

LuMin Gives a Flip..For Nearly 300 Every Week!

Students Cite Care, Community, and Good Food for Coming to Tailgate Tuesdays.

- by Pr. BRAD FUERST

The pandemic has silver-linings - one of which has been LuMin's decision to "go curbside" with our weekly community meal. Since last fall, these meals have grown from serving 40 students to breaking 300 over the last few weeks of this semester. When the students ask why we're serving them free burgers or tacos every week, we say, "It's because Lutherans give a flip."

When we ask them why they keep coming back - sometimes waiting in line for over 30 minutes for a burger or taco - they say it's because of the burgers are yummy *and* free; it's because of the community; it's because the ones serving them "are so kind."

LuMin's ministry leadership has surveyed these students to discover more who they are, the needs they bear, and how ministry we can serve them best. Expect to see new ministry initiatives emerge this coming semester, as we seek to shine the Light of Christ @ 2100 San Antonio St.!

Daily Bread Creates Community

- by NICHOLAS HANCOCK

Kay & Loren Jensen Daily Bread Intern

Coming through 18 tough months of a pandemic, much of my efforts went toward elevating awareness on campus about Daily Bread. My friend Josue and I logged a lot of steps doing this the old-fashioned way: posting flyers throughout areas of campus with high amounts of foot traffic.

I had no idea how effective this would be, but over the course of this past semester, Daily Bread has become a resource for 65 students.

Here's the thing though: Daily Bread has become more than just a food resource for students. It's become a kind of community. Students who utilize Daily Bread have formed relationships with me and the other student volunteers. Our fellow hungry Longhorns look forward to seeing and interacting with us every week.

We strive to be non-judgmental and welcoming in order to remove the stigma that all too often prevents needful college students from seeking assistance. I do believe the connections and community we've formed stands as a witness to our effectiveness. It's been a joy to see how Daily Bread has helped LuMin become a place where privilege - or the lack thereof - does not keep us apart.



Every Tuesday night from 5-7 PM there is a line of hungry and happy Longhorns which stretches from LuMin's entrance down the block of San Antonio Street.

How God Works Through LuMin... Let Me Count the Ways!

- by ANNA BARDENHAGEN, Senior & LuMin Prez

This semester has been a time of transition for LuMin. We moved from worshipping in the park across from St. Martin's, to then worshipping in St. Martin's nave, and eventually to our own space at 2100 San Antonio. We've slowly begun to resume many of the activities we were unable to do last year in our own space.

Throughout this time of transition, I've found dozens of examples of the impact our ministry has on our community. I've seen the hundreds of hungry students who line up for a burger or taco every Tuesday. I've seen a student who ran up to our ofrenda on Dia de los Muertos, happy to see her dad there among the rest of the saints. I've heard Vicar Wes's powerful preaching. I've received several loaves of oven-warm bread from Pastor Brad which feed my soul along with my body.

Our wonderful student leaders continue to impress with their dedication to serve, and I am looking forward to seeing their work continue next semester. I am continually amazed by the work that God does through LuMin-Austin.

The end of this semester marks the end of my two terms as president of LuMin. When I stepped into this role at the beginning of 2020, I could never have anticipated the challenges we would face over the next two years. I am so thankful for the opportunity to lead. I'm even more thankful for my fellow student leaders—whether elected or not—I have worked with who faced every challenge with creativity and patience.

My campus ministry - LuMin - is a community of joy and hope for the future, and I am excited to see the new directions God will lead us.



LuMin's observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance:
56 Candles lit to remember 56 Transgender lives lost over the past year.

Present Over Perfect

- by **VICAR WES ISBERNER,**



That's me pictured to the right of Pr. Brad just days before being tossed in "the deep."

Just a few weeks into my time with LuMin, Pr. Brad was called away to be with his family in the wake of his brother's death. With only a few worship services under my belt, I was thrown into planning, leading, and recalibrating – not only worship but Tailgate Tuesdays, staff meetings, and student support. I had to drop at the door all my pretenses and preconceived notions of how I thought I should lead.

