know all those songs?

Shari: God. God teaches me how to play. He teaches me the songs I need to know.

People of faith know that God is always at work—and sometimes works to surprise us!

We have many stories similar to Shari's and we share them to help people understand Mosaic's mission of service and advocacy: We provide a meaningful life in a caring community, giving a voice to people's needs. How that happens looks different for every person we serve.

Shari lives on her own but can't be fully independent. We work with her about 15 hours a week, helping her with the things she can't do, like finances, doctor's visits, etc. Mosaic also serves people who need assistance 24 hours a day, every day.

It is a mission we could not fulfill without you, our church partners. We are grateful for the many churches and faithful people who support our ministry across the United States. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Linda Timmons, Mosaic President and CEO



Mosaic | 4990 S. 118th St. | Omaha, NE 68137-2200 | 877.366.7242 | www.mosaicinfo.org



Seafarers International House

Harbor of Hospitality

123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003
212-677-4800 (seven days a week, 24 hours a day) — info@sihny.org — www.sihny.org



Rev. Marsh Luther Drege
Executive Director

Mission Highlights

	2017	2016	2015
Seafarers			
Ships Boarded	1,335	1,686	1,852
Seafarers Visited	17,438	18,970	21,500
Van Trips	2,680	3,145	4,074
Seafarers Transported	8,675	7,661	11,478
Christmas-at-Sea Gifts	1,775	1,771	2,226
Immigrants			
Refugees - Asylum Seekers	31	23	12
Lodging Nights	1,971	805	709
Community			
Domestic Violence-Human Trafficking	27	8	14
Local Disaster Victims	168	72	56
Youth Service Gatherings	10	5	4
Church Gatherings	225	181	179
Community Gatherings	497	398	447

2017 was an unusual year for the port mission. Two port chaplains experienced serious health issues (shoulder surgery and stroke), removing them from service each for a month, another port chaplain experienced family health issues, removing her from service for one month, and two of the ports (Connecticut and Philadelphia) experienced a significant drop-off of ship arrivals in the last two months of the year. Based on the first nine months experience and adjusting for the impact of these health issue and ship arrival factors, the number of ships boarded would have been 1,800, the number of seafarers visited would have been 19,200, the number of van trips would have been 3,000 and the number of seafarers transported would have been 9,000.

YEAR IN REVIEW

We plan to make a difference. We plan to be part of God's plan. That's why we stand with seafarers. We stand with immigrants. We stand with domestic violence survivors and victims of human trafficking.

The numbers to the right tell part of that story, but what they mostly tell is that Seafarers International House is in the most unique position to visit seafarers in seven different ports, and house immigrants who are just coming out of detention or other challenging circumstances. What these numbers tell is that, while we continue our ministry

of presence to seafarers who come into the ports or who stay at our guesthouse, our robust growth has been especially seen in the number of individuals and the number of nights (1,971 nights provided in 2017 compared to 805 in 2016) where we provide room in the inn for the most vulnerable of immigrants.

Indeed in 2017 we budgeted \$92,000 for aiding the asylees who come stay with us and yet actually invested over \$108,000 to assist and house those asylees who came our way. Obviously the need was greater than

our plans and that is okay. "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). We are planning for the need by being open to where the need is. We plan to

serve where the grace of God is most needed and our board of directors and supporters back that plan with all their resources and passion.

We currently plan also to take stock of our mission center- which is our guesthouse in Manhattan. After more than 50 years it is showing its age, and we are called to be good stewards of this valuable resource. Our Facilities Working group is seriously looking at the infrastructure of what our building needs are for another 50 years of service.

Concurrently, our leaders are looking at our mission strategy and planning for emerging needs.

This much is true: we are the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and sojourners and, with your help, we will continue to plan for those needing our unconditional love today and into the hope and future of tomorrow.

