

Christus Rex

**Lutheran Campus Ministry
at the
University of North Dakota**



Fall 2019



CHRISTUS REX

lutheran campus ministry - ELCA

*Follow us on Facebook and
Instagram @ christusrex
or check out our website
www.christus-rex.org*

Staff

Chad Brucklacher
Director/Campus Pastor

Shera Nesheim
Campus Minister

Jan Kurtyka
Administrative Assistant

Julene Hawkins
Student Intern

Delphine LaMoine
Music Coordinator

Ryan King
Choir Director

Yen Lee Loh
Accompaniment

Sunday Worship

10:30 am

Archives Coffee House

Monday-Friday
7:00am - 11:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-9:00 pm
Sunday Noon—9:00 pm



The Past, Present, and Future of Christus Rex is Timeless!

At seminary we learned about two kinds of “time”: Chronos and Kairos. Chronos talks about chronological time that is measured in hours, days, weeks, and years. Kairos time is measured in extraordinary moments; spiritual experiences that transcend time. I am experiencing time at Christus Rex in both ways as we live into 2019.

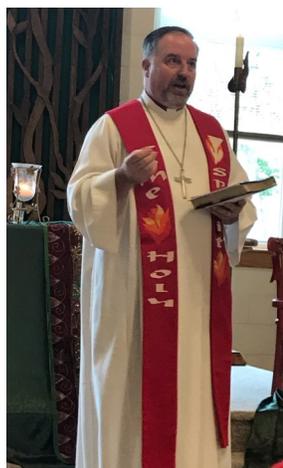
This year we have spent time reflecting on the thirty years of ministry of Kathy Fick and celebrated her retirement in June. We have also found new energy for our ministry team in Shera Nesheim who started in July. I see how staffing this ministry has shaped a wonderful legacy of attention to this ministry’s success. I also see how staffing is moving us forward by revealing new ways of being a vibrant ministry into the future.

I fondly remember students from the past who made this place their home away from home and continue to support this ongoing ministry through their gifts and prayers (Thank You! This means a lot!) I am excited for the students who are shaping the ways we think about programming this year as we learn about eco-justice practices and live into God’s call to “Care for Creation.” I even imagine students who have yet to make this ministry a part of their journey and know that we will be paying attention to their faith and their gifts. We will be certain to make Christus Rex a responsive church to the faith practices that matter to students!



Christus Rex Lutheran Campus Ministry

As I step into the role of Director of Christus Rex, I’m aware that I have been blessed with wonderful mentors and supportive friends and family that make this possible. I have come to care a lot about this ministry over the past eleven years and have seen firsthand how reflecting student leadership and engaging faith practices has created a lasting impression. It’s exciting, and a little scary, to step together into a future that is filled with uncertainty; especially financial uncertainty. Nevertheless, I know that this place has mattered, and will continue to matter to students who need a church on this campus that is open and affirming of all who come, and will offer them a place to use their gifts for the sake of the Gospel.



It is our hope that our friends and alumni can play a significant role in keeping this ministry as vibrant as ever. We believe that our staffing model is a large reason why we continue to be mentioned as a flagship campus ministry in the ELCA. This model promotes creativity, and gives more connection opportunities for students, offers more gifts for more ministry to happen, and broadens our leadership on campus and in our ELCA Campus Ministry Network. Your increased giving is one of the ways that we hope to carry this ministry model into the future. We also believe that the “time” is right for us to live into this future together! The time is now!

God’s Peace!

Pastor Chad Brucklacher

(Front cover: Installation of Shera Nesheim)

A letter from Bishop Terry Brandt



Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to you not only as the bishop of Eastern North Dakota Synod, but also as a dad whose daughter has been and continues to be blessed by the ministry of Christus Rex. I don't need to tell you that this ministry plays a critical role in the faith formation of young adults. What I do need to tell you is now, more than ever, this ministry relies on the generosity of alumni and friends who believe in the transformative, life-changing and grace filled ministry that Christus Rex provides.

The Eastern North Dakota Synod provides \$100,000 in funding for our two campus ministry sites (UND and NDSU). At 10% of our total budget, it is our most funded ministry outreach. For decades, the allocation of grants was based on staffing needs at each site. Two years ago, the Synod Council made a tough decision to gradually transition to an equal distribution between the two sites. Essentially, what this means for Christus Rex is over the course of five years, the grants shift from \$89,878 to \$50,000/year. Realizing this transition had significant financial implications for Christus Rex, the synod has encouraged congregations to participate in Campus Ministry Sunday as well as special funding appeals, including our recent "We All Wear Green" campaign to support both Christus Rex and Crossroads Campus Ministry at NDSU.

Despite these changes, two things remain constant. One – the Spirit-filled ministry at Christus Rex is thriving and students continue to be fed, fueled and equipped for ministry in daily life. Two, none of our campus ministries are funded the way they deserve. Eastern North Dakota Synod will continue to work tirelessly to sustain, develop and support new and existing funding streams, but the only way this ministry and others like it will continue to thrive is through the generosity of people like you. I invite you to join my wife and I in increasing your support to Christus Rex.