I only had myself to offer.

As a person with anxiety and a propensity for perfectionism, it is easy for me to get swept up in my head and miss what's happening around me. I get so caught up in my self-imposed expectations, that I fail to be present. It can lead to broken connections, rushed work, and missed opportunities. Internship is a time of being formed and re-formed by one's site; and my time with LuMin has been a masterclass in presence.

When Pr. Brad left, there was no perfection to be found. There was no room for as I worked to guide myself and the ministry through Brad's absence. And the most amazing thing happened: the world didn't end. Ministry continued. Students were taken care of. The Tuesday masses were fed. Worship continued, and we made a joyful noise to the Lord. And all I had to do was show up, as myself, a little overwhelmed but honest and humbled.

I let myself be present, and placed that over my need to be perfect, and it made all the difference. I formed deeper connections with our students, colleagues, and support network as we came together to shepherd LuMin through this difficult time.

This is a lesson I'm still learning. There will still be days when I put my ideas of leadership over where God is calling me to be, but I have a much firmer foundation for my work, both here at LuMin and in my future service to God's people.



Vicar Wes (L) and Anna Bardenhagen mulling over chrismons whilst Emily Ries (Left of tree), Jack Barlow and Maggie Shen (right of tree) "deck the tree."

I Get to Share Joy

- by **SHANNON PERRY,**

Kacie Brekhus Intern for Evangelism & Outreach

This semester of experiencing life almost back to normal brought about feelings of excitement, nervousness, and confusion as 50,000 students graced the 40 Acres.

As a freshman last year, I experienced college through the COVID zoom lens. Still, LuMin was a welcoming place where I could come to worship and meet other people. This year, in my role as the evangelism and outreach Intern, my mission has been to share with others that same positive and joyful feeling I experienced from LuMin all last year.

Looking back on the semester, I think we did just that!

I gathered fellow LuMin students to table at Party on the Plaza under the blisteringly hot September sun. We invited people to worship and Daily Bread. Students who came to our table were genuinely interested –free freeze pops helped.

Relationships were formed and deepened that day.

I arranged an outing to Amy's Ice Cream for participants of our LuMin worship community in October. Getting to hang out with one another outside of worship was a great blessing, and the wonderful ice cream was just the cherry on top!

Then before Thanksgiving Break, several from our LuMin community came together for a fun Friendsgiving. We were astonished how quickly this meal came together with students bringing their favorite dishes to share, and Pastor Brad impressed us once again with his culinary skills.

The overall atmosphere at this Friendsgiving was genuine thankfulness and joy. Especially after our difficult last year, being able to gather and sit down for a meal together was a wonderful opportunity none of us took for granted.

The Power of Small Gestures

- by **JIMMY O'BRIEN,** Building Bridges Intern

This first semester serving LuMin and UT as the Building Bridges intern has been rewarding building connections between LuMin and UT's Voices Against Violence, our Mexican-America, and Transgender siblings.

One experience stands out: the blessing of assembling an ofrenda for Día de Muertos with fellow LuMin student, Rachel Rivera, and the impact that ofrenda made. We provided the entire West Campus the opportunity to put pictures of loved ones on the ofrenda right outside our doors at 2100 San Antonio.

The night of Día de Muertos, we lit all the candles and served food for Tailgate Tuesday. One Tailgate Tuesday regular came up to our President, Anna,

and told her how deeply grateful she was. We put her father's picture on our ofrenda. Among 50,000 students, she felt seen in her loss.

At no point throughout the semester did I feel more of a connection to God and to the community than when Anna relayed that story to me. It's moments like these – in this role – that I've witnessed the power of small gestures of kindness – how these gestures can make large impacts.

The ministry this internship has me doing, I believe, has further developed LuMin as a place where all are welcome. It makes my heart glad to say I was able to play a small role in that change. I'm excited to continue serving in this role next semester.