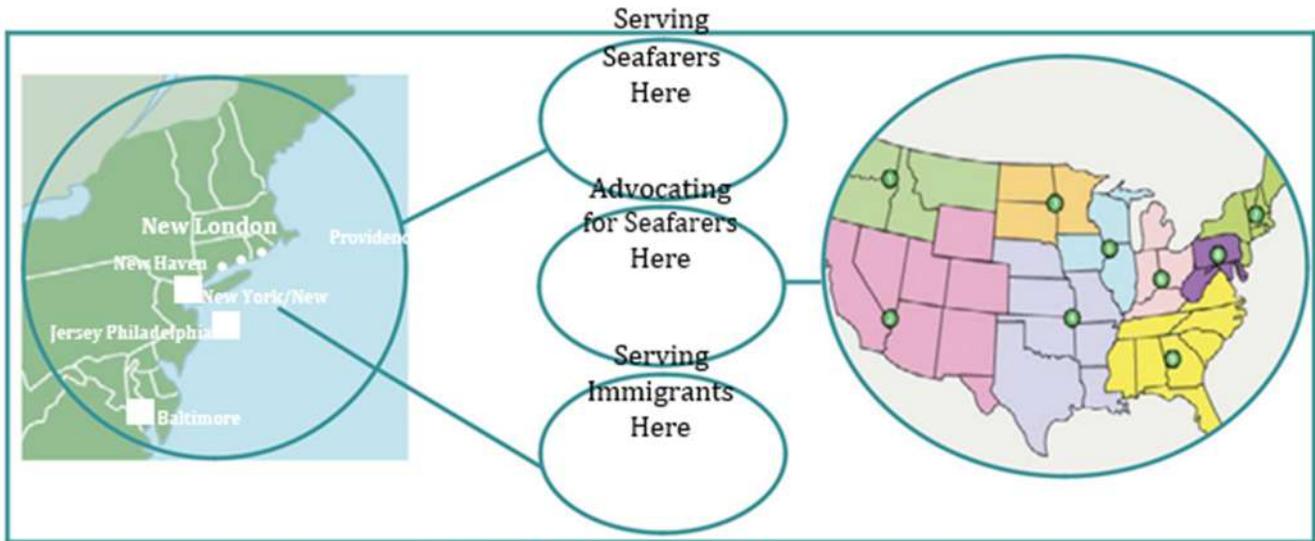
Blessings, *Marsh Luther Drege*

Remember, our Guesthouse also accommodates church gatherings and civic groups traveling to New York City in connection with their missions and needing safe, affordable lodging. Through these accommodations, we support your missions. And by staying here, you help to support our mission to seafarers, immigrants and other displaced persons.

Sleep Well, While Doing Good



PART D



Non-Polarizing Advocacy

"We have entered a whirlpool. Social conventions, economic truths and political consensus have been upended. Nearly all our self-evident values have been sucked into a vortex of fear, doubt and denial."

That's how we at Seafarers International House saw the world in January 2017. Little has changed since then, and we are challenged to articulate our role as an ELCA social ministry to seafarers and immigrants in this polarized environment.

Seafarers just need a little time in port to disembark their ships, stand on *terra firma*, do some shopping, mingle with people ashore and return to their ships. Only the United States requires disembarking seafarers to hold visas in order to protect our homeland security.

Immigrants just try to escape violence or seek a better life or grew up here not knowing they were undocumented. They are subjected to workplace and residential raids, imprisonment and deportation, in order to protect our cultural heritage.

Collectively, we need to uphold and advocate for the common good of all humanity. Part of that collective effort is Seafarers International House's mission to seafarers and immigrants. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton has stated, *"As Lutherans, we live out our biblical calling by serving in ministries with migrants and refugees in our communities and advocating for laws that reflect this commitment."* We will continue to stand with and advocate for our seafarers and immigrants.

But we must listen too, especially to the people with whom we disagree, lest we lose the possibility of learning and the opportunity of reaching common understandings. We must become eloquent listeners, willing to allow ourselves to be persuaded by those people with whom we disagree. That willingness will breed trust; that trust will overcome fear, doubt and denial; and we may recover our better values and the common good.

1. Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, *Statement on Dreamers*, February 9, 2018
 2. Robert B. Reich, *The Common Good*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York 2018

	Ruth Setaro Port Chaplain - CT & RI			Luisito Destreza Port Chaplain - NY/NJ	
	Arnd Braun-Storck Port Chaplain - NY/NJ			Bob Schmitt Port Chaplain - Baltimore	
	Sigrid Brooker			Naz Seenuath Social Worker - NY/NJ	

Seafarers International House is a Lutheran response to the urgent needs of our most vulnerable seafarers and sojourners



Report to the 2018 Synod Assembly

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod

Thank you for the privilege of being a partner with you in the mission of Lutheran higher education.

Highlights of the 2017-18 year at Texas Lutheran University include:

- Record Enrollment in the Fall of 2017, with our largest Freshmen class in history.
- A new Master of Science in Data Analytics.
- A \$1.9 million grant to our nursing program.
- Continued high rankings of TLU by *U.S. News and World Report* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Celebration of *500 years of Reformation* with noted speakers such as Kathleen Norris, Rev. Timothy Wengert and Rev. Bradley Schmeling, along with a Reformation Cantata featuring the TLU Choir in a world premiere performance.
- Hosting a national gathering of retired ELCA bishops and spouses on campus.
- Higher Spring Enrollment and higher retention.
- Celebration of the Grand Opening of the Weston Center for the Performing Arts.
- Hosting nationally noted speakers such as Rita Moreno, Diane Guerrero and Shaka Senghor.
- Addition of two new members to the TLU Corporation (both of which are TLU alumni): Ms. Sarah Lynch, member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Worth
Pastor Jeremy Ullrich of Shepherd King Lutheran Church in Lubbock
- Addition of one member of the TLU Board of Regents, representing the NTNL Synod: Pastor Kendra Mohn of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Worth

TLU is proud to be part of the ELCA's life and ministry. We are grateful for the continuing national recognition we receive for academic quality, value and service. We feel pride in our expansion of facilities for nursing, theatre, music and athletics. We welcome your support in prayer, students and contributions. The opportunities and challenges before the university never cease to engage and enliven our vision and conversations. Thank you for your partnership with us in our mission of higher education. Together we are finding ways to learn boldly and live to inspire.



LIFTING UP GOD'S CHILDREN

God counts every strand of hair on a child's head and every freckle sprinkled across a sun-kissed nose. In His heart, no child is a mistake. Tragically, not everyone believes this truth.

Tens of thousands of children are treated as objects instead of treasures. Upbring is a faith-based nonprofit working to break the cycle of child abuse by empowering children, families and communities.

The Hands and Feet of Jesus

Upbring understands the unique needs of the communities served by the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod because we serve here, too. With children's and community services strategically located across North Texas, as well as disaster response services in Louisiana, we are humbled to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need.

Upbring.org

 /UpbringOrg |  @UpbringOrg

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Upbring's research shows that child abuse and neglect often extend beyond the four walls of a home and into the fiber of our communities, the result of financial difficulties, failing health, marriage turmoil and other stressors. Upbring delivers services that address the spectrum of each child's and family's needs.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- **Foster In Texas (FIT):** 1,913 children welcomed into loving foster homes through 14 FIT offices across Texas
- **Adoption:** 172 children connected with forever families (42 through domestic and international adoption, 130 through foster-to-adopt)
- **Residential treatment centers:** 357 brave girls given a safe place to heal through the power of spiritual care, education and state-of-the-art therapy
- **Unaccompanied immigrant minors:** 1,349 brave, unaccompanied child refugees given food, shelter, spiritual care, therapy and educational services
- **BeREAL:** 30 young adults transitioned from foster care to independent living
- **Upbring Education Services:** 2,323 children given a safe, inclusive place to grow inside and outside the classroom in Upbring Head Start Preschool and Trinity Charter Schools

COMMUNITY SERVICES - LUBBOCK

- **Neighborhood House:** 15,410 Lubbock-area residents provided emergency assistance for food vouchers, hygiene products, prescriptions, utility assistance and other necessities
- **Health for Friends Clinic:** 6,031 visits to our free clinics

DISASTER RESPONSE

- Approximately 2,305 people assisted with short – and long-term needs in the aftermath of disasters
- 756 volunteers coordinated
- 39,792 volunteer hours served