In Christ,
Bishop Terry A. Brandt

*A longer version of this letter is available upon request from the END Synod Office

Giving Hearts Day 2020



My guess is that if you are receiving this letter, you have been a person whose life has been changed or impacted by campus ministry. You have a story to tell about God's work in your life, because of the ministry in this place and the people here who have been a part of your life. Your story can inspire other people to know more about this amazing place and ministry. Your story might inspire others to support Christus Rex.

Here's how you can make a difference:

- Share your story. If you have a story to share about how Christus Rex has made a difference in your life, please feel free to share it with us so we can inspire others as we begin to tell the story of this place. (Send to und.christusrex@und.edu)
- Invite friends and family and facebook acquaintances to give financially to Christus Rex. On Feb. 13th share a facebook or Instagram post – encourage 5 of your friends to give because it can change the life of a college student. Share your story. (Find us on Facebook or Instagram @christusrex)
- Join the team of people we are gathering to focus on Giving Hearts Day. We are seeking alum & friends to serve Christus Rex in a short-term way -that has major impact. Call or email TODAY if you're interested. (701-775-5581).

Thank you for all the ways you continue to support and uplift the ministry at Christus Rex. It is because of you that we are able to offer a safe and welcoming space for students to explore their faith, worship and engage in service projects so that they might be equipped to live into God's call to love justice and seek mercy in all the world.

COSTA RICA SPRING BREAK TRIP 2020

This fall we have been focusing on Eco-Justice, Sustainability and Fair Trade as we prepare to embark on our Spring Break 2020 trip to Costa Rica. On our trip to Costa Rica we will learn more about sustainable farming practices, visit a fair trade coffee plantation, visit a National Park, and worship with a Lutheran congregation in San Jose among other amazing experiences.

To prepare for our trip the deacon group focused on studying the ELCA's 1993 Statement on "Care for Creation" which is still very relevant and inspirational today. As part of our fundraising efforts, we are teaching congregations in the community of Grand Forks about this social statement and about how we can engage as individuals, churches and communities to work toward better sustainability practices and ways of life as people of faith. We will serve "Costa Rican"-style meals with an Eco-Justice Presentation in three congregations this fall.



The above picture is a slide from the powerpoint presentation that the students developed as they prepared to teach congregations about the ELCA Social Statement, "Care for Creation."

You are invited to attend one of these meal fundraisers and presentations in the Grand Forks community:

Wednesday, November 13th at Sharon Lutheran

Thursday, November 14th at Calvary Lutheran

More details to come — please check our Facebook events or website.



Did you know:
Costa Rica uses 99.2% renewable energy! During one 75 day stretch the entire country was able to run on renewable resources only!

Eco-Justice Presentation and Project

Another fun project that we have done together in the spirit of eco-justice has been building a Composting site on the property of Christus Rex. Our student intern, Julene Hawkins, has a heart for eco-justice and her home congregation is highly proactive in recycling and composting so she came up with an amazing plan to construct a composting bin where we will start to compost food from Friday Lunches as well as coffee grounds from Archives Coffee House.

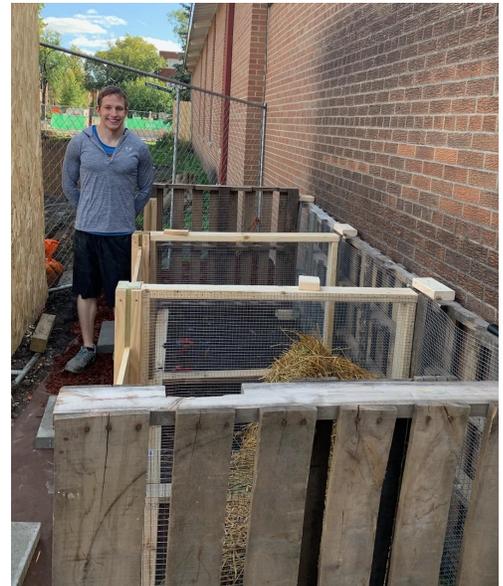


Paul Deziel

One Saturday in mid-September we gathered together for a Fair Trade Coffee tasting that featured coffee from Central America and a presentation around the region's religious and geopolitical context. Our guest presenter, Paul Deziel, offered insight as someone who teaches Roman Catholic religious education in the Twin Cities. He also lived for a year in Guatemala and spoke about the challenges of unstable and corrupt governments and the liberation movement this context created in the 20th Century. Pastor Chad's daughter, Julia Brucklacher, co-facilitated the event and she has been to Costa Rica and also has a passion for eco-justice.

We were only able to build part of the structure for the Compost Bins that afternoon because it rained – but we had a great start!

The composting bins were later finished by the deacons and they began use in October 2019. Our plan is to put composting on hold during the winter (things freeze this far north and we have no way to compost indoors at this time) and we will resume composting this spring when things thaw. Stay tuned for more updates!



