

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a beach at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, pink, and blue. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow over the ocean. In the foreground, several people are standing in the shallow water near the shore, their silhouettes visible against the bright sky. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

CAMPUS MINISTRY IN THE SEMI SYNOD

2025

CONNECT YOUR STUDENTS TODAY!

Wherever they are headed, it's easy to connect your college students to any LuMin site by using the reference form at www.luminelca.org. There are over 125 sites across the country serving 300 institutions of higher education.

All.together Community

All.together Campus Ministry is about to be four years old, and we want to thank you, the Southeast Michigan Synod, for supporting us every step of the way. We can honestly say that we would not be where we are today without the support of the Synod, local churches, individual donors, and volunteers. And where are we exactly? Well, we have cultivated a vibrant community of faith for the students, staff and faculty of Wayne State University, Henry Ford College, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. We started from scratch in 2021 in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, but by the grace of God, in this fourth year we honored our first full graduating class of eight students, some of whom have been members of this ministry since they were in their freshman year of college.

These students are a sign and a source of hope in turbulent times. And while I'd like to say just how important we are in the lives of these students, it is not just them who need us, but we who need them. The church is incomplete without their voice and leadership, and we wouldn't be able to accompany students the way we do without your support, so thank you. New, young, and diverse student leaders are not just the future of our church, but because of the work that we are able to do on campus on behalf of our Synod, these are students who lead now in our church and our world.



Bishop Don Kriess joined us outside the Cathedral Church of St. Paul for our Homecoming Food Truck event with Fed Up Ministries!

When Joshua arrived at the coffee shop, he seemed nervous. After we ordered, we sat down and began introducing ourselves to each other, but as we went along, we became more comfortable with each other and before too long, Joshua had shared how they were effectively homeless for the year prior to arriving at Wayne State. You see, Joshua had been raised in a conservative fundamentalist Christian household and he separated from his family because they would not accept his queer identity. He eventually found himself



Community Group with Bishop Bonnie Perry of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan.

Our presence on campus in Dearborn and Detroit means that we can continue to have a mutually positive impact on students like Joshua (they/he). I met Joshua at the FestiFall Involvement Fair at Wayne State and they had visited our table and provided us with their email address. I followed up promptly, as I always do, with an invite to get coffee or lunch, and Joshua replied quickly. We got a date on the calendar to meet before classes even started.



In Chicago for the 2025 Prov V Midwinter Retreat!

All.together Community (cont'd)

in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he couch surfed and also became involved in an ELCA Church Plant called Zao MKE. Because of that experience of welcome and support from Zao, Joshua gave our ELCA/Episcopal campus ministry a chance.

Ever since that first meeting, All.together has been able to accompany Joshua through this semester providing for them a community to connect to, a network of wider church resources to plug into for financial assistance, a \$500 All.together mutual aid grant, and some food over the winter break for when he was living in the dorms and the dining hall was closed.



All.together and Lord of Light/LCM students from UofM on Fall retreat together in front of Lake Michigan!



The Annual White Elephant Holiday Party at Pastor Ben's house!

Now, Joshua will be joining us for our year end trip to Holden Village, and they also intend on working for Living Water Ministries as a camp counselor at Stony Lake. Joshua's story is just one of many stories of mutual impact and transformation that are possible when we show up for our students and accompany them with grace and authenticity. Thank you once again for the support that empowers us to have this kind of impact on our campuses.

Peace,
Pastor Ben Adams

all.togethercommunity.org
[@all.togethercommunity](https://www.instagram.com/all.togethercommunity)

In Joshua's own words, "I met Pastor Ben at the beginning of my first semester at Wayne State University. I came in as a fifth year transfer student who didn't know anyone in Michigan. Pastor Ben helped me feel comfortable attending the ministry's weekly meetings where I made a few friends who have all supported me physically and emotionally while I work on finishing my last two years of undergrad. All.together has been one of a handful of communal spaces where I can feel safe and welcome."



Our students on the Edmund Pettus Bridge during our Civil Rights Pilgrimage.

Zoë Oakland

Zoë Oakland was birthed from a question: “What could happen if North Oakland County congregations pooled our energy to engage in mission beyond our collective walls? What might we do together?”

Two and half years later, we have been blessed by the financial and volunteer support of ELCA congregations in Rochester Hills, Lake Orion, Clarkston, Waterford, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, and Shelby Township. With their support, we have begun to engage students and young adults at Oakland University and Rochester Christian University, most of whom are disconnected from church and faith.

The word “zoë” is a Greek word that means life. But not just any kind of life – the true, full, abundant life that Jesus came to bring. In John 10:10, Jesus said, “I have come that they would have life, and life to full.” That is what we want students and young adults to experience with Zoë Oakland.



Meredith never imagined she’d rediscover faith after years as an atheist. A painful loss in her life stirred questions she couldn’t ignore, and when Pastor Eric invited her to Zoë Oakland, she decided to give it a try. “It just seemed like something good for me to do,” she says. What began as a casual step turned into a journey of transformation.

