

the Luminary



Spring 2017, a newsletter of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University

For All that's Been, Thanks; For All that Will Be, Yes!

As one chapter of the long, lively legacy of Luther House closes, another one is about to open. Great celebrating marked the anticipated retirement of Pr. Jim. Great excitement is in the air as the Call Committee completes its work.



Sunday, June 4, the Luther House Council called together friends and fans of campus ministry for a party at Grace Lutheran's Ronnenkamp Hall to recognize Pr. Jim

for his 22 years of service to the campus community. It was a bittersweet afternoon filled with storytelling, remarks by students, good humor, a few tears, an ingathering of cards and remembrances, and, of course, cake. Though he won't officially complete his work till August 31, timing the event to coincide with the end of Spring Term allowed students to participate before leaving campus and summer vacationers to join the fun before traveling.

In the meantime, the Luther House Call Committee has been busy. They received eleven applicants for the position of campus pastor. From that applicant pool they reduced the number to two finalists they brought to campus for face-to-face interviews. Now that those interviews are completed, they've recommended one to the Luther House Council as their candidate of choice. The Council affirmed their se-

lection. Once a compensation package is determined, the Oregon Synod will issue a call. There is great excitement in the air as the long transition process nears its conclusion.

Stay tuned for details of who is named the next campus pastor and when and where their installation is to be held. And keep on praying that God continues to bless us with a smooth transition.

Refer a Student to Luther House



Graduating high school seniors are turning their attention to the next chapter of their lives, often to be lived on college campuses. If they happen to be coming to OSU, LBCC, or WOU this fall, help us help them stay connected with their family of faith by referring them (name, address, email, phone number) to Luther House at info@luther-house.org. We always invite newcomers to be part of our ministry, inquire about their interests and passions, provide them opportunities to grow spiritually, and support them in their academic journey. We treat them well and extend Christ's gracious hospitality to them. Please help us make sure they're connected.

Spirit of Spring Term...

As always, Spring Term marks the fulfillment of many programs and projects. It's a time to reflect on the high points and challenging moments of academic life. And it's a time to celebrate the many blessings the year has brought...

Trappist Abbey Road Trip



By special arrangement with Brother Mark, longtime monk at Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey near Lafayette, Oregon, six students and several additional guests were warmly welcomed and given a tour of the abbey grounds and industries, listened to an informative (and sometimes humorous) talk on life as a monk, briefly explored the abbey grounds, and attended Midday Prayer in the abbey chapel. Afterwards, we shared a meal at the Community Table in downtown McMinnville where we discussed our experience. All concurred that it would have been an even better trip had we more time to appreciate the beauty, silence, and rhythm of prayer at the abbey. Perhaps one day another visit is in order.

End of Year BBQ – Congratulations & Blessing of the Grads



The Luther House community gathered during “dead week” to honor this year’s graduates. Pictured (center) is Justin Honda (B.S., Athletic Training) who’s headed for graduate school at San Jose State University studying kinesiology. Seated next to him is Fall Term grad Erika Cook (B.S., Exercise and Sport Science), on her way to Washington University to pursue a graduate degree in occupational therapy. Other grads not pictured include Eric Kamke (B.S., Mechanical Engineering), Tessa Gourley (B.S., Animal Science), and Fall Term grad Jonathan Marcotte (B.S., Mathematics). Markus Woltjer (Computer & Electrical Engineering) and Shanuka Fernando (M.S., Wood Products) finish this summer.

Luthergarten Comes to Corvallis



In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Luther House students and Grace (Corvallis) youth teamed up to sponsor a tree for the Lutheran World Federation’s Luthergarten project at Wittenberg, Germany. Money raised at the Easter breakfast, along with a generous matching grant from the Grace Foundation, offset those costs. Then, May 14, they completed their sponsorship by planting a companion tree in the Luther House backyard garden. Both trees give tangible witness to the students’ care for creation and serve as signs of peace. May these efforts bear good fruit for the future – love, joy, peace, patience kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



That’s All Folks!

