



# LUTHERAN CHAUTAUQUA ASSOCIATION FALL NEWSLETTER

## November 2023

### 2023 ANNUAL LCA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

There are different ways to measure "success" when it comes to reviewing this past year at the Lutheran House. I was reminded of this just this past summer when one LGBT couple said, through tears, just how welcome everyone has always made them feel here. Or in the many porch conversations I had with people of all faiths who just observe that there is something very special about the guests in this house that come back year after year and express an interest in others. I also heard comments from people with physical disabilities that said that they feel "treated like royalty" when accommodations were made for them. These are all measures of success as are the many upgrades both large and small to the Lutheran House over the years. But I believe the best measure of success continues to be the growth we have experienced because of YOU! You have spread the word about the Lutheran House and freely shared what it means to be part of this community! Thank you for a very successful year!!!

Another way we gauge how our guests feel about the Lutheran House is found in our weekly surveys. These responses continue to be overwhelmingly positive in praise of our hosts, staff, and the room upgrades. The room upgrade project continues, and we are on track to finish all the upgrades on schedule by the Spring of 2025 in conjunction with the celebration of our building's 100th Anniversary!!! This is also the time we expect work on the new 2nd floor bathroom to be completed. You will read more about these great projects and work on the Anniversary Planning later in this newsletter and throughout 2024. Finally we completed our first year of electronic room reservations and it went very well. We are looking to expand on that capability in the coming year as we further leverage our website's capabilities.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Doug Kirsop who served as LCA's Vice-President last year. Doug wore a lot of hats this past year and he, along with Pastor Denise Sager have spent countless hours over and above their hosting duties working on the room upgrades.

*(continued)*

### 2024 ROOM RESERVATIONS

Reservations for rooms at the Lutheran House during the 2024 summer season may be made as follows:

*Beginning November 17, 2023*  
Lutheran Chautauqua Association  
Board Members

*Beginning November 24, 2023*  
Lutheran Chautauqua Association Life  
Members

*Beginning December 1, 2023*  
Opening and Closing Volunteers

*Beginning December 8, 2023*  
Lutheran Pastors and Deacons

*Beginning January 1, 2024*  
All Lutherans (Belong to a Lutheran  
Church)

*Beginning February 1, 2024*  
Anyone

*Beginning March 1, 2024*  
Add a 2nd Week Room Reservation

*Beginning May 15, 2024*  
Single Night Room Reservations

### CONTACT

**All reservations are made through the website.** [www.LutheranHouse.org](http://www.LutheranHouse.org)  
(details on page 2)

Questions can be addressed to:  
[LutheranHouseHost@gmail.com](mailto:LutheranHouseHost@gmail.com)

Summer season phone:  
716-357-2135

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They too were an important part of the successes of the Lutheran House this year. I would also like to thank Bill Schweinfurth who, as the immediate past president, helped me transition into the Board President position and along the way was an extremely valuable mentor. Finally, I would like to recognize John Blomquist for agreeing to stay on the Board for another two years and Pastor Ann Schmid who continues on the Board and joins Pastor Johanna Rehbaum and Catherine Mott-Logan who are starting three year terms. Thank you John and Pastor Ann and welcome new board members!



I am very much looking forward to the 2024 season as the LCA continues to enhance the legacy of the Lutheran House. We are on firm financial footing and have great generational leadership who are committed to carefully stewarding this place for many years to come as we continue to measure our impact and our success in many ways!!!  
Sincerely,

Kurt Johnson, President, Lutheran Chautauqua Association

**2024 ROOM RATES**

BEDS	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
1 Twin & 1 Double	\$505	\$505	\$530	
1 Double Bed	\$390	\$445		
2 Double Beds	\$525	\$525	\$530	\$530
2 Twin Beds	\$395	\$500		
1 Queen Bed	\$455	\$455		

**2024 RESERVATION PROCESS**

1. Starting January 1, go to our 2024 Season Launch Page [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"
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. This email will contain a link to a form that you will need to fill out for each guest staying in your room. Please fill out this information as soon as you receive your confirmation email.
11. That's it!! We will see you this summer! (Please note that you will only be allowed to make a reservation for one week until March 1st. After that you may reserve for a 2nd week (subject to room availability).

**GRANT OPPORTUNITES**

*DIVERSITY GRANT*

*This grant is 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.*

*FIRST TIME CHAUTAUQUAN*

*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.*

*If you know a deserving Lutheran individual or family, please let them know about the grants! 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. Applications are available on our website.*

## FROM THE HOUSE HOSTS

It was a pleasure to serve as your hosts this season. Occupancy for the season was 96% with many first-time guests. We were happy to greet many returning friends as well. Week 10, after Chautauqua's season concludes, continues to be popular for private retreats, book clubs, Bible studies, and reunions.

Our new on-line registration system worked well. A few guests experienced glitches but thankfully overall it was a great success. Our appreciation to Kurt Johnson and his daughter for many hours spent in setting up the system! We will be using it again for registration in 2024.

As always, the guests are the best part of the Lutheran House. Each week, friendships are made and renewed, discussions are enjoyed, and we all learn from one another. We are honored so many guests call the Lutheran House their "happy place" and time at Chautauqua the highlight of their year.

Prior to Week One, we joined in various meetings including the Chautauqua Denominational House & Religious Groups and Property Owners Association. The Lutheran House is a popular location for weekly meetings such as CHQ Dialogs, and notably an active and vital part of Chautauqua! During week 9, Denise coordinated a gala reception for the CEO of the Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services after the afternoon Interfaith lecture. Sixty people attended, providing great exposure for the Lutheran House. Thanks to our week 9 guests and pianist Jaime Malagon who helped in hosting the reception.