Compost Bin Construction Project



Welcome to Shera Nesheim

The Christus Rex Community installed our new campus minister on Homecoming Weekend, and we are delighted to have her serve this community. Pastor Chad said the following at the front end of his sermon: “Shera is a deacon in our ELCA church, and I can think of no greater place to serve this church than at Christus Rex who has practiced a dynamic lay deacon program for 54 years. This word “deacon” comes from the Greek word “diakonia”, which we translate as “servant.” Shera’s call will be in serving this community of Christus Rex with her gifts and abilities and a little bit of sass!”



Shera being installed by Jessica Harris Daum, Eastern North Dakota Synod.



The entire congregation laying hands on Shera during the installation service—powerful !

Words from Shera

I just wanted to share how grateful I am to be called to walk with you all on this journey of faith. I have always felt a call toward campus ministry and it’s nothing but the power of the Holy Spirit (*and Kathy Fick*) that made it possible for me to try on my “dream job” for size. I have an awesome team of colleagues to work with and I’ve already had my heart cracked open by the students and the mercy and justice that makes this place Christus Rex.

My installation on Sunday, October 6th was a powerful moment where I felt the community of Christus Rex embrace and uplift me as a claimed and called campus minister. So thank you, thank you for



supporting me on this journey, and for believing in God’s work in this place and in the world for the sake of the gospel.



Current and former staff —Pastor Chad, Deacon Shera, and Kathy Fick, with current and former deacons that were present for the installation.

“Thank you to our Ministry Partners — Gifts from May 1, 2019 to Oct. 15, 2019”

Sustaining Monthly Gifts

Harmon and Julie Abrahamson
Chris & Kathy Bartlette
Lisa Boxrud
Chad & Sonja Brucklacher
Anna Fick
John and Kathy Fick

Matt and Heidi Fick
Gretchen Graf
Kyle & Jessica Gregerson
George and Tara Haj
Donald Lemke

Shera & Tim Nesheim
Kyle Thorson
Don & Bobbie Shields
Tracy and Lauri Shimpa
Kristina & Alex Waters

These partner gifts are received on a recurring basis from bank or credit card

Jon Aaberg • Harold Bale • Michael & Lorna Berg • Scott & Jodi Boettner • Jim & Janiel Bollman Jr • Dave & Ardis Braaten
Fern Bunde • Peter & Karla Coen-Tuff • Marv & Bev Cooley • Chris Cooper • Dale & Debra Christopherson • Jake Cullen
Mark & Julie Cutler • Lillian Elsinga & Boyd Wright • Bryan Fagerholt • Jo Gast • Allen Geisen • Larry Halvorson • Becky
Hansmeier & Toni Pileggi • Julene Hawkins • Steven & Joan Hawthorne • Judith Haynes • Sally & Marlin Jacobson • Josh
Jerome • Avery & Vicki Jones • George Kelley & Paul Holje • Inez Knain • Dale & Mary Ann Knotek • Jan Kurtyka • David &
Jamie Leao • Kevin & Linda Lemke • Paul Lindseth • Christina Lucky • Patti Mahar • Leonhard Mickelsen • Dave & Patti
Miedema • Doug & Laura Munski • Perry & Sheila Nagel • Laurie Natwick • Karen Nygaard • Joseph & Catherine Olson
Bev & Sue Quirk • Fred & Donna Remer • Becky & Keith Ronkowski • Carrie Sandstrom • Roger & Jan Schauer • Wayne &
Beth Stenehjem • Eric Strohacker • Phil Tiedeman • Ken & Molly Traynor • Seanne Voracek • Dick & Bev Walsh • Cory &
Jamie Wolff *Blanche Evenson Gift Fund*

Congregations

Eastern ND Synod • Calvary Lutheran Church—GF • St. Mark’s Lutheran Church—GF • Sharon Lutheran Church—GF
United Lutheran Church-GF • University Lutheran Church-GF

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Big Pembina • Mable Lutheran Women

Your donations are always appreciated whether given directly or sent via postal mail. A remittance envelope is provided in the newsletter for your convenience. On-line giving is available at www.christus-rex.org or through bill pay with your personal bank account.

Thank you for your continued support!

Thrivent Financial members:

Did you know....

you have access to allocating funds to Christus Rex through the Thrivent Action Teams (\$250 VISA cards) that can be donated for specific events **or** by directing your Thrivent Choice dollars to Christus Rex? It’s easy and it is so helpful to our ministry!

Call us if you have questions about either of these programs — we can help!

Sponsor Special Giving Opportunities:

\$50— 20 Sponsors for St. Nicholas Day **

\$100—Spring Break Scholarship

\$250—Free Lunch Friday groceries

\$500—Meals/snacks for finals week **

\$900—A new dishwasher

**in-kind donations of snacks/fruit/baked goods are welcome



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www.christus-rex.org
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark your calendar and join us if you can....

Friday, December 6th — St. Nicholas Festival 11:30 to 1

Sunday, December 15th — Candlelight Service 6 pm—7pm

Sunday, January 26th — Reconciling in Christ Sunday

January 26—February 1, 2020 — INTERFAITH WEEK

****Look for details on website about Jesus Seminar on the Road Workshop on
January 31 and February 1st**

Sunday, May 10th — Farewell Worship & Dinner



*Christus Rex is a
ministry of the ELCA.*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.