



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

TWIN CITIES

FALL 2021



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PASTORS REFLECTIONS

*²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"*

In Lutheran Campus Ministry we are an Advent people. We sit with students, aware of what is, and still anticipating that there is much yet to come. We are called to be present for those signs of wonder, of light, and of the Kingdom of God in our midst, understanding that amongst this transitional group of young people, those moments will soon pass. We are called to steward Hope, to listen deeply, to pray, to engage scripture, and to cast a vision of God's new day.

In some ways, this Advent call has prepared us well for the new world that we are slowly stepping into. No longer certain of who we are, and not yet who we will be, we rest in the reality that we know Whose we are.

We wait, and we watch for God's light breaking in. But this waiting and watching isn't passive at all. It is active. It is anticipatory.

As we prepared for our Fall on campus, we wondered what it meant to prepare the way in an environment that is always changing, for students whose energy we can't anticipate. In a context still laden with Covid-19, in a world still marked by injustice, where students are compelled to make up for 18 months of lost time by joining every student group in sight but

lacking the capacity to do it, how do we embody the warmth and welcome of Christ? We do it with intention. We listen carefully. We move with purpose, steadily and consistently. We create spaces to integrate the last two years. We discern what challenge looks like for this community.

And it is from this place that we rise. It is from this place that we are able to see glimpses of God's new day. It is from this place that we dare to hope. It is this hope that helps us prepare the way of the Lord, it is this hope that is the fuel of imagination for the world we are called to inhabit, to reshape, to reform, to love.

In this newsletter, you will read stories of students' persistent hope, animated by Christ and enfolded in Christian community. You will read stories of the sort of hope that doesn't float like a feather, but animates and grounds a life. You will read about alumni bound together across time and space, of students' battles with mental illness, of the power of retreats to connect and reconnect, and the passion students have for addressing systemic injustice. You will discover the power of Christian community to bear witness to hope in a world which often directs our attention towards despair.

Continued on page 5



Reflections on HOPE

have imagined three years ago. I've found life after survival and I'm sustained by the hope that comes from knowing that I'm not finished.

Nathan Boe

I am a senior at the U of M studying Agricultural Business/Management and Supply Chain. I am also a member of the University of Minnesota Football team, which keeps me busy. My parents always positively encouraged my siblings and I to form relationships with God as we grew up. Hard times and challenges have always happened in life. However, hard is not always bad, and God has always been there to offer strength and hope.

Lutheran Campus Ministry has provided a positive and supportive environment to express my faith and offer weekly hope. I have only attended LCM's Wednesday night, "Pause," services this fall semester, but I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and wish that I had joined earlier. I find Pastor Kate's messages very hopeful and inspiring which provide a much-needed mid-week boost. **While my life is mostly consumed by academics and football, my faith helps create perspective, positivity and balance in my busy life.** Lutheran Campus Ministry has helped me find hope every week and maintain my relationship with God this semester.

When I think of persistent hope I think about Jeremiah 29:11 which says, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." The future is always unknown to everyone besides God, which is why we have to let go. This trust and belief in God gives me hope. When life gets hard, I often dive deeper into my faith, which is what I had to do last year.

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Viola El-Afandi

The first time that I went into treatment for anorexia, I was sure that I would be fixed. This eight-week program would put my mind "back to rights" and I'd be able to go on with my life as a better person for having made it through, (even though this sickness had been an integral part of me for the better part of a decade). Unfortunately, that's not quite how things went. The program ended. I was still sick. And I had learned how dangerous hope can be.

The story repeated itself. I would get sick, I'd convince myself that I was going to get better, I'd improve for a while, and inevitably, I'd relapse. The sort of hope that I was cultivating was rooted in the idea of linear healing and it wasn't able to withstand the realities of a complex recovery. Each time I relapsed, my faith in a good future for myself was shattered and I'd have to build it back up from nothing. It hurt. It was exhausting. Eventually, it became easier to give up on hope altogether.

Life with an unmanaged eating disorder is seldom pleasant and often short. By the end of my first year of college, I believed down to my core that I wouldn't make it to twenty. I wasn't scared or sad about it, I had simply resigned myself to the idea that since it was impossible for me to get better, my story would end there. My illness was the only thing that I could rely

on as a constant and eventually that would be all there was to me. I went through the world in a state of untenable survival.

