



# ***Lutheran Chautauqua Association***

## ***Fall 2022 Newsletter***



### **President's Message**

Wow! 2022 has come and is almost gone and this is a wonderful time to reflect on another successful year for the Lutheran Chautauqua Association. This has certainly been a year of transitions with Doug Kirsop, Pastor Denise Sager and June Trenty taking over the hosting duties from Sue and Jerry Keppel and also my taking over as the Board President for the LCA from Bill Schweinfurth. We certainly have some big shoes to fill but have started finding our way and I wish to thank all those who have been so supportive during this time of transition. I am continually amazed at all of those who give of their time, talents, and treasure to support the Lutheran House! Thank you all so much for everything you have done and will continue to do in the months and years to come in support of this special place.

### **Annual Meeting and Board Business**

At our annual meeting in July, we recognized Wes Schmid-Broome and Ruth Dobson who were going off of the Board, we elected Pastor Phil Rouschy for another 3 year term and welcomed Kathy Hauelsen to the Board for a 3 year term. We also elected John Blomquist to fill out the remaining term of a departing Board member. In September Pastor Brian Armen was appointed to fill a Board vacancy. Congratulations and thank you to our new Board members. Finally, we recognized the service provided by our Treasurer John Howard who will be transitioning out of this role at the end of the year. For the past 9 years John has

captained the financial ship of the LCA and we have been blessed with his leadership and professionalism. Thank you, John!!

### **Room Refresh and Second Floor Bathroom**

If you visited the Lutheran House this past summer you may have noticed just how freshened up the whole place looks. In addition to the fantastic changes made in the recent years to the first floor gathering space, many of the common areas just look better. Much of this is thanks to the tireless work of Pastor Denise Sager and Doug Kirsop, who, along with a crew of dedicated volunteers, have been working to refresh these spaces. Guest room updating is also being led by Pastor Denise, with two rooms already completed and two more underway. See more about these updates and the generous sponsors here. In addition to leading this effort, Pastor Denise and Doug have themselves donated many items to this ongoing project. I wish to thank them and their team of volunteers for all of the great work!

While the Second Floor bathroom addition project has had some setbacks due to the high cost of labor and materials during these times of supply shortages, the project team (as you will read about later in this newsletter) is actively pursuing alternative strategies and the project is still very much “on”!

### **100th Anniversary Celebration**

In 2025 the Lutheran House will be 100 years old and we are excited to announce that a committee has been formed to help us plan and celebrate this wonderful occasion. New Board member Pastor Kathy Hauelsen is chairing the committee with members Pastor Ann Schmidt, Wes Schmidt-Broome, MeeCee Baker and Don Green. This group has already started working and I am very excited by the ideas they have been generating to celebrate this wonderful event!

### **Changes to Room Reservations Coming for the 2023 Season**

I'm very excited to announce that we will be moving to on-line reservations and payment for the 2023 season! (Guests will even be able to reserve specific rooms!). Reservations will be made from the Lutheran House website. We are working to make the process clear and smooth. Read more about the new process later in this newsletter.

The Board has also set a price increase of 8% for the 2023 season. We have not changed our rates since 2017. The cost of operating and maintaining the House have gone up more than 8% since then but careful stewardship, volunteers and generous donors allow us to make this minimal increase. New rates can be seen later in this newsletter.

## The Year Ahead

As 2022 comes to a close I again want to thank the many people who have made significant contributions to the life of the Lutheran House and support of the Lutheran Chautauqua Association. The LCA is on firm financial footing thanks to the careful stewardship of the gifts we have received and the many people who give countless hours enhancing this special place. Feedback on our weekly surveys was overwhelmingly positive, as were the reviews of our hosts June, Denise and Doug who did a fantastic job splitting the hosting duties in this transition year. We ended the year with 77% occupancy which we all feel was great progress coming out of a major pandemic. We look to have that number continue to grow with your help and support. Thanks again for a great 2022 and I am looking forward to an even greater 2023!

In Service,

Kurt



## Room Updates

We are in the process of updating all of our guest rooms to make them more functional and comfortable. The cost for updates is \$1650-3000 depending on the room type.

