



# LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

## TWIN CITIES

SPRING 2022



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## PASTORS REFLECTIONS

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat arising green...*

*Now the Green Blade Rises, ELW 379*

If anything has been revealed over the couple last years, it is that cycles of death and new life are always present. God is always making something new, in us and around us. It is simply up to us to open our eyes. Whether we're living in pandemic time or not, in so many ways, late spring, which is almost always Easter in our liturgical life, mirrors the blessings we experience on campus as we close out the Spring Semester.

As we have walked through the pandemic, and Uprising, and now watched the invasion of Ukraine; as we watch the climate crisis unfold and economic markets rise and fall, it is clear that we are living in a world marked with uncertainty. Students feel this acutely as they look out into their future, into our future.

And, just as it is clear we are in an uncertain world, it is also clear that our call as Christians remains an Easter call. We are called to bear witness to both suffering and new life, clinging to the promise of Christ's resurrection. And, we are called to live as resurrection people, generously and faithfully, even amidst a lot of uncertainty.

In this newsletter, we celebrate all of the ways New Life is present in this ministry, and the ways so many of our students, and so many of you, are living faithful and generous lives in the

midst of all that is uncertain. In this newsletter, you'll read about students returning from Spring Break, animated by close encounters with the Holy, and inspired to put their faith in action. You'll read excerpts from student leader applicants about the transformative impact LCM has had on individual lives. In our alumni spotlight, you'll hear about the ways that LCM has shaped former students and you'll hear stories about metro churches welcoming student preachers throughout the Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods for LCM Sunday.

And as the pastor of this transitional, ever dying, ever rising community, I get to proclaim the good news that God is, indeed, at work on campus and at work in this world. I get to proclaim the counter cultural story that the church, isn't, in fact dead - but that God is at work, making something new. As I encounter students, and bear witness to their compassion, their courage, and their deep hunger for God, it is my great pleasure and call to share their stories with all of you - the people who make our work on campus possible.

You all, through your encouragement, prayers, and financial support, are co-workers in the Gospel with me, with our servant leaders, and our board of directors. We are so grateful for you, and for the transformative, life giving, resurrected God we follow.

~ Pastor Kate

## GO FORTH WITH GOOD COURAGE

On May 1<sup>st</sup> we will bless and send our seniors on to their next adventures. Our hearts burst with joy as we reflect on our precious time together on campus. Our hope in the future is strong knowing these young-adults will be leading the way. Here are our senior's reflections.



### DYLAN BLOM

I will move to Boston with my fiancée, Mara and will be working

with HNTB's Roadway Design team designing roads for Massachusetts! I understand my call in the world to be to help people through Civil Engineering (infrastructure helps everyone) and Spirituality/Religion (reorienting myself to be like Jesus was). The never-ending opportunities offered by LCM such as racial justice reckoning, volunteering at a food shelf, and promoting self-love and self-awareness have really shaped my call.



### CLAIRE BUSSE

I hope to be working in the pediatric and family mental health sphere in

Minneapolis. Through LCM I have learned how to listen to God's calling for me through the opportunities this community has provided. I understand my call to be tied up with justice and equity work, and through this I want to provide early intervention for underserved families with young children struggling with behavioral and mental health.



### VIOLA ELAFANDI

I plan to work in my field of Ecology at a

local nature center or field work. I'm still working out what my calling is. The closest thing that I've been able to figure out is about paying attention, watching the world and thinking about what it means. This is what makes me a good scientist. My time at LCM has helped me learn that there's a whole lot more to me than science, though, and that same kind of devotion can be turned to things like theology and poetry.



### NICK FORMAN

Next school year, I'll start a PhD at George Washington University

in Washington DC studying exercise physiology. LCM has helped me balance out pieces of my life that are important to a call but aren't emphasized in other parts of my life. Empathy, advocacy, and racial justice are some that come to mind. Throughout my time with

LCM, I've been reminded of the importance of these things, and I don't know that they would still be at the forefront of my mind without LCM.



### EMMA HJELLE

I plan to stay in the cities and will likely travel a bit

as well. I understand my call in the world to be one in solidarity with oppressed people's everywhere, to work for all liberation as Jesus did. I don't know how this will look, but I hope to be involved in grassroots organizing. I think that LCM has helped shape this call for me by making it clear that this is a purpose as a Christian and showing me that radical people can exist in Christianity.



