

Campus Ministry in Upstate New York

This year we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation! Martin Luther was a campus pastor. He moved the church into the future. What about the next 500 years? Our campus pastors have access to young adults where they live, work, study, and play. Supporting Campus Ministry is one way our synod can help move the church into the future.

Mission support from Upstate New York Synod congregations helps to support five campus ministry programs serving students, faculty, staff and others in our synod. These programs are part of the much larger Lutheran campus ministry network of the ELCA that provides an ELCA presence at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities with cooperating congregations in campus ministry at an additional 400 campuses nationwide. The mission of campus ministry is to invite people in academic settings to engage more deeply with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples.

Through worship, study, fellowship and service, members of the academic community taste the fullness of God's grace. Our campus ministries mentor children and youth, support refugee communities, take mission trips, support food scarcity programs, hold retreats, fellowship events and much more. As expansive as Christ's love, campus ministry reaches out to all who teach and learn, inviting them to experience the challenge of following Jesus.

- Albany Cornerstone Campus Ministry, <http://www.ualbanycornerstone.org/>, Rev. Sandy Damhof, sdamhof@albany.edu.
- LuMin of WNY, Buffalo, www.lcm-buffalo.org, LuMin of WNY on Facebook, Rev. Steve Biegner, stevebiegner@gmail.com.
- St. Luke Lutheran Church Campus Ministry, Ithaca, <http://www.stlukeithaca.org/campus-ministry>, Rev. Rick Bair, rlb8@cornell.edu.
- RIT Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry, <https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/religion/lutherancampusministry.php>, Rev. Craig Swanson, pastorcraigs@aol.com.
- Lutheran Campus Ministries (LCM) at Syracuse University and SUNY-Environmental Science and Forestry, <http://lcm-syracuse.org/>, Rev. Gail Riina, griina@syr.edu.
- Other resources:
 - [Lutheran Campus Ministry Network - ELCA](#)
 - [ELCA Campus Ministry](#)

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Lutheran Campus Ministry – Ithaca:
A Mission “On the edge; in the midst; with a center”



In the Southern Tier Conference a campus mission is engaged in Ithaca through the faith community known as St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Serving people connected with 4 campuses (Cornell University, Ithaca College, Tompkins-Cortland Community College, and SUNY-Cortland), St. Luke is called to teach, preach, and embody the Good News: that we are One in our baptisms into the death and resurrection of Jesus. We are neither Big Red or Bomber, neither male or female, neither Republican or Democrat, Progressive or Conservative, engineer or linguist, hotelier or architect, veterinary student or business school student, ROTC member or lacrosse player.

God calls us to a mission based on our foundational identity of being a beloved and baptized child of God, graced and freed to see and serve our neighbors. God calls us to be One community, diverse in our identity and gifts, yet grounded in our common identity.

God nurtures and forms people in that identity through worship, study, conversation, fellowship, and service. Students exercise their leadership and are formed in their deepening faith by sharing their God-given gifts and talents through the many ministries at St. Luke.

This campus ministry is a mission ‘on the edge, in the midst, with a center.’ It is ‘on the edge’ because God’s Word is countercultural to many campus gods and ways. It is also ‘on the edge’ because the church in the context of campus meets the current culture, ways, concerns, tools.

Campus ministry is ‘in the midst’ as it journeys with people where they are: library, practice field, classrooms, recitals, residence halls. Even ‘in the midst,’ campus-related ministry is present ‘with a center:’ God’s Word of Law and Gospel, a challenging word to some out-of-bounds situations and really Good News for those who despair, are failing a class, experience a breakup, or grieve a loss.

Visiting this campus ministry, you will not find a full church, nor full classrooms, nor a full offering plate. We pray you will encounter people who have more full lives and are faithfully wrestling with what God’s call and gracious centering means every day.

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