

# LUTHER HOUSE NEWS

Lutheran Campus Ministry @ UNM & CNM

A LuMin campus ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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## March 2019

Expanding Minds, Deepening Faith, Inspiring Service, Building Community

### WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH CAMPUS MINISTRY?

As I write this to you, dear campus ministry supporters, a plumber is fixing a shower in Luther House. I sit in my now-warm office in the den of the house, since we just replaced our 18-year-old furnace the day after it snowed in Albuquerque and residents were especially chilly. I am telling you this, not to incite pity or concern, but to help connect the dots about what campus ministry is and how much of it is love made visible.

Love is visible when we make room for everyone at the table in a warm house on Wednesday nights dinners. Since we have folks in motorized wheelchairs who regularly join us, we have been eating in our chapel, as it is the most accessible space in a home built in 1937. But alas, our bathrooms are up a set of stairs and are nowhere near able to accommodate people who use wheelchairs. How can we show more love?

Love is visible when we make meals that are vegetarian, dairy-free, or simply have an actual vegetable present since fresh, healthy foods are often a hard thing to find on a student's budget. It is estimated that one third of college students are food and/or housing insecure, that is they are not sure where their next meal will come from or they are unsure of where they will sleep at night. How can we show more love?

Love is visible when we show up as Lutherans to care for young adults who are not only from our own tradition, but also Roman Catholic, non-denominational, Episcopal, Southern Baptist, and beyond. I participate with many other religious leaders on campus as part of the Interreligious Council and we are able to learn, plan, and share fellowship across many boundaries our denominations would maintain. Not every religious tradition is yet part of our group. How can we share more love?

Love is visible when a congregation like Valley Lutheran Church in Los Lunas, New Mexico boldly steps out in faith to generously support a campus ministry a town away. They feel connected to what happens around plates of food and in conversation, where Jesus is present in the face of college

students and Luther House friends alike. In a time when there is always a word of scarcity, I'm grateful for enough, just enough so there are leftovers to share with those who will never be able to repay. How can we show more love?

Love is visible when a donor says "Here's \$5,000 to spend on improving the house." and the Luther House board says to you, dear reader, can you help us too? For **every gift given to our Building Fund through May 2019, our donor will match it, dollar for dollar**, giving us a chance to have \$10,000 to spend to make bathrooms, tables, rooms, anything we dream up into a chance to make the love of Jesus Christ become real in the lives of college students at UNM and CNM. See below how to contribute and help Luther House live into the future God has in store for us. You are God's love made visible and I am so grateful!

*Pastor Bre Roberts*

### WHAT'S UP ON WEDNESDAYS?

The other week we literally ran out of chairs for everyone to sit down for dinner - what a wonderful "problem" to have! Join us on a Wednesday night at 5pm for a simple meal and bible study following at 6pm. Everyone is welcome, so please tell UNM and CNM students in your life about us.



## LUTHER HOUSE'S BUILDING FUND AND YOU!

Thanks to a generous, longtime donor and supporter of Luther House, we have been given a gift and a challenge: *can we double a \$5,000 gift to help care for a building that was built over 80 years ago that lovingly shelters our ministry?* Imagine what \$10,000 could do! If you as an individual or as a congregation or group would like to support our matching challenge, here's how:

- Think about how you can be generous to Luther House above and beyond any gifts you usually share with us. We still need congregational and individual donations to make our usual programming happen.
- Write us a check and send it to us in the envelope included OR make a gift online via our PayPal account on our website. Please make sure you note either way you give that this gift or what portion of your giving is for the "Building Fund" at Luther House.
- The deadline to give a matchable gift is May 31! We will be announcing before summer starts how close we are to our goal and what our plans for building improvements will be. Thank you for the ways you advocate for and support campus ministry in time, talents, and treasure.

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DON'T FORGET! WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE:  
[www.LutherHouseNM.org](http://www.LutherHouseNM.org)

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## ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD WINTER RETREAT AT RAINBOW TRAIL LUTHERAN CAMP

Pastor Bre, Jaen, Rado, and James left on a Friday afternoon



in a borrowed van to head north to join our fellow campus ministries at Rainbow Trail for some time together in fellowship, worship, and a

high ropes course for the very brave. We were joined by five representatives from our ELCA seminaries who helped us see how our stories connect to God's story. Despite the snowy weather, we were warm around meals and in front of fires while some did homework and others painted. All in all, 30 young adults from eight different ministries spent time with each other and their leaders, plus two camp dogs, to feel connected as the center of what God is doing in the

world. We are grateful for Bethany Lutheran Church Foundation, Cherry Hills Village & Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, for making financial contributions to this retreat. We are truly Christ's church, better together, as Bishop Jim Gonias says and this weekend helped us all to incarnate that together.



## A BIG, BIG THANK YOU! CAROLS + CHEER AND OUR CONCERTS WITH TOMMY & SAUNDRA



We had a smashing time at the Uptown Tasting Room of Broken Trail Brewery and Distillery *and* sang along at two concerts featuring Tommy & Sandra O'Sullivan from Dingle, Ireland. Thank you to Pauleta Hendrickson, Clara Byom, Steve Meilleur, Christ Lutheran Church in Santa Fe, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, and everyone who came to these events!

