

**Luther
House**

August LuMinary

Labor of Love

(photos from the basement of Luther House, before and after)

In the fallow months of a summer in campus ministry, many hands have been busy preparing the physical spaces we share with students in ministry.

Take, for example, Canterbury House (the Episcopal campus ministry house). After two basement floods, a new sump pump, and many, many renovations, OSU students and Episcopal church members joined together to move furniture around the house. Students imagined different rooms in the house with all the potential of "third space": an important kind of place for Gen Z students where they can connect with others and build community outside of home and work. They wanted the chapel space to be a chapel again, to be set-apart sacred space for students themselves. Students said they felt the potential to grow ministry in the space.

And look at Luther House, especially the basement. It has been a great mix of church fellowship halls in the basement and the quirky things left behind in campus houses. You never know what you might find. (I once found a Luther House "Clown Ministry Kit #2" from the 1970s, complete with a clown nose, in an old trunk tucked away under the stairs). It has been a labor of love to clean out the basement; a labor of love over many years. Last summer, volunteers

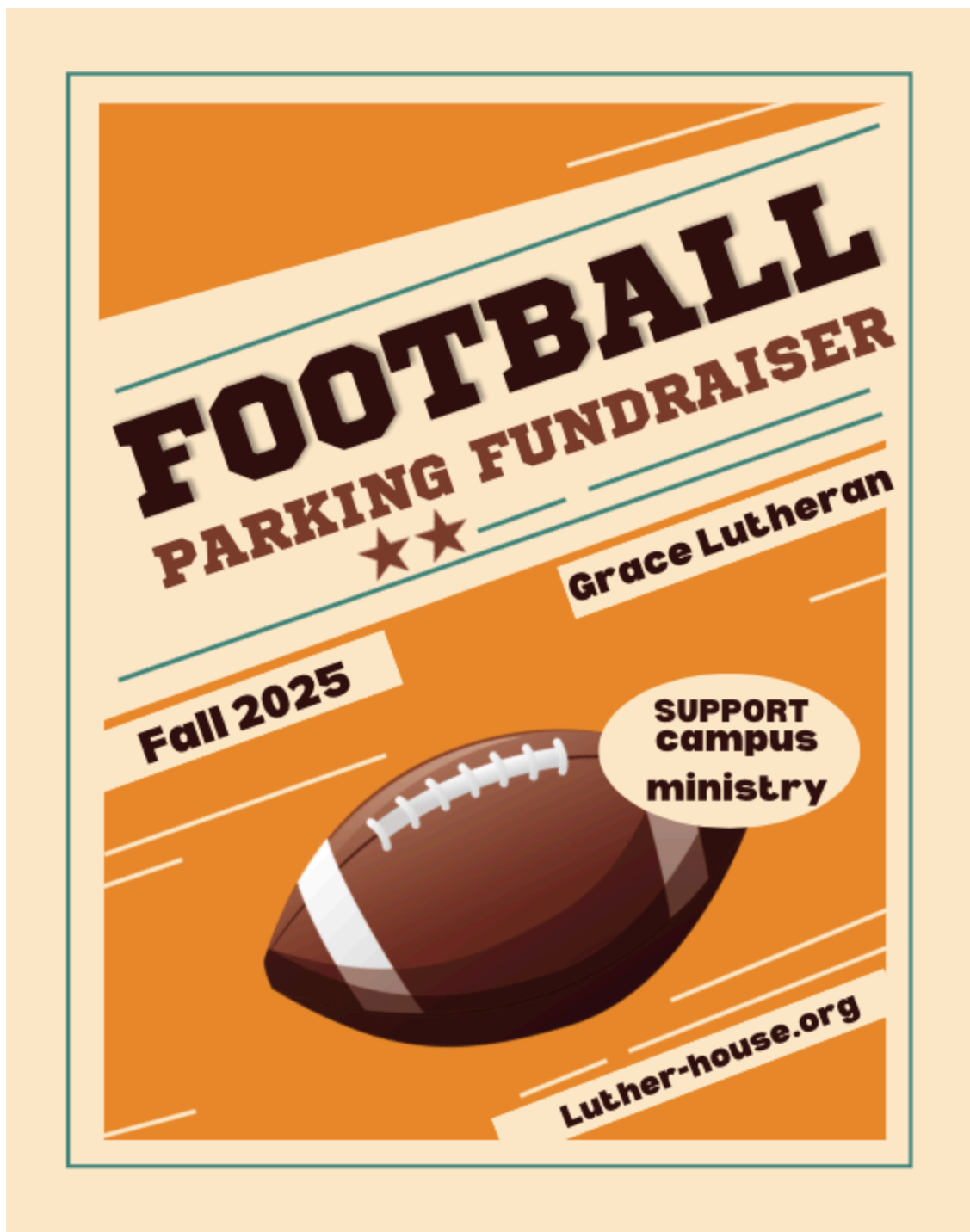
from Faith Lutheran and Good Shepherd Albany cleaned out the basement. This summer, volunteers from Faith Lutheran moved furniture and painted the floor. It is cleaner, brighter- the whole space feels transformed.

In my short time in campus ministry, I think students want a place that feels like home in the sense that they can step away from the schedule of campus and be outside of the pressure of academic life. Home at Luther House is a place of belonging, where students feel able to bring their whole selves and lives. It's a place to invite friend. Home is a place where they can open the fridge and help themselves- and they know where to put away dishes when they're done.

Frederick Buechner talks about home as a literal place we remember and a place we dream about. He writes in "The Longing for Home":

*"The word **home** summons up a place—more specifically a house within that place—which you have rich and complex feelings about, a place where you feel, or did feel once, uniquely at home, which is to say a place where you feel you belong and that in some sense belongs to you, a place where you feel that all is somehow ultimately well even if things aren't going all that well at any given moment. To think about home eventually leads you to think back to your childhood home, the place where your life started, the place that off and on throughout your life you keep going back to, if only in dreams and memories, and that is apt to determine the kind of place, perhaps a place inside yourself, that you spend the rest of your life searching for even if you are not aware that you are searching.*

Home with God inhabits this world as we remember and as we dream, and the journey of seeking home with God. As one of my students says as she quotes her home pastor, "we are just walking each other home to God." In a summer full of the abundance of hardworking hands and bodies, deep care, and continuing love for the home we are seeking to create together in campus ministry, thank you all for deep love of the campus ministry where we create home with students in their journeys.



Football Parking Fundraiser

It's that time of year! We're kicking off our football parking fundraiser thanks to our partners at Grace Lutheran, and we need volunteers. If you are able to give a couple hours to help with the football parking fundraiser, we would be

Sign up now



Summer Dinner Church

While we step away from the usual rhythms of our academic terms with meals, worship, and programming, students and staff will plan to gather together over the summer for connection and good food. Dates tbd (as determined by students).



Gather: Rivers of Mercy

Young Adult Pub Theology is on pause through the summer. Stay tuned for more young adult gathering and updates in the fall.

Luther House AUGUST Hours

The office will be open **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9 am - 1 pm**. Pr. Hallie is available intermittently this month, as she takes sabbath time.

Luther House is always available to students from 8 am to 10 pm; please contact the Luther House office for a building access code.

As the weather heats up in Corvallis, students are welcome to come find respite from the heat at Luther House. While we are still in process with the Energy Trust of Oregon to create the first off-site cooling shelter, the basement is available for students and neighbors as a cool place to play pool, hang out, and if you really have to this summer, study.



Our Contact Information

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