

Lutheran Campus Ministry at NIU

*“Serving and Growing in Christ through
Worship, Outreach and Community”*



Lutheran Campus Ministry
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It has been an exciting year as we have gathered in many ways seeking to live out the above mission statement. Students churched and unchurched, Lutheran and non-Lutheran in background, gather for a variety of activities at our center based campus ministry building across from NIU's Student Center.

Intern Pastor Sharon Rogers began a half time position as an interim minister August 1, 2005 and led weekly worship at 9pm on Wednesday evenings while classes were in session. Over 120 different students, averaging 34 on any given week, have gathered for worship this year. A 7-member student worship band led music. Students participated weekly in worship serving as greeters, ushers, lectors, acolytes, communion assistants, sacristan, and powerpoint technicians. Students also participated in the telling of the Christmas story and events of Holy Week and Easter through drama and dramatic readings. We are thankful for the partnership of First Lutheran Church in DeKalb and the gift from their Evangelism Committee of 50 *“Oremus III+: A Book of Worship for Corporate and Private Prayer”* produced by the Lutheran Student Movement for use in worship.

A number of students came weekly on Wednesdays at 8pm for food (generously brought by area congregations) and a time of fellowship before worship. We are so thankful for our partners from Bethlehem, Trinity and First in DeKalb, Salem in Sycamore, Faith in Rochelle, and Calvary in Lee who provide food for our Wednesday night meals.

Six student peer ministers and other student leaders helped staff the building, plan and lead programmatic activities, and promote LCM@NIU along with Sharon. Students designed the logo, shown above, this year. Weekly Bible study brought together a dozen regular students who spent Sunday evenings in the fall using the ELCA Daily Discipleship lectionary-based material and the spring semester with a topically based Bible study based on the book *“Perspectives: A Spiritual Life Guide for Twenty-Somethings.”* We were blessed this year with gifts of *“Master Builder Study Bibles”* from ELCA Lutheran Men in Mission ELCA (12 Bibles), Lutheran Men in Mission of Northern Illinois Synod (24 Bibles), and Calvary Lutheran, Lee, Sarah's Daughters (12 Bibles) in memory of LCM@NIU friend, Richard Hanson, for use in worship and Bible study.

Outreach efforts on the campus have included back to school candy survival kits, bottled water, hot dog and chip giveaway events and distribution of 500 copies of a college edition of *“Relevant”* magazine containing an invitation to LCM@NIU. Along with personal contact, weekly emails, monthly calendar of events distribution at worship, event information in the campus newspaper: *“The Northern Star”*, our web page www.nisynod.org/lcm, and an online directory, www.niu.facebook.com, invites, connects and helps keep students aware of the opportunities to join in LCM@NIU's ministry and activities.

Student involvement in opportunities for serving in the larger church and ministry in the community- local and beyond included:

- installing insulation at a local Habitat for Humanity new home building project,
- serving at NIU football game concession stands as a fundraiser for DeKalb County Habitat for Humanity,
- volunteering at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center's Autumn Days,
- a special Thanksgiving donation of items for and assembly of health kits for Lutheran World Relief,
- serving Thanksgiving Dinner at the Rockford Rescue Mission,
- gathering and loading of food and supplies from regional congregations for Lutheran Disaster Relief Gulf Coast Hurricane Response,
- 13 participants in an alternative Spring Break trip to New Orleans/Slidell, LA in partnership with Lutheran Disaster Response to gut flooded homes from Hurricane Katrina,
- Northern Illinois Synod Storybook Prison ministry at the Dixon Correctional Center.

Community fellowship activities have included events such as: Frisbee golf, Mini golf, Halloween S'mores night, Bowling, Corn Maze visit, girls night out to a chocolate fantasy event benefit for Rockford Rescue Mission, a Bible mystery night, Game Nights, 5th quarter cookouts after football games, and a parent's weekend open house. During the Advent season, we were blessed with the gift of a 12-foot Christmas tree for our sanctuary from Salem Lutheran in Sycamore, and had a Chrismon ornament making/tree decorating and gift exchange party.

Our student organized Friends and Family of LCM Trivia Night fundraiser was a huge success and helped fund our trip to the Gulf Coast over spring break to serve by doing hurricane relief work. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has been generous to LCM@NIU in matching money raised through this fundraiser, their Giving Plus program and the 2005 Challenge Grant.

We continue to seek to raise awareness of LCM@NIU's needs. An aging facility with building and property needs, funding needs, and hospitality needs has led LCM@NIU's board to create subcommittees for each of these areas. Be bold and contact board members if you are interested in serving- we need your help and ideas. LCM@NIU board members include: President – Rev. Paul Darveau, Vice-President – Rev. Dell Olson, Treasurer – Daryl Stienstra, Secretary – Pat Erickson, Rev. Marilyn Hanson, Rev. Steve Srock, Rev. Janet Wold. We give thanks and bid farewell to student board member Patrick Jenkins, former secretary Becky Finkenbinder, and former president Carla Vanatta for their time of faithful service on the board.

Telling our story is important and we have sought to do that at the Northeast Conference Mission Gathering, fall Women of the ELCA Convention, Congregational Resourcing Event, spring Northern Illinois Synod Lutheran Men in Mission Convention, congregational and conference visits, and we will have a display space and forum at the synod assembly. Synod benevolence for campus ministry is combined with support from the other Illinois synods and distributed by the board of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois to five campus ministries. LCM@NIU's state grant covers the minister's part-time salary and peer minister stipends. The support from many friends of LCM@NIU and congregations throughout the synod is so important in this vital ministry and we are so thankful. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we seek to make Christ known in the lives of students and on the campus at Northern Illinois University.