



Section D – Shared Ministry Reports

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Living Water Ministries

2024 Annual Report to Synod Assembly

Our theme for 2023 was Restoring Joy. The joy was certainly palpable by the campers, staff, and adult leaders who attended our summer programs or the Charge event. We welcomed 535 campers, 56 adult leaders, 10 volunteers and 21 summer staff to Stony Lake! Then in the fall we welcomed 247 participants and 14 staff to Charge at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City!

For the 2023 season Living Water Ministries launched Welcome to All Pricing where families can choose between full price, half price, or no price for camp attendance. This was made possible by the incredible generosity of donors, and we are planning to continue this pricing structure moving forward. One of our core values is “welcome to all” and we are striving to eliminate financial barriers that could keep campers from attending our programs and experience the love of Jesus through the LWM community.

Another event that has restored joy in our community is the Run the Race event. This event brings together over 50 people to fundraise for LWM, but that isn't even the best part. Through Run the Race, a unique community is built and the joy this community exudes is comparable to the sounds of campers in the summer. These people, whether runners, drivers, safety officers or members of team basecamp, live and breathe the mission of LWM and share it with their home communities. In 2023 we expanded Team Basecamp to be present at Stony Lake and share the joy of camp with their families onsite while the others were out on the road participating in the Ragnar Road Race. Team Basecamp cheered for runners, participated in high ropes, crate stacking and flying squirrel and helped with various projects around camp. Since the start of the Run the Race event in 2018, participants have raised over \$500,000 for Living Water Ministries!

Our 2024 theme is, “The Mission is Real,” and we are committed to demonstrating that in all the work we do. Through the communities that LWM builds, leadership is nurtured, all are served with respect and mutual understanding, and our faith in Jesus is at the center of it all. Thank you, for your partnerships and support, and for joining us in the mission to bring together all of God's children to experience Christian community, grow in faith, develop leadership skills, and serve others.

Samaritas™ & YOU

This year, we're celebrating 90 years of service! Faith partners like you continue to help Samaritas show mercy and provide hope for our neighbors in need.

As one of the largest faith-based nonprofit health and human services organizations, we offer many local programs and services that minister to Michigan's most vulnerable people.

With your help, together, we form a strong community of compassionate people who believe in the power of kindness and the potential for change. Together, we create a ripple of positive change that is felt far beyond any moment, story, or smile.

Together, our Compassion in Action creates ripples of hope and ensures that our Mission, *Serving people as an expression of the love of Christ*, can continue to change the lives of those most in need.



PEACE & OPPORTUNITIES

Everyone deserves to live in peace and opportunities.

Welcoming refugees seeking hope and a future, providing support for housing, work, and education as they integrate into our communities.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

We put children FIRST and help families THRIVE.

Extensive and intensive family services including Family Preservation, Foster Care, Adoption with a focus on stability, healthy home and positive life changing outcomes.



HOUSING for ALL

We believe in housing for those in need.

End to end housing solutions from creating safe places for people to call home to placement and long term support for self-sufficiency, and new beginnings.



HEALING & CONNECTION

Healing starts from within and in relationship with others.

Mental Health wellness and addiction services that help guide individuals toward recovery and walk with them in reclaiming their lives.

CHILDREN | FAMILY | COMMUNITY | FAITH

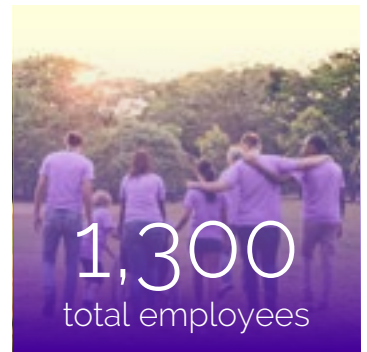
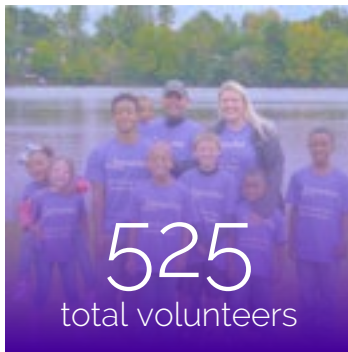
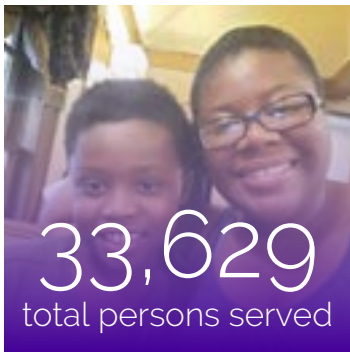


