

## From our Weekly Listserv / Blog

Each week Lutheran Campus Ministry sends out listserv messages to students and other subscribers that include reminders about regular programs, information about special events and opportunities, a link to our calendar, plus a weekly reflection and prayer. Below you will find the first paragraph from two reflections and a prayer. You can read the entire piece on our website by using the web address below. Typically written by our campus minister, Alicia Anderson, these reflections are intended to help students connect with scripture and explore the ways their faith intersects with daily life.



### 4 October 2022 / identity

Throughout this part of Luke's gospel, Jesus lays out the challenges and demands of being his follower. The gospel readings we've had in the past month or two have included lovely parables that help us see that following Jesus means a call to set aside self-interest, value others, use our resources to care for each other, and both notice and respond to the needs around us. And that's only part of the teachings in these chapters. Loving God with all that we are and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves is a huge task when we take it seriously. It is no wonder that Jesus' closest followers

cry out "Increase our faith!" in this week's gospel. They are overwhelmed by the enormous task, just like we sometimes are. >>

To read more go to: [lutheranpennstate.org/2022/10/identity/](https://lutheranpennstate.org/2022/10/identity/)

### 18 October 2022 / Weekly Prayer: Based on Luke 18:1-8

O God,  
When I encounter struggles, you are always ready to hear my cries for help.  
Fill me with faith that you are alive and active in the world and in my life.  
Show me that you are bringing more hope and justice each day.  
Help me to rely on your care always.  
Fill me with persistence in calling for justice.  
Teach me how much you care for me and all the world.  
Amen.



19 October 2021 | leaders Being in charge is not all it is cracked up to be. Sure, there can be advantages to authority and the power that comes along with it. Yet, there are also considerable responsibilities, particularly when the person in the leadership role is looking beyond their self-interest to the wider picture; seeking the best for the overall situation and the people they are leading. We've all been in contexts where a classmate, team member, or other leader used power for themselves. Hopefully, we've all also been in situations with a leader who didn't. >>

To read more, go to: [lutheranpennstate.org/2021/10/leaders/](https://lutheranpennstate.org/2021/10/leaders/)

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Fall 2022

## Lutheran Campus Ministry Updates!



**Fall in State College** is a wonderful season. With less rain and more sunshine than spring, campus and the surrounding mountains & forests are quite beautiful. When we reach the halfway point in the semester, students finish mid-terms and start making plans for classes next semester. Looking ahead at class options as they receive the feedback of mid-term grades often sets the stage for students to think more deeply about not just their major, but also their sense of calling. Certainly some students have come to college to prepare for work that simply makes a living, but the vast majority of students want to find ways to use their gifts, skills, and interests in work that feeds them and makes a difference in the world. They typically use phrases like finding purpose, making an impact, or doing meaningful work. Martin Luther would have called it vocation.

As the leaves turn and late fall and winter approach, there is something incredibly hopeful in walking with young people who are preparing for the next chapter of their adult lives. Whether or not they end up in the careers they are currently planning as lawyers, scientists, accountants, physicians assistants, music teachers, engineers, physicians, or communications experts, they will serve God and the world in the things they do.

**Vocation is at the core of Christian life;** the work we do, the relationships we have, the roles we inhabit in community, and the activities we make time for are all ways we impact this world that God loves so deeply. As students discover that they can use their abilities to bless the world around them, they see that they are part of God's love for the world. That's even more beautiful than fall in State College.

Peace,  
Alicia Anderson, Campus Minister



**PHOTOS: COVER:** Volunteers at Penn State's Pumpkin Festival in October 2022 Back: Alicia Anderson, Matthew Olmstead, Aunica Groh, Emily Beauregard, Logan Carbaugh, Front: Sydney Robinson, Brooke Sargen. **LEFT PAGE Top:** White oak tree on Allen Street at PSU **CENTER PAGE Bottom:** Marianne Brock **RIGHT PAGE Top:** David, Andrew and Sarah from Wesley PSU with Alicia, Sarah, Rabbi Rob and Emma at Hillel for Shabbat in October **Bottom:** Grace Lutheran Church in State College at night.

