

Devils for Jesus

Fall 2019



A Newsletter of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) at ASU kicked the year off right with their 40th annual **Labor Day Weekend Retreat** to San Diego! This year's retreat included 15 students and young adults who spent a fantastic weekend in San Diego. We left Friday night, August 30, and arrived at our church host site in the early hours of Saturday morning.



After a few hours sleep and a meal of delicious chocolate-chip pancakes, we departed for a day at La Jolla Shores Beach. We walked around the shore, chatted with some new people from U of A and NAU, tried to surf, and explored the ocean and tidepools!

Saturday evening we gathered on the Cliffs of La Jolla Shores for a reflective worship with the campus ministries of U of A and NAU. NAU leader, Brad, lead us in some reflective and mindful worship to god along with the beautiful view of the ocean and the sound of crashing waves. After worship, we then returned to the church to begin making our spaghetti dinner! We had a great time making and eating dinner all together like a big family! Dinner was followed by games, discussions, and a search for ice cream sandwiches. Baked Bear ice cream sandwiches are quickly becoming a tradition!



Bright and early Sunday morning, we departed for Mission Bay where U of A and Rev. Jacqueline Pagel the Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy and Faith Formation, lead worship. The worship was uplifting and started us on the right foot to go explore San Diego! One group went to Coronado Island for the afternoon, while another took a bike ride down the coast. We reunited for a cook out on the beach. As the weekend came to a close, groups enjoyed the last hours of Sunday snacking, walking on the beach, and chatting about the fun they had over the weekend. As always, this weekend continues to be a favorite for the students and leaders where we get to dive deeper into faith, friendship, and community.



Calendar of Events

November

Lefse Season!

28-29 ASU Thanksgiving Break

December

Lefse Season!

6 ASU Last Day of Classes

9-14 ASU Finals Week

January

13 ASU Classes Begin

31– Feb 2 LCM Retreat to Sedona



Campus Pastor Notes

Gary N. McCluskey, LCM Campus Pastor

Dear Alumni, parents, & friends of LCM:

This year was the 40th anniversary of the San Diego retreat! We celebrated in usual style by having, as always, some of ASU's finest students with us on retreat!

I wonder how many students from ASU have gone on this retreat over 40 years? In looking back over photos during my time at ASU LCM I have estimated about 500 students have traveled to San Diego with us. If you have a special memory of your time, send a brief note about it and we will put it in the Spring newsletter.

Two of the originators of the retreat, Pastors David & Diane Drach-Meinell of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Henderson, NV, were U of A students at the time. As my former associates in Colorado Springs they frequently talked about this retreat. Who knew I would someday be leading many of these? The Drach-Meinells are planning on being with us next year on the retreat as they are beginning a campus ministry at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It is exciting to see campus ministry growing in our synod. Actually, for the past few years it has grown in the ELCA as well.

If you came back to LCM now, what might you recognize? First of all, the same quality of students you remember from your days: ASU's and area community college & other area college's best. Second, you would recognize the rhythm: Passport to ASU, San Diego, Wednesday Bible studies, dinner and worship, Sunday worship and dinners, service projects, fun events (as I type this a group is heading off to Top Golf tonight after worship), Winter retreat, Graduation Banquet, etc. LSM is being revived and we are considering going this or next year to the national event.

LCM here would remain a place to "expand minds, deepening faith, and inspiring service" just as it says on our banner. It remains a home away from home for students from Mesa to China. Many now hang out here, study, rest, eat lunch, or just hang out.

Our long and trusted association with ASU continues to pay dividends. Just before classes began a youth director from out of state called: a former youth from her church was transferring to ASU, promised housing, and now denied housing. He fell through a bureaucratic crack at ASU because of his number of transfer credits. A call from here to ASU's president had him receive dorm housing within 24 hours.

As always I want to thank alumni, parents, congregations and pastors for their partnership in this ministry. We could not do this without your prayers, your gifts of time, food, and money. And we cannot continue do this ministry without your continued support in all these manners. Needs are many. Resources become even more scarce as congregations decline. Support from partners like you continues to enable us to reach out and serve the students and staff of ASU.

