

the Luminary



Spring 2011, a newsletter of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University

And a Good Time was had by All...

The 85th Anniversary celebration of Lutheran Campus Ministry at OSU was launched Sunday, May 1, at Grace Lutheran Church, Corvallis. Worship centered on thanks to God as friends and alums met to reminisce and feast.



Fittingly, those who celebrated the Luther House “85 Alive!” anniversary did so around Word and Sacrament on a beautiful Sunday morning. Musicians led the joyful

song, students read lessons and served communion, Pr. Jim preached, and worship leaders prayed the anniversary litany in thanks to God for such a rich legacy of outreach and spiritual support to students, faculty, and university staff provided through Lutheran Campus Ministry at OSU.

From there attention turned to the scrumptious sweet treats and hearty appetizers prepared and served by the “4 Graces” in the church’s Ronnenkamp Hall. Pianist Gary Ruppert provided light jazz background to the delight of guests as they mingled. Every guest received a complimentary copy of the Luther House history supplement, a chocolate bar imprinted with the anniversary logo, and a copy of “85 Theses (and More): Reasons to Love Luther House.” Find your very own copy inside this newsletter.

An early afternoon luncheon featured students who told donors, in fresh ways, why Luther House is important to them. Rev. Keith Nelson reminded guests that we build the future of our ministry on the strength of the past through gifts given now and through legacy gifts that provide for the future. To top it all off, more than \$7,000 has been contributed to the anniversary appeal so far! We’re still counting.

85th Anniversary Celebration Continues...



Friends, supporters, and alums of Luther House have at least three more opportunities to meet and mingle:

June 26 (1-3:00) at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Albany; September 17 (3-5:00) at West Linn Lutheran Church; and October (date and time to be determined) in the Redmond/Bend area. Come and hear the latest news from Luther House, meet students and others who benefit from this ministry, be challenged to strengthen your financial support, and receive commemorative keepsakes to help you remember your connection to Luther House. Watch for updates on these and other happenings.

Breaking News...

Spring Term was marked with an abundance events and many significant developments that demonstrate the vitality of Luther House and the variety of ways we continue improving our ministry. Here are three things worth noting...

Spring Clean Fling – Alleluia Volunteers!



What would we do without loyal and energetic volunteers who care about Luther House and willingly share their time and talents? We'd do far less and look far worse than we dare to imagine! Thanks to so many – such as the group whose photo is displayed here – our landscaping gets regular attention, the windows are routinely washed, the kitchen gets a good scrubbing top-to-bottom, the basement is cleaned, and small building improvements are made. Not pictured are those who serve on committees, help with cooking and dishwashing, assemble mailings, bake sweet treats, guide hikes and teach classes, and host students for special occasions. Truly our volunteers are a blessing, one and all!

LH Officially a Reconciling in Christ Community



February 28, Paul and Karen Jolly, area representatives of Lutherans Concerned/North America, came to the Luther House Council meeting to present the official certificate stating that Luther House is a recognized Reconciling in Christ campus ministry. Board member Art Bervin received the certificate on behalf of the Luther House Council. For years we have made every effort to welcome all people in the name of Christ, but this new designation explicitly conveys our welcome to sexual minority individuals. In witness to this, Luther House is reaching out to the OSU cultural centers and LBCC student organizations to say Luther House is a “safe place” where all are truly welcome.

Quadrennial Review Commends and Recommends



Every four years the ministry of Luther House is reviewed by a team comprised of the regional Coordinator for Ministry Leadership, the Oregon Synod bishop's office, and a campus ministry peer. April 11 and 12 the review team conducted interviews with nearly 40 individuals who participate in or benefit from the ministry of Luther House. The team gave us high marks for creativity, flexibility, vision, and inclusivity. Among their recommendations: re-certify us as an ELCA campus ministry, increase our use of social media tools, develop a master plan for maintenance and remodeling of Luther House, and take seriously the need for a robust capital fund drive soon. Implementation has begun.



