

Report of the Campus Minister

April, 2024

The Spring 2024 semester is almost complete for our students! My last day as the interim lay campus minister is May 15, and I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to serve The Well.

Spring 2024 Graduation:

We have a total of 8 graduates, both undergraduate and master's students, and we will hold a moment of recognition at LMLC's May 5th Sunday worship. Each graduate will be given a cord and a book, Kate Bowler's "Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection." Pastor Monica and I chose this book because of its reoccurring narrative truth that we, just as we are, are enough in God's eyes, through the good, bad, or normal days ahead.

Semester Attendance:

Students have participated in numerous ways this semester, both through The Well and Luther Memorial. Tuesday night attendance has fluctuated from 2-10 students every week, typically averaging around 6. Sunday services have had a similar turnout, with average attendance falling closer to 8 per Sunday.

Activities and Events:

Students have enjoyed many different activities and events this semester. In the past, the model for campus ministry activities usually fell under three categories: social, spiritual, and service. This semester's activities followed a similar structure, including movie nights, game nights, Bob Ross Paint-Along night, Micah's Backpack, Micah's Closet, devotional prayer practices (Lectio Divina, Stations of the Cross), and Worship at the Duck Pond. Students also participated in the Region 9 Lutheran Campus Ministry Retreat at Camp Kinard in South Carolina, The Big Event service weekend, the 3.2 for 32 Run for Remembrance, and many other Virginia Tech affiliated events.

Looking Forward:

The campus center building is an integral part of The Well. Students regularly use the communal space, the internet, the kitchen space, and its washing and drying facilities, for study, personal chores, and leisure throughout the week. This is an important part of campus ministry, and I give thanks for LMLC's continued upkeep of this space.

The volunteers who prepare dinners on Tuesday nights and L³ Sunday Student Lunches are such a valuable and important part of this ministry. Students regularly comment about how nice it is to have fresh meals (and leftovers!). The conversations that arise between students and volunteers are a rewarding connection that strengthen the bond between The Well, Luther Memorial, St. Michael, and other contributing congregations. I give thanks to all of the volunteers who support campus ministry, and I urge more people to get involved!

I am working to complete a document of my observations and conversations about The Well and campus ministry as a whole, and I hope to have it completed by the end of my time serving in this position. I want it to be a resource for LMLC and the future leadership of The Well.

I give thanks for a wonderful and Spirit-filled semester, I give thanks for our graduates, and I pray for the future of The Well and its important, lifegiving ministry.

Blessings and Peace +

Andy Taminger, Interim Lay Campus Minister of The Well