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LAMPa (LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA)

LAMPa Report to Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we advocate for wise and just public policies in Pennsylvania that promote the common good. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a shared ministry of seven Pennsylvania synods, the ELCA Domestic Mission unit, and Pennsylvania ELCA agencies and institutions. Through LAMPa, Lutherans who are working to eradicate hunger are supported to voice their faith convictions in the public square with and on behalf of our most vulnerable neighbors and the world we share, while seeking to create a more just Commonwealth.

In 2018, LAMPa celebrated 39 years of advocacy ministry that supported and deepened your congregational efforts to address hunger, poverty, human trafficking, immigration, school funding inequity, racism and environmental threats to health and safety. Thanks be to God for the support of our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Policy Council representatives, Diane Casey and the Rev. Lydia Posselt.

Our work in 2018 was guided by both the LAMPa issue agenda adopted by our policy council in December 2017 as well as the principles of ELCA World Hunger to be transformative, holistic and integrated with attention to fostering vital congregations and equipping leaders.

Equipping disciples, growing leaders, supporting vital congregations

We began 2018 by accompanying and supporting Pennsylvania hunger leaders in learning and legislative visits during the ELCA World Hunger Gathering in Washington, D.C. In May, Lutheran Day in the Capitol saw us celebrate what God is doing through advocates in each synod as well as to equip advocates for justice-seeking on issues from hunger to clean water and to put that into practice in legislative visits in the state Capitol. As keynote, Nobel-Prize-winning geophysicist Dr. Richard Alley inspired, informed and encouraged advocates to address climate

change. LAMPa staff took that message to the National Youth Gathering, connecting with youth to share ways they could care for our common home when they returned to Pennsylvania.

LAMPa staff helped organize and engage Lutherans in a statewide EnergyStar tour to help congregations understand government resources and research available to reduce their contributions to climate change as well as save money. We also joined other faith-based organizations to host a webinar on community solar programs, laying the groundwork for related legislation introduced in early 2019. LAMPa staff worked with individuals and congregations who were led by their ministry of service into advocacy and by sharing grant opportunities with those engaged in related ministry. LAMPa also invited and supported advocates and those with lived experiences of hunger, poverty, and violence in testifying, making legislative visits, speaking at press conferences, or leading letter-writing campaigns

Progress on LAMPa's Issue Agenda

The 2018 session saw success on several items on LAMPa's issue agenda.

Hunger – Maintained funding for the State Food Purchase Program and the Pa. Agriculture Surplus System, the state's major anti-hunger programs.

Clean Slate – The legislature passed and the governor signed clean slate legislation that seals the records of those with nonviolent misdemeanor convictions after an individual has remained crime-free for 10 years and would also seal non-conviction records as a matter of course. This is now being held up as a model for criminal justice reform in other states.

Firearms and Domestic Violence – The legislature passed and the governor signed legislation that would require those involved in domestic violence to turn over firearms to police within 24 hours. The previous legislation allowed firearms to be turned over to friends and family members within 60 days.

Safe Harbor – The legislature passed and the governor signed legislation that would divert child sex-trafficking victims away from the criminal justice system and into appropriate services.

Protecting the Social Safety Net – LAMPa advocates helped defeat legislation that would have created barriers to food aid by mandating burdensome work requirements, even in areas with high unemployment.

Payday lending – Payday lending legislation was introduced, but quick and firm response by advocates kept it from getting anywhere.

Creation Care – An outpouring from advocates helped defeat a last-minute attempt to pass legislation shared at Lutheran Day that would have rolled back environmental regulation of the oil and gas industry to standards of 30 years ago.

The passion of our advocates is recognized. We are the only organization in Pennsylvania that garners signatures for hunger funding and policy in every legislative district in the state. We

have been invited to participate in the Governor's Food Policy Council. Our work on Safe Harbor has led to an invitation to work on further legislation to end human trafficking.

