

The Path Campus Ministries at Humboldt State University (A subsidiary of Lutheran Student Fellowship)

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Grant Request Amount: \$10,000
Submitted by: Vicar Jason Moreno

Sponsored by:
The Lutheran Church of Arcata
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Path Campus Ministries is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both word and deed, showing ourselves to be a light in the darkness to Christians and non-Christians alike by working within the culture of our community yet also staying true to God's revealed Word in our teachings and in our actions.

VALUES

Our ministry is built upon what we like to call the four S's and worship:

Study (#1) entails anything that teaches an individual about Jesus Christ and encourages their faith walk in Him. It usually includes a regular Christian study geared specifically for college students, both in age and pertinence; this is to be held on campus so that the students don't have to walk as far. Topics can include evangelism and hermeneutics as well as current events.

Service (#2) shows that study is more than just reading; it is also putting that reading to good use. Service has two parts: service to one another and service to community. Regarding service to one another, students are encouraged to actively participate in the worship life of the congregation, whether in music, reading, ushering, or devotions. They are also encouraged to lead portions of the college ministry (e.g. retreats, service events). But service also means finding ways for the students to give back to their community. If faith is just a matter of church and Bible study, then students feel uninvolved and disconnected from their community; serving the community helps the students feel more relevant and needed. This is also another way to get to know non-Christians, by serving together and creating relationships that we hope will eventually lead them to the cross. Some of our past projects include cooking for the homeless, doing manual labor around the church and/or community, and visiting the elderly.

Socializing (#3) is important as a means of creating a community among the students. Students often do not feel like they belong in the youth group because they are too old. And they have trouble fitting into the rest of the congregation because they are too young or do not have families of their own. The social aspect of college ministry

creates a sense of belonging within the congregation as well as an excellent chance to meet Christian friends (and even date other Christians). To create this sense of belonging, we focus on finding things that the students like to do anyway (movies, television, parties, Ultimate Frisbee, going to a restaurant, going hiking, etc.) and make announcements that everyone will be getting together for it. We cannot leave it in the air and hope the students will do this on their own at first, but we can expect the students to begin organizing these things on their own later on. Everyone is welcome to these activities, which sometimes provides for a great way to meet students who aren't Christian. Another social aspect in our college ministry has been retreats. Held once a semester, these are a time for hanging out, devotions, and alone time; these are very important for students individually and as a group. The church has also worked to make the Adopt-a-Student program work. This is an opportunity to invite students over to the parishioners' homes each month for dinner; the students go out two-by-two so that they are not made to feel as awkward as if they were alone. The students get closer not only to one another, but also to the church as a whole. After a while, the students begin to find more of their identity in their faith since that's the one thing everyone has in common; even non-Christians realize that the Church has been the one to get everyone together, and they begin to be curious about what the Church is all about.

Spread (#4) is our goal to move beyond the boundaries of the Church. We want more than just the people who come to church each Sunday - we want the non-Christians in the world to hear the Gospel. In accomplishing this goal, we try to create a place and setting where it is okay for students to invite their non-Christian friends from work and school (which is also seen in our service and some of our socializing). Our ministry holds conversation nights once a month where we get together at a local ice cream shop to talk about a contemporary issue that has religious implications (e.g. stem cell research, intelligent design theory, aliens, etc.). The night is for open dialogue in small, unimposing settings so that Christians and non-Christians can discuss things with one another. We do not end with a "right answer" or an "altar call" - the point is just to talk, which is why it is not imposing. Since the topics have religious implications, people are allowed to talk about their beliefs. Christians are allowed to voice their faith since non-Christians can do the same. And in the end, you have friendships between Christians and non-Christians and many opportunities to share the Gospel within conversation.

Worship is meant to be an extension of all four of the S's of ministry. Worship is meant to teach the people who are in attendance about our loving God; bring people together into a community of friends and family that is the body of Christ; point people toward the service that needs to be done within their community by God's Spirit; and present the Gospel unto salvation to those who are not Christian in a way that they will not only understand, but also be open to hearing. Worship is not only meant to encourage Christians, but also to reach out to and convert non-Christians. Students learn more about God, feel they are a vital part of God's family, and join the worship life of the Church.

In the end, the world needs to see not only that we desire to make the world a better place, but also that we have a message of hope that goes beyond what the world has to offer - Jesus Christ.

PROPOSED BUDGET

YEAR	2006	2007	2008	2009
INCOME				
CNH District Partner Grant	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
LCoA [The Lutheran Church of Arcata]	\$17,825	\$6,825	\$8,800	\$11,025
Fundraisers	\$500	\$500	\$750	\$750
Total Income	\$43,325	\$17,325	\$19,550	\$21,775
PERSONNEL EXPENSES				
Salary/Housing/Benefits	\$33,375	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Car Allowance	\$2,100	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
Staff Conference	\$300	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
Vicarage Fees	\$510	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Personnel Expense	\$36,525	\$7,500	\$8,250	\$9,000
IN-KIND EXPENSES				
Gym Rental	\$2,500	\$2,750	\$3,000	\$3,250
Office Rental	\$1,200	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$1,750
Telephone	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400
Office Supplies/Postage	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350
Internet Service	\$150	\$175	\$200	\$225
Total In-Kind Expense	\$4,300	\$4,725	\$5,350	\$5,975
PROGRAM EXPENSES				
Education Materials	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500
Hospitality	\$250	\$250	\$300	\$350
Student Conferences	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800
Printing/Publicity	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
Postage	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350
Student Suppers/Weekly Hangouts	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800
Web Page Expense	\$300	\$500	\$600	\$700
Service Projects	\$100	\$500	\$600	\$700
Retreats	\$0	\$600	\$700	\$800
T-Shirts	\$0	\$500	\$600	\$700
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
Total Program Expense	\$2,500	\$5,100	\$5,950	\$6,800
TOTAL	\$43,325	\$17,325	\$19,550	\$21,775

