“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”
— 3 JOHN 1:4 —

College is tough. You need Jesus. We'll help.

Campus Ministry is supported, encouraged and developed throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through LCMS U. LCMS U is the place to connect and support our college students as they head off to college and face countless challenges to their biblical worldview, doctrine, ethics and practices. It also is a place to connect and encourage parents, congregations and campus ministries as they seek to care for students, so that all can boldly bear witness to Christ on our nation's college campuses.

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When a college student steps out of the comfortable sanctuaries of church and home, life is anything but normal. While time in the academic square can be exhilarating, today’s post-modern college campuses provide an increasingly challenging climate. The reliability and truth of God’s Word is often mocked, one’s faith in Christ may be ridiculed, and individual social constructs can be stretched to the breaking point.

While some young people lose their faith during these formative years, they also have many opportunities to grow in and confess their faith to fellow classmates and professors. And this generation is ready to boldly do just that!

There are many reasons to care about campus ministry today. Here are four key ones:

**Catechizing and Caring for Our Own**
This is our No. 1 priority. Our LCMS college students need substantive opportunities to grow in their faith, address issues they face on campus, receive further catechetical training and enjoy one another’s company. Many of them have an LCMS campus ministry at their school, but others do not. Preparing our young people for life during college requires our full attention as we seek to support these students and their parents, congregations and campus ministries.

**Apologetics in the Academic Square**
The university campus has always been a place designed to facilitate learning, formation and the pursuit of truth. Our college campuses are great incubators of societal ideas, both good and bad. The Church cannot surrender its place in the academic square without dire results. We also need to support our LCMS faculty and staff who work in these communities. As confessional Lutherans, we have something to say to everyone on campus — in the kingdom of the left and the right.

**Reaching Out to Those Who Are Lost**
College campuses are quickly becoming one of our primary national mission fields. In addition to the task of continuing to care for our own LCMS college-age youth, God has opened doors for outreach to international students, as well as those who have either lost the faith or are searching for truth. The opportunity for evangelism and mission is breathtaking.

**Engaging a Dying Culture with Christ**
This generation of young people is becoming increasingly lost in a world of gray, where false idealism and misplaced priorities rule. Idols are everywhere. Where truth is being set aside, cultural decay soon follows. However, the Word of God is powerful and effective. Christ alone is the answer, even as He reminds us that “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).

Thanks be to God for the tremendous evangelism opportunities that exist on our nation’s campuses. The need is greater than ever, and LCMS U is helping to provide the structure and resources for congregations and campus ministries engaged in this effort.

Many new horizons await us, including urban campus ministry and outreach on community college campuses. The challenges are increasing, but so are the opportunities.

Thank you for your support of LCMS U. Please continue to pray for and support those engaged in campus ministry near you.

**A PRAYER FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

“Gracious Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sakes but to Your glory and for the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

(“For Young Persons,” *LSB* p. 315)

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