

Best-Laid Plans

By Pastor Emily Tveite, Director & Campus Pastor

When students were suddenly told not to come back to campus after spring break last March, I never imagined that doing ministry remotely would stretch beyond the end of the academic term and certainly not into 2021. But now, as we find ourselves nearing the end of 2020, it looks as though **our ministry will continue to be primarily carried out in virtual form for another semester.** What have I learned in these COVID times?

In the late summer and early fall, it seemed as though **our best-laid plans were continually thwarted.** While I was on maternity leave over the summer, Kenzie Ruiz, our wonderful communications coordinator, Board Chairperson Pastor John Worzala Dumke and the rest of the board put lots of work into planning to carry out limited in-person ministry safely. We would meet outdoors, in small groups, with robust contact tracing. But when the COVID rates on campus ballooned precipitously in September, we found ourselves questioning those plans and abandoning any physical meetings.

Instead, **this semester's ministry has been carried out by a robust collection of virtual events.** Our Thursday night dinner and study has considered systemic racism in the church by reading Lenny Duncan's "Dear Church" together. A new First Year small group has met weekly to discuss how faith intersects with campus life. Our

Student Ministry Interns have gathered to reflect, grow in faith, and pray on Zoom two Sundays a month. In addition, **we continue to try to find ways to create the community we are known for on campus.** Zoom coffee breaks and jackbox game nights, an LCM Community Facebook group and other forms of social media.

I will readily admit that **COVID-19 has been a challenging time to do ministry,** and like all of you, I long for a time when we can meet in person again safely. It has felt as though the tools that we rely upon in ministry - casual conversations, gathering to pray, shared meals, and a supportive hug on a bad day - are of no use in this time.

In his biography of Luther, Roland Bainton attributed this quote to him: "A simple layman armed with scripture is greater than the mightiest pope without it." **Although our regular ways of doing ministry are difficult this year, we are still bearers of something stronger than any tool for ministry - the gospel of Jesus Christ.** Through the pandemic and all of its challenges, God has taught me again that the grace and mercy that we come to know in **Jesus Christ is more powerful than anything that can stand against it,** for nothing can separate us from the love of God. This is a lesson that is worthy of learning again and again, even in circumstances such as these.



Contemplative Practice Series

During this unusual semester, I'll be sharing some contemplative practices from our Christian tradition, and other traditions in a video format. The contemplative tradition in the Christian church dates back to the early church, when our ancestors in faith sought to become aware of God's presence and grow closer to the divine. Although today we often think of prayer as talking to God, this ancient kind of prayer could be better described as listening to God, or finding God's presence in the midst of our daily lives. **Follow our YouTube Channel at bit.ly/LCM-YouTube to see all the videos in the series.**

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, Wisconsin
Permit No 48

Lutheran Campus Ministry
325 N Mills Street
Madison, WI 53715

Return Service Requested

Support our work

Generous contributors help Lutheran Campus Ministry serve college students in Madison, WI. Give online by using our secure donor form at lcmadison.org. If you wish to make other gift or contribution arrangements, or to discuss a planned gift to LCM, please contact Emily Tveite at 608-257-7178 or director@lcmadison.org

Thank You

Lutheran Campus Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the state of Wisconsin.

Follow Us



lcmadison.org



winter break issue 2020
Best-Laid Plans | Remembering Pr Brent
Interns | New Rituals | Financial Report



Lutheran Campus Ministry
news

LCM Board of Directors Update

By Rev. John Worzala Dumke, LCM Board President

"Prayer is an aspiration of the heart. It is a simple glance directed to heaven. It is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy." - St. Therese Lisieux

It seems these days that we are continually bouncing back and forth from a place of trial and joy. In our daily lives **we can experience both ends of the spectrum in a matter of hours**, from news of engagements and the births of new babies, to the sad reality of a loved one testing positive for Covid-19, or hearing of yet another death due to the virus.

This has been a challenging semester for both the ministry and for the students that we do ministry for and with. **What has given us joy among these trials is our unrelenting God**, who makes God-self known through the Holy Spirit in our online interactions with students and through your continued gracious giving and support.

