

Experiences

A PUBLICATION OF  **LutherCare**
Together in Community



Celebrating Stories of Ageless Potential | Fall 2017



Our summer youth trip group with homeowner, Mary, and her grandson CJ (photo at left); and volunteers measure and install flooring (photo at right).

Lower Susquehanna Synod Disaster Response Network Focuses on Long-Term Recovery Work

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea." Psalm 46:1-2

Long after the headlines change and the devastation from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria becomes a distant memory for those not directly impacted, Lutheran Disaster Response volunteers will arrive at disaster sites with a focus on long-term recovery.

The local Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate – the Lower Susquehanna Synod Lutheran Disaster Response Network –

completed more than half a dozen disaster response trips this year to West Virginia and other places, seeking to speed up the time it takes for victims of disaster to return home once again. A local group from northern Lancaster County just completed one final disaster response trip to New Jersey, five years after Superstorm Sandy ravaged the East Coast. Next, we'll turn our sights toward providing ongoing assistance to the south.

The Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) Network has an extensive history of responding to disasters, both in the United States and internationally. From its inception, LDR made a commitment to the long-haul. We are on site when disasters occur because the work that is

done through LDR is indeed the very work of the church.

The LDR Network provides support in several ways: recruiting and coordinating volunteer teams who help clean up and rebuild; case management; construction estimation; emotional and spiritual support and seeking to build and maintain community resiliency. Volunteers work in partnership with other local agencies and alongside partners from other not-for profit organizations who are active in disaster response.

Every disaster, no matter the size or scope, is a local event and the response to that event is rooted in the local community. LDR works to accompany communities

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from immediate relief through long-term recovery. This work is made possible because of the generous support of this ministry through financial contributions, prayer support and direct volunteer support to our neighbors recovering from disasters.

As coordinator of the Lower Susquehanna Synod LDR Task Force, I want to thank you for your support of Lutheran Disaster Response and the work that our local task force has done since it formed in 2001. It is because of that generosity and support that our local LDR affiliate has been able to directly touch the lives of those affected by disasters in the Gulf Coast, North Dakota, West Virginia and New Jersey, and it is the reason why LDR, in general, has worked in so many places here at home and around the world.

Financial support is always most helpful at the initial phase of a response. Below is a list of organizations to which you can make a donation and know that 100 percent of that donation will be used to directly support those whose lives have been disrupted by these devastating storms.

- Upbring – Lutheran Social Ministry Organization in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma

- LeadingAge – A trusted leader and voice for the aging
- Lutheran Services Florida – Lutheran Social Ministry Organization in Florida
- Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands

To support the work being done in Puerto Rico or to learn more about the work of LDR, at home and abroad, I invite you to visit the LDR website (www.ldr.org) to learn more about how you can support those whose lives have been disrupted by natural disasters.

- Lutheran Disaster Response – A ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

I, along with a handful of wonderful adult leaders, had the very distinct pleasure of leading a group of youth on a disaster response trip this summer in New Jersey. That group of young people was so committed to working hard and doing as much as possible in order to enable Mary, the homeowner, to return to her home as soon as possible. It was hard for all of us to imagine what it must be like to be displaced from your home for more than five years!

Again, as soon as I receive word that the recently affected areas in Texas and Florida are ready to receive volunteers, we will make plans to go. The members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod LDR Network and I are also eager to assist any congregations interested in organizing a disaster response trip. We also offer congregational security presentations and are eager to support you in any way we can.

LutherCare, the social ministry organization for Lancaster and Lebanon counties, is committed to helping those affected by disasters and is pleased to partner with LDR and support my work in this important ministry. We invite your participation as well. For more information about this ministry, please contact me at gbeard@luthercare.org or call me at 717.626.1171, ext. 1669.



Glenn Beard
The Reverend Glenn A. Beard, Jr.
LutherCare Director of Church Relations & Pastoral Care and Coordinator of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Lutheran Disaster Response Network

Your Neighborhood Connection Names Executive Director



Your Neighborhood Connection is pleased to announce that Leanne Kiralfy has been named Executive Director of the organization, an in-home services and licensed home care

agency operated jointly by LutherCare and Moravian Manor and launched in March 2016. She began her duties on Oct. 30.