PRAY. GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

ENGAGING IN OUR MISSION:

Samaritas offers our faith partners these four ways to engage in our Mission: *Serving people as an expression of the love of Christ.*

To learn more or make a gift to Samaritas, please contact **DeeDee McVety** at 248-953-1944 or deedee.mcvety@samaritas.org



CHANGING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN NEED RIGHT HERE IN MICHIGAN:

Over the years, our commitment to serving the community has resulted in a significant impact. Last year alone, Samaritas served over 33,629 individuals across all our programs, including 4,434 in family services, 3,547 in refugee services, 1,301 in behavioral health, and 24,347 in our housing program. Our unique approach combines prevention, innovation, and intentional services that achieve self-sufficiency and the dignity of independence.

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER 90 YEARS:

At Samaritas, we show love, provide opportunity, and lift up those in need. We do more than help people - we create family, offering hope and support to those who need it. As we look to the future, we remain committed to serving the community with energy, comradery, and boldness, building on our solid foundation while proactively setting trends and driving systems change. Join us in our mission: *Serving people as an expression of the love of Christ!*

CHILDREN | FAMILY | COMMUNITY | FAITH



Samaritas Facilities in Michigan

ADRIAN

- ✦ Affordable Living of Adrian *(Seniors)*

ALLEGAN

- ✦ Affordable Living of Grand Ravine *(Seniors)*

ALPENA

- ✦ Affordable Living of Alpena *(Seniors)*

ANN ARBOR (3)

- ✦ Affordable Living at Sequoia *(Seniors)*
- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation

BATTLE CREEK (3)

- ✦ Family Preservation
- ✦ New Americans
- ✦ Enhanced Treatment Foster Care

BAY CITY

- ✦ Legacy Adoption Services

BELDING

- ✦ Substance Use Disorder

BENTON HARBOR

- ✦ Enhanced Treatment Foster Care

CHARLOTTE (3)

- ✦ Substance Use Disorder
- ✦ Family Preservation
- ✦ Trauma Assessment

CHEBOYGAN

- ✦ Affordable Living Grebe Village *(Seniors)*

CLARE

- ✦ Legacy Adoption Services

DEARBORN

- ✦ New Americans

DETROIT (5)

- ✦ Affordable Living at Gateshead Crossing *(Seniors)*
- ✦ Samaritas Central Support Services *(Administration)*
- ✦ Samaritas Detroit Thomas Center *(Administration)*
- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation

FARMINGTON HILLS

- ✦ Independent Living Plus

FLINT (3)

- ✦ Independent Living Plus
- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation

GLADWIN

- ✦ Disability Support

GRAND RAPIDS (9)

- ✦ Affordable Living Grand Rapids
- ✦ Behavioral Health
- ✦ Affordable Living Allen Manor
- ✦ Transitional Foster Care
- ✦ Independent Living Plus
- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ New Americans
- ✦ Legacy Adoption Services
- ✦ Substance Use Disorder

HOLLAND (2)

- ✦ Independent Living Plus
- ✦ Substance Use Disorder

JACKSON (4)

- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation
- ✦ Trauma Assessment
- ✦ Samaritas House Jackson *(Refugee Youth Services)*

KALAMAZOO (7)

- ✦ Behavioral Health
- ✦ Enhanced Treatment Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation
- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Independent Living Plus
- ✦ Legacy Adoption Services
- ✦ New Americans

LANSING (7)

- ✦ Affordable Living at Alison House *(Disability Support)*
- ✦ Behavioral Health
- ✦ Independent Living Plus
- ✦ Refugee Foster Care
- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation
- ✦ Legacy Adoption Services

LIVONIA

- ✦ Independent Living Plus

MIDLAND (2)

- ✦ Midland PWD Home Lambros Street *(Disability Support)*
- ✦ Midland PWD Home Wackerly Street *(Disability Support)*

MONROE (3)

- ✦ Affordable Living Monroe *(All Ages)*

MONTAGUE

- ✦ Affordable Living SHAWL II *(Seniors)*

MT. PLEASANT

- ✦ Affordable Living Immanuel Village *(Seniors)*

MUSKEGON (7)

