

# LUTHER HOUSE NEWS

Lutheran Campus Ministry @ UNM & CNM  
A LuMin campus ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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**EXPANDING MINDS, DEEPENING FAITH, INSPIRING SERVICE, BUILDING COMMUNITY**

## Spring 2020

Dear friend,

This is not how Spring 2020 was supposed to be. We were supposed to share dinners outside on Luther House's front yard. We anticipated a Spring Break of relaxation and refreshment. We expected a semester like normal and planning for summer adventures. And now, none of that will happen in the expected way thanks to a novel coronavirus, quarantine precautions, closing dorm rooms and campus facilities, and all the complications of our new socially distanced life.

But since our last newsletter, we have had many meals shared at our table, cups of free coffee have been offered, quiet moments hosted in the UNM Alumni Memorial chapel, and more. All of these moments collect to form what the ministry of Luther House is always striving to be for the communities of UNM and CNM: a place to belong. ***This continues even during quarantine and social distancing.***

This belonging is the first step to reorient our thinking about how we talk about our faith and how we continue the faith formation journey with the young adults on campus as we meet them. An old model of evangelism goes like this: "*Believe, Become, Belong*" where we believe in a particular way to become part of a community to which we then belong. A newer model that we've been using for years is a "*Belong, Believe, Become*" model. This means we first offer belonging, regardless of beliefs, with an invitation to consider how the community believes, which leads to someone becoming identified with that place they belong.

This happens in campus ministry when folks call me their pastor when I wasn't sure how connected they were to Luther House, or when I get asked to write a letter of recommendation for a student living at the house because they belong enough, or when someone on campus recognizes me from Halloween when I was in costume handing out snacks, because, well, who doesn't like snacks?! Now as our lives have dramatically shifted, this belonging happens over Zoom bible studies and conversations, young adult small groups, and the formation of community online where we can.

Your support of Luther House through time, talents, and financial gifts make the space for folks, young adults, seekers, questioners, doubters, all of them, to find a space to belong, then believe, then become part of our community of followers of Jesus. In this time of uncertainty, please continue to support our work as you are able, especially if you are a Thrivent member! I hope you come alongside us as we walk with the communities of UNM and CNM as we seek the ways the Holy Spirit is drawing us into deeper connection.

Your sibling in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bre Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pastor Bre Roberts





Rado Josoa, sophomore, Computer Science working as a student manager for the Women's Basketball team.

**Calling All Thrivent Members!**



Help sustain campus ministry through uncertainty thanks to COVID-19! From now through June 30, 2020, Thrivent will be providing an extra \$1 for every \$2 donated for the first \$1 million in donations made through Thrivent.com. Search for "Lutheran Campus Ministry New Mexico" to make a donation or direct your Thrivent Choice dollars.



James, Niko, and Kehinde stand for a picture after dinner.

**Apart But Still Together**



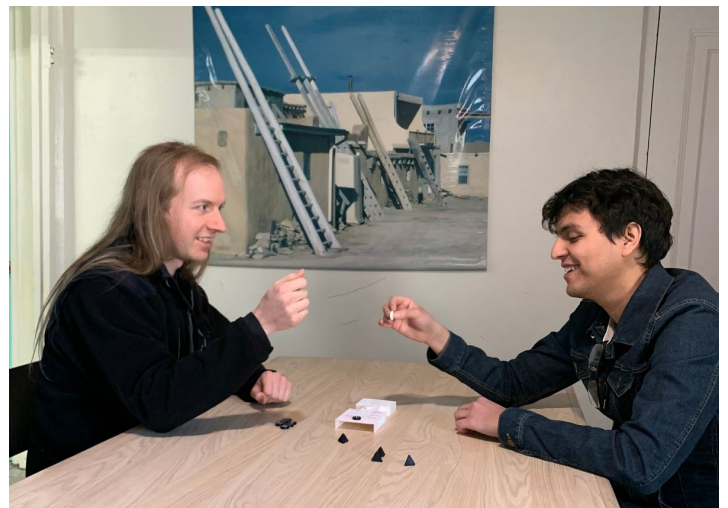
Follow Luther House on our social media platforms to stay connected through times of self-isolation and social distancing.

**FACEBOOK:**

[facebook.com/LutherHouseUnmCnm](https://facebook.com/LutherHouseUnmCnm)

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James, recent electrical engineering graduate, learns from Jorge, electrical engineering Ph.D. student, how to play a new game that he created from a 3D printer.