Officer descriptions:

President (ideally 150 hours per semester):

- ❖ planning meetings (~1 hour per week)
- ❖ attending council meetings as Path representative (~3 hours per month)
- ❖ reporting to the congregation (after worship each week)
- ❖ being a Path representative at the Campus Ministry Coalition (~1 hour per month)
- ❖ filling out all required paper work for school and church (~1 hour per week)
- ❖ emails and keeping in touch with Council and Path members (~3 hours per week)
- ❖ tabling on campus (~2 hours per week)
- ❖ creating vision for Path ministries, future place within community (ongoing)
- ❖ registration and contacts (ongoing)

Proposed Stipend: \$1000 per semester

Vice President (ideally 150 hours per semester):

- ❖ plans/organizes retreats (~40 hours per semester)
- ❖ plans/organizes fun activities (~2 hours per week)
- ❖ plans/organizes community service (~2 hours per week)
- ❖ coordinates Bible study (~2 hours per week)
- ❖ keeping in touch with the council, path members (ongoing)

Proposed Stipend: \$1000 per semester

Treasurer (ideally 75 hours per semester):

- ❖ works with V.P. in planning activities within budget (~1 hour per week)
- ❖ plans fundraising (~2 hours per week)
- ❖ updates budget for the semester & year, creates future budgets (~2 hours per week)

Proposed Stipend: \$500 per semester

Secretary (ideally 75 hours per semester):

- ❖ records minutes, reports minutes during meetings (~2 hours per week)
- ❖ takes/types notes from Bible studies (~1 hour per week)
- ❖ emails updates of Path activities weekly (~1 hour per week)
- ❖ Updates website weekly with minutes and announcements (~1 hour per week)

Proposed Stipend: \$500 per semester

Historian:

- ❖ keeps record of all major activities, making end-of-year scrapbook (ongoing)
- ❖ takes photos of activities, events or assigns another photographer (ongoing)
- ❖ monitors general website concerns, coordinates with secretary (ongoing)
- ❖ posts secretary's Bible study notes, themes to the website (~2 hours per week)

Proposed Stipend: \$500 per semester

Other expenses foreseen for this coming year:

T-shirts: ~\$500 per year

Website (Software, training, and registration): ~\$500 per year

Gas Reimbursements (as mentioned above): ~\$1000 per year (ball park figure)

Miscellaneous Items: ~\$500 per year

Estimates for specific activities

Community Service

- ❖ Habitat for humanity: cost of gas
- ❖ Church workday: \$30 in supplies; \$30 in materials
- ❖ Feeding homeless (at the plaza or otherwise): \$150 for 30 meals
- ❖ Christmas cookie baking and caroling: \$30 for cookies; cost of gas
- ❖ Free Christmas cookies at the quad: \$75 for cookies and drinks
- ❖ Potawat Reservation: unknown (at least cost of gas)
- ❖ Free babysitting for special occasions: \$20 for snacks
- ❖ Chores for the elderly: incidental costs; cost of gas
- ❖ Soup making for advent/lent: \$50 in materials
- ❖ Anonymous gifts: as needed
- ❖ Community Garden: cost of gas

Fun Activities

- ❖ Sports activities (vs. other clubs/H.S. class): cost of extra equipment
- ❖ Camping/bonfire/beach: mostly borrowed; \$20 fire supplies; \$100 for food
- ❖ Fellowship exercising: possibly cost of video; other costs at student expense
- ❖ Retreat at Kaisha's home in Redding: cost of gas; \$50 for food
- ❖ Adopt-a-college-student Program: families absorb costs
- ❖ Lock-ins at the church: \$20 for snacks
- ❖ Holiday parties: unknown – tentatively \$75
- ❖ Movie nights: costs at student expense

HISTORY

The Lutheran Church of Arcata (LCoA) began in the 1970's as a joint mission of Our Redeemer Lutheran (LCMS) and Faith Lutheran (ALC). One of the missions of LCoA has always been to minister to the students and faculty at Humboldt State University.

Since 2003, The Lutheran Church of Arcata has implemented several significant shifts in its campus ministry. Rather than just being a *church away from home*, it has become more of a *mission station*, deliberately seeking the disconnected and lost through campus outreach and ministry. We have completely reevaluated everything we do with the dual purpose of not only strengthening current believers, but also bringing the lost into faith relationships with Jesus Christ.

