Racism: Living in beloved community.
Welcome! Welcome new students who are just starting this journey. Welcome back to students who have been gone for the last year, I am sure it must be weird to see all these unfamiliar faces walking around campus. And welcome back last year’s juniors - now this year’s middlers - welcome back after your summer of classes, traveling, or CPE. I hate to admit how much I missed you all.

I really have no authority to give any amount of advice, and I promise not to be too preachy, but as a new on-campus student last January, I really did not know where to start, I had just moved across the country and knew maybe three people on campus. But, the one thing I did that I am so grateful for - I let myself get involved. It was not easy; I still was working almost full time, with a full load of classes. I did not think I would have time for anything, much less student groups or commitments on campus.

Do not let yourself fall into that trap. There is always time for this community here, you just have to make the time for it. If things in your life get too crazy, you can always scale back, no one will blame you. But try going to chapel, and having lunch in the cafeteria. The faces at the tables may be new, but I promise there is always an open seat for you to join. Attend a group meeting, maybe two! Get involved with the comings and goings here on campus. Luther cannot really have a community without you. It really does not take as much time as you think. I promise you, the friends you make and the community you can create here is priceless.

-- Megan Dahn, co-Editor in Chief

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Welcome from your Associate Deans!

by Krista Lind & Jeff OlsenKrengel
Associate Dean of Student Resources and Candidacy & Associate Dean of Students

The start of the academic year brings an air of hope, renewal, and possibility. If you are starting your first year at Luther or returning for another year, you may be feeling a mix of excitement and anxiety about this next chapter in your life. This new year also brings transition and change. We have a new curriculum, new leadership in President Steinke, and new members of our community. We are in a period of transition to reconcile our financial stability while working toward creating a sustainable future to ensure we continue to educate leaders for Christian communities. As we embark upon this academic year, there is an energy; a sense of the Holy Spirit at work; and an eagerness to live out our callings.

One challenging part of this is that all the questioning, learning, and leading takes place in relationship with one another. Each of us has knowledge, experience, and gifts that we bring to this community. We also bring our prejudices, biases, and judgments.

So, here is our hope for this new academic year:
Seek out new ideas, new thoughts, and new perspectives. Share your voice, your thoughts, and your whole self with this community. Listen deeply and carefully to each other. Seek a deeper understanding of you who are as a called child of God. Ask questions. Seek opportunities for leadership. And as your associate deans, we hope you will seek us out for help when you need (or just to talk!)

To all our new students, welcome to the Luther Seminary community. To all our returning students, welcome back to Luther. We are excited to see how our life together in this particular configuration of the body of Christ will learn and grow together to serve God, the church, and the world God loves.

The Associate Dean Team- Jeff and Krista

Luther Seminary 3
This fall marks a season of "new" at Luther Seminary—a new curriculum, a new president, a new bookstore location, just to name a few. For some of you, it is also being in a new country, a new state, or a new city. With every new circumstance comes uncertainty... and also great possibility.

When the rules of the game are up for grabs, when a person, a community, or an institution hits "restart," there tends to be a window of openness which creates freedom for creativity and risk. I invite you as a student to live into the richness of these possibilities and explore all that this community has to offer: visit student groups, attend chapel, hang around and meet people in the coffee shop, explore the library and the archives, take a campus tour. Become an active participant in the life of the community. Students have always played a valuable role shaping this community. As you explore what this community is, I invite you to imagine what this community could be. And then, and here is the important point, resist the temptation to sit on the sidelines and pass judgment, but rather jump in and join the conversation. Your voice is valuable and valued.

In my role as Seminary Pastor, I find myself often reflecting upon our community as a whole. I am blessed to work closely with students, faculty, staff, and administration. I ponder and meditate on where we are headed as an institution of higher learning, and even more importantly, as a community of faith. During my most recent congregational call in New Jersey, I learned that an empowering vision cannot be imposed or named by a single person or office. Rather, it is a collective process of mutual listening and learning from God and one another. It starts by listening to the hopes and dreams of others and by recognizing and naming the assets of the community. In this process of listening, learning, and discerning, we begin to be able to articulate God's hope for the community and learn ways of describing and inviting others to share this way of seeing.

