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**We are deeply grateful** for all the alumni, parents, friends, and congregations who help our ministry through their generous donations! As some Synod grants decline, we truly cannot continue to be a presence on campus without your support. **Thank you** for making it possible for Lutheran Campus Ministry to continue our work. *Gathering Students. Living God's Love.* ❤️

## Celebrating Partnership Congregations!

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Summer 2023

## Lutheran Campus Ministry Reflections



*Several times this past semester, conversation around the table at dinner with students Thursday night after Evening Prayer Worship turned to our experiences through the pandemic. Students talked about the ways their final year(s) of high school had been upended, how they did college searches entirely online, what it felt like to be masking and distancing here on campus. It seems that we have moved far enough through the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic to be able to look back, reflect, and share together about it. As we acknowledge loss and grief, we also notice signs of new life.*

*Of course, we all know that the virus is not gone, yet most campuses and communities are finding ways to navigate the risks, difficulties, and occasional outbreaks. Campus ministry staff and others who work with students talk about the mental health challenges students are facing, trauma informed ministry, and ways to help students move on from the years of crisis and uncertainty.*

*Ironically, as we hear that young people are not particularly interested in church, I am hearing how much our students appreciate the chance to step away from the demands of college life into a community where they feel seen and safe. The stage is set for authentic community as they pray and sing together, share scripture and reflection, and lift up the concerns they have for themselves, people in their lives, and the wider world. After years of isolation, students seem to be even more deeply drawn to campus ministry, where they can raise questions about God, themselves, or the world; where they can trust that they are welcome just as they are; where they will be encouraged to grow and uncover how they will bless and bring meaning to their own lives and the communities around them.*

*We are all in the midst of recovering from a wide array of losses, and still God draws us together into community where students find unconditional welcome. In a place where they are truly heard and seen, they will heal, grow, and discover how very loved and gifted they are and that God is always bringing new life.*

Peace,  
Alicia Anderson, Campus Minister



**PHOTOS: COVER:** Students after Thursday worship in Pasquerilla Spiritual Center: Brooke Sargen, Aunica Groh, Matthew Olmstead, Zane Burris. **Mailer:** Old Main Tower at Penn State, **Insert:** Steeple at St Mark Annville, PA. **LEFT PAGE:** Campus Minister Alicia Anderson this spring. **CENTER PAGE** **Bottom:** 2023 Arts Festival Poster **RIGHT PAGE:** Students & quotes from our Synod Assembly video.

## Your summer gift to LCM will be matched!

**Thanks to a generous special gift** from the Allegheny Synod Council, your contributions to Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State this summer will have even more IMPACT on our ministry: the first \$5,000 received in July and August will be matched!

**Please consider making a gift** with the enclosed envelope or the "Donate" button on our website. Your support empowers us to continue to IMPACT students' lives as they take on academic challenges, faith and identity questions, personal growth, and other tasks of college life. You can help us continue providing a Gospel-centered safe space where community is authentic, questions about life and faith are always welcome, and students are invited to discover the countless ways God is working through them and in the world.

**Our social media this summer is full of** IMPACT stories and reflections from students, alumni, and friends of LCM at PSU. These posts share the important ways our ministry impacts students' lives and faith during college years (and beyond). Take a look on Facebook and Instagram @lutheranpennstate! And add your comments at [lutheranpennstate.org/2023/6/impact-stories/](https://lutheranpennstate.org/2023/6/impact-stories/)



## Young Adult Voices

**Through the magic of zoom** and video editing, alumni from LCM at PSU shared their thoughts about what they are seeking in a faith community at a workshop for Lower Susquehanna Synod Edification Day in May 2023. In this workshop designed for congregational leaders, Campus Minister Alicia Anderson worked with LCM board members Joanna Guldin-Noll and Jon Luetggen to facilitate a 30 minute conversation after sharing video interviews from eight young adult alumni.

*"The young adults who shared their voices provided an authentic testimony to their experiences with church in a variety of expressions. Although they spoke honestly about the ways the church misses the mark with young adults, their stories were hope filled and positive. I learned much from the excellent video but was delighted to be in conversation with the young adults who were present in the workshop. It's evident that their participation in campus ministry created a hunger for authentic community, meaningful outreach and opportunity to listen and be heard." Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, St Matthew Lutheran Church in Hanover, PA*

## Arts Festival Open House!

**Are you heading to the Central PA Festival of the Arts** next month?

Stop by Lemont on Saturday morning for some snacks and community! Campus Minister Alicia Anderson will host friends of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State at an **Open House anytime from 9 am - 12 noon on Saturday, July 15, 2023.** Stay for an hour or just a few minutes. Coordinate with friends to meet before heading into the Festival. **RSVP by noon on July 13** with your name, cell and the number of people you'll be bringing to [ara2@psu.edu](mailto:ara2@psu.edu). Hope to see you in July!



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

## Lutheran Campus Ministry Makes a Difference!



**FAITH WITHOUT JUDGEMENT**  
"LCM gives me a place to practice my faith without judgement. It has definitely been one of the most positive things I've done at Penn State." Logan | Pharmacology Major | Gettysburg, PA



**SAFE TO BE MYSELF**  
"LCM is a place of community and a place where I feel safe to be myself. It brings peace to my week." Emily | Business & Psych Major | Lancaster, PA



**INTENTIONAL TIME WITH GOD**  
"LCM has brought me amazing friends and a safe place to debrief. It provides me with intentional to time to connect with God on a weekly basis." Brooke | Biology Major | York, PA



**SUPPORTIVE PEOPLE**  
"With LCM I am always surrounded by a group people who are there to support you or be there for you, even as you are dealing with a lot in college." Matthew | Acoustics PhD Candidate | Baltimore, MD

