

Synod Assembly Report 2021

Our Mission Statement:

Liberty Lutheran faithfully accompanies individuals and families who are facing life changing situations through an empowering approach that honors their choices and well-being.

The coronavirus pandemic placed incredible challenges upon our world, nation, local communities, workplaces, and within our personal lives. This past year, Liberty Lutheran's family of services endeavored to look after the well-being of the people we serve, as well as those colleagues who share their talents with us on a daily basis.

As early as February of 2020, Liberty Lutheran put measures in place to keep everyone safe in all five of Liberty's residential communities. While those measures were necessary, we also knew that restrictions on social distancing and visitations would have an adverse effect on our residents. As a result, our staff became more important companions to residents. They found creative ways to bring activities to them, or to move more events outdoors allowing residents to safely enjoy concerts, movie night and other events. Staff helped residents stay connected with loved ones with window visits, virtual visits with the help of technology, even outdoor visits.

Though their doors are temporarily closed, the West Philadelphia Senior Community Center continues to serve its members with meal delivery services, contactless delivery of necessities, and a meal pickup program. At one point last summer they were delivering up to 350 meals a day, two to three times a week. They continue to engage members virtually by posting videos of exercise programs, words of encouragement and special events like birthdays. The in-home support staff continue to make virtual visits with homebound residents, getting them the support they need to get back on their feet.

Meanwhile, Lutheran Congregational Services (LCS) worked with the Synod office and ELCA in the Spring to support local feeding ministries including Feast of Justice and The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. With our connections to FEMA, we were able to secure scarce supplies like hand sanitizer and masks for congregations to continue their ministries. Lay Eucharistic visitor trainings are being held virtually and our online bereavement community is growing as more people seek out support and find comfort in connecting with others.

LCS' Lutheran Disaster Response - Eastern Pennsylvania never missed a beat during summer flooding, Tropical Storm Isaias and winter storms. Though partnering with affected communities and deploying volunteers was trickier in the midst of the pandemic, our work continues as we repair damaged homes in the Eastwick section of Philadelphia, as well as surrounding suburbs of Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties.

Building Resilient Individuals & Communities

Organizational Dollars to Continue Services where Shortfalls Exist

 **\$1,240,699**
 Benevolent Care

 **\$11,505,117**
 Unreimbursed Medicare and Medicaid Costs

 **\$39,339**
 Social Service Subsidies (LCFS and LCS)

Rooted in more than 100 years of history, Liberty Lutheran faithfully lives our mission through an empowering approach that strengthens the health and well-being of the people we serve, and restoring hope and resiliency for the brokenhearted. Liberty employs over 1,200 people and serves more than 10,000 older adults.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA and Lutheran congregations in southeast Pennsylvania continue to be integral partners. This year in particular we are grateful for volunteers who sewed hundreds of fabric masks as well as for the partnerships with congregations who made our outreach activities to the wider community possible. Thank you.

Financial Impact of COVID-19

Additional Expenses	March 2020 through June 30, 2020	July 2020 through November 30, 2020	
Security <i>(including extra security for temperature checks, and screenings)</i>	\$281,057	\$237,763	\$2,305,062
Housekeeping <i>(including environmental, electrostatic and other deep cleaning measures)</i>	\$209,665	\$119,589	Total March 2020 through June 30, 2020
Medical Supplies <i>(including masks, gowns, face shields, hand sanitizer and more)</i>	\$254,638	\$177,571	+ \$1,317,600
Staff Day Care Allowance <i>(provided during the months that day care centers were closed)</i>	\$389,941	—	Total July 2020 through November 30, 2020
COVID Wage Differential <i>(additional compensation for COVID-19 care)</i>	\$911,320	\$415,586	\$3,622,662
Other <i>(including resident meal deliveries, staff meals, testing and other related expenses)</i>	+ \$258,441	+ \$367,091	Total Additional Expenses
	\$2,305,062	\$1,317,600	



Partnerships with Lutheran congregations and the Southeast Penn Synod of the ELCA are critical to our ability to fulfill our mission. Anyone wishing to partner with the Liberty Lutheran family of services can contact Julia Menzo, Director of Community Outreach, LCS, at jmenzo@libertylutheran.org, 267-464-7740.

In Christ, Julia Menzo, Director of Community Outreach, Liberty Lutheran/Lutheran Congregational Services. 7002 Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002 www.libertylutheran.org