Of course, writing an article for The Concord is more of a monologue than a two-way conversation, at least initially. My hope, however, is that my thoughts here will be taken as invitation to conversation. Here then are some of my thoughts and hopes for this community.

I find Luther’s mission statement to be rock-solid, although my preference would be to add the word "servant" to "leader." My hope would be to become more deeply rooted in our biblical, confessional, missional framework and realize a closer alignment of our actual practices with our stated values. This is a matter of integrity. How will we live out and embody this mission in our day-to-day and year-to-year activities and commitments? How will we practice this mission statement in all that we do and say? My prayer is that the Luther Seminary community may:

- Be a worshiping community of disciples of Jesus.
- Pray for and with one another.
- Live by grace in the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation so that divisions and factions do not define us.
- Foster a theological disposition that is neither fearful nor defensive in the face of challenges and differences but rather is responsive and generous.
- Practice grace-filled conversations that create the possibility for authentic relationships, which are too often in short supply in our society's antagonistic

A Window of Opportunity... Continued on page 5
A Window of Opportunity... Continued from page 4

climate.
• Become a truly Pentecost community - united in the same Spirit and rejoicing in our varied gifts, passions, experiences, and backgrounds.
• Imagine together how God will use us to live and serve in this world that God so dearly loves and redeems.
• Build upon the strengths and insights of the Distance Learning program and together learn ways to be community in building a deep sense of connectedness and practicing mutual consolation and encouragement.
• Be more intentional in developing deeper relationships of mutual learning, support, and prayer among our international students and in our relationships with the global church.
• Be enriched by the vibrancy of the global church and encouraged by the Spirit's work in the greater world.
• Grow up in every way into Jesus Christ who is the head of the church (Ephesians 4:15).

These are my hopes, dear friends. I look forward to hearing yours. As we enter together into this new academic year, please know that I am here for you as pastor to this community and always enjoy the privilege of sharing in your joys and challenges throughout your journey.

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

ULTIMATE

by Laurel Midthun
MDiv Middler

One of the most unique aspects of Ultimate Frisbee is the concept of Spirit of the Game. This concept is used to describe the sportsmanship and respect that governs interactions between players and teams. Instead of using referees to monitor games players call their own fouls and out of bounds. The general idea is all players should have enough respect for themselves, the game, and each other that there is no need for an outside source to regulate play. It's a beautiful idea in theory and even cooler when seen played out on the field.

Each Tuesday and Thursday between 4:30 and 6:00 pm this spirit is out in full force on the lawn near Sandgren Apartments and Lutheran Social Services. Seminary students past and present, kids from the neighborhood, and friends of friends of friends get together in order to toss a disc and play a pick-up game. EVERY skill level is welcome and we do not even start keeping track of points until we have warmed up for about an hour. When somebody scores a point both teams cheer simultaneously despite a palpable competitiveness in the air. All ages and experience levels come together, and you get to meet some of the coolest, most down to earth, fun people around.

Spirit of the Game sounded like a pretty weird concept when I first heard about it. Maybe joining a bunch of random strangers to play a sport you have never heard of does too. Maybe you have been playing frisbee for years and have things to teach the crew. Or maybe you just need to get out in the sunshine for a few minutes on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. Whatever the case may be you will be welcomed into the awesome, awesome, awesome, awesome spirited game of awesomeness also known as ULTIMATE!

