



## 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, 2024

The 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 continued to grow and develop our student leadership program in 2024. The grant allowed us to hire three student staff leaders, adding an additional position for the 2023-2024 school year.

Our Community Minister focused on the student community by helping the campus pastor plan events, communicate with students, and lead several programs. Community Minister Alex Godfrey, who has a passion for student affairs, helped LECM be more connected on campus, overseeing our Registered Student Organization status, managing on-campus communications, and networking with other student organizations and their members. Alex also led the process of revising our Reconciling in Christ Welcome Statement and served on the LECM Board.

Our Congregational Outreach Minister deepened our engagement with partner congregations. This year, Kaia Duke served in this role with great energy and creativity. She developed new resources for telling our story when we visit congregations, visited and helped lead worship at several new partner congregations, and represented LECM at the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly. She has been an active and enthusiastic ambassador for our ministry throughout Greeley and northern Colorado. Kaia also served on the LECM Board.

Our new position this year was that of Worship & Music Minister. Michael Kirkpatrick served in this role, bringing music and singing to our weekly worship gatherings, planning and leading a variety of devotions at Sunday Dinner Church and retreats, and providing an active creative presence among our leadership team.

This was our first full school year with a complete student leadership team, and we have been delighted at the ways this group has learned and grown in their roles. Their creativity and engagement has deepened our relationship not only with congregational partners, but with community partners as well. Working together, they led the planning for our presence at Greeley Pride, gathered a group of students to be part of an ecumenical Easter Vigil in Windsor, and were active participants and leaders in our student preaching program. Two of them will continue in their roles in the next school year, and we will apply the lessons learned this year to work even more effectively as a team to develop activities for worship, faith formation, retreats, and community engagement. Thank you for supporting our student leaders and their role within our ministry.

## Reflections from Student Staff Leaders:

*The primary highlight of 2023-2024 was going out and visiting with our supporting congregations. I loved making tangible connections. I was a student face for the congregation to match with LECM's name. I also heard the stories of others. Many had moved to Colorado, like myself. Others were born and raised in Colorado. One man I met was a fifth-generation Coloradan! I believe intergenerationality is crucial, especially in faith organizations. The Congregational Outreach Minister is the literal bridge between our students and those out in "the wild," folks living outside of the university bubble. As a result of visiting several congregations over the last year, I recognized more than a handful of pastors when I attended the annual Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in April this year. To be recognized in return, to be called by name in such a large setting as the Synod Assembly, was a glorious experience. It had a sense of home. I hope that the next Congregational Outreach Minister has a similarly joyful experience.*

### – Kaia Duke, Congregational Outreach Minister, 2023-2024

*Serving in this position, I discovered a deeper understanding of myself through my faith. I learned that faith is essential and that not all faith-based communities are the same. Our mission statement is centered around the fact that LECM is a Reconciling in Christ organization, meaning it is aware that some faith-based communities do harm and it is trying to learn and grow because of that. This fact is the reason why I chose to stay in LECM, and it's the reason I chose to keep my faith. Some highlights for me were getting the opportunity to write a sermon and preach it at another congregation. Additionally, I looked forward to seeing a beautiful group of people every Sunday and to be able to share food with them. Lastly, getting to share a night of worship with the churches in Windsor was one of the holiest moments for me, as I got to spend a night with so many people from so many churches. I'd say it was eye-opening and something that you can't describe how important it is, but that you have to experience it. I enjoyed bringing people together through music, both at LECM and at other congregations.*

### – Michael Kirkpatrick, Worship & Music Minister, 2023-2024



Worship & Music Minister Michael Kirkpatrick before Sunday Dinner Church worship with one of our regular students and special guest, Pastoral Intern Katie Elkin from Zion Lutheran, Loveland. Michael took the lead organizing music as well as setting up worship in a variety of spaces this year!

Congregational Outreach Minister Kaia Duke, Community Minister Alex Godrey, and Pastor Monica Butler represented LECM at the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly where we called a new bishop. Campus Ministries in our synod can send two students as voting delegates, and Alex and Kaia were fantastic, engaged, thoughtful participants in the assembly and call process!



LECM students and leaders with students and staff from LuMin CSU and Bread + Belonging at CU at our annual fall joint retreat at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. In addition to fun, worship, and learning, the best parts of these retreats is how much the students learn from each other and share ideas they bring back to their respective communities.

Below: Student leaders were among our student preachers in local congregations on Transfiguration Sunday.