- ✦ Affordable Living Muskegon
- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation
- ✦ Muskegon PWD Home Brooks Road *(Disability Support)*
- ✦ Muskegon PWD Home Ducey Street *(Disability Support)*
- ✦ Muskegon PWD Home Hansen Street *(Disability Support)*
- ✦ Muskegon PWD Home Horton Street *(Disability Support)*

MUSKEGON TWP (2)

- ✦ Affordable Living Christian Manor *(Seniors)*
- ✦ Muskegon PWD Home Mararebecah Lane *(Disability Support)*

PORT HURON (3)

- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation
- ✦ Legacy Adoption Services

ROCHESTER HILLS

- ✦ Affordable Living Rochester Hills *(Seniors)*

SAGINAW (5)

- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation
- ✦ Legacy Adoption Services
- ✦ Substance Use Disorder

SCOTTVILLE

- ✦ Scottville PWD Home Main Street *(Disability Support)*

SPRING LAKE

- ✦ Affordable Living Spring Lake *(Seniors)*

TAYLOR

- ✦ Independent Living Plus

TRAVERSE CITY

- ✦ Support Services North *(Disability Support)*

TROY (6)

- ✦ Foster Care
- ✦ Family Preservation
- ✦ New Americans
- ✦ Legacy Adoption Services
- ✦ Substance Use Disorder
- ✦ Trauma Assessment

