



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Augustana University:

Founded in 1860, Augustana is a selective, comprehensive university affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. With 53 majors, 41 minors and 15 pre-professional programs for undergraduates, along with graduate degree and continuing education programs, we are committed to enriching lives and fostering development by combining a foundation in the liberal arts with professional skill and advanced study.

AU serves more than 1,800 students from 30 states and 38 countries. Most are part of our residential community and call our 100-acre campus home. Our graduate and continuing education programs serve students online and during times that are convenient for adult learners.

Today is an exciting time at Augustana. Recent highlights from AU include:

- The development and execution of *Horizons 2019: The Strategic Plan for Augustana*, a compass that is helping us transform and grow the institution within the vastly competitive and ever-changing world of higher education.
- The addition of new centers and offices to help us better serve the needs of students and our community, including our new Student Success Center, the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education, and the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- The anticipated completion of the Froiland Science Complex, our new \$35 million, 125,000-square-foot science facility, the largest and most complex building endeavor in our 156-year history. Phase one of the project (open now) features a 41,000-square-foot new addition to our existing science center. Our students are now benefiting from its active learning classrooms, multi-use classatories, a state-of-the-art nursing simulation lab, and glass-enclosed laboratories that truly put science on display for the entire campus – and our community. Phase two (open this summer) features a complete renovation of our existing science facility.
- The introduction of *Horizons 2019: The Campaign for Augustana University*, our new fundraising campaign designed to enhance campus life, enrich teaching and learning, and provide for the campus community through increased annual and long-term investments. From a facilities standpoint, the campaign includes significant goals for a new Student Activities Center, along with major renovations to the Morrison Commons and the Humanities Center.
- An NCAA DII National Championship for our men's basketball team; international tours for our performing and visual arts students; the receipt of a major research grant from the National Institutes of Health; a growing number of outreach, volunteerism and ministry initiatives; and continued recognition from national ranking agencies such as U.S. News, Forbes, the Princeton Review and Washington Monthly.

We thank God for all the blessings he has given to Augustana University over the past year and we continue to offer our prayers for the important ministry of the South Dakota Synod.

For Augustana University,

Rob Oliver
President



2016 Annual Report to the SD Synod, ELCA

Chapel in the Hills

3788 Chapel Lane

Rapid City, SD 57702

(605) 342-8281

info@chapel-in-the-hills.org

The Chapel in the Hills is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed to maintain and operate the Chapel in the Hills. We are considered a Special Partnership Ministry of the South Dakota Synod. The Chapel and grounds are open to visitors from May 1st to September 30th and during special programs and services the remainder of the year.

Each year we welcome visitors from all over the United States and the world. The Chapel offers a quiet retreat from the hustle and bustle of vacation and offers a place for tourists and locals alike to slow down, relax, and enjoy Christ's presence in a peaceful setting. The Chapel fills a unique niche in the Synod's evangelism through its ministry to visitors, while sharing our Lutheran heritage and traditions.

The Chapel in the Hills continues to host numerous weddings, vow renewals, and other special services throughout the year. Evening worship services are held throughout the summer, continuing the tradition that began when the Chapel was the home of the *Lutheran Vespers* radio program. In addition, we continue to seek ways to extend our mission to the local community and beyond.

During the past few years, we have played host to various youth and adult volunteer groups, helping with general maintenance of the Chapel property. As a non-profit corporation, we would not be able to function without our volunteers. We have a very dedicated staff of volunteers who work in our gift shop and serve as hosts for our visitors throughout the summer. In addition, many local Black Hills clergy serve by leading the evening worship services and officiating many of the weddings. We are expanding our outreach this year by inviting clergy from all over the Synod and country to serve as guest pastors. The response has been very positive, and we are looking forward to these pastors sharing their ministry with us. If you should ever feel a call to serve as a volunteer in the gift shop, on a maintenance project, or as a visiting pastor, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Adequate funding is always a concern—and goal—of the Chapel in the Hills board of directors. We are beginning the process of some long-term strategic planning on how best we can provide a secure, permanent source of funding for the maintenance and operation of the Chapel. If anyone would like to be involved in this process, or has some ideas or suggestions as to how best to accomplish this goal, please get in touch with us. We appreciate all input from you, our Synod partners.

