
FULFILLING THE MISSION

The Roots of Our Legacy



1858 –
*The German
Lutheran
Hospital
and Asylum
of St. Louis*

On Dec. 2, 1858, German immigrant Rev. Johann Friedrich Buenger opened the doors of the German Lutheran Hospital & Asylum of St. Louis. Located at the corner of Broadway and Geyer, this one-room clinic would expand into the Lutheran Medical Center, out of which Lutheran Senior Services and Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis would eventually grow.

1883 –
*Lutheran
Hospital
moves to
Ohio and
Potomac*



In 1868, Rev. Buenger would go on to open the Waisenhaus zum Kindlein Jesu (“The Orphanage of the Children of Jesus”). In time, this institution would become known as the Lutheran Orphanage of St. Louis. Today, its tradition of service is still carried on through Lutheran Family and Children’s Services of Missouri.



1984 – *The
Lutheran
Charities
Association
sells the
Lutheran
Medical Center
to National
Medical
Enterprises.
In later years,
LMC would
be renamed
Southpointe
Hospital and,
later still,
St. Alexis
Medical
Center.*

Having spent a lifetime helping his neighbors in need, Rev. Buenger’s legacy continues to inspire St. Louisans to enrich their community. As he himself once wrote, “The charitable ambitions of the agencies serving the sick, orphaned, deserted, neglected and poor are fruits of the faith of the children of God, accomplished through the Word of God and must with all diligence be cared for and cultivated by the Church. When operated properly, they can serve as the proclamation of the Holy Word of God.”

To God alone be the glory!

Source: “Living the Mission – A Celebration of Legacy,”
Nov. 23, 2008

150-YEAR LEGACY

as compiled by Lutheran Senior Services

1858

Rev. Johann Friedrich Buenger founds the German Lutheran Hospital and Asylum of St. Louis.

1883

Lutheran Hospital and Asylum of St. Louis moves to Ohio and Potomac.

1898

The Lutheran School of Nursing opens with a charter class of eight students.

1906

The Lutheran Altenheim opens its original boarding house in St. Louis' Lafayette Park.

1920

The Lutheran Convalescent Home is founded.

1929

The Lutheran Altenheim moves into a new, larger home built in north St. Louis.

1967

Ownership of Lutheran Convalescent Home is transferred to Lutheran Charities Association, the group that owns the Lutheran Hospital.

1972

Lutheran Convalescent Home, which eventually expands into Laclede Groves, moves to Webster Groves.

1978

Lutheran Medical Center opens the first hospice program in St. Louis.

1984

The Lutheran Charities Association sells the Lutheran Medical Center and the Lutheran School of Nursing to National Medical Enterprises. The next year, the Lutheran Altenheim opens Hidden Lake.

1995

The Lutheran Altenheim opens Halls Ferry Manor, its first HUD 202 affordable housing

community. Today, nine such locations are in operation.

1996

The Lutheran Charities Association and the Lutheran Altenheim merge to form Lutheran Senior Services. Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis became a separate organization. Breeze Park opens in St. Charles, MO.

1997

The Home Health and Private Duty agencies are established. These services, along with the outreach programs, form In-Home Services, which today also includes Hospice Care.

2001

Richmond Terrace, an assisted living community in Richmond Heights, and Meridian Village in Glen Carbon, IL, are purchased.

2002

Lutheran Senior Services begins its affiliation with Jefferson City's Heisinger Home, which would grow into Heisinger Bluffs. In June, Meramec Bluffs in Ballwin, MO, welcomes its first residents.

2003

Concordia Village in Springfield, IL, is purchased. In 2007, it breaks ground on an expansion that will make it the area's first continuing care retirement community.

2005

In Jefferson City, St. Joseph's Home is purchased. Lenoir Woods in Columbia, MO, is also purchased.

2007

Lutheran Senior Services and Lutheran Hillside Village of Peoria, IL, announce their formal affiliation in February.

2008

On Dec. 2, Lutheran Senior Services celebrates 150 years of caring Christian ministry.