

# Campus ministry builds the body of Christ

Sites are centers of leadership, partnership and adaptability

## Leadership

Ask your pastor, youth director or the lay leaders in your congregation: “What was one of the most important experiences in helping you respond to your call to ministry?” You will often hear: involvement in a campus ministry during the formative years of young adulthood.

In fact, involvement in a campus ministry is cited by many current seminarians as one of the strongest reasons for discovering their sense of call.

A scan of most of our pews reveals that young adults (ages 18-30) are present in very small numbers. This is true across Protestant denominations in the U.S. But Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) is present where they are: in higher education settings where these young adults are developing their careers. Campus ministries are an extension of the ministry of their home congregations.

In the highly fragmented world of students who live off campus and work 30 hours per week while maintaining a full course load, providing a place for community to grow is an essential part of LCM work. The potential for isolation, anxiety and depression is high on campus. Giving students a place to grow as individuals and as a community of faith can truly be a lifeline.

LCM challenges young adults to continue to “grow in grace and favor with the Lord” by strengthening their leadership skills and being in ministry with one another.

## Partnership

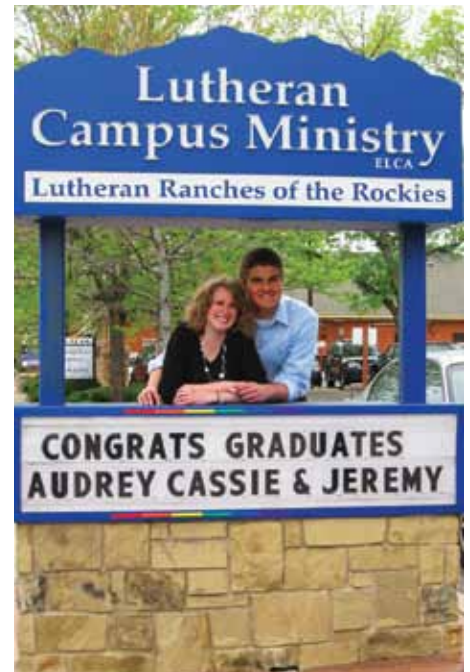
This is a partnership ministry—

working with other groups on campus, with local churches and youth groups, with camping and campus ministries around the country, and with the ELCA. Campus ministry is one of the things we *do together* in our widespread Rocky Mountain Synod, which supports eight full- and part-time campus ministries in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. In an increasingly fragmented world, campus ministries offer the daily experience of working together with others across many boundaries.

## Adaptability

In a rapidly changing world, campus ministries are constantly working to find ways to speak God’s word of grace in a new context. It’s like being a mission developer with a new congregation *every year* or even *every semester*. It’s like being an evangelist, bringing the gospel to places where it has never been heard before or, as is more common, where it has been misheard before.

The work of campus ministry involves pastoral care for the fac-



ulty and staff who are facing deeper and deeper financial cuts, and for students looking for work to pay tuition. The gospel in the academic community always needs to address the ethical issues raised by research and advances in technology. □



# Rocky Mountain



## Stories from Rocky Mountain Synod campus ministries

**L**utheran Campus Ministry continues to make a profound difference in the lives of young adults and our larger church, long after graduation from college.

### University of Colorado, Boulder

An alumna of CU-Boulder is leading a daily Protestant Bible study at the Catholic law school where she is a student. And at a recent gathering of alumni, former students shared their experiences of very active leadership roles in their congregations. They all credit their worship and peer ministry leadership experiences in Lutheran

Campus Ministry as the safe place to practice and learn leadership skills and the spiritual disciplines they will use the rest of their lives.

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Facebook: [LutheranCampusMinistry@CU Boulder](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranCampusMinistry@CUBoulder)

Twitter: [@LCMontheHILL](https://twitter.com/LCMontheHILL)

### Colorado State University, Fort Collins

We have served as a training ground for people headed to seminary. We have two recent seminary graduates and two who are currently in seminary. One young adult worked



at LCM as our outreach director, which gave him a year of ministry experience with young adults before entering seminary. He is now a pastor and is starting a young adult ministry at his church in Rochester, Minn. We are proud of him and all of our alumni who are professional church workers and active laypeople in congregations throughout the world.