Luther Seminary 5
Exploring Diakonia: Navigating through Word and Service

by Tashina Good
MA Senior, Deaconess Community Candidate

The word 'Diakonia' is heard frequently here around Luther Seminary. The definitions, however, are in abundance, often making it seem like nothing more than a fancy theological word. You will soon be seeing signs up around campus for the student group "Exploring Diakonia," and I assure you our intent is not to navigate through the different definitions, but instead to learn together what it means to live out a call to Word and Service. For those of you who do not know what is meant by Word and Service, I would ask you to ever wonder why "rostered leaders" is often said instead of "pastors?" Quite possibly it is because pastors (Word and Sacrament) make up just one of four rosters within the ELCA. The ELCA also has three Word and Service rosters: Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diocesan Ministers. All three rosters serve the church in different ways, both inside of and outside of congregations and around the world. (Check out our events to learn about the differences and similarities between these three rosters. Also, learn about the potential merge of all three at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.)

I began working in youth ministry four years ago, and throughout that time, found myself being lead to a call in a deeper ministerial role. I had known members of the Deaconess Community for quite some time and when asked if I had ever considered pursing becoming a rostered Deaconess the thought stuck. Gathering information, talking with mentors and Deaconesses I began my journey of discernment. In learning more about the roll of sacramental ministry (pastors) I knew that was not where God was calling me; however, that did not mean God was not calling me into ministry as a rostered leader. Through Word and Service doors open up in brand new ways. The ability to find a call that best suits where I feel called and gifted; whether it be chaplaincy, administrative, the mission field, synod or churchwide staff, social work, medical, etc. as a first call is exciting and liberating. For myself I found the Deaconess community to not only open the doors to call possibilities but that it also holds a support system and family that will continue to walk alongside of me as I continue my journey. Something that continues mutually amongst Deaconesses throughout the entirety of their life journey in the call to Word and Service. They also hold a rich history of women breaking down barriers to spread the gospel and serve God in extraordinary ways.

So if you ever find yourself interested in what it means to be in Word and Service, are discerning your call to ministry and wanting to know what options are out there, if you are a Word and Servant rostered individual, if a candidate, or if you just want a group of awesome people to hang out with, come check out Exploring Diakonia. Our first event is a gathering on September 15th at 4:30pm in the OCC for a meal and conversation. Meet members of the Word and Service rosters from the Twin Cities area, hear their stories, and discover new ways that you can grow and discern your own call to Christian public leadership. We will also be hosting an event over the fall intensive course so look for information around campus. All are welcome!

For a tad bit more information on Word and Service candidacy check out Luther Seminary's website at www.luthersem.edu under Academics > ELCA Candidacy > For AIMs, Diocesan Ministers, and Deaconesses. http://www.luthersem.edu/candidacy/candidacy_resources.aspx

Concord 6
A Welcome from DRBC
by Katelyn Rakotoarivelo
MDiv Middlet'

Whether you are a new or returning student, Dismantling Racism: Living into Beloved Community (DRBC) welcomes your presence and involvement! As our mission says, "We invite the community of Luther Seminary into conversation regarding the ongoing legacy and reality of racism both in this country and globally. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's vision of 'beloved community,' we seek to build relationships of trust by listening to one another so that we can learn to love one another across cultural, religious, racial, and socio-economic barriers.”

Racism and other systematic injustices are prevalent in many societies, and we believe, especially as people of faith, that the church cannot turn a blind eye to these realities. We need to compassionately, thoughtfully, and critically engage in “dismantling racism,” as well as foster relationships built on trust, learning, and appreciation.

We typically hold bi-weekly lunch meetings and work with the Luther community to host related events and discussions. Here are a few of the things we did last year:

- Hosted a book discussion of George “Tink” Tinker’s American Indian Liberation: A Theology of Sovereignty
- Six students attended the Overcoming Racism Conference at Metro State University
- Partnered with the student group VOCA to host "Yom HaShoah & Israel-Palestine: A Day of Theological Conversation"
- Attended a tour of Dakota Sacred Sites led by Jim Bear Jacobs and Healing MN Stories
- Played a large role in planning events for Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Luther

As I write this article, I am filled with excitement for the year ahead with DRBC. It is a blessed community rich with depth, thoughtfulness, and connection. We hope you participate however you are able!

