

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



ANTI-RACISM STRATEGY ENABLER

Ellen Karl

Free young women from the daily pressures of life, to develop and embrace their beliefs about God, appreciation of others, and their value as individuals.



Our purpose, for the last 80 years, has remained constant: to provide a safe and enjoyable outdoor camping experience in a supportive environment that fosters spiritual, mental, physical, and social growth. While our capacity remains the same, what does fluctuate from year to year is the number of girls we serve.

Enrollments can be driven by general trends in the camping industry, complex social and economic trends, or something as simple as how much it rained the previous summer. We are happy to report that Camp Ma-He-Tu was filled to capacity in 2017! That means we were able to fulfill our mission by providing over 300 girls with freedom from the daily pressures of life, so they could grow together in a supportive and fun camping community, and develop and embrace their spirituality, appreciation of others, and their value as individuals.

In order to carry out this work, our committee and the Board of Directors of Camp Ma-He-Tu works year-round on our program; site maintenance needs; compliance with state, park, and accrediting agency requirements; food service contracts; staffing issues; fundraising initiatives; financial concerns; and a multitude of other topics.

This year, we were also able to host a reunion for our alumnae and friends to celebrate 80 years of providing girls with memories that last a lifetime. We would like to thank Rev. Katrina Foster for leading us in a wonderful worship service that highlighted this event.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

A camp environment affords those in the first third of life a unique opportunity for a very high level of interaction and engagement. We are gathered in the natural world, where, for many, God's word is heard most clearly. Girls come together from all over the New York Metropolitan Area, representing a full range of socio-economic backgrounds and varied exposure to a life of faith, to a place where character, not status, is what really matters. Here they learn to truly develop and live their faith. We may only have our campers for a short time, but the intensity of the experience of living together—all day, every day, for at least two weeks—takes our campers and staff beyond superficial engagement with each other and their creator, to a place where the realization of God's constant grace is not only evident, but

inescapable. The impact of the camp experience is heightened by the omission of the distractions of life at home. One does not have to strain to hear the voice of God—as spoken through nature, scripture, hymns, friends, and counselors, when television, social media, and other technologies are silent. Our goal is to send our campers home refreshed, renewed, and ready to live and spread their faith at a deeper level.

BUILDING BRIDGES

When we bring girls and young women from many and varied backgrounds together in a compassionate Christian community where mutual respect, understanding, and acceptance are the essence of the camp culture, quite simply, love grows and connections blossom. The work is unique because the environment is unique. The physical environment is very different from the home environment of almost all our campers. A child living in the Bronx does not generally get to wake up to a conversation with a chipmunk. A tree may grow in Brooklyn, but most kids who live there don't get to wander through a forest on a daily basis. Some of our more fortunate campers may have a pool in their yard, but they can't go fishing in it, or catch a frog by its waters. Mentally, our environment is unique because campers must rely on their own judgment to successfully navigate the day.

Although closely monitored by counselors, the young women are substantially more independent at camp than they are at home. Not only do they get to be their "own person," they get to decide what that person will be like. Will they be kind and thoughtful? Will they be caring and connected? What will happen if they do, or don't, get along? Socially, the camp environment is like no other. Remembering that the people in charge, the counselors, are all young women themselves, we have a community that completely celebrates youth from youth's own perspective. What makes Ma-He-Tu pretty special is that in any given summer, 80% to 99% of our staff has grown up at Ma-He-Tu! They are adamant in their desire to make camp as special for their campers as it was for them. This means they do not tolerate intolerance, they shun disrespect, and they positively reject negativity. The welcoming and inclusive message is shaped every summer by the very people who grew up treasuring that message and will go to all ends to perpetuate it. It follows that this environment—as physically, mentally, and socially unique as it is—fosters an environment that is, above all, spiritually unique. The connections that are forged between a camper and nature, herself, and her friends, lead her to a very special spiritual connection to God through the love that surrounds her. The immersion in this unique environment for "twenty-four, seven" for at least two weeks, has in impact on our youth that is like no other. The bridges our girls construct



PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THESE UPCOMING DATES:

Work Day, May 26:

All are welcome to help get Ma-He-Tu ready for the summer. Bring your own lunch, be our guest for dinner. Be ready to roll up your sleeves!

Open Houses, May 27 and June 9, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.:

Please come take a tour of our site and meet with some of our campers, staff, and board members. Bring a picnic and enjoy our beautiful, open-air dining hall. We would love to meet you and answer your questions.

between each other and their creator are strong, beautiful, and most certainly built to last a lifetime.

