

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

Programs and Services

For 20 years Gwen had worked in customer service at a large, local health care company. Then her job was outsourced to a foreign country. As she looked for a job, she, her husband and her goddaughter who she had taken in managed to get by. After six months and no success in landing employment, Gwen turned to the LSS Westside Food Pantry for help. She and her goddaughter Marlene, who is 12-years-old, shop at the pantry because they don't qualify for SNAP (food stamp) benefits. "I only need a little help," Gwen said. "The pantry cut my grocery bills in half, so I can put that money toward bills and living expenses while I get back on my feet."



Faith Mission

Faith Mission serves the homeless community by offering a secure, Christian-based environment for homeless men and women on an emergency walk-in basis. We provide shelter, food and clothing, while helping individuals gain access to longer term solutions such as housing, employment assistance, counseling and support groups. The Clinic at Faith Mission was established to meet the health care needs of homeless men and women by providing medical, dental, vision and podiatry services. The Community Kitchen at Faith Mission also serves three meals a day to anyone in the community who is hungry.

Food Pantries

LSS' four permanent food pantries in Columbus, Lancaster and Caldwell and one mobile pantry, which serves Gallia, Lawrence, Meigs, Morgan and Scioto counties, serve the needs of thousands of people year-round. Hungry families and individuals receive food as well as health care screenings, back-to-school supplies and other services. The LSS Food Pantries also offer the Ohio Benefit Bank, an internet-based income enhancement program that connects people to public benefits and tax credits for which they qualify.

Disaster Response

Acting as the statewide coordinating body for Lutheran Disaster Response, our staff and volunteers serve people affected by natural disasters. Trained responders provide material and emotional support, debris removal, case management and referral to other emergency assistance programs.

Social Enterprise

The social enterprise initiative equips unemployed shelter residents to qualify and maintain permanent employment in the wider community. Clients are temporarily hired, trained and prepared to enter the workforce via LSS-operated businesses, which currently includes Fairhaven Lawn Care, Patriot Pride Painting Co. and Freshbox Catering, ultimately learning new job skills that will assist them as they become self-sufficient.

Home Health Care

LSS Home Health Care offers physical, occupational and speech therapy, orthopedic and cardiac rehabilitation, pain management, registered and licensed practical nurses, and wound specialists. Additionally, assistance with cooking, cleaning, personal care and other household services are available. Services are available in Franklin, Delaware, Morrow, Richland, Knox, Ashland, Marion, Licking, Fairfield, Union and Wayne counties.

Faith Housing of Fairfield County

Faith Housing of Fairfield County provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing services in the Lancaster area. Case managers work with clients to offer long-term solutions to increase their employment, housing and income opportunities. Additional services are provided to veterans through emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.

Affordable Housing

LSS has 21 affordable housing communities throughout Ohio to serve the needs of people who meet income, age or disability requirements. These communities provide residents with dignity, safety and a caring environment. Many of our sites have service coordinators available to link residents with services allowing them to maintain their independence.

Health and Senior Services

LSS offers a full spectrum of care for seniors. From independent and assisted living to skilled nursing care, LSS has facilities designed to provide the best in personalized care that fits any lifestyle.

Fiscal Year 2013 Service Measures

The success of Lutheran Social Services is measured by the number of lives that are touched as a result of our ministry.

Hunger

Meals provided..... 2,743,830
(Food Pantries, Faith Mission, Faith Housing of Fairfield County, Northern Ohio Ministries)

Housing

Homes rebuilt/ renovated..... 214
(Outreach Ministries, Disaster Response)

People Served..... 1,002
(Affordable Housing)

People Served..... 132
(Kensington Place)

Nights of Shelter..... 113,180
(Faith Mission, Faith Housing of Fairfield County)

Healing

Days of care..... 59,840
(Lutheran Village of Ashland, The Good Shepherd)

People served..... 5,037
(The Clinic at Faith Mission)

Hope

People Served..... 1,588
(The Faith Mission Resource Center)

Volunteer hours..... 119,034



Lutheran
Social
Services
of
Central
Ohio

Report of the Middle East Task Force to the Southern Ohio Synod

The Middle East Task Force has been in existence for only a couple of years. The purpose of the Task Force is threefold: to provide information and education on issues in the Middle East, especially as they relate to war, conflict, human rights and the security and wellbeing of the Christian church in that region of the world; to create opportunities for legislative advocacy when it is helpful to promoting these concerns, including training and equipping members and congregations to engage in legislative advocacy; and to bring a special focus on the challenge of resolving the Israeli – Palestinian conflict and bringing peace in the Holy Land.

