

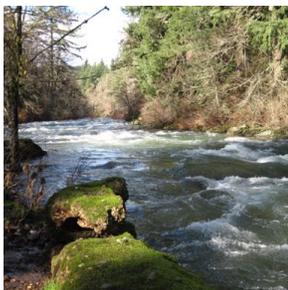
the Luminary



Winter 2017, a newsletter of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University

Pastoral Transition – The Process Is Well Underway

After much contemplation, consultation and prayer, Pr. Jim has decided he'll retire from Luther House effective August 31. He'll remain available for consultation by his successor as needed through December.



Pr. Jim says, "It's never a *perfect* time to make a change like this, but it is a *good* time to do so. We have a healthy, strong student community. The governing Council is well-equipped and gifted. Our supporters are

providing a solid financial foundation. There are numerous congregations and faith communities that believe in our mission and ministry. And we have a really good reputation on campus and in the community. I've loved every minute of my nearly 22 years of ministry at Luther House. Now's the perfect time for someone new to come and build on this rich legacy with new vision, different gifts, and a passion for campus outreach."

Anticipating this change, the Campus Council is taking steps to make sure the transition is smooth and seamless: they completed and submitted a Ministry Site Profile in November; developed a job description that reflects the new work ahead; set a timetable and budget; sent out a call for candidates with the help of the Oregon Synod and Lutheran Campus

Ministry Network; and chose a Call Committee comprised of students, campus representatives, and Council. Soon they'll receive prospective campus minister names and begin interviewing. Ideally a new campus minister will be in place for Fall Term.

The ongoing success of this ministry will require cooperation and commitment from students, Council, friends, donors, synods, congregations, and you. We're counting on you. Thanks for your support.

Lutherfest 2017



Sunday, February 26, the fifth annual Lutherfest beer and cheese pairing benefit for Luther House will welcome 260 guests, including beer and cheese vendors

who've so graciously provided their craft beers and artisan cheeses for this fabulous event. Students active in our ministry will give testimonials about what Luther House means to them, gift baskets will be awarded to lucky guests, a traveling trophy will be presented to the congregation with the most members present, and, thanks to generous sponsors and a sellout crowd, we'll realize nearly \$10,000! Wow!

Faith, Fellowship, & Fun

These three words aptly describe the scope of our ministry on campus. That we can probe the depth and breadth of what we believe in the company of others and enjoy ourselves while doing so is a real gift we don't take for granted.

Reflections From Rome



November 28-December 2, Pr. Jim had a once-in-a-lifetime experience representing the Lutheran World Federation as fraternal delegate to the IV World Congress on the Pastoral Care of International Students, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Immigrants and Itinerant People. The conference comprised of 130 delegates from around the world, of which 30 were international students, conferred on many topics related to special outreach and support for students studying abroad. Brilliant scholars, in-depth discussion groups, daily worship, and informal conversation filled each day. The finale included an audience with Pope Francis. Truly this was an honor never to be forgotten.

Annual St. Nicholas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange



What would Fall Term be without our annual St. Nicholas gathering to honor the venerable saint and bring an academic season to a close? It just wouldn't be complete! For years now, we've marked the Sunday preceding finals week with a festive meal, delicious desserts, storytelling, and gift sharing. Part party, part study break, and part pre-Christmas cheer, this year we added carol singing to the mix led by student musicians. The expression on the faces of those who paused for this photo says a good time was had by all. If St. Nicholas is known for anything, it's for his selfless gift-giving to those in need. Like him, Luther House is given as a gift for any and all by a church that cares.

The Gifts of Laughter and Good Friends



While not every day in a student's life is filled with laughter, almost every student will tell you that a little levity goes a long way to keeping them sane, balanced, and positive. One of the greatest gifts Luther House offers is a welcome space to 'come as you are,' whatever the mood, however one feels. But the gift doesn't end there. By being part of a community where lasting friendships are made, the dark and drab days are transformed by peers who can help carry the burdens that weigh one down and bring a little lightheartedness to life. The adjacent picture captures Chris, Kevin, Ben, Erika, and Kelly in a moment of friendship and laughter with an invitation to join the fun and friendship.



