



The Homeless and Justice Network of the ELCA is a coalition of ministries called to serve with those on the margins who are struggling with homelessness, poverty and justice issues. This unique network is a ministry WITH, rather than FOR those experiencing poverty, homelessness and injustice. The network believes that ALL of God's children deserve an opportunity to gather and be the church together; in the walls or outside the walls. The H&J Network gathers together the pastors, mission developers, and leaders of these ministries to connect, refuel, bring new ideas to the table, share the stories that ignite passion, and equip leaders from within so as we stand on the margins with Jesus; all are included.

The H&J Network is directly connected in close partnership with the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA. Together we do the work that God has called us to do among God's people through radical relationships that include opening doors, softening hearts, embracing diversity, and telling the stories of ALL whom God made good.

This vital network includes over 30 ministries that have collaborated and deepened the relationship with our ministries and each other. Our work and partnership with the Domestic Mission Unit in Congregational Vitality has allowed us to impact over 500 congregations thus far. These congregations have grown in their understanding of poverty and justice; deepening their ministry as well. The H&J Network offers training to future leaders of the church at Mission Developer and Re-developer training. We are available as ELCA trained Coaches to congregations and leaders who feel called to serve communities among those on the margins, to learn from our experience, and connect with the group either collectively or individually.

The Homeless and Justice Network of the ELCA uplifts and advocates for ministries that serve with and among people experiencing economic poverty. The radical relationships of the H&J Network and its innovative creativity bring to life 1 John 3:17-18, "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us, love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

Table of Contents

Forward by Ruben Duran	1
Ascension Table	2
Bridge of Peace Community Church, ELCA	4
Cathedral in the Night	6
Church on the Street	8
Common Ground Recovery Ministry at Trinity Reading	10
Grace Lutheran Church	12
Hephatha Lutheran Church	13
Hope Lutheran Church, Hope's Table, Café Esperanza	14
Oasis Outreach	16
Peace Lutheran Church	18
Redeemer - Toledo	20
Salem Lutheran Church	22
Trinity Ministries Care of Peace Lutheran Church	24
The Welcome Church	26
Welcome Ministry	28
The Well	30

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Dear partners in ministry.

It is with joy and thanksgiving that I present this great ministry resource to you. It is a gathering of unique and innovative ministries taking place among people experiencing homelessness, poverty, and marginalization. Over the last 6-7 years, a growing number of ELCA and ecumenical leaders have been exploring ways to engage people on the margins of society from a holistic perspective, pursuing wellness of body, mind, and soul. To our surprise, the Holy Spirit has generated a dynamic of mutuality and reciprocity. We have shifted from doing “ministry to” to doing “ministry with and among” people experiencing poverty and isolation.

Christians are generous people, usually sharing of their blessings with those in need, yet, unfortunately, creating a dynamic of “givers and receivers” acted out by the “haves and have nots”. But, what if the receivers also become givers? What if those who seem to most to have nothing release and share back wisdom and rich spirituality? Only God can do this, and it is happening right now in the diverse contexts described in this workbook.

Enter in with curiosity. You are invited as a detective of divinity and vitality among the leaders in these unique ministry places. I hope you find inspiration, insights, and ideas you can explore in your own setting. But, most of all, this is a human resource for you. These leaders starting new ministries and revitalizing existing churches are available to you. They can be helpful in a couple of ways.

First, these leaders can share their experiences and consult with you based on your context. And, second, they offer leadership training twice a year as part of the Congregational Vitality Conference, sponsored by the Domestic Mission unit of the ELCA. If interested, contact the Director for Evangelical Mission in your local Synod and begin the conversation.

Thank you for your interest and commitment to this unique and important ministry.

Pastor Ruben Duran
Director for Congregational Vitality
Domestic Mission – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ascension Table



Location of Ministry:

Long Beach, New York

Mailing Address:

St. John's Lutheran Church 75 East Olive Street Long Beach, NY 11561

Contact Person:

Melissa Armak (Council President)

Phone: 516-732-0110

Email: john_and_melissa_1@yahoo.com

What does your leadership team look like?:

Leadership Team is the Care Council and is made up of Ascension Table Members and Community Members. The Chair Person is Rev. Mark D'Alessio.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

We meet downstairs in the fellowship hall at St. John's Lutheran Church by the Sea.

Who serves alongside you?:

We have a whole team of people setting up, organizing food, playing music, cleaning up.

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

Ascension Table is three tables in one. There are at least three human needs to fill in order to cultivate wholeness. (1) People need to build healthy relationships (2) People need resources to facilitate flourishing 3) and People need spiritually enriching worship. Each of the following tables is designed to meet these needs.

- Our first table is the Dinner Table where we gather for a simple meal prepared by "serving hands" of the community. Here we bond, provide mutual support, are permitted to "doubt out loud," ask puzzling questions, talk about personal hurts, immobilizing fears, and current aspirations. Twice a month we participate in Wellness Circles around the dinner table where we discuss issues related to personal wholeness, spirituality, and social justice in our neighborhood and on a global scale.



- Our second table is the Resource Table where we gather to learn valuable knowledge for empowerment, health, and wellness. We have speakers from the Ascension Table community share their personal stories of recovery and wellness and experts from the greater Long Beach area, who come to talk about a variety of topics pertaining to wholeness. Recently, we had “Dinner Talks” on nutrition, personal finance, a talk about Tikkun Olam “repairing the world” given by a local Rabbi and an immigration attorney spoke about the legal rights of immigrants. Each talk is 30 to 45 minutes long. Telling our stories is a powerful way to bring healing to a community.
- Our third table is the Sacred Table where we gather to worship God, who graciously comes to us in the Word and the Holy Supper. This liturgy is designed as a simple, yet reverent service that includes singing, confession, scripture reading, sermons, prayers, Eucharist and blessing. These are moments for recognizing and celebrating God’s presence among us.

What makes this ministry unique?:

One evening we had a guest speaker talk about the Me Too movement. She is a specialist in domestic violence and a Lutheran Pastor. She focused on the Spiritual aspects of sexual harassment and abuse. By the end of her talk, five women and one man stood up and said me too. They were raped, harassed, abused and molested sexually. We had a spontaneous anointing and healing service. I referred these women to resources for help. What was beautiful about this was that when I started Ascension Table a few years ago, there was little or no trust in each other. Now they share their deepest hurts without fear. This is evidence that Ascension Table is a safe community, where people can be open about their brokenness and free to pursue wholeness together. We have a Jewish couple coming regularly to our ministry. Curtis said Pastor we are not ready to take communion yet, but we love it here and we feel safe being here.