We all know that bridges come in all shapes and sizes, from a log placed over a stream to serve as a foot-bridge for hikers passing through, to the huge bridges we see all around us that, on a daily basis, support the load of commuters, buses, and trucks as they travel throughout the New York Metropolitan area. The bridges we build at camp are not made of logs, nor of concrete or steel, but they can carry a very heavy load. For some girls, the social and spiritual connections they make at camp are exactly what they need to carry them through difficult times at home. When they have lonely moments, are feeling rejected or "bullied," they can connect to camp friends for understanding and support, knowing they have a constant and firm bridge to a caring, Christian community and a loving God. Like the bridges in New York, our bridges spread out in all directions and span from one neighborhood to another, and one generation to the next. Connecting to each other, through our faith, is essentially what the Christian camping experience is all about.

GET INVOLVED!

We would love to be invited to your congregation to talk about our camping program. Please help us fulfill our goal of bringing as many girls as possible into the Ma-He-Tu family. We also have brochures available for distribution in your congregations.

We will be hosting two more Open Houses this spring, on **May 27 and June 9, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.** Please come to our site and talk with our staff and Board, to see for yourself what we are all about.

We also offer a session for women with or without their girls. Check out our "Women-in-the-Woods" program on our website (www.mahetu.org).

Our committee is responsible for the physical upkeep of our property. We have no maintenance staff and, as a result, we have many opportunities for service projects for your youth or adult groups in the spring. Coming up on May 26, we welcome all hands to our site, to help out. We have projects of all kinds, no skills required, with onsite training happily supplied! Bring your lunch; we'll feed you a great dinner!

Please contact us if you are interested in using our facilities for a retreat in the spring or fall.

Women-in-the-Woods, June 30 through July 4:

This is the time we set aside for adults, either with or without girls in tow. Come test our waters, eat our food, sleep in our beds. Get to really know us. Come for one day, or all four.

Three two-week sessions for girls ages seven through fifteen:

July 8 – 21: The highlight of this encampment is our celebration of Christmas in July.

July 22 – Aug. 4: The annual Canoe Regatta is held at this encampment. Camps from the Harriman State Park region gather to race and cheer their hearts out!

Aug. 5 – 18: This is the encampment in which we celebrate Halloween. We also mark the end of the summer with a musical production and a scrumptious banquet



LUTHERAN COUNSELING CENTER

Molly W. Blancke, *executive director*

BUILDING BRIDGES: Greetings to ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod Congregations!



THE LUTHERAN COUNSELING CENTER (LCC) OF NEW YORK is a ministry of the Church, with eight counseling sites within the metropolitan New York area, offering health, hope and wholeness by providing faith-based individual and family psychotherapy. LCC has a total of 18 licensed professional pastoral counselors, social workers and psychologists, all from a Christian background. We value each person as a unique and worthy creation of God. LCC recognizes and celebrates the connection between one's faith and the process of growth and healing.

We at LCC serve persons and families of different racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Diversity is important to us as we reach out to those in emotional pain, no matter what their background or situation. Lutheran Counseling Center psychotherapists support and uphold the faith of the person being counseled, guiding the person to use their own faith as a support in working through their mental health issues.

Some issues we can help with are anxiety, depression, couple issues or other close relationship needs, trauma, PTSD, grief and loss, parenting issues, children's and teen's issues, just to name a few. We can also help with personal growth, adjustments to life transitions or illnesses. LCC counsels children, teens, couples, families and individuals.

LUTHERAN COUNSELING CENTER HAS THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY COUNSELING SITES:

- Advent Lutheran Church, 2504 Broadway, New York, NY
- The Interchurch Center, ELCA Offices, 16th Floor, 475 Riverside Drive, NY

- Christ Lutheran Church, Woodside, NY
- LCC—Paul Qualben Site, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7420 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY
- Village Lutheran Church, 172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY
- Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 132 Jefferson Avenue, Mineola, NY
- St. Luke Lutheran Church, 20 Candlewood Path, Dix Hills, NY
- Emanuel Lutheran Church, 179 E. Main St., Patchogue, NY

In 2017, LCC provided a total of 5,968 counseling sessions, of which almost one fifth were subsidized by our Silent Samaritan program, funded by our generous donors. Many others were subsidized by churches, insurance or grants. LCC also facilitates mental health workshops, parenting classes, and conflict intervention for churches and schools.

As an organization formally affiliated with the ELCA, our goal is to build bridges with you, your congregations, and constituents. LCC can be an important extension of your ministry, providing hope, healing and mental health wellness. Contact us or visit our website at <http://www.lcnny.org> for more information about our ministry or about becoming a partnering congregation.



