

Harnessing the Faith: Engaging Communities and Congregations

Lutheran Services in America
April 2016, Minneapolis

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

- 23 Lines of Service in 87 counties of Minnesota serving 1 in 65 Minnesotans each year
 - People with disabilities (60%)
 - Children, youth, and families (25%)
 - Older adults (15%)
- Third largest human service non-profit in Minnesota
- Mission updated in 2009 to include advocacy as well as service

“My Neighbor is Muslim”



- A request of the Lutheran pastors in St. Cloud, Minnesota – a community of 60,000 unaccustomed to receiving foreign-born residents.
- Looking for a resource on Islam to help their members welcome new neighbors.
- Written by Professor Todd Green of Luther College with responses to each chapter by professors of Luther Seminary and our own Refugee Resettlement Director.
- Reviewed and endorsed by a Saint Paul Imam.
- 7-week “Adult Forum” study sent to 1100 Lutheran pastors in MN and then by LIRS and LSA to Lutherans across the U.S.

Ending Homelessness for Youth in Duluth, MN

- Groundbreaking May 5 for Center for Changing Lives for Youth.
- Many Duluth congregations have supported our services, served on the Campaign Committee.
- Bishop Tom Aitken asked all the congregations in NE Minnesota to support the Campaign.
- Now we are asking congregations to “sponsor” community host homes to add to our capacity.



Older Adults and Disruptive Healthcare Models



- Prince of Peace, Burnsville, MN Visioning Process led to focus on the aging congregation and their aging community.
- Fairview Ridges (LSA) Hospital across the street wanted to prevent re-hospitalizations.
- LSS received a demo project from the Sr. Companion program of the federal government to integrate Sr. Companions into healthcare services.
- Prince of Peace will recruit Sr. Companion volunteers, LSS will train and support them, and they will serve patients from Fairview Ridges Hospital.