We look forward to strengthening ecumenical and interfaith work in 2019, building on the foundation that has been laid in recent years and in response to the glaring need to heal division and promote unity in such a time as this when our differences have been fed by fear and turned into paralysis at one extreme and violence at the other. We lean into that work with the theme of "Set a Welcome Table," and a day of ecumenical and interfaith fellowship, service, learning and preparation for advocacy in May.

Connecting Service to Advocacy: In 2018, LAMPa resourced congregations participating in the Churchwide Day of Service, garnering more than 1,000 letters to lawmakers on a variety of topics. LAMPa will again share service-and-advocacy projects for Sept. 8. We would be glad to help your congregation plan to make that day one of "God's work. Our hands. Our voices."

With deep gratitude for all the ways in which you support LAMPa's ministry,

Tracey DePasquale

LAMPa Director

LUTHERAN ARCHIVES CENTER AT PHILADELPHIA 2019 President's Letter to Synod Assemblies

In 2019 we celebrate the 400th anniversary of Lutherans in North America. As two ships sailed from the Dano-Norwegian Realm 400 years ago on what became an ill-fated voyage of discovery, the chaplain (Rasmus Jensen), officers, and crew became the first Lutherans to reach North America. While we mark this anniversary we also know that it was left to subsequent generations of Lutherans to establish Lutheran communities and congregations, first in the northeastern portion of what would become the United States of America, and then across the whole of the North American continent.

At the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia we cherish this rich history, as we assist researchers and scholars from across the region, and from around the world, to discover the treasures entrusted to the northeastern regional archives of the ELCA. While 2019 is a significant anniversary year for Lutherans on this continent, this year brings some significant transitions for us at the Archives. First of all we say farewell to our Curator of more than forty years, John Peterson, as he enters upon his well-deserved retirement. John has been with the archives from the beginning and he has seen the archives through the move from the lower level of the Krauth Memorial Library on the Philadelphia campus of ULS to our state-of-the-art facility in the basement of the Brossman Center. We will mark John's retirement with a dinner at the William Penn Inn in Gwynedd, PA, on June 9.

On May 8 we are also hosting a welcome event at the Archives for our new Executive Director, Lisa Minardi, who started working for us late last summer. Lisa has helped us

tremendously as we carry the work of the archives into the future, and we are very grateful for her leadership.

Finally, for the past twenty years our quarterly publication, the *Archives Advocate*, has set the standard for such publications throughout the Lutheran church in the United States. The stories contained in the *Advocate* have represented the breadth of Lutheranism throughout the northeast, and the sharp design of the newsletter has inspired those who have read it to delve deeper into our common history. For twenty years Kim-Eric Williams (Curator of the Augustana Institute and staff archivist at LACAP) has ensured that the *Advocate* has met a high editorial and artistic standard. Kim-Eric will be retiring from his role as editor this year, and our Executive Director will be assuming the role of editor. Through these changes and transitions, the Archives will continue to be in good hands, and we will continue to serve the congregations, Synods, and institutions of region seven of the ELCA.

As we have done throughout our history, we continue to rely on Synodical support and funding from closed congregations (\$5000 from each closed parish whose records we receive), as well as from the other agencies and organizations whose archives we hold. We are furthermore very grateful for contributions from a variety of supporters. Please continue to support the work of your regional Archives Center with your prayers and contributions! Please pick up copies of the *Archives Advocate* at your Assembly for yourself and for your congregation, and make sure to greet your Synod Archivist! And remember -- visitors are always welcome at the Archives Center!

Wishing you blessings on your Synod Assembly!



The Rev. J. Francis Watson, Ph.D.
President of the Board, Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia

THE LUTHERAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA President's Report

The Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania is a membership organization that focuses on congregations, institutions and events within the areas of the Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. We are your historical society and thank you for your continuing support. Our synod areas include some of the oldest Lutheran congregations and sites in the country, over 125 dating from before 1776. The society regularly sponsors pilgrimages to historic congregations and sites. Each one provides us an opportunity to visit and see a congregation, its history and ministry and how it became a presence in the community in which it is located. We also publish a "Periodical" with articles of interest to the membership. We also promote the society at the two synod assemblies in our area. Several years ago we published the guidebook "Colonial Lutheran Churches and Historic Sites in Eastern

Pennsylvania 1638-1775.”