A Global Feast

Tuesday “Come-and-Go Lunch” has been a mainstay of Luther House programming for years. It’s always featured a nice mix of older and younger, faculty and student diners, even folks from the community. The conversation is always lively, the lunch is home-cooked, the spirit is good. This year a change has come over the noontime gathering, though. In-

creasingly, if you were to join us your conversation partners would be from Kenya, Canada, China, Vietnam, Mexico, Iraq, and elsewhere – in addition to those who’ve come from all parts of the U.S. It’s happened as friends have invited friends. It’s happened as we’ve increased our efforts to be an inclusive ministry. It’s happened because God has chosen to bless us with food to share and faith that binds us. Sometimes I look for a glimpse of God at work in our midst. If you ask me, here is evidence of God’s presence and God’s vision – a world where bread is shared and love abounds. Thanks be to God! - Pr. Jim

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2011-12 Students



Lutheran Campus Ministry is more than fun and games. And yet, as the picture above indicates, fun and games are one of the ways strangers become friends and friends become part of the Luther House community. If you know of someone – friend, son or daughter, grandchild, youth group member, or neighbor – who’s coming to OSU or LBCC next fall, let us know so we can tell them about Luther House and invite them to continue their faith journey during their college years. All we need is a name, phone number and email address and we’ll take it from there. To refer someone, write us at info@luther-house.org. They’ll be glad you did – and so will we.

85 LWR Care Kits



The flurry of activity was astounding as more than a dozen Luther House students assembled 85 Personal Care Kits destined for places near and far where disaster strikes and Lutheran World Relief steps in to help. Comprised of a bath towel, soap, toothbrush, comb, and nail clippers, these kits provide basic hygiene care for those caught in earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, landslides, and floods. Our commitment to providing 85 kits grew out of our anniversary year celebration – 85 Alive! – and served as a challenge to the Grace Lutheran Church community too. Once assembled, we blessed these kits and sent them with our love to those in need around the world.

Green Island x 3



For the third time in as many years, a team of ambitious students from Luther House spent a Saturday in May helping rehabilitate a parcel of land managed by the McKenzie River Trust. Called the Green Island Project, this old farm at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers is slowly being returned to natural stream flow and riparian habitat. Our contribution this year was mulching more than 350 trees and native shrubs that were recently planted. Our visit also gave us the chance to check on the previous plantings of our hands. It was a glorious day, one in which we once again put faith into action in care of God’s bountiful earth.

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LH Council Celebrates a Good, Busy Year



The legal, fiscal, property, and staffing needs of Luther House are ably cared for by a terrific team of dedicated Council members who meet monthly during the academic year. Their vision and planning ensure the good stewardship that helps Luther House flourish. Many, many thanks to these dedicated volunteers. They include (left to right): Karelia Stetz-Waters (LBCC English teacher), Art Bervin (LBCC English teacher, retired), Joy Jorgensen (OSU Enrollment Management), Gary Ruppert (LBCC Dean of Academic Affairs), Pr. Jim, Matt Weeber (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Nancy Clough (LBCC Mathematics teacher), Bob Hibbs (Public School Administrator, retired), and Netsie Griffith (Grace Lutheran Church, pastor). Of these, Art Bervin is retiring from the Council. Two open Council positions will be filled by fall.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Expands; Online Giving Option Continues



Good news: the Thrivent Choice Dollars program <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> is expanding to allow more dollars from eligible Thrivent product holders to flow to Luther House in the coming year. When selecting Luther House as a recipient of your Choice Dollars, choose “Lutheran Campus Council of Corvallis.” And don’t forget, you can make all your donations to Luther House through our secure electronic donation portal www.luther-house.org/donate/. It’s easy-to-use, fast, and convenient. Save time; save a tree; save a stamp. Every gift of every size helps. If you’re making or revising your estate plans, consider leaving a legacy to Luther House that will continue your support of this ministry you care so much about. Call on us if we can help you in any way. Thank you so much.

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