Thank you for your help in spreading the word of God's work at the Lutheran Counseling Center.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Bob Bender, *president*

BUILDING MEN FOR CHRIST AND BUILDING BRIDGES FOR HIS GLORY

THE METRO NEW YORK SYNOD CHAPTER OF LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION has been a partner in Ministry with MNYS since 1991. Our goal is to “Build Men for Christ,” to become “Disciples of Christ.”

We are supporting two **Diakonia Students** in the Bronx, with the **“Judge Daniel Joy Scholarship Fund.”** Judge Joy was a founding member of both our chapter and the National LMM, and this scholarship was begun in memory of him, in 2016. On Oct. 21, 2017, we held our first Men’s Day Retreat at Ascension Deer Park. It was led by the Rev. Jonathan Linman, assistant to the Bishop – MNYS, who presented a study on the Reformation titled **“The Small Catechism is Not Just for Kids.”** The event was attended by six men, and a delight for every man who was present.

We do enjoy a very close relationship with the national Lutheran Men in Mission organization and, we are therefore able to hold effective events and provide a special resource to benefit the men of our synod, by hosting training events, and providing speakers for meetings and introducing ideas for Men’s Ministry.

On March 10, 2018, we held our **“Annual Meeting”** at St John’s, in Lindenhurst, NY. We were delighted by the return of Rev. Linman, who led in worship and Bible study. We were also paid a visit by Mr. Hal Derrick, National President of Lutheran Men in Mission, who spoke to us about the future of Men’s ministry and how it is building bridges to other Christian churches. Our treasurer, Mr. Ed Blankenhorn, also presented a seminar on “Grants and Planning,” and Deacon Tony Clemente became our new vice president. Our plans are to hold an event in the fall with the national organization, and continue to “Build Bridges” with all men in the synod and beyond.

I wish to thank “Our Lord” for all He has done for us and for the leadership I receive from the synod office staff, the pastors, and the men I work with on the board of LMM – MNYS, who help guide me in this effort.

We are here to help **“Men in the Pew”** by supporting them with resources. That is what we do! Small groups are a specialty. Feel free to contact me at: luthermanmnys@gmail.com or 631-281-4892.

The National web site is www.lutheranmeninmission.org.



LUTHERAN MINISTRIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION OF NYC, INC.

The Rev. Becca Seely, *executive director*

The mission of LMHE is to create a network of open-minded, big-hearted campus ministry communities in NYC, where students engage Christian faith, expand their minds, pursue justice, and create community.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Rev. Emily Trubey-Weller (president), Mr. Michael Jakob, Dr. Carolyn Riehl, Mr. Michael Hammett, Rev. Chryll Crews, Rev. John Heidgerd, Rev. Chris Shelton, Ms. Tiffany Chao, Ms. Michelle Goff

The 2017–2018 academic year has been full of growth and movement for LMHE. Through our citywide Vine NYC campus ministry network, LMHE served students from 11 colleges and universities across New York City. Our ministry branches at Queens College, in downtown Manhattan, and in Morningside Heights provided weekly and monthly worship, learning and service opportunities throughout the year.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-2018 INCLUDE:

New Ecumenical Branch Downtown: LMHE has partnered with Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church, to launch a new, ecumenical campus ministry community for students living and studying in lower Manhattan. Weekly student dinners, with Bible study and Communion, began in January 2018 and plans are in place for outreach events, and service and justice projects in the near future.

Student Leadership: We have robust student leadership in all three of our branches, with undergraduates and graduate students serving in peer ministry roles. These positions not only benefit the ministry, but also enable the students to grow in leadership skills and discern their sense of vocation and calling. Our student leaders work on worship, outreach, communications, relationship building, justice, education, and service projects.

Participation Growth: We saw an increase in participation in our ministries in 2017-2018, particularly within the ecumenical LaMP campus ministry in Morningside Heights, where our worshipping community grew from an average of 17 students to an average of 23 students gathering each week.

Sexual Ethics Project: The Vine NYC network has engaged in discussion and learning around sexual ethics throughout this academic year. We had a keynote workshop with Christian sexual ethicist, Dr. Kate Ott, and in both semesters had a series of small groups addressing faith, sexuality, and ethics for students.

