A Note from Anna

What a year! Lutheran Campus Ministry at Minot State has been on a roll this 2018-2019 academic year from our regular programing, such as Tuesday Soup and Thursday Worship, to our service learning experiences, like our new partnership with Minot’s Men’s Winter Refuge and going to Washington DC for our Spring Break Trip. The Holy Spirit has led us into new relationships and has continued to guide us as we faithfully step into further organization of LCM and our work at Minot State and beyond. Again I will say, what a year!

People often ask me what I do over the summer months, since the student population is not as abundant on campus. This summer I will be organizing our programing for the 2019-2020 academic year, visiting congregations and camps, going to WND Synod Assembly, the Synod Women’s Organization Convention, and the LuMin Gathering (our annual, national conference for LCM ministers), help with summer staff training at Metigoshe Ministries, and our LCM Board of Directors will have a board retreat so we can continue visioning LCM’s ministry. I still visit with the many students who are in town for the summer, those who are taking summer classes, and those who work on campus over the summer. I am also working with Minot State Wellness Center to finish organizing the new campus food pantry. I will take some time off to rest, too! School begins late August so these summer months are valuable for planning and slowing down a bit before the rush of the school year returns.

I invite you to read through this newsletter to see what the Holy Spirit has been up to through your ministry to the students, staff, and faculty at Minot State. I believe you will see that we are living into our call to be a ministry that is about building community, deepening faith, expanding minds, and inspiring service. I am grateful for your continued partnership and I ask you to pray for us, keep supporting us financially, participate in our campus activities, and to keep connecting me with the students you know who are attending Minot State. This is shared ministry that is forever impactful and I thank you so much for your work!
LCM Worship

This year we met weekly, on campus, Thursday evenings for worship. During Advent and Lent we used Holden Evening Prayer, which was a first for several students. This liturgy creates a contemplative worship space for those gathered and since Advent and Lent are often during finals or midterms, a contemplative, calm way of worship is just what students need. Other times we had camp style worship, or did the Faith 5, or prayer stations, and often we practiced dwelling in the Word together because we believe everyone is able to share their understanding of scripture and learn from one another.

LCM Peer Minister, Adam Barden, was the primary worship planner and leader, using his years of church experience, his voice, and talent with guitar playing to guide us all, weekly, through worship. Thanks, Adam, for serving LCM in this way!! Thank you to First Lutheran Church for letting us borrow a few copies of Holden Evening Prayer this year!

Tuesday Soup is about more than soup

Our most public ministry is Tuesday Soup. This is a free lunch to any person on campus, every Tuesday from 11am to 1pm during the school year. In January a pipe froze and then burst in the Beaver Dam on campus causing a lot of flooding in the Dam and in the lower level of the Student Center. This flooding closed the lower level for the remainder of the school year and so Tuesday Soup had to move. LCM worked with MSU Student Affairs to find a location that would fit this growing ministry, and now we serve soup in the Atrium of the Student Center/Administration building—right in the front hallway!

This year we have really come to understand providing soup as more than just a way to meet the basic hunger needs that many people have, it is also how we extend hospitality and create community for those who come and eat. The new space we use has very limited seating but that doesn’t stop people from coming and eating together. In fact, we see more people sitting together with others they might not have before because our previous tables were small. Christ Lutheran Church in Minot has a faith statement “born anew by water and the Spirit” and while Minot State’s flood this year was tiny in comparison to what Christ Lutheran (and so many other people and places) experienced, LCM has been witness to the Spirit at work in and through this soup ministry in its new space. We have an increase of people served (from 160 people on the first soup day to 215 on the last soup day with 323 being our highest number served this year), new community is developing, and we are known on campus for providing a vital service for the wellbeing of students. Because of Tuesday Soup, LCM is known as a safe, welcoming community on campus who shows up.
**Tuesday Soup Thanks**

Thank you to the people who go to Bethany Lutheran, Bread of Life, Christ Lutheran, First Lutheran, Hope Lutheran of Surrey, Norwich Lutheran, Peace Lutheran of Burlington, Saron Lutheran, Zion Lutheran, Metigoshe Ministries, Camp of the Cross, and Upper Missouri Ministries for providing soup all year!

Thank you to Jerry Gooch, the MSU Student Government, and the ELCA Endowment for ND for providing bowls, spoons, cups, napkins, peanut butter, jelly, lemonade, and other items as needed. LCM Board Members Carmen Fricke, Sherrie Solper, Sue Robb along with Jim Robb, are at soup every Tuesday to set up, clean up, and make sure things run smoothly—thank you!!

