



# LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT NORTHWESTERN

*Deepening Faith - Expanding Community  
Celebrating 75 Years!*

## **2021 LCMNU ANNUAL APPEAL**

Dear Friends,

LCMNU is grateful for you and your generosity that have brought this ministry through another beginning of an academic year in a pandemic. Improvements have been made, allowing more in-person gatherings and for students to return to Northwestern's campus. It is also our 75th year of this Lutheran ministry having a presence at NU, a milestone worth celebrating!

And while our students have felt blessed to safely resume some activities at our Lutheran Center on Orrington Avenue, the reality of the COVID-19 situation and the transition back to being with one another in the same physical space has been challenging, new and unsettling at times.

As Karoline Lewis ('89), the guest preacher for our Homecoming service, put it, our 75th anniversary represents "a crisis moment, a moment to recommit and reform, a moment to maybe reimagine and reengage." Lewis asked, "What kind of ministry will we be, now and going forward?"

*That's where your support has helped and will continue to help our students and ministry navigate a new way forward. We send this letter with a simple but direct request — for you to continue and even consider increasing your financial contributions to LCMNU in this new year.*

As for the "now" part, many of you have asked what is going on at LCMNU this fall, so here's a snapshot of what we've been up to and how your support is vital:

- LCMNU kicked off the academic year with a BBQ outside our center, with a good turnout as we rejoiced over catching up with one another again and not via a computer screen.
- Wearing masks and with other precautions in place, students have gathered for weekly worship on Sundays and evening prayer on Wednesdays, and we are communing again!
- At our first worship, we began with a Litany of Regathering by remembering who we are as God's beloved and remembering our call to serve God and neighbor in all times. We re-membered our community with our sophomores and freshmen gathering in person for the first time, while acknowledging two years of students have graduated since we last gathered in person. We lamented the loss of life and other losses experienced in the past year and recognized the ongoing challenges of a pandemic and of social division on so many levels. We named what we've learned during the past

year and what we do not want to forget from this tumultuous period, and we gave thanks for a vaccine and the new reality that we can gather and journey together again, as awkward as it sometimes feels.

- Students have resumed cooking monthly Connections for the Homeless suppers but miss sharing in the meal with the residents. Students gathered at the Center to bake 300+ cookies to support the Purple Pantry, a food pantry on campus for students.
- Homecoming arrived and with it the excitement of a home football game with fans once again in the stands (and the 'Cats won!), and our board organized a get-together for alumni and students the morning of the game. Our Homecoming worship had to take place via Zoom, but alumna Karoline Lewis, Professor of Biblical Preaching and the Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, blessed us with a Sunday morning sermon and then a guest lecture the following Wednesday titled "Pandemic, Protest, and Politics: Reading the Bible in Our Time and Place."

These activities are giving students a needed boost as they figure out how to navigate campus, classes and social life once again. We would like to have more social and fellowship events but are limited in what we can do safely in our space due to lack of ventilation. As part of our safety measures, we have just purchased two air filters to assist with the ventilation challenges at the Center.

Your gifts and contributions play a key role in supporting students to navigate life and faith *right now* and can assist in helping upgrade our center so that more students, parents, alumni and supporters can gather here and worship together.

*We ask that you continue to support LCMNU during this critical transition by mailing your check, payable to LCMNU, to 2204 Orrington Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201, or go to [lcmnorthwestern.org/support-lutheran-campus-ministry](http://lcmnorthwestern.org/support-lutheran-campus-ministry) to donate online and find specific areas of our ministry you can support through your donations.*

We thank you for your ongoing support, and please know your financial contributions will help this ministry serve students and the broader community for another 75 years!

Wishing a safe, healthy and blessed 2022 for our students, staff, ministry, campus and all of you, wherever you may be.

***Pastor Deanna Langle and the LCMNU Board of Directors***

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**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022**

We hope and pray to return to an in-person Showcase in Evanston. The annual LCMNU Showcase features theological and musical contributions from our talented students, and the 2022 Showcase will include a 75th Anniversary Celebration! More details to come.