As we look to 2019 and the approach of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Chapel in the Hills, we ask for your continued prayers and support of this unique ministry in South Dakota. Come visit us when you are in the Black Hills. Discover the peace you will find on your visit, and then share the news of this special place with others!

In Christ's Love,

Brian & Joyce Kringen, Managers

2016 ELCA annual report: The Good Samaritan Society

As the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of senior services and housing, The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society has always sought to create environments where people are loved, valued and at peace.

The Good Samaritan Society was founded in 1922 and opened its first care center in 1923 in Arthur, N.D. Today, the Good Samaritan Society operates in 24 states at more than 240 locations; its headquarters is in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The organization continues to evolve to meet the needs and desires of customers, staff members and communities it serves and is dedicated to supporting well-being through innovative products and services for older adults and their families.

In 2015, the Good Samaritan Society:

- Established a new executive leadership team consisting of David J. Horazdovsky, president and CEO; Tom Syverson, executive vice president/chief operating officer; Grant Tribble, executive vice president/chief financial officer; Bergen Peterson, executive vice president/chief administrative officer; and Walter Woods, president of the Good Samaritan Foundation.
- Awarded grants totaling \$100,000 through its Social Accountability program. The grants help Society locations meet community needs through donations to food banks, transportation programs for seniors and other projects.
- Organized a mission trip to Colombia, one of three locations the Society supports through its Project Outreach program. The mission team visited several sites, including a senior center sponsored by the Good Samaritan Society.
- Expanded its mission to more home-based clients in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona with the purchase of two large home care companies. These acquisitions brought nearly 2,500 new staff members to the Good Samaritan Society.
- Furthered its work to provide monitoring and well-being assistance to clients in their own homes through a grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. Also, the Society started redesigning its website (www.good-sam.com) to provide resources to informal caregivers as part of the grant. While this work is focused on southern Minnesota, the resources will be available to caregivers anywhere.
- Continued work renovating and expanding its National Campus in Sioux Falls. When completed in mid-2016, the campus will house 600+ staff who assist Good Samaritan locations across the country.
- Began work on a prototype memory care assisted living building on its Prairie Creek campus in Sioux Falls. Also, continued expansion on its St. Martins Village campus in northwest Rapid City to provide additional service options to the Black Hills area.

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries is the Deaf Ministry for the South Dakota Synod that is housed at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. We make worship, Bible study, fellowship activities, service projects and any other kind of church activity accessible to those who are deaf and hard of hearing. This year we continued to bring the good news to our group inside and outside of the church.

We also continue to offer free American Sign Language classes at Peace Lutheran Church. This year we have provided sign language classes to more people than ever. One of our deaf members, Angela Koterwski, teaches three different levels of ASL.

Each year we highlight our ministry in October with a Deaf Awareness Sunday. This year we assembled a "Sign Choir" with members of our group combined with members of Augustana. We also invited a deaf minister from California, Don Rosenkjar, to give the children's sermon and lead a special Bible study in American Sign Language.

Another goal for our ministry is to reach out and do regular service projects. We volunteered at Necessities for Neighbors as well as other service opportunities. Our members also serve on national deaf associations volunteering their time.

Our goals for next year include taking a trip to the ELDA national conference in Minneapolis as well as exploring other mission opportunities. If you have any interest in any of our activities please contact our directors Jason and Sarah Andera (Jason.andra@gmail.com; sarahandra@yahoo.com). We are grateful for the partnership we share with Peace Lutheran Church.

God's Peace.

Lutheran Planned Giving in South Dakota

Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota (LPG of SD) was formed in May of 2003 with the following mission:

We will help people of God make lifetime financial gifts to the South Dakota ministries who are members of Lutheran Planned giving and create a rising tide of financial support for all ELCA ministries.

