



Lutheran Campus Ministry-Clemson

January 2019

A ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the students, faculty and staff who live and serve Christ in Clemson and the surrounding communities

from Pastor Chris

Important Dates
Feb 15-17 –Region 9 Retreat
Feb 24—NASCAR Race
Mar 16-24 Spring Break
Mar 29-31 Camping Trip
Apr 6—LCM Alumni Tailgate

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When Clemson’s football team won the National Championship, many colleagues sent notes of congratulations. I wondered “Why?” I do not play on the football team. And, as most of you know, I don’t even go to that many games. By the time we finish parking cars, I have had enough of *Gameday* and head to the comfort of my couch! Nevertheless, “Thank you,” was my response.

I slowly began to realize that it was appropriate for campus pastors in Wisconsin, Washington, and Wyoming to want to say something to someone. And, I may have been the only person they knew with a Clemson connection. There aren’t that many of us—with Clemson connections. We are a rather small school We are one-third the size of Texas A&M; half as many students as at Michigan State.

Then, I began to go on the offensive. I pointed out that the team which won the game had also received The American Football Coaches Association Academic Achievement Award. I wanted to make sure the whole story of what makes Clemson a wonderful place was told.

This is a good place. It is a school which prepares its graduates to be contributors to the world. It is a school which has not lost its mission as an institution of higher education.

Lutheran Campus Ministry has a role and is playing that role in lifting up this mission.

It has become a habit to encourage high school students to come to Clemson. LCM is able to offer incoming students a community of peers (a community of peers with a higher than average GPA.) LCM is able to offer students mentoring relationships with faculty and UniLu members. LCM is a partner in strengthening Clemson’s academic excellence.

The college years will alter so much of the way you see the world and the place you will assume in the world. Approach them with seriousness and purpose. Be faithful steward of the intellect God has given you and learn how you will use your education to mold a world pleasing to God. Clemson won the Natty! And you have the chance to accomplish so much more.

Pastor Chris

THOUGHTS ON NAVIGATING THE FIRST WEEKS OF COLLEGE

Hi, I’m Connor Lehmacher, a first year at Vanderbilt. My orientation and the subsequent first weeks of classes were very rough. I was mostly stressed about social engagement. However now, I’m doing great. So, I’d like to reflect on how I made it though and give some advice on what could have been different. Throughout the first couple of weeks, relationships from home and student organizations were critical.

Friends and family: I suppose it’s cliché, but it mattered. Initially, I decided that I’d become fully independent without support. Then, I first called my mom and it was wonderful. That moment let me say, “I can do this.” I think maintaining relationships matters critically in life and we should strive for it.

Clubs: I received the advice to attend every organization three times before deciding whether do stay or not. I think this works. Critically, my engagement in Nashville Canterbury Circle depended on several meetings. Because of all my stress, I couldn’t enjoy the first two meetings. It may have also been the organization. Whatever it was I’m glad that I stayed because the third meeting was wonderful and ever since I have enjoyed it plenty. Also, I felt much more justified quitting debate team after four meetings than if I had just left immediately.

New people: At Vanderbilt and maybe at all colleges, everyone is overly-extroverted the first days. I’m sure I answered where I’m from and which dorm was mine more than 30 times. And what does it matter? — Alas. But I asked these questions, too... I think to deal with this I could have known that this can be a coping mechanism when isolation if felt. Furthermore, one can be lonely in a crowd and one can be alone without being lonely. I had always equated the two and that meant that I pushed myself social to my detriment. Eating alone can be wonderful.

Connor Lehmacher is a member of the University Lutheran Church congregation and a native of Clemson, SC.



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Lake Outing



On the first Saturday after the start of classes, LCM had the back to school lake outing on Lake Hartwell. We had 16 people come and

enjoy the water, tubing, friends, and food. Some people couldn't manage to stay on the tube the whole time (myself included), but we all had a great time. Back on the shore we competed in "walking on water" and just hanging out and talking. We capped off the afternoon with a great dinner, and we are looking forward to the next lake trip!

-Daniel Koon

Welcome Back Lunch

The first Sunday of the school year we gathered for a welcome back lunch at church, one of my favorite traditions of the year. For me it is a time to reconnect with old friends, meet new friends, and it provides a time of fellowship with members of the congregation. Of course, the occasion also brings a delicious meal and delicious dessert, which I will never complain about. I look forward to the start of the school year and continuing relationships with new friends I met at the welcome back lunch.