Leanne brings to the partnership more than 20 years experience working in long-term care, most recently as the Personal Care Home Administrator at Moravian Manor in Lititz. Leanne has served as a board member of Your Neighborhood Connection and is looking forward to her new role.

Leanne, a Lititz native and Warwick High School graduate, began her career as a floor nurse, administering medications, completing daily treatments and was a member of the wound care team. She went on to work as a staff development nurse, providing education on mandated long-term care topics. Her experience led her to a position as an Admission Coordinator with a senior living community, in which she worked closely with families and residents in determining levels of care needed.

That experience steered her into an MDS Coordinator position where she became certified as a Resident Assessment Coordinator (RAC-CT) and is a member of The American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination. As a certified

Nurse Assessment Coordinator, Leanne is knowledgeable in Medicare/Medicaid billing and can navigate the ever-changing insurance systems. Leanne worked as a Care Manager for a home care agency and her own business consulting families and clients with long-range planning to prevent crises and assure the safety of her elderly clients.

Leanne earned her Personal Care Home Administrator Certification (PCHA) in 2012 and has worked as an administrator for the past three years at Moravian Manor. While working as a Personal Care Home Administrator, Leanne obtained her Assisted Living Administrator License (ALA), and she is a member of the Pennsylvania Assisted Living Association (PALA). Leanne worked closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and Licensing Board and was instrumental in developing policies and procedures for Moravian Manor in obtaining its Assisted Living Licensure.

During her career, Leanne has made it her goal to minimize the stress for her clients and family members by restoring the dignity and quality of life for those she serves. Leanne and her husband, Bob, reside in Manheim and have three grown children.

Your Neighborhood Connection was launched as a joint venture between LutherCare and Moravian Manor, connecting seniors to the in-home services and solutions they need to remain safe and

independent at home. Your Neighborhood Connection serves clients from Moravian Manor and LutherCare's two Lancaster County communities, Luther Acres and St. John's Herr Estate, as well as beyond the walls of senior living communities, into greater Lancaster County.

Among the service offerings Your Neighborhood Connection provides: companionship, medication reminders, meal planning and preparation, light housekeeping, transportation, personal care services, Licensed Practice Nurse visits, and much more.

A Your Neighborhood Connection client and Luther Acres resident described her satisfaction with the services she receives: "I am greatly appreciative of what the Your Neighborhood Connection Care Companions do for me. Some days I require a little assistance, other days a little more. I would recommend Your Neighborhood Connection to anyone who requires in-home assistance."

For more information about Your Neighborhood Connection, visit its website at www.YourNeighborhoodConnection.org or call 717.627.0072. Your Neighborhood Connection is on Facebook; visit and "Like" the page at www.facebook.com/YourNeighborhoodConnection/.



A Message from Our President and CEO



The Reverend Glenn Beard's cover story in this edition highlights the work of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Lutheran

Disaster Response Task Force. LutherCare is committed to this important work and has identified a unique opportunity to leverage Pastor Beard's skills and experience in this field and make a portion of his time available to fulfill this role. It is one example of the many ways LutherCare supports and engages far beyond the walls of our senior living communities and early learning centers.

Our commitment to disaster relief efforts is part of a broader approach

to collaboration and community engagement that takes many forms. One of the best and most recent examples is our partnership with Moravian Manor to create Your Neighborhood Connection (YNC). This in-home services agency has now served more than 70 individuals throughout Lancaster County at both our senior living communities and beyond, since we launched in March 2016. We are thrilled to welcome Leanne Kiralfy as the new Executive Director for YNC and look forward to her success.

The need for the types of services YNC provides was identified through the Community Needs Assessment we conducted in 2014. The Assessment was another example of our community engagement and it provided great insight into the needs of children and seniors

throughout our service area. We have shared this information broadly with others in the community.

