

LCM Fresno

2311 E Shaw Ave
Fresno, CA 93710

Return Service Requested

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno is a ministry of the ELCA 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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Find us on face book:
Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno

Do you know of any young adults headed to or already studying at Fresno State, City College, Fresno Pacific or any other Fresno area post secondary schools? Or perhaps living locally and working.

Please encourage them to get ahold of Pastor Paul, or, with permission, share their email address or phone number with him.

Warp And Weft*

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno Newsletter
December 2014

*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.

THRIVENT MEMBERS... as the year draws to a close, remember to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you'd like to direct them towards LCM Fresno, search for "Lutheran Campus Council of Fresno."



ALUMNIT CHRISTMAS GATHERING:

Calling all LCM Fresno Alumni... or Fresno area folks that are alumni of other campus ministries. We're having an alumni open house on December 7th. Feel free to stop by for snacks, drinks, conversation and brainstorming.

It's a great opportunity to:
-connect with other alumni
-meet Pastor Paul
-find out how you can help LCM Fresno

Though you're free to drop in unannounced, if you know you will be coming ahead of time, please RSVP to lcmoffresno@gmail.com so we can have an estimate of how many people to expect.

WHEN: Sunday, December 7th, 3:00-4:30 PM.
WHERE: The "rear" chapel building at 2311 E Shaw Ave in Fresno

Risk Taking

I know the experts say not to give money to panhandlers. Research shows that cash tends to do more harm than good when placed directly into the hands of those who stand on the street corners asking. Various alternatives are suggested, from giving money to food and shelter programs to handing out gifts cards or "glove box" bags (filled with things like granola bars, socks, etc.) Or perhaps the hardest and yet most humane option of all, taking a hungry person to lunch or dinner and actually getting to know him or her.

In spite of all these "facts", as the guy in front of me rattled off his story, I couldn't help but imagine... what if I, or someone I loved, were in this situation, and no one was willing to take a risk and help? Yes, I knew he could very well be lying. But what did I really have to lose? If he were telling the truth, and he came back with the money and the cases of Coke he claimed, as a coke distributor, he'd be able to bring, I'd get my money back and LCM would get some free pop. More importantly, I'd have played the part of a good neighbor, helping him out in a time of trial. And if he were lying... \$20 wouldn't throw me in the poor house. So swallowing my better judgments, I took a risk, reached into my wallet and parted with a \$20 bill.

I never saw him again. Indeed, that \$20 would have been better off being donated to Bulldog Pantry or the Povrello house. But the whole experience reminded me of the fact that Christ invites us to take risks as we love the world around us. He certainly took risks, breaking social conventions to hang out with outcasts. He wasn't afraid to mix things up, to defy the status quo, not for the mere sake of defiance, but in order to build the Kingdom.

As we find ourselves in a changing church and hear about "millennials," "dones," and other disenfranchised folks; or as we mourn the increasing average age of those sitting in our pews on Sunday mornings. As we begin to wonder if there is a future for the church, perhaps we can pause and let go of all the facts and data and "right" ways of doing things that we've been taught or that we read about. Maybe we can manage to let go of our fear and take some risks as we seek to be God's love in this world. If we try something and fail, falling flat on our faces, we only need to stand back up and dust ourselves off. Bulldog Pantry, a vital ministry (be it secular in nature) that LCM started 7 years ago, was a risk. The original planners didn't know what to expect. Would people show up? Would there be enough money and support to sustain it? Yet they stepped out on a limb and gave it a try and 7 years later we're helping to feed 200 families while simultaneously inspiring student leaders and advocates for the poor.

There is no reason for us to fear taking risks; Christ is with us.

Trust in God,
Pastor Paul Clark



Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno is an extension of the ministry of our local congregations and seeks to augment the great faith nurturing work that is already being done in the Fresno community. We strive to serve our neighbors, to be a resource to the University community, and to help students connect with each other and area worshipping communities.



TAPESTRY

Tapestry is our weekly student gathering at which young adults come together for food, fellowship, conversation, devotion and prayer. It is a space for students to tackle questions of faith, build community, and develop collaboration and leadership skills as they plan service events and other community efforts. And it's a space to unwind, relax and have fun as we host movie and game nights and other special events.



