



# LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY TWIN CITIES

SPRING 2023



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## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

As I remind myself, and each of you each year, 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.

I discovered my favorite verse for the old children's song Jesus Loves Me a few years ago. The band, Butterflyfish, sings:

Jesus loves me, this I'll sing.

He turns winter into spring.

Crocus breaking through the ground,

Once was lost but now am found.

We have walked through a very long and dreary winter in MN, alongside the stress of midterms, the excitement and anxiety as seniors discern their next steps, peak season of mental health crises in March, and the challenges that students face in discerning what it means to live faithfully in the midst of it all. And now, finally, we arrive at Easter.

This is late Spring on campus - Jesus, finally, turning winter into Spring. New life breaking through the ground. Those who were lost becoming found. Our students returned from Spring Break in New Orleans, animated by close encounters with the Holy, and inspired to put their faith in action. Staff continue to learn about the transformative impact LCM has on individual lives as we interview leaders for the coming year. Metro churches welcomed student preachers throughout the

Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods for LCM Sunday, and both students and congregations got to experience what it is to be a part of the whole church.

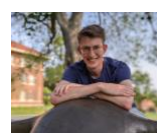
And as the pastor of this transitional, ever dying, ever rising community, I get to be the proclaimer of good news that God is, indeed, at work on campus, turning winter into spring. In this late (or even post) pandemic landscape, I get to proclaim the counter cultural story that the church, isn't, in fact dead - but that God is at work, making something new, even if it might seem buried under inches of snow and ice. 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. You help us move beyond surviving to thriving! We are so grateful for you, and for the transformative, life giving, resurrected God we follow.

~ Pastor Kate

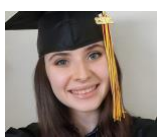
# GO FORTH WITH GOOD COURAGE

On April 30<sup>th</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.



**THOMAS ATKINS**  
Next fall, I will start a Ph.D in computational biology to study the

impact of genetics on individual responses to disease, in preparation for an academic career. I do not know where my faith journey will take me, but LCM has made me value spaces where wrestling with difficult questions about God's identity, word, and sacrament is encouraged. Wherever I end up, I hope to foster spaces like these.



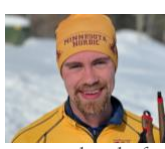
**CHRISTINE BRENNAN**  
Next year I will begin work at Medtronic as a

software engineer. In five years, I hope to be studying and developing medical devices at Medtronic, mentoring women in STEM in college, and starting independent projects! Now, I feel my call is to continue to learn more about the world and how I want to show up in it. LCM was an important part of me getting from not knowing where I was going in the world in September 2020 to finding purpose and healing where I am at now.



**HANNAH DELKER**  
This summer I will begin work as a municipal grad

and seeing where my career takes me from there. I believe my call as an individual is to act as an honest and positive member of society with the goal of improving the lives of those around me. Professionally, it may look like creating safe civil engineering designs. Outside of work, this could be volunteering for organizations or just being an intentional and engaged friend. I look forward to finding out more specifically how God's call will unfold in my life.



**GABE EHLERS-NELSON**

In July, I will begin working for Allianz Investment Management. After graduation, but before I move to Europe. If I'm still in Europe after five years, I'm hoping to be on an international assignment. I'm still not certain what my call in the world is. As a finance major, I enjoy the work, but I struggle with the inequities among employees. LCM played an important role in opening my eyes to inequities everywhere they exist through our reading of an anti-racist book following the death of George Floyd.



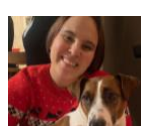
**DAN EVENSON**

Next year I will probably be at Holden Village. At the moment, I am not sure where I'll be in five years. I want to be help serve people and be a part of something that is bigger than me. LCM has shaped that by providing me a place to provide for the community.



**ELLA MOROZ**

My hope is to work for an outdoor education program. I want to understand my call to be treating others the way God would want me to treat them. My other call eventually is to be a mom. LCM has provided me with a church community and experience that aligns with my faith values and therefore aligns with my calling of how I should treat those I'm surrounded by based on further learning how I feel God wants me to live.



**EMMA MORRIS**

I will likely work and finish some coursework. In the future, I want to get married. I find my call to be one that is evolving. I feel called to many things, but most especially my passion for writing and storytelling. I think learning and listening to folks at LCM has especially shaped that, as I've met people from all walks of life with so many interests.



**CLAIRE NELSON**

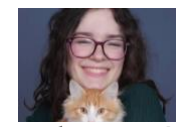
I will work with Christianity Today and on young people's spirituality. I hope to become a scholar in the field of religion. I believe my calling is to study mental wellbeing and spirituality, and in doing so, help myself and others to live into a healthy, non-fear-based Christianity. I hope to do this through scholarship, public writing, and any other opportunities that come my way!