LutherCare's mission to "reflect Christ's love through service to others" calls us to be ever-vigilant and open to the opportunity to use our strength and capabilities to make a real and tangible impact. We take this calling to heart and thank you all for your support, provided in many forms, which allows us to live our mission each and every day.

Blessings to you and your loved ones as we prepare to celebrate the holiday season,

Carl
Carl R. McAloose
President and CEO, LutherCare





Luther Acres, Spang Crest Healthcare Centers Earn 5-Star Ratings

The Healthcare Centers of Luther Acres and Spang Crest have each earned the highest rating possible by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The skilled nursing centers, located in Lititz and Lebanon, earned an overall 5-star rating from the CMS, in accordance with the standards set forth by the entity.

“We are extremely proud to have received five-star ratings at both of our healthcare centers, and it is a direct result of the dedication and commitment to excellence that our entire team puts forth every day in providing superior care to each resident whom we serve,” said Matthew Oathout, Luthercare’s Senior Vice President of Operations.

The Five-Star Quality Rating System was created “to help consumers, their families, and caregivers compare nursing homes more easily and identify areas about which you may want to ask questions,” according to the CMS website. Skilled nursing centers receive a rating of between one and five stars, with five stars being considered to have much-above-average quality. The rating takes into account three sources of information: health inspections based on outcomes from state inspections; staffing levels; and quality measures, which look at physical and clinical measures for residents.

4th Annual Luminary Celebrations Planned



The holidays will soon be here, and Luthercare is preparing for its 4th annual “Lights of Luthercare” celebrations. As luminaries shine across the campuses, community Christmas trees will be lit at St. John’s Herr Estate in Columbia on Friday, December 1 at 6:00 p.m., and at Luther Acres in Lititz on Tuesday, December 5 at 4:30 p.m. The communities will enter into the blessings of Advent and Christmas seasons with delicious holiday treats, songs and fellowship.

Each luminary recognizes every \$25 or greater tribute gift in honor or in memory of someone.

Introducing the New Luthercare for Kids Website

Luthercare is excited to announce the launch of a new website for Luthercare for Kids! You can find it at www.luthercareforkids.org.

The goal of the new website is to provide an engaging and easy-to-navigate site that gives visitors the ability to learn about each of our five Luthercare for Kids Early Learning Centers individually, as well as a broader look at the important mentoring and training work done by Luthercare for Kids.

From the homepage, visitors can find individual sites for our centers in Annville, Columbia, Lancaster, Lebanon and Reamstown. Those pages feature daily schedules, curricula details, parent testimonials, sample menus, tuition information and center director biographies.

The website also highlights our mentoring programs in Lancaster and Lebanon counties and the extensive professional development and training programs offered by Luthercare for Kids.

We will be updating our news section constantly with stories from our centers, announcements and other information.

We hope you find the new website fresh and modern, and we invite you to explore and share it with others!



New Executive Director and NHA Begin Positions at Luther Acres

Luthercare is happy to welcome Craig Shelly as the new Executive Director at Luther Acres and Christie Kennedy as the new Nursing Home Administrator of the Luther Acres Healthcare Center!

Meet Craig Shelly



Craig Shelly

Craig comes to Luthercare with more than 20 years’ experience in senior living and is a great fit for the organization’s mission and core values. He spent the majority of his career at Zerbe

Sisters Nursing Center in Narvon, PA, in a variety of roles concluding with Health Services Administrator, then spent three years at The Highlands at Wyomissing where he served as the Nursing Home Administrator.

Craig, a Lititz native, is a graduate of Warwick High School and Franklin & Marshall College with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. He currently lives in New Holland with his wife, son and daughter, dog, two cats and a lionhead rabbit named Finley. He is an avid runner and has completed two marathons.

Craig says, “I love the engagement with residents in the senior living setting and the wisdom and valuable perspectives that older adults share! I feel my responsibility is to create a community culture where each resident, at each level of living, is able to live life to the fullest, every day. I am thrilled to be part of the Luthercare team, and look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone!”

Meet Christie Kennedy



Christie Kennedy

Christie will oversee Luther Acres’ 106-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation center. She brings more than 15 years’ experience in the senior living industry, primarily in administration and social work.

