

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING **Thursday, February 6, 2014 – 12:00 noon**

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Opening Announcements

President Bob Sargeant opened the meeting a bit after noon. The only new attendee was our speaker for the day. There were no birthdays or anniversaries this month among those attending.

Bob updated on the recent discussion effort to strategize on the future of LLF. Leadership of both the Metro Synod and Eastern District have been very responsive to this effort. The theme is "Building a New Generation of Lutheran Leadership." He invited people to share about our congregations' ministries. We also want to be more intentional in lifting up in prayer those in need.

People were reminded to pay their membership dues, this being the second month of the membership year.

A check was presented to St. Luke's in appreciation for the use of meeting space.

Carolyn Sowinski updated that Advent gift results are still being tabulated. Gifts of Hope are available all year 'round, through the website, for example Valentine's Day.

Faye Coddling announced that as of January 1 a contract was signed with Lutheran Homes and Communities to manage the Fellowship Square buildings. The Herndon central office is closing, with functions moving to the buildings themselves. Fay, and Chaplain Fred Klein will still be working for Fellowship Square. The annual meeting is May 17.

The March meeting will discuss the book Killing Jesus, by Bill O'Reilly. April will feature Dr. Maxey, President of Roanoke College. Pr. Sevimli, of the Metro DC Synod of the ELCA, will speak on young adult ministry.

Opening Devotion

In the absence of Chaplain Schmidt, Pr. Berg offered reflections on making our place a better place, no matter how “late in the game” it may be.

Introduction of Speaker

Bob Francis serves as the Director of Advocacy and Policy for Lutheran Services in America (LSA), a national organization that links over 300 Lutheran health and human service organizations across the U.S. and the Caribbean. Lutheran Services in America (LSA), founded in 1997, exists to champion Lutheran social ministry by building valuable connections, amplifying our voices and empowering our members in their mission to answer God's call to love and serve our neighbor. LSA envisions a network of connected, strong and thriving Lutheran social ministries that transform the lives of people and communities.

Before joining LSA, Bob worked on advocacy and policy for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Sojourners. He came to Washington, DC from Chicago, where he worked in many roles, including high school teacher, case manager and server of Chicago-style pizza. He holds a B.A. in Sociology and Theological Studies from Wheaton College (IL) and an M.A. in Social Science from the University of Chicago. Bob is a compulsive list maker, a proud resident of Steeler Nation, and an (occasionally) avid runner. Originally from Pennsylvania, Bob now lives with his wife - Rev. Yvette Schock of Faith Lutheran - in Arlington, Virginia. They are expecting their first child in early January!

Presentation

"The Best Kept Secret in the Lutheran World" was the subject of the presentation.

Bob focused on Lutheran Services in America's (LSA) work in advocacy and public policy, including LSA's unique practice-based approach to advocacy. Bob told how LSA's work in advocacy similar to and different from other faith-based groups, such as the ELCA and Bread for the World. Bob gave an overview of policy from 2013 and a look toward what 201. Bob also spoke about the federal Affordable Care Act, which has significantly changed the landscape for many LSA member organizations.

His talk centered on:

- Lutheran Services in America - its organizational structure and purpose
- Lutheran Advocacy - primarily his work through LSA
- The Affordable Care Act - as it has raised challenges and opportunities for member agencies

LSA has been referred to as "one of the best kept secrets in America." Founded in 1997, it is pan-Lutheran, with over 300 member agencies, serving 1 in 50 Americans. Our Lutheran services are "hidden in plain sight." Lutheran non-profits have been around a long time but are innovative as needs change. LSA includes both hospitals and non-health services. However, not every Lutheran agency is a member of LSA. Camps and schools are not currently members, though there is interest in developing relationships with camps. Senior services are the largest sector of services. Another large area is Emergency Services, e.g. help with disasters, utility bills, rental assistance, and food.

