

Carly Morris  
Psychology

LuMin has been my much needed spiritual home at UT. It has been a place that has made UT more intimate and less overwhelming for me.

As a junior transfer student, I found that in most social settings people had already established their friend groups and breaking into one was not really an option. I felt pretty isolated my first semester, but this encouraged me to rekindle my faith.

I came to LuMin one Sunday and it was a completely different experience. I could sit next to anyone without feeling 'in the way' and during the sharing of the peace I received a hug from every single person (despite being a total stranger)! No struggle, no rejection, and no awkwardness.

LuMin truly cares for each other and invites you to come just as you are. Over the past two years I have sweat with these people while volunteering post-Harvey, jumped for joy on the volleyball court, and worshipped with them each week.

I love that LuMin is welcoming to all and actually embraces diversity when it walks through the door. Through the stress and anxiety that college brings, LuMin has been the place for me to recharge and just be. And a free home-cooked meal once a week doesn't hurt either!



Hannah Schatz  
Exercise Science



Being one of the many community members at LuMin was a blessing during my college career. Through LuMin, God provided me with a community that was helpful, encouraging, and caring for everyone.

During my time in LuMin I had the opportunity to learn more about my faith while also developing my leadership skills. I had the privilege of serving as both Vice President and President of the ministry. As a recognized leader, it gave me great joy to play an active role in bringing the community even closer together.

I felt the love of the LuMin community surrounding me as I grieved the loss of a family member for the first time. Losing my grandfather was hard, and being away from all my immediate family during this loss was even harder. LuMin, though, was a Godsend during this time: I knew I could rely on them. They truly acted as an extension of my family at home. Most recently, I felt this same familial love upon my graduation from UT in December.

Worshiping with the LuMin community every Sunday, eating dinner together on Tuesday nights, and receiving ongoing check-ins from other students, Pastor Brad and Rebecca - all allowed me to have a better understanding of waiting (and wading) through the unknown.

I'm very thankful for LuMin and look forward to the ministry radiating God's love and grace through embracing all, serving boldly and working for peace and justice. This IS our mission! Thank you for supporting it.

# LuMin Senior Stories



## University of Texas Class of 2018

JoAnna Boy  
Mechanical  
Engineering

Four years ago, I came to college looking for a church group with whom I could grow in faith. Today, I can't imagine what college would have been like without LuMin, without the giving hands who make dinner every week, without the warm embraces during the passing of the peace, without a welcoming community I can call family.

Every college student struggles with a feeling of isolation from time to time, the realization that the world is a large place and you are but a small piece of it. A small but important piece - that's what LuMin has shown me.

I have not only been a recipient of kindness, but I've grown into a "kindness" ambassador as well. LuMin has given me the opportunity to share my light by being God's giving hands in the kitchen, being God's warm welcome into the community, and spreading God's love and warmth beyond this ministry to those who need them the most.

I leave equipped to bring all this to the world as I continue my journey of faith after graduation. Thank you for supporting this vital ministry.



## Tom Blaney Civil Engineering

When I first came to UT as a freshman, I had received an invitation from Lutheran Campus Ministry to join them for worship. As a life-long Lutheran, I had always planned to go to a Lutheran church in college, so I accepted the invitation and joined LCM at their first worship.

Hannah Schatz and I were the only two freshmen to attend, but I immediately felt a great welcome from the current students there. After worship, they invited me to go get dinner with them. I already ate, and I wanted to meet up with some other friends. So I declined. Still, as the semester went on, the students at LCM were persistent in inviting me to join in community with them - invitations I grew to accept more and more.

Soon into my freshmen year, LCM moved out of the old center and spent a few years as a "pilgrim ministry." Without a space to call our own, LuMin - the community - became my "place" of peace and acceptance. I always looked forward to Sunday evening worship. There in our worship together, I experienced God's grace with other students and again, peace. Tuesday community meals offered us a good home-cooked meal, something often lacking in a college student's life.

Whatever I had going on in my life, LuMin provided me a caring ear. Whether I needed someone to talk to, or just a place to forget my problems and inadequacies for a while, LuMin was there for me be loved as I was.

Beyond providing me a place of comfort, the greatest gift LuMin has given me has been the desire to use my faith in positive ways by seeking justice and being a servant leader.

LuMin played no small part in the decisions I've made: the decision to go to Guatemala to engineer a solar panel system for a children's malnutrition clinic last May; the decision to work to increase inter-religious cooperation as a member of the University Interfaith Council this semester;

the decision to increase my political activism in standing up for justice; the decision to share God's grace as a camp counselor this summer.

For college students trying to find their way in life, Lutheran Campus Ministry provides a gracious place to love and be loved as a member of the body of Christ. A gift I will never forget. Thanks for all the ways you support Lumin.



Ellen Drees  
Civil Engineering

During my years at UT, LuMin has emboldened me to grapple with ideas of what living a life of consequential faith means.

With a passion for helping others, I led and participated in many service events, whether at a food pantry or an animal shelter. I will continue these activities after graduating, and cannot wait to see how the service and justice ministry will evolve under the leadership of present and future LuMin students.

LuMin is a family that I leaned on in my hard times, and celebrated with during my successes. I see God moving through this community daily, radiating love and grace through us out to the Forty Acres.

Thank you for all of your support that has allowed me to experience these feelings - I'm excited to join this support community in May after graduation. Hook 'Em!

## Connor Hansen International Relations

When I first walked into the Jewish Hillel, I didn't quite know what to expect about this "Lutheran" organization my friend had told me about.

As I sat down, all these people came up to me and introduced themselves and seemed to genuinely want to get to know me. This had been such a nice change from the norm. Previously I had bounced from church group to church group because no one seemed to actually care that I was there or the message simply wasn't resonating with me.

But in just the first 5 minutes with these "Lutherans," I knew I had found a group that would at least care about me. What I didn't know at the time was that I had found a family.

LuMin is a group that helped me through times when nothing seemed right and my life was changing. The students were always there to lend a helping hand, Brad and Rebecca were a wealth of knowledge and a shoulder to lean on, and the message was one that I needed to hear.

It was a simple message, but sometimes those are the most impactful: you are loved. Those three words are the message I hear week in and week out from this organization,

