



Update: Message from Executive Director

LUM – A “Game Changer” for Many



Dear Friend,

Anne Pellegrino is a LUM volunteer tax preparer and she was smiling because she just secured a \$10,000 income tax refund for a local family. “There is just no way to understate how much this refund is going to mean to this family” she said.

“This is a real ‘Game Changer’ for them.” But the LUM Income **Tax Program** is only one of the important ways that the Lafayette Urban Ministry is “changing the game” for working families and at-risk children during this time of year.

Anne Pellegrino, through her work as a LUM tax preparer, has a special vantage point from which she is able to see and understand the realities faced by the working poor in our community — and is able to share her talents and have a positive impact in the lives of others. And that really makes her smile!

That’s why I hope you will join me in making a generous gift to support LUM’s programs. Visit our website at www.lumserve.org to learn more about our programs and to make your donation online.

Gratefully,

Joe Micon
Executive Director
Lafayette Urban Ministry

Each of the [15 Lafayette Urban Ministry programs](#) is designed to strengthen low-income families or to support and educate at-risk children.

- **LUM Immigration Clinic** serves 10 new families each month providing legal advice & support.
- **LUM After School Program** is helping to narrow the academic achievement gap each day for 50 low-income children.
- **LUM Emergency Shelter & Case Management**—this year so far—offered a place to stay for more than 200 individuals and helped many with the skills to find a home of their own .
- **LUM Good Samaritan Program** serves as our community’s social safety net and helping as many as 60 households each week avoid eviction, utility disconnections and other financial hardships.
- Last year, **LUM ID Clinic** helped 166 individuals to cut through the government red tape associated with re-establishing their legal identity and securing a photo ID.

{Read the entire letter — [HERE](#).}

Lenten Reflection from Pastor Ryan

Pastor Ryan Donoho, senior pastor at [First Baptist Church of Lafayette](#), recently published this thoughtful Lenten reflection in his parish’s March newsletter. Below is an excerpt — but please read the full version, which may be found [HERE](#).

Special thanks to Pastor Ryan Donoho for sharing this timely and powerful reflection.



Different Kingdoms

Are you more American or Christian? What is your primary allegiance?

The church is a community of people who live under the reign of God in the kingdom of God. Although we might be natively born in the United States of America (USA), if we are followers of Jesus Christ our primary citizenship is in the kingdom of God. And, although natural citizens of the USA, we are called to live as foreigners and strangers even in our homeland. Each church is to be a little pocket of the kingdom living amongst the world.

The types of things that make us uniquely Christian are values like loving God, caring for those who are marginalized and forgotten by society, living simply and generously, loving our enemies, and looking to the interests of others above ourselves. These things should instruct how we gather and live together as the church in the world.

However, it has become commonplace for churches to take up the practices of consumerism and follow American business models that at their core have values that are not in line with the kingdom of God. Consumerism is largely based upon selfishness and many American business models are based upon growing in size and profits in competition with other similar service providers. These are not the goals of the kingdom.

So, what type of church will we be? {Read [MORE](#).}

Thanks – Creasy Springs Health Campus

[Creasy Springs Health Campus](#) this week presented LUM with a gift of \$3,362.36 — with additional funds coming from monthly payroll deductions from staff. The staff at Creasy Spring Health Campus selected Lafayette Urban Ministry as the recipient of their annual Hope for the Holidays fundraising events — including Breakfast with Santa. Hope for the Holidays donated over \$500,000 to various nonprofits across four states.

LUM is so very grateful that Creasy Springs chose our programs as their recipient this year.



Pictured above (L to R): Cindy Payne, Creasy Springs medical records; Sally Miller, Creasy Springs executive director; Joe Micon, LUM executive director; Melanie Brown, Creasy Springs community service representative; Hadley Wilfong, Creasy Springs certified resident care associate.

Join us Monday – Tri-N-Run Ribbon Cutting



Join us for the [Tri-N-Run Ribbon Cutting Ceremony](#) for their new store location in West Lafayette. Tri-N-Run is a generous partner with LUM each year at Hunger Hike and the Turkey Trot 5K Run. Please support them by attending the Grand Opening of their new location (350 E State St. Suite B, West Lafayette) in the Levee near Panera Bread — **Monday, March 9 at 3:30 p.m.**

Puppies on the Porch – A Big Success



This past Saturday, the Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Chi & Gamma Iota Chapter of Delta Gamma at Purdue University sponsored “Puppies on the Porch” — a fundraiser for Lafayette Urban Ministries. Sigma Chi & Delta Gamma invited the campus and community to visit their **porch** and hang out with lots of adorable and huggable puppies — for only \$5. Early estimations are that the puppies brought in close to \$1200 for Lafayette Urban Ministry. Special thanks to the event coordinator, Rajiv Samagon, Sigma Chi, Delta Gamma and the puppies. A few photos from the event may be found [HERE](#).

New Washing Machines Needed in Shelter



This past week the [LUM Emergency Shelter](#) needed to purchase two new washing machines. After 15 years — the washing machines finally needed to be replaced.

The cost for both of the new washing machines was approximately \$1500 — delivered and installed.



The LUM Emergency Shelter washing machines are used mostly for washing bath towels and guests’ clothing. If you wish to help with this new expense for our Emergency Shelter — you may donate online [HERE](#).

LUM Volunteer Camp Counselors Needed

Picture Yourself — as a 2015 LUM Camp Counselor!



[LUM Camp Counselors](#) are needed for our week-long, overnight camp program for low-income children from 8 to 10 years old. Volunteer camp counselors must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Enjoy working with children
- Attend the entire week at LUM Camp from 11:00 a.m. on Monday, July 27 to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31
- Attend all training including the orientation meeting on Thursday, July 23 at 7 p.m.

Why not make this year the year you say "yes" to becoming a LUM Camp Counselor? For the online application for LUM Camp Counselor and additional information, click [HERE](#).

If you wish to make an investment in or sponsor a child to attend the LUM Camp program, click [HERE](#).

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