What is God up to in this ministry?:

We started this ministry on April 21, 2016, and had three years of spiritual growth and wholeness among a diverse group of people. We are sinners and saints, believers and skeptics, insiders and outsiders, privileged and poor, young and old, able and disabled, female and male, heterosexual and LGBTQ, and people from the African American, Caribbean, Latin X, and White communities. We average about 25 to 40 people per week. Our services are from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Thursday evenings.

Facebook: Ascension Table: Pursuing Wholeness Together (@ascensiontable)

Bridge of Peace Community Church, ELCA

Location of Ministry:

Camden, New Jersey

Mailing Address:

2755 Tuckahoe Rd Camden NJ 08104

Contact Person:

The Rev. Giselle Coutinho

Email: gcoutinho1@comcast.net



What does your leadership team look like?:

Guidance Team and Deacon Board of the ministry are fully engaged in all aspects of leading and guiding this ministry. They are the executive board of the PEACE Center which is the social arm of the ministry. Our leaders reflect the racial, ethnic, language and age disparity of the community we serve. In worship, our youth and adults are fully engaged in all forms of leadership and we believe that liturgy is truly the work of all the people.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

Bridge of Peace serves in a financially impoverished city with tremendously gifted disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our community has experienced violence and the loss of many young people to gun violence and drug overdoses. Bridge of Peace is a multiracial, multiethnic and multilingual community that reflects the neighborhood by mirroring that diversity. We are welcoming to the LGBTQI community and to those who are marginalized including refugees, immigrants, domestic violence survivors, those experiencing homelessness, mental illness, reentry, and addictions.

Who serves alongside you?:

- NJ Synod and 18 Mission Partners in the NJ Synod and SE Pennsylvania Synod
- PEACE Center Social Ministry Program serving 29,000 meals, DV Counseling, and referrals a year to the community
- La Iglesia Presbiteriana de Camden in providing ecumenical programs throughout the year including VBS and Lenten services in Spanish and English
- Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center: Annual Ecumenical Bilingual Day Camp
- Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense
- Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers: Faithful Families: Eating Smart and Moving More
- AHEC: Support Group for LGBTQI Young Adults
- Fairview Ministerium: Ecumenical Programs
- Karate and Health Programs for youth

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

- Meeting people where they are in mind, body, and spirit and inviting them to come into a life-changing relationship with the triune God. To truly help them know that they are beautifully created children of God created in God's image with gifts and talents. Together to proclaim a life-changing message of hope and salvation to a hurting world and to experience God's love and life together and to pray for each other on the journey.
- Word and Sacrament: Sunday Service, Bible Studies for youth and adults weekly, VBS with Cross Roads, ecumenical and mission partners every summer
- PEACE Center: Social Ministry and Advocacy Program

What makes this ministry unique?:

Bridge of Peace has been an organized congregation for 12 years. People say that the most unique part of this ministry is its ability to invite and welcome new disciples and then raise them up to be able to testify to the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ. Our youth are fully engaged in all aspects of worship and leadership in the ministry and they remain actively involved through high school. The Peace Center Social Ministry allows people to use their gifts to help others in providing support and counsel even when they are struggling with their own demons and challenges. The multi-racial and multi-lingual aspects of the church necessitate that we always be in open conversation about the things which challenge us due to our differences which have allowed us to invite and welcome those who are LGBTQI and transgendered with greater openness.



What is God up to in this ministry?:

God is up to new things at Bridge of Peace all the time. We are excited by change and open to where God is guiding us and leading us. This year we have been fully engaged in ecumenical and mission partnerships for the sake of the good news. Our program of supporting each other in a variety of ways is expanding and people are really beginning to understand that we have to be the church together for the sake of the world. Our hashtag is...
#wearethechurchtogether



This month we are beginning a new program of eating better and moving more with 20 people to improve health and wholeness. We believe in improving the mind, body, and spirit and that God wants us to lead healthy and whole lives filled with abundance and grace. This emphasis on wholeness and healing in Jesus's name is engaging us in our neighborhood and region in a whole new way.

Facebook: Bridge of Peace Community Church (@BoPChurch)

Cathedral in the Night

Location of Ministry:

Northampton, MA

Mailing Address:

867 N Pleasant St Amherst, MA 01002

Contact Person:

Pastor Steph Smith

Email: pastorstephsmith@gmail.com

What does your leadership team look like?:

We have a small board for the admin work and we have a lay leadership from within the team.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

Outdoor

Who serves alongside you?:

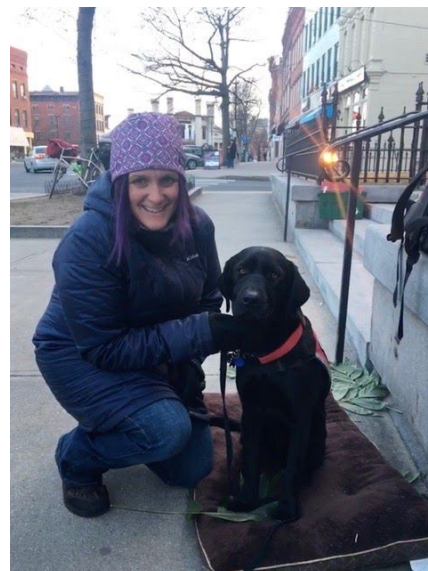
Lay leadership team we call Peer chaplaincy, we have student and young adult interns, I have an assistant, Dawn, who supports worship and is leading our new prison ministry.

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

Interactive/inclusive worship and a meal each Sunday - the food comes from partners (mostly churches, ecumenical partners, some restaurants and civic groups), during the week we have a Coffee hour and Bible Discussion at a local coffee shop. Coffee hour is a chance to check in with one another, share your highs and lows, where God felt close or far away and pray or lift one another up. We then open the conversation for support and discussion. Bible discussion is informal and helps whoever is preaching know where some of the community is with the scripture to be preached on Sunday. We also strive to support one another in any way we can. We have a team that is available to go to appointments and help advocate with the members.



relationships. We also have student interns. Secondly, we strive to make a place at the table for everyone and for members of Cathedral to be at tables where they can influence the



We see that we are a community of experts who have navigated the system and are willing to walk with others. Finally, we are leading a spiritual support group in the local jail that we hope over time we will create a group for those released.

