

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. As we moved through 2022, we realized that the effects of the pandemic were still with us, and as such 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 2022:

- Tweaking our servant (student) leadership pattern to welcome new leaders at the beginning of the Spring Semester rather than waiting for the Fall. This brought a much needed injection of energy and new life for our 10 returning servant leaders. Many of the new folks stayed on and we welcomed 24 servant leaders in the Fall!
- In the midst of a continuing pandemic, we sent 11 seniors, many of whom had 4 years of involvement with LCM, out into the world. Their vocations led them to investment banking and working in preschools with children experiencing trauma, PhD programs in exercise science and mechanical engineering jobs. This sending is one of the hardest and most beautiful things I do. It was particularly challenging this year.
- As we returned with a new leadership team in the Fall, so many of them with hearts full of a longing for justice, inclusion, and belonging for those who feel marginalized on campus and in the church. A few highlights of our Fall:
 - The students who host our weekly free meal did incredible outreach and extended abundant invitations to the meal. We are now serving 50-75 students a week. There is abundant warmth, welcome and food.
 - Our outreach team consistently extended the love of Christ through earnest invitations, compassionate conversations while they tabled, as they handed out coffee, and blanketed the campus with flyers. They were also very committed to embodying God's grace and mercy and expansive love, especially juxtaposed with the loudest Christian voices on campus that are often judgmental and can be cruel. Through sidewalk chalk, Coming Out Day Blessings, and conversations about their faith with strangers, our students are proclaiming the very good news of Christ's love for all people.
 - Developing a new partnership with Shobi's Table.
- We continue to be grounded in Word and Sacrament, and offer opportunities for service and justice work, vocational exploration, small groups, retreats, and leadership development.

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