Thank you to the custodial staff, maintenance staff, and the Student Affairs and Student Activities staff at Minot State for helping us find new space, trouble shooting electrical questions about crock pots and roasters, for providing and setting up tables and chairs every week, and for cleaning! Tuesday Soup wouldn’t happen without all of these helping hands.

Thank you to all who support this good, vital ministry of LCM!

Want to partner with LCM for Tuesday Soup? We’d love that! Contact Deacon Anna.

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**Minot State Food Pantry**

Campuses around the nation are continuing to experience an increase (between 30%-50%) in students who are food insecure. Minot State is not exempt from this growing trend. LCM is partnering with Minot State Wellness Center to provide more access to food for students experiencing “episodic” and “chronic food insecurity.” Over the summer, Deacon Anna and Wellness Center Director, Paul Brekke, will be learning more about how other campuses address food insecurity through an online conference and by talking with other Lutheran Campus Ministries around the country who have food pantries. LCM hopes to have a student serve as a Vocational Intern during the school year to help run the food pantry. The pantry is located on the first floor of the Wellness Center and is available for any student who needs food.

This year Bread of Life Lutheran began a food drive for the campus food pantry and for the past three years, St. Therese, Church of the Little Flower Catholic Church, has been continually giving food—now we have an organized way of making sure all students have access to it. We are submitting a grant proposal to the Minot Area Community Foundation, have a small grant from the ELCA Endowment for ND and also received funds last year from the MSU Student Government to purchase food. If you or your congregation are interested in hosting a food drive, or would like to make a financial contribution to the food pantry, please be in touch with Deacon Anna!

Vocational Internship Program

Ben Helland and Adam Barden served Christ Lutheran and Hope Lutheran, Surrey, respectively as Vocation-al Interns through LCM this school year.

Ben graduated in December 2018 and so his internship experience went from June 2018-December 2018. His focus was helping rebuild the high school youth group at Christ Lutheran; Pastor Derek Harkins served as his mentor. The people of Christ Lutheran recognized Ben and his work during Advent at a youth led worship service which included the blessing and laying on of hands.

Adam finished his third and final year as an intern. His internship experience was September 2018-May 2019. Adam focused on learning more about church pastoral leadership through preaching, working with Confirmation and high school youth, and leading Sunday music. Pastor Kim Gifford served as his mentor and provided many opportunities for him to experience what congregational ministry is like. The people of Hope Lutheran recognized him and his work during their Graduate Sunday and gave him a quilt to show their appreciation.

Both Ben and Adam are discerning their call to congregational ministry. Thank you to the congregations who host students as interns through LCM’s VIP opportunity—you actively help students discern their vocation and call to ministry!

10th Annual Chili Feed & Auction

In November many people in our area came out to support LCM at our annual Chili Feed—thank you to all who came! As is tradition, local ministers made a roaster of chili to serve and compete for the “people’s choice” award and the “judge’s choice” award (this year the Minot Fire Department made that determination). Pastor Kim Gifford (Hope Lutheran) won for people’s choice and Pastor John Warner (Saron Lutheran) won the judge’s choice. A huge thanks to Pastors Janet Mathistad and Gerald Roise (Bethany), Interim Pastor Dan Paulson and the Council (Bread of Life), Pastors Desiree Uhrich and Derek Harkins (Christ), Pastor Ellery Dykeman (First), Pastor Kathi Nygaard (Granville-Norwich), Pastor Emily Nesdahl (Peace), and Pastor John Streccius (Zion) for providing so much delicious chili!

We had a short program and a silent and live auction (thank you, Auctioneer Jim Bearman) with many great items bid upon. As always a free will offering was accepted at the door and everyone gave generously for our 10th Annual Chili Feed. We raised over $6,000! The money raised at this event went to fund the LCM 2019 Spring Break Trip to Washington DC. Thank you for coming to our event and for your financial support.

Mark your calendar for our 11th Annual Chili Feed and Auction: Sunday, November 17th. All details coming soon!
LCM and Service Learning in Minot

This year we began a partnership with Minot’s Men’s Winter Refuge, we went to the house monthly while the shelter was open, make supper there, and then ate with the guests who were staying there. LCM feels called to provide opportunities for students to give back to the greater community so we do this by partnering with other agencies in the area to serve. We inspire service! An area of focus for our students this year was hunger and homelessness and so to give our faith “feet” we practiced what we believe: that Jesus called us to love and serve all people and that Jesus is found especially in the midst of the poor, outcast, and hurting—so we go and meet Jesus there. What we found: folks just trying to get by like everyone else and needing some help along the way (you’ll read more of that in our Spring Break write up on the next page)! We will continue to partner with the Men’s Winter Refuge and look forward to sharing a meal and conversation with the folks we meet there. A special thank you to Executive Director of MWR, Mike Zimmer, for welcoming us, and especially to Rev. Mary Johnson of Minot, a previous MWR board member, for connecting LCM and MWR.

