

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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A Roof For Many

We saw some great response to our December letter, asking for support of a much needed roof replacement project that will enable us to continue serving our neighbors and providing opportunities for university students to learn and grow. However, we still need \$10,000 to reach our goal.

The December letter invited these two options to help us reach our goal:

- Every person/group gives \$35 OR
- Every person/group that regularly supports the pantry or LCM gives \$250

If you haven't yet given to this project and find yourself able to now, simply write "roof" in the memo area on your check.

A matching grant has been offered for first time donors. The first \$1,000 of donations made from individuals that we don't have on record for making a donation in the past two years will be doubled. Your gift of \$35 could be worth \$70!

LCM WISH LIST

- ◆ \$110 to buy a Shruti Box (simple musical instrument) for use at our Dinner Church gatherings
- ◆ Volunteers to help with set up and/or food for our monthly Dinner Church gatherings.
- ◆ Access to Thrivent Action Plans—there are creative projects we can tackle together that will enrich our students and community!

Warp And Weft*

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno Newsletter
January 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.

Go In Peace to Serve

I don't know how or why, but I've absolutely fallen in love with baby sloths. Every time I look at one of these strangely adorable little things a smile creeps across my face with enough force that it seems to lift my shoulders. My mood is lightened and suddenly the worries of the world seem a little less. And right now we live in a world ripe with worry and division. Some applaud our president and want others to give him a chance, while others are genuinely afraid of having their rights and freedoms taken away. Add differences of opinion on immigration, arts funding, and climate change to the mix... and we have one mess of situation to deal with.

Christ calls us to action, most emphatically yes! No one should sit passively by while rights are stolen and people are oppressed. Even Jesus spoke and acted out at the money changers and sales people in the temple. But Christ also calls us to prayer, to compassion, and to love. Whatever side of the political fence we may sit on, name calling and expulsion will not bring change; it will only divide us further and produce more harm.

Often times the debate we want to fight on face book or even face to face, is fueled by anger and hatred. Perhaps when we find ourselves most needing to retort, we should pause and give ourselves some space. I've found that for me, posting a cute baby sloth rather than responding with the anger and hate that's boiling in my heart, is a personal practice that helps me disengage and recall that the person I'm so worked up at is my brother or sister. The picture generates, at least for me, a smile and some positivity in the midst of a situation that was growing darker by the second.

As we say at the end of worship, "Go in peace, and serve the Lord." There's a lot of work to be done in the world, and we are sent, each time we gather, not to fight each other in word wars; but to get out there and get to work as God's agents of love and change.

Trust in God,



In October of 2016, Lutheran Campus Ministry hosted a fundraising and friend making event at the Smittcamp Alumni House at Fresno State.

There was music and dancing provided by the very talented John Pemberton, a BBQ dinner made by University Catering, a raffle full of fantastic prizes, and delicious western themed cupcakes donated by Trinity Lutheran of Fresno's WELCA.

Many hands and feet helped make the event the great party that it was; too many for me to thank without inevitably missing some. But I must lift up two names— those of the stellar women who served on the planning committee, gathering for meetings throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2016. A round of applause is in order for Barbara Benedict and Lori Kamlade.

Many thanks are also extended to all who attended the event. LCM is thankful for your support and friendship.

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 \$1,000 scholarship. **The 2016 scholar was Morgan Lari from Christ Lutheran in Visalia.**

Please invite high school seniors in your life who exhibit Christian service and love to apply for this scholarship this year. Application materials will be sent to churches in March. Furthermore, 2017 applications are currently available at lcmofffresno.org

Creative Spirit

When was the last time that you sat down with colored pencils or paint brushes and created something? We too easily lose touch with our creative side as we age. Life is full of too many demands to have the time or energy for such supposedly childish activities.

Last fall during finals week, LCM, with the help of a Thrivent Action Plan, provided a space for students to reconnect with their long lost creative side. Pastor Paul and LCM student President Alondra hosted a "Creative Break" space in the student union. Snacks, music, and art supplies were provided for students to drop in for a break and a breath of fresh creative air.



Dinner Church

We ended 2016 with an extra fancy Dinner Church banquet at which we reflected on Mary's strength and bravery to sing against all odds, trusting that through the midst of chaos and turmoil, God's justice and love were - and continue to be - sovereign.

