



## **ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL-PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITALS**

### **Spiritual Care Services and Mission Outreach Report**

October 2021

St. Luke's Hospital was founded in St. Louis in 1866 by the Episcopalian Church and was joined in health ministry sponsorship by the Presbyterian Church in 1948. Together with our sponsoring churches, St. Luke's team members continue to live out our faith based mission everyday:

*"Faithful to our Episcopal Presbyterian heritage and its ministry of healing, St. Luke's is dedicated to improving the health of the communities we serve.*

*Using talents and resources responsibly, we provided high quality, safe care, with compassion, professional excellence, and respect for each other and those we serve."*

The Rev. Emily Rosencrans, Director, Network Spiritual Care Services, and the Rev. Renita Heinzl, Senior Chaplain and ACPE Certified Educator, oversee our healthcare network's spiritual care programs and services. They are ordained in the PCUSA as teaching elders/ministers and are supported in St. Luke's spiritual care work by an interfaith team of employed chaplains, hospital administrators, physicians, nurses, staff and volunteers.

St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, Missouri, is the foundation of our independent, not-for-profit network of care offering more than 60 specialty areas at over 30 sites in the greater St Louis area. We offer spiritual care across our network of care, with the majority of need being at our 493-bed acute care hospital in Chesterfield, 143-bed acute care hospital in Des Peres, and our skilled nursing facility, Surrey Place. St. Luke's is consistently recognized throughout the region and across the country for excellence in quality, safety and patient experience.

#### **Spiritual Care Services and Clinical Pastoral Education**

As part of the interdisciplinary healthcare team, chaplains provide spiritual care to patients, their caregivers and loved ones, our visitors, and team members. Worship and prayer services, sacraments, and spiritual support are offered 24/7/365. We minister to all in need, which includes helping patients and caregivers make complex medical decisions, and walking beside those having medical procedures or navigating serious illness.

In addition to the Spiritual Care Department's leadership team consisting of a director and senior chaplain/ACPE Educator, we have four staff chaplains, including a Roman Catholic priest and a rabbi, and four Clinical Pastoral Education program resident chaplains serving the needs of patients, families, and team members. Approximately 20 volunteers from neighboring parishes assist in ministry to our hospitals' Roman Catholic patients in the role of Lay Communion Minister.

St. Luke's has offered Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) since 1977 to train and equip clergy to become professional chaplains. Our CPE Learning Center is accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) for CPE Level I/Level II and Supervisory CPE. The CPE residents complete four education units over a 12-month period, with each unit providing a minimum of 400 education hours through a classroom/group setting and rotations in the hospitals' clinical units.

Navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, St. Luke's Spiritual Care Department staff have ministered to countless numbers of patients and families impacted by COVID, and made more than 18,000 chaplain visits so far in 2021, which is a significant increase in comparison to prior years. We have also ministered to the needs of our team members through Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, worship services and devotional materials to assist them in managing the myriad of feelings, thoughts, and fatigue many are feeling.

Early in the pandemic, St. Luke's established an Employee Health and Wellness Committee in response to our team members' increased need for support. The committee has developed a comprehensive base of resources for team members to access through our intranet site, as well as in person or through group settings. We have implemented several communications campaigns to encourage team members to utilize these resources.

St. Luke's has also recently launched a Spiritual Care Engagement Committee to identify and explore new ways in which we can increase awareness and responsiveness to the diversity of our patients' and team members' faith traditions. The committee's initiatives at this time include increasing educational resources, reviewing inpatient care support, and expanding facilities for prayer and worship.

### **Sharing our Mission of Service in the Broader Community**

The arrival of COVID-19 vaccines in late 2020 brought hope and action in the next phase of fighting the pandemic. St. Luke's is proud to partner with the State of Missouri as a COVID-19 vaccinator site. We established our vaccine clinic in December 2020, and since that time have administered nearly 100,000 vaccine doses. Support for the clinic's operation is provided by many hospital departments and a dedicated team of volunteers to assist patients during their visit.

St. Luke's Community Outreach Department leads health and wellness programs on the hospital campus, in workplaces and many other sites throughout the region. Many of these programs are offered at little or no cost to participants. Thousands of people participate annually in our healthy living classes and events, screenings, and worksite wellness programs. The Community Outreach team stayed connected throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by offering a variety of free online/virtual events and programs.

The Mission and Community Affairs Committee of St. Luke's Board of Directors meets quarterly to provide oversight and guidance for our spiritual care services, clinical pastoral education program, community outreach activities and charity care initiatives.

Annually, St. Luke's provides more than \$20 million in charity care and discounted rates to patients who are unable to pay for their healthcare services. St. Luke's Pediatric Care Center and the Healing Grace Clinic are two sites at which many of the patients presenting for care are underinsured or uninsured.

St. Luke's Pediatric Care Center is a mission-based agency of the hospital in a freestanding location on St. Charles Rock Road in North St. Louis County. The Center provides primary pediatric care for underserved, underinsured and uninsured children age newborn to 18 years old. The majority of the Center's patients reside in St. Louis City and County. As a medical home, the Center's health services include:

- sick and well visits
- physical exams
- immunizations
- vision and hearing screenings
- onsite lab screenings
- health and wellness education, inclusive of disease processes, management and preventative measures
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) recertification
- social services education and referral

Led by a registered nurse as manager and community liaison, the Center provides care in a private practice setting with two board-certified pediatricians, two registered nurses, three medical assistants and receptionists, and a social worker. Without the Center, many of the families currently served would be assigned to another healthcare facility, possibly a far distance from their homes and likely through a clinic with rotating providers.

The Healing Grace Clinic is located in Franklin County and was founded in 2009 by a member of our Medical Staff in cooperation with other healthcare providers and churches in that area. Recognizing the impact of rising unemployment in the area and related economic challenges for families, the physician, St. Luke's, the Central Baptist Church, other generous partners and volunteers established the clinic to provide care for the uninsured. The clinic is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. St. Luke's has recently provided increased staffing resources so that the clinic can open a second location.

St. Luke's also conducts community support initiatives through the work of our employee-led Mission Outreach Committee. The committee's initiatives each year include:

- Food Drive: Our 2021 drive collected nearly 2,000 pounds of food to be distributed to families in need through Operation Food Search and \$950 in cash contributions to support

the agency's work in providing support services to its clients. These results helped feed 1,510 people in need.

- School Supply Drive: This activity supports the families served by St. Luke's Pediatric Care Center. More than 2,015 items were collected in 2021 to help prepare and bring joy to the children as they embarked on a new school year.
- Winter Warm Up and Toy Drives: The winter warm up initiative provides coats and other cold weather clothing to assist families served by St. Luke's Pediatric Care Center and clients of Isaiah 58 Ministries. Our Toy Drive is conducted in partnership with the Little Patriots organization to collect toys, gift cards and other holiday items that support the area's military families in need.

Our team members respond generously to these initiatives in the spirit of extending St. Luke's culture of compassion and care. St. Luke's also participates in our community's annual United Way Campaign.

St. Luke's is proud of and humbled by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri's and the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy's sponsorship of our healthcare ministry. While the past 18 months have been among the most challenging in St. Luke's 156-year history, this time has also shown a spotlight on the importance of our mission, the resilience of our team, our ability to quickly respond, expand and adapt services, and to provide the very best care for our patients in body, mind and spirit.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our report to the 182<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and to join in celebrating our work together as a community of faith.

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