Missional Planning: The missional planning process that LMHE began in 2016 has culminated in the identification



Students from The Vine citywide community visit a pumpkin patch during our annual fall retreat.

of four priority areas: program development, fund/resource development, board development, and communications. Working Groups, comprised of members from both within and outside our board, are now working hard to set goals and implement strategies for the next three to four years.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

The mission statement of our Synod's Strategic Plan aligns closely with the mission of LMHE's campus ministries. The mission of LMHE is to expand minds, deepen faith, pursue justice, and create community in and among college and graduate students. We seek to expand minds by building campus ministry communities, wherein college and graduate students hear that they are claimed by God in Jesus Christ, and engage in meaningful exploration of the Christian tradition. We seek to deepen faith by gathering students together around Word and Sacrament and to build welcoming, Christian communities. We strive to inspire service by developing a sense of Christian vocation in students as they make sense of their identity and purpose in this world. Finally, we seek to be an intentionally anti-racist campus ministry and continually bring issues of racism and systemic oppression into our conversations.

BUILDING BRIDGES

LMHE is deeply committed to building bridges. It is a fundamentally connective organization that brings together congregations, organizations, denominations, and communities. In particular, LMHE is proud to operate two ecumenical campus ministries in Manhattan, together with congregations of our full communion partners, the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as well as a campus ministry in Queens with a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We are also proud to actively partner with four ELCA congregations in Manhattan, to make our local



Students at The Vine's branch at Queens College gather with the Hillel for A Festival of Two Faiths, a conversation about Passover and Easter, in March 2018.

ministries uptown and downtown possible. Moreover, while almost all Christian ministries to students in NYC are operated by parachurch groups who do not affirm LGBTQ people or women's leadership, LMHE bears a unique and much-needed witness to the Gospel by offering a radical, public, and grace-filled welcome to all students, regardless of (among other things) sexuality, gender, faith background or lack thereof.

GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to engage in the work of LMHE and help support our ministry with students, including financially supporting the ministry, volunteering, helping us connect to your congregation, and more:

Volunteer: Do you have gifts, resources, energy, and passion you'd like to share? We would love to connect with volunteers who would like to make meals for students, work with our Board of Directors, help us connect to a service opportunity, assist with events like our annual Trivia Night Fundraiser, help at one of our outreach events, meet with students interested in learning more about your line of work, speak to our students about your field of expertise, or... something else! Email pastor@thevinenyc.org if you would like to become involved in one of the ways listed or if you have another great idea for how you can help!

Make a Financial Gift: This ministry simply isn't possible without the generous partnership of people like you, who care about ministry with students. Consider making an individual gift and ask your congregation how it can help support campus ministry on an ongoing basis. For instance, does your congregation have a discretionary fund or a tradition of offering mission support? Do you collect special offerings for non-congregational ministries? Please consider giving and encouraging your congregation to support campus ministry. Give online at thevinenyc.org/support.

Plan a Campus Ministry Sunday for your Congregation: Invite Pastor Becca Seely to come and preach, and to bring one of our students to share the impact campus ministry has had in their life. Pray for students. Gather a special offering in support of LMHE. Write notes of support for members of the congregation who are in college and graduate school. There are many possibilities! Email Pastor Becca at pastor@thevinenyc.org to discuss and schedule a Campus Ministry Sunday.

Refer Students: Are there students in your congregation who attend college or graduate school in New York City? Let them know about LMHE's ministries and send us their contact information, so Pr. Becca can get in touch. Email pastor@thevinenyc.org.

Stay in Touch: Sign up for our newsletter at: thevinenyc.org/newsletter. Like The Vine on Facebook (facebook.com/thevinenewyork), follow us on Instagram (@vinenyc), and share our posts on your own and your congregation's page.

Pray for Students: Please keep LMHE, its students, and all who study, in your prayers and lift them up in the prayer ministries of your congregation.

Thank you for working with us to share the good news of Jesus Christ with students in NYC!

Pastor Mark Erson and students from The Vine's new ecumenical branch in lower Manhattan share ashes and prayer with neighbors and students in Washington Square Park, on Ash Wednesday 2018.



engaging faith. expanding minds. pursuing justice.
creating community.



A network of big hearted, open minded campus ministries in NYC. Learn more at thevinenyc.org

LMHE FACTS & FIGURES

Students Directly Served through Worship, Learning and Service Opportunities in 2017-2018: 70

Local Branches in The Vine Network: 3

Partner Congregations working with LMHE in Local Branches: 8

Recent Graduates attending ELCA Seminars: 2

Student Gatherings for Worship, Learning and Service in 2016: Over 100

Institutions Attended by our Students in 2017-2018: 11, including—Manhattan School of Music | Columbia University | Barnard College | Union Seminary | New York University | Queens College | University of Arizona (Online) | City College | Baruch College | Lehman College | The New School

Students Reached Through Outreach and Hospitality Events in 2016: Over 750



At its weekly dinner, LaMP, The Vine's Uptown Branch Uptown welcomes a representative from the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program.

