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IGNITE is the official publication of LCMS Campus Ministry, a Recognized Service Organization serving The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and dedicated to the campus mission field.

*LCMS Campus Ministry equips leaders to make disciples who make disciples on campus.*

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## Meet a Campus Missionary Volunteer

**CMV Bart Loos talks about his campus ministry experiences**

I will start off writing about my experience of the first year of college:

I attended Binghamton University, a relatively large public university, my freshman year of college. In my first semester, my time filled up with school and with college soccer. There was no attempt to find a Christian fellowship on campus by me prior to attending, and consequently, I spent most of my semester not being a part of one. I realize that this is my fault, and by the time I tried to find a Christian fellowship, I could not—and I was limited in the time and effort I could devote to finding one.

I was the only Christian in my dorm suite, and one of the very few on the soccer team. Therefore, my living situation and even my time on the team provided no fellowship with brothers or sisters in the faith. This all was a very difficult struggle for me. It was not until my second semester that I became part of a Christian fellowship on campus, although not a Lutheran campus fellowship.

I am currently serving at the University Lutheran Chapel here at UCLA, a public university like Binghamton (but much larger). The chapel is in a beautiful place where it can reach out to students on campus. We have been given the opportunity to reach out to them and make ourselves accessible by searching them out. As I learned from my own experience, Christian students may be lost and longing for a fellowship but be so caught up in school and other obligations that they do not expend great effort to search us out. So, I believe the chapel and this Lutheran campus ministry (and every Lutheran campus ministry across the country) has been charged with the responsibility to go and seek out these students.

Furthermore, the University Lutheran Chapel is located on frat row, and serves as a beacon of light for the Church as whole in a place that is perhaps greatly opposed to it. The chapel offers a place for fellowship to hear and receive the Word and sacraments purely—so it offers more than just fellowship; it offers fellowship focused in the Word and sacraments.

Here at UCLA, we have also been called to reach those who are lost or seeking with the Good News that Christ has brought us back into a right relationship with God by His death on the cross, and with the assurance we have of eternal life in Christ's resurrection. We provide fellowship and reach the Christian students, take care of them, preach the Word



Bart Loos as senior goalkeeper at Concordia University—Chicago.

and administer the Sacraments. However, we are not the end, but rather means—so we encourage and equip the students and members of the chapel to go out and reach the student body by sharing and living out the love of God.

After Binghamton University, I attended Concordia University—Chicago, and although Concordia was a Christian university and different from Binghamton, the campus ministry there was certainly a needed ministry as well as a blessing to be a part of. Whether the school is secular or Christian, a campus ministry is essential—both to help Christian students grow in faith and to share God's love, His message, and His call to those who have not yet come to know Him.

*Bart Loos graduated in 2011 from Concordia University—Chicago in River Forest, Ill. with a degree in biblical languages. A goalkeeper on the CUC men's soccer team, Bart was named second team All Northern Athletic Conference for the 2010 season. As the Campus Missionary Volunteer at University Lutheran Chapel (UCLA), he works with Pastor Mark Jasa in a variety of ministry roles.*



Want to learn more about LCMS Campus Ministry's Campus Missionary Volunteer program? Visit the [CMV page](#) on our website!

## Executive Director Notes



Many of our campus ministry friends are aware of our Synod's renewed concern for the campus ministries of the LCMS, first articulated in President Harrison's October 13 "Pastoral Letter Regarding Campus Ministry." In the letter, Rev. Harrison issues this call to action:

"This is not the time for us to abandon campus ministry, but the time to more fully embrace and expand it. Please continue to support all the campus ministries throughout the Synod, and encourage the development of new campus outreach where none is taking place." (Read the letter in its entirety [here](#).)

We at LCMS Campus Ministry wholeheartedly welcome this resolve and are enthused to hear our Synod leadership echoing the ideals and dreams we have held throughout our organization's 7-year history. In our reply of Oct. 19, I and Rev. Kent Pierce, our Board chair, responded,

"Indeed, now is the time! Today there are over an estimated 100,000 Lutheran students attending public and private universities across our nation who need the care and support of Christ and His church as they grow through their college years. Furthermore, the Lord of the harvest is providing His church with tremendous opportunities for sharing the Gospel among the more than 18 million students, faculty and staff who comprise the greater campus community in the United States today—including approximately 700,000 international students and scholars." ([Download a PDF of the full letter](#).)

Although LCMS Campus Ministry (a.k.a. Lutheran Campus Mission Association, LCMA) is a relatively young organization, it is the historic successor to Synod-sponsored ministry agencies whose work stretches back nearly to the turn of the 20th century. A Lutheran "club" was established on the University of Wisconsin—Madison campus as early as 1905. More clubs sprang up in the ensuing years. In 1928, the Walther League youth organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod established a "student district" and named it Gamma Delta. In 1965 the Convention of The LCMS officially placed oversight for campus ministry under the Synod's Board for Mission Services and established a national coordinating office. In 2002 the national Campus Ministry Office was closed—in part a residual effect of the economic impact of the 2001 World Trade Center attacks.

The LCMS retained the existing Task Force for Campus Ministry after closing the Campus Ministry Office and encouraged the task force to form a mission society that would continue to work with World Mission. The resulting organization, the Lutheran Campus Mission Association, was incorporated in 2004 and was granted Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status in 2010 under its dba name, LCMS Campus Ministry.

