

the Luminary



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

85th Anniversary & All-Class Reunion Celebration, Sunday May 1

You are invited to join Luther House friends and alums for a day of thanksgiving that begins with morning worship, includes a “show and tell” of our current ministry, and concludes with a festive party at Grace Lutheran Church in Corvallis.



Lutheran Campus Ministry in Corvallis thrives at 85! What started as a challenge by a young student in 1926 has grown to a ministry whose reach spans the globe. It's

appropriate that we pause to thank God for all who have been touched by this ministry, to learn what challenges and blessings impact us today, and to be part of the movement to continue – even expand – this mission and ministry long into the future.

Grace Lutheran Church grew from those early efforts to support students in their spiritual journey. It's the appropriate place to hold our celebration. Both worship services on May 1 will be designed to praise God for LCM past, present and future. An educational hour between the services will showcase our current ministry and give tools to those wanting to become our partners. The finale will occur following the second service where all will be able to mingle with friends over hearty appetizers and dessert buffet in the Ronnenkamp Hall, awards will be announced,

photos of classes by decades will be taken, and mementos of the day will be given away – including a supplement to the Luther House history book.

Watch for complete details coming your way soon. For now, save the date and encourage your friends to join you and many others in celebration of 85 years of continuous campus ministry in Corvallis. We look forward to seeing you May 1!

LH Applies for Reconciling in Christ Designation



The Luther House community has long been known for its generous welcome to any and all who come through our doors. Now the LH

Council has chosen to make explicit that all sexual orientations are included in that welcome. To that end, they adopted a resolution of intent to become a Reconciling in Christ campus ministry. Our students have concurred. With this decision we join many Lutheran congregations and other campus ministries which are also affiliated with the RIC movement. So, in the spirit of the Benedictine commitment to holy hospitality, “Let all be welcomed as Christ.”

What We Do...

The titles of three well-known hymns serve as headings for the paragraphs below and are apt descriptions of various dimensions of our mission and ministry in Christ's name on campus in Oregon.

Light Dawns on a Weary World



Sometimes we call them “liturgical surprises.” In this case it was the Luther House Epiphany Party. Whatever its name, we punctuate certain seasons of the church year with festivities befitting the occasion we celebrate. January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, coincided with our weekly QUEST gathering. We invited area clergy to join students, prepared and served a rich feast, and gathered around the King's Cake to see who would be crowned for the day. In fact, three “kings” led us around Luther House as we read the story of Wise Men from Matthew's gospel, sang hymns of praise, and blessed the front door. An ancient story of faith came to life in a new way. The Light of Christ still shines!

Come to the Table of Blessing



It's been said that campus ministry is impossible if it doesn't include food. Whether that idea is true or false, we continue the Luther House commitment of eating and talking with one another every week. In this way, binding friendships are formed and all who gather at the table come to know more deeply the One who provides food for the hungry and drink for the thirsty. In a culture accustomed to fast food and hurried conversation, it's good to pause, receive the gift of good food, share it with friends and strangers, and leave for other pursuits filled in body and soul. The photo here is just one glimpse of the table of blessing we share in Jesus' name at Lutheran Campus Ministry in Corvallis.

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



One of the best ways to get to know each other and experience the beauty and bounty of creation is by taking a hike together. Pictured here is just such an outing that took students into the McDonald Forest just north of Corvallis. A chilly morning did not diminish the warmth of a several-mile stroll through old growth forest, up a logging road, and out to a clearing where lunch was shared. This might also be a metaphor for the life of faith where, like Jesus' first disciples, we walk and talk about the stuff of our lives only to find that Jesus is with us and the journey is a holy pilgrimage. Step by step we become Christ's disciples, recognizing him in mundane things and being drawn more deeply into His way.



Mercy is Falling

Last time I traveled to Poland with our synod's companion synod mission, the children of Jastrzebie enthusiastically sang, "Mercy is Falling." Its lyrics

tell of God's abundant mercies that come to us like the rain, blessing us with goodness, freshness, and life. When I think of that experience it reminds me of the mercies that come to Luther House, day by day.

Some are intangible, but many are readily seen. An example of these mercies is the generous, faithful, even extravagant financial support you, our friends and alums of Luther House, provide so that we may continue – even expand – God's work on this campus. How can we say thank you? By continuing the good work God has given us in this place: to share God's unparalleled grace, to be God's unquenchable beacon light of hope, and to offer God's unfathomable energy for life. Thank you for the mercies you've given us that make it possible for us to be God's merciful goodness falling on others - Pr. Jim

Civil War Car Park



For the first time ever, Luther House offered game-day parking to those attending the annual OSU vs. UO Civil War game. Grace Lutheran was good enough to allow our use of their parking lot. By mid-morning every spot was taken. Students and Council members collected money and directed traffic. In the end, more than \$1,100 was raised in support of Luther House! The spirit of the day was expressed this way: a UO supporter asked if it was safe to park a "Duck" car in a "Beaver" lot, to which the answer was given, "This is a place of grace; all are welcome here!" He parked the car and even contributed more than the posted price to park!

Wise Women at 18



Eighteen years ago an idea was born, that university women and their friends would gather weekly at Luther House to read a book, share their insights, give each other support, and pray for one another. The group is still meeting. A few of the regulars are pictured above. Granted, a few of those first to gather no longer are present; over the years new women have joined the group. But one can count on at least a few Wise Women to gather each week – rain or shine. Their guide is spiritual director Elin Stetz. Her love of literature and devotion to the spiritual life make her the perfect convener. Congratulations! Many more blessed conversations.

Care for the Earth



The last few years, Luther House students and their friends have increasingly found great satisfaction in projects devoted to earth care. They've undertaken neighborhood cleanups, developed trails and removed invasive species at the Chintimini Wildlife Refuge, assisted with community garden projects, and planted native trees and shrubs at the McKenzie River Trust Green Island Project near Eugene. This term a new team of students will head to Green Island – our third trip in as many years – to continue our previous projects. God has given us an amazing natural world to enjoy and care for. We're glad to get our hands dirty by tending God's good earth.

Luther House
211 NW 23rd Street
Corvallis, OR 97330

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85th Anniversary Matching Challenge Announced



Enclosed with this newsletter is the long list of generous donors – individuals, households, congregations, synods, organizations, and volunteers – who have helped us complete the 2010-11 fiscal year with sufficient financial resources to fulfill our promised programming and even seed the coming year with a little carry-over funding. Thanks is due to all who have partnered with us in this amazing ministry on campus. Now, in anticipation of the upcoming 85th Anniversary celebration, an anonymous-yet-visionary couple has set forth a matching challenge. They will give Luther House \$850 if at least 20 donations of \$85 or more are received by May 1. This is the first of several opportunities you'll hear of that will support the anniversary year fundraising effort to ensure a stable financial future for this ministry you care so much about. Won't you give serious consideration to answering this challenge with a gift today? Be sure to note "anniversary challenge grant" on your donation so you're properly credited. For your convenience, you may use the enclosed remittance envelope to mail your gift today. Many, many thanks.

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Please visit us at Luther House, 211 NW 23rd Street, Corvallis, OR 97330 or contact us at 541.753.5213
info@luther-house.org • www.luther-house.org