

the Luminary



Fall 2011, a newsletter of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University

Ready, Willing, and Able

Signs of fall are everywhere – trailers and pick-up trucks overflowing with furniture, mattresses awkwardly carried up apartment stairs, food and beverages flying off grocery shelves to stock student kitchens. School must be starting soon.



Besides trying to take care of these very real material needs, students are also looking for ways to connect, grow, and serve. The experience of coming to a campus the size of Oregon State or Linn-Benton Community College can be overwhelming, especially for those who've never lived on their own. That's where Lutheran Campus Ministry can help make the transition easier and the experience of college richer. Luther House is a place and a people with a purpose.

Since its beginning, Luther House has been known as a welcome place. Our beautiful home-like facility is an inviting place to rest, eat, study, meet friends, take a nap, pray, explore important questions, or just 'hang out.' As a people, the Luther House community ensures we don't navigate the complexities of life or academics by ourselves. We are stronger together than we are alone. So we support each other, listen to and learn from each other, worship and pray

together, discern God's call together, and try to make the world a better place through our serving together.

And our purpose? To invite those in this academic setting more deeply into Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name so that we can find and fulfill our callings as Christ's disciples. We stand ready, willing, and able to involve you in this wonderful ministry. Come, join us in the journey.

85th Anniversary Celebration Meet and Mingle Events



Calling all friends, supporters, and alums of Luther House. You have two more chances to celebrate 85 years of ministry at OSU. The first is the "orange and black" ice cream social, September 17 (3-5:00), at West Linn Lutheran Church. The second is the Luther House "fan club mingle," October 22 (4-5:30), with appetizers and beverages at the Common Table, 150 NW Oregon Ave., Bend. Both events are underwritten by an anonymous donor. Come, bring friends, and enjoy the celebration.

New Connections

Every new season brings new opportunities to grow, learn and serve. Fall term is no exception. From interfaith exploration to increased usage of social networking tools to mission travels abroad, day-by-day we're expanding our connections.

OSU Interfaith Service Initiative



Oregon State University is one of about 250 colleges and universities where “The President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge” will take place this year. Participation in this initiative will engage students in exploring their spiritual beliefs, promote interfaith dialogue, and assist students in linking their belief systems to their desire to help others. As part of Spiritual Life @ OSU and a way to expand our understanding of others, Luther House is pleased to participate. It’s worth noting that the graduate student coordinator of the project is Nick Martin from Portland, who grew up in the Lutheran community and graduated from Pacific Lutheran University.

Creative Ministry Grant



Luther House successfully wrote an Oregon Synod Endowment Fund “Creative Ministry Grant” to fund a student social media intern who will help script, film, and edit short YouTube style films that tell outsiders what Luther House is about, who is part of our ministry, and why it matters anyway. A search for interns was posted at the LBCC Cooperative Work Experience web site. To our delight, two neighbors of Luther House have expressed enthusiasm for the project. As OSU New Media Communications students, they’re a perfect match for this project, having already made films for KBVR television and the OSU Foundation. Watch for good outcomes soon.

Mission to Kenya



After graduating from OSU last spring and before starting her Ph.D. program this fall at University of Hawaii, Anna Vigeland traveled with the summer mission team of Grace Lutheran Church to Kenya where they focused their work and service on the Pangani Lutheran Orphanage in Nairobi. She is pictured here with members of the mission team and Kenyans she met. As if such a trip were not memorable enough, still another event made the trip special for Anna. Her boyfriend from England met her arriving plane in Zurich in order to deliver his proposal for marriage along with an engagement ring! How much can one’s life change in a few short months? Ask Anna and she’ll tell you. “Lots!”



A Fresh Start

Maybe the doctor gave you a clean bill of health. Or maybe the person or situation weighing you down for so long is suddenly out of the picture.

Or perhaps the shame which shrouded your life has been faced, confronted. Or you moved to a new place where no one knows your name, your past, your identity. Starting over can be really wonderful whether it's

moving into your first apartment or being able to describe to others the "you" you want to be. With all the options, opportunities, and temptations calling to students, it's also good to know that God is a God of fresh starts. God picks us up, dusts us off, frees us from the past, opens the future – again and again and again. In this we experience God's mercy, compassion, and love so that we can live in hope. When the past pulls so strongly, the God of new beginnings has a pull and power that is stronger yet. Welcome to this brand new day. It's a fresh start, a gift from God to you. Rejoice and live. - Pr. Jim

Football Fundraisers



Last year's successful civil war car parking fundraiser inspired the Luther House board to double the effort this year. Saturday, September 24 and November 19, the Grace Lutheran parking lot will be available for pre-game parking four hours prior to kickoff. 72 parking spaces are available for you and your friends. The suggested minimum donation is \$15. Proceeds support Luther House activities this year. In addition, a team of Luther House volunteers is ushering for the OSU athletic department at all home games, earning us visibility and a little extra money to offset some of the unplanned maintenance costs we incurred this year. Go Beavs!

This Old House



As you can imagine, a 70+ year old house has aches and groans that need to be addressed from time to time. So it is with Luther House. An inspection – part of our quadrennial review process – identified weather stripping needing replacement, water seepage where it shouldn't be, cracked plaster and peeling paint, damaged masonry, a faucet that needed to be changed, a couple broken window panes, and more. Work is underway to fix all these items. In addition, the outside of the house was washed, primed and painted this summer and landscaping was trimmed back. All this is our way of being good stewards of this wonderful place called Luther House.

Global Guests



Increasingly, Luther House is a welcome place for global guests. The last several years we've had students from more than two dozen countries cook Tuesday lunch using menus from their homelands to teach us something about their country and culture. Duc Anh Le (pictured above left, with his mother, brother, and friends) is from Vietnam. He's one of our apartment tenants who has been an ambassador for bringing global guests to Luther House to share the hospitality and Christian community we offer. What a blessing to have the world come near where strangers become friends and distant places become part of our worldwide home.

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Field Guide for Spiritual Exploration in Salmon Nation



After years of talking with students and a very satisfying sabbatical leave, Pr. Jim has developed a spiritual exploration resource to help deepen their quest for meaning and purpose in the context of the Christian tradition. It's organized around the biblical idea of pilgrimage and uses familiar reference points from the geography of the Pacific Northwest, especially the Columbia River watershed. Part resource manual, part roadmap, part journal, and part fieldwork, it honors the journey students make and the questions they wrestle with. Most exciting is that parts of it will be incorporated into this year's Thursday evening QUEST supper conversations where students will "try on" the resource for the first time. Their feedback will influence the final design of the project so they – and others – can use it in their ongoing journey of faith.

How Can You Support Luther House?



If you're a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans member you can designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to "Lutheran Campus Council of Corvallis" at <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/>. If you're interested in giving an easy, secure, online gift just go to www.luther-house.org/donate/. If you're making or revising your estate plans, you can leave a legacy to Luther House. If you'd like to support the "We Care for the Future" Endowment Fund, designate that on the check you write. If you'd like to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one, note that on your contribution. If you'd like to volunteer, see the list of options at www.luther-house.org/volunteer and let us know how you'd like to help. If you have other ideas, talk to us about what you have in mind. Each and every gift is deeply appreciated.

Please visit us at Luther House, 211 NW 23rd Street, Corvallis, OR 97330 or contact us at 541.753.5213
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