Former hostess Sue Keppel completed her commitment as our master gardener this year. Thanks Sue! We thank Eldon & Mary Reiboldt for stepping up to help with our landscaping. Denise and a friend from New York planted more than 30 discounted perennials to beautify our landscaping after season's end.

Our thanks to Mary Beth & Kurt Johnson for hosting weeks 1 and 2. They helped get the summer season off to a great start! We look forward to seeing many of you next summer and again for the Lutheran House's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025!

Denise Sager & Doug Kirsop

### 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.

### THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all who help with opening and closing weekends, room updates, music, cookies, on-going maintenance, gardening and so much more! Volunteers make it possible to keep our room rates low and the Lutheran House looking good!

## 2024 WEEKLY THEMES

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Weekly Theme:</u>
Week 1: June 22–June 29	<i>The Evolution of the Modern Presidency</i>
Week 2: June 29–July 6	<i>The AI Revolution</i>
Week 3: July 6–13	<i>What We Got Wrong – Learning from Our Mistakes</i>
Week 4: July 13–20	<i>Eight Billion and Counting: The Future of Humankind in a Crowded World</i>
Week 5: July 20–27	<i>Our Greatest Challenges (That We Can Actually Do Something About)</i>
Week 6: July 27–August 3	<i>Exploring the Transformative Power of Music with Renee Fleming</i>
Week 7: August 3–10	<i>Wonder and Awe</i>
Week 8: August 10–17	<i>Water: Crisis, Beauty and Necessity</i>
Week 9: August 17–24/25	<i>Rising Together: Our Century of Creativity and Collaboration with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra</i>

**Do you know  
someone who would be  
a great chaplain at the  
House? It's not too soon to  
apply for Summer 2025. The  
application form is on our  
website under the  
"About Us" tab.**

## 2024 LUTHERAN HOUSE CHAPLAINS

Week 1	Rev. Beth Martini Mechanicsburg, PA
Week 2	Elizabeth Baker-Mikesell Gettysburg, PA
Week 3	Rev. Rebecca Boardman Tucson, AZ
Week 4	Revs. Rachel & Dr. Anders Tune Springfield, OH
Week 5	Rev. Lisa Frauens Webster, NY
Week 6	Rev. Julia Seymour Big Timber, MT
Week 7	Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf Minneapolis, MN
Week 8	Rev. Steven Mahaffey Rittman, OH
Week 9	Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen Stratford, Ontario, Canada

## 2023/2024 LCA BOARD MEMBERS

Kurt Johnson	<i>kjohnsons@comcast.net</i>
Marnie Brown	<i>mbrown8037@neo.rr.com</i>
Pr. Phil Roushey	<i>pastorphil@zionfrewsburg.com</i>
Pr. Ann Schmid	<i>pastorschmid@comcast.net</i>
Sandy Hoehn	<i>hoehn5@verizon.net</i>
John Blomquist	<i>jblomquistapg@comcast.net</i>
Pr. Brian Armen	<i>pastor@alivingfaith.org</i>
Catherine Mott-Logan	<i>mottcv@bluetreecapital.com</i>
Pr. Johanna Rehbaum	<i>pastorjohanna@stpaulspittsford.org</i>

## FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Lutheran House was well used and well cared for in 2023.

Six guest rooms were updated this year: three in the spring and three during closing weekend. We look forward to updating the rest of the rooms next year. Sponsors are needed for only two more rooms! Thank you to everyone who has sponsored the room upgrades.

This year brought the usual range of projects and new challenges. As we write this, a leaking drainpipe is being tracked down for repair. We believe exterior work has mitigated water seeping through the third-floor front wall.

We moved to a new internet and phone provider during the year. The move provides much faster internet speed and reduces our cost. We continue to work on improving Wi-Fi coverage throughout the house, a challenge with the 100-year-old walls with steel mesh. The "brain" of our fire and smoke alarm was replaced in the spring.

Planning has begun to have the house looking especially great for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. After the guest room updates, major projects including stairwell painting, carpet replacement, woodwork refinishing and exterior door replacements are being considered. Those and other projects will only happen with gifts and support. We are so very grateful for the amazing support many of you have and continue to provide. Thanks be to God!

Our thanks to Dennis & Heidi Herrit, Bill Schweinfurth, Michael Rehbaum, Kurt Johnson, Pr. Ann Schmid, Pr. Denise Sager and others for making this good work happen. We are always ready to welcome help in this satisfying work! It's an honor and our pleasure to serve with you.

Jim Garofalo & Doug Kirsop  
Co-chairs



**Need an idea for a Christmas gift for someone who loves the Lutheran House? How about a guest room upgrade in their honor? Over the last few years, we have been refreshing the rooms at the House with paint, new furniture, bedding, and art. There are just two room left to be sponsored – rooms 11 and 12. Room 11 has a double bed and can be sponsored for \$1650, and Room 12 has twin beds and can be sponsored for \$1800. You can sponsor a general upgrade, or suggest a theme to be reflected in the color, bedding, and art.**

**Rooms can be sponsored by individuals or groups and can be designated in honor or memory of someone if you wish.**

**For more information about room upgrades, contact Denise Sager, [LutheranHouseHost@gmail.com](mailto:LutheranHouseHost@gmail.com).**



Fall 2023 work weekend crew.



## UPCOMING WORK WEEKENDS

- Fri. - Sun., May 17-19 Room Painting
- Fri. - Sat., June 7- 8 Opening Work Weekend
- Fri. - Sat., Sept. 6-7 Closing Work Weekend

Everyone is welcome to participate in workdays. For information contact Doug Kirsop at [LutheranHouseHost@gmail.com](mailto:LutheranHouseHost@gmail.com)