For the past five years, Christie has served as Assistant Nursing Home Administrator at Conestoga View, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center in Lancaster. Previously, she spent six years as their Director of Social Services after beginning her professional career as a social worker at the center.

Christie, born and raised in Lancaster County, is a Hempfield High School graduate who holds a Master of Social Work from Temple University’s Harrisburg campus and her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Millersville University. She has been married to her husband, Scott, for three years, and they reside near Landisville, PA. They enjoy gardening, spending time with their nieces and nephews, traveling (especially to tropical locations), and watching and rooting for Philadelphia professional sports teams.

She says, “I have been fortunate to work with older adults throughout my career, as I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people. I truly value interacting with and getting to know each person that comes my way. With each new relationship that develops over time, it provides an opportunity to grow and learn. I am privileged to be a part the Luthercare team and look forward to meeting everyone. I am excited for this wonderful opportunity and have faith in the magic of new beginnings!”

Friends of Spang Crest Making a Difference

The Friends of Spang Crest, an auxiliary group that supports Luthercare’s Lebanon senior living community, plans several events over the course of the year to aid in its mission.

The group’s fall chicken barbecue fundraiser took place on Friday, September 8, and raised more than \$2,700 for the residents of the community, which offers Skilling Nursing Care, Rehab-to-Home, Personal Care and

Memory Support. Some of the event volunteers are shown in the photo here. Thrivent Financial Action Team members (wearing the matching t-shirts) also volunteered at the fundraiser.

The event truly was a team effort: residents baked for the sale; Spang Crest team members and families purchased tickets; and all of the volunteers worked tirelessly to make it a successful event.



Thanks and congratulations to all!

23rd Annual Tee it up for Kids! Golf Tournament Supports Luthercare for Kids Scholarship Fund



Once again, our thanks to sponsors and golfers for supporting the Luthercare for Kids Scholarship Fund by joining us for the 23rd Annual Tee it up for Kids! Golf Tournament held on September 18, 2017 at the Lebanon Country Club. On the partly sunny day, 101 golfers took to the course with good humor, skill and fate. It was a great day, and the 19th hole reception was enjoyed with good food, drink and lively conversation. Every year the fellowship is very much enjoyed and appreciated, and this year was no different.

Stuart Smith of Benchmark Construction greeted us as golf pro Christian Sheehan sent us on our way. At the reception, Scott Labrecque, representing Stoudt Advisors and Eliance Health Solutions, thanked golfers for the day, and Carl McAloose, Luthercare President and CEO, brought remarks from our organization.



Winners included:

First Place: Mike Kraevic, Mike Hancock, Fred Fitz, Steve Mazzola

Second Place: Dale Reppert, John Neiswinder, Ford Berg, Ralph Rode

Third Place: Joel Snyder, Vic Kicera, Tony Kreider, Jarrod Leo

Closest to the Pin: Tom Picchini

Longest Drive:
Dale Reppert – Men
Stacey LaPine – Women

Putting Contest: Tom Picchini



Special thanks to our generous sponsors:

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Because of the generosity of Sponsors, Golfers and Donors, Luthercare netted nearly \$60,000 for scholarships for Luthercare for Kids families. And yes, plans are already underway for next year's tournament on September 17, 2018!





A Sweet Time for St. John's Herr Estate

Congratulations to the residents and team members of St. John's Herr Estate who created this "Candyland" float for the Columbia Lions Club and Sunsnappers' 71st Annual Columbia Mardi Gras "Halloween" Parade! Individuals, businesses and organizations were invited to create parade entries under the parade theme "Fun 'N Games." The St. John's group, which included the residents pictured above, won first place in the "Walking Groups" division of the parade, held on Thursday, October 26, in downtown Columbia. It was a beautiful and enjoyable evening for the group!

LutherCare has agreed to comply with the provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and all requirements imposed pursuant to the end that no persons shall, on grounds of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, religious creed, political affiliation, handicap or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination in the provision of any care or service.

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