Our prayers may be focused a bit differently than usual this fall, but the themes remain the same - healing, hope, gratitude, and grace. **We pray for the healing of the nation**, both from the virus and the political division that has come to a head in our country. **We pray for hope in the lives of our students** as they struggle with isolation, food insecurity, and the reality of the virus in their lives. **We pray in gratitude for a loving God** who will never leave us, and for all of you, alumni, donors, and advocates of LCM. Lastly, **we pray for the grace of God to carry us all**, that the reminder of what God has done for all of us in Christ Jesus strengthen us in these difficult days and grant us the hope required to carry on for the sake of the Gospel.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, staff, and students, **thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for this ministry**, for our students, and for the work of the gospel. God's blessings, healing, and peace be with you all. Thank you for your continued support of LCM.

LCM Seminary Intern

LEIF KRATZKE NELSON

Wartburg Seminary Masters of Divinity 2021



How did you find out about LCM? I found out about LCM through my internship here at Lutheran Campus Ministries and Luther Memorial Church. **What is your favorite thing about school?** In school I loved and still love any time I can infuse my education with one of my hobbies. I especially love art projects or creative assignments. **The pandemic has been hard, what's a silver lining you've found?** I was always a bit of a homebody, so I have enjoyed working from home. Getting a snuggle from my cat is a wonderful break between meetings! I also have enjoyed getting to spend time with my wife, Andrea, as we cook, bake, and try new shows and games. **What motivates you to work hard?** I get motivated by my interests. When my work is related to something I'm really passionate about, the time flies and I am satisfied with what I do. **What are your hobbies?** Outside of church work, I love to write, draw, read sci-fi and fantasy novels, play board and video games, play piano, and bake cookies.

Don't forget LCM in your year-end giving plan. Give a gift today at LCMMadison.org/giving

LCM Student Interns

SAMI GEORGE, Environmental Sciences 2022



How did you find out about LCM? I googled it and went with a friend freshman year! **What is your favorite thing about school?** Learning new things, I really love random facts and just acquiring random skills or knowledge. **The pandemic has been hard, what's a silver lining you've found?** I've been a lot more intentional about social interactions, like making sure to check in on friends and trying to have real communication, which has been really great for those friendships. **What motivates you to work hard?** Enjoying what I'm working on, and seeing a clear final product of my work. Also coffee, snacks, and good music. **What are your hobbies?** I love hiking and being outside, and recently I've starting trying to make more interesting foods, or just things I haven't made before.

JENNA RIDLER, Biochemistry 2021



How did you find out about LCM? My friend mentioned there was free coffee and I was hooked. **The pandemic has been hard, what's a silver lining you've found?** I like that we, as a society, decided to stop giving handshakes. **If you could live anywhere, where would it be?** I really want to study infectious diseases with the CDC, so Atlanta, GA; or Athens, GA for their parasitology programs. **What motivates you to work hard?** Mostly curiosity. Even if I'm not interested in the subject, finding ways to solve problems can be rewarding on its own. **What are your hobbies?** Lately, I've really fallen in love with entomology. Being able to pull a mosquito out of midair and identify it is a neat party trick (when parties start up again, of course).

DELILAH SCHUSTER, Music Education 2021



How did you find out about LCM? I don't remember but I'm sure glad I did! **The pandemic has been hard, what's a silver lining you've found?** I get to spend more quality time with my family. **What motivates you to work hard?** Since I am studying to become a music teacher, I am motivated by my future students. Everyone deserves a good relationship with music, so I want to learn how to best guide young musicians through the many wonders that music has to offer. **What are your hobbies?** I love to journal every day, and when I have the time, I enjoy doing collage art and listening to Frank Ocean.

SAM LANZER, Political Science 2022



How did you find out about LCM? I attended Luther Memorial freshman year and they talked about it. My home parish pastor also recommended I get involved. **What is your favorite thing about school?** My favorite thing about school is talking with professors. I've had some very good conversations with mine. **The pandemic has been hard, what's a silver lining you've found?** During the lock down and summer, I lived at home. My family got to spend a lot of unexpected time together which I enjoyed. **If you could live anywhere, where would it be?** Wisconsin with a month-shorter winter.

New Rituals By Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson

Music has always been a core part of my being and a creative force where I find a great deal of meaning. When the pandemic first began, **one of the things I quickly found I missed, was singing the hymns** with the congregation. I have an electric piano and plenty of songbooks that I use frequently, including the cranberry hymnal! But my solitary singing, while nourishing, was not sufficient to replace worship.