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A Welcome and Fond Farewell
by Stefanie Fauth-Lemke
Final year Intern

Greetings from your 2013-2014 Student Council President! Welcome all new students as well as returning students, especially my class, MDiv Seniors! The 2013-14 school year was exciting for Student Council - we had just been given an amazing budget thanks to a small student activity fee, and we were able to do such great work!

Student Council is in need of several members in order to make this school year a great one - we need two representatives from the MDiv Junior, MDiv Senior, and MA Junior classes, as well as representatives for ecumenical, international, PhD, and commuter students! In addition to voting for these positions, each officially recognized student group on campus will have a fully-functioning, voting member to contribute to leadership on campus! Check the website and Facebook page to get details on when to nominate yourself and how to vote!

In addition to receiving new funds and new members, last year’s student council worked diligently on updating the newly framed guiding documents as well as formalizing a process for requesting funds from Student Council.

Remember - we have funds as students that the Student Council is in charge of stewarding. This means that officially recognized student groups as well as other organizations can request funds for gatherings, trainings, or general expenses they may incur. We ended the year with a surprising amount left - I encourage this year’s Student Council and student body to spend a bit more - even if that money goes to benevolence, let us USE our money to do God’s work!

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who made my on-campus experience so great, especially in my year as president. God has blessed the world with each of you, and I am ever hopeful for the future of the church having you as leaders!

Luther Seminary 7
Extra-Life Saves Lives
and lets YOU be the Hero!

by Mike Gold
MDiv Junior

There is no shortage of charity events out there to raise money for people in need. There are lots of 5Ks, bake sales, and even bowl-a-thons to raise money for worthy causes. On the other hand, I do not like to run, bake, or bowl, so how am I supposed to care for the needs and healing of others in a way that allows me to do something I love? And even if running, baking, and bowling is more your jam, could you not use a little variety? Could you not use a break? Maybe a video game break? Maybe a video game break that lasts 24 hours? I am here to tell you that there is such a thing, and would you not know it -- it is happening right here at Luther.

So just what are we talking about here? Extra-Life is wonderful charity that allows game lovers of all kinds to raise money for a local children's hospital by playing games for a 24-hour period. Like a charity run, you join a team (and you have your very own page!) and get friends, family members, and wary allies to donate cash to you. Our local hospital is Gillette Children's, and every penny, rupee, and oversized gold coin you donate will go to healing children in our community. We welcome everyone to participate and to have a great time!

What does this great time look like? I am so glad you asked! We are going to set up new and old consoles in the A/V capable rooms of NW and let you play away to your heart's content. Super Nintendo, Xbox, PS3, even an arcade cabinet, is all there waiting for you to get your grubby hands all over the controls. Tired of looking at a screen? We have board games like RISK, Magic: The Gathering, and less intense fare like checkers, Monopoly, or whatever else your heart desires. Tired of sitting down? Great! We will set up tag and capture the flag and foursquare. Need a break from games? There will be lots of fun people for which to talk to and hang out! It is a perfect place to meet new folks, hang out with old buddies, and defeat your rivals in front of everyone.

On top of that, there will be food, cool prizes, and tournaments open to team members. You can win so much great stuff AND help raise money for sick children. So, how do you get in on all this? Well, you can join the fundraising team by getting a free account over at www.extra-life.org and joining the official Luther Seminary team: Donkey Kongregation (great name, right?). Then, you can raise cash until the event on October 25th. If you don't want to be a part of the team but still want to support a great cause (we will be accepting donations at the event itself), just feel free to show up and have a great time. Bring games, bring friends, have a good time. Sound like a plan? If you want more information or to help in the planning process, find our event on facebook or see me, Mike Gold, out at mgold001@luthersem.edu.

Concord 8
Singing in the Choir

by Phillip Nushann
MA Junior

According to John Bunyan, "The first string that the musician usually touches when he intends to put all in tune is the bass. God also plays upon this string first, when he sets the soul in tune for himself." Luther Seminary choir has indeed created the environment wherein, "God sets souls in tune for Himself." My soul has definitely been "set in tune" as I have ministered with this choir. I honestly need more space to articulate the importance of singing in the Seminary Choir; however, I hope these few lines express it best.

