



ELCA Related Ministries & Ministry Partners



**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Partnering in ministry with the South Central Synod of Wisconsin and the ELCA World Hunger Program, the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) serves this synod as a faithful witness to the teachings of the Gospel. We work with congregations, pastors and synod leaders to advocate for just public policy in the Wisconsin state government.

Responsible stewardship of God's world requires that people of faith are aware, informed and engaged in the challenges facing our communities. LOPPW provides education on complex policy issues and how we as Lutheran Christians discern our baptismal calling to respond to the needs of our neighbors. We are guided by scripture, Lutheran theology, the social statements of the ELCA, and the priorities of the ELCA World Hunger Program. We embrace open dialogue within our congregations, and we rejoice in respectful conversation on difficult issues.

Each legislative session we focus our work to address the root causes of hunger and poverty in Wisconsin. This is a budget year and our government leaders are working to write a budget that provides an education to our children, new opportunities for those of all ages, and critical social services for the most vulnerable. We are focused this year to secure state funding of school breakfast and school lunch programs around our state. Providing a good meal to our students not only reduces hunger immediately, but invests in their wellbeing and prepares them to learn. Please join us in the work to make sure no child in Wisconsin goes to bed hungry. To learn more about school meal programs and how what you can do to make a difference, visit our website at www.loppw.org.

The success of our efforts depends on the involvement of Lutheran Christians to advocate for justice, and together with ELCA congregations and leaders we witnessed enactment of payday lending reform. The churches of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin have a strong sense of mission to serve those in need. As Christian citizens of Wisconsin, your voice needs to be heard. Together we can work to address the root causes of hunger.

We continue to be blessed by the support and the leadership of Bishop Burnside. We are also blessed by commitment of Ms. Klover Schafer and Pastor Nick Uthphall, your representatives to the LOPPW Policy Council who guide our day to day work.

As a ministry of advocacy for this Synod, we are available to speak to your congregation about public policy in Wisconsin. To schedule a visit, or learn more about the work of LOPPW, please call or email us.

Yours in Christ,

Amy M Johnson
ajohnson@loppw.org 608-270-0201



2011 Report to the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly

Dear partners in ministry,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! As the two seminaries that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin supports, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and Wartburg Theological Seminary are grateful for your partnership in the ministry of forming visionary leaders. Thank you for holding us and our students in prayer, for identifying future leaders for the church and for encouraging them in their call to professional ministry. We are grateful for your partnership in the candidacy process, for electing dedicated members to serve on our boards, and for the essential financial support that you provided to Wartburg Theological Seminary and the LSTC. Your seminaries offer thanks in advance for your continued commitment of financial support in the coming year.

In 2010, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago lived out its mission by:

- Celebrating the commencement of 81 graduates in its five degree programs. Forty five graduated with the master of divinity degree and most of them are now ordained and serving congregations around the country.
- Celebrating the successful completion of its \$56 million comprehensive campaign, *Equipping the Saints for Ministry*, with gifts and pledges exceeding the Annual Fund goal by over \$289,000 and the LSTC Fund (endowment) goal by over \$22,000.
- Inaugurating the Ralph W. and Marilyn R. Klein Chair in Old Testament with Dr. Esther Menn installed as the first Klein Professor of Old Testament.
- Welcoming new students from the United States and 23 countries who will be formed as visionary leaders for the ELCA and the global church.
- Exploring new partnerships with Chicago-area seminaries and Lutheran colleges, universities, and agencies.
- Sharing faculty expertise with the church and world through their presentations in congregations, synods, and conferences and the articles and books published over the last year including *Journey Through Revelation* (Horizons Bible Study) by Barbara Rossing, *La Vocación* by José David Rodríguez, *After Heresy* by Vitor Westhelle, *Mission after Christendom* (ed.) Peter Vethanayagamony, and *The Coptic Papacy in Islamic Egypt* by Mark Swanson.
- Continuing to be a leader in the areas of religion and science through the Zygon Center for Religion and Science and in interfaith relations through the work of A Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice.
- Offering dozens of lifelong learning opportunities on campus including its Youth in Mission programs, Serving Christ in the World and Beyond Belief; Tithing and Stewardship Foundation workshops; interfaith workshops; the Scherer Lecture; the Hein-Fry Lecture and the annual Leadership Conference.