This past year we arranged three pilgrimages. The first was to Trinity, Perkasie; where we learned about the history and ministry of the congregation. We also experienced a splendid concert of Ancient and Reformation era music and a mini lecture on the history of the organ. Our second pilgrimage was to Christ (Christ’s) UCC and Lutheran, Trumbauersville. These two congregations once shared the same building. We saw how these congregations, now separated, combine traditional and contemporary ministries. Both are served by Lutheran pastors. We also visited St. Paul’s, Catasauqua where we will experienced the surrounding community and visited a neighboring Lutheran congregation, Holy Trinity.

There are nearly 500 congregations in Eastern Pennsylvania and we look forward to invitations from congregations who wish to share their story. Congregations don’t have to be old or celebrating an anniversary. We also publish a scholarly “Periodical”. Our current issue is still in the making. We also are launching a new a website. We have sponsored congregation heritage awards and a recent essay contest to encourage student interest. The Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania is a totally volunteer organization. All work is done by our members and our Board. I would like to thank our board for another year of faithful service. If you are interested please consider becoming a member, serving on the board or participating in our other activities. We are supported by membership dues and private contributions. Please share ideas that interest you and consider involving yourself in any special projects or activities. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Richard B. Baumann, President

May 4, 2019

LUTHERAN HOME AT GERMANTOWN FOUNDATION

Lutheran Home at Germantown Foundation receives endowment and similar funds of the corporation for the support of Silver Springs – Martin Luther School, recognizing the common heritage and historical ties between the corporation and Silver Springs – Martin Luther School. The Foundation's continuing interest in helping to meet the compelling needs of children who have faced steep challenges and pain, and so early in their lives, is the focus of its attention and the heartbeat of its mission.

Kristen E.M. Gay, Ph.D., President/CEO

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia was founded in March 2006 aiming to build relationships of mutual support, offer a moral and spiritual voice in the region, and identify issues of concern for dialogue and action. Our Synod, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, was a founding member of the Religious Leaders Council. Currently, the Religious Leaders Council consists of more than 30 member communities, representing more than two million people of diverse faith traditions from across the greater Philadelphia region.

In 2018, former Bishop Claire Burkat ended her time as a co-convenor of the Religious Leaders Council. The Religious Leaders welcomed newly elected Bishop Patricia Davenport at her Installation on Saturday, September 22, 2018, with several members able to celebrate this historic Installation.

Highlights from 2018 include celebrating the tenth anniversary of *Zones of Peace* and awarding banners to six congregations & organizations engaged in exemplary non-violence work in their own neighborhoods. Conversations with fellow members of the Religious Leaders Council on the intersection of race and faith, facilitate by The Rev. Steven Lawrence using the NewCORE: A New Conversation on Race & Ethnicity philosophy. Conversations around how the Religious Leaders Council might inspire a broader community and champion Philadelphia as a region that reflects the vibrancy of a religiously diverse democracy.

The Religious Leaders Council in the year ahead will continue to focus on ways that member communities can come together to address the city's growing epidemic of violence, to appeal for the respect and dignity of all person, and to invigorate our region's leaders to lift up those most in need of support and prayer.

Looking ahead The Religious Leaders Council and Interfaith Center are excited to welcome Krista Tippet, the host of *On Being* with a *Dare to Understand* award and is currently partnering with *On Being* on the *Civil Conversations* project.

How can you become involved? Check out the Religious Leaders Council page at www.interfaithphiladelphia.org/council to learn more and to find out about their Signature Initiative: Zones of Peace. You can nominate an organization to be recognized and learn how you can be part of a region wide-interfaith movement of churches, synagogues, mosques, other houses of worship, schools, and community-based organizations are working to address the root causes of violence and make us safer in the communities where we live, work, and play.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Fritz Fowler

SEPA Synod Representative

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

See Section H, Addendum 1

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See Section H, Addendum 2