

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Located at University Lutheran Church
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Dear people of God,

The sun has set on another great year of campus ministry. It continues to be a holy gift and calling to do this work. As of November 2023, I have been one of the pastors for this ministry for 3 years. It has truly been an affirmation of that old movie line, "If you build it, they will come." We have been building this ministry for 3 years now and the students are coming. They are engaged. They are happy to be in community. They are thoughtful about God, the Church, and their places in the world. It is a great privilege and honor to guide them in this time in their young lives.

The most exciting part of this year was completing the process of calling Pastor Joseph Li (he/him) to serve under the Lutheran Campus Ministry umbrella! Joseph has served many years as Lutheran pastor to UW international students and scholars as a mission developer. Now Joseph is moving under the LCM umbrella so that all student-facing ELCA ministry at UW would be one organization. Makes sense, doesn't it? He will continue to do his important work with the international community, as well as support my "homegrown" student group (as he calls it!). I'm excited for the opportunities this brings us to work together and support more students!

I hope you are as excited about this ministry as we are. Thank you for your continuing support of us and our students. We couldn't do this without you. God bless you and give us peace in 2024.

Rev. Chelsea Grobe



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

News and events from our leaders

In July 2023, the Board of Directors began a process of developing new mission and vision statements for our campus ministry. We used a “round robin” method, with each Board member contributing, editing and adding to the statements. Our final step will be to hand these statements over to the students for their input and stamp of approval.



Board Members hard at work at our Summer Board Retreat



MISSION & VISION STATEMENT DRAFTS

MISSION

Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Washington provides a safe space and point of connection for students to explore their faith, grow spiritually and serve the community on-campus and beyond.

Thank you to our Board members who finished their terms this year:

Callie Moothart (2017-2023)

Rev. Paul Eldred (2017-2023)

Deacon Patrick Meagher (2022-2023)

VISION

Create and maintain a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable Lutheran ministry with our Lutheran partners for the University of Washington community through a welcoming and open environment. We build meaningful relationships, discover and deepen our expressions of faith, explore our identities, and live fully into our whole selves and our social justice values.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. Briana Merkle

It has been a year of faithful development and encouraging growth for Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) at UW. One of the greatest developments and growth opportunities this year has been calling Pr. Joseph Li to LCM. This process began when the LCM Board was invited by the Synod to help fund the position for an international student pastor. As the Board discerned our responsibility as followers of Christ and a ministry to all students, we quickly realized that partnering even more deeply with International Student Ministries was the faithful next step. We have now called Pastor Joseph and recognize that with International Student Ministry, we are a fuller, deeper expression of community and are continuing to learn what this means.



As our ministry and mission expanded, the Board spent our annual retreat drafting a new mission and vision statement to suit our current context. These statements involve language about fostering meaningful relationships among students, discovering and deepening expressions of faith, exploring identities, and empowering students to live fully into their whole selves and into their social justice values. These statements will be passed on to the student body to be finalized before being adopted by the Board. We have a lot of energy as we enter 2024. Our focuses will be to:

- Continue to provide faith-filled ministry to support students in their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual journeys honoring the transitions they may have in their academic, personal, professional, and faith lives.
- Become further invested in International Student Ministry and support Pastor Joseph in discerning a vision for the future of this ministry.
- Strengthen partnerships with local congregations to support both Lutheran and International Student Ministries.
- Living into our RIC identity of serving all students.
- Creating a long-term home and intentional space for UW Campus Ministries at University Lutheran Church in the U District.

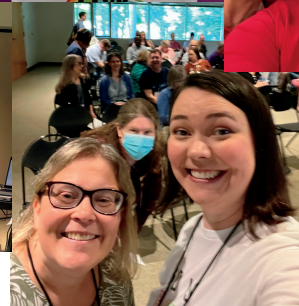
As you can see, Lutheran Campus Ministry continues to meet emerging needs in inspiring and Gospel-centered ways. The LCM Board deeply values your support of this ministry with students at the University of Washington. Thank you!