Thank you, as always for your partnership in our ministry,

Pastor Gary N McCluskey

Alumni of the Semester



Daniel Pugh was a student of LCM in 2003+. Desert Cross Lutheran came to us looking to fill a staff position for youth and we loaned Daniel to Desert Cross. Upon graduating from ASU we called Daniel to be our first part-time Campus Ministry Associate (2007). We shared him with Desert Cross. Daniel arrived with his new wife Ashley. They now live in Cary, North Carolina, the home state of both Ashley & Daniel. Daniel is Associate Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary. He is currently enrolled in a synodical program to train pastors to become Senior Pastors. Daniel and Ashley have three children: sons Jacob (born while he was our associate), and Thomas, and daughter Avery. Daniel left LCM in 2008 to enter PLTS seminary in Berkley CA to become a pastor.



What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of LCM? Worship on Wednesday. It was always a special time together.

What is your best memory of your time as Campus Ministry Associate? The retreats in San Diego and the mission trips to build houses in Mexico. I also enjoyed talking to you (Pr Gary) in your office. (ed. note....sometimes those conversations were about the AZ Cardinals).

What are your thoughts and feelings about the students here during your time of leadership?

They were a very close group. Often on a Wednesday most of them had already been together 2-3 times that week prior to our mid-week programming. The students were welcoming and trusting of each other.

What question should I have asked you? You could have asked about the impact my time here has had on me and the impact campus ministry has on students. It is the perfect time to shape and impact their faith. They are here 2-4 years and college time is the best opportunity to help touch someone's faith. I remember our Simpson's Bible study that went from 10pm-11pm each Thursday. (ed. note: sometimes followed by a poker game)

Daniel, one of the biggest things I recall about your time here was the dinner theatre. you haven't mentioned them. Any particular thoughts about those? Oh yeah, They were a lot of work and a lot of fun. They created great community as we were together for quite a while on Thursday evenings in the Spring. We had a place for everyone: lighting, sound, sets, acting, cooking, serving, setting up, advertising, cleaning up. I wrote the scripts each year and geared the parts to each individual student actor's personality. (ed note: remember Crazy Maggie, the 3 very quiet students speaking only through their laptops on a movie screen and Pastor "Larry?" ...never did figure out upon whom that character was based).

Student of the Semester



Name: Rebecca Knoche

Grade: Freshman

Hometown: Colorado Springs, CO

Tell us about yourself: I am 18 years old, and currently pursuing a Bachelors degree in Computer Science with a minor in Engineering Management. I have 2 dogs at home, who I miss a lot. I have an older sister who also attended ASU. And my favorite subject in school is math.



Why ASU: I chose ASU because of the honors college and due to their very successful school of engineering. It is also nice to go to school where there is never any snow to worry about.

Tell us about ULC/ LCM (University Lutheran Church/ Lutheran Church Ministry): I really enjoy being able to attend a dinner and service once a week with other students who I am able to relate with. It has been a great way to meet people, worship, and focus on something that is not school. It is one of my favorite parts of the week. The environment is so welcoming and fun to be around.

Special interests:

I love the outdoors: hiking, white water rafting, camping. I love reading: my favorite type of series is in the genre of magical realism. I enjoy playing soccer

Best part of the school year so far?

I have really enjoyed meeting so many new people and getting to go to San Diego with LCM. I haven't been since I was very little so it was awesome to experience it at an age that I will remember the activities. I have also enjoyed living near my sister since we haven't been in the same state together for more than a couple weeks since she decided to attend ASU in 2015.

LCM SUPPORT

It is gratifying to see so many alumni, parents, and congregations and others regularly support our ministry. We could not do this outreach without your support! Thank you for all you contribute!!

As reductions from usual funding sources continue to decline, your support is needed more than ever! First, please include us in your prayers as we pray for you. Second, there are so many ways to give. Provide a student meal. Provide money for a student meal. Provide a scholarship for student retreats (we subsidize each student by more than 50% on each retreat). Pastor Gary (asulcm@gmail.com) or Amy (lcmassociate@gmail.com) can let you know the details on such needs. Or simply give an annual, monthly, or quarterly gift. You may use the enclosed envelope or give on line (www.ulctempe.org) We can even arrange regular withdrawals from an account.