What makes this ministry unique?:

There are a few things that make our ministry unique. First, we work closely with local colleges, we cook with students and members of the Cathedral community share their stories to teach students and build

community and politics of our town. Finally, we have a trained service dog as our ministry dog which is a huge gift of healing and connection. She helps people regulate their emotions and behavior and connect to others.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

God has created an amazing community where people are able to show up fully, not be judged, care for one another and share their gifts so members go beyond feeling like a taker all the time.

Website: www.cathedralinthenight.org

Facebook: Cathedral in the Night (@CatherdalintheNight)



Church on the Street

Location of Ministry:

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Mailing Address:

327 S. Dakota Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Contact Person:

Rebel Hurd, Mission Developer

Email: rebel@churchonthestreetsf.org

What does your leadership team look like?:

We have an 8 person board with 3-year terms. They have different experiences that lend to some knowledge base of working with folks experiencing poverty, the general public, the school system, the church body, and human services.



We also have a leadership team that is made up of folks who are experiencing homelessness and those who are no longer but have in the past. Great effort is made to hear the answers to questions like... What are we missing? Who can we pray for? What are we doing well? What can we do better? What is God up to? How can we best walk alongside you and others?

These two groups are brought together at a joint meeting to discuss these questions and more, and to listen to one another's hopes and dreams for the future of the church.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

Because of the South Dakota weather, we are both. We worship outdoors from May through October and rent space for the remainder of the months.



Who serves alongside you?:

We have a long list of partners. We are blessed to be in partnership with many Lutheran churches, WELCA groups, Men In Mission groups, Confirmation groups, Bible Study Groups, Local Leadership groups, 2 Universities, 6 ecumenical church partners, county, city, and private sectors.

#itisgreattobechurchtogether

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

1. Worship with Word and Sacrament
2. Street Ministry
3. Programming to assist folks in reallocating their money to feed and house their families

What makes this ministry unique?:

Church on the Street began as a mission congregation in 2015. To date, Church on the Street is a ministry of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA, and one of ten “Neighbors in Solidarity” Ministries. We are diverse, ecumenical, and always paying attention to what God’s Holy Spirit is up to.

As a Neighbor in Solidarity, Church on the Street has a commitment to accompany other SD ministries to see and experience our own well-being as we are connected to the well-being of others and the communities we belong. As an Evangelical Ministry of the South Dakota Synod, we live out a principle of solidarity which compels respect for the lived experiences of all our brothers and sisters. We are encouraged to share in our neighbor’s suffering and to participate in their liberation. As a Justice and Outreach Ministry of the South Dakota Synod, and a Homeless and Justice Ministry of the ELCA, Church on the Street is present in the life of folks who need a presence to get through the difficulties of the day, the week, the month, and sometimes the year. We are a church without walls, whose mission is to walk alongside those struggling with poverty and homelessness through ministry in daily life.

Because there is no public transit in Sioux Falls on Sundays, we have worship on Saturdays. This allows us to invite partner churches to worship alongside us, offer a meal and fellowship, and to build relationships. We believe that what partners take back to their congregations are meaningful, hopeful stories of what it means to be the church in the world. We pray this facilitates a desire to step into a relationship with the neighbor.

**What is God up to in this ministry?:**

This is a question we ask over and over again. The Holy Trinity is actively at work in and through Church on the Street. We see God’s Holy Spirit show up in worship, on our walks where people are finding shelter, in the Holy Communion line, and even at the laundromat where clothes are being washed and dignity is found.

Website: <https://churchoonthestreetsf.org>

Facebook: Church on the Street (@ChurchontheStreetSiouxFalls)

Common Ground Recovery Ministry at Trinity Reading



Location of Ministry:

In the heart of Reading, Pennsylvania at Trinity Lutheran Church

Mailing Address:

527 Washington Street, Reading, PA 19601

Contact Person:

Pastor Tom Scornavacchi

Email: tommyscorn@hotmail.com

What does your leadership team look like?:

We have a steering committee that meets monthly. Our leaders grow out of our ministry.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

We are an indoor community with hopes of partnering to do street ministry.

Who serves alongside you?:

We partner with Trinity (our host church), & several other churches in our Mission District. This is Common Ground's second location, but our first table ministry. We started in this location in September 2016. We gather on Sunday afternoons in a space filled with round tables for 7 people. Some of us are from the 12-step recovery communities, others come from the local "Y", others come from the streets and shelters. We try to get everyone involved in some kind of service within the community.



What are the three main things this ministry does?:

We provide a safe place where our community can find love, forgiveness, and acceptance (that's not wishful thinking – that is what our guests tell us). We share the Gospel in word and deed and provide space for our guests to share about the readings, personal joys or struggles, and anything that we can celebrate. We provide a freshly-prepared, nutritious meal served on ceramic plates, cups, and glasses (this is embedded in our service as an extension of communion).

What makes this ministry unique?:

A story...

Dennis and Donna started coming to our community a few weeks after we started. They sat alone and were very supportive of each other.

We have many huggers in our community and often talk about respecting boundaries by asking before hugging. Dennis and Donna stayed to themselves and avoided hugs. A few months went by when Dennis came to me in his wheelchair and asked for a hug...So I hugged him. He and his wife started crying and I asked what was happening for them. Donna said his father and uncle sexually abused him as a child and he has not allowed a man near him in 20 years. Dennis said, "My wife and I have talked about this for a month and I feel safe here." We all cried and hugged and celebrated the moment. Dennis said, "I always thought God was punishing me, but here I learned that God loves me."

That was a milestone for Dennis and Donna. Dennis started taking better care of himself and feeling better about himself. He is engaged in many of the social service programs that have supported his journey.

A few months ago, he came in with a big smile showing off his new teeth. He reminded me of my promise to treat him to a steak dinner if he was willing to get his teeth repaired.

A few weeks later we all went out to dinner together and celebrated the ways that God has transformed their lives.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

God is bringing hope and healing to individuals and families that often feel hopeless and outcast.

Website: <http://cgrcommunity.org>

Facebook: Common Ground Recovery Community (@cgrcommunity)



Grace Lutheran Church

Location of Ministry:

Downtown Phoenix

Mailing Address:

1124 N 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Contact Person:

Pastor Sarah Stadler

Email: pastorsarah@graceinthecity.com

What does your leadership team look like?:

Pastor, council, lots of informal leadership by folks on the street

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

Indoor

Who serves alongside you?:

If you are asking who our partners are, they are many. At least 30 ELCA congregations from our synod, about 10 non-ELCA congregations, groups like food banks and pantries, lots of random individuals who know what we do.