Lutheran Planned Giving partner ministries are:

Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD	Bethel Lutheran Home, Madison
Bethesda Home of Aberdeen, SD	ELCA Foundation, Chicago IL
Heartland Ephphatha, Sioux Falls, SD	Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
Lutheran Campus Ministry	Lutheran Social Services of SD
Lutherans Outdoors in SD	Prison Congregations of America
St. Dymas, Sioux Falls, SD	South Dakota Synod, Sioux Falls, SD

Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota is available to assist congregations in establishing and growing mission endowment funds with an emphasis on supporting and enhancing all the ministries of the church both locally and worldwide through bequests and other planned gifts. They can provide educational information to congregations, and their members through seminars on the importance of wills, estate and charitable gift planning.

Kurt Osborne and Jim Schade are available to your congregation as a gift in itself with free no-obligation information seminars regarding the gift planning strategies. Congregation members will be able to come and hear information, ask questions, and set up personal one-on-one visits with LPG staff concerning the stewardship of their assets. At those visits members will discuss their intent, the options and the most helpful strategies regarding gift planning. We also are able to offer suggestions for other advisors to contact in order to bring additional expertise to best accomplish those wishes.

Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota is now offering Interactive Planned Giving Websites to the congregations of the SD Synod!

GiftLegacy's planned giving websites use your organization's branding and include motivating donor stories of giving, regularly updated articles, an online Wills Planner, personal gift illustrations, Advisor information and more. Request a personal demonstration and view of the power of the GiftLegacy system! These features and more are made possible to your congregation through a partnership of Lutheran Planned Giving and Crescendo Gift Planning services.

Weekly E-newsletters

GiftLegacy provides the GiftLegacy E-newsletter for donors, and the GiftLaw E-newsletter for financial professionals. Each E-newsletter contains your branding, and includes timely articles, impactful stories and multiple links directing readers to your website. You may personalize the e-newsletter for the most impact. These features and more are available for \$250.00 per year. This fee is payable to Crescendo.

To look online at the resources available, please visit www.lpgsd.org.

To arrange for a demonstration, or for more information, please contact Kurt Osborne kosborne@sdsynod.org 605 940-7524, or Jim Schade jschade@sdsynod.org 605 940-2363.

Touching People's Lives 50,700 Times Last Year

Lutheran Social Services
of South Dakota



Making A Difference

As a friend of LSS, your support makes a difference. It couldn't be more clear than with 22 year-old Curt, a client of New Alternatives, LSS Independent Living Services for young adults.

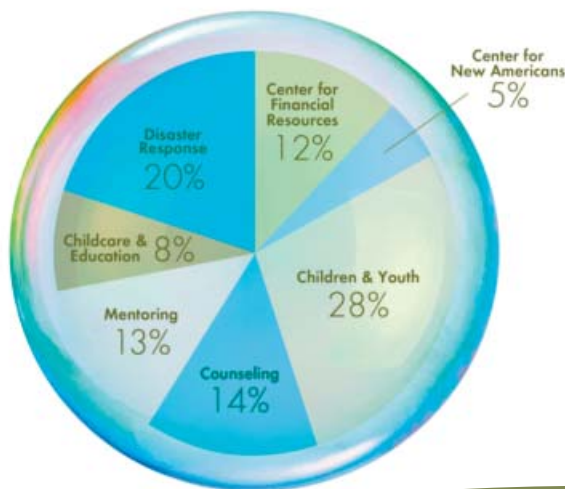
Curt suffers from a chronic mental illness called schizophrenia. Although symptoms of schizophrenia may vary, Curt sees, hears and interacts with people around him who aren't really there, yet the voices and images have the full impact of an actual experience.

Less than a year ago, Curt was homeless, living on the streets, sleeping and eating where he could. He tried to fill out job applications, but the voices in his head interfered with his thoughts. Although he sought help and tried different medications, it wasn't enough.

Now, in a safe place to live, Curt is learning life skills to be successful. He is working on his GED, is successfully employed, and is learning to manage his disease. In his own words, "They don't criticize what is going on in my head and they always steer me in the right direction. I am proud of myself".

Curt is one of the thousands of people LSS serves. Others may have been a member of your family, a neighbor, or someone in your parish or community utilizing one of the many services LSS provides. Together, we have made a difference.

How Your Gift Serves



A Ministry of Presence

As a ministry of presence, we see some of the deepest, darkest pain with our clients. We are present for those we serve with comfort and guidance as they continue their journey of healing and learning to cope. It is with great pride that we touched the lives of those we serve 50,700 times last year. But it's not about the number. It is about the impact that we have had on those we serve. As a premier human service agency, we work toward bringing new life to people of all ages, families of all kinds and communities of all sizes.