The need is great. The only thing greater than the need is the ministry and students of LCM ASU!

Thank you!!



Thoughts from your Campus Ministry Associate



Recently, Pastor Gary lent me a book, *10 1/2 Things No Commencement Speaker Has Ever Said* by Charles Wheelan. It is hilarious, thoughtful, and full of truths, a rare and delightful balance. Being back in school at ASU, I makes me reflect on my undergrad commencement speech. My commencement speech was given by Ira A. Fulton and he urged us to do our best, change the world, and live meaningful and earth-shattering lives. Those are great and often unattainable expectations for thousands of recent graduates. However, Wheelan illustrates a more attainable, but less “rose-colored” future for graduates.

Here is a summary of some of the best points:

- Everything is fleeting. Unpleasant moments, frustrating moments, joyful moments, mundane moments. All feelings and situations are fleeting even if it doesn't seem that way. Try to live into and be aware of each of them, even if it is easier to escape or avoid.
- The time you spend in your extra-curriculars is just as valuable as classes. This is one of my favorite things to talk about, finding your community, tribe, people, whatever you want to call them. Community is necessary and build it in any way you can. Having a group of people who love you, care for you, and sometimes call you out, is one of the most important factors of a happy and fulfilling life.
- Relax (This is the hardest one for me!). If you are able take time off, to rest, recharge, and relax. Your body, friends, family, and co-workers will thank you. Along with these days, take time to travel. Work will always be there, will the chance to get away for the weekend or week be there forever?
- No one knows what the future will be like! This is frightening and exciting all at the same time. Change and progress can create some amazing things (likes airplanes) and some unpleasant things (flying cockroaches, look them up... it's terrifying). Change will happen, how you respond is the important part. Try to shape the future you want!
- May personal favorite– Don't make the world worse!
- Amy Gauthier

Graduate Students/Young Adults

The ULC Young Adult Group serves graduate students and recent college graduates (ranging in age from 22-39) and provides an opportunity for fellowship outside of the traditional worship environment. We currently have 1-2 events per month.

In August we had a dinner and game night in the student center as a way to kick off the fall. One week in September following the worship service we went as a group to brunch at First Watch. October had a few events including another impromptu brunch following worship, the wonderful opportunity to provide lunch for the student meal, and a game night/ happy hour at Snakes and Lattes to round out the month. As we enter November and December the events will slow down a bit, but we are currently planning "Friendsgiving" and "Friendsmas" to celebrate the approaching holidays.

Life after graduating college can sometimes lead to a sense of loneliness and feeling unsure of how and where we fit in. This group aims to help alleviate some of these feelings and attend some fun events along the way!



Alumni Updates

Send us your updates... let us know what is new in your life!

Julie Gerrish is off to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkley, California. Julie is beginning seminary in pursuit of a Master's of Divinity degree required for ordination as a pastor.

Daniel Sion was hired shortly after graduation, to be Marketing Director for Bondurant Racing in Chandler, AZ.

Ashley Evans moved in MI to work as Test Systems Engineer with GE Aviation within their Edison program.

John Collins graduated from Fuller Seminary June 9. He and alum Quentin Gunn will be married December 9.

Danielle Elena Barton was born to alumni **John Barton** and **Sarah Brown Barton** September 17 in California.

After four years of study, internship, Clinical Pastoral Education, etc. through Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkley, CA, **John Barton** was ordained by Bishop Deborah Hutterer at University Lutheran Church, April 13, 2019. John was both a member of ULC and an LCM alum. John was called to serve Faith Lutheran Church, Menifee, California.



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Tempe, AZ

LCM & ULC

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

10:30 am Worship

12:00 pm Student Meal

Wednesdays

5:30 pm Student Meal

6:30 pm Worship

Fridays

12:00 pm Bible Study

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