

Summer 2022

LIGHT YEARS



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: GREATEST BIBLICAL HITS

It's commonly thought that students disperse over the summer - and while many do, there have always been students who continue to hang out in Ann Arbor during the off-season for work, classes, or research.

A summer Bible study was requested, and we settled on the theme of Greatest Biblical Hits, with students leading when Pastor Elizabeth was away on vacation. We wanted to get to know some of these common stories, many of which we hadn't encountered since reading them in Bible story books. We've tackled many favorites, including both Creation stories in Genesis, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Sodom and Gomorrah, the Ten Commandments, Ruth, Elijah, and Samson and Delilah.

We're planning to continue this thread as we add a Bible study at 7pm on Sundays following 5pm worship and 6pm dinner. This will allow students with a 5pm conflict to continue to engage with our community, and give a chance for deeper exploration and faith formation.

If you're local and you'd like to volunteer to provide dinner this fall, here's the link to sign up:

www.lcm-um.org/sunday-dinner-signup



Being listened to is so closely connected to being loved that most of us feel they are one in the same.

– David W. Augsburger, *Caring Enough to Be Heard*

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Pastor Elizabeth Friedman

I traveled to Colorado Springs this summer for a LuMin women's retreat and a friend from undergrad and grad school picked me up at the airport. After a quick catch-up, we went for a hike. It's nice to know that we could still pick up right where we left off - straight into deep, existential conversations - after 15 years of not seeing each other. Although we don't keep in touch regularly, I'll make a point of seeing him next time I'm in town, and be sure to block out at least 5 hours if not a few days for the ensuing conversation.

Another friend from young adulthood (this time, from my time in Costa Rica) came to visit the following week, and it was a similar experience: Our kids played while we talked and listened to each other about life, politics, parenting, and everything in between for about a day and a half straight, minus sleeping.

I've been thinking about the strength of the kinds of friendships I made in college and grad school, and into young adulthood - friendships that provided the foundation for strong, healthy adult relationships. I've been thinking, too, about how hard it has been to make those kinds of lasting, formative connections over the past couple of years. Normal relationship trajectories have been fragmented as we necessarily closed ourselves off from others during the height of the pandemic. While those of us inhabiting a more stable era of life might not have felt it so keenly, young adults - particularly those who uprooted themselves and went off to college, or who stayed home and attended classes online - missed out on many organic opportunities for those formative relationships and experiences.

At LoL/LCM, we are looking forward to what truly should be a much more normal-seeming term. We will continue to take common-sense Covid precautions, but the mental health crisis sweeping teens and young adults - linked directly to the isolation that kept us safe early on - can no longer be put on the back burner. Zoom meetings are good in a pinch, but there's no substitute for the side conversations had while putting sugar in your coffee or stacking chairs or weeding the pollinator garden. Healthy relationships are key to mental, spiritual, and emotional health.

Students can finally gather safely enough to have those random conversations that provide the building blocks for lasting, meaningful friendships and community. We're collaborating with All.together, the new Lutheran-Episcopal campus ministry in Dearborn and Detroit, to provide a student retreat at Living Water Ministries this September. Vida will be open again for coffee, snacks, and study space. Worship will continue, and we're adding a Sunday night Bible study in addition to our Wednesday night Faith & chats by the fire. And although our team will be much smaller this year, we're running the Ragnar again to support Living Water Ministries, engaging in communal activity for a common cause. All of it is essential. None of it is superfluous.

Thanks so much for all the ways you show up for LCM so that we can show up for college students - so that we can provide the foundations of relationships and mutual care at such a pivotal point in life. We couldn't do this ministry without you.



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Alyssa Cozad, M.S.W. School of Social Work

To say I was nervous to start graduate school during a global pandemic might just be the understatement of the decade. It certainly wasn't how I'd imagined beginning my social work training. Despite those nerves, I formed so many meaningful relationships. Though parts of the journey were difficult, there were so many joyful moments too. It was a blessing to build a community of care with my classmates and instructors. I'm looking forward to continuing that work throughout my career!



