



CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
at The University of Arizona



Volume 8, #1 (2017 May/June); Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society

Upcoming Events!

Join Us

For

Installation of Vicar Schlie

Sunday, June 25, 9AM
Catalina Lutheran Church

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ALCMS / LCMS-U

New School Year

Open House and Lunch Campus Installation of Vicar Schlie

Saturday, August 26, 11AM
Campus Christian Center
715 N Park Ave.
Tucson

From the President

“Many things to discuss”

The 2016-2017 school year is now history. Five of our students graduated. We wish them the Lord’s blessing as they move into the next stages of their lives. Read a little more about them elsewhere in this newsletter

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We are very excited to welcome Vicar Jesse Schlie to Tucson. The plan is to devote half of his time to campus work, enabling us to be involved in more outreach and ministry than has been possible in the past. Please join us in welcoming him to campus on August 26; lunch is on us! For a sneak preview, see his bio on page 4.

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This year we have changed the way we acknowledge your generous gifts to this ministry. Those who send gifts on a regular basis will no longer receive an acknowledgement letter each time. Everyone, of course, will receive a summary each January of the previous year’s contributions. We are making this change to reduce the cost of postage as well as reduce the workload on our behinds-the-scenes volunteers. Still, be assured we are still every bit as thankful to God for our many generous supporters!

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A few months ago, Pastor Palmer decided that our fellowship group on campus needed a real, proper name. We had been calling it “LCMS-U at the U of A.” Not only was this quite a mouth full, but it was more of a technical designation than a name.

After a lot of thought, the name *Hold Fast Fellowship* was chosen. In His word, God tells His people to “hold fast” to Him over and over again. In fact the words “hold fast” occur more than 20 times in the ESV Bible translation. Of all these passages, we decided to take as our charter verse Hebrews 10:23-25, because it seemed to speak to college students and young adults: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

To go along with our new name, we also have a new website with more updated information. You are invited to visit our website and see some of the things we have been doing lately. You can find us at www.holdfastfellowship.com. Soon we will redirect the “arizonalutheran.org” site to the new site so you’ll be able to get there either way.

While the student organization, as it is known on campus, has changed names, the organization that facilitates the ministry remains the *Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society*, ALCMS. You should still send gifts to the “ALCMS” and can still contact us via our email.

From Pastor Palmer:

What's in a name?

A few months ago someone very generously gave my family a new vehicle. It's a big, white van to replace our aging, blue 12-passenger. We were blown away. What a blessing to have a reliable vehicle to carry our family! After exploring the new van for a while and taking a ride, the kids decided that the van needed a name.

I tell this story to illustrate a point. Human beings name things. We name our children, of course. When we get a puppy, we name it. Most of us have named our cars (at least in high school). We name boats and buildings. We give projects code names. What's more, it appears that we got the idea of naming from God and that it is a way of expressing that we have His image.

Here's what I mean. When we look at the Bible, a very definite pattern appears. We give names 1) to take ownership and 2) to give something life. We can see this in our day-to-day lives. A young lady was recently showing me pictures of her trip to her aunt's dairy farm in the mid-west. There were dozens of barn cats and kittens in these pictures. But no one names *all* the barn cats. The farmers only named one or two (Pretty Kitty and Precious) that were favorites. It is not an accident that these were also the only two being cuddled in the pictures.

We see the same thing happening all over the Bible. Adam is put in the Garden of Eden to work it, but what is the first job he is told to do? He is to name the animals (Gen. 2:19). A chapter later, after Adam and Eve have brought sin and death into the world, but before they are expelled from the garden, Adam names his wife. And that naming is important, because it shows the life-giving element in naming. Consider, mere moments after the curse had fallen, with the words "for you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19) still hanging in the air, Adam calls "the woman" by the name he has chosen for her. "The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living" (Gen. 3:20).

The name Eve sounds a lot like the Hebrew word "life-giver" and so Adam's naming of his wife is a double literal. First, because of the reason given by the text ("she was the mother of all the living"). But also, because it was to Eve that God gave the *protoevangelium* — that promise that a woman would give birth to the savior who would crush sin, death, and Satan under His feet. So by naming her Eve, Adam claims his wife as his own and points to the promise that humanity would not always be under the thrall of death.

Once we know the pattern, we begin to see it everywhere. When God chooses Abram as His own He says "I will bless you and make your name great!" (Gen. 12:3). But what is curious is that Abram and his wife Sarai remain barren for many more years even though they have been

promised a child by God. Then, when the time is right, God comes back to Abram and Sarai promising that Sarai, though she is barren and over 90 years old, will have a baby within a year. Then He gives the two of them new names "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations...As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her" (Gen. 17:5, 15-16). God naming Abraham and Sarah makes them His own and brings life into the world.

Renaming is a major theme throughout the Old Testament, but so are names in general. The book of Numbers is chock full of lists of names of people God is claiming and, because we *still* read them, by including their names in the book, God gives them immortality.

But the most important Old Testament naming story happens when Moses is standing before that burning bush. There, God gives to Moses, for the first time in human history, God's own name. "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Ex. 3:14). Not just "God Almighty" as Abraham and the patriarchs had known Him, but "I AM." God says, I am the one who is and who causes to be. I am the ultimate life-giver who is working in the world to claim a people as my own and to give them eternal life. All this He says with just His name: I AM.