-Madison Herin



Tree Planting

On the evening of November 7, we officially planted our sister tree in Clemson. Our Chinese Fringe Tree now accompanies the tree we symbolically planted in Wittenberg for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation during our Spring Break trip to Germany this past March. Our sister tree is one of 500 trees throughout the world which demonstrates how far reaching the ideas of Martin Luther which has its origins in Wittenberg which is where the first 500 trees are planted which are arranged in the shape of Luther's Rose and line the main road of the town.

-Mariah Swygert



God's Work Our Hands

On September the 8th the members of the church got to participate in gods work our hands. We had all sorts of different projects to be a part of including picking up trash at Abernathy Park, making surgery caps for the children's hospital, and Hope globes for the children too. I was a part of the group that went to Abernathy park to pick up trash. It was very fulfilling to feel God working through our hands. We removed a lot more litter from the park than I expected. Since god gave us this beautiful Earth it is our duty to protect it in any way possible and our team did just that.

-Michael Cook

Tubing Trip



The Chattahoochee tubing trip was a lot of fun! We got to hang out with friends while floating down the river, then we had a good German dinner. It was a good opportunity to bond with people that we may not have known, while enjoying the beautiful sights that the river has to offer.

-Bennett Ballentine

Fall Retreat

The LCM men's and women's groups went to Camp Chatuga for a weekend retreat! We left on Friday and stopped for dinner on the way up. Once we arrived, we quickly developed a legendary game: Chatugaball. After playing that and hanging out and relaxing a bit, we gathered 'round a fire built by the marvelous, the one and only, the legend himself, Pastor Chris Heavner. We chatted and made s'mores and whatnot, and then men's group lead devotions. On Saturday, the men's and women's groups split up. The women's group hiked to a magnificent whooshing waterfall, whilst the men's group played more Chatugaball. We reconvened to watch the football. That night, we gathered around the fire again and the women's group lead a devotion. Sunday morning, we woke up and did an abbreviated church service, and drove home, rested and rejuvenated for the upcoming week.

-Sam Studer

LSM Region 9 Retreat

On October 26th ten students from LCM Clemson traveled to Charlotte, NC for the annual Lutheran Student Movement fall service retreat. The retreat was attended by students from Winthrop, Virginia Tech, UNC Chapel Hill, and App State. We started the evening with a Moravian Love Feast, a traditional Moravian worship service where we sang and shared hot cocoa. The next morning, we woke up early and went to our various Habitat for Humanity work sites. We had groups that painted, installed trusses, and volunteered at the habitat for humanity resale store. After a day of work, we returned to the church and listened to a speaker discuss her experience with YAGM. Afterword's, we discussed the ELCA social statement on a Living wage. The next morning, we worshipped with the congregation during their reformation Sunday service. -Paula Sommerville

Sander's Hayride

One of the events I look forward to most in the fall is the hayride at the Sanders's farm. It is always fun to share food and fellowship with my friends and other members of the congregation. It's nice to get away from Clemson and see the cows, chickens, and dogs at the farm. This year I enjoyed throwing the football around with my friends and the children that were there. What a great way to kick off autumn!

-Tom Hustedt



Jaqueline Bussey

We were blessed to have an Author visit us this fall as our visiting theologian. Jaqueline Bussey is no stranger to a university community, as she is a professor at Concordia College in Moorehead, MN. She spoke particularly about her two books, Love Without Limits, and Outlaw Christian.

The take-away message that I received from her presentation was to tell your story, and do not let anyone stop you. Her story about her new book, Love Without Limits being censored by the publisher really spoke to me. She refused to make the edits to remove key parts of the story, and was blessed to have it published, in it's entirety by another company.

-Alice Cox



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Alumni News

Chad Seigler and wife Tiffany have a second child. Sloan Marie was born July 9. Calvin is delighted to have a baby sister. Chad is a Financial Planning Director. He is also congregational leader at Grace, Rock Hill.

Ava Primm Twitchell born Nov 8. Claire is also no longer an only child. **Mike & Ashley (Parks) Twitchell** call Greer home. Mike's dentist business is doing wonderful!

Chris and **Susan (Perrone) Clapp** moved to Chicago in time for the birth of Holden Robert (Nov 11.) Chris is on staff at The University of Chicago; Susan has a temp job, also in the Econ Dept.

Griffin Daniel entered the world December 3. **Brandon** and Megan **Boatwright** are in Knoxville, TN; Brandon is in graduate school.

Special thanks to **Naomi Sease Carriker**, pastor at Morning Spring Lutheran, Charlotte. Naomi arranged use of the church for the Fall LSM Retreat. BTW-Naomi is leading a trip to the Holy Land and would love to have a few other Clemson alumni.

Help us stay up to date on our news and announcements. Tell us when you hear good news or when you need a word of support.