The Middle East is currently in a state of serious instability and turmoil. Syria is engaged in a civil war, and thousands are being killed, and many more Syrians have refugee status, mostly in the country of Lebanon. Likewise, Iraq, following the conclusion of the US invasion and the withdrawal of American military presence from that region, is on the verge of civil war with an estimated death toll of 30 civilians per day as the result of the conflict.

At the moment neither the ELCA nor Lutheran World Relief are directly involved in Syria or Iraq. However, the Middle East Task Force encourages congregations to look at other organizations that provide on-going support and relief in these war torn areas of the world, including the United Nations World Food Program, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and Save the Children.

Lutheran World Relief is involved in Palestine, and churches are encouraged to consider supporting this work, and also becoming involved in the ELCA peace making effort called Peace, Not Walls, which provides education and advocacy opportunities to bring peace between Israel and the Palestinians. The Task Force also encourages members to consider belonging to and supporting the work of Churches for Middle East Peace at cmep.org, which is the umbrella organization for coordinating peacemaking efforts through education and advocacy for many of the mainline denominations including the ELCA, and some Roman Catholic organizations.

If congregations are interested in educational programs on the nature of the Israeli – Palestinian conflict and are interested in extending the work of the Middle East Task Force through more education and advocacy, they are encouraged to contact the chair of the Middle East Task Force, Pastor Skip Cornett who can be reached through the synod office, or by email at wcornett@insight.rr.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Ward Cornett III
Chair, Middle East Task Force



Oesterlen Services for Youth, Inc., celebrated its 110th Anniversary during 2013. For well over a century, the agency has served children and families in times of need, in the name of Jesus Christ. Originally founded as an orphanage in 1903 with a bequest from Amelia Tritch Oesterlen, a member of First Lutheran Church, Findlay, Ohio, the agency today is a highly diverse full spectrum mental health and social services agency assisting children and those who love and care for them.

Oesterlen carries out its work through five major program areas: Intensive Residential Mental Health Therapy, where clients live on the Oesterlen campus for six to nine months; Outpatient Community Counseling Center therapy offering individual, family, and group therapy, both on the Oesterlen campus and onsite in area schools; Treatment Foster Care Services, offered in 38 licensed homes; Intensive Home-Based Therapy, assigned very challenging families with unruly teens, working virtually daily with a trained therapist in their homes; and Wraparound Services which offers in-home family stability services – literally, whatever it takes – to keep families intact where there is danger of a child being removed from a home, for a variety of reasons. Objective outcome measures, required of all Oesterlen programs, have consistently demonstrated effectiveness and excellence beyond benchmarks of the agency's work. We are proud and grateful for these results.

Oesterlen's programs, while undergoing constant change to reflect expectations of referral sources and requirements for financial reimbursement for Oesterlen's professional services, have stabilized and most are growing. The Treatment Foster Care program is growing as fast as we can recruit new homes, and referrals to other programs have also created waiting lists. Community based programs are growing the fastest. We have added staff in the Community Counseling Center, especially to accommodate more demand for Oesterlen's on-site in school services, which school administrators praise for improving classroom behaviors and academic performance marks for the involved students. Currently the programs of Oesterlen collectively impact over 900 children annually.

In July 2013, Oesterlen and a group of partner agencies were awarded a state grant to open a Crisis Respite and Resource center serving three counties (Clark, Greene, and Madison) offering an emergency drop off option and short term (up to 14 days) residential stays for up to five children needing an emergency placement until more complicated family issues can be analyzed and addressed. At this writing, Oesterlen's original orphanage farm home, built in the 1870s, is being renovated for that program.

Oesterlen remains extremely grateful for our partnership relationships, as an affiliated agency of the ELCA, with the three ELCA Synods in Ohio. Representatives from these Synods make up 60% of the Oesterlen Board of Directors. Many congregations collect annual offerings for Oesterlen, or include Oesterlen in their congregational benevolence giving. Also, many congregations save Box Tops for Education and Campbell product Universal Bar Code labels for Oesterlen, which we use to purchase educational materials for our on-campus school. Oesterlen's annual Wish List, published each October, is a convenient guide for congregations, or smaller groups within them, who wish to contribute to Oesterlen's needs through gathering gifts other than cash gifts.