During my first week at Luther in the fall of 2013, I encountered the choir director who was recruiting new members for the choir. Even though I personally love music, the director and I had a very fascinating conversation that eventually led to me signing up to join the choir. One thing that still resonates with me from this conversation is when he (director) said to me, "It will be good to have you in the choir." Certainly, those words were not for the benefit of the choir, but for me in particular.

To all of our new students this fall, I say to you, "It will be good to have you in the choir." You do not need any special singing skills to join this choir. I believe once you can talk, you have the ability to sing. Moreover, the choir builds your capacity in ways that will empower you to find a convenient place so that God will use that "string" that he has given you.

Singing in the choir has been very helpful for me. It has not only empowered me to sing what I am being taught in class, or created the environment for me to be in tune with God, it has also enabled me to find inner peace, especially when I was overwhelmed by course papers. It has renewed me, and helped me to grow spiritually. All of my classes last spring gave special consideration to numerous challenges that communities and individuals are confronted with, and how God has called me to transform those challenges into opportunities that will improve the quality of life for my neighbors and underprivileged communities. This is obviously an enormous task that sometimes seems impossible.

In such conditions, the choir usually reaffirms God's promises to me, which immediately "sets me in tune." Imagine walking from class and feeling very limited due to the difficult situations that characterize your future ministry, family and friends, but you come to the choir and begin to sing a hymn that says: "Fear not, I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand," (ELW:796). Is this not marvelous? Such experience has always strengthened me to face the next course work with repeated hope.

I encourage you to join the choir. Share your gifts, share your joy. Your presence in the choir can impact the lives of others on campus. The experience from the classroom is the most important aspect of my study; however, my participation in the choir and other activities on campus has added exceptional and incredible values to my entire learning experience here at Luther. If you really want to be a multi-talented pastor or public leader, do not limit yourself to the classroom because it is a very busy place where you may not have the opportunity to fully interact with your colleagues. I will see you all at choir practice in the music room downstairs in the campus center on Tuesdays at 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Worshiping Together
by Taylor Skoglund
MA Senior

It seems like as soon as we are actually getting to experience a gorgeous Minnesota summer, the first day of September is peeking around the corner reminding us that some really important things are happening. Like THE GREAT MINNESOTA GET-TOGETHER! (For the uninitiated, that means the State Fair, which is the best thing about August). And, of course, classes and fall semester and all that jazz. One of my favorite parts about the aforementioned "jazz" is chapel. I know that most of you are thinking, "Well, she's a sacristan. Of course she's going to create an infomercial for chapel." While that might be part of my goal, I genuinely love attending chapel here on campus. Every day at 11:00 a.m. sharp there is a chance for our community to come together and worship as one body in a beautiful space. I think that is a pretty spectacular opportunity.

And I am not sure if you know this (I really hope you do)...but...we go to a seminary! Even if you are not in the MDiv program—disclaimer: I am not, so I can say these things—in some way or another, we are all dedicating our lives to God. Whether you end up teaching, being a pastor, a chaplain, a plumber, stay-at-home dad, nurse, politician—whatever—you are all learning how to use your God-given gifts. Which means that chapel kind of fits in with exactly what most people are looking for. After all, many of us could have gone elsewhere for the same degrees, but something drew us to this place and this community. I think part of that draw, at least for me, is the privilege of worshiping together and supporting one another when fellow students are leading, preaching, assisting, singing, praying, and everything in between.

So come see what is going on in chapel—it is great!

August Rush
by Keyla Spahr
MA Senior

This article’s title may refer to an amazing movie about a wise and musically talented child, however, I am referring to what most large school’s Greek life uses as their time to look for new members.

We shall skip the normal, "Hey you, vote for us!" or, "Join this club!" and get right down to it.