What are the three main things this ministry does?:

Diverse worshipping community, summer heat respite (basically a day shelter) and other outreach (Sunday morning breakfast, clothing/hygiene distribution, Bible study/community building) with folks on the street in our neighborhood, ministry of hospitality and networking with lots of other Christian and non-Christian ministries.

What makes this ministry unique?:

We are a diverse community. We are white, black, Native, Latino/a, and Asian American. We are wealthy, working but poor, middle class, and living on the street. We are gay and straight and bisexual. We are people who have committed felonies and spent years in prison and people who have done everything "right." We are liberal, and we are Trump-supporters. We are life-long Lutherans and Baptists and Methodists and from lots of other Christian traditions, and some of us don't identify as Christian at all. But we are all in community together, encouraging one another and sharing our lives. How it works--only God knows!



What is God up to in this ministry?:

I think God is breaking down barriers between people not just in our congregation but in the larger neighborhood through us. Everyone belongs here, and that is not a small thing in a neighborhood that is being gentrified.

Website: <http://www.graceinthecity.com>

Hephatha Lutheran Church

Location of Ministry:

1720 W. Locust Street Milwaukee, WI 53206

Mailing Address:

1720 W. Locust Street Milwaukee, WI 53206

Contact Person:

Pastor Mary Martha Kannass

Email: kmkannass@aol.com

What does your leadership team look like?:

Council and leaders being raised up from youth to adult.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

Indoor and NEIGHBORHOOD focused

Who serves alongside you?:

MANY community partners; MANY church partners...we are a partnership ministry and try to do nothing "alone"

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

- We share the Gospel and the Sacraments
- We serve children of our community
- We work against lead poisoning amongst the vulnerable population of 53206 (we are the site for the Coalition On Lead Emergency)

What makes this ministry unique?:

Care for neighborhood and young people as key values NOT attached to the idea that they are the "future" of the church because they will be adults one day--they are the present of the church for the young people they are in Christ now.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

God is using us to care for our neighborhood and in so doing gives us purpose as the body of Christ.

Website: <https://hephatha100.com>

Facebook: Hephatha Lutheran Church



Hope Lutheran Church, Hope's Table, Café Esperanza

Location of Ministry:

Reading, Pennsylvania

Mailing Address:

601 N. Front Street, Reading, PA 19601

Contact Person:

Pastor Mary Wolfe

Email: mwolfe1012@aol.com



What does your leadership team look like?:

Hope Lutheran Church has a congregation Council; Hope's Table has leaders being raised up from the community. We get together for conversations as needed/desired; Café Esperanza has a Board of Directors from the community.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

Hope Lutheran Church has a congregation Council; Hope's Table has leaders being raised up from the community. We get together for conversations as needed/desired; Café Esperanza has a Board of Directors from the community.

Who serves alongside you?:

Hope has been a trusted partner in the neighborhood for decades, and the congregation reflects that in its membership. Leaders include young adults who grew up in the neighborhood and the congregation; elders from the neighborhood and those who moved to new places; a musician who grew up down the street and started leading music there as a teenager and continued for 40+ years, helping us all to praise God together with music that reflects our multicultural context; a secretary/ front line face of the church/ counselor who also grew up in the neighborhood and congregation and lives just blocks away, bringing a wealth of knowledge and savvy as gifts; a sexton who lives down the street and knows everyone.

Hope's Table is almost 6 years old, and we are still developing leaders. The food pantry part of the ministry is led by two neighbors who have become Hope members. The meal ministry is entirely led by members of the community who gather to set up, cook, serve and clean up each week. These are the folks who help to guide new ministry directions.

Café Esperanza will open soon. The Board of Directors consists of several local clergy, an architect, an attorney, a few other professionals, and a few neighbors. Once we have navigated the design and legal issues and are up and running, we plan to invite a more diverse and representative group of neighbors to be on the board.

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

- Hope is a congregation that is firmly rooted in the neighborhood. We offer vibrant worship, Ministries with children and youth, especially through our summer experiences we call "Camp Hope", and we are currently developing the "Garden of Hope", an outdoor space featuring a community garden, recreational space/parking, and a pocket park. Hope is also pleased to host and support Hope's Table and Café Esperanza.

- Hope's Table offers a food pantry on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month serving 200+ families each time. We serve a meal each Tuesday evening. Dinner is followed by a worship service held around the dinner table, that includes scripture, song, prayer, and communion.
- Café Esperanza will focus on three things: 1) Offering quality, mostly local and seasonal meals at pay-what-you-can pricing so everyone has a place at the table. 2) Providing an atmosphere that promotes true community as people from all walks of life gather and break bread together around a community table. 3) Provide vocational training for local youths and young adults.

What makes this ministry unique?:

Hope's Table:

Hope's Table has grown into a ministry that connects Christ's Table with the tables around which we gather for our Tuesday community meal and also with the kitchen tables of the families we serve. Our pantry operates around our altar on Tuesday mornings and our volunteers are very much aware that it is Christ who provides the abundance we share, and that they are God's hands, doing God's work. The food each family receives is then the sign of God's love on kitchen tables around the neighborhood. When we gather in the evening for a lovingly prepared meal and holy communion, we again remember that it is Christ who feeds our bodies and spirits.

Café Esperanza:

While community meals are a beautiful expression of God's love uniting God's people, they have a tendency to attract people from the same socio-economic group. The café brings in people from all walks of life so that everyone can hear each other's stories and become a more whole community. This provides a ready forum for community groups to form in order to address neighborhood issues. Conversations happen easily around the table over a nice meal and a good cup of coffee.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

Hope's Table:

The Holy Spirit is gathering a beautifully diverse community for worship and Holy Communion, many of whom would not be likely to stop by a church on a Sunday morning. Through worship and around a meal, and by working shoulder to shoulder in the kitchen and at the pantry, many friendships have been formed making this neighborhood stronger and more caring, truly looking more and more like God's Beloved Community.

Café Esperanza:

God is stirring up tremendous excitement around the café. Dozens of congregations, local politicians, neighborhood people, business owners, farmers, bakers, coffee roasters, and folks from all around the area are coming together to make into a reality this dream of God's great banquet where everyone has a seat at the table.