Room 4 was completed in May and enjoyed by guests this past season. We thank Pastor Al & Erlene Sager for their lead gift to start the updates.

Room 8 was completed at the end of this past season. We thank Pastor Denise Sager & Doug Kirsop for their gift.



Room 3 update items have been purchased. Painting and installation will be done during the May 2023 work weekend. We thank Mary & Eldon Reiboldt for their gift.

Room 7 update items have also been purchased with work planned for the May work weekend. We thank Mary Beth & Kurt Johnson for their gift.

Vertical dressers from updated rooms were moved to other rooms, allowing the bed to be moved away from the wall. You can see this in the last 3 photos. Great stewardship and idea, Pastor Denise!

We also thank volunteers Dennis & Heidi Herrit, Bill Schweinfurth, Doug Kirsop, Kurt Johnson and Pastor Ann "Ikea" Schmid for their hard work. More volunteers are always welcome!!

If you are interested in sponsoring a room update, please contact Kurt Johnson at [kpitpos2@gmail.com](mailto:kpitpos2@gmail.com) or the Hosts at [lutheranhousehost@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranhousehost@gmail.com)



## Hosts Message

We thank you for your grace and patience as we worked through our first year as hosts.

This year was again influenced by Covid. We were happy to accommodate changes for many guests so that they could still attend. And we were happy to host the return of Saturday evening guest gatherings for dinner.

There were more families with children this season than for many years. These families are the future of the Lutheran House! We are all learning how to best accommodate children into life at the House. Music abounded in wonderful ways this season. Our piano was well used for worship and many other events, both planned and impromptu. The Lutheran House is becoming a hub for music at Chautauqua as part of our outreach and hospitality.

It was great to have a family enjoy a week at Chautauqua and the House using the First Time Chautauquan grant. That one and the Chautauqua (diversity) grant are available to one family each year. Be sure to see the information later in this newsletter, and on the website.

We are pleased that Mindi, our awesome lead housekeeper, will be back next season. We hope many of you will join us too!

In service,

June, Pr. Denise & Doug

## Property Committee Update

Our almost 100 year old House continues to need lots of care. Thanks to the volunteers who shared of their time and talent this year. Help is always welcomed!

As some guests experienced this season, our fire and smoke alarm system is showing its age. Replacement detectors have been



installed to keep us safe and protected.

The refreshed first floor is holding up well as it gets more and more use. Guest room updates along with ongoing general maintenance were our focus this year. Special thanks to Bill Schweinfurth and Dennis Herrit for helping with that work.

Doug Kirsop - Property Committee



Heidi clearing porch roof drain



Dennis and Bill painting room 4

Dennis repairing leak in 2nd floor shower floor

## **2nd Floor Bathroom Update**

Last fall, our project team prepared a comprehensive statement of work that included our preferred materials and fixtures. We then reached out to several quality contractors in the Chautauqua area to solicit bids on our new 2nd floor bathroom project. To our surprise, many contractors stated that they were too busy with other larger projects and were not interested in a smaller project of this type. Many of them stated that they were fully booked through the beginning of 2024.

After some additional tenacity, we did receive feedback from 3 contractors in the spring of 2022. The bid estimates ranged between \$60,000 - \$82,000 for this work – far exceeding reasonable estimates for completing our bathroom renovation project. It appears that due to COIVD, shortages in skilled labor, raw materials and fixtures, and many people focusing on home renovations, general contractors have been able to charge more than 50% premiums on renovation work.

We reviewed these bids with the Board and obviously concluded that it did not make fiscal sense to use your donated funds and Lutheran House capital reserves to pay these high price premiums. The project committee quickly developed a plan B, where we began exploring acting as our own general contractor working with high quality contractors in carpentry, plumbing, and electrical to complete the renovation project for a much more reasonable cost. Our own budgetary estimate for completing this work combined with volunteer work for painting and finishing is around \$40,000.

We have had discussions with subcontractors and are assembling estimates that we believe can be in line with our \$40,000 budget. Our desire is to select the subcontractors, obtain permits, and purchase materials to begin work in the fall of 2023.

