

## Final Worship of '20-21 Blesses & Sends... Board Member, Spiritual Director and Four Graduating Seniors



*l-r*: Pr. Brad Fuerst, Caroline Pritchett, Anna Livingston, Zach Brusewitz, and Ryan Schulz. (Unable to attend: Maddie Kinsella).



LuMin Worship Community Gives God Thanks for Rebecca Guengerich's 8+ years of service as LuMin's Spiritual Director



*Left*: Pr. Brad, the tradition of Pr. Curt Johnson, "salts" the hands of senior Zach Bruscewitz, with the words, "You are the salt of the earth"; *Top right*: graduating seniors (l-r) Ryan Schulz, Zach Brusewitz, and Caroline Pritchett; *Bottom right*: Outgoing Board Member, Anna enjoying fellowship with LuMin musician emeritus, Bryan Rust.

## Reflections from LuMin's Retiring Spiritual Director

- by **REBECCA Guengerich**

I'm convinced campus Ministry should be essential for every college student! As students leave home to learn their craft and trade, I've had the joy of watching them join a new LuMin family to form their life of faith.

I've had spent 8 wonderful years watching new community - every year - fine-tuning itself and the lives of those who've been gathered. Based on the model of Christ, they catch a glimpse of God's Kingdom on earth, where all aspects of their lives are shaped by God's Holy love.

I've seen worship, prayer and silence give students the quiet they crave to hear God's word in the LuMin space. From there, love and grace start spilling over into their everyday lives. They discover - in time - that their work doesn't have to take them away from God.

Rather, God's work continues through their work. The free meals offered each week connect them to people beyond the boundaries of denominations, race, gender and self-interest, moving them to a new understanding that every voice and life should be heard and protected.

Think about it! LuMin students, steeped in God's love, will approach business, law, marketing, science, art, etc. with a different mindset. God's Kingdom is not business as usual!

I'm grateful for how LuMin has given me the opportunity to work God's beloved young adult-aged children.. My greatest joy has been listening to the students and reminding them that God was present. From there, I sat back and watched God unfold in their lives in ways they never expected! Thank you for 8 amazing years.

## Good News from LuMin's Bridge Intern

- by **MAGGIE SHEN**, Sophomore

LuMin did what we said we'd do! Our LuMin worship community collected a total of \$5000 for the the University Leadership Initiative, an organization for undocumented and DACA recipient students.

A couple Sundays ago, I - along with Pr. Brad and Kit Caudle (my Bridges intern predecessor) had the joy of handing a check for 5K to ULI student leaders to help fund scholarships for fellow Longhorns who are undocumented/DACA.

Trust me when I say, this Building Bridges Internship has been a life-giving experience for me. Recall that in the fall, LuMin collaborated with the Gender & Sexuality Center for Transgender Day of Remembrance and the Gender-Neutral Clothes Swap.

Last semester I also began to develop a relationship with Voices Against Violence (VAV), an organization that provides tools to educate and respond to interpersonal violence such as sexual harassment and assault. Recently, a study from U.N. Women found that 97% of women ages 18-24 have been sexually harassed. Unfortunately, that seemed like a more and more realistic statistic as I've observed more UT students opening up about their experiences as survivors of interpersonal violence.

These incidents do not just affect the victims, their effects ripple outward toward friends, family, classmates, and acquaintances. Even more, knowing a perpetrator of interpersonal violence can also damage the psyche of those close to them. *(continued on P. 2)*

# Good News from the Bridge

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With all that said, this past March, I collaborated with VAV, to hold a workshop with members of our LuMin campus ministry on how to support survivors of violence. The following week, our worship community provided a donation of \$340 through our weekly offering.

This ministry has been more than just holding a workshop here and providing a donation there. I and my fellow LuMin students hold these missions close to our hearts - as Longhorns and followers of Jesus.

The point of this internship is to help build bridges between the communities of marginalized groups on campus and LuMin. I believe that through our continued work with the GSC, ULI, and VAV, our Lutheran campus ministry will not only foster these connections but also develop meaningful relationships with these organizations.

# Tailgate Tuesdays Preaches

by **EMILY RIES**, junior

During the snowstorm in February, in what seemed like one of the hardest weeks of my life, I first found LuMin. My friend Ari, a member of LuMin, lost power and water and came to stay with me for the time being. I wanted to do more though to help other students who were without basic necessities and were looking for a warm meal. So, I went with Ari to serve pancakes at Tailgate Tuesday with Pastor Brad and the student volunteers.