Many thanks to LCM alumni Jen Smith for her help and support with Dinner Church. Growing children have lead her to shift her energy toward other endeavors. If you'd like to help with food or set up at future Dinner Churches, please contact Pastor Paul.

Support Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno

by returning the following form with a check or by visiting us online at lcmoffresno.org and clicking the donate link (you DO NOT need a paypal account; you can donate as a guest with a credit card). Note- if you want your donation to go to the roof project, please write "roof" in the memo line.

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I will support Lutheran Campus Ministry by (select one)

LCM alumni? _____

- providing a gift to the general fund of \$ _____
- providing a gift to the general fund of \$50 (covers one Common Grounds dinner)
- providing a gift to the general fund of \$500 (covers one month of utilities)
- Providing a gift to the general fund of \$1,000 (covers a tenth of our remaining balance for the roof project)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail _____ Congregation _____

THANK YOU!

Lutheran Campus Ministry is a rooted Lutheran presence in the University community. We provide space for students to ask questions and grow in faith. We help young people step into rolls of leadership and service. We provide opportunities for worship and renewal. We feed the hungry in and around our neighborhood. And we maintain a relationship with and presence on the campus of Fresno State.

We could not do this without the continued support of a variety of individuals and organizations. Thank you! Of course, there are many other ways to support LCM and the Bulldog Pantry with your gifts of time and talent. Please don't hesitate to connect with Pastor Paul if you would like to help in some way.

Below are the individuals and organizations that supported Campus Ministry or the Bulldog Pantry financially during the 2016 calendar year. 2016 giving statements went out on January 31st. If you do not receive one, please contact Pastor Paul.

INDIVIDUAL SUPORTERS

Toni Alvaraz
Ruth Andersen
Margie Back
Sue Ann Barber
Patrick and Jennifer Barcellos
Barbara Benedict
Nancy Bickner
Erica Bird
Robert and Nancy Bird
Roy and Carol Bohlin
Arthur and Heather Borders
James and Karen Carr
Paul Clark
Jean Clemens
James Cowart
Mary Ann Dews
Dennis and Dee Donnelly
Gordon and Diane Fake
Robert and Sharon Garabedian
Allan Gaylan
Heather Glosier
Donald and Karen Gregory
Danielle and Jacque Haar
Josh Haas
Merle and Audry Hanson
Laurel Huber
David and Becki Jordan
Lori Kamlade
Katherine and Ryan Knight
Mavis and Gary Koch
Russ and Janice Kramer

Janet Lane

Lee and Jean Larsen

Barbara Lundeen

Carol and Kenneth Maul

Jeff Mc Grath

Doris McCartney

James Mendez

Zakee Naqvi

Ed and Elizabeth Nelson

Robert Oberholtzer

Christian and McKenzie Paulsen

James and Candy Paulsen

Jennifer Peralta

Eugene Richards

Terry and Lynda Roberts

Anne and Bernie Roessler

Michael and Linda Rogers

Scott Rowley

Randy and Karen Rowe

Mike and Becky Russler

John and Elaine Schomaker

Allen and Karen Schoonover

Jen and Ryan Smith

Sandra Souther

Joyce Thoneson

James and Melissa VanDiepen

ORGANIZATION AND GROUP DONATIONS

American Society of Civil Engineers
Bethel Fresno Women
Bethel Lutheran Church (Fresno)
Christ Lutheran Church (Reedley)
Christ Lutheran Church (Visalia)
ELCA Endowment Fund
Fresno Friends
Garabedian Foundation
Hope Lutheran Church (Fresno)
Immanuel Lutheran Church (Easton)
Oakhurst Lutheran Church
Peace Lutheran Church
Sierra Pacific Synod
St James Lutheran Church
St. Paul Newman Center
Thrivent Financial
Trinity Lutheran Church (Fresno)
Trinity Lutheran Church (Madera)
Trinity Lutheran WELCA (Fresno)
Trinity Mission Endowment Fund
Whole Foods Market

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"



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Additionally, there are many ways that Action Plans can benefit our ministry. Please talk to Pastor Paul if you are interested in finding a way for one of your action plans to bless LCM or the university community.