LCMS Campus Ministry is dedicated to (1) working with districts, congregations and other groups to help establish and revitalize campus ministries at colleges and universities across the United States; (2) helping build community among campus ministry groups; (3) supporting students, campus ministry leaders and volunteers in continued spiritual growth; and (4) providing resources and opportunities for Christian witness and outreach to campus communities. How we live up to these commitments takes various forms:

- **StudentConnect**, our free online service for connecting a college-bound student with a Lutheran campus ministry leader at the student's school
- **CROSS Training**, an online education/training service
- Peer Ministry Conferences
- The **Lutheran Campus Initiative**, a program through which a recent college graduate can serve as a volunteer Campus Missionary for one year
- **Underground**, an ongoing series of servant gatherings for students and leaders. Students serve a local ministry and its surrounding community through construction/repair and through interaction with families, children, and adult groups
- Customized advisory and mentoring services for startup campus ministries and Lutheran student groups
- Partnership with LCMS districts, Lutheran Student Fellowship and International Student Ministry, Inc. in district, local and national campus ministry-related initiatives.
- A growing social media network for community-building

We are looking forward with great interest to the Office of National Mission's renewed and expanded support of campus ministry across the church—beginning with the "President's Think Tank on Campus Ministry," scheduled for January. We earnestly encourage your prayers as a new chapter in Lutheran Campus Ministry begins. Please also share your thoughts with us on our [Facebook page](#).

God bless our ministry together!

Jon

## A chain is only as strong as its weakest link

By Greg McDuffie

It's obvious that Lutherans are not the first people to accept change when jokes about it circulate that even we accept with a chuckle. "What! We don't change light bulbs..."

And to tradition's credit, it has served us well back to our roots to the stubborn Martin Luther himself who didn't back down to the woes of his day. But world is changing and has changed more in the last hundred years than in the preceding four centuries, back to the time of the Augsburg Confession. And that's why we need to take notice, so that the communion we share now exists for generations to come. It's no secret that the Lutheran church hasn't grown in the last half century and may be gone completely in the next.

However, I believe the solution is pinpointing and repairing what I call the 'Lutheran Leak.' Right now that's college age students. Lutherans have great close, albeit aging, congregations, and we also have great youth programs for middle and high school age kids. We put great stock confirming our kids and keeping them Lutheran. But then they go to college, and many never come back.

College is the new high school. In the developed American economy, companies are employing new hires with a bachelor

degree minimum! Numbers of college bound students have doubled in the last two decades, and more are staying in school longer with the uncertain economy (no surplus of new jobs yet, I'm sorry to say).

So we as Lutherans need to focus where Lutherans are most susceptible to leaving for good, and that's 1-4 years after high school. Where Lutherans have been lacking to accommodate, non-denominational churches and Bible churches have stepped in to give 18-21 year olds their dose of the Almighty. The result is obvious: no new parishioners to join Lutheran congregations upon graduating college and settling down.

Gone are the days when everyone stayed in one town and went to their parents' church. And gone are the days in which lifelong bonds were made in high school. Colleges and Universities are now that scene. And the fellowship there will determine where students will worship for life.

*Greg McDuffie is president of the National Council of Lutheran Student Fellowship. He is a 2011 graduate of Texas A & M University in Economics.*



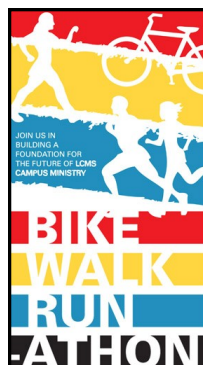
## BikeWalkRun-Athon Spring 2012

Bike, walk, or run to raise awareness and support! Consider partnering with LCMS Campus Ministry to host a **Bike-WalkRun-Athon (BWR)** in your campus community!

It's easy. First, decide as a ministry that you'll participate, set an income goal, and determine how you will apportion the funds you raise. Next, tell your favorite people how much your campus ministry means to you; explain that that's why you're participating in this event and you would love for them to help support a ministry that is so important to you. Finally, hold the event, report to your family and friends that you've earned the support they pledged, and honor your commitments to disburse the funds you raised.

This spring you can host a **BWR** on any weekend **between March 15 and April 30, 2012!**

Visit the [BWR home page](#) right now to get started.



## Peer Ministry/Leadership Conference

There is still time to sign up to attend the **Leadership/Peer Minister Conference** at Camp Lutherwald (near Howe, Indiana) **February 10-11, 2012!** Contact Rev. Marty Marks ([rev@godwithusilc.org](mailto:rev@godwithusilc.org), 815.756.6669) now to get signup info and other details! Professor Tony Cook from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis will be the main speaker.

Visit the conference's [event page on Facebook](#).



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You can also support us by visiting [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and selecting **Lutheran Campus Mission Association** as the charity of your choice!

## Prayers and Praises

- Join us in praying for students, faculty, staff, campus ministry workers and volunteers, and national campus ministry leaders as we look ahead to a new semester.
- Pray for God's will and guidance for the upcoming **President's Think Tank on Campus Ministry**. Pray that discussions will result in greater blessings for students and campus communities across the U.S. and that the outcome will glorify God and build up the body of Christ.
- Pray for the ministry of **CMV Bart Loos**, as well as for God's will in providing more Campus Missionary Volunteers to strengthen campus ministry efforts and outreach in Jesus' name.
- Pray for strength and encouragement for our friends on the **Lutheran Student Fellowship National Council**, as well as for the ministry of LSF chapters across the country. Ask God to provide strong and faithful LSF leaders—both for student and non-student leadership roles.
- Continue to ask God to give us all "mission eyes" and mission hearts for people in campus communities who are searching for answers.