In a shameless pitch to recruit new members, complete with no hazing, no oaths, and minimal time commitment monthly, I am asking all of you to volunteer for The Concord! No previous newspaper experience is necessary. We are a batch of fun-loving, hard-working students, just like you. We have our own office in the basement of Gullixson Hall, complete with decorations, office supplies, and an always-full coffee pot! Concord staff gets keys to the office, and you are welcome to use it at any time, whether on official Concord business, doing homework, or needing a place to zone out from your hard day.

I suppose you are wondering for what you would be volunteering. Each month we request a certain amount of articles to be written by students, staff, faculty, or members of the community. We have a due date for said articles, and after that, a team of copy editors will look at the articles for typos, grammar, and coherence. Once that is finished, our layout editor makes everything look beautiful in booklet form and the paper is sent to be printed. Simple, right?

Have I done my job of interesting you in The Concord? If so, please contact us at concord@luthersem.edu or you can talk to me personally at kspahr001@luthersem.edu.

The staff of The Concord looks forward to hearing from you!
Hey guess what, the Concord is on Facebook! Check out past issues, events, and stay in touch with us!
What I learned in Biblical Greek class: A Memoir
by Dwaine Sutherland
MDiv Junior

In Matthew 14:22-33 we have the story of Jesus walking on water and Peter asking Jesus, “Lord if it is you, order me to come to you on the water.” If you are attending Luther Seminary you have asked the same thing. We step out of that boat and start walking. Everything is going well, you are enjoying classes and then, you take Biblical Greek, Systematic Theology, or any class that could be difficult for you. For some, Greek is not too difficult. For others such as myself, blub blub, you start sinking into the water, and you feel the waves crashing over your head. Of course we all will call to God, “Please help me!”

We may try to hide from our difficulties in a cave as Elijah did in 1 Kings 19:9. Elijah was scared and told God that he was loyal but that no one would listen to him and was afraid that he would be killed. God was not going to take that answer from Elijah and after a crazy strong wind and earthquake God would not answer Elijah at first. God was silent, but after the loud winds and trembling earth God came to Elijah quietly and asked one question, “Why are you here Elijah?” Why are we here? Is it because we want to cram our heads full of Greek vocabulary or staying up late at night trying to memorize flash cards? No, we are here because God has called us here as part of God’s plan.

Jesus reached down and with his hand and caught Peter and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” Why do we doubt? We are human just like Peter and we will doubt, but Jesus is there to reach out to us. We must remember that God is not going to ask us to do anything we cannot do. Everything at Seminary will... Continued on page 14

Community Yoga at Luther Seminary
by Elizabeth Schoenknecht
Admissions Counselor

How many seminary classes begin with the instructor leading a breathing technique? (Inhale on the count of 5-4-3-2-1; hold your breath and exhale as we count 5-4-3-2-1). This is how I begin each one of my classes as we prepare our minds, breath, and body for the practice of yoga.

As a way to give to the community, I offer free weekly yoga classes for faculty, staff and students. As we become more comfortable with the idea of practicing yoga and wearing stretchy pants in front of each other, our class continues to grow as we collectively breathe, pose, and practice. Yoga will continue with the start of a new school year. Look to MyLutherNet announcements for dates, times, and locations. If you doubt yoga is for you, consider these common misconceptions around the practice of yoga:

- Yoga is boring. Though some practice the art of holding 8-9 poses for long periods of time, we practice a vinyasa yoga, or "fitness" yoga. We flow from one pose to another rather quickly. This flow yoga warms the muscles, increases the heart rate and may cause perspiration.

- I am not flexible enough for yoga. Yoga is not about contorting the body in strange positions. As we move into a pose we work towards a goal - reaching a little longer or twisting a little fur... Continued on page 14

Concord 12
Being an Ally
LGBTQIAA Support and Issues at Luther
by Caitlin Jensen
MDiv. Middler

Emmaus is our LGBTQIAA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Autosexual, Asexual) support and ally group on campus. Just like with the Biblical story of the disciples encountering the risen Lord on road to Emmaus, this group takes the time to journey together and discover what it means to be both LGBT - or ally - and a person of faith in ministry. This upcoming year, we would like to continue to offer support, expand on what it means to be an ally, and help to create safe spaces on campus, as well as provide education on LGBTQIAA issues.