“I have found a church where I belong.”

That night, I realized very quickly that the LuMin bunch was (and is) a great group of people. They were welcoming and were ready to serve their community during a time of great need. I enjoyed the experience so much that I came back every week to volunteer for the rest of the semester.

Tailgate Tuesday really is the highlight of my week. I enjoy preparing and serving food to students, having conversations with them, and getting to know Pastor Brad and Rebecca better. The kindness they extended to me as an outsider, as well as their love for serving



Emily (left), Friend (middle) and Maggie (R) getting their service on!

their community, showed me that they truly practice what they preach and they love all of God's children.

I did not get the same feeling of welcomeness at my last church, and I stopped going for quite some time. I really wanted to find a welcoming church, and because I enjoyed volunteering at Tailgate Tuesday so much, I started attending LuMin's Sunday evening services. Now, I am happy I made that decision because I feel welcomed by everyone and like I have found a church where I belong. I look forward to continuing to grow and serve with LuMin, and I especially look forward to volunteering at Tailgate Tuesday again in the fall!

## Daily Bread Lays Groundwork with UT Farm Stand



by **ZACH BRUSEWITZ**, Senior/Daily Bread Intern

This semester has proven to be an interesting one. I aimed to make the most of my time at Daily Bread as the pandemic began to wind down and I faced my final semester at UT.

I grew in my ability to be resilient as I faced dwindling numbers of students coming in. I reminded myself: providing groceries for one person on a Monday night is vitally important - for that one person.

In the free time that arose though, I also began to plan for the future of Daily Bread, trying to explore options of how we can improve our service in the fall when my friend, Nick Hancock, takes over running the pantry. As I explored various routes we could

take, the golden opportunity revealed itself with little work on my part. It came during our “Tailgate Tuesday” when Pastor Brad met a student who worked with UT Farm Stand, an organization at UT that grows fresh produce to help feed the student population.

Pastor Brad and I soon realized that a partnership with the organization could be highly beneficial to our patrons as we could them with farm-to-table goods that we previously could not supply. This partnership is in the early stages and the exact logistics are being planned, but I am excited for what the future of the pantry holds, and I cannot wait to check in next year.

## Meet LuMin's 2021-22 Student Interns!



From left to right, the Kacie Brekhuis Intern for Evangelism and Outreach - sophomore, Shannon Perry; the Loren and Kay Jensen Daily Bread Intern - senior, Nick Hancock, and the Building Bridges Intern - sophomore, Jimmy O'Brien. Student interns play a vital role in enhancing LuMin's presence and service to the 40 acres and learn valuable lessons on how to be a servant leader!

## President's Corner



by **ANNA BARDENHAGEN**, Senior - LuMin President

I enjoyed singing together again - especially the moments after communion. That's always been a very powerful moment for me. I was so glad to have time to reconnect with some friends and meet new people after each service.

Worshipping in the park is one of the many changes that we have had to make to LuMin this year. It has the potential to truly add to our community if we choose to continue it in some way. We're grateful to St. Martin's Lutheran Church for allowing us to use their outdoor space.

This past school year has truly tested our strength as a community, and we have risen to that challenge in a multitude of ways that, ultimately, have enriched our life together.

Earlier this semester, I transitioned from attending Zoom worship services to attending in-person worship. This was incredibly rejuvenating, and I began to truly look forward to church every week.

Worshipping in the park felt like entering another world, and it relieved my stress and refreshed my spirit.

As part of preparing for an expected return to in-person events next semester, we have restarted the visioning process for LuMin. This process includes incorporating ideas from students and alumni about what LuMin should look like in the future, and was started prior to the pandemic by one of our board members, Albert Swantner and a LuMin alum, Meri Marcks.

As the student president of LuMin, I look forward to what this process tells us about LuMin's future life together and service to UT.

## A Brief Note from LuMin's Campus Pastor

What you read here represents only a small portion of the amazing LuMin news fit for print. God is ever about the work of doing marvelous things through your Lutheran Campus Ministry at 2100 San Antonio - most especially in the midst of this pandemic wilderness. It's been a challenging year on so many levels, and at every turn, we have felt God's gracious and loving presence. Thank you to each and every one of you who pray for and support this vital and growing campus ministry on the 40 acres and beyond! ~ pb.