Website: [lcmsu.org](http://lcmsu.org)

Email: [LCMCSU@gmail.com](mailto:LCMCSU@gmail.com)

Facebook: [LutheranCampusMinistryatColoradoStateUniversity](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranCampusMinistryatColoradoStateUniversity)

## What campus ministry needs

- The names and updated email/telephone contacts for students from your congregation who are attending campus ministry sites.
- Support for campus ministry in light of a 2011 assembly resolution: “Be It Resolved that the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA gratefully acknowledges the faithful and fruitful proclamation of the gospel among young adults by Lutheran Campus Ministries in our synod; that the Synod Campus Ministry Committee and the Lutheran Campus Ministry sites be encouraged to create materials and programs for synodical use

which develop, support, and review an integrated, synodwide approach to continuity of care for post high school young adults, with a focus on leadership development; and that congregations and members select a campus ministry site for intentional financial support.”

- Funding support so the ministry of developing and equipping leaders for the entire church continues, especially in light of reduced funding directly from the ELCA and the Rocky Mountain Synod.
- Food and grocery gift cards to feed hungry students.

### University of New Mexico & Central New Mexico Community College, Albuquerque

Service-learning programs at the University of New Mexico give young adults the opportunity to put their faith into action. Service projects also open the door for students unsure about their faith to work side by side with leaders and mentors who aren't afraid of their questions and are willing to walk with them. In Albuquerque this means partnership with the all-city youth group, visits with partner congregations in Monor, Hungary, and the Pueblo immer-



sion program with mission schools in local areas, as well as the border immersion.

Email: [lcm@unm.edu](mailto:lcm@unm.edu)

Website: [www.unm.edu/~lcm](http://www.unm.edu/~lcm)

Facebook: [LutheranEpiscopalCampusMinistryatUNMandCNM](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranEpiscopalCampusMinistryatUNMandCNM)

## University of Northern Colorado, Greeley

Campus ministry is a place for students at the University of Northern Colorado and Aims Community College to gather in community and grow in faith. Partner congregations throughout northern Colorado support the ministry. Our mission: "We gather in Christ's name to share God's love, grow in faith, respect and nurture our differences, and serve others."

Email: [SMoening@greeleylutheran.org](mailto:SMoening@greeleylutheran.org)

## New Mexico State University, Las Cruces

Our campus ministry and our students are committed to their relationship with Peace Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, our partner in ministry, and to NMSU. Our ministry helps organize and sponsor interfaith dialogues on campus, as well as an Interfaith Council. We teach students about other religions and cultures through servant trips and travel to other countries.

Our partnerships with others keep our ministry strong!

Email: [padrecita@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:padrecita@peacelutheranlc.com)

Website: [peacelutheranlc.com](http://peacelutheranlc.com)

## New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas

St. Paul's Peace Church is a combined ministry of the Episcopal Church and the ELCA. Campus ministry is one of the outreach programs of St. Paul's Peace.

Website: [stpaulspeace.org](http://stpaulspeace.org)

Email: [stpaulspeace@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaulspeace@hotmail.com)

## Utah State University, Logan

Lutheran Campus Ministry provides opportunities for worship, education, community service and Chris-

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### Bishop's reflection:

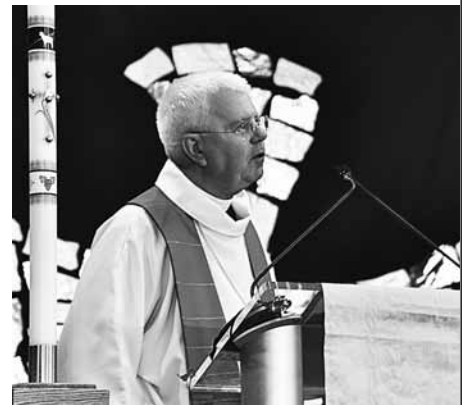
## When I think about campus pastors, I think about the future

The good Dr. Martin Luther, like baseball's Yogi Berra, has more comments attributed to him than he could possibly have spoken. Still, I believe he did in fact speak about hope in all circumstances: "If I knew the world were going to end tomorrow, I would plant a tree."

