



# CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
at The University of Arizona



Volume 9, #1 (2018 January); Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society

# JANUARY EVENTS

## ANNUAL ALCMS OPEN HOUSE & FUNDRAISER

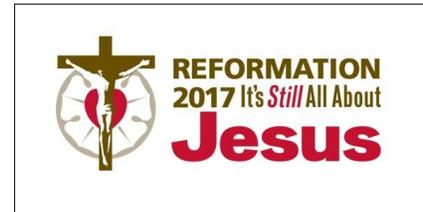
**Saturday January 27**

**11:00 AM**

**Campus Christian Center  
715 N Park Ave**

Join us for lunch, a report on the ALCMS's stewardship of the campus ministry and the ongoing work of LSMS ministry and mission on the U of Az campus.

Free validated parking at Tyndall garage



Southern Arizona final Reformation 500 event

Saturday, January 13

Campus Christian Center, 715 N. Park Ave

7:30 AM - noon

Free to Serve:

In the Home – Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa

In the Church – Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

In the Community – Rev. Ron York

Film screening and discussion:

*The First Rosa*

Free validated parking at Tyndall garage



*The VERITAS FORUM*

*Are Christianity's Claims Testable?*

Tuesday, January 29, 7:30 PM, U of Az campus

More details at: <http://www.veritas.org/location/university-arizona/>

## *From Pastor Palmer:*

In my work at campus, I've been thinking a lot lately about the idea of community. I've been reading a book called *iGen* by Jean M. Twenge. The book is about the upcoming generation of college students. One striking fact is that even though students are more connected than ever before through digital media, the social connections that they make online don't have the same good effects that face-to-face community have. But it is increasingly true that online connections have displaced face-to-face, real-life friendships and associations.

In other words, students today are much more isolated than the Boomers and Gen-Xers were, and they are even more isolated than the Millennials were. That isn't good, obviously. Isolation, from God and from other people is a consequence of the Fall. Human beings, after all, were meant for community. It is not good for man to be alone.

We just celebrated Christmas. My Christmas Eve sermon was on the Incarnation, which was the beginning of the healing of the breach that the Fall made between God and man. We fallen creatures can't really know God. Only God can know God. But Jesus *is* God. And He *is* man. So through Him, human beings really can know God. And more than that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, the Fall is mended. The sins that separated us from God are forgiven, and our relationship with God can be healed. And, following from that, our community with each other can be healed.

Now, Christians are part of the Body of Christ. That idea holds out the fullest, most beautiful vision for human community that has ever been stated.

But that vision is absolutely antithetical to our current culture of individualism and isolation. So being a community doesn't exactly come naturally. It is something we have to work at, something we have to strive for through the supernatural power of the cross.

There is a quote on our website ([www.holdfastfellowship.com](http://www.holdfastfellowship.com)) from Tim Keller that I think sums up this situation very well. He said, "Many things in our culture work against the maintenance of real community. ... [Building community] will require an intentionality greater than that required by our ancestors, and uncomfortable to most of us. But building Christian community is not simply a duty. It should not be a distasteful act of the will. Community grows naturally out of shared experience, and the more intense the experience, the more intense the community." He goes on to say that the Gospel is the most intense experience anyone can ever have and

therefore a tremendous resource for building community.

I think that's exactly right.

So what is the Holdfast Fellowship doing to build community? We've tried hard this semester to build stronger relationships. Every Friday night a large, bustling, and diverse group gets together to eat, to pray, and to learn about the Gospel. Every Tuesday morning Vicar met with the freshmen to chat, eat together, and pray together. We have met together to do fun things like bowling and to serve our neighbors by helping with the POW-WOW at Fountain of Life and the international student Thanksgiving Dinner on campus. We've tried to think about the wider community God has placed us in, too. Each Friday we pray for a church nearby - that their ministry would also thrive and that they, too, would have success in spreading the Good News of salvation.

In the future, I hope to build an even stronger community to be a light to campus. This spring I will be leading a porn-addiction Bible Study open to anyone on campus. This is a horrifyingly widespread problem for students who have always had access to high speed internet and all the pathologies that this can bring into their lives. The key to overcoming it is, of course, the Gospel - and community support. And the goal of the group is also related to community: a restored relationship to God and the potential for a normal, healthy marriage sometime in the future.

On a lighter note, we hope to hold several more social events and servant events throughout the spring, as well as a retreat for all the students in August and a good group attending next January's LCMS national Campus Ministry Conference.

All this is a part of the busy, exciting, exhausting work of building community. And I'm very happy to say that that work will be a little easier again next year because Catalina has voted to renew the vicarage program, so we will have another vicar on campus after Vicar Shlie leaves to resume his studies at seminary.

No one can build a community alone. The help Holdfast Fellowship gets from the vicarage program is immeasurable. So is the help we get from people from all the area congregations - people who pray for us, who cook for us, who connect with us over opportunities to serve, and who fund us.