When the hymns came up that Sunday for while I was watching worship at home, something in me clicked. Up until that point there was some nervous singing between me and my wife, where **we felt self conscious about singing the hymns when it was just the two of us.**

What changed so dramatically was the realization that if this was going to be an uncomfortable moment, it might as well be a fun uncomfortable moment. We started belting out the hymns, singing our hearts out even when we forgot the lyrics. While indeed not the same as it once was, **this new strategy warmed our hearts that Sunday.**

As we continue into winter, **we are going to continue to feel those uncomfortable modifications to our daily lives and favorite yearly activities.** Differences in holidays, family and friend gatherings, and even our perception of inside activities will change.

Worship especially can feel strange, whether you worship online or in person. As you form your rituals and spiritual nourishment, remember that sometimes these things may take on new modes and methods. Sometimes they will feel strange, other times humorous. They may take time, or they might be immediate. **No matter what or how, God is with us in it all,** and will be revealing Godself to us in unexpected ways.

Lent Devotional 2021

As we anticipate the season of Lent, Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson is organizing another LCM Lenten Devotional. Forty devotions, written by LCM students, alumni, and friends will offer meditations on well-known and more obscure names for God found in scripture. Based on Lauren Winner’s book, “Wearing God,” the devotion will help the LCM community to meet God in new ways this Lenten season.

Look for more information about this project on the LCM website and on social media. Interested in contributing a devotion or want to know more? Reach out to Vicar Leif (leif@lcmmadison.org)

Liturgy Project

This year, LCM Intern and self-proclaimed church nerd Sam Lanzer is devoting himself to the “LCM Liturgy Project,” a series of informational posts on Instagram and Facebook meant to celebrate the seasons of the church year and ground and educate us during this time when we are not able to worship in person. Sam’s posts gather pieces of the liturgy that we would normally experience in church and pairs them with thoughts about the history and meaning of the liturgical year. Check out the LCM Liturgy Project by going to LCMMadison.org/liturgy.



Welcome, Baby Vera

Pastor Emily, Paul, and big sister Eleanor joyfully announce the birth of Vera Florence Tveite, who came into the world on July 3.

The Keep Food Pantry Continues Serving Students

The Keep Food Pantry at Luther Memorial will remain open as long as we are able to serve our campus neighbors safely and in compliance with state mandates.

**Open Thursdays during UW academic school year.
3:30–5:30 pm (Closed Dec 24 and Dec 31)**



Financial Report Notes

Although Lutheran Campus Ministry has experienced some unexpected changes in our income and spending plan due to COVID-19, our financial situation continues to be strong, thanks to a reduction in ministry expenses due to the building closure, receiving a Payroll Protection Program grant, and unexpectedly receiving a sum of pass through funds from the synod that had been accidentally not disbursed over a period of several years. As we develop our spending plan for 2021, the LCM board continues to exercise faith and prudence in stewarding our resources to carry out our mission with university students. We are grateful for your continued support.

Financial Report

Income	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
Donors	\$46,871	\$36,765
Congregations	\$28,873	\$35,081
Synod & ELCA	\$75,847	\$70,160
Endowment, Grants, Building Use, Misc.	\$25,957	\$42,162
Unusual Income - Paycheck Protection Program	\$ 22,500	--
Unusual Income - Deferred Synod Pass Through	\$ 21,595	--
	\$221,641	\$184,169

Expenses	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
Building & Administration	\$43,923	\$55,325
Student Programming	\$23,807	\$26,232
Staff	\$113,048	\$122,003
Miscellaneous	\$883	\$2,171
	\$181,662	\$205,732

Net Income/Loss	\$ 39,979	\$(21,564)
------------------------	------------------	-------------------

Remembering Pr Brent

Over the past few months, we have been humbled and grateful to hear so many beautiful recollections about Pastor Brent Christianson. In the midst of the pandemic, which has made the time that we are gifted to spend with students on campus seem so fleeting and transient, **the recollections of so many who knew Brent during their time in Madison have spoken to the permanent impact that campus ministry makes on the lives of those who partake in it.**

Pastor Brent is remembered by students as **a gifted preacher and mentor**, one happy to sit down for a long chat, a lover of the Boundary Waters, and a creator of soup and community. He was a valued colleague and advocate for Campus Ministry in the ELCA. Pastor Brent was also a lifelong poet who published seven books, including "Good Grief" a 52-week devotional for those experiencing illness, loss, or other life transitions.