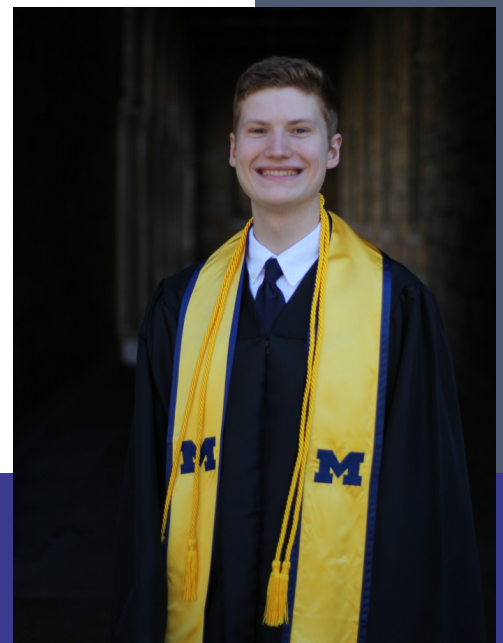
Dr. Joshua Scott, Ph.D. Middle East Studies

Joshua Scott graduated in August with a PhD in Second Temple Judaism and Christian Origins after successfully defending his dissertation in June. Starting in the fall, he will serve as the secretary for two research consortiums and continue as the chief editor of The Reviews of the Enoch Seminar, an online review journal. After completing his degree, Joshua looks forward to reading fiction, kayaking, and making copious amounts of sourdough bread.



Chauncey Seeger, B.A. International Studies, History

Hi everyone! I am excited to share that I graduated from Michigan with a double major in History and International Studies and a French minor. In September, I will be moving to France for a year! I will be teaching English in schools in eastern France. I want to thank the Lord of Light community for creating a space where I felt welcome, loved, and connected to God. Lord of Light was an instrumental piece of my collegiate experience, particularly during my freshman year, as this space quickly made Ann Arbor feel like home. Thank you.



Eva Oosterwal, B.A., Psychology



I've always wanted to go to Michigan. But once I got here, my education path turned out to be far from what I had planned. While everyone in my family went into engineering at Michigan, and I had originally planned for a pre-law track, I ended up with a Psychology major. And I couldn't be happier with it. I have always felt a calling to help others, and Psychology allows me to do that in a way that interests me, fulfills my passion, and makes me proud of my work.

LCM was such a great source of support, community, and a much-needed reminder of God's love throughout my time at Michigan. In a chapter of life when so much feels uncertain, and a school where so much pressure is on performance and the competition is brutal, LCM reminded me that God's love never has to be earned. Going to church was a big part of my life during high school, and I was sad to leave that community to attend Michigan, so I was happy to find an ELCA community here as well. From care packages before exams, to going out for ice cream as a group, and lunches with Pastor Elizabeth, it was such a comforting feeling to know that a supportive community welcomed me, and I'm very grateful for that.

After graduation, my cat & I moved to Orlando, FL to live with my dad as I gain some experience in my field. I'm currently working as a mental health technician at a residential treatment facility for adults with chronic mental illness. I work full time with residents who each have schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, among other mental illnesses. It's great exposure to the field of psychology and I really enjoy interacting with the residents. I plan to continue working in the field of psychology to get a better understanding of what I want to specialize in for grad school. And I eventually plan to get my doctorate in psychology so that I can practice at a clinical level and continue to follow my calling for helping others.

Victoria Clark, J.D.

I graduated from Michigan Law this year and will be moving to Kentucky in August to start my clerkship for a federal judge. After that I plan to move to Washington, D.C. to work for a law firm there. Ann Arbor has been a lovely place to live the last three years, and LCM has provided me with a community and place to feel at home! I feel so lucky that I got to know these amazing people during my first year here. Law school can be a crazy time and LCM helped me stay grounded through it all!



Sophie Dettling, B.A.

Public Health

In April, I graduated from U of M with a B.A. in Public Health and a minor in English. I have been so blessed to be able to grow and learn these last four years alongside the LCM community. From weekly campfire chats to running across the state in the Ragnar, this ministry has truly made an incredibly positive impact on my college experience.

This summer, I am taking some time to decompress and explore the beauty of Michigan's Upper Peninsula in Marquette before heading to law school at Case Western Reserve University. As a Gerber Law-Medicine Fellow, I plan to concentrate in Health Law. With Cleveland only being a few hours away, I look forward to remaining a part of our LCM community as an alumnus.



Jessie Williams, B.S., B.A.