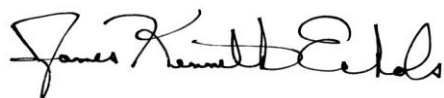
During 2010-2011 Wartburg Theological Seminary lived out its mission by:

- Welcoming new President, Rev. Stanley N. Olson, PhD, and celebrating his leadership for Wartburg at a Presidential Inauguration event on Saturday, April 2, 2011.
- Sending out 53 graduates of degree and certificate programs as valued leaders to serve in congregations and ministries throughout the country and world at 2010 Commencement.
- Receiving approval from the Association of Theological Schools for a Comprehensive Distance Education Program and strong affirmation of assessment practices based on the Twelve Pastoral Practices developed by the Wartburg faculty. Wartburg continues to receive positive feedback about this curriculum measurement from accrediting bodies as well as synods, bishops, congregations, and graduates.
- Beginning the 2010-2011 academic year with a cohort of 11 in the newly developed Distance Education program. This program offers an opportunity for students to complete the first year of a degree program by taking online and on-campus intensive courses over a two-year period before finishing the degree through residential study on-campus.
- Convened a consultation for ELCA seminaries and selected synods regarding theological education in the Southwest, which focused on the need for collaboration in theological education to accomplish God's mission among Hispanic people.
- Honoring three alumni with recognition for their service in military chaplaincy during their ministries; Rev. Dr. Al Koeneman, '59, Rev. Dr. John Schmeling, '68, and Rev. Harry Griffith, '78. The Living Loehe Award honors persons who have given distinguished service to and through the church and is named in honor of Wartburg founder, Wilhelm Loehe.
- Continuing research and publication of works important to the church and world; recent publications by faculty members James L. Bailey, Norma Cook Everist, Nathan Frambach, S D Giere, Craig L. Nesson, and Gwen Sayler.
- Engaging board, trustees, faculty, staff, alumni and friends in the For Such a Time as This Campaign to strengthen and sustain Wartburg's vocation of gathering and sending leaders for God's work in the world.

We invite you and members of your congregation to the seminaries to attend daily worship, to participate in a continuing education event, to discern a call to ministry, or to visit with some of the future leaders that you and your synod support through your gifts to the Lutheran School of Theology and Wartburg Theological Seminary. To learn more about the seminaries, their faculty, programs and upcoming events, visit www.wartburgseminary.edu and www.lstc.edu.

Your partnership is essential for Wartburg and LSTC to continue their shared mission of providing dynamic theological education for present and future leaders of your congregations and ministries in your synod, for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to the glory of God.

Yours in Christ,



President James Kenneth Echols
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago



President Stanley N. Olson
Wartburg Theological Seminary

2010 Report to the South Central Synod

For over 125 years, Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan has been responding with compassion to those in need. We are pleased to provide the following 2010 report.



People Served: In 2010, LSS served over 100,000 people through a variety of compassionate social services. LSS services are open to all people, Lutheran and non-Lutheran.

Services: LSS offers over 300 services at more than 200 sites in over 80 communities throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. LSS has an agency-wide office in Milwaukee and hub offices throughout the two state area. Our range of services includes adoption and foster care; counseling; community and residential services for children and families; services for older adults and people with special needs; alcohol and drug treatment, and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Oversight: LSS is overseen by 500,000 Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Lutherans in more than 800 congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). LSS values the strong partnership with these Churches.

Governance: LSS is governed by a Board of Directors, including representatives from business, healthcare, clergy and other sectors of the community. Within the South Central Synod, we thank Bishop Bruce Burnside, Scott Barth and John Grace for volunteering their time to guide LSS as part of our Board of Directors.

Church Funding: In 2010, benevolence support from ELCA congregations within the six synods affiliated with LSS totaled \$697,374. Funds help support services for people in need. We are grateful to these churches for their continued support of our shared mission.

Serving in Christ,

Steve Umland
Board Chair

Pastor David Larson
President & CEO

LSS Mission:

Motivated by the compassion of Christ, we help people improve the quality of their lives.

LSS Vision:

Changing the world – one grace-filled life at a time.

www.lsswis.org



*Lutherdale is a faith community,
dedicated to building lives in Christ,
through the wonder of God's creation,
and the study of God's word.*

Lutherdale was founded back in 1944 when a group of faithful people sat on a log and prayed for God's help in starting a new camping ministry. For 67 years Lutherdale has been sharing God's love with thousands of guests each year. God continues to guide this ministry as it has grown over the years. We are grateful for all who support this ministry with prayers, participation in our programs, financial gifts. Volunteers are especially appreciated for all the time and labor they put into getting things done. Investing in the life of a child bears fruit and brings many rewards. Together we are changing lives and raising future leaders in our church.