**MADDIE SMITH**

I will be moving to Costa Rica to obtain my TEFL (Teaching English) certificate. I hope to discover new knowledge as a researcher and

share that knowledge as a professor one day. I am grateful for LCM, as it has helped to shape my thinking in a way that seeks diverse perspectives and a sense of community.



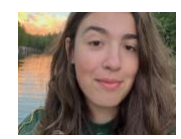
**JESSICA TIMM**

I'll be living in downtown Minneapolis. I'll be working at Northwestern Mutual. I hope to continue to mature in my faith.



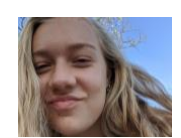
**LUKE TONSFELDT**

I plan to stay in the cities and work until September. Next, I will explore work of or lab tech, possibly at a local zoo or conservation center. I would like to explore a graduate program. I'm still figuring out who I am as a person, a Christian, a child of God. And this community has made me feel safe enough, loved enough, for me to be comfortable admitting that. I am incredibly grateful.



**LEXI WOLT**

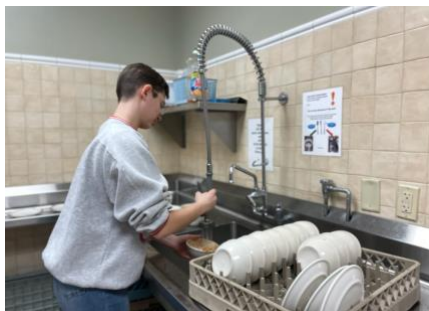
Next year I will begin my Masters in Elementary education. I hope to be connected to the work I'm called to do. In 5 years, I hope to teach somewhere internationally. I hope to be connected to the work I'm called to do.



**RACHEL STRASSER**

I'll be working as a systems engineer with Northrop Grumman in Colorado Springs. In five years, I hope to be in a test engineer position. I hope to be connected with the community I'm part of.

## BE FED: A PLACE FOR HUNGRY BODIES & SPIRITS



*“College is an emotionally and physically exhausting experience at times. Coming to Be Fed makes me feel cared for.”*

For many years, 10 – 25 students have been gathering over the Tuesday lunch hour to be fed with the warmth of community and a simple soup meal. Pandemic life certainly impacted our Tuesday free meal reducing participation to its lowest point yet. As the pandemic ebbed, we considered how our energies and resources might serve the campus in new and different ways and the LCM Staff proposed eliminating the Tuesday free meal to create space for something new to grow.

*And then* several student leaders stepped in! They fought for it, and asked for more time to see what it could become with more attention. Staff worked with students to identify a mission for the program (“a place for hungry bodies and spirits”) and possible partners on campus. Together we named it “Be Fed.” Staff supported student leaders as they met with student groups focusing on food insecurity and flyer the health sciences buildings that surround Grace University Lutheran Church. These young adults stood outside on the corner of Harvard and Delaware, well into October, enthusiastically inviting people to share in the meal - free bagels and warm conversation. As the weather cooled, they invited people inside, and asked what might make it more comfortable for these people to enter a church building. As we moved inside for soup, the outside crew followed us inside and brought their friends.

*“I came for the food ‘cause I’m broke. I stay for the people because y’all are nice.”*

Thanks to the devoted advocacy and thoughtful leadership of LCM servant leaders, we are now serving soup and bagels to 50-75 students each week. Some students are food insecure, some are lonely, and some are just looking for a sanctuary amid the press of their student lives. On Tuesdays at noon, the church is buzzing with life, and hope and warmth. None of this would be possible without our servant leaders believing in the possibility of the Spirit’s work and being supported in bringing their vision to life. We are grateful to them, and to all of you, for making this possible.



### *LCM SUNDAY CONTINUED...*

We extend a big thank you to the following student preachers Thomas Atkins, Shelby Erickson, Jonah Fuhrman, Danny Reinschmidt, Megan Schoenbauer, Lexi Wolt, Ella Moroz, Emma Morris, Erik Nelson, Ingrid Otterson and Jessica Timm for your hard work in preparing and delivering your sermons. We are grateful to the congregations where they preached; All Saints Lutheran Church (Cottage Grove), Arlington Hills Lutheran Church (St Paul), Grace University Lutheran Church (Minneapolis), Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church (St Paul), Holy Nativity Lutheran Church (New

Hope), House of Hope Lutheran (New Hope), Shepherd of the Hills (Edina), St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (St Paul), University Lutheran Church of Hope (Minneapolis) and Faith Lutheran (Waconia). Plus, a special thanks to all the board members and fellow students who accompanied them: Siri Braun, Isaac Dittrich, Emilia Erickson, Dan Evenson, Kate Gerber, Theresa Gienapp, Tim Gustafson, Dianne Krizan, Mikaela Norum, Stan Olson, Dana Rademacher, Paige Rohman, Hanna Saveraid, Peter Carlson Schattauer, Timothy Schroeder, Sydnie Staebell, Rachel Strasser, Ella Stockwell and Anastasia Thompson.

