

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities (LCM-TC) thanks the St. Paul Area Synod for your consistent support and encouragement of our collective ministry with students, faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. 2021 certainly brought significant challenges to our ministry, and in the midst of them I was reminded, again, of the gift of being in partnership with you; as a whole synod, as congregations and individuals. Together, we are ensuring a stable, healthy and vibrant ministry for many years to come.

As we learned to pivot during the pandemic, we continued to hold the tension between nurturing the committed young Christians that are the core of our faith community while also extending hospitality and welcome to those outside our doors. Some ministry highlights from 2021:

- Leaning deeply into our call to work for racial justice through a hybrid racial justice retreat over winter break with Joe Davis and David Scherer, a hybrid spring break exploring the theme of wilderness with author Cole Arthur Riley, and numerous opportunities to work for justice and serve our neighbors each month of the Fall and Spring semesters.
- We returned this Fall with just 10 servant leaders in the Fall of this year, a testament to the difficulty of connecting with people online and the general exhaustion of people. And still, our student leadership development work shone as students continued to bear witness to the warmth and welcome of Christ, with creativity, courage and compassion.
- Our ministry has focused on doing a few things, doing them with depth and with a clear sense of commitment. This allowed us to focus, to get to know one another in person, and extend clear invitations to people who are new to our community. We centered our efforts on our Wednesday night worship service, our St. Paul Small Group and Queer Bible Study, alongside opportunities for students to simply be together and support one another. This “simple church” model proved to be just right for our smaller leadership group, and the unexpected demands everyone faced as they learned to live their lives in person again.
- Through the strategic, hard outreach work of staff and servant leaders in the summer, we were able to welcome many new students into our community this year. I remain curious about their general sense of grounded-ness, gratitude, and presence in the moment – which is a shift from my experience of first year students, particularly. I continue to wonder how this pandemic is shaping people, and learning with and from them is a great delight. Thank you to congregations in the St. Paul Area Synod for connecting us with your young adults, so we could incorporate their voices and perspectives into this outreach.
- In the midst of a pandemic, we sent 12 seniors, many of whom had 4 years of involvement with LCM, out into the world. Their vocations led them to law school and med school; to farming internships and the National Institutes of Health; to communications firms in Washington, DC and PhD programs. This sending is one of the hardest and most beautiful things I do. It was particularly challenging this year.

We are grateful for the many blessings of partnering with St. Anthony Park, Grace University Lutheran Church and University Lutheran Church of Hope, alongside the myriad congregations of SPAS who support us prayerfully, financially, and in so many other important ways. It is life

giving to partner with healthy congregations, and to involve students in the intergenerational life of these communities.

Pastor Kate Reuer Welton, and the Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities' Board of Directors