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LCM-CU
1001 13th Street
Boulder, CO 80302

Coffee Conversations
Since COVID made it difficult to gather in groups, Pastor Zach and Megan were able to enjoy coffee and conversation with many students individually! Out of care and concern for everyones health we only met outdoors and sat at a safe distance. With the use of a couple fire pits, even the snowy weather didn’t get in the way of these meet ups! Here are some of the fun facts we learned during the semester.

Soria Nguyen completed some fun projects in the last year, including baking dozens of cookies using the broiler function of her oven, wrote a short story about her current roommates, and successfully performed her junior recital!

Christian Lamb, like several students, took the semester off from classes. Instead, he interned with a start-up company that makes green water meters.

Brittany Fager was thrilled that some of her classes this semester were able to meet in person, even so, she had to continue remote learning from her parent’s home for a time when her roommates in Boulder caught COVID.

Lexie Van Voorhees is an English Education major and is spending this summer in Boulder tutoring the children of staff at CU!

Marion Walmer took some time for fly fishing with family this semester. As you can see, it was a success!

Anika Hagen had some uniquely named classes this semester. ‘Image’ and ‘Text’ were classes to help prepare her for one of her final projects she created in virtual reality.

Ella Stritzel took advantage of online classes and spent an extended period of time in Memphis to help prepare for her sister’s wedding.

Celeste Fenton ran a year long dungeons and dragons campaign, the group started it because of the pandemic and had no idea it would last that long.

Sofia Sickling took the semester off from classes, she ended up reading a lot of books, meanwhile reconnecting with family and friends.

E Post doesn’t really like fruit, but loves fruit smoothies! We learned that E grew up having rats as pets! Even though E contracted ‘rat bite fever’ from one of them, Sandy was still their favorite rat.

Linnea Wolniewicz had an internship last summer that resulted in her getting a paper published this semester!

Sarah Stevenson found a weekend to take a break from school work to sew a small otter stuffed animal.

Abby Mohlis completed her semester remotely from her hometown of Elizabeth, which gave her the opportunity to have a day skiing with her dad almost every week!

Farewell to Graduating Students
This spring we bid farewell and godspeed to Julia LaForce, Zach Mast, and Tina Uhrenbacher. We lament the time with these graduates that the pandemic took from us, but have deep thanksgiving for their faithfulness and commitment to Bread+Belonging!

Julia graduated with a degree in biochemistry and a minor in French. This fall she’ll be headed to Marseille to teach English before pursuing medical school.

Zach graduated with a degree in chemistry and will be pursuing graduate studies at Northwestern University this fall.

Tina studied saxophone at CU and will also be headed to Northwestern and continued studies this fall.
The Strangest Year on Campus

This year was to be the 75th anniversary our campus ministry in Boulder. We had festive plans, but you can now look forward to the plans we have to observe our 76th anniversary!

Throughout these past 75 years our ministry has taken many shapes and been many places. Students began meeting as the “Luther Club” in the basement of Trinity Lutheran Church at Broadway and Pine in 1945. In the mid-1950’s we bought a two-story brick house on 14th Street, up on the Hill, which became the Lutheran Student Center. After selling that building (that’s a longer story), we moved into the new United Protestant Center and Chapel at 15th and Euclid. In the 1970’s we rented space and did cooperative ministry with the Missouri Synod at the University Lutheran Chapel at the corner of Folsom and Colorado. In the early 1990’s we went back to the United Protestant Center on the Hill. In the late 90’s we moved into the Luther House on 12th Street behind Grace Lutheran Church. In the late aughts the LCM office and our programming moved to Grace. Then around 2012 we began Bread+Belonging, joint-programming that meets every week for a Tuesday night dinner at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church on Colorado Avenue. Whew!

For all the places our ministry has been and the shapes it has taken, we have never had a year like this one. On one hand it was difficult. Each week in the fall we tried to pull off an outdoor meal while dealing with the uncertainty Colorado weather. For much of the year connecting with students one-on-one wasn’t much of an option. After spending all their class time on Zoom, they weren’t very interested in spending their free time there as well. At the same time we were aware of the difficulty students were having with this strange year. In mid-September the city of Boulder instituted a three week lockdown that only applied to 18-22 year olds. Never have I been so separated from students. We felt the full weight of the year in March when King Sooper’s mass shooting rocked students and all of Boulder.

Through it all we did what we could. With your help we delivered 200 meals to students during the lockdown. As we learned more about the virus we started to do more outdoor coffees to connect and support students. Students preached on Zoom at numerous local congregations on Campus Ministry Sunday in February. Our students put together a beautiful musical prelude for the Boulder/Broomfield Conference’s Palm Sunday worship that featured clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and harp. We had great demand for a six-week class on Zoom called, “Why Christianity?”

As the weather started to turn for the better in the spring, shoots of new life emerged. The outdoor meals became much more enjoyable. Growing confidence in social distancing efforts and vaccines meant students were much more relaxed. Some nights they even stuck around for outdoor board games. In early May we were able to gather outdoors with our graduates and their friends and family. In an emerging Bread+Belonging tradition, they walked through the waters of the font (read: horse trough) in the hope that the waters that brought them to this place will carry them into the future that God holds for them.

Never has our ministry been more needed. In a time of acute separation and fear our ability to be there for students in a time of remarkable change was never more important. At the same time, I’ve never felt less equipped to meet the needs of students. Sometimes they were literally locked away from us. Other times the virus kept us apart. Still, for all the limitations, it might have been the year where our ministry was most impactful. The good news we proclaimed to students and campus this year was only possible because of your support and for that I give thanks to God.

Peace,
Pastor Zach

Alumni News

- Kelli Riley (’06) rated one of the top Employment & Labor attorneys in Colorado - 3 years in a row!
- Helen Stritzel (’19) was married to Christopher Cullum in Memphis on April 10th. Congrats to Helen and Chris!
- Cameron Trussell (’13) and his wife Beth became the proud parents of Fitzwilliam David Nelson Trussell on May 31st! All are well and healthy.