2010 was a stable year for our ministry. Many of our youth retreat programs saw huge demands and in fact the first quarter of the year saw the highest registration rates in the last six years. The weak economy is still having an effect on summer camp registrations, but we saw no decline in campers over 2009, and that was a good indicator as well for 2010. Over 40 congregations sponsored a Camp Sunday Program in their church during January thru May. There is no better way to inform parents about the camping opportunities available to them and their children, than when a Lutherdale staff member comes to your church to share the wonders of outdoor ministry. Call the camp office to schedule a Camp Sunday at your church.

Our Eagles Nest Adventure Center had some exciting news in 2010. Thanks to the generous support of special donors, a new high ropes course was installed which will greatly enhance the experience of all participants. The new course has been moved out of the trees and is now made up of poles similar to telephone poles. The course is higher than before, has more/new elements, and attaches to the climbing tower.

The ELCA has a strong network of 143 outdoor ministry sites across the country. It came as a shock, but not a surprise, when the ELCA faced with having to make difficult budget cuts, eliminated the full time outdoor ministry staff in the church wide office. The support and connections that the ELCA provided to our camps was invaluable and will be greatly missed. Our association of camps, known as **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries**, has taken on the challenge of creating a professional structure to replace what the ELCA used to provide. Camp Directors are people of action, and much has already been done to lay out a strategic plan for 2011 and 2012 with a commitment to making the ELCA camping network even better.

Lutherdale continues to offer programs for Senior Adults with its Travel Ministry tours, our special summer Senior Wednesday programs, and the Grandcamp program for grandparents and their grandchildren. 2011 travel trips include springtime in Branson and fall Mackinaw Island tour.

2011 Summer Camp Theme –“Jesus Chooses Us!” Campers will explore how Jesus calls us to follow him and gives us what we need to be whole, well and safe.

Outdoor ministry is ready to serve congregations in a variety of fun and exciting ways. Come and experience the awe and beauty of God’s creation and let time away nurture the soul.

Jeffrey A. Bluhm, Executive Director



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Report to the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Synod Assembly from the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA serves this synod by providing vital loans for capital projects to new-start congregations, established congregations and ELCA-related ministries. MIF is able to fund these loans through the sale of investments to ELCA ministries and congregation members.

Nearly **800 MIF loans** totaling **\$460 million** are at work today in ELCA ministries throughout the United States, Virgin Islands and the Caribbean.

In the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 9 congregations and ministries currently have Mission Investment Fund loans totaling \$6,986,019 million, while many individuals and ministries, including the synod, have investments in MIF totaling \$3,814,107 million.*

MIF serves ELCA ministries. In addition to the ministry loans and investments that it offers, MIF provides consulting services to ELCA congregations through its church building consultants. The consultants evaluate the effectiveness of existing facilities or plans for new facilities and help congregations design building programs that support their mission. The consultants' services are provided at no charge. Area representatives are available to meet with congregations and ELCA-related ministries regarding MIF's loan and investment opportunities.

Has your congregation invested? Have members of your congregation invested? Join the thousands of individuals, ELCA congregations, ELCA-related ministries and synods – including the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin – that are earning interest on their investments as they help to build the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Your participation enables MIF to continue this vital ministry. A variety of fixed- and adjustable-rate investment opportunities are available and may be opened with initial investments of as little as \$5. Information on investments and ministry loans is available at www.elca.org/mif and through the MIF representative listed below who serves this synod.

Thank you for your support of and participation in the Mission Investment Fund. It is a joy to work in partnership with you for the advancement of God's kingdom.

Yours in Christ,

Deborah Simonson Smith
Regional Manager
507.635.3745
Deborah.Smith@elca.org

*** as of 12/30.2010**

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631 | Web:
elca.org/mif
e-mail: mif@elca.org | 877.886.3522 (toll free)

Report from Oakwood Lutheran Homes Association, Inc.



Oakwood, along with the field of homes and services for the aging in general, is experiencing unprecedented change. The population of people age 65-plus will double over the next 20 years. We are already serving people from the Depression, Silent and Boomer generations today. Over the past year Oakwood spent a significant amount of time analyzing the forthcoming demographic changes in the population we serve, conducted a number of surveys and focus groups with both our internal and external constituents, and compared ourselves in the competitive arena in our field and marketplace.

This work served as a “backbone” of information as Oakwood completed its 2011 – 2013 Strategic Plan. As we created our strategic plan, we took into account not only the needs and challenges specific to our organization and our market, but worked to ensure we remain a leader in the industry by considering national trends and committed to serving a diverse population of older adults consistent with our Lutheran faith background.

Mather Lifeways Institute on Aging in Evanston, Illinois derived the 10 top senior living trends after surveying 600 senior living organizations (like Oakwood) representing more than 1,000 communities from 15 states. Here is a general summary on how Oakwood intends to address these top ten national trends in its current strategic plan.