Facebook: Cafe Esperanza (@CafeEsperanzaRDG) Hope Lutheran Church (@jcsourhope)

Oasis Outreach

Location of Ministry:

Akron, Ohio

Mailing Address:

847 Crouse, St. Akron, OH, 44306

Contact Person:

Rev. Lisa Arledge

Email: lisa@oasisakron.org



What does your leadership team look like?:

Shared Leadership

The staff of Oasis participates in shared leadership by setting aside their education, ordination, and experience to share the tasks of vision, administration, strategic planning, small group leadership, spiritual care, and custodial cleaning. Currently, five staff members ranging in age from 18 to sixty, are equal colleagues who have the space to imagine what it is like to work alongside each other without a hierarchy of control. In addition to staff, all participant's and partner's experiences, revelations, and input contribute to the whole.

Who serves alongside you?:

- Fadia Young Women's Mentoring Program
- Street Outreach Services – Homeless Drop-In Center for Young Adults ages 18 to 26
- Harmony House, Inc. – Residential Housing for Young Adults ages 18 to 24
- Northeastern Ohio Synod and Partners in the NEOS, Methodist, Congregational Church
- Monroe Enrichment Academy
- Red Oak Behavioral Health
- University Academy – Charter school K-8
- Two Brothers Basketball training
- Working in Progress

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

- Youth and Young Adult Outreach: The Oasis Outreach facility on the east side participates in building relationships with middle school youth, women, and young adults by offering a healthy meal and creative art and poetry combined with scripture through a process of Lectio Divina four days a week. Basketball and community are offered to young adult men twice a week. Within the facility are a daycare, basketball training, high school girl mentoring, and the offices for a transitional housing non-profit agency.
- Transitional Housing for Young Adults: In the house adjacent to the Oasis Outreach facility, Oasis is in partnership with Street Outreach Services, which is a non-residential drop-in center for older youth and young adults. In addition, deeply aware of the need for transitional housing for young adults, in 2018 Oasis purchased an abandoned house



adjacent to its parking lot. In collaboration with a non-profit, Harmony House Inc., the house is being renovated for transitional housing for four young adults.

- Student Housing for Young Adults: On the north side Oasis Healing House I is a six-bedroom home for economically challenged young adults ages 18 to 27 to gather in loving community as they attend college or training. Four young adults currently live in intentional community and provide their own shared leadership for the maintaining of the house and grounds. Throughout spiritual gatherings, meals, Recovery leadership events, daily meditation, prayer times, and outdoor events, Oasis Healing House I is an incubating environment for occupants and community to gain healing, strength, and purpose in order to transform their own lives, their neighborhoods, and the city of Akron. Since 2017 over 200 people have participated in times of healing and connection.

What makes this ministry unique?:

- Space for Grace
 - At all four Oasis buildings youth and young adults, and older adults actively participate in God's ongoing creation in and through them. Through creative, spiritual small group offerings, everyone can experience "Space for grace," and gently uncover areas of past trauma and issues of pain and addiction that might be holding them back from becoming the best versions of themselves.
- Creativity
 - Oasis develops entry points through the creative arts. Video production, poetry, art, and innovation are central to the evolution of Oasis. Individual lives are being transformed. *"Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new."* (2 Corinthians 5.17 NRSV)
- Sending Community
 - Oasis is not only a refuge but a *sending* community. Rather than being recipients, youth and young adults are active participants in spiritual community, contributing their gifts, passions, and ideas to the betterment of one another and the whole community. As we pray, eat, study, create, laugh, and build up one another, we are also encouraged to consider how to be agents of hope and transformation in our own families and neighborhoods.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

God shows us again and again how to be one with God and one with each other. Oasis models a counter-cultural but deeply Christian way of relationship and life. By orienting around an intentional community; by creating equality across generational, sexual orientation, socio-economic, and educational divides (Galatians 3:27-28); and by inviting all to become part of the family of God and Oasis, Oasis restores and heals concepts of belonging, family, contribution, and need. This model of life together provides the spiritual belonging and community foundation available at Oasis.



Website: <http://www.oasisakron.org>

Facebook: OASIS Akron (@OasisAkron)

Peace Lutheran Church

Location of Ministry:

The beautifully diverse urban Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma, Washington

Mailing Address:

2106 S. Cushman Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405

Contact Person:

Pastor John Stroeh

Email: pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org



What does your leadership team look like?:

Peace Lutheran Church has a Congregation Council that reflects the diversity of the community. Peace Community Center has a Board of Directors that reflects and is responsive to Peace Community Center families. The most effective grace-filled leaders in outreach ministries are those who are from our neighborhood and have experienced some of the struggles our neighbors face, such as homelessness, unemployment, inability to pay bills, addiction, and single parenting.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

Peace Lutheran Church started in 1909 as a German Russian Lutheran congregation and now reflects the ethnic, generational, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of the Hilltop, a historically working-class neighborhood that is now experiencing gentrification. Our church building dates back to 1918, and we have been blooming where we were planted on the Hilltop for 110 years.

Who serves alongside you?:

The staff of Peace Lutheran Church is ethnically diverse, reflecting our Hilltop neighborhood. Our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry; Music Director; Office Coordinator; Community Resources Coordinator; Custodian; and Nursery Attendant are from the Hilltop neighborhood.

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

- Vibrant Spirit-filled welcoming worship with leadership that reflects the diversity of our Hilltop neighborhood, with a Gospel music emphasis and an open community prayer time to lift up joys and deep concerns and a prayer corner for individual prayer.
- Community development, reconciliation, and justice. Community Meals (free hot dinner meal every Friday and weeknights in April and October), Community Resources Ministry (social service providers present at every Friday meal to help individuals and families toward greater sustainability), Affordable Housing ministry (three families moving from homelessness live in church-owned houses with family support toward sustainability), Conversations Around Race (an ecumenical group and a congregational team that plan community conversations around race and racism), and advocacy on

behalf of the vulnerable, especially for affordable housing and equity in education for students of color and from low-income backgrounds historically underrepresented in college.

- Walking alongside children and youth of our Hilltop neighborhood toward their God-given potential. Peace Lutheran Church started the Peace Community Center, a separate nonprofit to provide tutoring and mentoring support to children and youth from our neighborhood, accompanying them from 2nd grade through high school graduation and beyond through college or trade school, in hopes that they will have living wage jobs to support families and serve their community.