Rev. Briana Merkle

Pastor, Mountain View Lutheran, Edgewood WA

2023 EVENTS & NEWS

UW Lutherans hosted and took part in so many fun and meaningful events in 2023! Here's a look at some of our favorite memories.



Photos starting above and moving clockwise: Pastor Chelsea at synod events; young adult brunch; traditional first day activity; pumpkin carving; pastors at the Christmas party;



students at the Christmas party; Pastors offering Ashes to Go on campus; Drag Church; Mardi Gras dinner makers; Holy Week prayer around the cross; 2023 graduates; tabling on campus with Rabbi Lauren & Hillel



PASTOR JOSEPH LI OFFICIALLY CALLED

The Bishop’s Office is grateful for the new formalized care and accompaniment between the Ministry to International Students, currently with the leadership of Pr. Joseph Li, and now within the University of Washington (UW) Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM). We hope that the Northwest Washington Synod will share in this joy, be grateful for how we got to this point, and look forward to where this might lead us going forward as we continue to respond to God call. Years ago, the ELCA and this Synod recognized an outreach opportunity among Chinese scholars studying at the UW and responded by developing a mission around these siblings in Christ. That ministry then evolved and reformed into an expanded Ministry to International Students. We have been grateful for the support of this Synod and our wider church to support this ministry that has both now evolved and continued to take root. We see this new formation of two ministries now under one ministry as a wonderful next faithful step...which we hope will help our LCM be able to accompany a wider community and help the Ministry to International Students continue to do ministry and flourish with the greater care and continued support of the LCM. Within this new soil, we look forward to where God’s work in the world, and in the church, might continue to grow in even more abundant ways.

Pastor Andy Yee

Assistant to the Bishop, NWWA Synod

NEW ULC PASTOR

University Lutheran Church

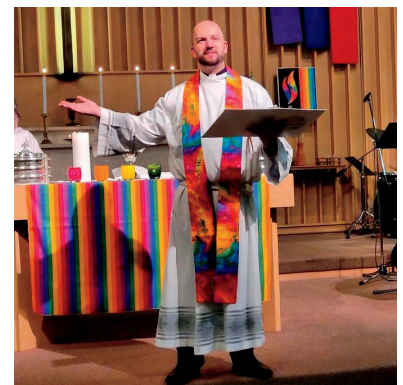
Greetings! My name is Andy Flatt-Kuntze and I am the new pastor of ULC, the congregation that hosts UW Lutherans. Upon my arrival, Chelsea and I immediately clicked. I think we bonded over a love of dad jokes, good food, and ministry (of course)! We continue to explore ways we can further collaborate, which has expanded this past fall to include holding a vigil for peace and co-hosting a campus theater group for their play. We are excited about sharing Lenten services and soup suppers this year. I look forward to searching, exploring, and discerning how we can build up and strengthen our individual and collective ministries God has called us to as the Body of Christ.

In Joyful Anticipation,

Andy



Save the Date!
 Pastor Joseph’s
 Installation
 Sun. May 5th
 3:00 PM
 UW Campus
*More details to
 come!*

