

**Lutheran Student Movement USA:
Student Led, Christ Driven
Informational Packet
2008**



www.lsm-usa.org

What is LSM?

Lutheran Student Movement (LSM) is a student led, Christ driven organization that connects university and college students nationally, regionally, and locally. LSM gives students the opportunity to grow together in Christ through worship, learning opportunities, service projects, and community building. Following in the Lutheran tradition we are always exploring new opportunities in faith and reevaluating ourselves as an organization. As a united body, we provide a voice of university and college students to the larger church, and we develop students to be the future leaders of the church. LSM encourages students to meet new people and grow strong friendships and relationships. We are a faith community that encourages and supports participation at all levels of the movement and welcomes any and all students!

Nationally

On the national level LSM strives to provide members and church staff with opportunities to learn about, fulfill, and spread the Gospel in a way that is unique to the college experience. Events like the National Gathering and Breaking Out! (our alternative spring break experience) help students to grow their faiths in Christ in a safe community of believers, while offering a strong foundation in the Lutheran tradition through educational workshops, Bible studies, and service opportunities. LSM also gives students the chance to voice their questions and opinions about the hot issues in our church. Finally, LSM nationally gives students the tools to develop their leadership skills by serving on the National Council and planning committees, which mirror the structures of our Lutheran church.

Regionally

On a regional level, LSM connects campus ministries with each other, as well as with students at Lutheran colleges and schools that may not have their own campus ministries. Connections are also made with church bodies, such as synods, regions, and congregations: LSM regions have been represented at synod assemblies and events. The regional level helps students develop more personal relationships with fellow students and staff. Regional ministries are able to meet frequently because of their close geographic locations. Members at the regional level often have the opportunity to attend spiritual and educational retreats. The retreats rally students to worship together and further their knowledge of Christ. Students also engage in learning and action discussions related to social injustice, vocation, and much more. Schools within regions often meet outside of their retreats to continue to strengthen the regional community. Additionally, many regions participate in service activities and support outdoor ministries.

Locally

Local expressions of LSM vary greatly. At some schools LSM is the regional and national extension of the local Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM). At other schools LSM is organized and recognized as an on-campus student organization. Local LSM groups can provide an outlet for worship and faith building in the Lutheran tradition. For example, at the Lutheran colleges LSM may act as another method to grow in faith and fellowship with others. Finally, LSM and LCM may exist separately at colleges as two non-competing groups with different members, but have overlapping missions.

From the Students

LSM has given me the opportunity of a lifetime, and I believe that it truly is a very critical bridge between our faith as teenagers to building the foundation of our faith for the rest of our lives. I owe a lot to my brother for inviting me to come along, and I am very thankful for LSM to allow me the chance to grow and reconnect with my faith.

-Bob Stein *Bemidji State*

LSM has meant so much to me. It has been a great opportunity to grow and share in my faith with others as well as a chance to make amazing lifelong friends and connections all over the country!

-Erin Chonka *University of Georgia*

LSM has given me a place to go to explore leadership in ministry and to continue my faith journey that only really began seven years ago. I have been an active member of LSM for only two years, but I have found I have grown a great love and connection to this organization of like-minded students from across the country.

-Tony Rhodes *Western Washington University*

A Brief History of LSM

LSM-USA was founded in 1969. Two former Lutheran college organizations, the Lutheran Student Association of America (LSAA, founded in 1922) and Gamma Delta (founded in 1928) merged to create LSM-USA in 1969 while gathered in convention in Boulder, Colorado.

In 1984, the organization Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA) began what is known as the Reconciled in Christ movement. This movement seeks Lutheran bodies that are willing to declare themselves accepting and affirming of all members of the body of Christ, regardless of ethnicity, age, or sexuality. LSM-USA became the first Lutheran organization to declare itself Reconciled in Christ.

Until 1985, LSM-USA was supported and sponsored by the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), and the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS). In 1985, LCMS officially withdrew its support for LSM-USA, citing doctrinal differences, primarily LSM-USA's decision to declare itself a Reconciled in Christ organization. In 1988, ALC, LCA, and AELC merged to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), thus reducing the number of official Lutheran churches sponsoring LSM-USA to one.

In 2004, LSM-USA entered into a full ministry partnership with Lutheran Youth Encounter. This partnership provides outreach opportunities for both organizations within each other's events. The ELCA continues to support LSM-USA financial and LSM-USA greatly values and appreciates their relationship with the ELCA.

What's Happening This Year

Updates from the National Council

- 1) We are looking at how to make the ELCA National Gathering of College Students more affordable, whether that is by increasing attendance, moving to an every other year gathering, or changing locations.
- 2) We have redefined our organization and developed a formal statement of who and what we are (see our "What is LSM" section), and we are now in the process of writing a new mission statement.
- 3) We are looking at whether or not to pursue options for closer alignment with the ELCA (see "Alignment with the ELCA" section).
- 4) We are refocusing our organization so that we can be relevant in today's society to our campus ministries, Lutheran colleges, and students.
- 5) We are reviewing our constitution and by-laws to make sure that they are updated and will fit with further changes in our alignment with the ELCA.
- 6) We are creating a new website apart from the ELCA server to allow more accessibility and creativity for the current council members.
- 7) We will stay true to putting out two national newsletter (online) publications per year.
- 8) We are assessing how to increase involvement in Breaking Out! or moving to more regionally sponsored weeks of service.
- 9) We are looking to establish an alumni group to provide an increased support basis for LSM.
- 10) We have created a new slogan - "Student led, Christ driven", and we will be placing them on our new brochures.