Residential outcomes continue to be positive; 61 percent of the children served returned home to family or a relative. This outcome is impressive considering LSS treats some of the most intensive needs in the state.

More than 85 percent of refugees resettled in Sioux Falls and 89 percent in Huron obtained full-time employment within eight months of arrival.

Through the LSS USucceed Mentoring Program, 98 percent of the students were on track to graduate with their high school class, and 86 percent had a realistic plan after graduation.

Close to 90 percent of the clients enrolled in debt management plans successfully completed their plans and goals through the LSS Center for Financial Resources.

Respect is a core value of LSS. According to LSS client survey results, more than 96 percent of our clients felt they were treated with respect and 98 percent said they would return for services.

Follow LSS through our blog, Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Just go to the LSS website for links to various social media: www.LssSD.org

Arise Youth Center • Adoption Services • Better Together
Center for Financial Resources • Center for New Americans
Childcare & Education • Counseling Services
Detention Alternatives • Disaster Response
Fatherhood & Re-Entry Services • Foster Care • Kinship
Mentoring Services • Pregnancy Counseling
New Alternatives Independent Living Services
Residential Services for Children & Youth

Luther Seminary's 2016 report to the South Dakota Synod

Becoming a catalyst for transforming theological education

"We have this treasure in clay jars so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."
—2 Corinthians 4:7

This verse is an important reminder as Luther Seminary wrestles with and contemplates the changing face of ministry. We're in a time where the path is not necessarily clear. As God's world changes around us, so do the needs of the church. As a seminary responsible for educating leaders for this church, we know we need to be more than just responsive. We need to light the way, carve a path, make disciples. We need to become a catalyst for transforming theological education. We aren't there yet, but we're working to see the way forward. This passage in 2 Corinthians reminds us that we can't do this hard and worthy work by our own power. This is God's church, God's mission and God's seminary.

- **God's world is changing. And so are we.** Our mission is to educate leaders for Christian communities. This mission is more relevant than ever, and the future is calling us to new things. And people need to hear the gospel. Yet we can't just do everything the way we've always done it.
- **We are excited about the future.** Nearly 600 students are taking classes this spring. This includes both on-campus and online learners, who are being educated to serve in churches, nonprofits, schools and other important ministries. We will also welcome more than 4,500 church leaders this year to our lifelong learning classes and conferences. Both pastors and lay leaders rely on Luther Seminary's continuing education offerings to stay refreshed and enthused in their ministry.
- **Learning in context continues to play an essential role in preparing students to serve in God's world.** Given the ever-changing dynamics of ministry, our contextual learning group continues to find unique opportunities for students to apply their learning—both in the Twin Cities and around the world. They're practicing ministry while receiving guidance from important mentors, which is critical to the formation of these students.

As we strive to become a catalyst for transforming theological education, we hope you'll continue to pray with and for us. Thank you for your continued support of our mission to educate your future church leaders.

Robin Steinke, President

Luther Seminary educates leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

In your synod

Students

Thank you for sending and supporting the education of Luther Seminary students.

- There are 20 students from your synod enrolled at Luther Seminary.
- There are no interns serving in your synod.

Board of Directors

Roald Eidsness

Alumni

There are 231 Luther Seminary alumni living in the South Dakota Synod.

Seminary Finances

Financial Support in FY 2014-15

- Synodical and churchwide support accounted for 8 percent of Luther Seminary's budget.
- The South Dakota Synod provided direct financial support of \$154,652.
- Of Luther's operating income, 57 percent came from private gifts and grants.
- Of Luther's operating expenses, 55 percent went toward student instruction and institutional support.

Welcomes all to explore & experience Christ's love in community and creation.



In 2015, the camps and year-round retreat centers of LOSD served 16,945 people through summer programs and year-round retreats.

Your SD camps have been blessed. We have reached a place of retiring all capital and operational debt, the facilities are continuing to improve in both quality and comfort, programming is expanding and we are reaching more and more people with the LOve of Christ. For your partnership and hard work in this process, I say THANK YOU.

