



# Lutheran Volunteer Corps

BUILDING COMMUNITY, WORKING FOR JUSTICE, LIVING SIMPLY AND SUSTAINABLY

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Dear friends,

Last year LVC, and its many service corps colleagues, experienced a drop in Volunteer participation in our programs, mostly as a result of the improving economy. Fortunately, one of the benefits of living sustainably as an organization, and going through an inclusive strategic planning process, is that our team banded together to make adjustments to remain present in all of our LVC cities while still leaning into our new direction.

One aspect of the new direction includes deepening our partnerships with Lutheran churches that are leaning into LVC's core practices of simple and sustainable living, intentional community, and serving for justice. We are excited that while accommodating lower Volunteer numbers, we have also become partners with three Milwaukee churches that are engaged in food justice efforts. This fall we will establish an LVC Food Justice House and program in the Milwaukee community.

We are also re-committing to living a Lutheran theology that celebrates the fact that God's servants come from many faith traditions. We believe that we are more effective in creating peace with justice when we live and serve together as one body, and let our own community be transformed through this process.

Alumna Sarah Cledwyn has helped LVC and its Volunteers lean into this belief by implementing the "Journeys Conversations" as the central component of LVC's spirituality program. Each participant is encouraged to share their story about what calls them to serve and places the emphasis on curiosity and gaining shared meaning amongst participants. Nurturing this culture of mutuality is what invites amazing non-Christian Volunteers to serve with LVC. Their presence enriches and changes us in wonderful ways.

LVC is excited for the road ahead. We aim to deepen our relationships with our community, commit to our own transformation in order to evolve into a more diverse community, and expand our ideas about faithfully uniting people to live and serve in intentional community.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts!

In service,

Sam Collins  
President, Lutheran Volunteer Corps