



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY TWIN CITIES

FALL 2022



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PASTORS REFLECTIONS

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
Isaiah 11:1-2*

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 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 who we're, and no longer certain who we will be, we rest in the reality that we know Whose we are. That is our grounding and our hope. The community that gathers on campus no longer has a shared experience of the early days of the pandemic, nor of the Uprising that followed in the wake of George Floyd's murder. They have not walked through the fire together, but they have walked through the fire, and together we are learning what it means to be community, right now.

As the pastor of this ministry, in the late stages of a pandemic, I have become increasingly convinced that it is a fundamental responsibility of ours to co-create embodied communities of authenticity and hope. For us, on campus, grounding students in a community where

they can come as they are, be real about what their questions are, and be grounded in their first belovedness as children of God is our most important work. Christian community can be healing, and liberating. It can be transformative, and in some cases life saving. It is a gift from God.

It is from that space, beloved by God and in community, that we are sent out onto campus and into the community to share God's love, freedom, and mercy. Whether it's student's seeking out community through our weekly free meal, sharing blessings on Coming Out Day, or showing up to serve with Shobi's Table in St. Paul, our students are creatively and hope-fully embodying what it means to be community, to be church, in the 21st Century. I can't emphasize enough how this service, this proclamation, is not forced on our students - it is not a 'should.' It is a natural extension of the healing and hope that they have found in Christ, and in Christian community. And it is an honor to behold.

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CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: FALL GATHERING + FUNDRAISER, A SUCCESS!



On October 5th, friends of Lutheran Campus Ministry – Twin Cities gathered for our second annual fundraiser. Alumni from the 1980's all the way through 2023, reconnected with each other. Former campus pastor, Warren Jorenby made a special appearance to everyone's delight. LCM supporters included, students, parents, donors and congregational partners from a variety of churches, gathered to celebrate and support a thriving young adult ministry on the U of M campus. It was energizing to see multiple generations having so much fun together!

Although it was unseasonably cold that evening, nearly 130 guests gathered at the Campus Club with sweeping views of the campus. We are grateful to Bishop Ann Svennungsen for her opening prayer and setting a festive tone for the evening. Alum, Jon Buuck as well as students, Daniel Evenson, Megan Schoenbauer, and Danny Reinschmidt shared their personal stories (below on the page) of how LCM impacted their lives. Pastor Kate shared about the importance of community saying, *"There is a crisis of belonging in our culture, a crisis of community. As a church, one of our primary calls is to build and sustain community in Christ's name in and through Christ's love. This is a love that creates belonging"*.

Nate Crary, several alumni, and board member Tim Gustafson brought their instruments and entertained us with recent LCM music. A big thanks to board member, Peter Carlson Schattauer for emceeding the event and honoring Pastor Kate for her 12 years of service at LCM-TC. We are grateful to the LCM-TC students who volunteered, and to Peter Carlson Schattauer, Emma Sands Neal, Stephanie Anderson, Amy Oie and Michelle Greene for organizing the celebration. We are pleased to report that together we raised \$12,040! Thank you for your incredible generosity! We are hopeful this will become an annual tradition.

COMMUNITY CHANGES LIVES: STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Dan Evenson, Servant Leader

LCM has always fostered a sense of belonging for me. LCM made it easier to find belonging by encouraging an atmosphere where I can always show up without having to hide who I am. I never have to be anybody besides myself. An example of this for me was during the pandemic. For context, I have struggled with my mental health for as long as I can remember. When the pandemic started, I felt isolated, I couldn't connect with people through a screen or thrive in school. Because of that, I entered one of the most challenging years of my life. LCM did a great job of making people feel that they belonged during the pandemic. I found that even with a great community, it was hard to find belonging because I thought I was too broken to

belong. It eventually got to the point that I had to take a break from LCM to focus on my mental health and I was immensely supported in making that decision even though I was leaving the community. So I took a month off and when I returned I was welcomed back with excitement in having me back. In the long run that excitement saved my life because I knew I mattered to people. I knew there were people in my corner rooting me on. That is why LCM has been so important to me. It showed me that no matter how broken I feel on the inside, LCM still loves me. In receiving that love, I find it easier to love myself and with that I feel complete in my beautiful brokenness.

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Pastor's Reflections Continued...

During the Advent season, we often talk about the "now, but not yet" reality of God's new day. We are called to watch and wait for the signs of the fullness of God's restoration, of God's reign. And, as our students grow more deeply into their identity as beloved children of God and want so deeply to share that love with those who might be lonely, isolated or hurting, we are bearing witness to the "now" of that reality. It is my great delight to share pieces of that Advent hope with you through this newsletter.

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

LCM CREATES BELONGING AT THE U



At LCM-TC we regularly witness the transformational nature of welcome, the healing power of belonging, and we believe that our work to build Christian community is among our most important work on campus. We invest time and resources into expanding connections with new and returning Gophers. Through increased outreach, abundant hospitality, and engaging events, we bear witness to God's expansive love, and the Spirit which enlivens our community.



COMMUNITY CREATES HEALING

Stewart Walukaga, Servant Leader, shares his personal story of how finding the LCM community helped him through a very difficult time.