Zoë’s emphasis on service and community drew Meredith in immediately. She loved the chance to volunteer and to brainstorm ways to impact the world with like-minded peers.



Zoë Oakland (cont'd)

But it was the honest, open conversations that changed her most. “Through talking with Pastor Eric, I’ve been able to process my doubts and struggles, and it’s given me hope.” Meredith has found that faith isn’t about having all the answers but embracing a journey. For her, Zoë is a beacon of what living out faith looks like: action rooted in love and connection.



The mission of Zoë Oakland is to be an intentional and inclusive Christian community of college students, young adults, mentors, and faith partners serving North Oakland County. Zoë Oakland engages students and young adults in spiritual formation, life coaching, and community service and looks to connect them with Christian career mentors in the fields they wish to explore.

Led by Rev. Eric Johnson, who serves as the mission developer for Zoë Oakland and pastor of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Lake Orion, Zoë Oakland has a presence at Oakland University and Rochester Christian University. It plans to launch ministry at Oakland Community College and engage young adults not currently connected to an area college.

We are looking for congregational partners, board members, lay liaisons in congregations, and individual financial contributors to join our team and support the work of God amongst young adults and college students in Oakland County.

We help students and young adults create connection, make a difference, and learn from Jesus. It’s the life we believe students and young adults (and all people) are built for.



To connect with our mission, contact Pastor Eric at eric@zoeoakland.org!

www.zoeoakland.org
[@zoe.oakland](https://www.instagram.com/zoe.oakland)

Lord of Light Lutheran Church & Campus Ministry

Lord of Light Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Michigan was founded in 1917 by Trinity and Zion Lutheran Churches in Ann Arbor as the "Lutheran Student Club." Over a century later, we are now a vibrant, intergenerational, but student-led congregation serving the university and the surrounding community. Thank you to the SEMI Synod and to our congregational partners: Trinity in Ann Arbor, Zion in Ann Arbor, Zion in Chelsea, Beautiful Savior in Bloomfield Hills, St. Mark in Roseville, St. Paul in Dearborn, and Holy Faith in Saline. Your financial support and Sunday night dinners make our ministry possible!

Lord of Light and LCM exists to be an inclusive Christian community, forming faithful servants for the sake of the world. We are proud to be sending three students or (now) recent graduates to serve as delegates at Churchwide Assembly on behalf of the Southeast Michigan Synod.



LoL-LCM after the Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service



Student leaders Adaeze, Addie, and Dominique with Pastor Elizabeth

We worship every Sunday throughout the year at 5pm, with a free dinner afterwards. Often, Sunday dinners are provided by partner congregations, and we are so incredibly grateful for this gift! Rachel, a Ph.D. candidate in mechanical engineering, is particularly thankful for the dinners: "I really appreciate the friendly community, lively conversation, and inclusive history. Plus now I always have someone to eat Sunday night dinner with!"

During term, we also have regular Wednesday night conversations and Bible studies at 8pm, with undergrads meeting downstairs around the fire with s'mores, and young adults and grad students meeting upstairs. Leah, a freshman studying environmental science, writes: "I'm grateful for LCM because it has provided me with a safe space to explore and understand my faith. I have learned so much and made so many meaningful connections. I am so excited to see what God has in store for me with LCM!"



Steven, Elizabeth, Anna, and Ben on the CROP Walk

Lord of Light Lutheran Church & Campus Ministry (cont'd)

Lord of Light has a congregational council that is mostly made up of students, and it makes decisions about things impacting the life of the congregation – primarily ministry and worship. The Lutheran Campus Ministry board includes students and Lord of Light community members (grown-ups), but also representatives from congregations around the Southeast Michigan Synod. The two groups communicate regularly and work together to ensure this organization runs healthily.



Dinner church at our fall retreat with All.together Community

Highlights from the 2024-25 school year were our LCM team's participation in the Ragnar for Living Water Ministries; our trip to Stony Lake for a fall retreat with All.together Community; cat yoga at Tiny Lions; PowerPoint Night, when students gave short presentations on their favorite topics; a five-week discussion series on the "Clobber" verses; volunteering with Music for Dementia; and our Holy Week collaboration with our Methodist, Reformed, and Episcopalian ecumenical partners.

Thank you so much for all of the ways you continue to support this crucial ministry to and with young adults. Together, we are raising up the young leadership of your church!



At Tiny Lions for cat yoga

This year, Lord of Light has also launched a Gather site through ELCA Young Adult Ministries. Curtiss Engstrom, a Ph.D. candidate who has also served on both the Lord of Light council and the Lutheran Campus Ministry board, is the point person for this effort to provide a faith and fellowship space for young adults 21-35(ish). Our Gather group meets monthly for fellowship activities.



After PowerPoint Night in December

Peace,
Pastor Elizabeth Friedman
www.lcm-um.org
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