

SYNODICAL REPORTS  
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD OF THE ELCA



**South Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

*"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."*  
- *Philippians 1:3-5*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The words of St. Paul to the Christians in Philippi express what I also feel as I pen what will be my last of twelve letters for your inclusion in your congregation's annual report – that feeling is gratitude. I am grateful for the privilege of having served as your Bishop. Thank you for entrusting this holy office to me. What a joy it has been to partner with you in this special way for these 12 years! I've loved the ordinations, anniversaries, installations and all the in-between visits along the way.

Most of all I am grateful for your partnership in God's mission. Because of your faithful daily work of ministry, the word of God is proclaimed, people are washed in the waters of Baptism. Through your hands, people are fed with God's forgiving love at the table of Holy Communion every week all around our state.

It is also my privilege to express gratitude to you on behalf of the tens of thousands of people across the state and around the world who are served by your generous mission support. Because you give, the Gospel goes out not just from your congregation, but from countless other faithful ministry partners who could not do it without you.

Now, I know that this is a different kind of year we are facing, especially in our rural communities where a variety of forces are depressing farm incomes and making life difficult for many of our families and, in turn, congregations. Know that I will do what I can in this office to continue to advocate for just policies that respect the holy work that our farmers do to feed the world. I know that God will continue to do amazing things through your work and generosity in the worst of times just as God has in the best of times.

As you meet in your annual meetings, I am holding you in prayer. Please also hold me and your entire synod staff in prayer as together we discern what God is calling us to do next. We've been well-served, I believe, here in South Dakota with fine synodical leadership over the years. I do not doubt that God will continue to be faithful in this regard by calling a new Bishop and Synod staff who will serve you and the Gospel with faithfulness, creativity and joy.

Thank you and may the of light of Christ shine on you all!

Your Bishop,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop David B. Zellmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor David B. Zellmer

# LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

## 2018 REPORT TO CONGREGATIONS

**LSS** Strengthening Individuals,  
Families & Communities  
2018 Annual Report to Congregations

RESURRECTING  
HOPE

### LSS Campaign for Hope

For nearly a century, LSS has served in partnership with individuals, churches, organizations, communities and you—South Dakota Synod of the ELCA. Your support resurrects hope. It's what the LSS Campaign for Hope is all about.

We are touched by the generosity and support of the many Congregations and the SD Women of the ELCA in support of LSS and the commitment to fundraising \$1,175,000 for the Campaign for Hope. LSS representatives have only presented at a few congregations so far, but have been warmly welcomed to share the stories of those we serve—**Thank you.**

We are currently scheduling Congregations and WELCA visits for 2019, and would welcome the opportunity to share in fellowship and to offer an update of how you can Resurrect Hope. To learn more about the Campaign for Hope or to schedule a visit, please reach out to an LSS Development Director at **800-568-2401.**

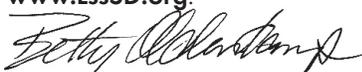
[CampaignForHope.LssSD.org](http://CampaignForHope.LssSD.org)

### A Future of Success, Not of Suffering

LSS serves people of all ages, faiths, races and economic status with professional, confidential and affordable services. LSS touched the lives of those we **serve 48,690 times** last year. As a premier human service agency, we strive to care for, support and strengthen those who need, bringing a future filled with hope—a future of success to people of all ages, families of all kinds and communities of all sizes.

- The agency continues to strengthen its use of standardized assessment tools to measure client outcomes. The use of dashboards and automated reports provide the tools for leadership to monitor outcomes data more frequently and implement programmatic adjustments when necessary.
- LSS continues to improve its capacity to deliver trauma-informed care. **97% of youth** in Psychiatric Residential Treatment, and **100% of youth** in Foster Care, showed a reduction in trauma symptoms upon discharge.
- **80% of refugees** resettled were employed in a full-time position within eight months of arrival. **97% of individuals** who secured employment kept their jobs for 90 days. The average starting wage was \$12.20 per hour and 97% had access to benefits.
- **89% of youth** and **94% of parents** completing Functional Family Therapy reported increased overall family functioning. **75% of youth** had no new violation during the course of treatment.
- Youth who participate in the Arise Shelter Care are successful. **90% of youth** are discharged to safe and stable housing.

I want to express gratitude on behalf of all those we serve. We sincerely appreciate your support and partnership. Every kindness and resource that we receive is utilized to create possibilities and a future filled with hope for those who we serve. For more information on LSS services and those we serve, visit [www.LssSD.org](http://www.LssSD.org).