After losing my mother in 2018, I took break from church. My mother was a strong believer and I followed in her footsteps. I had some trust in God, however, most of it rested on my mother's belief-it just felt natural to be Christian. When she passed, my faith crumbled, I did not find a reason to believe

in God. A God who had taken my mother so young. So, when I moved to this sub-zero environment, I did not know how to proceed in my life in terms of faith. I had so many questions but had no answers. Deep down in my heart knew that God was there but could not reconcile it with the so many bad things happening in the world. However, one day as I sat in the peace garden, Pastor Kate came sat with me, we had a very long conversation and I asked so many questions. She did not provide answers but encouraged me to ask the questions. That was so different from the Christianity I was used to of no questions asked and the pastor knowing it all. She joined me with other people who were questioning, so I regularly attended bible study asking questions. People were friendly and except for certain instances, I did not really notice that I was the only black person. We were all united with a common goal of asking questions not settling for what is told to us but to discover for ourselves. This gave me a chance to be vulnerable, break the barriers that I had enacted between me and God.

For me, community is a place where you can be who you are, where you don't have to pretend to be someone else. The one thing that makes up a community is when people stop acting but start living their true selves. Every day in some way, shape or form we act knowingly or unknowingly for the betterment of others. So, if we can "present" our true selves as Erving Goffman calls it then that is what community is all about.

For me I found it here at LCM with the Friday bible study, knowing that I can ask all the questions, my experiences are respected and everyone respects each other's opinion. I could not ask for more. I hope that everyone here can find a community that does not require you to act so as to fit in.

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 free lunch: Be Fed, social gatherings and more.

STUDENT REFLECTIONS CONTINUED...



Megan Schoenbauer, Servant Leader

Though I grew up religious, even going to a private religious school from kindergarten to eighth grade, once I got to freshman year of high school, I dropped out of confirmation. As I got older, I started feeling more uncomfortable in church and thought that there wasn't a place for me there as a queer woman. I would sit in mass thinking about how I was going to hell, and there was nothing I could do about it, because despite my best efforts, I couldn't change who I was. I felt forced into one certain narrative where I had to have *this* specific set of beliefs and behave in *this* certain way, and anything else would be wrong. So I left.

Fast forward a few years, to when I was a freshman again, but this time at the U. LCM was the first spiritual setting where I was not only allowed to be curious and question things, I was *encouraged* to. Every piece of my identity was accepted and celebrated, and piece by piece I started healing the little girl

who used to pray that God would fix her. I started solidifying my beliefs through self-reflection and long conversations with other community members, because I was no longer afraid to ask the tough questions. Though my faith is still evolving and changing, one thing that I am absolutely certain of is that God loves everyone, no exceptions, and LCM has helped me realize that.

Danny Reinschmidt, Servant Leader

As someone who was born and raised in the twin cities and knew the campus, I figured that navigating college life would be easy for me, with little to no struggle. However, what I didn't fully comprehend was just how big the University of Minnesota is! A large school can offer countless activities to get involved in, numerous resources, and seemingly unlimited people to meet. But there can also be an overwhelming feeling that you are just a drop in the bucket, that your presence on campus doesn't really matter. I felt

this, and I'm willing to bet others have felt this way too.

When I got involved with LCM, however, it became apparent to me that the opposite was true. At Lutheran Campus Ministry, I found a community where not only was I accepted and wanted just as I am, but I was actually needed. Like I was an integral part of the community and that things wouldn't be the same without me. It feels good to be needed and something that I think so many other students yearn to experience as well, especially as they make this huge transition to college where their lives are flipped upside down. So many of them are looking for a place to be needed as their authentic selves, and I believe LCM can be that place. It's a place where searching people can come and experience the love of God in a caring community of fellow students.



WELCOME ST. PAUL OUTREACH INTERN, ERIK NELSON

Erik grew up in several places, but has lived in the Twin Cities since 2015, and is now in his first year of the MDiv program at Luther Seminary. Erik went to a 2-year bible college, spent a year working as a youth pastor in North Dakota, and finished his degree at a local school in 2020.

Having spent time in exclusionary Christian spaces, Erik is very happy to be part of a ministry that makes room for all students to receive Christ's welcome. Erik feels honored to have been warmly welcomed into the community at LCM and he's impressed by the communal spirit, vulnerability, and deep conversations he's already experienced. He has enjoyed being able to integrate his seminary studies into his leadership of a weekly bible study on the University's St. Paul Campus. In his free time, Erik enjoys spending time with friends and classmates, watching Star Trek, and playing games. He loves discussing theology, with special focus on how faith intersects with environmentalism and justice. Erik appreciates the ways LCM students are encouraged to ask questions and think critically. You may reach him by email at erik@umnlutheran.org.

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January 1, 2023 - November 1, 2023

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LCM-TC is an instrumental presence at the U of M. We transform lives by cultivating Christian community and providing space for faith and vocational exploration for young adults during their formative years of college. Through this vibrant ministry on campus we are also nurturing and shaping leaders for the future of the church and world.

We welcome gifts of all kinds from one-time to monthly gifts to our annual fund. To make a lasting gift and ensure LCM-TC's future, you may want to contribute to our Endowment Fund or designate us in your will. For those looking for maximum tax benefits you may consider a gift of stock, a designation through your Donor Advised Fund or a contribution from your IRA account (for 70 ½ plus donors). Thrivent offers giving opportunities to members and many employers provide matches as well. Please email Michelle at info@umnlutheran.org or call 612-605-8010 for more information. Our EIN # is 41-1896322.

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- **Designate LCM-TC in your Will** Legacy gifts are a thoughtful way to make a positive impact on the next generation by providing future support through a planned gift. Consult your attorney, and designate LCM-TC as a beneficiary in your estate plans.

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