We - this little community of believers at the U of A - are very grateful for you all.

# From Vicar Schlie

## “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

Prayer – that is, speaking to God in word or thought – has been a defining characteristic of God’s people throughout history. Along with the many Psalms of the Old Testament, which encourage “calling on God’s Name” at all times (Ps. 34:1, 55:17, 119:164), in the New Testament, the book of Acts says that the earliest Christians “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Prayer is so important for participation in the Christian life that the apostle Paul encourages God’s people in Thessalonica to “rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thes. 5:17).

Therefore, because the Scriptures are very clear on the importance of prayer, it inevitably becomes a popular topic for students of God’s Word. Over the course of this last semester, within our series on Christian disciplines, one of our main topics of study at the Bread of Life Supper Club has been that of prayer. Although each Bible Study was supposed to open with just a brief introduction to a form or method of prayer, it seemed that almost every time, without fail, questions and comments led to a lengthy excurses. If prayer is such a defining characteristic of the Christian identity, naturally, we Christians want to be rightly informed on how we should “do it.”

Fortunately, such questions are not limited to the lips of today’s Christians. The Evangelist Luke tells us that on one particular occasion when Jesus was praying, when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples” (Lk. 11:1). The response that Jesus gave is probably the most quoted text from the whole Bible:

“Father, hallowed be your Name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread,

And forgive us our sins,

For we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us

And lead us not into temptation.”

The Lord’s Prayer is the single most important prayer for Christians, as well as the single best answer to the question, “how should one pray?” In it Jesus teaches His people both what they need and therefore what they

should ask to receive. Therefore, instead of asking us to excavate the depth of our own hearts in search of the right words – hearts which are deceitful above all else (Jer. 19:9) – here in the Lord’s Prayer Christ encourages us to order our words just as God has ordered our lives in Him. Yes, ask for all those things that have to do with the needs of this earthly life, but above all ask that God would grant eternal life through His Son.

It is no coincidence that within the seven petitions of the Lord’s Prayer, six address our spiritual needs and only one addresses our physical needs. Jesus does not do this to diminish our temporal sufferings, He does so to teach us that His Kingdom and our home, are not of this world. As Christ says elsewhere, “Do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’” For the Gentiles seek after these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Mt. 7:32-33).

We do well to let the Words of our Lord direct and guide all our prayers. Seek His Kingdom and learn from our Great Teacher how to pray. For what God invites us to ask for, He will surely give.

### ALCMS Officers

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

### Student Group Officers (2017-2018)

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

### Campus Staff

Campus Chaplain: Rev. Joshua Palmer  
Campus Vicar: Vicar Jesse Schlie  
Faculty Advisor, emeritus: Dr. Roni Grad

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## *From the President*

As I write this on the Feast of the Epiphany, I'm reminded of a bumper-sticker slogan I'm sure you've all seen, but one that is quite appropriate to campus ministry work: "Wise men still seek Him". Of course, as Lutherans we know that any 'seeking' on our part is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit in the mind and life of the 'seeker'. As those whose mission field is in an institution of higher education, where the fundamental 'business' is pursuit of knowledge, we pray that the Spirit will bring sincere seekers of truth: students, staff, and faculty, to find the eternal wisdom and truth of God's epiphany in the person and work of His Son.

It's time once again for our annual open house and fundraiser. Please join us for lunch and a time of sharing ministry reports for the year past. This year has been filled, by God's grace, with many blessings, and we'd like to share them with you.

There are still a number of openings on this semester's calendar for Friday night meals. If you are interested in helping with this important aspect of campus ministry, please contact Pastor Palmer.

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*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

- John 1

## *Supporting U of Az LCMS U Campus Ministry*

### **Pray:**

1. Pray for our college students, that they would continue to grow in Grace.
2. Pray that the Spirit would bring more students into our campus fellowship and that all would feel a part of this Christian community.
3. Pray for Pastor Palmer and Vicar Schlie as they ministers to the students, and grows in their own callings to the Ministry.

### **Feed:**

Every **FRIDAY** evening Bible study begins with dinner provided by people from our local congregations. Volunteer yourself, a few friends, or your church fellowship group to bring a dinner, and be sure to stay for the Bible study. Get to know the students and join in the learning.

### **Give:**

1. Encourage your congregation to continue or increase your support of the ALCMS. Start regularly supporting if they don't do so already.
2. Support us with your personal gifts to the ALCMS.
3. Join us as January 14 for our annual open house and report to you, our supporters.
4. If you're a Thrivent member, designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to the ALCMS.
5. Do your Amazon shopping via [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and you can designate the ALCMS to be the beneficiary of a portion of your purchases.

### **Join!:**

1. Volunteer to be your congregation's representative on the ALCMS board. We currently have a number of under-represented congregations.
2. Join us on Friday evenings for food, fellowship, worship and Bible study.

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Please tear off and send with your donation to the address below. Make checks payable to "ALCMS"

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