



Lutheran Campus Ministries

God is
ACTIVE

Growing the church through
Lutheran Campus Ministry

SPRING 2013

God is moving, the sun is rising and we are proud to announce amazing growth again at Lutheran Campus Ministry this year. Read more to see how, and how YOU can join in the fun!

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"LCM has given me a comforting "home" in the midst of a chaotic environment. Beyond the fellowship and friendship LCM has allowed me to grow into the person God has called me to be by providing leadership opportunities." -Jamie J.

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GRACE NOTES

a newsletter of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Atlanta

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A WORD FROM PASTOR MATT

I am certain that I have the **coolest job in the world**. I came into work recently, sat down on the couch in the front room of our Grace House on the campus of Georgia Tech, grabbed out my laptop and began working. Very quickly, I was joined by several students who cooked up some lunch, turned on an Adam Sandler movie, and struck up a conversation with me. We began laughing and joking and all at once it hit me – I'm at work, and this is my job. Wow! What an **amazing place** to be!

The ministry has been very busy this year. We've seen another growth in the regular attendance- the largest number of kids regularly on a Tuesday night that I have ever seen. Weekly we saw about **50 kids** this year. That's just crazy to me. Maybe that's small compared to big

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Student voices

Living, growing, laughing, crying,
building, walking, eating,
worshipping, serving, playing,
fellowshipping, loving...

together



When asked, “What does LCM mean to you?” students said:

Moving to Atlanta was pretty hard for me since I didn't know many people here, and I've found it a lot harder to find community and Christian fellowship in grad school than undergrad. LCM was the first place I felt welcome in Atlanta. In general, I think the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer is one of the most welcoming and hospitable churches I've ever been to. It's uplifting to know there are people who I've never even met who care about my spiritual growth and invest their time and money to make us dinner each week. The community and worship at LCM feels very authentic to me, like people come to meet with God rather than for a show. I remember one time last semester when a homeless man joined us one night at LCM. I was touched by the way he was sincerely loved on and treated as a peer by everyone there. I'm not sure a homeless person would be so welcomed at most of the other churches I've been to. I really appreciate the ways the community take to heart Jesus' call to love your neighbor as yourself. Since I've been going to LCM I started telling all my friends from home that they should find Lutheran churches to go to because I like the one here so much. Hopefully all Lutheran churches are as Christ centered and loving so I am not leading them astray. :) -Amy



I've seen people in

The thing I would say about LCM is that it's a great laboratory for people to work out their faith, especially as it concerns the Body of Christ. People come in knowing their folks' church, or maybe not even that. But they get the opportunity to pray and sing with people and talk with peers and work out what they believe. It's a place where Bill and Becca and Lorelyn and Emily can stop in during the day and eat and chill [which is probably the most righteous thing that happens here].

When you're around people can have a conversation and get some advice. It's a neat place for growing up a bit. – Cory

LCM has impacted my life by giving me something routine that I can look forward to each week as an escape from the other pressures of school. The community of caring people that LCM creates has been such a wonderful support system to me providing me with both friends and people that inspire me to be as good of a neighbor as I can be. –Lorelyn

LCM at Georgia Tech has provided a wonderful and unique place to escape the stress and bustle of college academics, strengthen my faith, and to share in fellowship with other like-minded Lutheran/Christian students. It is a place to come-as-you-are and be accepted free of judgment. I have built some incredible friendships and met many truly amazing people, all of whom have contributed to my growing relationship with Christ. -Will



Awesome!
now...
How can I help?

DONATE MONEY ONLINE

www.GracePeople.org

FOOD Tuesday Night dinners are always a need. Send an email to atlpastor@gmail.com for more information.

TELL US ABOUT STUDENTS

Most congregations know students either already on campus in Atlanta or who are coming. Tell us who they are, so we can welcome them and reach out to tell them about Campus Ministry!

SERVICE PROJECTS

We are always in need of congregations that would like to serve the students through service. Email atlpastor@gmail.com for a current needs list.

Strong Student Leadership *is* successful campus ministry...

From your Campus Ministry Board student rep:

Jamie Jordan

The future of Lutheran Campus Ministries is looking extremely **bright!** There seems to be a renewed sense of enthusiasm among many of the students as we close out the Spring semester and look towards fall. As we anxiously await the completion of our beautiful deck, we have decided to look for ways to help the community outside the Grace House. We hope to begin a community service initiative in the fall that would provide opportunities for students to grow in relationship with each other, while actively serving the surrounding community. As summer approaches we are eager to continue to seek out opportunities to speak with incoming students about the benefits of being part of the community at LCM. We were thrilled to see the growth of the ministry throughout the past year, and are determined to continue the trend. Additionally, we are excited to expand our presence on the campuses of GSU, Emory, Agnes Scott, and others through the efforts of Pastor Devin Strong in partnership with students from the respective campuses. LCM continues to be a blessing to everyone involved, and we look forward to another amazing year for the ministry!





