

Outreach Intern thrilled by LuMin Growth



Float Trip 2022: (r-l) Jack Barlow, Shannon Perry, Vicar Cecie Suknaic-Saulnier, Bailey Barleow, Mike Kell, Magdalena Shen, Ashlynn Althaus. (back r-l) Josh Smith and Pr. Brad Fuerst

- by **SHANNON PERRY**, Junior, History Major.

This semester of LuMin has been my favorite to serve as the Evangelism and Outreach Intern. Junior year marks my first entirely in-person semester, and the ability to worship with LuMin all five semesters has been exciting. I've been amazed to see how this community has grown and adapted each semester.

This fall, we have noticed a distinct increase in attendance and, with the lovely addition of our Vicar Cecie, an increase in conversation with our meal afterwards. Now that we can safely stay in the space and enjoy a meal together, a sense of community has grown ten-fold.

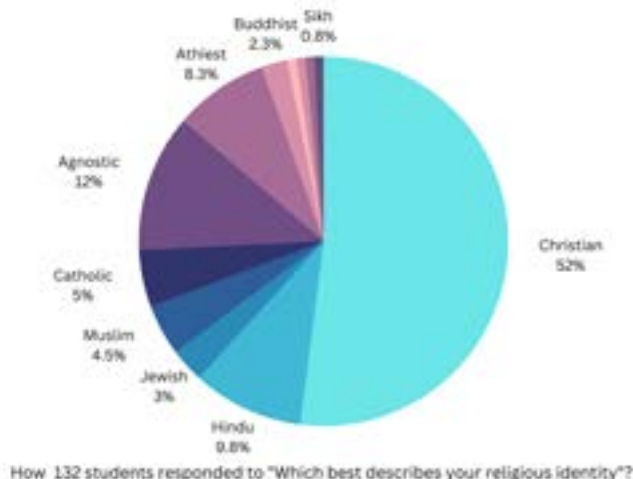
We began the year with our annual float trip down the Comal River. The slow and steady pace of the river paved the road for LuMin to act as a space of refuge and relaxation throughout our busy and hectic schedules. The float trip acted as the ultimate ice-breaker and welcoming event for freshmen to find a home on the 40 acres.

We had the opportunity, too, to welcome and serve alongside Lutherhill staff, handing out free snow cones to West Campus on the corner of 2100 San Antonio.

This led to former campers finding their way to our worship community. We now have fun memories of snow cone syrup mishaps, the loud noise of the machine in general, and the joy of offering something cool to overheated Longhorns.

Who is my neighbor?

This year, we're seeking to better know who it is we're serving on Tailgate Tuesdays. So far, 142 students have participated in our survey. Our questions range from what year they are in school, to ethnicity, to the kinds of things they've working through over the past 5 months. We'll continue to survey students and share the results in our next issue.



As life has returned to somewhat normal, LuMin has become a place where we can gather, do fun things like play Mario Kart, and simply relax and be ourselves. I see God actively using LuMin to bring joy to each of us.

What's more, our Instagram (@LuMin_Austin) has seen an increase in followers and interaction; I'm excited to see what new connections through social media and in-person gatherings next semester.

LuMin is truly the most welcoming and inclusive religious group I've found in Austin, and trust me: I have tried out quite a few.

This is my second year serving as the Kacie Brekhus Evangelism and Outreach intern, and I've been overjoyed to see this ministry grow to embrace new members into our worship community. LuMin is truly the most welcoming and inclusive religious group I've found in Austin, and trust me: I have tried out quite a few.

I consider myself blessed at LuMin to grow in my faith with an array of fellow Longhorns centered around an ethos of love and inclusion.

Daily Bread Food Pantry Numbers on the Rise - Sense of Community too.

by **JOSUE HERNANDEZ** - Senior, Kinesiology Major

This fall semester on the 40 Acres marked a return (finally) to being fully in-person since the COVID-19 pandemic began 2 years ago. As the Daily Bread student intern, I set the goal of continuing Daily Bread service to food insecure students and expanding that service to as many Longhorns as possible.

I'm glad to report that this goal was met! I attribute the growth of our pantry's service - in part - to remaining true to what my friend Nick Hancock (last year's Daily Bread intern) and I had done previously: I blanket-ed the campus with QR-bearing flyers. In addition, I was able to use my job and extra-curricular activities as mediums to further raise awareness of Daily Bread's existence.

These methods - along with the the massive amount of students LuMin serves every Tuesday night - significantly expanded Daily Bread capacity to be a resource for hungry Longhorns. We've served 150 different students over the course of the semester. This number includes an average attendance of about 30 Longhorns per week, with twenty students being recurring visitors and fifteen or so being new visitors to Daily Bread.

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Unexpected Connections



Also unexpected: Getting an Aggie to "Hook 'em!"

- by **VICAR CECIE SUKNAIC-SAULNIER**

After almost 3 months on the job, with most of a semester under my belt, it is refreshing to take a look back on what we have been up to here at LuMin. It has been a busy time - as these articles suggest to you - and I could easily tell you a multitude of ways I have seen God at work here.

