



## **Report to the 2022 Synod Assembly Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod**

*Texas Lutheran University appreciates the opportunity to partner with you in the mission of Lutheran higher education.*

Highlights of the 2021-22 year at Texas Lutheran University include:

- Maintaining safe campus operations through both surges and improved times. While we continue to monitor conditions carefully, we are pleased to have been able to loosen our mask protocols this spring while continuing to see a very low case count on campus. For most of this year, we have offered almost all of our classes in-person and returned to a normal level of activity on campus.
- Fall enrollment of 1357 full-time students—representing a slight decrease in first-year students but also dramatic growth (125 students) in our new accelerated Nursing program in New Braunfels.
- Approval by our faculty and our Board to expand TLU’s accelerated Nursing program to a site in northwest Houston, which we plan to open in Fall 2022.
- Appointment and installation of Pastor Wes Cain ('09) as TLU’s new campus pastor and leader for campus ministries and spiritual development on our campus.
- Appointment of a new Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Gourjoine Wade, who brings a wide range of higher education experience and leadership in student affairs work.
- Approval by the TLU Board of Regents to launch the silent phase of an \$80 million comprehensive campaign, which will include fundraising for both a new science facility and the Verne Lundquist Student Athletic Center.
- Recommendation by the TLU Board of Regents and approval by the TLU Corporation to appoint the following new regents, effective January 2022: Rhonda Calvert (San Antonio), Tony Canty '83 (San Antonio), Irene Garza (Seguin), Charley Kitzman '81 (Houston), Rev. Steve Rode (Boerne), Jennifer Sanders '07 (Austin), Chelsey Stolle '15 (New Braunfels), Mark Whitt '87 (Omaha, Nebraska)
- Four new Corporation members appointed: Rev. Tim Bauerkemper '97 (First Lutheran, San Marcos), Annette Citzler '72 (St. Paul Lutheran, La Grange), Atlee Fritz (Seguin), Ken Gerner '64 (Kinsmen Lutheran, Houston).

- New tenure-track faculty members began in kinesiology, library, nursing, sociology, and Spanish.
- TLU continued to receive external support and recognition, including grants from the National Science Foundation, Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio, United Way of Guadalupe County, United Way of Comal County, University of North Texas Rescuing History, Welch Foundation, St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries, and Comerica Bank. In addition, 17 estate gifts totaling almost \$4 million were received in support of scholarship endowments, capital projects, and athletics, as well as the annual fund for operations.
- TLU student and Center for Servant Leadership Student Coordinator Jenna Greene was chosen as a Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellow. As part of this prestigious fellowship, Greene supported increased access to the democratic process, specifically highlighting and tackling the barriers that young people and students face. She was recently hired as a Texas Deputy State Coordinator of Campus Vote Project upon her graduation in May.
- All of these efforts and highlights align with and reflect the priorities identified through the 5 goals in our strategic plan, TLU2025.

This year has required ongoing attention to the safety and health of all of our community members, even as we have focused on reengaging our community and planning for the future of our University. We are grateful for our ability to continue to serve our students well, honor our faith and our diversity, and ensure our future, and for the support that surrounds us in this process. We are proud to be part of the ELCA's life and ministry, and we welcome your support in prayers, students, and contributions. Thank you for your partnership with us in our mission of higher education.

Debbie Cottrell  
President  
Texas Lutheran University