I also want to ask you for your financial support for our annual fund. This ministry does not happen without your gifts. Your partnership is needed now more than ever as we connect with more and more people.

And please... pray for your camps in church, and at home.

I hope to see YOU at one of your SD camps this year.



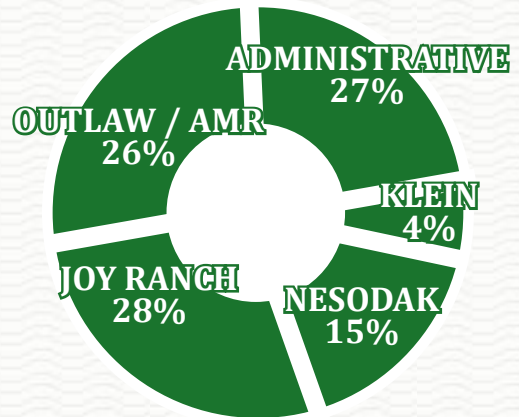
Layne D. Nelson

Rev. Layne Nelson | Executive Director

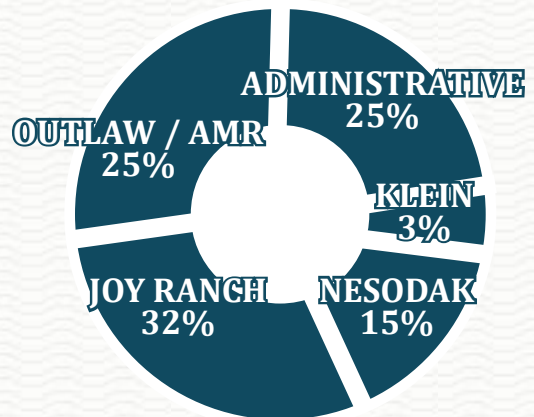
2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT*

A full financial report from the auditor, Thurman, Comes & Foley, is available in the Lutherans Outdoors in SD Inc. administrative office. Please call 605-274-5326

REVENUE - \$2,541,755



EXPENSES - \$2,691,397



*As of print date numbers are unaudited. Includes in-kind gifts (\$140,704), does not include depreciation (\$558,375), capital campaign income and expense. As of January 31, 2016 the balance in the Lutherans Outdoors endowment is \$1,328,390.



OUTLAW RANCH



JOY RANCH



NESODAK



KLEIN RANCH



St. Dysmas
Annual Report
SD Synod Assembly 2016

We want to thank you for the generous and crucial support you have provided St. Dysmas this past year. Our congregations at the SD State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield are flourishing thanks to you.

When your congregation members visit St. Dysmas you are a living sign of God's grace. Many, if not most of the men, do not receive visits and your presence is a sign they are remembered and valued. We began our 25th anniversary a year ago when Bishop David Zellmer preached at our anniversary celebration. We concluded our anniversary year celebration on Ascension Day, May 5, when former Bishop Andrea DeGroot Nesdahl provided the sermon. During the year we enjoyed and honored special guests each month. We are honored and humbled to receive part of this year's synod assembly offering.

We invite you to visit our web page: www.stdysmas.com where you can:

- listen to a public radio interview with the inside church council at SD State Penitentiary
- view our nine minute video, Amazing Grace, an interview with two of our members
 - read our newsletters
 - find the recipe for fudge given to inmates at Christmas
 - read requirements for Christmas cards made by Sunday school students
 - download forms necessary to visit
 - make a one time or ongoing gift to support St. Dysmas

If you would like Pastor Bob Chell to visit your congregation and share the St. Dysmas story please contact him at pbob@stdysmas.com or by calling (605) 338-1735.

If you have yarn to donate you may contact him or drop it off at East Side Lutheran in Sioux Falls. (1300 East 10th St.) We owe a special thanks to East Side Lutheran who provide us office space at no cost and are generous in every possible way in supporting our ministry.

We give thanks to God for the generous and faithful support of SD congregations and individuals. Our ministry has grown and flourished with God's guidance and your support.

St. Dysmas
www.stdysmas.com
(605) 338-1735
1300 E. 10th St.
Sioux Falls SD 571103