WESTLAND

- ✦ Samaritas Family Center *(Homeless Shelter)*

WHITEHALL

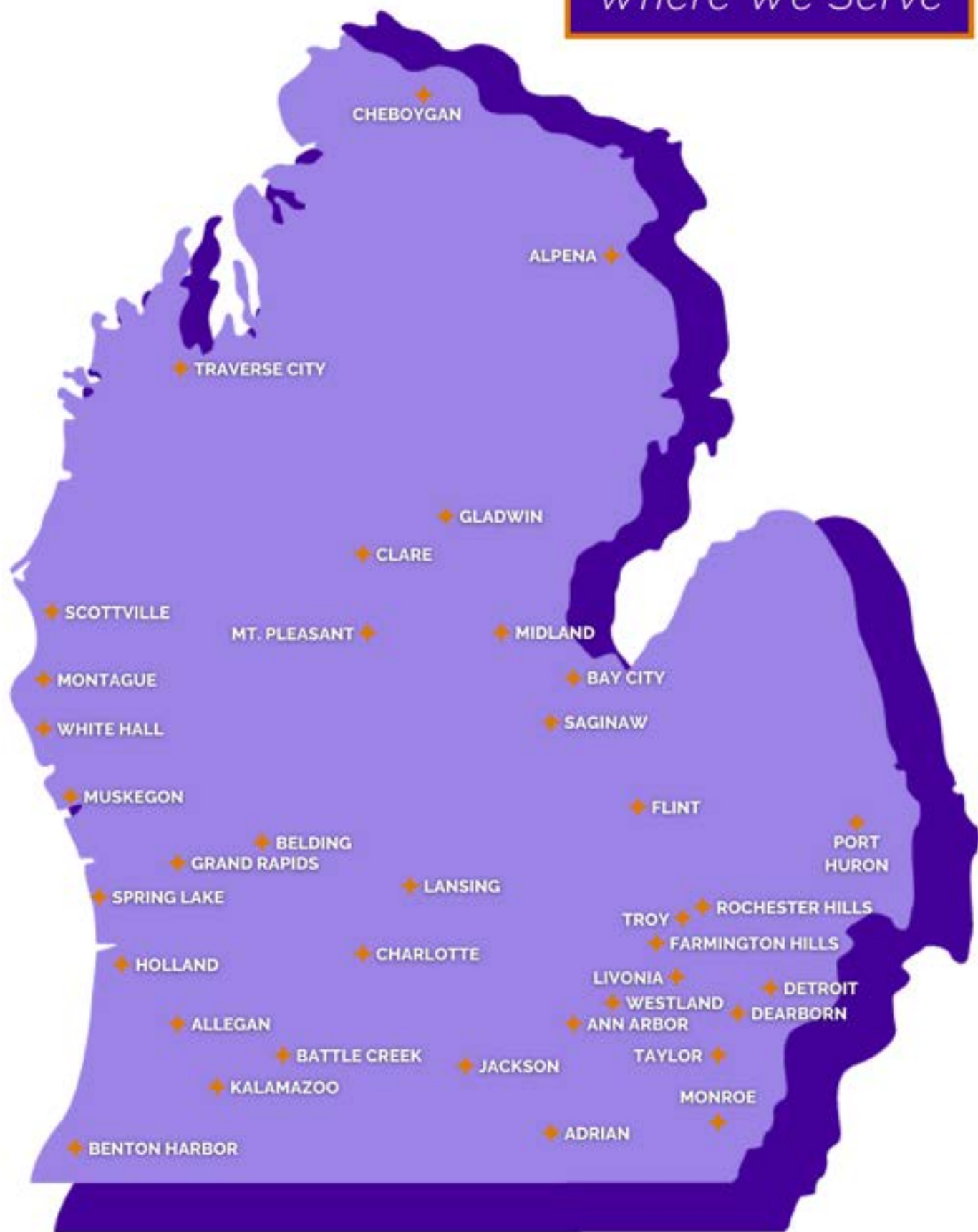
- ✦ Affordable Living SHAWL *(Seniors)*

To learn more contact:

DeeDee McVety
DeeDee.McVety@samaritas.org
(248) 953-1944



Where We Serve



Our Vision: We connect all people based on their individual circumstances with the families and communities that will empower them to live their fullest life possible. Potential fulfilled, those we serve then promote the dignity of others, launching into the community an unending ripple effect of transformation.



Serving people as an expression of the love of Christ.
www.samaritas.org/careers

✦ 8131 E. Jefferson Ave.,
Detroit MI 48214

✦ 2080 Union Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Grace and peace to you, dear partners in mission,

Trinity Lutheran Seminary forms leaders for Christ's Church at work in the world. Our students come from a variety of church bodies across Ohio and across the country. The student experience is enriched by collaborative learning within a diverse community. We welcome both degree and non degree seeking students. Degree seeking students are enrolled in either the Master of Divinity Program or the Master of Theological Studies Program.

Our Master of Divinity curriculum continues to form students in deep and meaningful ways. Students, supervisors, and congregations find our 2 year internship model of formation vital for forming relationships and creating transformational ministry experiences. Our Master of Theological Studies program continues to grow with most students hailing from the Columbus area. Many of these students are already serving as pastors and leaders of local communities of faith, and they are grateful for the opportunity for theological education.

This academic year we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Olehile Buffel as Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology. Dr. Buffel, a Lutheran pastor, hails from South Africa and brings a wealth of ministry experience and teaching experience to Trinity. We are currently in the process of hiring a new professor of systematic theology, who will also enrich our faculty.

Highlights of the 2023-2024 Academic year include:

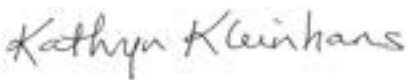
- Inaugural University Sundays with University President Dave Kaufman & Director of Congregational Engagement & Advancement Rev. Mary Ann Siefke
- Trinity Days featuring former Trinity professor the Rev. Dr. Julie Faith Parker
- Student-led Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Seven of our African American students attending the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference in Chicago
- Nelson W. Trout Lectures in Preaching featuring the Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman
- The 25th anniversary of the dedication of the "Promise for Life" Holocaust memorial on campus

This May we will celebrate the commencement of twelve church leaders in four degree programs! Almost all Trinity students, whatever their degree program, receive full-tuition scholarships. Your partnership and support make our mission of forming leaders possible. Thank you. We are grateful for your faithful generosity!

Partners in mission, we ask three things of you.

- Encourage potential candidates for ministry to explore Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.
- Make a financial gift to support the mission of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.
- Keep us in your prayers.

In Christ,



The Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans, Ph.D.
Dean of the Seminary



The Rev. Mary Ann Siefke
Director of Congregational Engagement &
Advancement



Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund: Your financial partner

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 offers 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 outdoor camps, senior housing and social service agencies.



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.

Why is MIF the right choice?

- **MIF has demonstrated expertise** in church and ministry financing. With longstanding experience in congregation and ministry building projects, we're unique among lending institutions.
- **We consistently offer competitive rates and terms.**
- **We offer a full suite of financial services.** MIF offers congregations, ministries and individuals a host of investment options. We work in deep partnership with the ELCA Federal Credit Union to offer a wide range of financial products and services.
- **The faithful stewardship of Lutheran congregations and their members funds our loans.** The money invested in MIF finances hundreds of capital projects across the church.