Blessedly, that wasn't all God had in store. Near the beginning of my sophomore year, I found my way to LCM. **For the first time, I was taught that I possessed a belovedness that could exist alongside my brokenness. I was told that I was created good, that I could fail and doubt and still be utterly worthy of love. I was allowed to contain multitudes.**

I learned to grow a new kind of hope, something vital and hard-won. It's sturdier, not weighed down with certainty but built upon the knowledge that our lamentation is always intertwined with thanksgiving. It acknowledges the reality of suffering and holds tight to the fact that suffering is not the entire story. It knows that the world doesn't always act in ways that comfort us. Not all of us will make it through the storm and yet there is still a better future to work for. We will ring the bells that still can ring. Hope makes continuing worthwhile, even if it isn't perfect.

Even since joining LCM, my recovery process hasn't been smooth. I've relapsed, fallen into old habits, and had health scares. I'm not at all sure that I'll ever be completely better, but I'm almost twenty-one now, which is more than I could

THANK YOU SSF!

We would like to extend a big thank you to the U of M Student Service Fees for providing partial funding this fall for a few of our activities including homecoming celebrations, Be Fed (formerly called Tuesday Soup), student worship food and guests, Christmas party and our LGBTQIA+ Outreach public art project.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LINAE HAGGERTY & FRIENDS

Pastor Dave and Jennifer Slagle Peck – 1998 – 2002 (Top Left)

Ron and Val (Olson) Host – 1997-2000 (Top Right)

Dan and Heather (Rydell) Carlson – 1999-2003 (Bottom Left)

Mike and Linae (Patterson) Haggerty – 1997-2001 (Bottom Right)

Linae Haggerty graduated in 2001 and to this day, still experiences the profound effects Lutheran Campus Ministry has had on her life and the lives of her friends. Here is her story of how lifelong friends became a source of hope and support during the most challenging period of the pandemic

LCM has meant so much to me throughout my life, none of which I ever dreamt prior to college. I went to college with the LCM invite of “hey check this out”, and the college freshman mindset of “yeah, no, I’m taking a break from church.” Yet, the Spirit is powerful.

I met some of my closest college friends through LCM – yes, even my husband, Mike. During the pandemic, these college friends recreated Ev’nsong on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. It was reminiscent of the Wednesday night student worship services we went to on campus, back in the day. As we intentionally chose to connect with each other, had tasty beverages, and celebrated milestones, this group powered through the early and middle stages of the pandemic together. We met on Zoom most weeks, played virtual games and were thrilled when this past August we met in person for the first time in over a year, where we could actually hug each other! LCM continued to provide Faith, Friends and Fun after many years and 10 kids between us.

I am grateful that LCM is helping students forge great relationships for a lifetime.



BIBLE STUDY

HOPE AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF QUEERNESS AND FAITH

By Dana Rademacher Hansen

Did you know that at the University of Minnesota, LCM is one of only two LGBTQIA+ affirming Christian ministries on our campus? Our welcome and celebration of queer students is integral to who LCM is. It is a continuation of the wide and expansive love of Christ we embody.

As a queer person of faith who has at times had a complicated relationship with the church, I knew how life-saving and important this part of our ministry was. I began wondering if LGBTQIA+ students on campus had a place to gather, talk about the Bible, bring questions, and connect their queer identities with their faith identity. With that seed of an idea to create Queer Christian space on campus, we now have a group of 8-10 students that gather weekly for Queer Bible Study!

Through this small group, LGBTQIA+ students are not only finding community with one another, but they are also discovering scripture in new, life-giving ways ~ for some students, this is the first time reading the Bible from an affirming place, a place that says queer people are good, holy, and created in the image of God. In these first weeks, we’ve wrestled with parts of scripture that have been used to harm and ostracize LGBTQIA+ folks. Other weeks, we’ve been able to highlight the beautiful moments in the Bible where the scriptural story relates to our own queer experiences.