LUTHERAN SERVICES NEW YORK ALLIANCE

John W. Havrilla *Working together to further the church's servant mission.*



Katrina Foster, Dean; and The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Linman for assisting with the installation service. Further, the Alliance continues in providing financial support to our members, regarding the development efforts of each Alliance agency.

Our primary program is our Clinical Pastoral Education Program, which operates under the able direction of the Rev. Silvia Misina. Every year, we offer five different CPE units of various lengths: fall, spring, summer, and an extended unit. Most of our students are Christian, but we also train Jewish rabbis and cantors. Many people take one CPE unit as a requirement for their ordination process or for credit at their seminary. Some lay people also participate, seeking to be better equipped for ministry within their congregations.

COME SHARE OUR VISION: Lutheran Services New York Alliance seeks to serve as an identifiable public face and voice for excellence, quality, and best practices in Lutheran human care services, by partnering with members, and ecumenical, interfaith and other organizations in the southern portion of New York State.

Atlantic District/LCMS, Metropolitan NY Synod/ELCA, Eger Lutheran Homes and Services, Lutheran Counseling Center, NYU Langone-Brooklyn, Lutheran Social Services of New York, Seafarers International House, The Healing Center, Wartburg

Lutheran Services New York Alliance continues to work toward fulfilling its mission by helping to fund our member agencies and judicatories as they seek to fulfill their respective missions and provide quality spiritual care where there is human need. This year, the "Alliance" continued to strengthen its efforts in funding our mission and is grateful to the individual donors, congregations and community organizations that support our mission. In addition, the Alliance assisted in providing chaplaincy services to the Muhlenberg and Bergen Street residences of Lutheran Social Services of New York, as well as Eger Lutheran Homes and Services. The installation service of the Rev. Samuel Silaban was held on February 12 in Brooklyn. Special appreciation is extended to the Synod Council; the Rev.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

The Alliance reflects the goals of the SENT Committee, as expressed in the MNYS Strategic Plan, in that our members are directly involved in addressing a wide spectrum of human need in people of all ages—with an emphasis on providing quality spiritual care in interfaith and secular settings. Nowhere is our commitment to serve all better expressed than in the work of our Clinical Pastoral Education Program, which provides education and instruction to a diverse group of chaplains. Chaplains from Nigeria, Ghana, Mexico, Germany, Scotland, the Caribbean, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Serbia have participated. And denominations represented vary from Pentecostal, Seventh Day Adventist, Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox, to Jewish rabbis and cantors, and to humanists. We all come with the same goal—to learn and to become better equipped to serve those who are suffering, in pain, and in crisis. The people we serve are also of various religious and ethnic backgrounds. Sometimes, English as a spoken language is an exception. It is exciting and fulfilling work, because of diversity, but mainly because of the profound and deep human connections that are established.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Reflecting on the ELCA's proposal of "Walking Together," the work of the Alliance is at the heart of the church's mission. We celebrate the call extended to Chaplain Silaban by the Synod Council, as his ministry is a sign of the strengthening relationship among our social ministry organizations, congregations, and church judicatories. Our hope is to affirm this critical relationship in a common mission of serving all God's people in need.

Given the significant restrictions in governmental support for the neediest among us, the mission of serving those in need is becoming more critical. This is a marvelous time for the church to embrace each of our member agencies as a setting for the church's mission and ministry, in terms of prayerful, participatory, and financial assistance.

The Alliance is one of the few "inter-Lutheran" endeavors, not only in the greater NY area in the southern part of New York State, but in the United States, as well. We serve alongside the Atlantic District – LCMS, and we serve with the interfaith community and all people who seek justice and healing, especially for those most vulnerable among us. Significant support comes to us from the Jewish religious community, as well as secular organizations. The Alliance is a bridge between people as depicted in our Lord's image of the Good Samaritan, who extends himself in living out the "I – Thou" relationship with people of vastly different cultures and faiths. While not recognized as much as one would hope, the member agencies of our Alliance are "gems" of the church in bringing the best to the human family, wherever it experiences need.

GET INVOLVED

Individuals and congregations can lend their prayers and financial support by visiting our website at www.lsnia.org. Further, all are welcome to attend our graduation service for chaplains, held annually. It is an inspiring event that brings tears to the eyes. You will hear how our students' lives have changed and hear about those who have been served. Everyone is also encouraged to visit our member agency locations. Director John Havrilla will be more than happy to facilitate these visits. Also, all are welcome to attend the yearly events held by our member agencies. Information about these events can be found on the LSNYA website by selecting any of the agency logos.

