

**Out of their experience with Lutheran Campus Ministry /  
University Lutheran Church at Northwestern University**

**NU STUDENTS SPEAK TO THE VALUE OF  
ON-CAMPUS LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY**

“Coming from a congregation that was one of a kind [the Church of True Inspiration in the Amana Colonies], I knew I was going to have to find a new place to worship God. Before I came to Northwestern, I had a good relationship with God and religion was an important part of my life. When I was introduced to ULC, I realized I had found a place where I could continue to grow in my faith and become part of a congregation that was going through the same struggles and victories I am in college. My faith has grown so much since I arrived in Evanston and it has become a vital part of my life and everything I do because of what I have learned by participating in ULC and campus ministries as a whole. By serving on the church council and participating in various volunteer efforts, I have gained so much spiritually that otherwise would not have been possible. The staff and students I have met because of ULC will be a part of both my personal and spiritual life for years to come.”

*Fritz*

*from Iowa, a freshman majoring in Journalism*

“I have been Lutheran all my life, so I first came to ULC because I knew it would offer religious services I would recognize. The reason I continued to go to ULC and became increasingly involved in campus ministry was not the familiarity, however, but the community, friendship, and learning experiences that ULC provides. In an academic setting like Northwestern, it's often difficult to stand up for my faith and find others who are also deeply committed to Christianity, but at ULC I find a community that welcomes and fosters religious discussion and faith growth. Additionally, ULC provides students with the experience of leading their own congregation and truly being part of the larger church body. ULC's fellowship and service opportunities and its community of caring, enthusiastic people make it a wonderful place to worship, have fun, and grow in faith.”

*Kayla*

*from Kansas, a sophomore majoring in Biology*

“Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM)/University Lutheran Church (ULC) at Northwestern has been my church home for the last five years during my graduate school tenure. I first came to ULC looking for a new church family that understood the needs of and embraced college/graduate students, particularly the desire to contribute to the church and community from

day one (students don't usually know the best ways to serve their new community). I was working at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, serving the hungry and homeless at the Hilda's Place Shelter in Evanston, and by tutoring elementary school students in Chicago (this list is by no means exhaustive). By being composed almost entirely of students, ULC provided me a greater opportunity to influence how we served both the ELCA and the Evanston community; I spent two years on the ULC council and three years coordinating our monthly service to the Hilda's Place Shelter. As I prepare to depart Evanston---having successfully completed my degree with the support and friendship of my friends and adopted ULC family---I feel more equipped to serve in my new church and continue to demonstrate God's love and grace to whomever will receive it at my next home.”

*Matt*

*from Michigan, a graduate student in Chemistry*

“For me, Lutheran Campus Ministry was an irreplaceable resource in my first year at Northwestern. College is a difficult transition for a huge number of students, myself included, and campus ministries are one of the few safe havens for those who are struggling and feeling alone. At University Lutheran Church, I have found a community of true friends, and my faith has been strengthened in ways I never thought possible. I have also been granted valuable leadership opportunities that have allowed me to consider my own impact on my community, which is incredibly important for people who are just stepping out on their own into a huge world. Through Lutheran Campus Ministry, I have witnessed God's work in my own life and in the lives of others touched by His love through our hands.”

*Gwen*

*from Massachusetts, a freshman majoring in Mathematics and Religious Studies*

“I've grown up in the Lutheran church, and when I went to college it was important that I continue attending a Lutheran church. What keeps me attending ULC is the great sense of community it provides. Faith has always been a very important part of my life, and it's important to me to have a group of believers I can be involved with to share that faith. There aren't many places on a college campus that provide a group like that, but I know I can depend on ULC to provide that community during college and for the rest of my life.”

*Zach*

*from Iowa, a senior majoring in Computer Engineering*

“I think ULC's ministry to Northwestern is important because college is the first (and perhaps only) time in many lives when people are exposed to faith traditions different from their own, so it is important for ELCA to have a presence on campus. I am a graduate student at Northwestern, and a Roman Catholic. My experiences at ULC have completely changed my

opinions about Lutheranism. The school I attended as an undergraduate was very small and did not have a Lutheran campus ministry; the only exposure I had to Lutheranism there was a Lutheran friend who mocked transubstantiation and ‘praying to Mary.’ However, I have found at ULC a welcoming community of Christians with a dedication to service that exceeds that of my own church - indeed, it is through participation in ULC's service activities that I have become part of that community in many respects - and I now earnestly hope that our two churches may one day be in full communion with one another.”

*Joe*

*from Indiana, a graduate student in Industrial Engineering*

“After visiting ULC for several of the events, such as pumpkin carving and Christmas cookie baking, I fell in love with the community. As I found new friends at ULC and struggled with difficult classes outside of ULC, I found myself grateful for the support of a religious community made mostly of fellow college students with whom I can relate. Lutheran Campus Ministry has provided me with leadership opportunities and given me the chance to explore my faith in an understanding environment. I am really grateful for the presence of LCM on my campus.”