From fall of 2003 until spring of 2006, we have been using the vicarage program of Concordia Seminary – St. Louis to supply full-time campus ministers one year at a time. Currently, though, we are in the midst of a pastoral vacancy, so we are unable to receive a new vicar for this coming year. With this in mind, we are now implementing a lay ministry through the students. But with less income because of the vacancy and a lack of pastoral vision for the immediate future, we are in need of help to continue this ministry. This is why we are in need of continued MAC assistance for the short-term future.

2003-04

The Lutheran Church of Arcata called its first vicar, Mark Jasa, from Concordia Seminary – St. Louis in August of 2003; Mark had the overwhelming job of restarting the campus ministry in Arcata with a mission outreach vision.

Net results of 2003-04:

- a. The club status of Lutheran Student Fellowship was reactivated.
- b. Regular tabling on the quad (to meet students) began at HSU.
- c. Dialog was established with Lutheran students, seekers, and the non-churched.
- d. Students began to involve themselves in daily outreach and dialog on the quad.
- e. A working database of students and campus ministries was developed.
- f. Weekly parish-sponsored student meals restarted with Bible study and discussion.
- g. Networking with other campus ministries at HSU was initiated by Vicar Mark.
(Known as *The Median*, the group met weekly for prayer and dialog.)
- h. Campus ministry's profile on Sunday mornings rose as Mark assisted in worship.
(Average student attendance on Sundays was five; students joined in parish events.)
- i. Parish gym was opened Tuesday and Thursday evenings for community basketball.
- j. Three joint retreat opportunities were planned by CNH Campus Ministers at UC/Santa Cruz, UC/Monterey, Cal/Berkeley, Stanford/Palo Alto, and HSU/Arcata.
- k. Monthly "Talk the Movies" began during Spring Semester.
- l. Three students served as part of the summer counselor/volunteer support staff at Blue Slide Youth Camp, sponsored by Lutheran Outdoor Ministry – North Coast.
- m. Vicar Mark was involved in two panel discussions on campus (along with Megan K.).
- n. Ongoing witnessing/dialog took place with two of the professors on campus.

2004-05

Vicar Todd Niebling from Concordia Seminary – St. Louis came in August of 2004.

Net Results of 2004-05:

- a. Lutheran Student Fellowship was renamed *The Path*, with a new logo.
- b. Regular tabling on the quad at HSU continued throughout most of the year.
- c. Dialog with Lutheran students, seekers, and the non-churched continued.
- d. Students continued to involve themselves in daily outreach and dialog.
- e. The working database of contacts was updated.
- f. Student meals were discontinued, but Bible study/discussion continued on-campus.
(This resulted in increased "drop-in" and "passer-by" ministry.)
- g. Median networking continued as campus ministers met weekly for prayer and dialog.
- h. Campus ministry kept a high profile on Sundays with Vicar Todd in worship.
(Average Sunday student attendance rose to nine; students attended parish events.)
- i. Parish gym was opened Tuesday and Thursday evenings for community basketball.
- j. Path activities included a retreat, several hikes, beach events, and bowling outings.
- k. Monthly "Talk the Movies" continued to be held.
- l. Vicar Todd organized Refuge Café, a free coffee house for students during finals.
- m. Three students served as part of the summer counselor/volunteer support staff at Blue Slide Youth Camp, sponsored by Lutheran Outdoor Ministry – North Coast.
- n. Vicar Todd was involved in a panel discussion on campus.
- o. Ongoing witnessing/dialog took place with two of the professors on campus.

2005-06

Vicar Jason Moreno from Concordia Seminary – St. Louis came in August of 2005.

Net Results of 2005-06:

- a. The Path developed an inclusive attitude; we have members from several denominations, and even a self-avowed “heathen” who hangs out and works with us.
- b. Regular tabling on the quad at HSU continued throughout most of the year, including discussions with Jehovah’s Witnesses that “appear” to have come to nothing.
- c. Our discussions with the non-churched developed into a specific ministry: Yogurt & Yakking – specifically meant to welcome people of any background for open-ended discussion. The “non-church” format made it easy to invite Christians and non-Christians alike, allowing Christians to share their faith since non-Christians were allowed to share their own views. Vicar Jason has also had some great religious conversations with people through (of all things) Dungeons and Dragons games; he had never played the game before coming to California.
- d. The Path is currently the only campus ministry here with emphases on community service and evangelism (at least of the conversational type). Other groups’ efforts at community service are sporadic, waiting for things to happen rather than looking to make them happen. Clichéd evangelism techniques (Bible tracts, random questions in public places) are still the norm for Campus Crusade and other independent efforts.
- e. We weeded through the student and campus minister databases.
- f. Student meals were brought back in a new form: Adopt-a-Student. The families at church volunteered to invite two (or more) students over for dinner each month, welcoming them into the church and giving them a free meal.
- g. Bible studies stayed on campus; we mostly covered evangelism techniques and hermeneutical principles for Scripture, as well as a few other side topics.
- h. Median networking continued on a monthly basis for prayer and dialog. The Median is now in the midst of planning a large joint retreat nearby for The Path, Solid Rock (Baptist), First Covenant, the Vine Club (Vineyard), Sunny Brae (Baptist), Faith Center (Foursquare), Campus Crusade, and anyone else from the area who would like to come. We are also planning a joint ministry event on campus as well.
- i. Campus ministry kept a high profile on Sundays with Vicar Jason in worship. (Normal Sunday student attendance stayed around eight; students put on a church Halloween party, hosted Lenten supper, attended Sunday and mid-week worship, and volunteered for a gardening group that has begun to surface.)
- j. Parish gym was opened Tuesday and Thursday evenings for community basketball.
- k. Path activities included two retreats, several parties, a beach event, bowling, Habitat for Humanity, elderly visitations, and evenings watching *The Bachelor*. When the other Northern California LSF groups cancelled on a retreat, we held our own locally; the girls even had their own event: GOJA – Girls Overthrowing Jason’s Apartment.
- l. Monthly “Talk the Movies” and Refuge Café were cancelled because... no one cared.
- m. Vicar Jason will be counseling at Blue Slide camp this year.
- n. We learned this year that panel discussions on campus in the past have had an adverse effect on public opinion of Christian groups, mostly because of the attitudes of the local Baptist pastor at the time; fortunately, that pastor has retired, and we have not hosted any more panel discussions recently. The panel discussion on homosexuality caused Christians to look like hate-mongers; tabling has worked to counter that.

