



Dear Partners in the Ministry of Our Lord Jesus:

I have some real joy in sending you this little booklet, one we have aptly named “Tapestry of Hope.” You’ll recognize it as our [annual report](#) (click on the link to read it). I’d like to explain why we have given it this special name.

Webster’s American College Dictionary defines tapestry in this way: “A fabric consisting of a warp (threads placed lengthwise on a loom) upon which colored threads are woven by hand to produce a reversible design, often pictorial.”

Think of the ministry of Jesus as a sort of tapestry of His own. Through that ministry, He wove together His concerns for those in need. Think of His healing of those with various diseases. Think of His gifts of sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, cleansing to the lepers. Think of His power to cure those tormented by demons, of His acceptance of all those in need of His hope. Above all, we know the ministry of His life, His death and resurrection not just for those of that century, but for ours as well. We live enfolded in His tapestry of hope.

As the people of God, we hear Jesus saying to us “As much as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me.” He provided the pattern for our own tapestry of hope, a tapestry designed, directed, shaped and empowered by Him.

I want to thank you personally for your own part in the weaving of this tapestry of hope for those in need. Your gifts to Lutheran Services Florida are the very threads from which our tapestry is woven. The ministries which you enable through your gifts are the bits of design on it. In this little book you will see those ministries depicted, our care for refugees, for abused children, for tormented teens, for the fragile elderly, for the homeless, and others in need. Thank you for making this tapestry possible.

I also want you to know how happy I am to have become part of this tapestry of hope. I was thrilled last September to join hands with all of you, and with the over five hundred dedicated workers at LSF, and with the several thousand volunteers who stand with them. I am both humbled and honored that I was selected to carry on the leadership of these vital ministries.

So, [please read this book](#) with my thanks to all of you for your dedication to our ministry as together we continue to weave our Lutheran Services Florida “Tapestry of Hope.”

Sincerely, in our Lord’s name,

Samuel M. Sipes
President & CEO