

**Report to the ELCA Southeastern Synod Council  
Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta**

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**The Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta**, LTCA will be thirty-one years old in 2019. It was established as an extension program of Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia with the assistance of the Division of Ministry of the ELCA. Today the Center operates under a Covenant of Agreement between the Domestic Missions Unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and Southeastern Synod of the ELCA. Southeastern Synod is the administrative entity for LTCA.

**Mission Overview.** The mission of the Lutheran Center in Atlanta, as formally established by its Guiding Partners is to provide opportunities for learning and leadership development among the baptized membership including rostered and lay members of the synod. The Lutheran Center also charged with establishing stronger ties between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Interdenominational Theological Center. This report summarizes efforts to live into this mission.

*The Center lives into this mission through the courses it teaches, the seminars and workshops it facilitates, and public conversations and gatherings it leads-- all for the sake of the Gospel, for the sake of the world. This report summarizes the mission work of the Lutheran Center in Atlanta during 2018.*

**Focus Areas of the Center**

LTCA's work is organized across four major areas. They include providing courses as needed for Lutheran Formation Experience and Lutheran Studies at the ITC; Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (**TEEM**); *The Sending of the Seventy*, a certificated program for training missionaries (evangelists) and continuing life-long education and lastly, Lutheran Identity. This focus area provides the opportunity witness to communities as Lutherans using special programs and community gathering around issues/topics and worship.

**The Numbers for the Center**

<b>Financials *</b>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Carry-over**</u>	<u>Total Income ***</u>
Income for 2018-2019 (December, 2018)	\$157,251	\$31,164	\$188,415
Expenses	\$170,622		\$170,622

\*(Contains ELCA Salary/Benefits of \$128,167 for the LTCA Administrative Dean)

\*\* Carry over from 2017 and restricted income.

\*\*\* Annual Budget \$190,964 (\$66,797)

**Student's participants and Courses** reflect the wide geographical area of Southeastern Synod and are from Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. Additionally TEEM students come from Georgia, Alabama and Nebraska. Participants in LTCA's synod assembly workshops came from all four states of the synod. Lay class participants including the *Sending of the seventy leader's cohort* came from Metro Atlanta. Candidates for ordination come from Atlanta area theological schools have included Candler, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Mercer, and at-large students. Courses supporting the candidacy process other than the TEEM program courses include Lutheranism in North America, and the Lutheran Heritage, Polity course and Lutheran Parish Preaching. Most of the enrollees are in the Lutheran Formation Experience program, The Urban Plunge provides a 10-day intense experience for lay persons, TEEM candidates and candidates for Word and Service and Word and Sacrament ministry.

### **Partners**

Lutheran Services of Georgia  
Southeastern Synod  
St. Mark Lutheran Church  
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Domestic Missions ELCA Churchwide Organization  
Interdenominational Theological Center  
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
St. John's Atlanta  
St. Stephens  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Christ Our Hope Lutheran Church, Riverdale

**Special Gatherings, Workshops, Forums and Conversations** convened during this time frame included A Service of Commemoration of Martin Luther and Martin Luther King, Jr. for the 501<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in partnership with Southeastern Synod| Reformation 500-Morning Chapel at the Interdenominational Theological Center and A Forum on Communion Practices of the Black Church| Undoing the Most Segregated Hour-A Seminar on Multicultural Worship, in partnership with Christ Our Hope Lutheran Church, Riverdale | An Inter-Faith Forum: Jews, Muslims and Christians Our basic Understandings, in partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church, College Park, Christ Our Hope, Riverdale, The Islamic Center-Fayetteville, GA and Congregation B' na Israel | Three Workshops presented at the Southeastern Synod Assembly | Trusting Your Life Preaching-A One Day Workshop| Missional Leadership Training For African Immigrants, Christ Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN.

Finally, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the ELCA by helping to identify, develop and to accompany leaders, new and old in their journeys.

Pr .Everett Flanigan