

**Tyler Heyl**  
**Showcase Talk – “Our Story: Nurturing the Intersections of My Story  
and God’s Story”**  
**April 30, 2023**

“Our story” starts with all of the members of the ministry. We are all participants of the Evanston community, members of our home congregation, and students at Northwestern University, but LCMNU and our faith bring us together. LCMNU has shaped all of our stories and relationship with God that be with us even after graduation.

As a graduate student, my story at Northwestern has had its ups and downs, but one steadying force has been LCMNU. Our Wednesday dinner worship and subsequently 21 Theo being a large part of my life. It gave me the opportunity to come together with a faith community of students going through similar experiences and escape the hustle and bustle of grad student life. We are able to chat about current events and milestones in each other’s lives. It is a great reminder that the problems of the day will subside, and there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.

One of the most meaningful experiences I have had through my time at LCMNU has been 21theo. Along with Bible study, we often broaden our scope to relevant societal issues, building our relationship with God and finding our vocation. Honestly, some topics we discussed I never had heard in the church prior to LCMNU, but I quickly learned the importance of looking at these topics through the lens of our theology. We are able to have hard conversations and truly deepen our faith. By diving into these topics, we find what we are passionate about and what our voice is.

We can then go out into the Evanston, Northwestern, or whatever community we are apart of and share the voice that we found at LCMNU. I am able to bring my voice to the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Evanston, where I am member and where I teach Sunday School and served on a couple of different committees. Specifically in teaching Sunday School, I am able to challenge the older students more about what really matters in the Bible stories and challenge them to think deeper in many ways the LCMNU has challenged me.

Deepening our relationship with God at 21theo and other LCMNU events is a large part of how I was able to figure out my vocation. Prior to joining LCMNU if you asked me what my vocation was, I don’t think I could have answered you. But one common theme in the ministry is diving into and exploring your vocation. One part of my vocation is trying to protect the planet. God call for us to protect his created and frankly, we aren’t doing a very good job. I will be graduating in a couple of weeks with my Ph.D. and will be working at the Dow Chemical company, one of the largest chemical companies in the world. I plan to continue my vocation after a leave LCMNU while at Dow and hopefully work on projects the make the planet a little better. Over the course of my life, I know my vocation will change, but I will always look back at LCMNU knowing that it was a large part of my story.

LCMNU has greatly impacted my story and greatly shaped the past 4 years of my life. I know that wherever my story takes me, my experiences at LCMNU will help me stay on the right path. The ministry impacts everyone in their own way, finding their own connections with God. That is LCMNU's story. We are LCMNU's story every single one of us. The alumni, supporters, and students. LCMNU helps give us a voice to go out and change the world.