*Laura*

*from the state of Washington, a sophomore majoring in Astrobiology*

“When I first came to ULC, I was searching for a community and a place to belong. The people at ULC were very welcoming and made me feel at home. As part of the ULC family, I have enjoyed the opportunities I have had to serve the greater community, especially as an elementary school tutor. Without my involvement with ULC, I may never have had that chance.”

*Megan*

*from Pennsylvania, a graduate student in Biomedical Engineering*

“Before coming to Northwestern I had never gone to a Lutheran Church before. The church I attend at home is a Greek Orthodox church, which is not available on campus so I decided to try going to a different denomination. The reason why I have continued to come back to ULC is because it is a place where people genuinely care about each other and the greater community. Because ULC is geared specifically towards college students, I always felt like I was a welcomed and integral part of the church community. I would never have had the courage to volunteer to cook brunch or suggest the next book to read at bible study had I not been at a campus ministry. But because there are only college students (and our pastor and his wife), it is our responsibility to be active in church and we gladly rise to the opportunity. ULC has provided me with a home that has allowed me to grow closer to God and the Christian community as I make the transition between student and adulthood and learn what it is like to be a thoughtful and engaged member of the church away from my family. It is only through campus ministry that I

have the confidence to join another church once I graduate. I can't imagine what I would have done without this campus ministry to guide me through my spiritual life in college.”

*Jordan*

*from California, a senior majoring in Speech (Theater)*

“I came to the Northwestern University Lutheran Church as music director thinking that this experience would just be another thing to put on my resume, but my relationship with ULC and the Lutheran faith has blossomed into something much more meaningful than that. This job has given me valuable musical experience but also exposed me to the Lutheran faith. By attending church every Sunday I have gradually developed a better understanding of Christian values and a closer relationship with God. Sunday worship and other ULC events are a respite from my stressful college existence and give me a chance to strengthen my trust in God and develop meaningful friendships with other ULC-ers. This year I became a member at ULC, signifying my personal investment at this church. Northwestern ULC and the Lutheran faith have become an important part of my identity.”

*Dan*

*from upstate New York, a senior majoring in Piano Performance*

“In Luke 10:2 Jesus said, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’ The harvest is certainly plentiful at Northwestern where it is easy for students to use their freedom to turn away from Christianity. Through ULC, students can be harvested to answer their calling to know God, serve others, and serve the church. The small size of the congregation and the numerous leadership opportunities also allow students to be laborers at the harvest. This not only means sharing the Gospel with students on campus, but also includes helping others to deepen their understanding of Christianity and the Lutheran tradition, encouraging others to participate in service opportunities, and encouraging others to serve as leaders in the church. I believe this ministry on campus is a key way that God sends out laborers into the harvest at Northwestern.”

*Jared*

*from Minnesota, a graduate student in Industrial Engineering*

“When I came to Northwestern, I was at a critical moment in my faith journey. After the death of my dad the summer prior to starting college, it would have been so easy for me to turn my back on God and continue living my life as though I didn’t need Him. I found very early on, however, that I couldn’t do so, but I still needed support to reconcile my faith crisis with the reality of God’s love for me. After going to a church in Evanston with an older congregation, I realized that I needed a place with people who were more like me. I knew no one would understand exactly what I was going through, but I knew that I would be more comfortable discussing my faith with people who were close to my own age. When I came across ULC, I

still wasn't completely ready to rejoin a faith community. I quickly realized, though, that the people at ULC were some of the most supportive, welcoming people that I have ever met. They whole-heartedly accepted me into the community, even when I was unsure of whether I even belonged, and became my surrogate family at Northwestern.

“Without LCM, my life would be very different today. I found that the service projects that we do fill me with joy and allow me to witness change in the world in Christ’s name. I get to watch a first grader’s eyes light up when he understands something while I’m tutoring him. Our book drive gave me the opportunity to help a parent share their voice with their child while they are in prison – something which I know is the most precious gift a child can receive. At ULC, I have the opportunity to worship and sing praises to God, to talk openly and honestly about my faith, to learn how to lead in a congregation, and to reaffirm my conviction to live my life according to the word of Christ. Lutheran Campus Ministry bridges the gap during which we are too old for youth group yet not old enough to identify with the older generations of any other ELCA congregation. It is the training ground for our leaders and keeps young adults engaged in the church. LCM has been one of the most rewarding parts of my education and it is an asset not only to everyone in our congregation, but to the Greater Chicago community as well.”

*Leah*

*from Illinois, a sophomore majoring in Anthropology*

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*The Rev. Lloyd R. Kittlaus, Pastor*

