

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities (LCM-TC) thanks the Saint 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 an embodied community, we now carry a diverse memory of pandemic shutdowns and the many social upheavals and uprisings on the early 2020s. The Class of 2024 began in the fall of 2020, with curfews and takeout meals and so many restrictions on their life together. The freshman class of 2023 carries memories of this time from their early high school experience. That is a chasm, and 2023 has revealed the very different impacts on individuals and the ways we show up in community. It is a gift to be in partnership with you; as a whole synod, and also as congregations and individuals. Thank you.

Here are just a few ministry highlights from 2023:

- In early May, we sent 14 seniors with a wide range of involvement with LCM out into the world. Their vocations led them to investment banking and gap-year programs at Holden Village and coastal California; PhD programs in computer science and masters programs in education and economics; engineering jobs with the county and medical device companies. These graduates were the seed of our pandemic and post-pandemic communities, and as they graduated a whole lot of institutional memory went with them. This sending is one of the hardest and most beautiful things I do. It was particularly challenging this year.
- In the fall, we celebrated the arrival of 18 new servant leaders! They saw the impact of being leaders in our ministry and volunteered quickly to lead, though without the background and formation that comes with more longevity in a community. Our community of leaders is young and energetic, which comes with both challenges and opportunities, of course. One of the opportunities is that these leaders need work to do, and they do it so well. A few highlights of their contributions:
 - The students who host our weekly free meal continued to do incredible outreach and extend abundant invitations to the meal. We are now serving 70-100 students (mostly Health Sciences grad students) a week. There is abundant warmth, welcome and food.
 - Our outreach team consistently invited students to the warmth and welcome of Christ through earnest conversations while they tabled, 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. We welcomed a large class of first-year students and are working hard to welcome and integrate them more fully into community life and leadership.
- 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. Our numbers were slower to return post-pandemic than we expected, but at

the time of writing (April of 2024), our community is feeling fuller than it has since early 2020.

- Last of all, our board has done tremendous work on re-organizing post-pandemic and they are hard at work discerning and acting to ensure our organization is sustainable now and into the future. Thank you to members of the Saint Paul Area Synod: Pastor Jason Bryan Wegner (Augustana, West St. Paul), Dianne Krizan (St. Anthony Park, St. Paul), Danny Reinschmidt (Christ the King, New Brighton), Pastor Tim Schroeder (Augustana, West St. Paul) and Tanya Wright (Gloria Dei, St. Paul).

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