Program in the Environment, Communication & Media

Jessie is a 2022 graduate of UM's Program in the Environment with a concentration in urban planning and transportation networks. She is spending her summer working with the City of Traverse City's planning department, in addition to working with Traverse City-based social change agency Good Works Lab. In the fall, Jessie will be returning to Ann Arbor for law school and a master's degree at U of M.



Shelby Shaughnessy, B.S. Gender & Health, Spanish

I graduated from the University of Michigan with my Bachelor of Science in Gender & Health and Spanish this past May. I am pre-med, hoping to work as a physician specializing in some form of gender-affirming care in the future.

I will be applying to medical school in the upcoming years, yet for the next year, I will be taking a gap year working as an emergency medical technician in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I am excited to be taking some time off from school during my upcoming gap year, yet also looking forward to coming back to school in the near future. I absolutely adore learning, so it will be an odd experience for me to step away from the traditional classroom setting for the next year!

I am feeling both anxious and excited about graduation. Shortly after my graduation ceremony, I left the United States to complete a six-week study abroad program in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, followed by a week of independent travel focused on southern Spain.

The rapid transition from undergraduate graduation to living across the country has been an interesting change, and one I have been more than happy to experience.

While being a student at the University of Michigan, outside my time in class I have kept busy by doing a variety of things I enjoy. Some of those things have included working as an emergency medical technician with Huron Valley Ambulance, volunteering on the Response Team for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault through SafeHouse Center in Ann Arbor, and also volunteering as the Director of Research with a nonprofit organization called The Lookout Project, which provides free opioid overdose response kits (which include two doses of Narcan) to anyone who wants one.

Without a doubt, one of the things I will miss most about my time as a student at the University of Michigan is the people I have met here. This especially includes those I have met through Lord of Light. Lord of Light has provided me with a safe space for the last few years I have been a part of the community. It can be hard to move to a brand-new city and start a college degree for the next few years (especially with over two of those years being affected by a worldwide pandemic) yet having Pastor Elizabeth and the friends I have made through Lord of Light helped to make the transition smoother and much more manageable. I have thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent at Lord of Light these last few years and will look back on these memories fondly, as well as will be visiting again when I am back in Ann Arbor. Ending this undergrad chapter is odd, and I am looking forward to whatever is coming next in life!





Dr. Ben Hollenbach, Ph.D. Anthropology

Ben defended his dissertation, "All Are Welcome: Inclusion and Mainline Protestantism in the United States," in June, and completed his Ph.D. For the next year, he will be staying in his home department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, teaching an introductory course.

Katie Moe, J.D.

Josh Kowalski, B.S. Data Science Engineering

YODER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO HUNTER GANDEE

I am extremely honored and thankful to have received the Yoder Memorial Scholarship. Throughout my time at U of M, I have had great experiences, and built lasting relationships through involvement with the Lord of Light/LCM community, the MROver student design team, the Varsity Wrestling team, a lab within the Mechanical Engineering department, the LEAD Scholars Program and more. I feel very fortunate to have gained such a wide range of experiences, and for the opportunity to develop relationships with people with many different perspectives during my time in college. Instead of sacrificing these experiences for additional work to help cover tuition, the Yoder Memorial Scholarship gives me the opportunity to remain involved with these communities, and that helps me get the most out of my Michigan experience.



A BELATED THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to George Watson, Frode Maaseidvaag, and Sr. Dorine & James Gapczynski for your constant and generous support.

We're so sorry we missed the opportunity to thank you in our last edition!

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE!

TALK TO YOUR REGIONAL ELCA GIFT PLANNER

The ELCA foundation offers free gift planning services as a ministry of the ELCA, and can help you to plan your gifts to align with your generous intentions. Please let us know if you would like us to connect you with the ELCA Foundation.

DIRECT YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS TO LCM AT U OF M

If you have a qualifying Thrivent account, please consider directing your **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Michigan!

Simply go to:

1. <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice>

OR

2. Call 800-847-4836 and indicate “Thrivent Choice” when prompted. Please indicate that you would like to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Michigan.

Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year. For example, you can direct Choice Dollars designated to you in 2022 until March 31, 2023.



Give online:
www.lcm-um.org/give



building community deepening faith
expanding minds inspiring service

REFER A STUDENT!

Do you know someone going to college or grad school this fall? You can help them connect to one of 240+ ELCA-affiliated campus ministries across the country by visiting www.luminelca.org, and make sure their pastor can get in touch with them right away! Faith is such an important part of all of our lives, and students are no exception!



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