Change. I don’t like it very well. I prefer the status quo, the routine, the norm. I operate better when I know how to plan, what to expect, how I can be of

help, what my role is. It’s not that I’m opposed to change or think it’s something to avoid at all costs. It’s just that change is hard, even when change is good and necessary. That said, this is actually a great

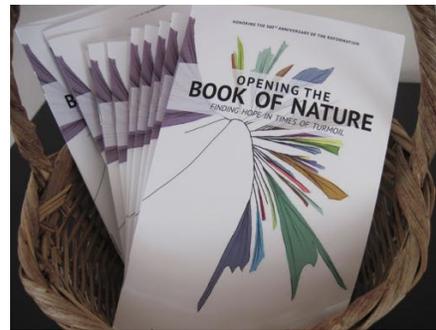
time for change. As for Luther House, funding is stable, supporters are solid and loyal, student leaders are engaged, programming is strong. As for me, I have energy to try new things, my health is good, I have projects to tackle and travels to make. Words are inadequate to express the countless blessings I’ve known by being part of this ministry. What I can say is I’m thankful to you and grateful to God for your trust and this call. It’s been good – real good. I’ve done what I can, as well as I can, as long as I can. Like it or not, it’s time for a change, and that’s as it should be. Thanks be to God! - Pr. Jim

Lutherfest 2017



The fifth annual Luther House Beer and Cheese pairing benefit welcomed 260 guests, twelve vendors, and two fabulous speakers from the OSU Fermentation Science and Dairy Production departments. Thanks to our generous sponsors and fabulous guests, almost \$10,000 was raised for 2017 programming support. Many enjoyed having their pictures taken (see photo above) with Martin and Katie Luther along with special guest, Pope Francis. A traveling trophy recognized the congregation with most attendees (Our Saviour's, Lebanon). A team has been chosen to plan Lutherfest 2018. Save the date – Sunday, February 25 – and plan to join us then.

Book of Nature Project



Early spring, a select group of current and former students were asked to contribute short meditations based on their experiences in the natural world that, for them, are signs of hope. The goal was to assemble their written, photographic, and artistic pieces into a little volume to guide their personal devotions and share with others. Now complete, *Opening the Book of Nature: Finding Hope in Times of Turmoil* was distributed at our celebratory BBQ on June 6 and is now available to you as long as supplies last. By the quality of their submissions it’s evident that students think deeply about the world and the faith they bear. Bless them for their witness!

Contemplation & Prayer



There are many ways students pray and develop a contemplative spirit at Luther House. The photo above shows the Lenten “Stations of the Cross” coloring project that attracted a lot of participants this year. Weekly Morning Prayer has become a staple of the Luther House lineup when students gather to center themselves in prayer before heading off to class. The monthly Sunday evening Dinner Church meal and Eucharist has gained popularity among those students who prefer a more intimate experience of communion. And the quiet Upper Room is a space set apart for reading and reflection whenever life becomes too hectic.

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WWLD (What Would Luther Do?)



When Martin Luther was asked what he'd do if he knew the world was about to end, he's reported to have said that he'd plant an apple tree, a sure sign of his hope in God's future and ours. His response prompts us at Luther House to ask in these transitional times, what would Luther do (WWLD)? We think he'd say: **pray** for this ministry that reaches the young on campus with the good news of Jesus Christ; **volunteer** to help care for the property, supply the cookie jar, assist in the office, or serve on the governing Council; **give** financial gifts regularly and gladly (70%+ of all the money we need comes from individuals and congregations); **tell** students attending OSU, LBCC, and WOU that Luther House is a terrific resource to them, helping them keep spiritually connected and become part of a welcoming, serving, learning, loving community; and **visit** us to see for yourself what we do, who we serve, and how exciting this ministry really is. If ever there was a time to support Luther House, this is just such a time. We covet your prayers, we appreciate your help, we need your gifts of money, we value your advocacy, and we look forward to your next visit!

Helpful Resources For You

The Luther House web site www.luther-house.org offers a wealth of resources for individuals and congregations: interpretive short films by students telling how they are sustained by this ministry, newsletters and programming information, publications that offer practical tips on how to care for students as well as theological reflections about our work on campus, and much more. Please take time to see what we have to offer you.

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