

FUND RAISING LETTERS

Excerpts and paragraphs from recent Lutheran Campus Ministry letters

It was three years ago that I uncertainly faced the year ahead of me as a last-minute, confused transfer student. I had just survived a turbulent transition from one university to another. It was then that I became a recipient of the blessings of Lutheran Campus Ministry. Today, I am facing the year in a way which I had never imagined, and which I believe only the hand of God would have directed. Having graduated last May, I am now blessed with the opportunity to serve as a Ministry Coordinator, a new position made possible by the endowment fund. Student

One of my favorite roles as a Campus Pastor is greeting those young adults and inviting them to become involved in our life of worship, study and service through Lutheran Campus Ministry. That invitation is made sweeter by the completion of our new and renovated facilities. I am enclosing several photographs that convey the beauty of our new space. Also enclosed you will find the financial report from the most recent quarter. Far more than dollars and cents, however, your gift and continued support promote the work we do in shaping young disciples in this setting. For that I thank you on behalf of the hundreds of students, faculty and staff who are part of Lutheran Campus Ministry. Campus Pastor

THIS YEAR IS OFF TO A ROARING START AT LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY. THIS YEAR HAS INCLUDED A SPRING MISSION TRIP, BANQUETS AND CONTINUED GROWTH AT CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICES. WITH THIS GROWTH HAS COME ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES....A CONTRIBUTION OF ANY AMOUNT WILL BE CONSIDERED MOST GENEROUS, BUT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION OF AT LEAST \$100....YOUR PRAYERS FOR CONTINUED GROWTH IN CHRIST ARE ALSO APPRECIATED. BOARD PRESIDENT

To continue and even increase the fine efforts of Joe, Chris and Becky (described in paragraphs earlier), in a way that both affirms students' gifts for leadership and also honors the major time commitment necessary, our Board of Directors has recognized that a very intentional peer outreach program is crucial. This important ministry of peers would add an additional \$2000 to our present \$30,000 program budget....Over half of our program budget income continues to come from people like you who share our vision for ministry. Campus Pastor

I just returned from Washington D.C. where 18 students accompanied me on our annual spring break mission trip. (Activities are described) It was a great trip, one that shapes and changes the lives of students....The ministry of the University Lutheran Center is dynamic and growing. Your generosity has allowed our ministry to be ministry driven. We have responded to the needs and opportunities to provide ministry, trusting that the financial resources will be there and thanks to you, they have been. Campus Pastor

For many of these students, the intellectual ferment of college also brings with it spiritual hungerBa desire to seek and know God in an intellectually satisfying way. The Center provides a community where students from the university and area community colleges can begin to satisfy this hunger. Activities that include worship, study, service to others and fellowship with peers helps both the churched and the unchurched seekers to grow in their faith. Council Member

I am writing to you for your help. We continue to grow in numbers, but along with larger programs come more costs. Let's face it, students don't always have the financial resources to give offerings like we have in our congregations. They have done their share though and have increased their giving every year for the last four years. However, we could really use the help of financial gifts right now. This is especially the case as we head into the summer with our second year of year round worship....Some of you are already giving on a regular monthly basis. If we had 10 people giving \$100 a month for one year, we would have \$12,000 that would literally take care of all programming, worship and music. Just 10 folks can make a difference. Campus Pastor

Sandy sat at the Luther Center's Monday night bible study flipping through her bible, trying desperately to find the book of Hebrews. It was her first time at our study, in fact, it was the first time that she had ever attended *any* bible study. Sandy is one of a growing number of students who come to the Luther Center with little or no experience with Christianity. Polls tell us that 18-29 year-olds are among the most unchurched population in America. Because of this, the Luther Center increasingly finds itself on the front lines of mission and evangelism in this country. Campus Pastor

Would you consider making a gift to our ministry that would cover a particular expense?

Here are some of the expenses we encounter frequently:

- \$28: One postcard mailing to our student mailing list
- \$39: The cost of one 3x5 inch advertisement in the college daily newspaper
- \$65: One first-class mailing to students
- \$77: The cost of the new A Welcome Students! banner on the front of the chapel
- \$80: The cost of producing one newsletter
- \$164: The gas bill for the Chapel in January
- \$350: Up-grading our computer
- \$???: Our on-going fund raising for a new sanctuary window

We realize that you receive many letters seeking money. A gift to our campus ministry not only is an investment in our young people, but also in the future of the Lutheran Church.

Board President and Campus Pastor

We are writing to ask your help in a need that is central to the ministry here. Our building and all the facilities here have been on this corner for nearly 20 years. We have been useful. But some of those used and useful things have nearly worn out....I invite you to make a gift to the Lutheran Campus Center to allow for the replacement of our vestments and paraments and our meal tables. Your gift will enable at least 20 more years of students to gather in beauty and welcome around the table at worship and the tables at meals. Campus Minister

Every once in a while we have an experience that deepens our souls, awakens our minds and transforms who we are....Whatever these experiences, it is enough to say that they stand out in life. They give meaning and courage and joy. These are the gifts we crave at the deepest level. The reason I mention this is because for me Lutheran Campus Ministry is a garden of opportunity for these gifts. My memories of the past year are rich with nourishing worship, friendships developed, engaging discussion and retreats. They record the ongoing dialogue that has deepened my understanding of what it means to live in God's mercy. I know that these things happen in this place only through the generosity of people like you. Student

For us to continue effectively as your presence on this campus we need your help. Through your generous, tax-deductible donations we are able to fund many of the programs we offer that could not otherwise be offered due to budget cuts. Won't you please help? Enclosed is a pre-addressed envelope for your convenience. Please note the many ways that your gift can help. Please take a moment and write a check today. Help us continue to make a difference here at this university....Where students search out possibilities for the future while Lutheran Campus Ministry offers them Light, Hope, and Truth (mission statement woven throughout the letter). Campus Pastor

The University Lutheran Center is here as a place of grace, a place of forgiveness, a place of hope, a place of direction, a place for people. Some students are here, unless their world is falling apart. Others only come when it has already fallen apart. Both are welcome here. The University Lutheran Center remains, as always, a place for people to share their story and to hear the story of a God who loves, calls, challenges and forgives. A God who walks with us rather than stands against us. Campus Pastor

Letter P.S. In recent years several bequests from the estates of alumni have increased our endowment. This ensures that the University Lutheran Center will be providing ministry for many more years to come. If you are interested in making the University Lutheran Center a part of your estate planning or beneficiary of an insurance policy let us know. (address given)