

Report of Susquehanna University
The Rev. Scott M. Kershner, Chaplain to the University

Life of the University

The 2020-2021 academic year marks the 163rd for Susquehanna University. The University continues to serve a religiously diverse student body, about 8% of whom self-identify as Lutheran and who hail from 35 states and 22 countries. Dr. Jonathan Green, Susquehanna's 15th president, is completing his fourth year of service. While Covid-19 brought tremendous challenges to the university, we believe we will emerge from the pandemic stronger and more resilient than ever to advance our educational mission.

Campus Religious Activities

Religious Life continues to help members of the academic community integrate faith, life, and learning. Many religious life organizations and various ministries and programs offered by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life help students grow spiritually as they grow intellectually.

Sunday worship services are held in Weber Chapel when classes are in session, welcoming students, faculty and staff as well as people from the surrounding community. The student deacon program allows select students to explore Christian service through formal servant-leadership roles.

Interfaith engagement is a strong commitment of ELCA institutions of higher education generally, and Susquehanna in particular. Twelve different religious student clubs and organizations attest to the vibrancy of religious life on campus.

Ours is a religiously diverse campus, a reality which we embrace not in spite of but because of our Lutheran tradition, which teaches that the other is to be welcomed as Christ and that education serves the common good.

In our world where religious conflicts are routinely in the headlines, the work of building bridges of understanding and cooperation across lines of religious and philosophical difference is an essential civic and spiritual task. Such work has been an important part of religious life at Susquehanna in the past year.

In Conclusion

Susquehanna University deeply appreciates the ongoing support and encouragement that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Upper Susquehanna Synod give to its efforts to be a strong and successful college of the Church. The University is grateful for Synod members Pr. Lois Martin ('90) and Pr. Robert Doll ('88) for their service to the University's Board of Trustees.