MIF has a longstanding tradition of strength and stability. At year-end 2023, MIF had 811 loans outstanding, totaling \$578.3 million. Investment obligations totaled \$547.7 million. With total assets of \$774.4 million and net assets of \$208.2 million at year-end 2023, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 26.88 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 North/West Lower Michigan Synod (as of December 31, 2023):

- 7 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$2,536,768
- \$6,530,345 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

For more information about MIF capabilities, please visit our website, mif.elca.org or contact your Regional Manager the Rev. Kent Peterson: 276-698-7970 kent.peterson@elca.org

Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) Scholarship 2024 Annual Report

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than \$3 million in support of nearly 350 future pastors and deacons. Thank you for your role in ensuring that these future leaders will be freed from the burden of student debt so that they can go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

TEEM Students supported in 2023-2024: 82 @ \$3,800 Total \$311,600

*Theological Education for Indigenous Leaders Students (TEIL)

Alaska Synod - 1A

Shannon Klescewski* Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Deborah Nyquist* Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Northwest Washington Synod - 1B

Salvador Cossio Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Northwest Intermountain Synod - 1D

Robert Andrew Hamblen Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Oregon Synod - 1E

Jessica Ingman Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Rebecca Lynn Kirk* Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Sierra Pacific Synod - 2A

Michael Basil Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Alan Gaston Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Southwest California Synod - 2B

Mary Ann Harrison Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Maurice Ingram Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Jimmie Maggette Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Frank Oliver Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Wenyang 'Peter' Pan Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Keith Youngblood Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Pacifica Synod - 2C

Josefina Villalpando Paredes Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Wen-Tzao Yang Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Grand Canyon Synod - 2D

Guy ilunga Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Jarrod Iversen Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Solomon Kuch Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Rocky Mountain Synod - 2E

Margarita Reyes Wartburg Theological Seminary
Lisa Rygiel Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Colleen Teeuwe Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Western North Dakota Synod - 3A

Peder Stenslie Wartburg Theological Seminary

Eastern North Dakota Synod - 3B

Richard Bryant Wartburg Theological Seminary
Babs Coler Wartburg Theological Seminary
Janelle Hansen Wartburg Theological Seminary
Phyllis Johnson Wartburg Theological Seminary
Penny Millspaugh Wartburg Theological Seminary
Darla Thiele* Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Amanda Rose Vivier* Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

South Dakota Synod - 3C

Wanda Biel Wartburg Theological Seminary
Patricia Schubert Wartburg Theological Seminary

Northwestern Minnesota Synod - 3D

Amber Lund* Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Northeastern Minnesota Synod - 3E

Richard Gabriel United Lutheran Seminary
Steven Teff United Lutheran Seminary

Nebraska Synod - 4A

Kim Bate Wartburg Theological Seminary

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod - 4C

Tamarreau Evans Wartburg Theological Seminary

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod - 4F

Jadher Abad Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Roland Deddeh Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Jaime Morales Wartburg Theological Seminary

Gilbert Rwela Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Metropolitan Chicago Synod - 5A

Catherine Abihudi Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Dennis Debrie Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Rodger Jones Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Philip Wallace Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Western Iowa Synod - 5E

Kimberly Campbell Wartburg Theological Seminary

Jonathan Merritt Wartburg Theological Seminary

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - 5H

Jill Fries Wartburg Theological Seminary

East-Central Synod of Wisconsin - 5I

Amy Penza Wartburg Theological Seminary

Elizabeth Sell Wartburg Theological Seminary

Keith Sorlie Wartburg Theological Seminary

Greater Milwaukee Synod - 5J

Josefa Puerta Villacrez Wartburg Theological Seminary

South-Central Synod Of Wisconsin - 5K

Juan Cabrera Wartburg Theological Seminary

Southeast Michigan Synod - 6A

Robert Brannon Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Indiana-Kentucky Synod - 6C

Khai Cho Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Sherilyn Kindig Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Northwestern Ohio Synod - 6D

Steven Basselman Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Northeastern Ohio Synod - 6E

Vedyn Wylie Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Southern Ohio Synod - 6F

Patricia (Patti) Eaton Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Sharon Rasch Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

