

the Luminary



Spring 2016, a newsletter of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University

Luther House Celebrates 90 Years of Ministry in Corvallis

April 26 students, staff and others marked the beginning of our anniversary year with birthday cake, remembrances of the early days of campus ministry, and thoughts about where God might be leading us in the future.



Nine decades of sharing the good news of God's mercy and grace on a public university campus is definitely worth noting and celebrating. What began a long time ago as

a modest vision has blossomed into a parade of young people who have heard the gospel and lived its call in their daily lives with the support, encouragement, guidance, and blessing of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Corvallis.

To help us track the importance of Luther House in the lives of those who participate in it, we asked a number of current and past students to share their thoughts with us. They said: "Luther House is an inclusive place full of warmth and friends." "In 1945, just as the war ended, Luther House was a home away from home for me and other vets." "Luther House offered me an abundance of opportunities for personal and spiritual growth that extended beyond what I learned in the classroom." "Luther House had a decisive part in bringing me back into the fold through generosity and simple, open friendship dur-

ing a time when I wasn't looking for it. It was a personal miracle to stumble upon the ministry there!" What a difference this place has made!

October 29 is homecoming at OSU. You're invited to join your Luther House friends for a reunion, picnic, and anniversary party to share remembrances and continue to honor of what has been, what is, and what will be. Watch for details by early fall.

Refer a Student to Luther House



Graduating high school seniors are turning their attention to the next chapter of their lives, often to be lived on college campuses. If they happen to be coming to OSU, LBCC, or WOU this fall, help us help them stay connected with their family of faith by referring them (name, address, email, phone number) to Luther House at info@luther-house.org. We always invite newcomers to be part of our ministry, inquire about their interests and passions, provide them opportunities to grow spiritually, and support them in their academic journey. We treat them well and extend Christ's gracious hospitality to them. Please help us make sure they're connected.

Recent Happenings...

Whether gathering friends for fun and fundraising, celebrating the accomplishments of graduating seniors, or joining hands with others in service to our wider world, Luther House is a happening place...

Lutherfest This Year and Next



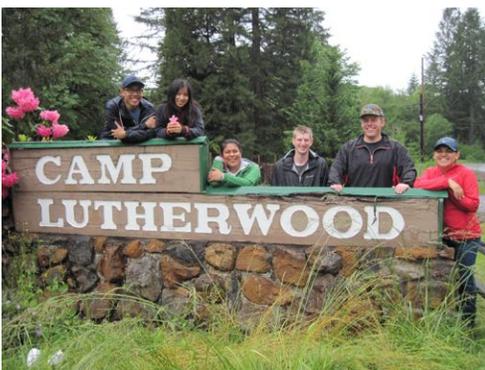
Nearly 240 people attended the fourth annual Lutherfest beer and cheese pairing benefit for Luther House February 28 at the Samaritan Event Center in Lebanon. The celebration featured new and returning brewers and cheese makers, musical entertainment by Christopher Buckley, and informative talks by Daniel Sharp, OSU Fermentation Science, and Robin Frojen, OSU Creamery. Pictured left are guests from Good Samaritan Episcopal Church who joined the festivities and posed, smiles and steins apparent, with Martin and Katie Luther. Next year's event is set for Sunday, February 26, 2017 at the same venue. Mark your calendar now. Plan to join us for another great afternoon.

Congratulations to our Amazing Graduates!



Each spring is bittersweet for the Luther House community as we acknowledge those who are completing their studies and send them on their way with our blessing. This year five students are receiving their diplomas. Pictured here are Melinda Guzman (B.S., Microbiology, beginning graduate study at OSU in Horticulture Fall 2016) and Stephen Lucas (B.S., Mechanical Engineering, minor in Economics). Also graduating are Derek Gourley (M.S., Forest Engineering/Resource Management), Ariaah Suck (B.A., Public Health, beginning law school this summer in St. Louis), and Bryan Williamson (B.A. Political Science, summer crew chief for Journey of Hope). God bless you one and all!

Luther House and OSU MANRRS at Lutherwood



For third time in as many years, Luther House joined forces with the OSU Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences program to undertake a service project together, this year at Camp Lutherwood near Cheshire. Our day-long venture was meant to be a habitat improvement project. However, the heavy rains altered our plans and we ended up preparing camp for summer guests instead. Even though we were a little disappointed we didn't do what we intended, our spirits were not dampened (note the smiles on our faces). We were glad to build stronger friendships with each other and contribute to the children and youth who will attend summer camp this summer.