What makes this ministry unique?:

The best way to describe Peace Lutheran Church is with the phrase, “All Are Welcome at the Feast.” Our ministry is about feeding people body, mind, and soul, where the variety of people and gifts of our neighborhood are shared and celebrated.

Peace is a neighborhood congregation. The neighborhood is our parish, especially the five blocks around the church location. Immediate neighbors are significantly present in the faith community (almost 50% of church members live or have lived in the Hilltop.) We walk door-to-door meeting neighbors, listening to their joys and struggles, and sharing an invitation to participation in the life and ministry of the congregation. Many neighbors share and serve community meals, come for resources and community events, and see our pastor as their pastor even if they never attend Sunday worship.

Peace is a multiethnic ELCA congregation. The ethnic makeup of those active in our faith community is over 50% of people of color (predominantly African American and multiracial, with folks of Asian, Latino, Pacific Islander, Native American, and African national backgrounds).



Peace started a non-profit community center. Peace Lutheran Church works alongside the Peace Community Center in our holistic ministry in the neighborhood, providing much-needed academic, spiritual, and personal development support services to Hilltop children, youth, and families.

Peace has a vibrant affordable housing ministry. In our gentrifying neighborhood in which low-income families and families of color are being displaced, Peace Lutheran Church purchased three nearby houses to support families transitioning from homelessness with affordable housing, family support, and community connections.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

The Spirit is at work through Peace Lutheran Church empowering the people of Peace toward the vision God has given us. The Vision Statement of Peace Lutheran Church is this: We believe God’s vision for Peace is to be a diverse community of faith in the Hilltop where all are welcome - a community that is Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy, reconciled, and just.

Website: peacelutherantacoma.org

Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church Tacoma (@PeaceLutheranChurchTacoma)

Redeemer - Toledo

Location of Ministry:

1702 Upton Avenue Toledo Ohio 43607

Mailing Address:

Redeemer Lutheran 1702 Upton Avenue, Toledo Ohio 43607

Contact Person:

Pastor Lori Ann Strang

Phone: 419-277-8767

Email: lastrang@msn.com

What does your Leadership Team look like?:

We have a Ministry Board that directs the mission and a Financial Focus and Development Team that funds the mission.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

We are a Community centered faith community.

Who serves alongside you?:

Volunteers & ministers from the neighborhood, Mission partner churches, and individuals - local community organizations, agencies, etc. that are in partnership with us.

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

- We develop partnerships to better serve each other, the community and the world by multiplying accessible resources in our neighborhood.
- We foster dignity, hope & opportunity for individuals & families by strengthening educational success at every age & advocating for justice in housing, food security & employment
- We celebrate diversity as the fullest expression of the Kingdom of God

What makes this ministry unique?:

This faith community has intentionally transformed to adapt to the changing needs of the neighborhood and its people.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

God is creating a thriving community within our neighborhood that expands people's lives with faith, hope, and love.

Website: www.redeemertoledo.com

Facebook: Redeemer Lutheran Church (@redeemertoledo)



Salem Lutheran Church

Location of Ministry:

Toledo, OH - The North End Neighborhood

Mailing Address:

1127 North Huron Street, Toledo, OH 43604

Contact Person:

Pastor Mike Hanck

Email: michael.hanck@gmail.com

What does your leadership team look like?:

A Church Council, Various Ministry Leaders, and Community Partners

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

A Parish Ministry for Toledo's North End

Who serves alongside you?:

We serve with neighbors, partnering organizations, congregation members, ecumenical and multi-faith friends.

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

We strive to care for our neighbors as holistically as possible, as called and empowered by the good grace of God, with whatever resources, words, or actions are at our disposal.

What makes this ministry unique?:

Salem is not a traditional congregation. It is a servant-movement that gives people access to resources, builds-up relationships between people in different social locations, and seeks to increase self-esteem, opportunities, and capabilities among all people in our neighborhood, Toledo's most-economically-challenging neighborhood.



In addition to assisting with basic necessities, Salem has been fortunate in being able to further the Kingdom of God by working with a variety of partners to celebrate and invest in the lives of young people in Toledo's North End. In 2019, Salem and her partners raised money to fund a 12-week-long art education program utilizing the gifts of a local art professor to teach twenty teenagers how to craft professional-quality art. The students were able to make art from and learn how to use such complex tools as a vacuum-form machine, vinyl-cutter, a bookbinder, and the various machines that



help to silk-screen t-shirts. They were also introduced to a professional recording studio and the great variety of instruments there, such as bass guitar, organ, piano, mixing with record players, computer editing software, and a variety of percussion instruments; with these, the students were able to make their own copyrighted music. All of the products of these twelve weeks were gathered together to form a professional art show at a real downtown art gallery with the theme, "Hear. I Am," which is not only a play off of the divine name (I AM) but which also affirms

the existence and capabilities of these young people. The gallery will showcase the student's work from May to July. Their mass-produced products, such as the music and the t-shirts, will also be available in an online shop. The money raised from individual pieces will go directly to the students, thereby teaching them how to utilize a "legal side-hustle" in their own lives, and the mass-produced products will go into an empowerment fund that will allow them to keep producing more art, thus teaching them business skills as well. All of this allows for artistic expression, which is in itself therapeutic, and it also allows them to examine and display their beliefs and convictions, religious and otherwise. Yet, most importantly, we've built relationships, had great times, and have made an impact on one another's lives as we've done this all together.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

God is helping us to enact, and is ever-moving us towards, holistically caring for one another as human beings.

Website: <http://www.salemtoledo.com>

Facebook: Salem Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH (@salemlutherantoleado)



Trinity Ministries Care of Peace Lutheran Church

Location of Ministry:

Peace Lutheran Church

Mailing Address:

1548 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38107

Contact Person:

Rev. Antoinette (Tonie) Robinson

Email: tonierobinson58@gmail.com

What does your leadership team look like?:

Peace Lutheran Church has a congregation Council; Trinity Ministries has leaders being raised up from the community. Leaders from three Lutheran Churches in surrounding areas of Memphis, Methodist, Presbyterian. We meet when needed.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

We are indoors.

Who serves alongside you?:

Peace Lutheran, St. Luke Lutheran, Epiphany Lutheran, Living Word Lutheran members, Methodist, Community organizations, city of Memphis, Room In the Inn, Broken Vessel, Family Promise, Presbyterian Outreach, People in the surrounding community.