Oesterlen is deeply grateful for all these gifts. Indeed, we could not survive without them. And, Oesterlen is deeply grateful for all other support and prayers of God's people. While programs and personnel change constantly, God's call to gather and serve children remains steadfastly unchanged. May God grant us all the strength to respond faithfully.

Yours in service to the Lord, **Donald L. Warner**, LISW-S, ACSW, CSWM , Executive Director,
Toll Free (800) 404-5437; or Direct (937) 398-0211 or dwarner@oesterlen.org



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28 regions representing over
6,000 congregations, 3 million members

Mission Statement

*The mission of the Ohio Council of Churches is to **make visible the unity of Christ's church**, provide a Christian voice on public issues, and engage in worship, education and service.*

We are the *Body of Christ*, and individually members of him. Our Biblical mandate is to work towards oneness. We are stronger together, and are diminished when one leaves the table. Big or small, we need one another. The richness we experience as the Body of Christ, becomes a tapestry of various traditions and histories. We ‘gift’ one another with those. We are Christians first, and then become a denomination. Ecumenism involves honest sharing and hard work. The Ohio Council of Churches isn’t an add-on to our judicatories, but is WHO we are *already in Christ Jesus*. The Council is merely an instrument for living and demonstrating this oneness and unity.

The Body of Christ isn’t dead; and ecumenism isn’t dead. Opportunity is before us as we envision how to become more relevant in our life together into the future.

Through the Ohio Council of Churches, formed in 1919, we give testimony on important bills in the state legislature, such as: HB 269, about voting; HB 231 would expand concealed carry; HB 203 which is about “Stand Your Ground”; and HB 31, about children and guns.

Together we work with others in Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, providing people and resources in times of disaster.

Together we partner with Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, mobilizing a religious response to energy efficiency and conservation. An annual Ohio Ministries Convocation has been held, bringing in experts on topics who have engaged and challenged participants. Our monthly *E-News and Notes* lets you know about various events. A monthly *Legislative Brief* provides information about current bills so that you can act by writing a letter or calling your representative. [Let the office know if you’d like to be added to either of these.] The Council also provides a reduced rate for Workers’ Compensation for congregations.



How might the Council take a lead on crafting conversations on civil discourse around the state? Might we create an on-line learning opportunity? As the Body of Christ, we have so much more to do. Thanks be to God for life together as the Body of Christ known as the Ohio Council of Churches!

Officers: The Rev. Dr. Otha Gilyard, President, Ohio Baptist General Convention; the Rev. Raafat Zaki, Vice-President, Presbyterian Church (USA), Synod of the Covenant; the Rev. Dr. Charles Tyler, Sr., Secretary, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Mid-Atlantic One District; Mr. Steve Salt, Treasurer, Committee on Publication for Ohio, Christian Science; Rev. Deb Oskin, Chair for Foundation, Board of Trustees; The Rev. Dr. Bill Schnell, Immediate Past President, Community Churches, Ohio Fellowship; the Rev. Rebecca J. Tollefson, Executive Director.

“...so that they may be one, as we are one...” John 17:22b

OHIO MULTI-SYNODICAL CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Candidacy in the ELCA is the churchwide process of preparation and formation leading to approval for the public ministries of this church: commissioned associate in ministry; consecrated deaconess or diaconal minister; or ordained pastor. Candidacy invites an active partnership of candidate, congregation, synod, Seminary, and the ELCA Division for Ministry.

The ELCA is committed to the intentional identification and recruitment of those persons who are so gifted by God that they are able to provide leadership in the life of this church. Through a process of reflection, discernment, and engagement, individuals are encouraged to consider whether they are called by God through the church to serve in one of the rostered ministries of the ELCA.

-ELCA Vocation and Education Unit Candidacy Manual

In the Lutheran tradition, a person's call from God to public ministry is understood as both internal and external; 1) through an internal, personal sense of call that God is leading a person to public Christian ministry; 2) through other members of this church who encourage a person to enter public Christian ministry; 3) through public confirmation that a person has the character, commitment, preparation, and ability to serve in a specific public ministry roster; and 4) through the receipt and acceptance of a letter of call to serve in a particular ministry setting.