Jumping ahead 1,500 years or so, the Gospel of Luke tells the story of Mary and Joseph's obedience to God's command to name the baby Mary is carrying Jesus, which in Hebrew means "I AM saves" (Luke 1:31). The Gospel of John tells how even Pilate got into the naming business when he posted on Jesus' cross "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" despite the protests of the Jewish authorities (John 19:19). And again, we cannot help but see the pattern. Jesus' name means that He is God's own Son and that He brings life - real life, eternal life - into the world through His death and resurrection.

Philippians 2:10 says that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth." Hebrews 1 extolls the name of Jesus as higher than any other name.

And it is *that* name that is placed on you when you are baptized. In baptism God claims you as His own, adopting you and giving to you His name. What's more, in that same moment the Holy Spirit causes you to be born again. Do you see it? Claiming and giving life, that's what happens when God names you in baptism. Then, because the blessings just keep coming, God takes *your* name and writes it in the Book of Life.

Our May, 2017 Graduates

The Spring commencement brought five of our LCMS-U students to the end of their undergraduate educations. All of these students have been part of our campus fellowship during the past four years. Four of them have attended at least one national campus ministry conference. All have been pillars of our student group. We pray that what they will continue to be a blessing to the Church wherever their vocations take them.

David Beck



David graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Engineering. He will be moving to Boston, MA, in June, to work for Raytheon. He will be working as a systems engineer. One of his passions is cars, and he plans on “expanding my

horizons” with cars and is excited for what the future holds!

Marcus Braatz



Marcus graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. He will be getting his Commission from the US Navy in June and beginning Officer Development School in July. Once his training is complete, he will begin working in Washington, DC, in September, as a

nuclear reactors engineer for the US Navy.

Shelby Fenderson



Shelby graduated with a Bachelor of Elementary Education. She will begin teaching at Sycamore Elementary in the Vail School District. In the future, she hopes to move into teaching middle school math.

Peter Lenharth



Peter graduated with two degrees (Molecular and Cellular Biology and Biochemistry). This summer, he will be working at Philmont Scout Ranch, instructing participants through the basics of shotgun shooting. Following the summer, he

will begin his career search.

Nathan Maynard



Nathan graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, focused on Accounting. He will be interning this summer, in Phoenix, with DriveTime, in their tax department. Nathan will return to the University of Arizona in August to pursue

his Master’s Degree in Accounting.

ALCMS Officers

President: Brian Lenharth
Vice President: Amy Tilley
Secretary: Amanda Gluski
Treasurer: Dick Hamilton

Student Group Officers (2016-2017)

President: Nathan Maynard
Vice President: Shelby Fenderson
Treasurer: Marcus Braatz
Historian: Peter Lenharth

Campus Staff

Campus Chaplain: Rev. Joshua Palmer
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Roni Grad

The ALCMS is recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations to the ALCMS are tax-deductible. IRS EIN: 27-3130895 AZ ID: #16018887

From Vicar Schlie

A little bit about me



In the late summer of 2011 my twin brother Joseph and I arrived at the Wright dormitories on the somewhat daunting campus of Indiana University. Now, two years after graduation, like most college graduates I remember those four years as some of the best of my life. Yet, unlike

many, I look with fondness on those four years for reasons that probably differ from the norm.

To give some context, I grew up in a Lutheran household. My father was a Lutheran pastor and my mother a Lutheran school teacher. My three brothers and I attended Woodburn Lutheran School and were there, and at home, taught the Faith through Luther's Small Catechism. After high school, my twin Joe and I decided to pursue different vocations at the same collegiate institution. He would study finance and I would study history. To be perfectly honest, we picked Indiana University because it was supposedly a good academic institution for both of our desired fields, and because it boasted "affordable" in-state tuition.

Yet, my college experience is not a fond memory because of the affordable education I received, nor because it positioned me to fulfill a career in the field of history. Although those things are certainly true, I look with fondness on those four years at IU mainly because of the home I found at University

Lutheran Church at the corner of 7th and Fess. College is full of both joy and sadness. My experience was no different. In college, because of my campus pastor, I read the Augsburg Confession for the first time and re-discovered the great blessing of Confessional Lutheranism. In college at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning at University Lutheran I met my wonderful fiancé Keegan. In college, because of God's work at University Lutheran, both Joe and I declared our desire to pursue the Office of the Ministry. And at my campus Church I prayed, wept, and sang after the loss of my mother Linda to cancer.

Being a young adult on your own for the first time, even with a twin brother at your side, is a great challenge to one's faith. What is more, in the midst of such joy and sadness, and when you attend a school with tens of thousands of students, wandering from the sheep fold is all too easy. Yet, Jesus says in John Chapter Ten, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." University Lutheran Church and the LCMSU chapter at Indiana University was my flock and home in college. It was there that fifty or so Lutherans, both young and old, could hear the clear voice of the Good Shepherd, gather around His gifts in Word and Sacrament, and find solace from the perishing world around them.

I look with fondness on my college experience because of the many blessings I received through God's work at my home, University Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God for the victory given through His Son Jesus! And thanks be to God for those who proclaim that victory on the college campus!

Please tear off and send with your donation in the enclosed envelope. Make checks payable to "ALCMS"

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