### MARA POLLMAN

I will move to Boston, MA with my fiancé

Dylan. I hope to travel and find work that is meaningful to me within the product design engineering industry. LCM has helped me realize the type of person I want to be and how I want to show up in my relationships and my spaces. I have begun to understand my call in the world to be showing up genuinely with my full, human self. I hope to be able to consistently show up fully and stand up for what's right through all that I do.



### MADISON SHCUMACHER

I will be working in the

hospitals likely still as a medical scribe and hopefully as an EMT while I apply to medical schools. I feel called to serve others through sharing knowledge and advice related to healthcare, I will also continue to work for and advocate for the disabled community. I really enjoy serving others through food as well and LCM has given me the opportunity to do that. It is a great space to build community and give others that necessity for life.



### JORDAN SMELTER

I look forward to finding a job within the healthcare IT industry. My call feels to be to

help as many people for the better as I can throughout my life. LCM has provided me a space for community whether I'm feeling strong or weak, with no pressure to conform to any written ideals or norms. It has given me space to find myself within an accepting community and has challenged me to grow.



### JENNA VON HOLTUM

Next year I will begin a Masters of Education

program. I plan to be teaching for the next few years, unless something else in the childcare and development field calls me. With all the social unrest being exposed in the last couple years, teaching seems like the most authentic way for me to contribute to fighting for a difference in our future.



### LYDIA WEISENBURGER

After graduation I plan to build my personal

financial planning practice at Northwestern Mutual. In five years I hope to still be doing financial planning, hopefully continuing to open those spaces for other women to thrive. I think my personal calling is to create more love in the world through caring for others as well as inviting people into a relationship with themselves that creates more space for love.



### ANDREW FRIETAG

I'll be working as a credit analyst at a

company in Philadelphia I interpret my call in this world to mean working in a way such that those around me are uplifted and empowered. LCM served as a pillar in the establishment of my call by enabling me the opportunity to build relationships with new people. These experiences at LCM revealed to me the joy felt when those around you flourish.

### The Prayer of Good Courage

*Oh God, you have called us to ventures where we cannot see the end. By paths never yet taken, through perils unknown. Give us good courage, not knowing where we go. To know that your hand is leading us, wherever we might go. Amen.*



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LAURA MCDOWELL

Laura McDowell participated in LCM from 2009 – 2013. In June 2021, she graduated from Ob/Gyn residency from the rival UW Madison Badgers but found her way back to Minnesota and is working in Willmar. She participated in the first Ob/Gyn Rural Residency program in the nation and is now living her dream of working in a rural community providing Ob/Gyn care to this community and its surrounding area.

She also loves visiting National Parks and is looking forward to traveling to Acadia NP this fall with her parents as a part of a road camping trip. We asked Laura to share how her life was shaped by her time at LCM. Here is what she wrote.

LCM allowed me opportunities to engage more fully and think more critically about my relationship with God and others in this world. Having deeper conversations and going beyond the surface level was integral to the community and was something I was craving in college that no other class or friend groups were providing. Practicing having these kinds of conversations and wrestling with different challenges presented from people alike and different from me were helpful in shaping me into who I've become today. One of the best examples that demonstrates this drive to understand others and engage in these kinds of conversations was when LCM took a spring break trip to New York City with the Muslim Students Association on campus. We visited Ground Zero and discussed the differences between radical religious practices and where our respective faiths were on the spectrum. We were welcomed to a mosque to experience worship in a more physical way with prayer practices. We had real conversations about what we were all curious about and it allowed me to gain a very different perspective than what I had prior to the trip.

I am so grateful for my time with LCM. I have chosen to support this organization because I have the personal experience of how beneficial LCM was to me when attending the U and even afterwards. The community that LCM creates is long lasting and far reaching. LCM provided a space for me to expand my sense of self socially and ethically, not just my academic prowess. I feel like my participation in LCM made me a more well-rounded person and helped me to see beyond myself. These are skills that are becoming more important as our world becomes more connected and we encounter more people who are different from ourselves.

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## LCM SUNDAY: CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY



On March 27th LCM-TC held its 6<sup>th</sup> annual LCM Sunday in nine metro area congregations *in person* (for the first time in two years). Student preachers worked with Barbara Lundblad, renowned preacher and LCM board member, to develop their sermons. We are grateful to give students the opportunity to explore preaching while connecting with the wider church and sharing the LCM story. It's also a nice way for high schoolers to get an inside look in to our ministry and consider joining our community when they arrive in college.