The Ohio Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee has been serving the three synods of Ohio (Southern Ohio Synod, Northeastern Ohio Synod, and Northwestern Ohio Synod), for many years. This committee is composed of 26 members: the bishop and one assistant to the bishop from each synod; six other members from each synod; one faculty representative from Trinity Lutheran Seminary; and one deployed staff member from the ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit. The Ohio Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee represents a balance between ordained and lay persons, male and female, and seeks cultural diversity.

The Candidacy Committee meets four times a year in April, August, October, and November. There are three very important steps in the candidacy process. First, at entrance the committee meets with the candidate for the purpose of evaluating an initial sense of call. Second, during the candidate's 2nd year of theological study, the candidate is endorsed based upon factors such as: personal growth and theological development as well as the candidate's clarification of his or her call to a specific ministry in the church. This "endorsement" takes place prior to participation in an internship or field experience. Third, the decision to approve is the final step for a candidate seeking to become a rostered minister in the ELCA. Approval takes into account all aspects of the candidate's "faith journey" including the completion of internship (or field experience) and theological education.

The following are the total number of candidates currently active in the candidacy process.

	<u>NWOS</u>	<u>NEOS</u>	<u>SOS</u>
Total Candidates	25	27	48

In Christ,

Pastor Stephen Kimm, Chair

Public Policy Ministry Taskforce

This newly formed taskforce remains in the formation and discernment stage. We held our first introductory conversation in November 2013, where Nick Bates volunteered to serve as chair. Since that time, the taskforce has presented at gatherings of the Muskingum and Dayton Conferences. Also, the taskforce presented alongside Pastor Art Simon and John Gromek of Bread for the World at the Hunger Leaders Gathering. During these presentations, input was solicited from the participants on how is God calling our Synod to *'Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly'*. This information continues to be compiled.

The Taskforce will identify our goals over the next few months and our steps for moving forward. If you are interested in serving on the taskforce or being added to an e-mail list for periodic public policy updates, please contact Nick Bates at batesyep@gmail.com

Scioto Conference Report

The Scioto Conference is the largest conference geographically in the Southern Ohio Synod. It covers most of southeastern Ohio. The large majority of the congregations in the conference are rural and small-town parishes. Because we are so spread out, gathering all of our churches together at once is problematic. Nevertheless, this reality has moved us to use the creative power of the Holy Spirit to build ecumenical partnerships to further God's mission in our particular areas of service. The Lancaster Cluster is the most active cluster of Lutheran congregations in this conference. A weekly pericope study group has been a fixture there for many years, providing a context for mutual care and insight. The cluster works together to offer joint catechism classes, and has provided the community with a joint Vacation Bible School program for 18 years.

The Scioto Conference was the birthplace of the Amazing Grace Day Camp ministry in our synod. This year the Spring Training Event for Amazing Grace Day Camps was held on May 18 at St. Paul Ashville. The southeastern corner of the conference has expanded the Amazing Grace model to a community-wide ecumenical project hosted by St. John, Racine and St. Paul, Pomeroy, along with St. Paul, New Haven, West Virginia and Grace Episcopal Church of Pomeroy. They also participate in a five-church ecumenical Taize service, and community Lenten services. Twenty churches in this area along the Ohio River support the Lutheran Social Services Mobile Food pantry out of Pomeroy, and include local high school students in this ministry.

Calvary Lutheran Church in Chillcothe hosted Trinity Lutheran Seminary's "Trinity on the Road" program in April featuring TLS President Rick Barger and Dean Brad Binau. They also host the Southern Ohio Synod's Lay School of Theology monthly. Christ Lutheran Church in Athens is another example of a congregation of the Southern Ohio Synod which, though geographically isolated from other Lutheran congregations, builds community and ecumenical partnerships to further the shared mission of Christ. They are deeply involved in campus ministry at Ohio University. They host "Theology on Tap" which parallels a growing movement across the country to find creative ways to engage in informal outreach gatherings in casual locations where community members can experience spiritual relationships. They partner through ecumenical relationships in the greater Athens area to support My Sisters Place, the Athens County Food Pantry, Good Works, Athens County Children's Services, Habitat for Humanity, the Gathering Place, CLEM House and Bread for the World. There is expanded awareness and advocacy for national and international concerns as well as economic and earth justice. And finally, in the Logan area, St. John and St. Matthew have worked together with ecumenical partners in supporting the CHAP food pantry in Logan and Murray City, as well as a Thanksgiving Meal distribution project. They have also been involved in supporting development of a local homeless shelter. St. Matthew continues to offer the longest running live radio broadcast in Ohio of its Sunday worship service.

