



Synod Report - 2013

St. Andrew's Lutheran / Lutheran Campus Center

University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign

www.lutherancampuscenter.org

Facebook: Saint Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center

Submitted by Pastor Elaine Olson

Signs scattered on the lawn at the Center, facing the main quad, surround a giant blue fish bike rack. Many stop people to read, take pictures and just look. Each sign has a different response to the statement. *“I go to church because....”*

...they have a great bike rack.

...there is always food.

...Jesus is just alright with me.

...there is more value in questioning than absolutes.

...I found a place that accepts and affirms me.

...they don't talk about God like this on the radio.

...the lines between right and wrong are messy.

...I'm sick of cynicism, even my own.

...I love the questions themselves.

Each of these statements reflect, in part, the importance of this ministry to students, faculty and staff at the University of Illinois in particular and campus ministry in general.

We are here to be a touchstone of the presence of God as revealed in Jesus. We believe in the mission to support and care people at the campus and to engage in the formation of people of faith active in the world, wondering, “How do we get the world loved?”

Here is a list of a few vision victories for the 2012-13 academic year.

- Growing attendance and commitment by students and community members.
- Eleven people traveled to Santa Emilia and La Flor, Nicaragua to grow in understanding of global partnership and sustainability.
- Gathering over 1000 lbs of food and donations for *empty tomb* and Nicaragua
- Affirmed partnership with the Beta Sigma Psi, the Lutheran Fraternity on campus
- Affirmation of leadership of emerging adults in the church, with council leadership, assisting in worship and worship planning bible study and volunteer opportunities.
- Significant financial and prayer support of local congregations.
- “soup @ six for somethings” – an evening meal and conversation for graduate students.
- A spirit of warm hospitality and invitation by student leadership.
- Four lectures of the Rhetoric Forum: Integration Faith and Science within New Paradigms.
- Joint meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Council.

Thank you for your support, both financially and in prayer. Please know you are always invited to drop by the center and say hello or worship with us on Sunday morning at 10:30a. Check us out on face book or the internet.