## Lutheran Campus Ministry IMPACT!

Through social media in May and June 2022, current students and recent alumni shared stories of the IMPACT Lutheran Campus Ministry has had in their lives, inspiring friends of LCM to help support our work and continue our ministry on campus.

**"Lutheran Campus Ministry is very grounding** for me in college. It has provided a safe and a fun space where I can grow spiritually as well as personally. I am really grateful for all the opportunities it has given me.  
Sydney Robinson (English, Global & International Studies | Frederick, MD)

**"Worship felt like it was a refuge** away from the demands of the academic world. Even when I felt like I had too much work to do, I'd still go."  
Kathy (Stern) Pennington (2001 Graduate)

**"Everyone knows how harsh college life can be.** Competition levels are through the roof. It can be hard to be heard. Lutheran Campus Ministry has given me a safe space to really be heard.  
Logan Carbaugh (Pharmacology | Gettysburg, PA)

**"You're providing a space where it's safe to be vulnerable.** Especially on a college campus, I think that's a tough thing to find, but [LCM is] definitely creating that space there."  
Christopher Messersmith (2006 Graduate)

You can watch the complete student and alumni videos on the LCM Instagram feed from May and June (@LutheranPennState) or our website at [lutheranpennstate.org/2022/06/lcm-impact/](https://lutheranpennstate.org/2022/06/lcm-impact/)

With \$5200 in challenge gifts and pledges from members of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State board to inspire additional donors who responded to our invitation to contribute in May and June 2022, **LCM raised a total of \$10,861!**



**Many thanks to everyone** who helped make this appeal a success! We are grateful for the students and alumni who shared their stories, board members who initiated the challenge, and all the friends, supporters and donors of LCM who responded!

Thank you for your important part in helping us continue to make an impact on the lives of students at Penn State!

## Planned Giving to Support LCM

**Marianne Brock serves as gift planer** with the ELCA Foundation for the region around Penn State and can help supporters of Lutheran Campus Ministry put planned gifts into place. In a donor-centered process, she will help select and implement what works best for each person at no cost.

**You can learn more** about supporting the work of LCM with planned giving from Marianne Brock at [Marianne.brock@ELCA.org](mailto:Marianne.brock@ELCA.org) or at 717-574-9066.



Visit our Website: [LutheranPennState.org](https://LutheranPennState.org)

## Interfaith Adventures—Shabbat at Hillel

**In October we were invited** to join with the Jewish community, Hillel at Penn State for Shabbat service and dinner in their new building on the autumn festival of Sukkot. Hosted by Rabbi Rob Glasser and an enthusiastic and welcoming group of students, we experienced worship mostly in Hebrew, shared reflections on the Torah portion, offered blessings, and enjoyed a delicious kosher taco bar.

**"I have been to shabbat** services before, yet this time I was struck by how much joy the students had in singing many of the prayers together, especially the ones celebrating gathering together on the sabbath," said campus minister Alicia Anderson. "Everyone was so welcoming. Since the service was in Hebrew, it was very different from our typical worship, but it also had a familiar feel."

**Each Friday at sundown,** Jewish people across the globe mark the beginning of the sabbath (shabbat) day of rest with prayer and a meal together. The Hillel at Penn State community opened a new building off campus this fall and invited LSC and Wesley to visit for Sukkot, where they celebrate the autumn harvest and with rituals and prayer, remember the years the Jewish people spent in the wilderness after the Exodus.



## Partnership with Grace Lutheran

**Grace Lutheran Church** in State College is located a few blocks from campus, in the midst of off campus student housing. Its distinctive architecture has led it to be called "the Dorito Church" in the community. Students who come to worship services or other congregational events find a community that is glad to see them. As in-person worship resumed in 2021, Lutheran Campus Ministry and Grace Lutheran resumed their partnership in welcoming and caring for students. As COVID-19 numbers stabilize, student meals on Sunday have returned. This fall we are alternating lunch and dinner each week, and students are enjoying again the opportunity to eat home-cooked food and make connections with other students.

**In the weeks to come,** a team of members will work with Alicia Anderson, campus minister, making plans for other ways to welcome students, help them connect with each other and the congregation, and offer support as they make their way through their university years. We are grateful to the staff & members of Grace Lutheran Church, State for this partnership in ministry!

