

Return Service Requested

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno is a ministry of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America** in cooperation with other Christian partners in The Central Valley, seeking to engage, equip and encourage students, faculty and Fresno community members to be agents of love in the world.

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Do You Know of any young adults that are working or attending post secondary programs locally?

Put them in touch with Pastor Paul. LCM can be a place to simply belong; but there are also opportunities for leadership and the sharing of one's skills.

Warp And Weft*

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno Newsletter
September 2017

*The warp and weft are opposites that are woven together to create a tapestry, just as God merges our varied gifts to produce acts of love.

Why Campus Ministry?

This is a question many pose.
And the answers are diverse.

Campus Ministry is part of the baptismal promise made by congregations.

At each baptism that occurs in our churches, we promise to place scripture in the hands of our young people and to surround them in a safe community in which they might ask questions and grow in faith. And campus ministry is such a place; even for highly engaged students who remain committed to their home congregations, as I did throughout my commuter college career. For me, campus ministry was a place to gather with other young adults, beyond the comfortable spaces and faces of the youth group I had grown up in. It was a space to wonder and to simply be; a luxury I didn't have at my own church as I busily taught Sunday school and lead a confirmation small group.

Campus Ministry is a Laboratory...

for both ministry and education.
It's a place where unique ideas and learning can meet, and risks can be taken.

Campus Ministry is a mission field.

Every year, students come and go. Ministry with young people at a college setting is constantly evolving. Though this lack of continuity comes with its own set of challenges, it also forges a community of faith that is free from the chains of how things have "always" been done. We have an important and unique opportunity to be Christ to a people and in a place that look very different from a typical congregation.

Campus Ministry is (often) the only inclusive and fully welcoming religious voice.

Christian voices at our colleges and universities tend to be that of our brothers and sisters that read the Bible and understand Jesus a bit differently than we do through our Lutheran lens. As such, Campus Ministry is often the only place where, as the hymn many of us sing in our churches proclaims, "All are welcome!" Whether a student joins us at Common Ground, interacts with us at the Bulldog Pantry, or simply meets me briefly at any number of on campus intersections, they encounter the boundless and fantastic love of Christ. I am usually the first pastor, and often the first Christian person, that students have met who embodies the Christ that, "I thought Christianity was supposed to be about.*"

But these and other answers aside, there remains another simpler response to the question of: Why Campus Ministry?

Jesus. (duh!)

At universities across the country, campus ministry may look different today than it did 50 years ago. But the importance of shining the light of Christ's gospel of grace is no less vital.

Please hold the students and young adults across our country in your prayers as they continue on their journeys of figuring out who God has called them to be.

*The words in quote are that of a specific student I spoke with.

Trust in God,



FALL 2017 Common Ground

This year our weekly student gathering for dinner, conversation, and community will be held on Wednesday nights at 6:00 in the main LCM building. Parking is available on the street or in our side lot. Enter through the front doors facing Shaw Ave.

College aged students are welcome to join us, regardless of their educational status.

Darcy Jensen Scholarship

In honor of the great work done by former campus pastor Darcy Jensen, a scholarship was established after his death. Each year LCM Fresno awards one graduating high school senior a generous award of \$1,000.

The 2017 recipient of this award was Molly Borders, a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fresno.

Bulldog Pantry turns 10!

Join us for a Celebration Dinner in November.

After ten years of being one of many partners in the Fresno community that tackles the ongoing issue of Food insecurity, this student run and organized food pantry and university learning lab is ready to celebrate the impact we've had in the community as we look toward the future.

Student groups are working on securing some entertainment from within the Fresno State community to accompany a brief dinner, celebration, and thank you to those that have helped us make it this far.

Information about the location, time and date will go out in October.



Meet the Bulldog Pantry student leaders: Jackie Espinosa

The Bulldog Pantry is a nonprofit food pantry completely run by Fresno State student volunteers, under the umbrella of campus ministry.

"I first became involved with the Bulldog Pantry as a volunteer in 2015 and one year later I started helping out as volunteer coordinator. My time at the Bulldog Pantry has been an extremely gratifying experience. I have helped with food sortings and distributions, coordinating volunteers, and relaying data to the Community Food Bank, where we get most of our food from. Every client we serve puts us one step closer to fighting food insecurity within our community. You can support us by following us on Facebook, or contacting us if you would like to support us with food donations or, most critically, financial support."

PROV

In April, students from Lutheran Campus Ministry in Fresno attended a regional Episcopal campus ministry gathering in Davis, CA. There we met with students of a variety of faith backgrounds from Episcopal (and a few joint Lutheran Episcopal) ministries throughout the western United States (a region known in the Episcopal church as Province 8). It was a great opportunity to connect with other students on matters of faith and justice.



Lutheran Campus Ministry is only able to carry on our important and inspiring work through the support of congregations and individuals. Please consider how you might be able to support us with a one-time or recurring gift. If you wish to support LCM, fill out, detach and send the following "form" to:

LCM Fresno
2311 E. Shaw Ave.
Fresno, CA 93710

Are you a Thrivent member?
Don't forget, you can direct your
Choice Dollars to LCM!
We are in their database as

"Lutheran Campus
Council of Fresno"



Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno 2311 E. Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 224-9051

I will support Lutheran Campus Ministry by (select one)

- providing a gift to the general fund of \$ _____
- providing a gift to the general fund of \$50 (enough to cover a Common Ground dinner)
- providing a gift to the general fund of \$500 (enough to cover one month of utilities)
- Providing a gift to the general fund of \$1,000

LCM alumni? _____

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
e-mail _____ Congregation _____