1. **Senior living residents are choosing to “age in place.”** In our plan we are focused on redefining our continuum to help our residents “age in place,” promoting the highest level of independence. This includes redefining our Residential Care Program (RCP), development of an Oakwood Home Care program, and enhancing our assessment and care planning tools and systems in order to make transitions when warranted more effective for those we serve.
2. **Health and wellness programs and services are top priorities.** Traci Raether, RN with a Masters Degree in Nursing specializing in health care systems is leading the effort here at Oakwood to improve upon clinical programs with a proactive focus on the dimensions of wellness. Oakwood is developing partnership links positioning itself as the leading long term care provider for health systems in our area to work with as part of the movement toward “accountable care organizations.”
3. **Technology will be key to promoting and sustaining independent lifestyles among senior living residents.** Oakwood is presently engaged in active research on the impact of in-home health telemonitoring devices with a number of our independent living residents and received \$50,000 in grant funds to help prevent adverse drug events. Technology will play a key role in this research effort.
4. **Resident programs must focus on meaningful activities and intellectual stimulation.** For years Oakwood has been recognized for providing high quality and stimulating resident activity programming. In our strategic plan we have strong emphasis on working with our residents toward defining a more formal “life enrichment” program focusing on all dimensions of wellness.

5. **Senior living providers will provide services beyond their four walls.** Oakwood has a history of extending our ministry outside our walls through SAIL (Supporting Active Independent Lives), our Parish Nurse Program, involvement with Catholic Charities Care Team Ministry and a number of other ventures. In our strategic plan we will broaden our ministry largely through the efforts of the Oakwood Foundation, development of a home care program, and through partnerships like the existing Madison Continuing Care Consortium.
6. **Long-term care is transforming to support person-directed care and meaningful relationships.** Our strategic plan highlights the effort to create the continuing care model of the future, promoting the highest level of independence possible throughout the continuum in a “de-institutionalized” setting which will be clearly defined in our Master Site Planning effort in 2011.
7. **Residents are demanding customized services, driving the need for senior living providers to offer a customer-driven portfolio of services and programs.** Oakwood has an active and vibrant resident population. We are working with our residents to extend choice in our dining program, activities programs, and clinical models of care.
8. **Language, perceptions, and attitudes of care providers must be updated to reflect older adults’ changing needs and expectations.** As part of the strategic planning process Oakwood has redefined our Mission Statement, Vision Statement and evaluated our Core Values to accurately reflect our present and future. We are also focused on customer service training and assuring that our excellent staff team members continue to view Oakwood as an “employer of choice.”
9. **The senior living industry may become a hotbed for job creation.** “Employer of Choice” is the term used in our strategic plan. We recognize that our greatest resource in our ministry is our “human resources”. . . residents, staff team members and volunteers. Our plan includes: career path initiatives; celebratory events bringing staff team members and their families to the campus; and improved performance review and improvement tools promoting better care/service and self confidence and pride.
10. **Above all, consumers want choices and value.** Oakwood is widely regarded as a good value among continuing care retirement communities. We believe our new Vision Statement (this statement is the driving force behind our strategic planning process) says it best; *To be recognized as a sustainable Wisconsin “model of excellence” promoting the highest level of independence for a diverse community of older adults.*

We seek recognition and input from those we serve. We need to be financially sustainable to extend this 60-plus year old ministry for generations to come. We focus on excellence in all aspects of our ministry. We seek to provide a variety of quality housing, services, and program all fostering independence to older adults of all faiths, income levels, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientation, cultures and beliefs. **“Choice and value” is inherent in everything we do.**

REGION 5 - EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Rev. Carl Richard Evenson
COORDINATOR FOR MINISTRY LEADERSHIP—REGION 5
carl.evenson@elca.org

Synod Assembly Report- Spring, 2011

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

The twelve synods of Region 5 stretch through Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, and include the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Gathering when mutual ministry can happen, regional work demonstrates our partnership with other synods and with the churchwide expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In a fresh organizing of the churchwide office this year, Region 5 has retained its role but now relates most directly to the new Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (CSM) at the Lutheran Center in Chicago.

Primary Region 5 endeavors include oversight in the areas of leadership development and campus ministry. Candidacy is the practice we use to raise new pastors, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, and associates in ministry for the ELCA. Assignment is the process for deploying new rostered leaders to a particular synod.

Many campus ministers in Region 5 serve college and university communities, bringing a Christian and Lutheran presence to complement higher education.

Our regional mobility conferences continue to provide an interview forum for rostered leaders who are open to new call. And our word and service rostered leaders met recently for consultation.