Deeply Honored

When the phone call came asking if I'd be willing to represent the Lutheran World Federation in Rome this fall, I wasn't sure I heard right. Then, when I

realized it wasn't a joke but a sincere invitation, I had to pinch myself. And now since returning, I can hardly believe it happened. What an amazing honor to represent the worldwide Lutheran church as fraternal delegate to the Pontifical Council's global gathering

of scholars, religious leaders, ecumenical partners, and international students. Its purpose was to explore the needs of students studying abroad and the pastoral opportunities of caring for them during their academic studies. I learned so much: how interconnected the world really is; how thoughtful and strategic the Catholic church is reaching out to young people with the joy of the gospel; how much influence American political life and our economic decisions hold over the rest of the world; how good it is to share ecumenical and interfaith work. It was an honor to have been chosen, a joy to participate. God be praised! - Pr. Jim

Reformation@500



Mid-October, a small group of campus and community leaders met to begin planning a menu of events – lectures, art and book exhibits, music events and a hymn sing – to mark the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Called Reformation@500, all events will be held between late September and early December this year. Thanks to partnership support from the OSU History Department, Hundere Endowment, Grace Foundation, Thrivent Financial, and Luther House, every event will be free and open to the public. Watch for publicity later this spring that announces specific times, dates, and locations of the various events so you can join in.

TableTalk



Every Sunday evening, six to ten students gather around the table at Luther House for a home-cooked meal followed by lively conversation around a theme for the day, learn from a guest presenter, receive Eucharist at Dinner Church, or work on a service project. Whether they come for the food, fellowship, or the topic of the day, all agree this is an excellent way to start the week. There are many opportunities we offer to socialize with others, such as our Tuesday "Come & Go" lunches. But there are few times when we can listen to and learn from each other in thoughtful, respectful give-and-take conversation. TableTalk helps us do just that.

ReconcilingWorks



January 29, along with congregations and other campus ministries across the country, Luther House celebrated Reconciling in Christ Sunday. We took time to understand the ongoing need to open our doors to those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, and questioning. We read and discussed the 2011 welcome statement we adopted when we became an RIC campus ministry. Having done so, we see there are improvements we can make in that statement and more effort we can put into truly being welcoming – and we will – so that all people who enter our doors know that they are really, truly welcomed, included, and valued here.

Luther House
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For Every Gift, of Every Kind and Every Size – Our Grateful Thanks



The winter edition of *The Luminary* always focuses on the abundant support you, our readers and friends, provide to keep this ministry thriving. Because of your prayers, voluntary efforts, advocacy for Luther House, and financial contributions, we are stronger than ever. Take note of the long list of people (insert) who supported us in 2016. Indeed we are grateful for this partnership that enables us to reach out to the entire academic community here at OSU and beyond.

How do your gifts make a difference? Your gifts to Luther House means deep friendships are formed among students, generous hospitality is extended to all who walk through our doors, vibrant faith is nurtured through prayer and service, a spectrum of opinions are welcomed in the safety of a community that respects and cares for diversity, students and others find faith-filled ways to make this world a better place, and many hear how God is calling them to a lifetime of service.

Whether you send a check occasionally, give monthly online, honor or memorialize someone with a special one-time gift, include us in your estate plan, direct a charitable gift to Luther House, designate Thrivent Choice dollars our way, make a donation at Tuesday lunch or assign your life insurance to us, you are helping Christ's light shine brightly.

In 1926 God began a new thing in Corvallis; ninety-one years later it's still flourishing. Thank you in every way for being part of this amazing, unfolding ministry. God is good. You are terrific. And we are grateful.

Please visit us at Luther House, 211 NW 23rd Street, Corvallis, OR 97330 or contact us at 541.753.5213
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