Finally, consider that God may be calling you to grow in providing spiritual care in your homes, local communities, congregations, or other communities where healing is needed.

OUR CORE VALUES INCLUDE:

- **Freedom to serve and risk**
- **Excellence of service delivery**
- **Service to the most vulnerable**
- **Vocational dignity**
- **Grateful stewardship**
- **Expressing fully our fundamental connectedness**



THE LUTHERAN SUMMER GATHERING AT SILVER BAY

Marie C. Jerge, *dean, director of ministry*

THE LUTHERAN SUMMER GATHERING AT SILVER BAY is a fun and relaxing weeklong vacation for spiritual and physical renewal. For 85 years, Lutherans of all ages have played and prayed together on the shores of beautiful Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. It has elements of both a destination vacation and a camping retreat experience.

In 2017, approximately 250 gathering participants joined the entire church in celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In addition to worship, led by Pastor Becca Ehrlich as Chaplain and classes with Tom Henry and Pastor Imani Dodley, we shared Lutheran Trivia, and held seminars on Reformation medals and German beer. Chris Schaefer served as Teen Leader and did a fabulous job! Silver Bay offered its usual variety of activities—swimming, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, tennis, crafts, watercolor painting, rocking on the porch, and more. It is a great place for getting away from it all and living in Christian community.

Our theme for July 14-20, 2018, is Walking With Jesus, featuring Pastor Lee Miller II as our Chaplain, Pastors Arden Strasser and Gladys Moore as our faculty, and Chris Schaefer, once again, as our Teen Leader. We are looking forward to a visit from Upstate New York Synod Bishop John Macholz. I am happy to report that the Lutheran Summer Gathering is financially solvent and operating in the black.

We give thanks for the Planning Committee members who work all year to plan the program. It consists of people from each of the supporting synods, and more. Members include the Rev. Marie Jerge, the Rev. James Bresnahan and Patti Garrison from Upstate New York, and Beth Smayda from metropolitan New York. Others are Sue Hollar and staff: Chad Volkert, director; Katie Bang, activities director; and Karen (Mouse) Hoffman, registrar. We are also delighted to welcome Will Platnick in Communications.

GET INVOLVED

For information and registration, visit our website at www.lutherans-silverbay.org or find us on Facebook or Instagram @LutheranSummerGathering.



MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

Gerry Lauro, *regional manager*

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 those loans, congregations and ministries can purchase property, construct new buildings, and expand or renovate existing facilities.

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

At year-end 2017, MIF had 888 loans outstanding, totaling \$539.1 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 2017, MIF investments totaled \$506 million.

MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$715.7 million and net assets of \$203.9 million at year-end 2017, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 28.5%, 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 Metropolitan New York Synod (as of December 31, 2017):

- 17 Mission Investment Fund Loans, with a balance of \$4,247,173
- \$6,083,492 in Mission Investment Fund Investments

CONTACT US

Gerry Lauro, Regional Manager,
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UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY GETTYSBURG + PHILADELPHIA

James S. Dunlop, *acting president*

United Lutheran Seminary is a place of extraordinary education, living into the power of death and resurrection through our shared experience and learning.

At United Lutheran Seminary, we have a new understanding of Jesus' words from the Gospel of John: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

We are a new seminary born out of our predecessor schools, with over 300 years of experience in theological education. Many people have sacrificed their time, talent, and resources to bring us to this point. The sacrifices continue, as does the work of United Lutheran Seminary.

On both the Philadelphia and Gettysburg campuses, we look to those who have gone before us in order to learn those core convictions of our confessional learning that hold us steadfast in grace. We call on the excellence of our alums to provide us with benchmarks and goals for our current students. We remember the suffering of those who fought on our campuses, both in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. We look to the future of the church in which all are empowered to bring God's reign into fullness and fruition.

As recipients of these gifts, we are working diligently to raise up leaders for an ever-evolving church. We are striving to keep the best of our predecessor schools:

- The Urban Theological and Town and Country Institutes
- A strong, diverse faculty
- The best support from alumni and synods of all the ELCA seminaries
- And of course, your prayers and support that sustain us from day to day

There have been some birthing pangs along the way. In March, after much prayer and discernment, our board made the difficult decision to have the president step down. We continue the process of building our administration and faculty, with multiple search committees working diligently to ensure the needs of our students are met by the best-qualified candidates. And we are working through the challenges of bringing together two established schools, with their myriad traditions and best practices.