If your congregation would like to host an LCM Sunday in the future, please contact Pastor Kate at [kate@umnlutheran.org](mailto:kate@umnlutheran.org)

**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, racial justice learning, our Tuesday soup event - Be Fed, social gatherings and more.

# Curiosity, Learning & creativity Deepens our community



## Racial Justice Learning

As students continue their journey to understand how Christianity has played a role in America's history of colonialism, stolen land and slavery, they are hungry to understand white privilege, and help be a force for good to undo and re-imagine what a truly equal and just society can look like.

In March we headed to New Orleans for spring break to learn from faith communities about the racial justice and liberation work happening in NOLA. We served, learned, and played together in this historic city, all while growing together in community.

This April, we will dig deeper into Twin Cities history by joining the "Rondo Pilgrimage: A Sacred Journey of Historical Black Narrative in Minnesota" led by Pastor Danny Givens. We'll have opportunities to worship at an AME church in the Rondo neighborhood in St Paul and serve at Shobi's Table.

## Dinner and Conversations

One of the ways we model curiosity is through our Community Dinner and Conversation series throughout this year academic year. We've had conversations including Faith Science and Mystery with Astrophysicist Professor Larry Rudnick; Queerness as Calling with Professor Justin Sabia-Tanis, and Pastor Kate led a conversation on voting and values right before the election. This semester, we welcomed Professor Rudnick back to talk about Creativity, Faith and Science, Pastor Jenny Sung led us in conversation about Spirituality and Mental Health. In April, Indigenous theologian Professor Kelly Sherman Conroy will lead a conversation on Spirituality as Resistance: Caring for the Earth and Ourselves. What a joy to welcome students from across the religious spectrum to participate in unique conversations in the context of Christian community.

## Creativity in Worship

Our student worship invites students to engage with scripture, participate in Holy Communion, grow in faith and community, and pray for the world that God loves. Whether leaning into creativity during Epiphany, or learning to listen for God's call during Lent, or exploring what resurrection looks like in our world, we tend to this gathering with great thoughtfulness, simultaneously trusting that God works through us in ways that we do not always understand. In addition to more traditional worship we also welcomed guest artists. Emilie Bouvier led students in an exploration of the beauty and depth of both darkness and light using photography. Ellie Roscher, theologian, author, and yoga teacher led a conversation on embodiment, using both writing and movement as means to explore Jesus' appearance to Thomas and the other disciples.

## Lcm Sunday: connecting with community



On March 26th LCM-TC held its 7<sup>th</sup> annual LCM Sunday in 11 metro area congregations. Student preachers worked with Barbara Lundblad, renowned preacher and former 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 into our ministry and consider joining our community when they arrive in college.

-- Continued on page 5

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November 1, 2022– April 3, 2023

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## IN MEMORIAM ~ WITH SAD HEARTS WE BID FAREWELL TO BELOVED LCM ALUMNI



Donald H. Nelson (September 1925 – January 2023) was part of LSA and graduated from the U of M school of Dentistry in 1957. He worked at the Mayo Clinic retiring in 1986. In Rochester, he purchased a farm where he lived for many years. Don devoted his retirement to his passions for conservation, his farms, and his trees. He planted thousands of seedlings and worked with the Trust for Public Lands, Minnesota Land Trust, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to convert his farms to three Wildlife Management Areas that total 860 acres, now enjoyed by wildlife and people alike. We are grateful to Don for his generosity in starting the LCM - TC Endowment in 2020. His vision in all his endeavors to create a legacy of sustainability will be cherished by many generations to come.



Al Fox (1952 – April 2022) was part of LSA and graduated from the U of M in 1983. Al was born in Grand Forks, ND and grew up in Little Canada and Shoreview. In addition to a career at 3M, Al worked in education and was an entrepreneur. Al loved the outdoors and enjoyed canoeing, hiking, and skiing. He volunteered as a math tutor helping many adults obtain their GED. He was a generous supporter of Lutheran Campus Ministry providing matching dollars for Give to the Max Day which inspired others to give. He will be greatly missed by his friends and LCM family.

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