Students hard at work volunteering at Habitat's ReStore in Clovis

At a recent Tapestry gathering we got creative and made our very own Advent wreath which we will use at our gatherings throughout the season of Advent



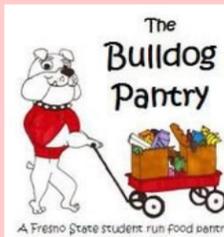
A few folks posing for a photo at a movie night hosted in someone's home

COMMON GROUND SPACE:

Several years ago, LCM received grant money to fix up some of our space for the Common Ground Project. The dream was to offer our facilities as an alternative space for student groups to have meetings. Unfortunately, a robbery rendered the space unusable late last fall, and now an ongoing leak in the ceiling requires our attention. We currently are working on securing some grants and additional funds to fix the leak and re-do the ceiling, after which the Common Ground Space will be reopened for "business." In addition to being the regular meeting space for Tapestry and the location of our unique worship services, this space is also a perfect escape for student leadership groups AND church councils and committees alike.

NHAHAW:

You're probably scratching your head in confusion after seeing that acronym. But it does stand for something important: National Hunger And Homelessness Awareness Week. This November, Fresno State participated in this national event for the first time, seeking to raise awareness by offering a week full of lectures, presentations, video screenings and panels addressing these issues that plague the Central Valley in spite of the fact that we produce over a quarter of the nation's food! Getting connected to and helping with events like this in the larger University Community is an important part of the ministry of LCM.



BULLDOG PANTRY

Bulldog Pantry is a student run food pantry that was originally started in collaboration between LCM and key individuals at Fresno State. Today it operates most Saturdays that school is in session, providing food to nearly 200 families in the area.

Bulldog Pantry celebrated its birthday on November 17th. After seven years of service, this initiative continues to bless the lives of the many families that it serves. Gifts from area

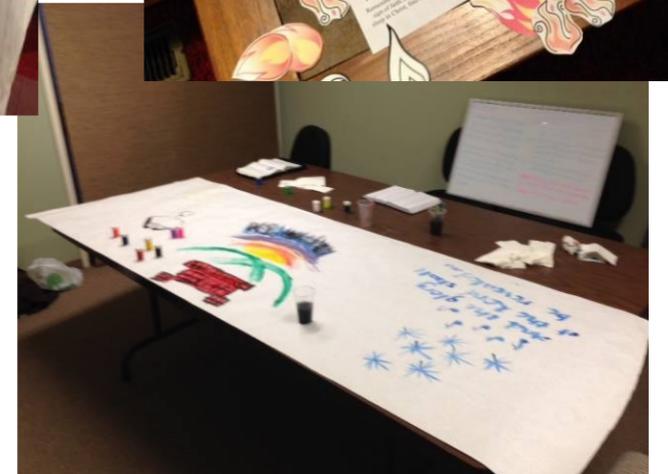
congregations like Trinity Lutheran (who provided back packs and school supplies) and Redeemer Lutheran (who provided holiday bags and boxes for families) allow the pantry to nourish not only body, but also mind and soul. Monetary donations always "go the furthest" as we order most of our food from the community food bank at excellent prices. However, we always welcome one time or ongoing food collections from companies, schools and congregations like Lord of Life in Clovis. Please contact Pastor Paul with questions about how you or your congregation can help.



ALL SAINTS WORSHIP

On Saturday, November 1st, LCM celebrated All Saints in a unique way. We had a contemplative Taize style worship service that included experiential stations that invited participants to pray, reflect and talk to God. This was a great way for us to encounter God in a perhaps unfamiliar way, and it provided creative opportunities to students who assembled the stations. There will be several creative worship experiences in the spring semester, and we welcome all people to come and be fed.

Go ahead and mark your calendar right now for Saturday, April 4th when we will have an Easter Vigil centered on "hearing" God's word through the presentation of a variety of creative responses to Biblical text. If you poses passion for writing, singing, dancing, speaking, crafting, sculpting, painting, drawing, sewing, etc., please contact Pastor Paul and consider being one of the evening's scripture responders.



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 reoccurring gift. If you wish to support LCM, fill out the following "form" and send it to
 LCM Fresno
 2311 E Shaw Ave
 Fresno, CA xxxxx

Insert Terry's pledge card info here