Some of our highlights from last year:
• Discussion with Mark Kiyimba on being an LGBT Ally in Uganda
• LGBT Issues and the Old Testament Discussion with Terry Frietheim
• Church Conversations - Marriage and LGBT Issues, a great discussion with Rev. Dr. Ed Treat and Pastor Stephanie Erdmann
• A wonderful ally training with Michael Grewe from Augsburg College

We want to create a safe space for all students at Luther, specifically surrounding the issues of the LGBT community. Coming into the Luther community, I did not really know anything of what it means to be LGBT - let alone all the other letters! (QIAA) Not knowing what to expect from my first few Emmaus meetings, I was thankful to be encountered by a loving and accepting community that was not afraid to answer my questions. Through this group, I have become an ally for the LGBTQIAA community. Emmaus has taught me to stand up for the rights of others - whether gay, straight, or transgender - and to accept people as they are which is children of God.

We meet every other Tuesday during lunch in the OCC's dining room C starting on Tuesday, September 9 at 11:30 a.m. As on the road to Emmaus, we look to discover Christ through our stories, in who we are created to be, and in one another. We look to create a safe space, so please come as you are - with questions, doubts, and joys. We look forward to seeing you!

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not always be smooth sailing; sometimes the waters are going to be rough, but God will have us get out of the boat and walk.

God has a plan for each of us, and God never said it would be easy, but God does have a covenant with us. God will always be with us. So, as you struggle with Greek or any other course, remember: God wants you here, and if that means you struggle through summer Greek or even if you have to take something twice, do not fear, God is with you. Oh yeah and I learned to translate New Testament Greek.

Community Yoga... Continued from page 12

ther. Each pose and practice is different, as God created us unique. This class is for all levels of fitness.

- I don't have time. As Christian public leaders, we are called to care for our body and mind. Yoga is an effective way to use body-bearing strength training to sculpt and tone the body while the breathing techniques relax and calm the mind.

All are welcome. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

STUDENT GROUPS!
The Concord can be a mouthpiece for you, too! Let us know what's going on, or what's new and exciting about your group, or even write an article about your group and how it's serving the Luther community.

Voca Faith and Justice
by Karen Telyea
MDiv Senior

Voca? What is Voca?
Good question! While its mission is clear and concise, its activities and events are ever-changing. There is no one particular issue or topic on which Voca focuses. Last year Voca members participated in service days painting houses in downtown Minneapolis, attended the Nobel Peace Prize Forum featuring the Dalai Lama, and lifted up their voices within Lutheran Seminary to build community and be environmentally conscious. All of these ministries fall under our mission statement, "To love our neighbor by creating a space...that seeks justice as an integral part of Christian vocation." Voca is short for this concept of Christian vocation. That we are called, each day, both in mundane and bold ways to serve God through service to neighbors near and far.

Voca, rather than being focused on a particular mission, is focused on forming justice-oriented leaders. All events are created, organized, and led by students based on their strengths and passions as well as current events and relevant needs.

Come join us over lunch for our first gathering on Monday, Sept. 8th at 11:30 in the Auxiliary Dining Room, Olson Campus Center (the room on the right just before walking into the OCC cafeteria). We will get to know each other and begin to discern what Voca will be up to this school year. If you have any questions or want to get involved please contact us!

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### Student Groups & Events Cheat Sheet

**Choir** - The Luther Seminary Choir participates regularly in the midweek communion service and other occasions. The choir is open to students, faculty, staff, family members, and friends of the seminary community. All are welcome. The ability to read notated music is helpful but not required.

**Meetings**
Rehearsals Tuesdays 4:30-6pm and worship Wednesdays 11am-12pm

**Concord** - The Concord is a student publication with the mission of giving space to be heard by a variety of voices on campus: students, families, staff, and faculty alike.