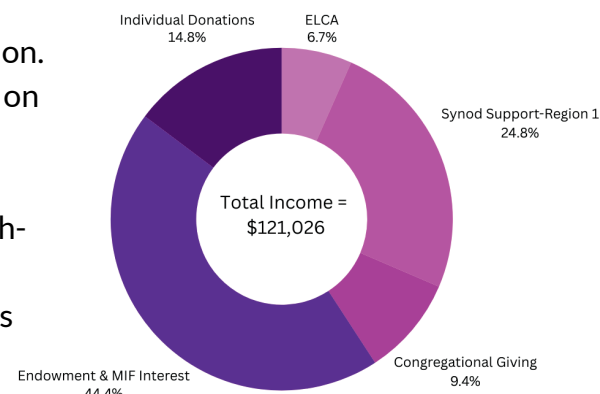


FINANCIAL REPORT

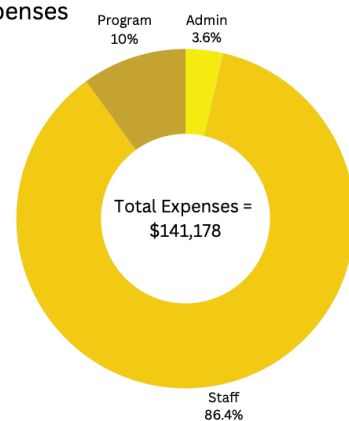
Overall, UW Lutherans continues to be in a financially healthy situation. As you can see, our funding comes from a variety of sources. We rely on giving from ELCA Churchwide, Region 1 synods, congregations, and individual donors for just over half of our income. The interest and distributions from our endowment and Mission Investment Fund high-interest savings account supplied the rest.

Our Board-approved budget for this year was \$91,000. Our expenses were budgeted at just over \$141K, meaning we would have to dip into our savings for make up the \$50K deficit. Thankfully, we had a couple of unexpected income boosts this year. First, we received higher than expected donations from congregations and individuals, thanks to the outreach efforts of our pastors. We also moved a large sum into a MIF high-yield savings account, which provided an extra \$26,000 in interest income! But as you can see, that still leaves us with a deficit of about \$12,000. Our long-term goal is to raise enough income every year so that this ministry will be sustainable in the long-term and we do NOT need to dip into our savings to cover our expenses. Yes, it is nice to have a big financial cushion. But we want this ministry to last for many decades to come! Thank YOU for your continuing support of LCM at UW! And to our fantastic treasurer, Don Boelter!!!

2023 Income



2023 Expenses



CONGREGATION VISITS



Pastor Chelsea and Pastor Joseph have been busy visiting local congregations for preaching and teaching (where Chelsea perfected the art of the selfie!). All together they preached at 15 congregations throughout Washington state.

Photos clockwise from the top: Hope in Enumclaw; Phinney Ridge in Seattle; Kent Lutheran; Immanuel, Seattle; Faith in Leavenworth; Agnus Dei in Gig Harbor; Grace in Wenatchee; Advent in Mill Creek; Trinity on Whidbey Island



VOLUNTEER REFLECTIONS

“I volunteer because I remember being a student and how wonderful a home cooked meal was. I believe hospitality speaks to students who are away from home. It's also wonderful to have students in our church!”

Alison Stamey, University Lutheran

“UW Lutherans is a burgeoning ministry that we’re delighted to support. As the UW Lutherans student community continues to grow, we look forward to continue our commitment to its vitality.”

Clint Pehrson, University Lutheran



“I've been associated with the UW Lutherans community, on and off, for over 50 years. When I arrived at UW in 1969, it was the shelter in the chaos of anti-war and minority rights actions. Thanks to Pastor Hershey, we found ways to witness to and heal some of the injustice around us. In 1972, my first marriage was celebrated in the Lutheran Student Center (later known as Agape House) with Pastor Nelson officiating. In the early 2000's, Pastor Postlewait invited members of my congregation to prepare meals for the weekly UW Student worship service and I have been sharing my 'kitchen experiments' with students almost every quarter since then. I feel lucky that I have been able to remain part of the lively dialog and spiritual growth that happens among my fellow Husky Children of God.”

Carol Ann Davis, Queen Anne Lutheran

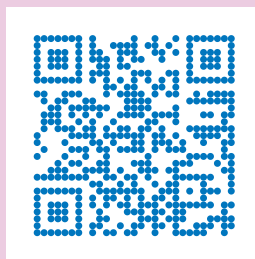
“As an undergraduate, campus ministry allowed me the opportunity to determine that my spiritual beliefs fit within organized religion. Young adults need a safe space to ask big questions: Who am I? How do I fit into this world and make it a better place? Wait, do you mean I belong in the gigantic tent of God’s love exactly as I am?? Yes, you do!”

Dr. Janet Piehl, Holy Trinity, Mercer Island; Board Member/UW faculty liaison since January 2021

Support UW Lutherans today!



Give online or with Venmo



www.uwlutherans.org/give

Mail checks to:

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