Some other things we’ve done...

We went to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN with Christus Rex (UND) for a discernment weekend.

We went to Bismarck to participate in Lutheran Day at the Capitol along with the other North Dakota Campus Ministries.

We hand out “end of semester cheer” each year to help students take a fun break.

Title IX Red Run to End Domestic Violence; MSU Choirs Concert

Deacon Anna offers the invocation at commencement.
Spring Break Trip 2019: Washington DC

#LCMHype2019- Dam DC!! (by Paige Dolan)

So Spring Break of 2019 to DC we did go.
But we had our first flight delayed because of cold and snow.
The Steinbruck Center at Luther Place is where we laid our heads.
All 6 of us shared a room with pretty cool bunk beds.

Then we were off to see Mount Vernon in our lovely bitch of a van.
There we met a security guard, who waved at us, Thanks man!
Off to Saint Peters In the Woods for hypothermia prevention.
We met some guests, did perimeter checks, and got not much sleep
I should mention.
To Gary and Rob and all that we met while serving at Saint Peters Church.
Thanks for allowing us to be part of something that inside our hearts we did search.

The Lamb Center is where we went next to do work like Martha and Mary.
Conversations were had, connections were made and we were no longer wary.
Deb and Dave, the deacons there, had some wisdom about community to impart.
While taking a break we took 30 minutes just trying to straighten their art.
Known as the group from cold North Dakota we gave hugs as we got ready to go.
We taught these people some key ND phrases like "You Betcha" and "Don'tcha Know!"

Back to DC with the ELCA to learn about advocacy.
We created a plan in that short time span that was not about politics, but policy.
After we learned the tricks of the trade we headed to Capitol Hill.
We met Kelly Armstrong, discussed homelessness then after decided to chill.
Exhausted and tired from walking around, some steps is where we did drop.
A few miles later and after some searching we found a good ice cream shop.
Norfolk, Virginia on Chesapeake Bay with a beach that was in our backyard.
We settled into our AirBNB to relax and let down our guard.
To Virginia Beach to visit the ocean with lots of laughter and fun.
We proceeded to take many jumping photos in the warmth under the sun.

The DC monuments was the last thing we did while roaming and taking in sites.
Then to the hotel was where we would sleep to get ready for the long flight.
So thank you for helping us get to DC to experience this life changing place.
We met tons of people, connected a lot and it was all by God's good Grace!
So from Anna and Adam, Nicole and Marina, and also Jeremiah and Paige.
We thank you again for supporting us all because on this trip we did change!
Here’s the write up done for the St. Peter’s in the Woods Episcopal Church newsletter, they shared it with us:

**St Peter’s in the Woods Hypothermia Week 2019 – Wrap-up**

Our Hypothermia Shelter Week 2019 has come and gone. Such a great week of service, faith and spirit by the most wonderful congregation in the world and all our volunteer helpers and partners. We supported on average 34 clients per evening with breakfast, lunch and dinner meals, snacks, personal supplies, conversation, faith and warmth. Our in-kind donations (facility, food, various supplies) totaled over $12,000. A total of 203 volunteers participated accumulating over 1428 service hours. We had visitors from Lutheran Campus Ministries Minot State University, whose mission trip brought them to St. Peter’s for two days to familiarize themselves with our project and gather all the insight available so as they headed back to Minot, North Dakota they had information and planning ideas to implement a shelter program in their area. The joy and spirit between their group, us and the clients cannot be expressed. The questions asked were heartfelt and well-constructed. It is hoped our answers and information were helpful in their future planning. It was also a blessing for them to help St. Peter’s as early evening chaperones, dinner servers, setup, clean-up and overnight chaperones. Hopefully each one on this mission trip from MSU took away a faith/spiritual experience to cherish and build on for the future. What a blessing! We now rest awhile and soon begin preparation for HYPOTHERMIA 2020 (8-15 March 2020).

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**Ever changing lambs**

The morning dew
As we start our day
With pity glares.
Closing off our minds
That screams for help.
We sit upon our curve
Pondering about life
A few coins in hand
With challenges ahead
To walk another mile
Finding ways to provide
For another bite
Before our cries of hunger strike
With a sack of clothes
Realizing we need shelter
Before night.
No walls around
A box to sleep upon
And there we lie
Craving our past
The night hides our longing
For future success
To be looked at with no shame
Might of just brightened our day.
God provides in unseen ways
In the five minutes of time
We are reminded
It’s just another phase of life.
So before you judge
Remember we all have hard times.

-Anonemous (LCM person)
Dedicate to lamb center
Building Community
Deepening Faith
Expanding Minds
Inspiring Service