The most surprising way I have seen God has not been in the weekly feeding of hundreds of students, or the growth in our food pantry, or the ways this community has welcomed me - but rather in the quiet moments of unexpected connection. Campus ministry is all about connecting with others, and that is a big part of what we do here. We connect with students through worship, preaching, fellowship, service, and food!

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Annual Interfaith Dinner Returns!



A methodist, a disciple of christ, a latter day saint, an episcopal, a muslim and many, many more walk into a lutheran campus ministry space to get some pie...no joke!

- by **VIRGINIA VANECEK**,
Freshman, Astromomy

On Wednesday, November 16th, our campus ministry participated in the first “post-covid” Progressive Dinner. This dinner was a journey to 3 different ministry spaces - each with their own set of religious beliefs and traditions.

University Interfaith Council campus ministries - of which LuMin-Austin is a part, - were invited to join in “breaking bread” with one another.

The evening included gathering at Texas Wesley for appetizers, then the Latter-Day Saints for an amazing entree and finally, LuMin, where we “collab’ed” with the Dialogue Institute to serve dessert.

At each location, we were mixed up and had to spark prompts to have interfaith conversations. These questions were really a jumping off point where deep conversations about faith most certainly ensued.

The return of the UIC’s annual progressive dinner - after a pandemic-inflicted hiatus - was a great example and much needed reminder of how all our faith’s call us to love neighbors as we love ourselves. Developing these relationships with other campus ministries sets the standard for me and my fellow Longhorns - at the table - for what it means to embody inclusion and love for all.

Helping LuMin BE a Good News Bridge

- by **JIMMY O’BRIEN**, Junior, History Major.

It’s no secret that many folks have negative perceptions of the church. At LuMin we believe it doesn’t have to be this way.

I’ve used my internship to build a life-giving friendship with the UT’s Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) - specifically with GSC’s director, Liz Elsen. The GSC is an organization that aims to provide support for students who are members of the LGBTQ+ community.

This semester, we’ve worked alongside the GSC to help gather donations for the “Gender Inclusive Clothing and Stuff Swap,” a massive annual event put on by the GSC that takes place at Gregory Plaza. We’ll continue to develop this friendship between our two communities next semester.

LuMin’s continued observance of Dia de los Muertos in conjunction with All Saints Sunday also gladdens my heart. This year’s altar was truly a sight to behold thanks to LuMin’s long-time leader, Rachel Rivera.

LuMin’s Dia de los Muertos altar provided west campus students an opportunity to remember lost loved ones and to have their grief acknowledged. Seeing folks come by throughout the night looking at pictures of their loved ones was an emotional experience for all of us.

I’m thrilled with the bridges God is building through this internship and our worship community - spreading the good news of our faith.

Daily Bread Rising, continued...

We’re not only addressing physical hunger; we’re responding to the hunger for community common among most Longhorns we serve. Our interactions embody what it means to be welcoming; Wednesday nights kinda feel like family get togethers. To give you a sense of how our fellow Longhorns feel about Daily Bread, they’ve provided the following words to describe their experience with us: friendly, welcomed, happy, thoughtful, generous, easy-going, giving, nice, inclusive, and many, many more. I knew from the beginning it would take hard work and dedication to get Daily Bread up and running again for a full in-person semester, but this hard work has blessed my life as senior kinesiology major.

I look forward to seeing familiar faces at Daily Bread every week; I look forward to welcoming new students to our community. This is work I look forward to continuing during my final semester at UT precisely because I’ve seen with my own eyes what it means to respond to fill my fellow Longhorns with good things. Hook ‘em!

Unexpected Connections, continued...

Unexpected connection, however, has come from the small moments I have been able to grab with students in between some of the bigger things we have going on.

I have listened to a student share her hopes about opportunities after graduation while we wash up dishes during Tailgate Tuesday. Another student spent some time with me a different week in the dish pit where she shared about the importance of Día de Muertos for her, her family, and her faith.

One week as I was serving, a familiar face came through the Tailgate Tuesday line – one of my former campers who is a junior at UT. We got coffee the next week and caught up on what has been going on with both of our lives; he shared he has worked a few summers at camp himself and that made me so proud.

These moments of unexpected connection go beyond my interactions with students, too. Some weeks, we invite local churches to come volunteer during Tailgate Tuesday, and I have been surprised by familiar faces from my past coming to help out. My first week, a parent of a high school classmate was serving alongside me! Later, a local pastor who happened to live in the same neighborhood my parents did when I was a small child came by. There are even more stories

I could tell of unexpected connection and the surprising ways God has stewarded opportunities for conversation in the small moments. But I’ll end by saying I am grateful for the opportunity to serve here, for the moments big and small, and for all the ways I connect with others and God through LuMin.

Here’s who funded our Tailgate Tuesdays this past semester:



Christ LC, Georgetown
Palm Valley LC, Round Rock
St. Martin’s LC, Austin
Triumphant Love LC, Austin



First United Methodist
“The Downtowners”



Beth & Niel Wiegand
Nadine & Jeffrey Anderson
Carl & Claudia Teinert
Kent & Joan Bohls
Nina Zoch & Rachel
Lois Holck
Loren & Kay Jensen
Elizabeth & Adam Williams
and 3 anonymous-es

On behalf of the hundreds of hungry Longhorns served, we say a huge...

THANK YOU!
and HOOK ‘EM!