There have been many highlights in our first year. United Lutheran Seminary has achieved record enrollment numbers. This past fall, 78 new students enrolled and 35 additional new students enrolled this spring. This is significantly higher than the combined incoming classes of our predecessor institutions, where enrollment of new students was 15 to 20 in the spring semester.

As these emerging public leaders join us, we are proactively helping to reduce the problem of student debt. All full-time ELCA residential students in the candidacy process receive full-tuition scholarships at United Lutheran Seminary. This is the reason our students only have to finance 22% of their education, as opposed to the 70 to 85% they had to finance over the previous three years. When students graduate with less debt, they are better equipped to serve God's people.

New technologies are making it possible for classrooms on both campuses to come together in virtual environments to discuss

theology, study scripture, and discuss best practices for ministry. In addition, we are creating new, life-long learning opportunities for pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in all fifteen synods of regions seven, eight,

and beyond.

Last September, the Association of Theological Schools visited both campuses and concluded that "ULS has in place the required authorizations and documentation to deliver theological education as a school in good standing." This ensures our future as an institution of higher education that meets and supersedes the benchmarks placed before us by all accrediting agencies. Sacrifices will continue to be asked of those who serve and support the school. It is the nature of our servant leadership to do so.

In this time of interim leadership, we focus on three priorities:

- Nurturing diverse, culturally competent Christian leaders and communities
- Developing new pathways to theological education (e.g., continuing education, M.A. programs, and distance-learning programs)
- Cultivating partnerships within and across institutions

United Lutheran Seminary
GETTYSBURG + PHILADELPHIA

We are moving forward with each of these by launching a ULS Diversity Task Force, by entering into conversations with synods and foundations to explore means of reaching new students, and by exploring ways to provide resources for public Christian leaders—students, alumni, and other church leaders—for ministry in the 21st century.

Most importantly, ULS strives to foster a diverse community of faith in which people come to meet Jesus and each other at the table of God's grace. During our recent time of discernment and conversation, the ULS board heard the concerns and pain of the students, faculty, and staff. The decision to remove the former president was not made lightly. It was done with care and compassion for the needs of the institution, as we believe the future of ELCA congregations in the Northeastern United States calls for a robust academy of learning for future rostered leaders, with a healthy and vibrant community of koinonia and trust. To this end, we are committing considerable resources for counseling and sensitivity training for everyone in the ULS community. In this context, we will work to forge a new sense of mission and purpose in order that our graduates are empowered to serve the church of the 21st Century.

Without endings, there can be no new beginnings. Without dying to the self, there is no hope of new life, no chance of resurrection. United Lutheran Seminary is a place of extraordinary education, living into the power of death and resurrection through our shared experience and learning. It is a story of sorrow and love, suffering and hope.

We are grateful to you for continued prayers, financial support, and compassion as we move forward in faith. We ask you to join us on this journey in every way possible. God bless you in your ministries to the church and the world.



WARTBURG

The Rev. Carol Fryer

Wartburg provides ministries of healing and hope through comprehensive services that nurture body, mind and spirit.



Aerial view of Wartburg's historic campus in Mount Vernon, New York.

David Gentner, Ed. D., President and CEO; Angela Ciminello, VP of Development and Marketing; Dorothea Bell, Executive VP of HR; Joe Sessa, CFO; Gregory Poole-Dayan, COO; Janet Palazzolo, VP of Residential and Home Care Services; Paula Ress, VP Administrator; Rev. Carol Fryer, Director of Spiritual Care and Church Relations

Through their "Music Therapy Professional Practice," the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function (IMNF) offers professional consultations and program advisement on the use of music therapy in the treatment and rehabilitation of a broad spectrum of neurological conditions. The Institute also shares expertise, through workshops, on new music therapy advances and protocols that have proven to be effective for specific disorders.

David J. Gentner, Ed. D., Wartburg President and CEO said, "This is one of the most inspiring affiliations for Wartburg in recent memory. I've been an admirer of the influence the Institute has had on neurologic research for many years and to now have an opportunity to work with Dr. Tomaino, to establish best practice models within Wartburg's portfolio of services, is truly exciting."

In the fall of 2017, Wartburg hosted a free eight-week Spiritual Care Visitor Skills-Based Training Program specifically designed

for volunteers. The program was presented by Caroline Cella, MA, of Embrace Caretaking, in partnership with Wartburg's Spiritual Care Department. The program was successfully completed by 20 participants from throughout the local communities. Most of those participants have continued as volunteer Spiritual Care Visitors, providing spiritual care to many Wartburg residents on a regular basis. Pastor Carol Fryer supervises these volunteers and meets with them to provide

support and debriefing. Wartburg plans to host this training again in fall 2018.