God's work is done throughout this conference in special ways in parishes with big hearts and a great love of Jesus Christ. Even with the challenges and struggles that more remote small towns and rural areas face, we trust in the Holy Spirit to nurture, lead, heal and reconcile us when we are broken, and energize us for continued mission. We look forward to improving communication and continuing education opportunities for our conference clergy who lack the advantage of closeness with their peers which provides much needed support and accountability which sustains us and our ministry. We look forward in joy and hope to the new paths God will open for us as we are always made new.

Prayerfully submitted,
Rev. Paul Elhard, Scioto Conference Convener

Southern Ohio Synod
Worship Team
Assembly Report

Your Southern Ohio Synod Worship Team re-formed this year. The team has worked many hours, putting much creative and prayerful thought into creating services of corporate worship for the 2014 Synod Assembly. These services include the Eucharist Friday evening, and several shorter services throughout the business meetings on Saturday. The team has included over fifty laypersons and clergy in leading the services this year. We thank everyone who took the time to make dynamic corporate worship possible for the 2014 Synod Assembly.

At the request of the 4G year round Stewardship team; the Southern Ohio Synod Worship Team has begun work creating resources for worship on the theme of Stewardship. These resources, including a model service of corporate worship, will be shared via the upcoming 4G workshops.

Your Southern Ohio Synod Worship Team members are:

Rev. Elizabeth Clothier; David Crean, Univeristy Organist, Wittenberg; Rev. Jonathan Eilert; Rev. Craig Fourman; Rachel Lammi, AiM, Chair; Rev. John Morris; Rev. William Rauch; Vicar Daniel Spigelmyer; Rev. Rachel Tune

Office of the President

REPORT OF TRINITY LUTHERAN SEMINARY – SPRING 2014

This year has been a fruitful and faithful time as Trinity Lutheran Seminary has positioned itself to do what Trinity is called by God to do and what Trinity does best – *form leaders for Christ's church at work in the world*. Following a transitional year, we are happy to share this report with the synods of Region 6.

The presidential transition is complete. On September 1, 2013, I became the fourth president of Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Trinity has been blessed with outstanding leadership since it emerged out of the consolidation of Hama Divinity School and Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1978. I stand on the shoulders of the good work of Fred Meuser, Dennis Anderson, and Mark Ramseth. Tom Ludwig, serving as Interim President after the departure of Dr. Ramseth, did an outstanding job of assisting the community to assess itself, look into the future, and prepare for the arrival of its next president. Recognizing that Trinity made the choice to call a parish pastor to be its president, I pledge to continue to build upon Trinity's excellent legacy of leadership formation, while also bringing into my role 25 years' worth of wisdom and experience doing that for which we prepare persons. I am truly humbled by the outpouring of support for Trinity, the goodwill extended to me, and the content of the hopes and dreams that many have for this wonderful seminary during these challenging times. I ask for your prayers going forward for the entire Team Trinity – faculty, staff, students, their families, our contextual ministry partners, and our alumni and their families. It will take the collective effort of all of us for Trinity to be great for God's mission in the world.

Trinity is richly blessed by the quality of students God sends to us. As all of our seminaries have faced dramatic enrollment declines, it is encouraging to experience the gifts, passions, and dreams of those students we are blessed to have. Trinity's graduating seniors are simply stellar and ready to take on the enormous challenges in today's landscape of culture and church.

Trinity is blessed by an outstanding faculty. We have some of the very top scholars in biblical studies, theology, mission, ecclesiology, Lutheran heritage, spirituality, ministry disciplines and more. Some of the finest theology schools in North America and the United Kingdom assign to their students textbooks authored by Trinity faculty.