New Jersey Synod - 7A

Vincent Piekarski United Lutheran Seminary

Philip Scherzer United Lutheran Seminary

New England Synod - 7B

Jeanette Harris United Lutheran Seminary

Rosa Radcke Wartburg Theological Seminary

Metropolitan New York Synod - 7C

Hoshea Huang Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Upstate New York Synod - 7D

Melissa Bedell United Lutheran Seminary

Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod - 8A

Roland King United Lutheran Seminary

Allegheny Synod - 8C

Christy Harford United Lutheran Seminary

Penny Koontz United Lutheran Seminary

Claudia Plows United Lutheran Seminary

Joshua Spangler Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Upper Susquehanna Synod - 8E

Ruth Ann Kephart United Lutheran Seminary

Amy Shuck United Lutheran Seminary

Delaware-Maryland Synod - 8F

Brian Sanders United Lutheran Seminary

Travis Sanders United Lutheran Seminary

David Wright United Lutheran Seminary

Virginia Synod - 9A

Stephen Povlish

Raymond Riffin

United Lutheran Seminary

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Southeastern Synod - 9D

Audra Gehler

Sonya Solomon

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Florida-Bahamas Synod - 9E

Boris Camille

Ignacio Estrada

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Wartburg Theological Seminary

For more information, please visit [ELCA.org/fundforleaders](https://www.elca.org/fundforleaders) or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2936

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Grace and peace to you this synod assembly season. As you may know, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has embraced a new name: Global Refuge. Grounded in Psalm 46:1, “**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble,**” we hope to enter our next 85 years with openness, building a bigger table to meet a growing need. Global Refuge was forged in faith. Our Lutheran heritage has always shaped our work of welcome and will continue to do so in years to come.

With the support of partners and Lutheran communities like yours, in 2023 we were able to...

- Help 17,000+ children reunify with their families or find loving foster homes
- Welcome 11,200+ refugees from countries across the world
- Assist 11,700+ people seeking safety from Central America and beyond

In a political season rife with anti-immigrant rhetoric and messages that villainize newcomers, we have a unique opportunity to change this narrative and refocus on all the gifts newcomers bring to community. We invite you to join us in this work!

- Share about Global Refuge in your church or [invite our team](#) to join you.
- Include Global Refuge [bulletin inserts](#) about our work in your bulletin.
- Start a [Circle of Welcome](#) to support newcomers in your community.
- Pack [Fresh Change](#) bags, a partnership with Border Servant Corps, to welcome our neighbors at the border with care and dignity.
- Sign up for our monthly e-newsletters for faith leaders and explore a [webpage specifically for congregations](#) which has the latest faith community resources.

Thank you for your continued support. The many ways Lutheran communities embody Jesus’ ministry through the work of welcome is truly inspiring.

Go in peace. Welcome the stranger.



Deacon Sarah Kretschmann | Congregational Engagement Specialist
outreach@globalrefuge.org

Benefits Making a Difference

At Portico we strive to offer benefits that make our plan members' lives better, so that they can fulfill their mission of helping others live their best lives. Here is a visual recap of what our community of 45,000+ members experienced in 2023.

94
Marriages



3,012
Medical Visits Via Text

By ELCA-Primary health plan members using 98point6, our text-based primary care service



142
Births & Adoptions

83%
Very Satisfied

With Portico's award-winning Customer Care Center



535
Changes of Call

2,354
Pounds Lost

By ELCA-Primary health plan members using the Omada prevention program, with 18,116 lbs. lost since 2018

\$152K
Debt Paid Off

By members via LSS of Minnesota Financial Counseling, with over \$2.2M paid off since 2008

15.8%
Of Member Income

Saved for retirement, on average, by members sponsored in the Traditional Benefits Program, thanks to employer and member contributions

605
Retirements



45
Beginning Disability Benefits

60
Divorces

905
Age 65+ Members

Participated each month, on average, in the SilverSneakers Fitness Program via ELCA Medicare-Primary health benefits



\$212M
Annuity Payments

Received by members in the ELCA Participating Annuity

Our mission is to serve those who serve — financially, emotionally, and physically. We do this by securing quality, cost-effective, and useful benefits that make a difference for our members and sponsoring organizations. With each new year we continue to grow our pool and affirm the value and importance of church together.

