

# Lutheran Campus Ministry at CU Boulder

## BreadEx



The heart of our ministry is a weekly, Tuesday night meal that we call, 'Bread+Belonging.' It's a project we support along with St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. In normal times it's a place where students get to stop, take a breath, share a meal, and a place where students know they belong.

We spent last summer figuring out how to keep our weekly, Tuesday night dinners going, but now, outdoors with social distance. Before that first Tuesday night of the fall we tried to take every detail into account. There were chalk arrows and signs. We carefully arranged the tables with placards that said how many people could sit at each one.

Then the students arrived. They paid particular attention to our instructions. After they picked up their food they walked right past our carefully aligned tables, sat down on the ground, and formed a large circle (still responsibly distant). After six months of isolation, more than anything, they wanted to see each other's faces and to reconnect.

In October rising COVID cases led the City of Boulder to implement a month-long lockdown that applied only to 18-22

year olds. After a couple of weeks of gathering outside it seemed that our weekly Tuesday night meals had come to an end.

Then inspiration struck. If students couldn't come to us, then we would go to them. We sent word out to our regular dinner hosts and in just a couple of days we had prepared and delivered over 50 meals to homebound students.

It was a massive undertaking. Our staff had to navigate a menagerie of dietary requirements. Some homes had vegans. Others were gluten-free. There were dairy and nut allergies. And yet, working with members of local congregations, each week for a month students and their roommates received a warm meal.

With the help of over a dozen of our supporters, through financial gifts, in October **we helped over 200 students stay connected to a community that cares for and supports them.**

Campus Ministry during a pandemic has been far from perfect. It is not what it should be. Still we have faith that it will be enough to see us through.

### Questions for Reflection

- What unrecognized resources can your community utilize for ministry?
- How has your community supported young adults during the past year?