In December, David Gentner, Ed.D., President and CEO of Wartburg and Wartburg Foundation, traveled to Fukuoka, Japan, to present his dissertation to the 5th Annual World Congress of Geriatrics and Gerontology. Dr. Gentner's presentation was entitled: "Music and Dementia: A Caregiver's Perspective of the Effects of Individualized Music Therapy on Health-Related Quality of Life for Seniors Living in Assisted Living Environments."

"People working in senior care and service environments know, intuitively and anecdotally, the power of music. I recognized this even when I worked as a part-time janitor in a nursing home, so it is a thrill to play a small part in moving the research forward with a unique experimental condition," said Gentner.

The session also focused on Wartburg's renowned Creative Aging & Lifelong Learning program, an arts-based therapy program for Wartburg's 500 residents and the surrounding community. This program allows seniors to use the arts as a means to learn new skills and build self-esteem. Participants from around the globe learned about how Wartburg's programs help seniors express themselves and achieve their highest quality of life through art, music, theater, written word, and oral histories.



Wartburg's Creative Aging Program provides many opportunities for self-expression.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Claimed – Wartburg's Spiritual Care department provides numerous opportunities for Wartburg residents, clients and families to grow in faith by participating in worship, Bible studies, support groups, and individual spiritual counseling and support.

Gathered – Word and Sacrament ministry is provided on Wartburg's campus every Sunday and several times during the week. All are welcome to participate. Many volunteers help to bring those who are wheelchair-bound, so they too can fully participate.

Sent – Wartburg partners with numerous organizations and institutions to provide special services to the many people we serve. Partners include Concordia College, The College of New Rochelle, Westchester Community College, Concordia Conservatory, Livable Communities, The Alzheimer's Association, The Institute for Music and Neurologic Function (IMNF), Embrace Caretaking, and many others. Wartburg has also been reaching out to help children in need in the Mount Vernon public school system.

BUILDING BRIDGES

In addition to building bridges with our many partners and other organizations, Wartburg builds bridges by employing and providing services to an incredibly diverse population in lower Westchester and the Bronx. Wartburg employs approximately 700 people from all walks of life, many of them immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa. The population we serve is also extremely diverse, reflecting the demographics of the surrounding community. All people are served at Wartburg as precious, beloved children of God, worthy to be treated with dignity, compassion and love.

GET INVOLVED

By volunteering, Wartburg provides numerous opportunities for individuals and congregations to participate in our ministry. For example, two Lutheran congregations send volunteers one Sunday a month to help with our "Worship on Wheels" ministry, by helping to transport those who are wheelchair-bound to the worship service. Individuals also volunteer with "Worship on Wheels."

Additional volunteer opportunities include: serving in the gift shop; participating in the Creative Aging program; helping with office work; presenting programs for residents; sewing lap robes and walker bags; just to name a few. Anyone interested in volunteer opportunities at Wartburg should contact Ann Frey, Director of Volunteers, afrey@wartburg.org.

A new initiative this year is our Volunteer Spiritual Care Visitors. Wartburg provides 20 hours of training for those who would like to offer their time to visit a few of our residents on a regular basis. Ongoing support and training is given to our Spiritual Care volunteers. Anyone interested in this ministry should contact Rev. Carol Fryer, Director of Spiritual Care and Church Relations, cfryer@wartburg.org.

ABOUT WARTBURG

Wartburg, located in Westchester County, NY, offers integrated, comprehensive, senior residential and healthcare services. Unlike conventional retirement communities, Wartburg provides a wide range of services to residents living both on their beautiful 34-acre campus and people in their own homes. From independent, assisted living and award-winning nursing home care to inpatient/outpatient rehabilitation, home care and adult day care services, its continuing care approach has earned them a trusted reputation in Westchester. Wartburg also provides caregiver support at every stage.

Wartburg was named one of the "Best Nursing Homes in New York State" by U.S. News & World Report for the seventh consecutive year, in 2017. In addition, Wartburg received the 2016 Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award from the American College of Health Care Administrators, and the 2015 Legacy Award from the Westchester County Chapter of the Links.

Wartburg Website Homepage: www.wartburg.org
Wartburg Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/thewartburg
Wartburg Twitter Page: www.twitter.com/thewartburg
YouTube Page: www.youtube.com/wartburgny



Wartburg Spiritual Care provides hope and healing.



THANK YOU!



Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.