Note: Unless a specific benefit program is mentioned, these numbers and percentages were drawn from across Portico's benefit programs. 15

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS Seafarers International House

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Into the Faithful Future

Dear friends of Seafarers International House (SIH):

"Though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great." Job 8:7

In 2023, Seafarers International House celebrated its 150th anniversary of uninterrupted service to well over two million people. Starting humbly with one pastor in 1873, we have been fulfilling our mission of being the *Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants*, or more succinct: of welcoming in the stranger.

Reflecting on our past, of the evolution of our services, always adapting, often moving physically from one guest-house building to the next, we have reaffirmed that Seafarers International House is not a place but a service. In 2023, we welcomed fifty asylum seekers and provided them with free lodging and assistance from our new Social Worker, Michael Bradford, who collaborates with me tirelessly to make people who escaped violence and persecution feel at home, enabling many to become contributing members of their new homeland. We also offered 159 seafarers, often young mariners starting their careers or senior seafarers transitioning into retirement, affordable accommodations as they prepared for their next 3-6 months voyage or starting a new chapter of life, respectively.

During 2023, we strengthened our partnership with the Albany Maritime Ministry (AMM) with Pastors Kate Drefke and Lowell Chilton and hired Rev. Jonathan Westerlund to aid in the busy port of New Jersey & New York. In all ports, including Baltimore and New Haven, we visited 1,094 ships with

12,522 crew members, bringing on-board essentials and being present and transporting 2,061 of these seafarers to the mall or medical facilities.

Thanks to many individuals, youth and business groups, and congregations, a record 3,216 seafarers regardless of their faith felt some Holiday cheer when they opened their Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and season's greetings, letting them know that we appreciate their sacrifices while they transport 90% of the things we use. Just look at the faces on the cover of this report and you can see the joy you have spread!

With our partners in the shipping industry, ship owners, and unions we celebrated our 150th anniversary at the Setting the Course Reception breaking an income record of over \$250,000 in crucial support of our Port Mission and subsidized lodging for mariners. We are grateful for the 2023 honorees John Atkins (Global Container Terminals), Mark W. Barker (Interlake Maritime Services), and Adam Vokac (Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association).

Yet, we also used the anniversary year to address future concerns. Through strategic planning involving all board members as well as members of the communities we serve, we determined that the current arrangement of renting our guesthouse to Breaking Ground furthers our mission by providing vital income to help us expand the port mission while continuing excellent lodging to asylum seekers and seafarers at the Markle Residence of the Salvation Army. This formula will allow us to save funds, complemented with donations from a comprehensive campaign, to eventually purchase

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, Albany and in New York City.

a new mission-based home with over eleven guest rooms by 2026, or earlier, if a cost-effective opportunity arises.

Please browse our web site (SIHNYC.org) for more details. I thank all of you who supported our essential services to "the stranger" through 2023, - from small beginnings to a faithful future sharing God's justice, welcome, and love.



Marsh Luther Drefke
Pastor and Executive Director



Members of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lititz, PA, helped me (kneeling in black) assemble Christmas-at-Sea satchels in November 2023.

2023 Program Impact

18,005 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services

2,297 lodging nights (up from 1,764) provided to 156 seafarers in Manhattan.

12,522 seafarers were visited and counseled on 1,094 ships, receiving essentials they requested.

2,061 seafarers were transported to a mall or medical facilities.

3,216 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize these essential workers. This exceeds last year's record of 2,915!

50 asylum seekers received free lodging for a total of 766 nights. They hailed from Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Chad, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iran, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Venezuela. (See highlighted countries with number of lodging nights on the map below).

Asylum Lodging Nights by Country of Origin



2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

In accordance with our 2024 - 2028 strategic plan, operating gains help to build reserves for a new property (\$1M) with mission-based guest rooms and offices and to allow for capital repairs on the guesthouse (\$400,000), which is leased to Breaking Ground, which offers transitional housing to the community. That lease revenue supports our mission to seafarers and immigrants. Donations remain a vital pillar of income to support our services and future expansion.

Program services and reserves accounted for 88% percent of expenses with only 12% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets increased from \$8,258,768 in 2022 to about \$10 million. These figures reflect *unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change*. To request the audited 2023 financial statements send an email to henryk@sihnyc.org.

Operating Revenue 2023 (pre-audit)
\$3,578,993



Operating Expenses & Reserves for New Property 2023 (pre-audit)
\$3,139,152