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

Feeding the community a healthy and filling lunch, have a 30 min. Bible Study to feed the Spirit, Serve each person with loving-kindness no matter their condition or understanding to impart God's Love for all of us. We supply clothing, food give-away as needed. People come back to let us know how they have gained their footing in life to do better for themselves, Learning to give back and do for others as we have done for them.

What makes this ministry unique?:

What makes the Ministry unique is when someone comes back to us and let us know how we were effective in their life. One young man came to Peace Lutheran through Room In the Inn program. He was homeless and single, unemployed and down about himself. His definition of Love was earning a lot of money and if you don't have money nobody will love you. He heard about Monday/Wednesday Lunch and started coming to get a meal. When he got a job at night we packed him a lunch to go for his dinner. Soon he stopped coming to lunch and we wondered what had happened to him. Three months later he returned to tell us he had gotten on his feet with a place to stay and a woman in his life. They were expecting their first child together and he



was grateful for our loving care of him during a dark time in his life. He donates and occasionally returns to help with clean up. One working mom appreciated getting a good lunch that helped her to control her diabetes and returned her eating better the rest of the days of the week we are not serving. She donates and returns to sing God's Praise for the Ministries at Peace Lutheran Church.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

God has changed the hearts of volunteers, members and the community as to how to serve one another with love and care. Not to assume what a person's story may be or judge by sight, to know when we are hurting others with fake caring by helping to show to the world and not God. Following the examples of Jesus as to how to do ministry for others in His Name. God wants us to work together loving not competing with each other for God's favor. Knowing that we are all God's creation and we are beautifully and wonderfully made to serve God by serving others.



Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/peacelutheranmemphis/outreachministries>

The Welcome Church

Location of Ministry:

Philadelphia, PA 19119

Mailing Address:

2111 Sansom Street, Phila. PA 19103

Contact Person:

Pastors Violet C. Little and Schaunel Steinnagel

Email: vclittle@verizon.net

What does your leadership team look like?:

Since our congregation consists of people experiencing chronic street homelessness, we do not have the traditional “church council” mode. Rather, we have a leadership team made up of folks from various parts of our community—housed as well as unhoused. We have various gatherings of our leaders, including retreats, check-ins. Leaders assist with speaking engagements, decision making, representation at denominational gatherings, and have most recently met with two other street church groups in Boston to develop a system of peer support.



Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

We are a street church with Sunday worship held outdoors; we use donated space from four different indoor sites to gather for various activities during the week. This also includes our overnight shelter for women hosted in a Presbyterian church. We do not own a building of our own.

Who serves alongside you?:

We serve alongside anyone who participates in any Welcome Church activity or worship. Though the majority of our congregation are men and women experiencing chronic street homelessness, we are partnered with a number of “housed” congregations as well as various community organizations. In addition, we have an ecumenical clergy team representing five different traditions.

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

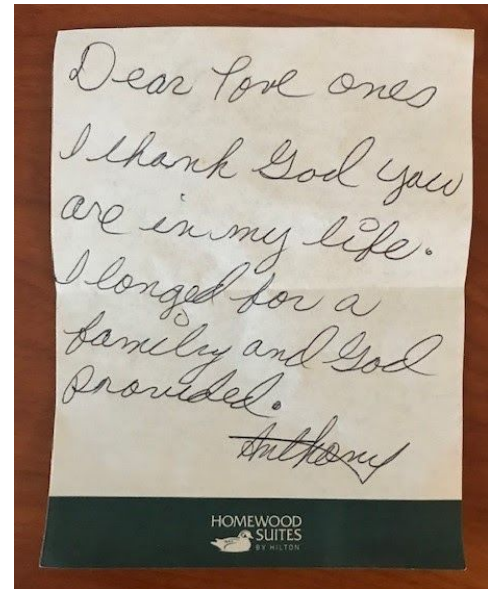
- We offer an overnight year-round women’s shelter known as “The Well” for women who have often been described as “shelter resistant.” The women helped to shape The Well and in recognition of its high rate of having women moved into permanent housing, the City of Phila. pays the salaries of those staffing The Well through our partners, Bethesda Project.

- Several of our church leaders are working on a Faith-Based Peer Support training project which was launched this past Spring in Boston along with leaders from Cathedral in the Night and Common Cathedral.
- We have recently formed a non-profit called "Sanctuary Village" whose goal is to develop a tiny house community of 8-10 houses. The focus is to keep those who are currently unhoused but living in community (as in under a bridge) together in tiny houses with shared bath and kitchen. We are doing this with the approval of the Office of Homeless Services in Phila.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

I don't dare to claim the answer to this one...but the key seems to be leadership from the margins. Several weeks ago we had an ordination on the Parkway with one of our students being ordained as he knelt on a mat that was later used by another in our community for sleeping!

Website: <https://www.thewelcomechurch.org>



Welcome Ministry



Location of Ministry:

El Cajon, California

Mailing Address:

Welcome Ministry of El Cajon 490 Farragut Circle El Cajon, CA 92020

Contact Person:

Rev. David L. Madsen

Office: 619-444-8212 Mobile: 646-753-1771

Email: padre david1@gmail.com

What does your leadership team look like?:

Board of "Directors

- Clergy and laity on the board Seven-person Board of Directors
 - Approx. 12-15 regular volunteers for Welcome Church (DBA of W Ministry of EC)
 - Approx. 30 volunteers for Joy Force (DBA of Welcome Ministry of El Cajon)
- *We look for promotions within the congregations. One on one mentoring"

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

We are an indoor and outdoor ministry. We approach ministry with two different yet similar focuses.

- Welcome Church works with primarily "non-sheltered" or people on the margins.
- Joy Force (or legally known as Joy Knight Memorial Refugee Task Force) We serve mostly inside, Refugee Food Pantry, Table talk (Conversational English), Community Garden, Tuesday Morning Bilingual English/Arabic Mass, etc.