Over \$21 billion in services are managed by LSA agencies, many of which are health-related organizations, leveraging \$0.5 billion raised by private funding. We need to tell this story more, to Lutherans as well as the public at large. Most of the \$20.5 billion non-private funding is through government grants and fees for services.

Each church body has its own process of designating, or recognizing a social service agency, and when achieving that status, they are then automatically a member agency of LSA. There is a dues structure, though a few do not pay their dues, without sanction. LSA does not do any direct service to those in need. Rather LSA provides technical support, leadership development, CEO training, networking for peer support. There are 12 LSA staff.

Bob works in advocacy and policy, and thus works with other such organizations. He related a story of linking a local agency with the Secretary of HHS to personalize one of the large federal programs, Medicaid.

Members are facing a sea change in how services are delivered. LSA did a "listening process" to see how to better support them. The top three challenges which emerged were:

- Funding - diversification of revenues, retrenchment of federal support

There's a movement away from paying for single services to a bundle of services. This changes an approach to care. Home and Community-Based Services are being preferred over residential services. There is a move away from institutional services, including group homes. These pose challenges to agencies that are physical structure-based, in which considerable capital is invested.

- Regulatory and Legal Changes
- Technology

This is both a challenge and opportunity. Healthcare reform has required additional investment for electronic health records, so that all providers can talk to each other. There was some funding in the ACA for upgrading health IT, but many organizations were not eligible for it. Electronic monitoring for the elderly helps them remain in their homes safely.

Discussion identified Lutheran Identity, Safety Net Issues.

LSA has moved out of its Baltimore office to the United Methodist building next to the US Supreme Court. This is to be more accessible to tell our story and to influence policy that affects our member and client needs. The portfolio is diverse (cradle to grave). LSA is trying to identify a few targeted issues on which to focus our voice.

The Affordable Care Act is now four years old. It affects our members in a number of ways, some positive, some not. Members see themselves in relation to it as employers, and as providers. Many members are small, yet challenged to provide qualifying health coverage. Those states that have not opted for Medicaid Expansion now are not providing care for the poorest of the poor, who then turn to our agencies.

LSA sends out e-newsletters, which are available through their website: www.lutheranservices.org It is possible to donate directly to LSA. Scholarships are provided to new CEOs to attend CEO trainings, plus there is a national conference for agency leadership.

Q: What is LSA advocacy on prison issues -

A: Some work has been done in relation to Ex-offenders and the Second Chance Act Reauthorization.

Q: Concern about the number of fatherless children.

A: A number of member agencies have Fatherhood Initiative funding.

Q: How much direct lobbying do you do?

A: LSA can lobby. But direct action regarding specific legislation is quite rare.

Closing Devotion

Pr. Berg offered a benedictory prayer.

“Be strong in the Lord
and in the strength
of His power.”

Ephesians 6:10

LUTHERAN SERVICES IN AMERICA

Moving Forward in Strength

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



Annual Report 2012

Moving Forward in Strength

As we travel across the country to meet with our members one thing is clear: You can feel the fellowship we share through our mutual calling to love and serve our neighbors. It is tangible. It is the LSA difference. It is our strength.

As one of the largest health and human services providers in the United States we touch millions of lives every year. That is not work we do alone. We do it together. As a network built on a common goal and guiding faith, we find strength. Not only in what we do, but in why we do.

No doubt, this is a time of transition: Transition within LSA with new leadership, a new location, and the development of a new strategic plan that will provide an unprecedented level of connection and value to our members. It is also a time of transition in how we sustain the work we do. Difficult economic times, dwindling sources of funding and growing needs in our communities require that we come together as a network as never before.

We are no strangers to struggle. We are well versed in perseverance. Now, let us draw on our faith, our best practices, deep knowledge and vast experience of our broad network to move forward together in strength to love and serve our neighbor.



Charlotte Haberaecker
President and CEO

Linda Timmons
LSA Board Chairperson



Strong Faith. Strong Members. Strong Network.