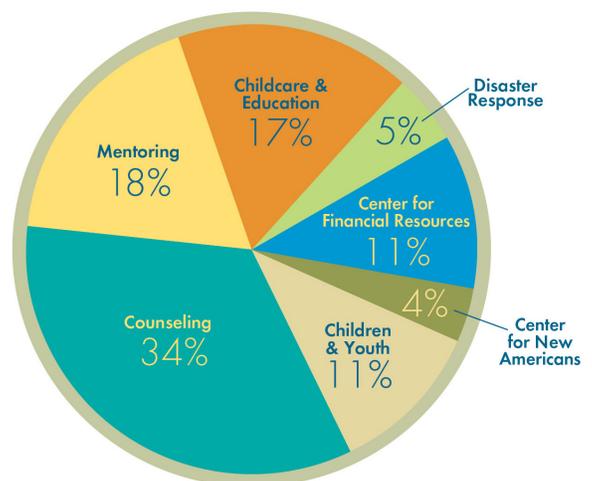
Betty Oldenkamp, LSS President/CEO

### SD Congregations Committed to Support the Campaign for Hope

December 19, 2018

Calvary Lutheran, Rapid City  
Custer Lutheran Fellowship  
Custer Lutheran Fellowship Women of the ELCA  
Emmanuel Lutheran, Grotton  
First Lutheran Women of the ELCA, Sioux Falls  
Hope Lutheran Women of the ELCA, Sioux Falls  
Medary Conference Women of the ELCA  
Renner Lutheran Women of the ELCA  
St. Mark's Lutheran Women of the ELCA, Sioux Falls  
Savo Lutheran Women of the ELCA, Frederick  
South Canyon Lutheran, Rapid City  
SD Synodical Women of the ELCA  
West Nidaros Lutheran, Crooks  
West Prairie Lutheran Women of the ELCA, Lennox  
Wilmot Lutheran Women of the ELCA  
Zion Lutheran, Bridgewater  
Zion Lutheran WELCA, Hartford

### HOW YOUR GIFT SERVED



# CHARIS MINISTRY PARTNERS

## 2018 REPORT TO CONGREGATIONS

**Charis Ministry Partner Congregations:** Augustana, Our Savior's, East Side, Messiah New Hope, First, Peace, Gloria Dei, Renner, Grace, Spirit of Joy, Holy Cross, **St. John**, and Westside Lutheran. Host sites are in bold.

Charis Ministry Partners is a public non-profit organization serving neighbors in need in the Sioux Falls area. All three ministries continue by support of the Partner churches. Each church has a board member representative to oversee this unique shared servant ministry.

Todd Smith is the Food to You Coordinator and Dan Paulson serves as the representative to the community and partner churches.

**The Food to You Mobile Food Pantry** has provided 25-35 lb. of groceries and hygiene items to an average of 90 families each week. During 2018 4,333 households were served, with 790 of them (18%) being newcomers. 65 to 75% of the families served included children and 10-20% include senior citizens.

Charis Ministry Partner congregations, businesses, service groups, student group, local school staff, and friends all served and sponsored.

POET brought fresh produce from their community garden, each Thursday in July-September.

The Bread Break ministry of Messiah New Hope continues to bring fresh baked goods every week.

Donations come from Panera Bread, Breadico, Breadsmith Bread, and Einstein Bagels.

Because Feeding South Dakota supplies us with produce, breads, pastries, and assorted frozen foods at a very good rate, we served over 125,000 pounds of product, not including those items donated by the Partner churches and outside sources.

In 2019 First Lutheran Church will host 4 distributions, September to December.

**The Necessities for Neighbors** ministry provides necessity items for families in need. Through generous donations of money,

equipment and products families were served. Being in September a second location was opened up for the 3rd Tuesday of each month at First Lutheran Church. Guests receive household products including laundry soap, diapers, feminine hygiene products, and toilet paper.

Thanks to all the congregations help with financial or product donation and serving at distributions. All churches are encouraged to sponsor a distribution during the year. Please contact Jackie Bailey at Peace or Jeff at First Lutheran to discuss a sponsorship.

**Healthy Rides**, the medical transportation ministry, furnishes rides in partnership with Project Car to health-related appointments for those in need. An average of 55 round trip rides each month.

Recipients of this service are referred by agencies and clinics as well as congregations. Volunteer drivers for Project CAR are always needed.

**Thank You** to all Charis Ministry Partner congregations and their members.

East Side Lutheran Church for providing office and storage space.

Peace Lutheran for handling Charis' personnel financial services.

Together we work to fulfill Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

May God bless Charis Ministry, and members, and all those we will serve throughout 2019.

Todd Smith, Coordinator of Food to You  
Carol Dreke, Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church  
Dan Paulson Director, Charis Ministry Partners  
President, Charis Ministry Partners Board

2018



**MISSION**

To walk alongside those struggling with homelessness and poverty while being the church together in the community.

**LAUNDRY WITH LOVE**

Gathering together in a local laundromat, twice a month, we provide laundry with love, in hopes that folks might redirect their funds to feed and house their families.

We meet people where they are at.

As your sister ministry, out on the streets, we thank you!

**Thank God from Whom all Blessings Flow!**



**2018 BY THE NUMBERS**

**PARTNER CONGREGATIONS**  
32 + Youth/Service groups

**ECUMENICAL PARTNERS**  
6

**VOLUNTEERS**  
400+

**JOINING IN WORSHIP**  
125-300

**STREET MINISTRY**  
30-90 (weekly)

**VISITS TO NEWLY HOUSED**  
122

**LOADS OF DIGNITY**  
700+

**PRAYER REQUESTS RECEIVED AND LIFTED UP**  
934

Respectfully Submitted,

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*Comment from the Street: "You Saw Me", Diana*