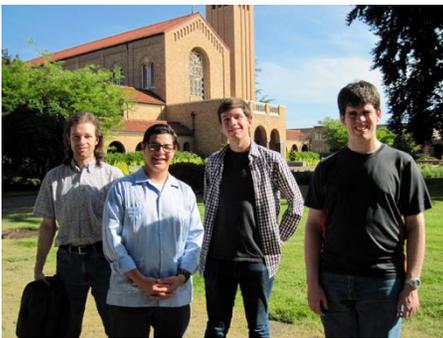
Transition

Transition is a word that's on my mind a lot these days. Students come for orientation and then settle in as first year students.

Before one notices, time has passed, they're completing their studies and moving on to work or graduate school. Likewise, some faculty and staff come to work and teach here and stay for an entire career; others leave for new ventures

or new opportunities too soon. Older alums of Luther House tell stories of days gone by, friendships forged, lives shared. They hasten to add their surprise that those same friends pass away and generations change so quickly. In the life cycle of Luther House, transition is also a word that fits well. What sort of needs will the future bring? What sort of person will one day succeed me? We can fear change or embrace it. I'm so grateful that the changeless God invites us into changing times with faith and courage. The future is God's. So are we. Therefore, we can be sure all will be well. Thanks be to God! - Pr. Jim

Patterns of Prayer



Did you know that every Monday this term we paused for brief Morning Prayer in the Luther House Upper Room? It's good to be in the habit of setting time aside to pray for the concerns of our community, the world, friends and family. Growing out of that pattern of prayer came an interest in exploring others as well. Hence, an afternoon field trip took a few of us (William, Emilio, Kevin, and Jonathan) to Mt. Angel Abbey for Vespers with the monks followed by dinner to talk about our experience. What a gift to encounter the mystery we call God through different forms of prayer that help us probe our own spirituality and find prayer patterns that work for us.

Wise Women at 23



More than two decades ago, a group of university women began meeting at Luther House each week for mutual support and to read good books, discuss them, share their cares, and pray. Twenty three years later, they're still going strong. Over time, they acquired the name "Wise Women," some of whom are pictured above. While some who started the group have moved on or died, others have joined the group as active members. It's as lively and necessary as ever. Under the capable guidance of Elin Stetz, they meet Thursdays in the Luther House living room, always with lively conversation and good doses of laughter (and sometimes tears).

Student Org Leaders



The work of a student leader is serious, to be sure. At the same time, it's not all diligence and doldrums. The photo above shows part of this year's Student Leadership Team (Kevin Bishop, Erika Cook, Ben Post, and Justin Honda) enjoying each other and their responsibilities as they make plans for activities that engage other students and spread the word about Luther House. We're glad they'll all be back as part of the 2016-2017 Student Leadership Team. In addition, they'll be joined by Chris Sims, Jonathan Marcotte, and Melinda Guzman to plan and implement a variety of programs next year. Keep up the good work and good fun, team!

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Leading the Way, Advocating for Luther House



Did you know there's an active group of volunteers that meet monthly during the academic year to guide the work of Luther House, ensure adequate resources are available for our work with students and others on campus, and dream dreams about the future of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University and Linn-Benton Community College? Pictured here, the Luther House Council includes (from left): Bill Strohlein, Erin Radniecki, Lon Tyler, Joy Jorgensen, Mary Sabatka Gamet, Alice Weber, Marcene Olson, and Frank Davis. Not pictured is Angela Dammen. Mark Bringman will join the Council in June when Joy's term expires. It's notable that these Council members represent five different Willamette Valley congregations. We are so grateful for their time and commitment to our mission on campus.

To assist the Council in communicating with Luther House supporters, friends, and alums, a team of congregational advocates has been organized to share what's happening at Luther House and ensure incoming students from those same congregations are quickly connected with a spiritual home on campus. Thanks advocates!

Spreading Joy, Changing Lives, Living Generously

Once again Luther House is teaming up with Camp Lutherwood, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and the In-Faith Community Foundation to offer two free planned giving seminars that show how leaving legacy gifts to favorite charities changes lives – Tuesday June 14 (Children's Farm Home) or Wednesday June 15 (West Salem Roth's Community Room), 6:30-8:00 pm. RSVP Virginia Mohr, 503-362-3074 to attend.

Please visit us at Luther House, 211 NW 23rd Street, Corvallis, OR 97330 or contact us at 541.753.5213
info@luther-house.org • www.luther-house.org