Trinity is blessed by great missional leadership in its administration. The leadership cabinet includes Dr. Brad Binau as Academic Dean, Dr. Emlyn Ott as Dean of Leadership Formation, and two recent additions – the Rev. Brad Gee, a highly regarded parish pastor, as our VP for Advancement, and Ron Benedick as VP for Operations. Ron is a former top executive with Nationwide and long-time member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Upper Arlington, where he recently served as its president.

Trinity is blessed by true ecumenism as a part of its identity. Located in an area of rich religious diversity, 30 percent of Trinity's enrollment is non-Lutheran. Moreover, Trinity has a rich and unique 15-year, formal relationship with Bexley Seabury Episcopal Seminary.

Building upon a legacy of leadership we move forward with a renewed curriculum and process of theological formation that sets Trinity apart. In 2005, the Carnegie Institute (Stanford University) named Trinity among “ten exemplary schools” in the formation of leaders. Trinity received this distinction of excellence for its integrative prowess – the capacity to integrate Bible, theology, and ministry disciplines into contextual application. Choosing to make greater our core strength, we move forward with a Master of Divinity curriculum that will require 89 semester hours, make Spanish for Ministry a core requirement, and transform the traditional way of preparing M.Div. students into what we are calling a “2+2 model.” In this model, approximately two-thirds of the required semester hours will be delivered during the first two years of seminary in a residential model and the remaining one-third distributed over a two-year assignment in a congregational setting. This new model holds great promise to prepare leaders in this changing and challenging world. It should also be noted that in this day, when there is much concern about the debt load of persons entering into formal ministry roles, Trinity continually graduates ELCA M.Div. students with the lowest amount of educational debt of any ELCA seminary. The 2+2 model will work to make theological education even more economically viable for students.

There is much more to Trinity than the Master of Divinity track that prepares persons for ordained ministry. Trinity offers seven degree programs, six at the master’s level and a Doctor of Ministry, all of which are undergoing renewal to be as outstanding as possible. It should also be noted that we have the only Master of Arts in Church Music program in the ELCA. As we move deeper into the 21st Century, our world is going to require multiple ways of leading and serving, as is evidenced in the fact that less than half of our enrolled students are traditional M.Div. students.

Why we do what we do. Trinity Lutheran Seminary exists and strives for excellence. Trinity also desires a renewed, relevant, and vibrant church. However, the ultimate end game is the transformation of the world which God richly loves. God has called Trinity into this enterprise of preparing leaders who can heal and bless our troubled world with the great news of the gospel.

Joyfully submitted,

Rick Barger, President

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY 2014 SYNODICAL REPORT

Firmly rooted in its Lutheran heritage, Wittenberg continues to live out its mission and values, challenging its students to become responsible global citizens, to discover their callings, and to lead personal, professional, and civic lives of creativity, service, compassion, and integrity. With excellent teaching, exciting new collaborative ventures in student success, and high impact experiences in and out of the classroom, Wittenberg is committed to the success of every student and a thriving liberal arts education for generations to come.

Wittenberg was pleased this fall to host the installation of The Rev. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunty as Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod. Numerous members of the University community assisted in the planning process and participated in the service, including University President Laurie Joyner, who served as one of the lectors, and Bishop Dillahunty's son, Nathaniel, Class of 2015 from Marysville, OH. In addition, four sets of communion ware were specially designed by Wittenberg Professor of Art Scott Dooley. The sets were presented to the Southern Ohio Synod and used during the installation service.

This year the annual Kenneth H. Sauer Luther Symposium welcomed Dr. Stephen Haynes, theologian and professor at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn. In recognition of the 2013-2014 themes of the Decade of Luther (2008-2017) on tolerance and politics, Haynes discussed "Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Protestant Saint for a Conflicted World." The Decade of Luther is an international observance leading up to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Additionally, the University's international program in Wittenberg, Germany, called the Wittenberg in Wittenberg Program, has encouraged numerous students to study abroad. The current group of 16 students, led by Margaret Goodman, Professor of Biology, represent 11 different majors, including five biology and biochemistry/molecular biology majors, are interning in hospital research labs in Wittenberg and Leipzig.

The University was also pleased this year to celebrate its tradition of teaching excellence as its own John Ritter, professor of geology, was named the 2013 Ohio Professor of the Year. Sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the U.S. Professor of the Year program is the only national program to recognize excellence in undergraduate education. Wittenberg continues to lead the state among four-year institutions in the number of professors receiving the coveted distinction.