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northern schools, or longer established ministries, but for Lutherans in the south, I think it's pretty cool... GOD is at work and the students are responding.

It's always nice to hear great things about the ministry from the leadership, the parents, the Synod, and the pastors, however, the rubber hits the road with the student voice. Throughout this edition of Grace Notes, read what impact Lutheran Campus Ministry is having on the students. Toward the end of the year, we begin to do some retelling of the story of the year, by seeking out the students' own words.



While LCM has accomplished lots of amazing things this year, the most amazing place of growth has been in our students' taking over the ministry from start to finish. The church is primed for leadership that isn't looking for consumer ministry but rather, needs empowerment ministry. We challenged the students to run the ministry and they responded BIG TIME. We flattened out the typical model of leadership, empowering students and seeking consensus. Then took students

who had a variety of gifts and asked them to lead parts of the ministry that motivated them most. Becoming almost a task force driven ministry, students began planning and executing their own ideas, and the ministry has never been stronger.

I am proud of what this ministry has accomplished, sure, but even prouder of how it has come to pass. The participants, the church in motion, have been the church carrying on a great tradition at LCM Atlanta and have raised the bar high for the generations of students to follow.

Next year, we hope to see further development of the small groups, a new deck finally in place, and the student leadership continue to grow in number and depth, and much more. This IS the coolest job in the world and I can't thank you enough for taking the time to read this and care for this incredible ministry.

+ Pastor Matt Simpkins



'Rev Dev' Trivia

Pastor Devin Strong has come on staff with Lutheran Campus Ministry in Atlanta as the new Associate Pastor for Spiritual Growth and Pastoral Care. But did you know that...

- 1 **Pastor Devin has been in prison?** *He regularly volunteers with an ecumenical spiritual retreat ministry for inmates at Phillips State Prison in Buford.*
- 2 **as a kid he met with President Gerald Ford?** *It was a pic for some promotions for the place where Devin was receiving physical therapy.*
- 3 **one of his first jobs was working for his wife at a newspaper?** *He says that he still works for her today...*
- 4 **Pastor Devin learned to swim before he could walk?** *Though he walked on crutches for much of his life, swimming is good therapy. He loves the water to this day!*
- 5 **Pastor Devin is a doctor?** *Not the medical kind though... He earned a Doctorate of Ministry in Transformation and New Church Development from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur.*

BLESSED BY THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Volunteers from Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marietta, GA

John Didicher and the other volunteer saints at LCR have really improved our House at Georgia Tech. Last December, they built two bedrooms in the daylight basement. The work is beautiful and their donated time and materials makes this such a blessing.



YOU CAN HELP TOO!

Leaving a legacy of giving and service at Lutheran Campus Ministry is a great way to give to the church. We are currently working to finish our deck project and hope to have that complete in time for the Fall semester. While that project is near funded for the

deck itself, there are other things that we will need to be able to use it. We will need to purchase seating, an outdoor PA system, heating, vinyl sheeting for the windows, fans, lighting, and many other things to help us with the ministry functions. YOU CAN STILL donate to the designated funds for that building project. The students appreciate your work and service as well as your giving gifts.



In the middle of May, they are coming back to take down a few walls upstairs which will open half the space into

one room. This will be used

for activities and worship. They are also widening doorways to over 36 inches to make us disability friendly. Our house is over 90 years old so this really puts us ahead. LCR is living the gospel and we are so thankful for their generosity.

Wayne Fell,
LCM Board President

**Email Pastor Matt
(atlpastor@gmail.com)
for details on how you or
your group can help!**

WAYS TO HELP:

- 👉 Come repaint a room
- 👉 Come landscape
- 👉 Come prepare and serve a Tuesday Night meal



Campus Ministry

Needs YOU! The thing about campus ministry is that as it grows, it requires more and more funding to work. Whereas in congregational growth, the more people in the congregation, typically the more funding availability they have. In college, as you probably know, most of the participants are financially strapped, many of whom live on a few hundred dollars a month. Most of the students, because of the rigors of academics can't get jobs that give them the opportunity to financially tithe that often – although those that can do. Stewardship of finances is preached and lived at LCM, but it's not enough to support the massive growth of LCM. *PLEASE consider a gift to campus ministry. You can do so online at www.gracepeople.org or by mail.* This ministry is preparing young adults to be leaders in the church while walking the journey of faith for the years they spend in LCM. We need your help to keep this ministry strong.



Become a partner in Campus Ministry today. The church needs you!

GRACE NOTES 2013



Lutheran Campus Ministries

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WWW.GRACEPEOPLE.ORG

Our beloved partner in ministry: