

# 2011 Synod Campus Ministry Committee Report

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The Synod Campus Ministry Committee (SCMC) provides assistance to Synod Council, chaplains and local campus ministry councils to provide a Lutheran and Christian witness at post-secondary institutions in five communities across Alberta.

Lutheran Campus Ministry is funded in a large part from Synod benevolence, as follows: LCM - Edmonton \$38,500, LCM - Calgary \$38,500, ECM - Lethbridge \$6,300 and SCMC expenses \$2,300. SCMC's annual September appeal, entitled "Drive for Five", along with local fundraising efforts, encourages congregations and individuals to also donate directly to Campus Ministry, helping to fund the remainder of the local budgets. (In addition ECM – Lethbridge receives funding from the other participating denominations and Augustana Chaplaincy receives funding directly from the U of A as part of the transfer agreement between the ELCIC and the U of A. Funding for ECM – Medicine Hat College is currently provided locally, including startup funds from the closure of Grace Lutheran Church, in Medicine Hat.)

## **Campus Ministry's selected highlights include:**

### **LCM – University of Alberta, Edmonton**

Martin Luther House at the University of Alberta has been a beehive of activity this summer with the renovation of its basement suite proceeding through a \$50,000 commitment approved by synod convention. A further \$24,000 is being sought through an affordable housing grant from the City of Edmonton, i.e., on condition that "the suite is rented for 5 years to an individual or family earning less than median income." This project will put into action the commitments of the synod as a signatory to the Capital Region Interfaith Statement on Homelessness and Affordable Housing.

This fall, Martin Luther House welcomed three new students, who join two returning students, to form a Christian community where residents can bring together faith, life and the university. These residents open their doors for "House Church," on Sunday evenings led by the Lutheran chaplain, Richard Reimer, and "Loaves + Fishes," a student supper on Tuesday evenings hosted by the Lutheran Student Movement.

To kick off the new academic year, the LSM Executive along with the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry hosted a free "Welcome to U" BBQ at Martin Luther House gathering fifty students for burgers and outdoor games. Through its annual Charitable Hot Dog Sale in Quad, LSM raised \$1,250—including a \$500 matching grant from FaithLife Financial—for famine relief in East Africa, that amount matched by the federal government.

Rev. Reimer, was recently elected Chair of the U of A Interfaith Chaplains' Association and he joins his colleagues in various inter-faith and ecumenical initiatives. Together, they served lunch to 400 international students as part of the annual Transitions Week. The chaplains also sponsor a service opportunity once each term for students who volunteer to prepare and serve a meal to the homeless at the Mustard Seed Street Church. With Christian Reformed and Presbyterian Reformed colleagues, Richard is engaged in a new initiative this fall, gathering faculty, staff, and grad students for lunch and conversation across disciplines about "Faith in the Academy."

Rev. Reimer had unexpected good news in his cancer treatment this summer when a CT scan revealed that, with one exception, tumours have so diminished that they cannot be measured. He is grateful for the prayers of his synod family.

### **LCM – University of Calgary, Calgary**

The school year began, as it always does, with the annual "Ice-Cream Giveaway" on the first day of classes, when the chaplains and helpers gave away 1,300 servings of "Marble Slab" ice cream, along with promotional materials for the chaplaincy and wishes for each student to "Have a great year, and come visit us when you can."

Together with the Anglican and United chaplaincies, LCM meets each Sunday evening at "Sunday Night House Church," starting with dinner and then moving into worship and sharing. The Lutheran chaplain, Klaus Ohlhoff, also works with the Anglican chaplain in offering joint Anglican-Lutheran programming, such as "Lectio Divina," Christian centering prayer, and weekly noon-hour Eucharist on campus. In addition, LCM is also involved in offering a Tuesday night community dinner at the Chaplains' Centre.

Rev. Ohlhoff was the main speaker at the September 14th "Name Reveal" as the U of C Multi-Faith Chaplains' Centre officially became the "Faith and Spirituality Centre." LCM also participated in the Sept. 22 Interment Service for over 100

individuals who donated their bodies to medical research at the U of C Faculty of Medicine.

As in past years, LCM offers several opportunities each year for students to serve at local soup kitchens in Calgary, to remind them of the Christian obligation to remember, serve, and advocate for the less fortunate.

Due to reduced funding, the Lutheran Chaplain is currently serving a 0.4 position, 3 days a week during the school year. However, this past spring, both the Anglican Diocesan Executive Committee and the SCMC have given approval in principal to establish a full-time joint ministry, with each side providing 50% of the funding. Additional details will be discussed and decided on at this fall's SCMC meeting.

### **ECM – University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College, Lethbridge**

Fall activities in Lethbridge began with a bang. Chaplain Erin Phillips led a break out session on meditation to a roomful of students at New Student Orientation at the college. She and student chaplain Sarah Kuhn also staffed a table at NSO at the university. A steady stream of people attended an open house at the chaplain's office at the university enjoying a little nosh and a latte.

This term the theology reading group is reading Janet Soskice's book "The Kindness of God" and the discussions have been very lively. Attendance is at an all-time high with 16 attending the bi-weekly sessions.

ECM is planning their regular activities for students this term, including doing Christmas hampers, treat bags, dinners and campus care parcels. But they are also doing two new things. At the university Rev. Phillips and the university's women's chorus will be holding Lessons and Carols on Dec. 1. At the college ECM organized a meditation workshop one Saturday in September and is now holding regular times on campus for meditation.

Fundraising for the ministry continues with a special dinner with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer on Oct. 22. ECM will again be selling Cupper's coffee in time for Christmas.

### **Augustana Chaplaincy, University of Alberta, Camrose**

Having just completed Augustana's centennial celebrations, Augustana Chaplaincy is beginning its second century of ministry. The synod is very fortunate for the arrangement that has been made at Augustana, now a part of the University of Alberta. Rather than being seen as an external mission to the campus, Augustana Chaplaincy is viewed as partner in the liberal arts project at Augustana. When students come to Augustana, they are promised a whole person education, including the spiritual dimension of what it means to be human. Financially, this partnership means that the U of A supplies two-thirds of the funding for the Chaplaincy Program while the local Chaplaincy Council is responsible for raising the remaining one-third.

This year, Augustana Chaplaincy's theme is *Rooted*. Behind this theme is the understanding that in order to live whole and abundant lives, people need to be rooted in the God revealed in Christ.

In addition to the Lutheran chaplain, Craig Wentland, Augustana Chaplaincy has seven keen, intelligent and good looking student chaplains this year who carry out small group programming and peer ministry. The students have been very active this fall organizing Welcome Week activities with everything from a camp fire to tie-dying to a Bigger or Better Scavenger Hunt. Two bible study groups have been organized and the chaplaincy is looking forward to hosting Java and Jazz in October and a Fair Trade and Local Made Sale in November.

### **ECM - Medicine Hat College, Medicine Hat and Brooks**

The Medicine Hat College Ecumenical Chaplaincy kicked off its new ministry with two inaugural events in September. The first was a Commissioning Service for Board and interim chaplains on Sept. 22. Rev. Erin Phillips from Lethbridge was guest speaker and conducted the commissioning. The entire College community was invited to this event together with all Christian churches from around Medicine Hat and Brooks.

The board includes representatives from the founding five denominations (including Lutheran) and from the student body. The six interim chaplains are clergy from the same five denominations, volunteering a half day each week on a rotating basis to launch the ministry.

On Sept. 29 the board hosted a "Welcome Back" breakfast to introduce the chaplains to students in a direct way. A local Christian vendor fried up pancakes and sausage for students arriving for morning classes. Chaplains were there to greet them and to introduce themselves and the service they hope to provide. The chaplains and board are encouraged by the support they have received from both the Student Association and the administration. Truly, a good work has begun!

### **SCMC Meetings**

SCMC will be meeting in Edmonton on Oct. 29 and as part of that meeting will further address the joint Anglican/Lutheran chaplaincy proposal for U of C. The current SCMC members are:

South West Rep.:	Laverne Rude, Calgary (Chair)	- term 2008 to 2012
East Central Rep.:	Jane Arial, Camrose	- term 2008 to 2012
West Central Rep.:	to be elected	- term 2011 to 2015
Northern Rep.:	Rev. Mick Macintyre, Spruce Grove	- term 2010 to 2014
Southern Rep.:	Amy Von Heyking, Lethbridge	- term 2010 to 2014
Synod Office Liaison:	Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer	- Assistant to the Bishop
Chaplains:	Rev. Richard Reimer	- LCM U of A Chaplain
	Rev. Klaus Ohlhoff	- LCM U of C Chaplain
	Rev. Erin Phillips	- ECM Lethbridge Chaplain
	Rev. Craig Wentland	- Augustana Chaplaincy Chaplain
	Robyn Simpson Mohr	- Augustana Assistant for Chaplaincy
	Local Medicine Hat clergy	- ECM MHC interim chaplains

The Synod Campus Ministry Committee salutes you for your partnership in the gospel. Thanks for keeping our campus ministries in the driving lane by your ongoing support via Synod Benevolence, Directed Giving and especially for your support for Campus Ministry's "Drive for Five" Sunday, held each September.

Peace,  
Laverne Rude, SCMC Chair