A Look Ahead to 2006-07

Five student leaders were elected to continue the ministry of The Path for next year.

When it was known that The Path would not be receiving a new vicar for next year, the students spent a lot of time in prayer and meditation, deciding what to do next. They had many options, including quitting and/or merging with another group. In the end, though, the students decided overwhelmingly as a whole that they wished to continue doing ministry together in the way that we have been doing it this year for one reason: it works. The Path has become a unifying and encouraging force in campus ministry at Humboldt State, and the loss of this group would be a huge shot in the leg for Christian witnessing among the students. With every group going off on their own, The Path has narrowed ministry down to the 4 S's and worship, with worship being what keeps us distinct from one another and the 4 S's being what brings us together. We have not only a picture of what ministry should be, but also a plan for how to do it. The students have volunteered to keep this ministry going; the request for stipends is the idea of the vicar, who believes this will create accountability for getting the work done as well as give them more time to get the work of the ministry done (since they won't need to put in as many hours at work). Since we are not sure what the next pastor here will envision in the way of campus ministry, nor do we know how long it will take to find a new pastor and coordinate him with this ministry, we need some monetary help in the short-term future to get us through in the meantime. This is much less than what was requested in the past, dropping from \$25,000 a year to \$10,000 a year. Over the course of the next few years, the church will have time to recover from its vacancy and find more long-lasting ways of sponsoring campus ministry. Students are never able to completely fund any sort of ministry themselves, so outside help (especially congregational) is always greatly needed.

STORIES OF MISSION

Jonathan has been dating one of our students; as such, he has spent a lot of time with us. While he was a bit skeptical at first, he later became more invested in our activities and in becoming a part of our college family. He used to describe God as an extortionist; now, by using post-modern terminology and non-church terms (as we have been working with through our evangelism classes), we have begun to show him that the true God fits into the scheme of things much more successfully than he originally believed. He has also enjoyed spending time with us socially and serving the community. He considers us all friends and invites everyone over frequently. He has also made it easier for Vicar Jason to meet other people in his circles by showing the high level of respect the two have for one another. Vicar Jason has been able to have great theological chats with many people because Jonathan has welcomed Jason as a friend into his Dungeons and Dragons circles. One of these circles even had a birthday party for Jason and hosted The Path's Easter party; the guy who cooked the turkey even came to church and breakfast that morning.

Mark was the Jehovah's Witness on campus one day, and he tried to convert Vicar Jason, not knowing Jason was not an HSU student. Vicar Jason spent several minutes refuting Mark's "logic"; though Mark's heart stayed hardened, the encounter greatly encouraged the Christians sitting with Jason since the true Gospel could easily fight off the attack.

Ashton was a freshman this year, along with her boyfriend David. The two of them were friends with Michael, who is a member of the Salvation Army. Since the Salvation Army does not have a local college ministry, Michael has been a part of The Path, though not a part of our church. As such, he connected Ashton and David with one of our monthly conversation nights. Ashton was really looking for friends when she heard about the retreat we had in November, so she and David signed up to come. Though the weekend was in the middle of the rainy season, the weather cleared up for the exact three days we had our retreat, with the rain beginning to fall just as we were leaving. Ashton and David are now the Treasurer and Vice-President of our group, respectively. Ashton comes from a non-denominational background, oftentimes not attending typical churches; David comes from a Catholic background. Our particular church, being a balance between the two backgrounds and providing solid college fellowship, has become the place of worship for these two students, and members have had them over for Adopt-a-Student.

Yogurt & Yakking was originally a take off of Hot Topic Night in St. Louis, MO. Hot Topic Night was developed as a way of letting young adults of any background talk and hang out in a non-threatening environment that would allow them to discuss important issues (and some not-so-important ones). Since Hot Topic Night was for people 21 and up, it was held in a bar; the equivalent for college students obviously needed a different forum. We tried a coffeehouse at first (the events were originally called Coffee & Conversation), but the coffeehouse was not very accommodating to us. We later found a yogurt shop that stayed open late for us (hence the name change to Yogurt & Yakking), and we have been there ever since. Topics have included politics, aliens, and holidays, anything with a religious significance. We have questions to get the conversation going, but we let people go in whatever directions they wish. We encourage the group to split into smaller groups so that conversations are easier to hear (people can sit closer together) and more open (fewer people listening). Non-Christians have expressed their opinions, and Christians have been able to witness to their faith since their faith is what helps to form their opinions. It has been a respectful, open environment that allows the Gospel to be preached without becoming “preachy.” Everything is voluntary, and disagreements have not become conflicts. We have had a former Mormon, a Seventh – Day Adventist, a “seeker” who is reading the Bible, and people from many denominations in on the conversations; we even got someone to come and talk to us after listening the whole time from afar (though pretending to be paying attention to his laptop; he never pressed a key).

STRATEGY/GOALS—2006/2007 Academic Year

The Path is currently undergoing a change in leadership, having been lead by three different vicars in as many years. This next year, the responsibility of continuing the ministry will be handed over to five student officers and one lay person who is both a professor at Humboldt State University and a member of The Lutheran Church of Arcata. We will continue to focus on the four S’s and worship. Our five student officers will organize activities that incorporate fellowship, discipleship, and community service with the ultimate goal of improving our community and showing Christ’s love for all mankind.

There is also a great need at Humboldt State University for unity among the Christian clubs on campus. We will continue to pursue involvement in The Median,

including large retreats for all campus Christian clubs. Through retreats and other activities with Median members, we wish to help Christians strengthen their bonds with one another and form a larger Christian community on the HSU campus. We will not, however, lose our distinctiveness around campus, either in our efforts or in our teachings.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Describe the population to be served.

The Path is a college ministry geared for college students from 18-25 who attend Humboldt State University. Our ministry is also used to further enrich our local Lutheran congregation, which sponsors our ministry. While the congregation provides a local worship venue and funding, The Path in turn serves the members of the congregation. The Path does yard work on the church grounds, visits elderly members of the church, and participates in church services as readers, ushers, etc. We are also beginning a plan to incorporate the high school youth group into our community service activities so they can become more involved.

What is the economic profile of the community?

Since the downfall of the lumber industry in the area, the local economy has dropped significantly. Situated in the heart of the Redwoods of Northern California, Humboldt County is geographically and economically isolated from the rest of California. Retail, employment, and tourism are stifled by a strong anti-corporation mentality that is part of the cultural identity of Humboldt County. Humboldt State University perpetuates this identity by attracting students who wish to become active fighters of large corporations. Few investors are therefore able to look at Humboldt County as a place to begin or grow their businesses. Much of the community has therefore become impoverished, as high-paying jobs are scarce. The area is known as a place to retire, not as a flourishing community. Low money available makes fundraising difficult. As a result, our activities are often participatory and don't require much money.

What is the ethnic makeup of the community?

Humboldt County is primarily Caucasian, with a small minority of African American and Hispanic residents. Even with Humboldt State University bringing students from all over California and the U.S., the proportion of Caucasian students to minority students is well above the rest of the country.

What demographic changes are expected in the next ten years?

There will be three demographic changes in Humboldt County over the next ten years:

Ethnicity: Like the rest of California and the U.S., the Hispanic community will rise in population over the next ten years; however, it will probably not increase at as high a rate in Humboldt County as in other parts of California.

Age: As baby boomers continue to retire, we will see a high percentage of retirement age residents in Humboldt County. Younger families will continue to move out of the area to find jobs. The strong dichotomy between retirement-aged residents and college students from the university will place increased stress on community leaders as well as The Lutheran Church of Arcata.

Socioeconomic status: Over the next ten years, Humboldt will most likely continue to depend on other parts of California for goods and services. There are no large-scale plans in place to change the situation. One possible change could come in the plan to build a Wal-Mart in Fortuna, which is 45 minutes away from HSU. As the largest retailer in the county, this would certainly create jobs in the community; however, there will continue to be a struggle between developers and protestors. Unless more large-scale changes are made to enrich the economy of Humboldt County, though, ministries within Humboldt County will continue to need outside assistance.

Provide other information specific to your community.

Humboldt County has a large homeless population and is even promoted as a haven for transients. Hitchhiking is commonplace, and many of the homeless loiter around campus as well as around town. This has created a love/hate relationship between residents and the homeless. Seeing the homeless on the streets has become an eyesore and an irritation (regarding those who do have the capacity to work), but it has also given Humboldt County a cause to fight for. There are many opportunities to serve these people as well as to share Christ with them, especially for college students.

Humboldt County is also known for its outdoor enthusiasm. Almost everyone who lives in the county has camping, fishing, biking, and/or hiking supplies. There are also countless scenic beaches, Redwood-lined trails, and bike lanes. This provides The Path with built-in activities that Christians and non-Christians can both readily enjoy since the congregation is always willing to let us borrow their equipment for free.

CONGREGATIONAL AND LAY INVOLVEMENT

Since The Path will now be primarily student led, we will be seeking more active participation from our campus advisor, the church council, and other members of the congregation. Dale Oliver is currently our campus advisor, a professor at HSU, and a member of The Lutheran Church of Arcata. We will keep in regular contact with him regarding our planning meetings and possible involvement on the part of the church. In addition, he will attend at least one of our weekly officer meetings each month.