Directors for Evangelical Mission (DEM) have been appointed in each synod and are gathered regionally to share consultation.

Some congregations in the region have contended with difficult decisions this past year, and a few in every synod have left the ELCA for other association. But the Spirit is calling our witness forward with renewed vigor for Christ and his open hand to all.

Nancy Carroll is our Region 5 archivist. Congregations deposit key records and closing parishes submit their historical documents for perpetual care (with a financial gift if possible) to the regional archive at Wartburg Seminary.

The Region 5 office includes the coordinator, and office assistant Darlene Bilstad. The Region 5 Steering Committee directs the region and Bishop Duane Pederson from Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is the current chair, Bishop Michael Last is the vice chair, and Bishop James Arends is the secretary.

Churchwide office support and income of seven cents per baptized member from each of our twelve synods comprises Region 5 funding. We are grateful for all twelve synods echoing the covenant we share to be fully supportive of Region 5. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

--Rev. Carl Richard Evenson

TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

There is a right size for everything. Over the past few years, we have seen more and more people use alternative care settings. We have also recognized that more of the available dollars for care of the elderly by State and Federal agencies are disbursed over a larger number of providers. This results in us having to do more with less. We are well diversified and able to adjust services to meet need.



We have responded to the downturn by adjusting our nursing home census to 126 for 2011. With a building as large as ours, a lot of thought had to go into how to adjust our bed count to make the most sense for our staffing and to look at the needs of those we serve. We are getting many more admissions who are interested in private rooms. They are coming in for rehabilitation and want to be close to the therapy area. We are currently in the process of converting our semi-private rooms to private suites on River Walk (Unit 1) that will be specific to rehab patients. We are confident that we are very close to having the right number of nursing home beds.

With all of that said, the reimbursement front has not improved. We are still losing about \$45.00 per day per Medicaid patient. As many of you are aware, the government is looking at ways to cut Medicare and Medicaid benefits, so we don't hold much hope that this trend will improve. Yet the expectation is that we will continue to provide high quality care to those who are entrusted to our care.

Skaalen continues to remain strong in its commitment to the elderly. We have been an important part of this community for over 110 years and will continue to fulfill our mission to those we serve.

Fred Ingersoll
Board President

Mark Benson
Executive Director

Kathy Horton
Administrator

Wisconsin Council of Churches' Annual Report

By Scott D. Anderson, Executive Director

www.wichurches.org

*We pray and work for the unity and renewal of the church
and the healing and reconciliation of the world.*

Tracing its roots back to the early 1940's with an inter-denominational recreation ministry for young people, the Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) now encompasses 13 denominations with approximately 2,200 congregations and over one million church members statewide.

2010 Accomplishments

Equipping Leaders--The Council's signature educational event for clergy each summer is the Washington Island Forum, which in 2010 drew 140 pastors and lay leaders from 16 states representing 14 faith traditions to hear Forum Presenter Kenda Creasy Dean, Associate Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her theme, *Almost Christian: What the Faith of our Teenagers is Telling the American Church* focused on church's relationship with contemporary youth. The Council also hosts regional events throughout the year on a variety of timely topics to equip clergy and lay leaders for effective ministry.

Greening our Faith and our Communities--the Council continues to focus its advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The WCC has also been a partner in the creation of *Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light*, which is affiliated with a national effort to educate congregations on how to be good stewards of the environment.

Beyond Survival: What is God's Future for the Small Church?--the Council sponsored workshops in Tomah and Shawano to equip rural congregations for effective ministry in their local communities.

Addressing the Root Causes of Hunger--the Council continues to advocate for just public policies that provide support for the unemployed and other vulnerable populations during these recessionary times.

Looking Ahead to 2011

Washington Island Forum--Dr. Marcus Borg, Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland and internationally known writer and speaker will serve as the 2011 Washington Island Forum presenter on the theme *Speaking Christian: Reclaiming Christian Language* June 27-July 1. For more information about the Forum and all WCC educational events, go to www.wichurches.org/events.

Becoming Welcoming Communities-is a new project in collaboration with *WISDOM*, the church-based community organizing program in Wisconsin, and *Voces de la Frontera*, the largest immigrant rights group in our state. This one-year project is producing a congregational study guide on the history of immigration in Wisconsin and contemporary challenges faced by new immigrants.

People of Faith United For Justice -is our biennial advocacy day March 15th at the State Capitol co-sponsored by the WCC, *WISDOM*, the Lutheran Office for Public Policy-Wisconsin, Madison area Urban Ministry and the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. Over 300 people will gather at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison to discuss issues of common concern and then will meet with their legislators in the afternoon.