After being diagnosed with prostate cancer, Pastor Brent retired in 2014 and later moved with his wife Becky to Northfield, Minnesota. **We surround Becky and all of Pastor Brent's family and friends with prayer in this time of grief.**

Here we have gathered the submitted stories and photos from Pastor Brent's ministry at UW-Madison. You can contribute to this effort by going to LCMMadison.org/PrBrent

Memorial Gifts

As we continue to remember Pastor Brent, we are also grateful for those who have given gifts to the LCM Endowment in his memory. These gifts ensure that his legacy will continue to touch UW-Madison students for years to come. If you'd like to give a gift designated to the LCM Endowment in memory of Pastor Brent, visit LCMMadison.org/PrBrent.

Nancy Abraham, Madison, WI
Carl Anderson, Madison, WI
Carolyn Aradine, Madison, WI
Becky Christianson, Northfield, MN
Paula Geister-Jones, Stoughton, WI
Jeffrey and Melissa Gerdin, Lodi, WI
Ruth Hanson, Middleton, WI
Chadwick and Stephanie Helminger, Trumbull, CT
Karl and Vicki Lonngren, Iowa City, IA
Robert and Andrea Olson, Madison, WI
Sara and Kevin T Ousdigian, Saint Paul, MN
Ryan and Annie Panzer, Madison, WI
Donna and Curt Peterson, Dodgeville, WI
Jean Roepke, Cedarburg, WI
Harley and Bonnie Schmidt, Madison, WI
Jared Schmitthenner, Madison, WI
E Peter Strommen, Prior Lake, MN
Marcia Wilson, Olympia, WA



My wife and I will always remember Pastor Brent. He was always so welcome and friendly. He created a 'safe' place on a large campus where we could let our guard down, remember what is most important, and spend time getting closer to our Savior. May he rest in peace comforted by the countless lives that he impacted.

-Chad Helminger, 1998

Pastor Brent was always encouraging and teaching me to look at life in different ways. He was very open to the styles we had for worship. He always greeted everyone who walked through the building. I will miss his sermons, songs, and Monday SOUP conversations, but will always treasure them. He was a great mentor and a friend. He will be missed and his stories will live forever.

-Tony Mathew



The Lutheran Campus Center was a haven for me and a very important part of my time in graduate school. Pastor Brent made the center and Wednesday evening services part of what I considered my family and I will always be grateful for that!

-Diane Munroe, 1999

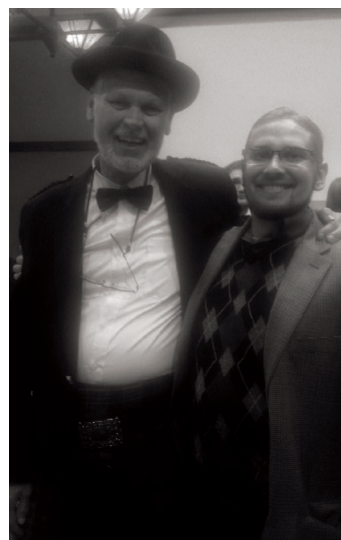
I was a member of Luther Memorial as an undergrad and got to know Pastor Brent during my undergrad years at LCC and when he preached at LMC. We were fortunate to have Pastor Brent baptize our son Emmet on Mother's Day in 2009. Pastor Brent also connected me to another new mom/UW grad where we live here in NYC that year, and it was nice to have someone to work thru the early months of motherhood with, thanks to Brent's connection. We are saddened by his passing, but so happy to know he's touched so many lives!

-Kendra Stensven, 2000



Brent was one of the first people I met when visiting Madison while contemplating a move to the nascent Lubar Institute. We talked often, though not regularly, while he was serving as LCM's chaplain. We shared theological perspectives and concerns for the future of the church. We connected. It doesn't happen often that you feel you know someone though you just met him not too long ago. He was very supportive of the interfaith work at my center. He told my students they are doing divine work. I lost a friend.

-Ulrich Rosenhagen



I was part of the LCC as a grad student from 2007-2012. Pastor Brent was one of the first people I met outside of the physics department, and he immediately made me feel welcome. Even after my time at Wisconsin, I counted him as a close friend, and I was honored to have him officiate my wedding. Brent was a great teacher and minister who influenced so many peoples' lives. We will always remember you, Brent.

-Jared Schmitthenner, 2012