The Lutheran Church of Arcata's church council will be more actively involved in our ministry than in previous years. The Path's president (currently Megan Kramer) will attend the monthly church council meetings and regularly report on the activities of the group. The Path's Treasurer and the church council's treasurer will also be in regular communication, discussing the financial aspect of our ministry.

Finally, we look to have increased involvement of the congregation as a whole in the college ministry. We will be continuing our Adopt-a-Student program as well as including the congregation's youth group in our community service activities; these efforts serve our community and serve to bring us closer together.

Through the increased involvement of Dale Oliver, the church council, and the rest of the congregation, we plan to get The Lutheran Church of Arcata more invested in our ministry and to get the college students more invested in the church's community. Working together, we will be more effective in bringing others to Christ.

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability of our mission will be on two different levels. The first level of accountability will be toward The Lutheran Church of Arcata's church council. Especially in regard to financial decisions, both sets of officers will work closely with one another. The Path Treasurer will report any expenses that are below \$100 per event to the council treasurer after the purchase has been made; any purchases that exceed \$100 per event must be approved by the church treasurer before the purchase is made. In addition, the president of The Path will report each month to the church council with information about our upcoming activities, as well as the successes of our past events.

The second level of accountability will be toward the Mission Action Council. Each semester, the president of The Path will submit a report to the Mission Action Council to show our ministry progress. If requested by the MAC, we can report more regularly as needed. Each report will include specific examples of our commitment to the four S's and worship; it will detail events and evaluations of those events.

Expected results:

- Four community service activities each semester
- Four evangelism events (e.g. conversation nights) each semester
- Detailed efforts of incorporating high school group into community service
- Regular maintenance of college ministry website
- One fundraising effort each semester
- Regular Christian study each week
- Continued tabling on campus each week for campus group and evangelism
- One retreat (of any variety) each semester
- Continued relationship with other campus ministry groups
- Regular way in place of receiving names of incoming Christian students

CURRENT PRAYER REQUEST

Please continue to pray for the Lutheran Campus Mission Association and particularly the mission field of Humboldt State University. According to local estimates, there are roughly 300 students involved in campus ministry at HSU. That leaves a vast mission field of over 7000 students (96% of the student body), who are completely uninvolved in either campus ministry or a local congregation. Some are just uninterested Christians, but the vast majority of them are very much not Christian at all.

Campus ministry is about getting to know these people, one at a time. We become a part of their lives, and they become a part of ours. And by doing so, they see the Gospel because it is embodied in our lives. On a campus that prides itself on letting people be true to themselves, we pray that the Christians at HSU will feel it is okay to be true to their faith, expressing it to their peers and giving a strong witness to our Lord. Let us pray that the lost will find the love of Christ irresistible, and that the found will be strengthened in that love through the Word, through the cross, and through one another.

APPENDICES

Websites:

Lutheran Campus Mission Association: <http://www.lcma.info/>

Lutheran Student Fellowship: <http://www.lutheranstudentfellowship.org/>

The Path Campus Ministries: <http://www.humboldtutherans.org/>

Newspaper Articles:



Texas A & M Lutheran Student Fellowship

Campus pastors provide vital ministry

By Rev. Paul Hoemann

University Lutheran Chapel, College Station, TX

Taken from FOCUS, Volume 23, No. 3, Spring 2006.

Who provides Word and Sacrament ministry to young people when they are away from home for the first extended period in their lives and who are facing new temptations and challenges? Who provides instruction in the Christian faith to students from all over the world who are studying at colleges and universities in the United States and may never again be able to hear about Jesus Christ as the way to eternal life?

God calls pastors to a special type of ministry, commonly referred to as campus ministry, to serve young people during some of the most challenging and critical times in their lives—their college years. Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) campus ministry sites throughout the nation provide a place for students to be strengthened by Word and Sacrament, and to enjoy Christian fellowship. Many campus pastors also provide intentional outreach ministry to international students.

Context

No two campus ministry settings are exactly alike. Some are large congregations with a stable base of non-student members from the community. Others are stand-alone mission sites comprised almost entirely of student members. Campus pastors serve students who are transient—coming and going from semester to semester and from year to year. Campus ministry is a challenging environment in which to serve as a pastor.

David Beagley serves as a vicar at a campus ministry setting at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill. “Having a campus ministry vicarage has been a wonderful blessing and a great challenge,” commented Beagley. “Learning and growing with college students, whether American or international, undergraduate or graduate, has helped me to grow more confident in my ability to do ministry and challenged me to be more prepared to share the Word of God.

Mission Opportunity

“The college/university campus is an incredible mission field, one filled with many people who are searching for answers to life’s great questions,” said Rev. Paul Hoemann, campus pastor at University Lutheran Chapel at Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas. “We must be there to point them to the love of God in Jesus Christ – the only way to salvation.”

Hoemann relates a story about an email that he received from a student at Texas A & M. The young woman, Chauntelle, had been raised in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. But as a young teenager, she had left the Mormon faith. She was now seeking answers for her spiritual questions as a college student. She wrote, “Pastor Hoemann, I would really like to meet with you and learn more about your church. Because of my religious background, I think that meeting with someone is the only way that I can really learn things I need to know. Please let me know if you can meet with me.”