Facebook: facebook.com/LutherSemConcord
Student Contacts: Megan Dahn & Keyla Spahr
Email: concord@luthersem.edu

**DRBC** - The "Dismantling Racism: Living into Beloved Community" Student Group (or DRBC) invites the community of Luther Seminary into conversation regarding the ongoing legacy and reality of racism both in this country and globally.

Facebook: facebook.com/LutherDRBC
Student Contact: Katelyn Rakotarivoelo
Meetings: Biweekly Meetings TBD

**Emmaus** - Emmaus is a student group offering support to those who identify as LGBTQQIAA (an alphabet soup acronym that includes those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual AND allies). Additionally, Emmaus presents educational opportunities for the entire Luther Seminary community regarding LGBT people and issues.

Facebook: facebook.com/emmaus.luthersem
Contacts: Caitlin Jensen, Keyla Spahr, Megan Dahn
Contact: emmaus@luthersem.edu
Meetings: Every other Tuesday during lunch (11:30-12:30) in OCC Dining Room C

**The Noncord** - The Noncord is Luther Seminary's number one satirical newspaper. One of the features that sets apart our satirical paper from the rest of the papers is that we exist. You cannot say the same about our competition.

Contact: noncord@luthersem.edu

**Student Council** - Student Council is a student organization that advocates through a number of programs for better community and student life at the seminary. They meet monthly to discuss and take action on matters of importance to the community.

Contact: studentcouncil@luthersem.edu

**Meetings**
See LutherNet Calendar

**VOCA** - Our mission, led by the Triune God and by the Gospel, is to love our neighbor by creating a space at Luther Seminary and within our community that seeks justice as an integral part of Christian vocation.

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/242661159135832/
Contact: voca@luthersem.edu
Meetings: Monthly on Mondays (see LutherNet Calendar for more details!)
Next Meeting: Monday, Sept. 8th at 11:30 in the Aux. Dining Room, Olson Campus Center

**Ultimate Frisbee** - Everyone is welcome! Never played before? We will teach you.
Student Contact: Laurel Midthun lmidthun001@luthersem.edu
Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30pm-6:30pm at Sandgren Field

**Yoga** - Dust off your yoga mats, it is time to start the new year with a centered body and mind. Join us for a 45min yoga class. Classes are free to students, staff, and faculty. Please bring a yoga mat, a towel, and a water bottle to stay hydrated.

Contact: Elizabeth Schoenknecht eschoenknecht@luthersem.edu

**Chapel** - Seminar Pastor Contact Laura Thelander: lthelander001@luthersem.edu

To volunteer in Chapel:
Contact Sacristans Taylor Skoglund and Lisa Janke: sacrist@luthersem.edu.
Chapel meets daily Mon-Fri at 11am.

**Game-a-Thon** - facebook.com/LutherSemDonkeyKongregation (page), https://www.facebook.com/groups/740734852644945/ (group)
Student Contacts: Mike Gold,
Megan Dahn: mdahn001@luthersem.edu
Official date: October 25th.

**Luther Seminary 15**
Next Issue!

We want to hear from you! Don't be afraid to contact us if you're interested in writing an article for the Concord! Next issue we want to read about YOUR spiritual practices! What do you do to find your Sabbath? Is it meditation? Fishing? Do you go for long runs around Como Park? What do you do that gives you peace and helps you find that sort of "divine serenity"? We really do want to know! Contact us via the Concord email, or you can grab one of us if you see us on campus!

The year has begun, we hope that you enjoyed these sneak peeks into some of the ways to get involved here at Luther, and that you're diving into this community and all the wonderful opportunities here. Welcome!
-- Megan Dahn

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Readers are encouraged to interact with the Concord in a variety of ways. Articles and "Letters to the Editor" are welcomed, as are less formal responses offered through the online version. All submissions should include the author's name, telephone number and, if applicable, class standing. Submissions should be received by e-mail. The managing editor reserves the right to publish, edit or disregard all submissions.

The Concord is looking for new staff! If you are interested, let us know! concord@luthersem.edu
No experience necessary! (Like REALLY!)