We extend a big thank you to the following student preachers Thomas Atkins, Claire Busse, Viola El-Afandi, Jonah Fuhrman, Emma Hjelle, Ingrid Otterson, Anastasia Thompson, Jessica Timm and Lydia Weisenburger for your hard work in preparing and delivering your sermons and to the congregations where they preached; All Saints Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, Grace University Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in St Paul, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church,

~ Continued on page 5

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November 2, 2021– March 26,, 2022

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## HOLDEN VILLAGE: A PLACE TO REST IN GOD'S LOVE



With the stress of on-campus life that students often experience – never-ending study sessions, tests, and deadlines – it can be helpful to get off campus, to be reminded of your belovedness and the rhythms that restore you. For spring break, we planned a trip that would help our community do this, and grow with God and one another along the way. After having to cancel our trip to Holden Village in March of 2020, our community wanted to go make the journey to this amazing village in the Cascades that has a lot to teach us about community, rest, and life balance. Students looked forward to “unplugging” in God’s beautiful creation, with no cell service or wifi, and in loving community, where they could just “be”.

*“Being away from society gave me a chance to reflect on what it means to be a human in this world and life. During one of my breaks from working in the kitchen, I just went outside and sat on a log for 20 minutes, taking in what the Earth was offering. It was the most peaceful I’ve ever felt in my entire life.” -Dylan B.*

In addition to this opportunity to just “be,” our students tried many new things while they were at Holden. Some spent time, hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, and sledding. Others took the chance to read for fun, learn new artsy skills, like weaving or gathered with Holden folks to play board games. Some rested with a warm cup of tea and a slice of Holden-famous bread or took naps during free time with no guilt. This rest looked different for everybody but regardless, was transformational.

*“The time I spent in Holden Village was one of the most relaxed I’ve ever felt. The community there had such a focus on personal well-being which, alongside the tight knit community atmosphere, made it very peaceful. Nothing felt rushed or forced and everything, even our work in the cleaning crew, was a lot of fun!” -Mikaela N.*

While being at Holden and being a part of the village life unfolding there, many of our students came back with a new appreciation and desire for balance – and are discovering ways to incorporate moments of rest, movement, discovery, community, joy – into their daily rhythms here on campus. We are especially grateful for our extended community who met our traveling challenges with generous gifts to help us cover the costs for this trip. THANK YOU!!!



### ***LCM SUNDAY CONTINUED...***

Shepherd of the Hills, St Stephen Lutheran Church, St Timothy Lutheran Church in St. Paul, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church in St Paul, and University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis. Plus, a special thanks to all the board members and fellow students who accompanied them: Christine Brennan, Tim Gustafson, Barbara Lundblad, Mara Pollman, Danny Reinschmidt, Paige Rohman, Hanna Saveraid and Jenna Von Holtum.

## **THANK YOU SSF!**

We would like to extend a big thank you to the U of M Student Service Fees for providing partial funding for a few of our activities including worship supplies, guest speakers and musicians, community meals, our Tuesday soup event: Be Fed, social gatherings and more.

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



324 Harvard Street SE  
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## STUDENT REFLECTIONS - WHY LCM MATTERS



LCM has been a place where I have had the opportunity to step back and really examine why I believe the things that I do. The opportunity to be around fellow young people who are eager to explore, challenge, and deepen their faith is something that I hadn't really gotten to experience until I got to LCM. ~ Danny R.

I leave Wednesday night worships feeling empowered and filled with the love of God which was something I was missing and longing for before I found LCM. ~ Ella M.

I love LCM because of how open the community is and how it embraces the diversity of its participants. Whether you've been a part of the community for years or it's your first time interacting with LCM, you will find support in the people that make LCM amazing. I feel like it's a space where people can be themselves and don't have to be worried about being judged. ~ Boysen O.

LCM has become a very grounding part of my week where I can just be myself as I am. No need to pretend or admit to being fine when I am not. I absolutely love the way LCM connects us with new people and with God. ~ Courtney G.

LCM is welcoming to all and sees Jesus in the same way I see Jesus - as someone who loves everyone with no exceptions. ~Lexi W.

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