It is in these gatherings, in this group of queer students talking and wrestling with scripture, that I can’t help but see the radical and persistent hope they carry with them. Many of these students bring harmful experiences of the church, stories of being unable to live into the fullness of their queer identities in Christian spaces time and again, stories of when scripture has been wielded as a weapon against them. And yet, through all the ways the church has hurt and harmed, they persisted and hoped. *CONTINUED ON PAGE 5*

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January 1, 2021 – November 1, 2021

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BUILDING COMMUNITY ON AND OFF-CAMPUS!



Waiting for Breakfast – Fall Retreat



Silliness among our Servant Leaders



Apple Orchard Excursion



Lending a hand at the Food Shelf at Calvary Church



Worship & Art with guest Erin DeBorer-Moran



Outdoor Movie Night at University Lutheran Church of Hope



Pumpkin Painting Night at Grace University Lutheran Church



Outreach on Campus

**For any in-person activities we follow MDH and U of M guidelines at all times!*

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS CONTINUED...

Advent hope is a hope that clings to a promise, a vision, an imagination about how things can be; without needing them to be that way in the moment. We, at LCM, remain an Advent people.

As we co-create this church, one which is deeply meaningful for the students which comprise it, we certainly do not underestimate the challenges of living into a vision. But isn't this our advent call? The call of the future, and the call of the church? As our students grow more deeply into their identity as beloved children of God, and begin to experiment with what it means to live into the Kin-dom of God, we are "preparing the way of the Lord." And this, siblings in Christ, friends of LCM, is very good news.

We remain grateful for your support as we stretch out into this uncharted new future, confident in the grace and love of God.
– Pastor Kate

NATHAN'S REFLECTIONS CONTINUED...

During 2020, while the COVID-19 pandemic was happening, my sweet mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. She went through several surgeries and also chemotherapy. With the most positive attitude, incredibly strong faith and the help of the amazing Mayo Clinic, my mother is now completely healthy. While this was a very hard time, we became even closer as a family. God is the one true constant in my life, which is why it was so crucial to pour my trust in him even more over the past year. With persistent hope in God and understanding of his grace, my faith helped serve as an anchor during these difficult times.

Knowing that God has a plan for my future gives me hope and allows me to persistently trust in Him.

Now my mother is healthy, school is going well, we are having a great season as a football team, I have found a positive and supportive family at LCM, and my faith in God is stronger than ever. Life is good. It is good to have hope!

QUEERNESS & HOPE CONTINUED...

They searched Instagram and found flyers on campus. They took a risk and showed up in community together ~ all searching for a faith community where they can find belonging, be affirmed in all who they are, and to talk with other queer people about God and faith. I can only say thanks be to God for the gift these students bring to our community and the world, and for all the ways they embody a radical, persistent hope at the intersections of their faith and queer identities.



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Boysen Olson

Being born and raised in rural Northern Minnesota, I knew that a lot of things about my everyday life would change, as I made the transition to living in the Cities. One of the things that I knew I wanted to take with me on my college journey was my faith; and LCM has not only helped me sustain that faith through this transition so far, but only helped strengthen that faith. I'm a pastor's kid, so I've grown up with the church being an integral part of my life.

I knew I was going to be active in a faith community somewhere, but now I was able to "shop" for my church. What "sold" me on LCM was the camaraderie and openness of the community and how committed the church is to being a positive impact on the community around it.

One of the main reasons I chose the U was the diversity of the campus. I feel that taking any chance I can through LCM to be of service in the world around me is time well spent. At this current juncture of history, I can think of few other places on earth where showing God's love in the world around you is more important than Minneapolis. To be in a group of students who shares a commitment to loving our neighbors is truly a gift.

I am so grateful to the people who make this amazing community possible. Having this environment of sympathy and empathy open to all those that need it is a blessing and all I can hope to do is to spread that blessing to more people. I can't wait to see how this community will affect me in the future and how I can positively impact the world around me.

HELLOS & GOODBYES

Thank you to Molly Hawkins, Brian Swanson, Kathryn Tiede, Tim Westermeyer and Kegan Zimmerman for your service on the Board of Directors. Your time, expertise, discernment and decision making has helped strengthen and grow this ministry.

We extend a warm welcome to the new members that joined the board this year: Emma Hjelle, Nick Foreman and Paige Rohman. We are excited to invite you in to this journey of stewardship of our ministry.

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