We have been blessed with generous donations totaling \$27,000 towards this project to date. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this project. We continue to solicit donations to reach our goal of \$40,000 and will keep you updated on our fundraising efforts.

We will be posting updates on our progress in the Spring of 2023 as well as at our July LCA Annual meeting.

Sandy Hoehn – Board Member & Project Manager

Bill Schweinfurth – Past President

## **CHQ 2023 Updates**

Chautauqua continues rebounding from the pandemic and returning to pre-pandemic operations. Only the standard, full-access gate pass will be available for the 2023 season. They will go on sale in January with a price increase in the spring and again on June 1.

A Director of Diversity was added to the full-time Chautauqua staff last year. A Director of Safety & Security was added to the full-time staff this fall. We expect to see changes next season as the new Director evaluates Chautauqua's operations.

Each year, a block of the Brick walk is taken up and reset. Next year is our year! We are looking forward to a nice level section in front of the House and up to the Hall of Philosophy.

At least six electric vehicle chargers are being added on the grounds before next season. Locations are still being determined. Updates should be available on the [chq.org](http://chq.org) website.

Be sure to watch CHQ website for program and other updates!

## **Gardening Help Needed!**

Past host Sue Keppel has also been our wonderful gardener. She will continue just through the 2023 season, when she will train some volunteers to take over.

Can you help for the season or for a week?

Please contact Sue at 716-471-3062 for more information.



## **Thank You Volunteers!**

Thanks to all who help with Opening and Closing weekends, Room updates, On-going maintenance, Music, Cookies and so much more!

Volunteers make it possible to keep our room rates low and the Lutheran House looking good!

## **Weekly Themes**

Week 1 - 6/24 - 7/1

**On Friendship**

Week 2 - 7/1 - 7/8

**Games: A Celebration of our Most Human Pastime**

Week 3 - 7/8 - 7/15

**Can the Center Hold? - A Question for our Moment**

Week 4 - 7/15 - 7/22

**The State of Believing**

Week 5 - 7/22 - 7/29

**Infrastructure: Building and Maintaining the Physical, Social and Civic Underpinnings of Society**

Week 6 - 7/29 - 8/5

**A Life of Literature**

Week 7 - 8/5 - 8/12

**The National Parks: How America's 'Best Idea' is Meeting 21st Century Challenges**

Week 8 - 8/12 - 8/19

**Freedom of Expression, Imagination and the Resilience of Democracy**

Week 9 - 8/19 - 8/26

**The Global South: Expanding the Scope of Geopolitical Understanding**

## **Chaplains of the Week**

**Rev. John Smaligo**

Greensburg, PA

**Rev. Brian Armen**

Rotanda West, FL

**Rev. Rod Funk**

Mentor, OH

**Rev. Alma Bucu**

Petersen, MN

**Rev. Dale Linder**

Columbus, OH

**Rev. Nathan Sager**

Duluth, MN

**Revs. Kevin & Martha Clementson**

Canonsburg, PA

**Rev. Richard Johnson**

Webster, NY

**Rev. Loranell Breyley**

Akron, OH

### 2022/2023 LCA Board Members

Kurt Johnson	<a href="mailto:kpitpos2@gmail.com">kpitpos2@gmail.com</a>
Doug Kirsop	<a href="mailto:doug.kirsop@gmail.com">doug.kirsop@gmail.com</a>
Marnie Brown	<a href="mailto:mbrown8037@neo.rr.com">mbrown8037@neo.rr.com</a>
Pr. Phil Roushey	<a href="mailto:pastorphil@zionfrewsburg.com">pastorphil@zionfrewsburg.com</a>
Pr. Ann Schmid	<a href="mailto:pastorschmid@comcast.net">pastorschmid@comcast.net</a>
Sandy Hoehn	<a href="mailto:hoehn5@verizon.net">hoehn5@verizon.net</a>
John Blomquist	<a href="mailto:jblomquistapg@comcast.net">jblomquistapg@comcast.net</a>
Pr. Kathy Haueisen	<a href="mailto:kathrynhau Eisen@gmail.com">kathrynhau Eisen@gmail.com</a>
Pr. Brian Armen	<a href="mailto:pastor@alivingfaith.org">pastor@alivingfaith.org</a>

### 2023

### Work Weekends

#### May 19 - 21

Room Updates, early opening work

#### June 9 - 10

Opening Work Weekend

#### September 8-9

Closing Work Weekend

Volunteers who work at least two of the above weekends are eligible to make early room reservations for the following season!

