



Greater Milwaukee Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work. Our Hands.

Statement on Lutheran Campus Ministry Staffing Change
November 4, 2021

On Monday, November 1, Pastor Jessica Short resigned her position as Lutheran Campus Pastor, effective December 13, 2021. Last summer, Marquette University terminated their Affiliated Ministry Agreement with Lutheran Campus Ministry of Milwaukee. Since that time, the LCM board has been in a process of discernment and discovery about the future of campus ministry in the synod, with a goal of maintaining a thriving LCM presence for the Milwaukee student community.

We want to express our deep gratitude for the caring, passionate, and faithful ministry of Pastor Short during her 12 years in this position. She has worked tirelessly and effectively to build deep and lasting relationships with students and young adults, creating a sense of community that welcomes all. We ask for your prayers for Pastor Short and her family, for the students and young adults we hope to minister among, and for the LCM board as we strive to be faithful to the call to follow Jesus, form communities, and love all.

Pastor Jessica Short's statement

On November 1st, at the invitation of the LCM Board, I offered my resignation as Lutheran Campus Pastor.

For the past 12 years, it has been a privilege to walk with students as they discerned vocations, navigated relationships, and grew in their identities as children of God, serving and loving a hurting world. While there have been significant institutional challenges, there are so many more things to celebrate. Spring break trips took us to New York City where we learned about refugee resettlement, to San Diego where we learned about issues at the border, to Nicaragua where we partnered with young adults seeking to eradicate violence in their communities, and to Cuba in 2020 where we built relationships and navigated the beginnings of the pandemic together. Back home, ministry looked like countless meals prepared in crock pots, laughter, deep and real conversations about faith and life, and the weekly rhythm of worship that provided a safe place for students and an open table at which all were welcome.

As I look back on my tenure at LCM, I am particularly touched by the way God used our ministry to be a safe place for LGBTQIA+ students, faculty, and staff. This led to LCM-Marquette's action to become a Reconciling in Christ ministry in 2018.

I will always support and pray for the students of the Greater Milwaukee Synod. While I am sad to be sharing this news, I hope the best for the future of Lutheran Campus Ministry in the Greater Milwaukee Synod.