



## Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry

University of Northern Colorado · Aims Community College

1844 11th Ave, Greeley, CO 80631 · [www.lecmgreeley.org](http://www.lecmgreeley.org)

### Grant Report to the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado Front Range Region

July 25, 2023

Rev. Monica Butler, Pastor

Thanks to the generous support of the grant we received from the Front Range Region, Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry in Greeley, CO (LECM) has reinvigorated our student leadership program in 2023. The grant allowed us to hire two student staff leaders beginning in the spring semester. Our Community Minister focused on the student community by helping the campus pastor plan events, communicate with students, and lead several programs. In particular, Community Minister Carrie Woods recognized a desire to stay connected over the summer, and organized a series of LECM Monthly Adventures, including a day at a local reservoir and a group visit to the Denver Art Museum. These programs were entirely student-planned and led. The Congregational Outreach Minister helped deepen our connections to our partner congregations, including writing newsletter articles, organizing meal donors, and visiting congregations. These two student leaders brought exciting energy and new ideas to the ministry of LECM and have helped us progress in our goal toward being a more student-lead community.

Although both of the individuals in these roles this spring have graduated, they helped us shape the positions and laid critical groundwork that next year's leaders can learn from and build upon. We are currently planning to hire three student leaders for the 2023-2024 school year, adding a Worship & Music Minister role to involve more student leadership in worship planning and to add music to our weekly Sunday gatherings. We have an excellent group of students who will be stepping into all three roles as the school year begins. In addition to their various responsibilities, we will focus on particular skills and leadership qualities the students would like to cultivate within their roles, tailoring the experience to help them gain skills that they can take beyond LECM into their academic, professional, and personal lives.

#### Reflections from Student Leaders:

*My name is Carrie Woods and I have had the pleasure of working as the community minister for the equivalent time of one semester. I have not had the opportunity to serve long in the position, but I feel that it has changed me majorly and I hope that I have helped institute some change through new ideas. I felt the compassion I hold for my fellow LECM members grow in this position as I sought to broaden and strengthen their connection with the ministry. While I am very sad to say good-bye to this position after holding it for such a limited time, I am hopeful that with the small foundation that has been laid, future students in this position can exact great*

*change within the campus ministry as well as themselves, and that the ministry can thrive in connection through fellowship and happiness with continued support found in our community as well as each other.*

– **Carrie Woods, Community Minister, Spring & Summer 2023** as she looks back on her time in this role.

*Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry has played a significant role in my social and faith communities since Fall 2022. I would like to give back to the LECM community in an immediate capacity by investing my time and energy into engaging with our supporting congregations. Looking to the future of LECM, strengthening these relationships will further support the students whom LECM serves, even after I leave. I also look forward to asking our supporting congregations about their perception of LECM, how they currently support us and whether this aligns with their mission, and what they'd like to learn about us. I'd like to hear how others perceive the world and what events and experiences have shaped their lens. I am curious how the conversations I have with the congregation members will affect my own views of the world.*

– **Kaia Duke, Congregational Outreach Minister, 2023-2024** on why she would like to serve in this role, and how she hopes to learn and grow by serving in the coming year.



Community Minister Carrie Woods (far right) led the first Summer Monthly Adventure at Horsetooth Reservoir. This series of summer gatherings was Carrie's vision and her leadership made it all come together!

Congregational Outreach Minister Sara Larson (front left) joined Pr. Monica Butler for several visits to partner congregations. Sara helped lead worship and brought a student perspective to conversations with our supporters. We are pictured here with the community of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in La Salle, CO.



Celebrating 2023 graduates and the close of a school year full of community, growth, and faith together!