When Hoemann met with her, she took out a list of questions that she had written down on a legal pad. For the next two and a half hours, she asked questions, covering everything from the deity of Christ to why the LCMS doesn’t ordain women. Following their meeting, she asked to be baptized. She was one of five American students who were baptized at University Lutheran Chapel on April 3, 2005.

Vital Ministry

Rev. Kent Pierce, a 1999 graduate of Concordia Seminary, was involved in campus ministry provided by Rev. Carl Selle, a 1969 Concordia Seminary graduate. “Campus ministry has been an important part of my life ever since my own days as a college student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point,” commented Pierce, who is now a campus pastor at Campus Lutheran Church in Columbia, Mo. “Being connected with the Christian student community and Word and Sacrament ministry helped me navigate college life in accordance with my faith—rooted and growing in Christ’s love.”

Rev. Mark Couch, a 1995 Concordia Seminary graduate, serves as a campus pastor at Western Michigan University. The campus ministry site is operated under the auspices of Zion Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo, Mich., and is known as Solid Grounds Lutheran Student Ministries.

“Ministry services, activities and events happen every day throughout the week,” commented Couch. “We offer a fall retreat in October or November, and in December, there is a Winter Servant Event.” This year Couch took students to Biloxi, Miss., to help in hurricane recovery efforts. Other local activities include volunteering at the Gospel Mission, Habitat for Humanity and helping to rehab a home in a nearby neighborhood that serves as a place for tutoring and a safe place for youth to gather.

“Campus ministry at our public universities is a vital and crucial ministry for our church,” added Couch. “These students are the future of the church. Campus ministry also is a place where students can live out their faith and learn to live as God’s people in a community as they serve, encourage and build one another up.”

Seminary Influence

All three campus pastors appreciate the formation they received at Concordia Seminary and see connections between that formation and the ministry they provide to college and university students. “Though I had no idea that I would become a campus pastor immediately after graduation,” commented Pierce, “all of my courses, field work experiences and my year of vicarage were filtered through how the Lord touched and changed my own life through a campus ministry.”

Hoemann added, “It grounded me well, theologically, and helps me every day to minister to college students and their unique challenges.”

“My time at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, provided me with a very well-rounded and disciplined Seminary experience that taught me that God is a faithful God, shown most clearly in the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ,” said Couch. “The seminary was a place where my faith in Christ was developed and where I was taught that the whole world is a mission field. Campus ministry is truly one of the most important mission fields today.”



Pastor Paul Hoemann baptized and confirmed Jesse Carter, left, and Chauntelle Linden at University Lutheran Chapel, Texas A & M.

Campus ministry in the United States

- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has more than 170 campus ministries with an additional 600 contact ministries.

- LCMS campus ministries cover about 25 percent of colleges and universities, and strive to reach out to the 160,000 students from LCMS congregations and to the millions not yet connected in faith.

- LCMS World Mission works in partnership with the Lutheran Campus Mission Association (LCMA) to help LCMS districts and congregations of the touch the lives of college students in North America.

—Information reported by LCMS World Mission.

Anguish and Assurance on Campus

By Kim Krull

*Taken from The Lutheran Witness,
Volume 124, No. 7, August 2005.*

In spring 2004, a University of Wisconsin - Madison (UW) sophomore disappeared for four days, sparking a frantic search covered by the national media.

But fear turned to disbelief when it was discovered that 20-year-old Audrey Seiler had faked her own abduction, later explaining that she needed to "find someplace I could go to clear my head and figure out why I was feeling so down. ..."

That a young woman described as a "model daughter, model student, and star athlete" while growing up in Rockford, Minn., would concoct such a hoax shocked many. But not Rev. Greg Fairrow, the LCMS campus pastor who provided spiritual care to the distraught Seiler family and friends during the search.

"The specific details were surprising, but to think that a college student could be hurting so badly that she would do something so desperate did not surprise me," Fairrow said. "As I reflect on nearly seven years in campus ministry and think of the number of students who come to me with extraordinary pain, I recognize that the number I see is only the tip of the iceberg."

And that's part of an ironic challenge, says Fairrow and other LCMS campus pastors. College is a time when, studies show, an alarmingly high number of young people struggle with serious problems like depression. Those years also are when students face decision-making challenges about sex, alcohol, and drugs as well as choices regarding careers and possible mates.

Unfortunately, this life-shaping period also is a time when an overwhelming number of young adults disconnect from the church.

"I've heard estimates stating that 75 percent of students who had been active in the church during high school stop when they get to college," said Rev. Kent Pierce, LCMS campus pastor at the University of Missouri in Columbia and board member of the newly formed Lutheran Campus Mission Association.

That's disturbing, Pierce says, because college "is a critical time when young people face lots of challenges in our fast-paced world; lots of thoughts and ideas are vying for their attention. It's at this time, perhaps more than ever, that they need the strong foundation of Christian faith and lives rooted in Christ's love and forgiveness."

Many parents, LCMS campus pastors say, are unaware of the depth and complexity of the problems in the lives of their college-age children. According to statistics from the National Mental Health Association regarding college students, 10 percent have been diagnosed with depression, nearly seven percent reported anxiety disorders, and suicide is their third leading cause of death.