Wittenberg welcomed David Crean as University Organist, Director of Chapel Music, and Adjunct Lecturer in Music in August 2013. A gifted musician, he will be touring in Australia in the spring of 2014. As University Organist, he assists in planning and leading not only Sunday morning worship in Weaver Chapel, but also special services such as Festival Choral Eucharist for Reformation, Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas, the German Language Epiphany Service and Candlemas.

David and Carol Matevia Endowed University Pastors Andy and Rachel Tune continue to advise and support a wide variety of campus ministries which provide Christian fellowship, spiritual growth, and service opportunities to students, in addition to leading two Sunday worship services, coordinating twice-weekly chapel services, and providing pastoral care to any student, regardless of affiliation. Pastor Andy also teaches a course occasionally, such as Luther and Lutheranism, World Christianity, or Science and Faith. The pastors also advise students preparing for seminary, and work with other students in discovering their vocation. Pastor Rachel Tune serves on the President's extended senior staff.

Wittenberg continues to encourage Lutheran students to attend and is the only ELCA-related institution to offer the \$80,000 Martin Luther Scholar Award (\$20,000 each year for up to four years) in recognition of outstanding Lutheran students. The Wittenberg community cordially invites all members of the synod – both clergy and lay persons – to come to campus for worship services, athletic contests, and Wittenberg Series cultural events.

Recommendations as Informational Resolution

Whereas those members who are selected to be voting members of Synod Assembly are intelligent people capable of making decisions, and

Whereas the current system is cumbersome, confusing, and anti-democratic, and

Whereas many recommendations are for the defeat of resolutions and memorials, and

Whereas since the recommendations currently displace the resolutions and memorials, and are what we actually vote on, and

Whereas a recommendation to defeat a measure amounts to a resolution to do nothing, and

Whereas negative resolutions (resolutions to do nothing) are not allowed under Roberts Rules of order, be it therefore

Resolved that the Southern Ohio Synod only allow recommendations on memorials and resolutions to be considered as informational, and that for them to be more than informational they would have to be passed as an amendment to the original resolution. And be it further

Resolved that the Southern Ohio Synod memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to also limit recommendations so that they are only informational.

Submitted by Pr. Phil Van Dam

FOR VOTING MEMBERS ONLY

Southern Ohio Synod Assembly
June 6-7, 2014

RECORD OF MOTION

Consecutive Number _____ Date _____

In reference to _____

I move that

Motion made by _____

Motion seconded by _____

Motion carried Yes ☐ No ☐

To facilitate the work of the secretary and for the sake of accuracy, voting members are asked to write out carefully each motion and to pass the motion immediately to the secretary.

FOR VOTING MEMBERS ONLY

Southern Ohio Synod Assembly
June 6-7, 2014

RESOLUTION FORM **See Proposed Rules of Procedure**

YOUR RESOLUTION:

Whereas...

Whereas...

Therefore, be it resolved...

Resolved...

Name _____

Congregation _____ City _____

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD ASSEMBLY CHECK-IN CARD

Please complete this card and present it at the time of check-in.

Voting Member

- ☐ Associate in Ministry
- ☐ Clergy
- ☐ Deaconess
- ☐ Diaconal Minister
- ☐ Female Lay Voting Member
- ☐ Male Lay Voting Member
- ☐ Retired/On Leave Clergy (Voting Privileges Granted)
- ☐ Synod Council Lay Voting Member

Non-Voting Member

- ☐ Retired Associate in Ministry
- ☐ Retired/On Leave Clergy (Voting Privileges Not Granted)
- ☐ Retired Deaconess
- ☐ Retired Diaconal Minister
- ☐ Rostered Leader On Leave from Call
- ☐ Visitor (Includes Seminarian, Student, Spouse)

Attendee Information

Prefix _____ Name _____

Congregation _____ City _____

We will be using the buildings circled on this map for Synod Assembly 2014. Please also note parking available for our use.

Please save this map for use during Synod Assembly 2014.

- Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) Center
- Shouplin Hall
- Student Center (Cafeteria 2nd Floor)
- New Residence Hall (On-campus housing)
- Weaver Chapel