307 Strong

Strategically relocated to the heart of Capitol Hill, LSA serves its members through advocacy, fostering member relationships to share in faith, fellowship and best practices, leadership development, funding opportunities, and telling the compelling story of Lutheran social ministry.

195 Aging Services Organizations

Offer the full range of retirement housing, in-home services, rehabilitation, respite care and senior centers.

Recapturing Time

The TimeSlips program at Wauwatosa, Wisconsin's Luther Manor's Adult Day Center helps people with dementia connect with staff members, family and friends. Luther Manor was one of the founding sites for TimeSlips in 1998 and continues to teach, train and facilitate storytelling sessions. The starting point is a black and white photo. A facilitator asks open-ended questions about what might be going on in the picture. A writer jots down their responses on a flip chart, creating a unique storyline, encouraging people with dementia to cultivate their imaginations.

109 Children, Youth and Family Services Organizations

Offer adoption and foster care, recreation programs, credit counseling, family self-sufficiency, jobs and housing.

Taking Flight

After they turn 18 and are no longer eligible for youth-focused social services, many young people are essentially on their own. "Flight" from Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries mentors young men to keep them full-time employed, enrolled in college, or attending high school.

103 Health Care Services Organizations

Offer hospitals, clinics, home health care and visiting nurses, hospice, physical rehabilitations and wellness programs.

A Neighborhood Mission

With its mission that "Lutheran HealthCare has no reason for being of its own; it exists only to serve the needs of its neighbors," the Brooklyn-based safety net hospital and collection of clinics and programs reaches deep into the community. Lutheran HealthCare offers primary, specialty and inpatient care along with a sweeping menu of community based services such as English lessons, healthcare insurance, food and nutritional care and affordable senior housing.

70 Emergency and Disaster Services Organizations

Offer disaster response, financial assistance, food programs, homeless shelters and legal aid.

Feeding Body and Soul

Over the years before her retirement, the Reverend Toni Hubbard prepared and served over 100,000 hot lunch meals to those who were hungry, including more than 15,000 hot meals last year. She might be considered the heart and soul of Urban Mission's Unity Kitchen where, in addition to nourishing food, Pastor Toni fed the hungry by leading devotions and prayer prior to each meal.

57 Disability Services Organizations

Offer supports for the blind, hearing impaired and deaf and those who have intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Another Level of Independence

Partnering with a local community college, Mosaic in Garden City, Kansas is helping clients who have intellectual disabilities experience a little piece of college through the College for Life. Students take classes in practical skills such as how to grill meats or hold garage sales, as well as more hobby-oriented classes such as painting. Each person who registers receives a college ID and pays a nominal fee for each course, making the experience real. If a person is not able to pay, however, Mosaic assists with funds raised through employee gifts.

55 Housing and Community Development Organizations

Offer recreation programs, credit counseling, family self-sufficiency, employment and vocational services, low income housing and transitional living.

From Homeless to Program Assistant

Having spent two years at Community Family Life Services DC as a resident of Trinity Arms Transition Housing Program, I was given a stable home, regular support group and one-on-one counseling that allowed me to openly and freely discuss the many factors that brought about my being homeless. During my stay I learned that if you have a foundation of belief in who you are and know what you stand for, that belief still lives under the debris that life often piles upon you. I have learned that my dreams may have temporary setbacks, but I can revive them any day, anytime and anywhere if I give that belief just a little concentration each day. I have learned that I am a survivor.

Betty is currently working as a Program Assistant at the Community Family Life Services .



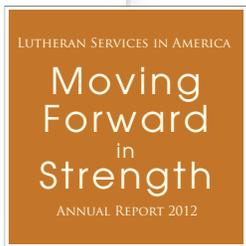
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We are Lutherans. Lutherans serve.

Through faith-based service, we answer God's call to love and serve our neighbors one and all.

Lutheran Services
in America: Moving
Forward Together
in Strength



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Director of the
Graduate School
Concordia Seminary
St. Louis, Missouri



LSA has moved its headquarters to DC.

Please note LSA's new address:

Lutheran Services in America
100 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002