At a time when many are away from family and on their own for the first time, college students face a myriad of social issues and academic pressures. "These are situations ripe for high levels of anxiety, self-esteem, identity, or depression problems," said Pierce, who often sees one or two students each year who confide that they are struggling with suicidal feelings.

Relationship concerns top the list of college student problems, including the heartbreak of losing a boyfriend or girlfriend and the consequences of casual sex.

Adults tend to underrate the impact of a broken college romance, Fairrow says. "When you're older and married and have gone on to encounter larger crises, you look back and don't remember breaking up as that big a deal in the long run," he said. "But to a 20-year-old, whose girlfriend or boyfriend left for another, it's catastrophic."

Another typical but often underrated problem: pressure from home.

Pierce tells of a student at Kent State University in Ohio, where he previously served as campus pastor. The young man was struggling to match the expectations of his father, a former star college athlete, and also cope with a rocky romance. One night, a worried buddy drove the hurting student to the Luther House on campus where Pierce was leading a Bible study.

"We spent a couple of hours talking, and I made a referral for him to get professional counseling," Pierce said. "When students are feeling such a burden and student counseling services are backlogged, they can't always wait for that appointment. It's good they can come to a campus ministry."

Students who buck the church "disconnect" trend and get involved with LCMS campus ministries agree.

When he transferred to Arizona State University (ASU) at Tempe last year, Jeff Ross, 21, knew no one and wondered how he would ever make friends who shared his views and beliefs on this sprawling campus of more than 50,000 students.

An Internet search led to his discovery of Alleluia Lutheran Church, the ASU campus ministry. From his first visit, Ross liked Alleluia's "cell church" approach, which offers informal, small-group ministries as well as weekly worship.

Ross, an LCMS member from Fannington Hills, Mich., calls Alleluia "one of the best parts of my life."

"I made some great relationships, grew spiritually, and felt the presence of God in my life like never before," said Ross, adding that serving as a leader apprentice in that campus ministry contributed to his current interest in pursuing professional church work as a career.

"Life changing" is how Stephanie Roberts describes her involvement with the LCMS campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As a freshman, this LCMS member from Muskego, Wis., struggled with grief and depression over her father's death. Roberts was at her "lowest point emotionally, mentally, and physically" when her mother came for a visit and suggested they worship at Calvary Lutheran Chapel.

During the service, Roberts says, "I truly felt a release as we sat there, and I know that God had pointed us to Calvary that weekend. I finally felt welcome and safe somewhere; I wasn't alone."

She still faced emotional and academic hurdles, Roberts says, but "I had a great support system now and a place to 'plug' myself into."

Roberts later participated in a Calvary spring break servant event in Mexico. That experience helped her decide to spend her first year after graduation serving as a teacher and missionary in China with LCMS World Mission.

"It's a shame more students don't get involved in campus ministries, because I know there are a lot hurting just like I was," said Roberts, 22, who recently joined the

Navy. "I think that most feel like they are too busy with school or just too overwhelmed to take the time to find a campus church and go to a service."

Which leads to one of the great frustrations of campus pastors: the belief that it's okay - even normal - for students to take a break from church during the college years.

"It's a common myth that after college students sow their wild oats ... marry, [and eventually] return to the church," said Rev. Lee Meyer, LCMS campus pastor at ASU. "That may be true for some, but what about those who never come back?"

And that "never come back" segment may be substantial. According to a 2003 study of "twentysomethings" and Christian churches by the Barna Research Group, church attendance continues to decline in the late 20s, even after most young adults have moved from the campus to the workforce.

The study estimated that eight million people in their 20s who were regular churchgoers as teens will no longer be active in church by their 30th birthday.

That's why campus pastors urge parents, congregations, and districts to help them connect college students to the church during this critical, transitional period.

"People tend to think that just because their sons and daughters were raised in the church, they automatically will get involved in campus ministry," said Rev. Peter Cage, LCMS campus pastor at Ball State University in Indiana. "It's amazing that I can have juniors and seniors, who are members of the LCMS and who finally come to church, tell me they never knew we were here.

"We can't reach out to those students unless we know about them," Cage said.

Recalling Audrey Seiler, Pastor Greg Fairow wonders if her unfortunate episode might have been avoided if she could have confided in a trusted campus ministry pastor or a campus ministry friend.

When police found her, the young woman claimed she had been kidnapped. Later, the Seiler family, who are members of an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregation in Rockford, said that depression prompted their daughter's disappearance. News reports suggested that Audrey was overwhelmed by her transfer to a larger school farther away from home, boyfriend problems, and the death of a beloved aunt. She was put on probation, ordered to pay restitution, and began treatment for depression.

Last year, the Seilers invited Fairow to their home. This was the campus pastor's first reunion with Audrey's parents and many family and friends who had assisted in the search. He finally met Audrey, who did not return to UW but has resumed her college career.

"Audrey acknowledged that her faith in the Lord has grown much stronger since the events of last spring," Fairow said. "She recognizes that the Lord has taken that incident and planted seeds of opportunity - not only for her but also for many other people, including many who know her story but have never met her.

"So many college students are hurting and don't feel they have anyone they can talk to," Fairow added. "We want them to know this about campus ministry: we're here for you."

Kim Krull, a freelance writer, is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Des Peres, Mo.