Hope trusts, and hope acts. Luther, above all, trusted that by grace he had been made a part of God's future. Secure in that faith, Luther found the courage to act, trusting the Spirit to weave his actions into God's intention.

While punditry provides ample reason to fear the future, hope persists. Perhaps because it is God given, and perhaps because it is poured over us in baptism. Dread and despair paralyze, they lead to inaction. Hope energizes and moves us forward.

Above all, hope humanizes and enables us to see the potential and



promise in other children of God. Hope enables us to welcome another into our lives and into the life of Christian community.

When I think about campus pastors, I think about the future. In good times and bad, propelled by hope, these good leaders are planting trees. Trusting in God's future, they are planting trees.

*Bishop Allan Bjornberg*



## New bishop to be elected at the 2012 synod assembly

The election of a new bishop for the Rocky Mountain Synod will take place at the 2012 assembly in Colorado Springs, April 26-28.

Bishop Allan Bjornberg plans to retire and will not be up for re-election.

As the election process commences, the goal is that an intentional discernment process take place, that there be wide participation across the synod, and that lay and rostered assembly voting members are equally equipped.

The newly elected bishop of the synod will begin serving Aug. 1, 2012. The Festival Liturgy of Installation will take place at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012, at Bethany Lutheran Church in south metro Denver. ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson will be present to install the new bishop.

Additional resources for study and discernment are posted on the Rocky Mountain Synod website ([rmselca.org/bishop-election](http://rmselca.org/bishop-election)). The election process includes the following timeline:

### Fall gatherings

Fall gatherings are taking place prior to Dec. 15, which is the deadline for submitting names of potential nominees. Find instructions for submitting names at [rmselca.org/bishop-election](http://rmselca.org/bishop-election).

Members of Rocky Mountain

Synod congregations may submit names of potential nominees. A bishop nominee may be any pastor on the ELCA clergy roster.

### Notification of potential nominees

Those whose names were submitted as potential nominees will be invited to submit their biographical information, as well as responses to questions about their vision for the ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod by Jan. 31.

### Lent gatherings

Conference deans will schedule spring conference and/or cluster gatherings of pastors and congregational synod assembly voting members. These gatherings will:

- Educate voting members about the discernment and election process.
- Begin discernment in light of the potential nominee biographical and ministry materials available to them.
- Identify initial questions to be presented to nominees at the assembly.

### Election at the 2012 assembly

Congregations are encouraged to elect assembly voting members by Jan. 31, 2012, so they may have ample time to participate in the discernment process.

At the assembly, the first ballot is an “ecclesiastical ballot” in which each voting member has the oppor-

tunity to write down the name of his or her nominee for bishop. This is the official nominating ballot. Names submitted may or may not have been raised up in the earlier process of identifying potential nominees and disseminating biographical information.

The bishop is elected after subsequent ballots in which the field of nominees is gradually reduced. □

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tian fellowship for USU students and any other young-at-heart adults. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Logan, has been involved in campus ministry at USU since 1991. Email: [PoPLogan@qwestoffice.net](mailto:PoPLogan@qwestoffice.net) Website: [www.princeofpeace.org](http://www.princeofpeace.org)

### University of Wyoming, Laramie

Our ministry serves UW, Wyo Tech, and Laramie County Community College through a fully integrated ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church, Laramie. Trinity has a long-term commitment to having interns from Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, who serve as campus ministers to reach staff, faculty and students. They enable students to deepen their relationship with Christ while forming strong relationships with parishioners in a spiritually nurturing environment. Email: [ipastor@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ipastor@qwestoffice.net) Website: [telclaramie.org](http://telclaramie.org) □