### 2023 Reservation Process

1. Starting January 1, go to [Our 2023 Season Launch Page \[lutheranhouse.org\]](https://lutheranhouse.org)
2. Select the week for that you would like to attend.
3. Select the room that you would like (note that some rooms may have already been reserved).
4. Select "Add to Cart"
5. If you need to add additional people, use your browser's back button to select the product for "Additional People in Room" and then "Add to Cart"
6. Select "View Cart"
7. Click "Proceed to Checkout"
8. Complete your Billing details and other information.
9. Click "Pay Online"

### 2023 Reservation Dates

#### November & December

Early reservations for Board members, Life Members, Lutheran Pastors, Work weekend volunteers

#### January 1

Reservations for Lutherans begins

#### February 1

Reservations for everyone begins

10. When the transaction is complete you will see your completed order. A copy will be emailed to you along with your credit card receipt.

11. That's it!! We will see you this summer! (Please note that you will only be allowed to reserve one room until March 1st. After that you may reserve for a 2nd week (subject to room availability).

**March 1**  
Second week reservations begin

**May 15**  
Single night reservations begin  
Full refunds end

**June 1**  
Refunds end,  
exceptions possible

### Thrivent Action Team Grants

Do you have investments or insurance with Thrivent? If so you are eligible to request two Action Team grants of up to \$250 per year! We have used these grants to support work weekends, Saturday guest transition days and many special projects.

Applying for a grant is **quick and easy**. We can support you to answer any questions. Contact the hosts at [lutheranhousehost@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranhousehost@gmail.com) for more information.

### Lutheran Disaster Response *Thank you!*

Thanks to the generosity of Lutheran House guests and friends who donated to the Disaster Response for Ukraine, I was able to send a \$500 check to the fund. I hope by sending the photo cards of some of my favorite sites in CHautauqua you were able to share our sacred space with others.

Peace and Joy to you,

June Trenty  
Co-host

### 2023 Room Rates

Beds	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People
1 Twin Bed, 1 Double Bed	\$505.00	\$505.00	\$530.00	
1 Double Bed	\$390.00	\$445.00		
2 Double Beds	\$525.00	\$525.00	\$530.00	\$530.00
2 Twin Beds	\$395.00	\$500.00		
1 Queen Bed	\$455.00	\$455.00		

**Lutheran Chautauqua Association is offering two grant opportunities  
for a week at the Lutheran House**

**Chautauqua Grant**

In support both of the ELCA Diversity Goals and the Chautauqua Institution's desire to become a more diverse community, the Lutheran Chautauqua Association offers a grant for persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English. Lutheran laity from congregations receive preference, however, Full Communion partners may also apply. The Chautauquan Grants Committee makes its decision based upon the applicant's service to a congregation, the larger church and community involvement.

**First Time Chautauquan Grant**

The Lutheran Chautauqua Association offers a grant each year to a Lutheran lay individual or family who might not otherwise be able to experience Chautauqua. The Chautauquan Grants Committee makes its decision based on the applicant's service to a congregation, the larger church and community involvement. If you know a deserving Lutheran individual or family, please let them know about the grant!

Both grants include:

- Gate passes
- One parking permit
- Lodging for the individual or the family (parents/guardians and includes children under 18 living at the same residence) at the Lutheran House
- Participation in Kids Club for children who may be eligible

If you know a deserving Lutheran individual or family, please share the information and direct them to our website: [lutheranhouse.org](http://lutheranhouse.org)! The fully completed application must be returned to Pastor Phil Roushey by February 15, 2023:

Pastor Philip Roushey

45 Falconer St., Frewsburg, NY 14738

Cell: 585-490-4236 Church: 716-569-5495

[pastorphil@zionfrewsburg.com](mailto:pastorphil@zionfrewsburg.com)