Who serves alongside you?:

- Clergy Leaders: I am the lead Pastor and we have three other pastors (UMC, ELCA, Presbyterian, Episcopal)
- Supporting Churches (ELCA, ECUSA, Presbyterian, UMC)
- Lay leaders, from various churches, and from within the congregation

What are the three main things this ministry does?:

- Worship: "Looking Upward"
 - Lindu Lake Park Holy Eucharist Service,
 - Tuesday Morning English/Arabic bilingual mass
 - Karen (Burmese) English/Karen bilingual mass Washington Avenue Apartments
- Outreach: "Reaching Outward"
 - *Loads of Love* Laundry Services and Transportation Ministries
 - *Table talk* English conversation group for refugee women
 - *Joy Force* Food Pantry
- Advocacy: "Standing Beside"
 - Participation in Regional Homeless Task Forces
 - Welcome Ministry Partnerships
 - Aids refugees and asylees attain legal assistance in matters relating to immigration status.
 - Provide financial assistance to homeless and refugees for emergency housing, utilities, bills, groceries
 - Provide access (links) to health care, substance abuse treatment, and behavioral health
 - Mentors refugees and homeless with personal financial management skills

- Development and preparation for seeking employment

What makes this ministry unique?:

In June 2018 I led a memorial service in Wells Park for a homeless man named John. He and his brother Henry (not his real name) lived in their small truck. We first met them through our “Loads of Love” laundry ministry supervisors. John died quite unexpectedly after suffering a brain aneurysm. We conducted John’s memorial service during our regularly planned Welcome Church gathering in Wells Park. Since then, I have continued my pastoral work with Henry, who has become an essential part of our ministry. He has talents for mechanics, construction and landscaping. Henry attends worship every Sunday and has become a member of our spiritual family. John and Henry had no financial resources of their own. Henry is somewhat autistic. We recognize that and allow him the liberty to express himself and to do what he does best – to be a blessing to us and others. Because of his disability, Welcome Church assisted Henry with arranging for John’s remains to be cremated. Normally in San Diego County, indigent deaths are assigned for final disposition to the County Administrator who arranges for all cremains to be buried at sea. This deprives any surviving indigent family members unable to afford funeral services from receiving possession of their loved one’s ashes. Welcome Church worked with a local family-owned commercial mortuary service, which through their deep Christian faith generously waived the profit they would normally receive for their standard crematory services. A generous grant from a local foundation covered the actual underlying expense of cremation, thus allowing John’s ashes to be returned to Henry. Brother John moved on to be with Jesus, and brother Henry has become a lively stone in the structure of Welcome Church.

What is God up to in this ministry?:

We have merged the Welcome Church of El Cajon and the Joy Force (refugee ministry). We now have two DBA’s, Welcome Church and Joy Force.

East San Diego County experiences a growing range of issues related to homelessness. Welcome Ministry frequently encounters homeless or potentially homeless persons seeking immediate assistance. Ten solutions-specific working groups focus on the spectrum of issues related to individuals confronting homelessness.

We offer individuals and families short-term emergency assistance. However, longer-term support requires that we be able to connect impacted persons with social service providers and dedicated case managers. Until now these linkages have been difficult to achieve because the available resources have been limited and difficult to access. A *Coordinated Entry System* is now being introduced. The new program was introduced in early June, and its roll-out will expand in coming weeks.

Welcome Ministry is part of the leadership team that researches opportunities to create new shelters and affordable housing. We have completed an extensive report that provides a comprehensive review of short- and long-term alternatives for supportive and permanent housing. It is a “regionally-focused, data-informed, person-centered” resource to inform, government agencies, service providers, funders, and the general public of practical and successful means for addressing the critical need for new housing. Jeremy Kaercher of Welcome Ministry was a co-writer, editor and designer of the report.

In the coming months, ECHTF will move from research to advocacy for solutions intended to ease East County’s shelter and housing shortfall. Welcome Ministry will participate in this work offering a prophetic voice for change on behalf of those without a voice who experience homelessness.

Website: <https://welcomechurchech.org>

Facebook: The Welcome Ministries of El Cajon

The Well

Location of Ministry:

Christ's Presbyterian Church 1020 S 10th Street (10th & Kimball), Philadelphia (in South Philadelphia)

Mailing Address:

c/o 2111 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 (Attn: Schaunel Steinnagel/The Well)



Contact Person:

Rev Schaunel Steinnagel
Email: rvschaunel@aol.com

What does your leadership team look like?:

The women of The Well hold community meetings with Lauren Johnston, the case manager of The Well, scheduled upon request of the women/a woman.

Are you an indoor church, outdoor, both, neither?:

The Well is not a church. The Well was founded by The Welcome Church (in February 2016). The Well is

an overnight shelter for women who are experiencing homelessness. The Well has been recognized as a SAWC in the ELCA and a New Worshiping Community in the PCUSA. Evening Prayer is currently being held at The Well one time per each month (possibility for further growth).

Who serves alongside you?:

- Bethesda Project (<https://www.bethesdaproject.org>) = oversees overnight staffing and case management for The Well
- City of Philadelphia, Office of Homeless Services = provides funding for overnight staffing/case management for The Well
- PCUSA & ELCA = both denominations have recognized The Well as a possible Worshiping Community and provide funding.
- Congregational partners = include Presbyterian (e.g. Ardmore PC; Bryn Mawr PC; Christ's PC; Darby PC); Lutheran (e.g. Kairos; Reformation Lutheran Church, Media); Episcopal (e.g. Trinity Memorial Church, Philadelphia); & Roman Catholic (e.g. Our Mother of Consolation, Philadelphia).
- Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, in Philadelphia



What are the three main things this ministry does?:

- Overnight Shelter, Year-Round (7 pm-11 am), for 12 women at a time.
- Case Management.
- Meeting Women in the Fullness of their Needs, recognizing that people have needs for shelter, food, and also water and the ability to wash-up, and also a feeling of safety, and also to build community together, and also freedom and assistance to make decisions and resolve problems, and also recreation, and also hygiene and beauty and self-care, and also spiritual care, etc.

What makes this ministry unique?:

Intentionally small (no more than 12 women) community, where intentional community can be worked on, as well as immediate shelter needs met.

**What is God up to in this ministry?:**

The founding of a New Worshiping Community? Where this aspect will go (i.e. Evening Prayer), how it might be expanded, what it will lead to, is an unknown quantity which is to be observed, as we share in ministry together.

Website: <https://www.thewelcomechurch.org>

Life Ministry

Contact Person: Linda Manson

Email: pastorlmanson@verizon.net

Phone: 215-767-9515

LIFE Ministry offers support to individuals who have an arrest and/or conviction in their past. Pastor Linda Manson, founder of this ministry, has a wealth of experience and knowledge in the areas of reentry and supporting those in our communities who are connected to the criminal justice system.