**(INSERT PICTURES FROM LSM
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING)**

Alignment with the ELCA

Attention: Lutheran Student Movement (LSM) students, alumni, and supporting staff members,

As we approach the next meeting of our national assembly, in order to fulfill our obligation to Resolution 2007-3 we, the national council of LSM are required to provide further means of discussion whether or not to pursue official alignment with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), and how closer alignment may be fulfilled.

Through discussions with ELCA support staff and the LSM council, we have come up with five possible outlets for alignment.

- 1) Auxiliary Membership
- 2) Affiliate Membership (Affiliation)
- 3) Program of Vocation and Education Department of ELCA
- 4) Sponsorship
- 5) To not pursue closer alignment with the ELCA.

I will briefly describe to you each of the five options and the pros and cons of each of the options. At the conclusion of the descriptions, I will give you our plans for the future.

Auxiliary Membership

Example Ministry: Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Looks like: We exist as a separate group from the ELCA, but they acknowledge that the work we are doing is within the theology and mission of their church.

Pros: We retain our independent status.

Cons: Since most auxiliary organizations exist separately from programs of the ELCA we could be risking (though unlikely) losing resources at the ELCA headquarters.

Affiliate Membership (Affiliation)

Example Ministries: Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief

Looks like: We exist as a separate entity and become more loosely connected with the ELCA, leaving us open to affiliating with other church bodies; however, affiliate membership is primarily only used for social ministry organizations.

Pros: We maintain the option of pursuing a "pan-Lutheran" identity, as a separate group from the ELCA.

Cons: It is unlikely that we would obtain this status because it is reserved generally for social ministries, which LSM's existence does not fit. From past experience working with church bodies, efforts to affiliate with other national bodies have been not welcomed.

Program of Vocation and Education

Example Ministry: Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM)

Looks like: LSM would become a full-fledged program of the ELCA.

Pros: Official recognition as an ELCA ministry. Increased financial stability.

Cons: We lose our existence as a separate entity. We could lose control of our financial spending. We could risk losing the power of our student leadership. It hinders our vision and purpose to remain a student led ministry.

Sponsorship

Example Ministry: None known (see description)

Looks like: This would require the ELCA to recognize us formally as their student movement, and we in turn must recognize the ELCA as a sponsor of our organization. We then would recognize that we ourselves are the student movement of the ELCA by for example claiming that we are an ELCA sponsored organization.

Pros: Official recognition as an ELCA ministry and recognition from ELCA staff members (especially campus ministers) that we are partners in the mission and not a separate Lutheran group. It would open the door a great deal more for creating and strengthening relationships with Lutheran Campus Ministries and the ELCA Lutheran Colleges. We also would retain current personnel and financial structure.

Cons: Relinquishment of strives to be an officially "pan-Lutheran" ministry. Of course, we would still be welcoming of everyone, but we would officially cease to identify as "pan-Lutheran."

Forgoing Closer Alignment

Example Ministry: Our Current Existence

Looks like: No Change

Pros: We maintain our current structure regarding personnel and financial structure.

Cons: We limit our marketability to campus ministries and Lutheran colleges supported by the ELCA. We fail to distinguish ourselves as a defined Lutheran group. We risk being misinterpreted as a just another Christian club/organization on campuses, such as Campus Crusade for Christ or Navigators.

I encourage you and those at your local ministry site to take these options into prayerful consideration and continue the discussion about aligning with the ELCA. Feel free to post your opinions through our website (LSM-USA.org), on the LSM-USA Facebook group, and/or email me (lsmpresident@gmail.com) or Mike Yeutter, Chairperson of the Leadership and Evangelism Committee (yeutter@wisc.edu). Your thoughts and opinions will be discussed at the September meeting of the National Council. If you would like to write your own resolution regarding closer alignment, you are welcome to do so. Please consult Josh Kelly chair of Reference Counsel and Elections Committee before writing and submitting your resolutions (joshak0703@gmail.com). This will make sure that we do not have too many people writing resolutions that say the same thing. Again, thank you for your continued support of Lutheran Student Movement.

God Bless,

Craig Talmage
LSM-USA President

LSM National Gathering

The LSM National Gathering is an event held during winter break, usually over the New Years Holiday. The primary purpose of the gathering is to bring together the students of LSM-USA annually to conduct the business of the organization and to live, work, worship, serve, and play together as the national embodiment of this Christian community. Events at the gathering include worship, workshops, concerts, meals, dances, speakers, service projects, and plenary sessions.

Typically the National Gathering is held at a hotel in a large city. The location changes from year to year. Recent locations have included New Orleans, Phoenix, Washington, D.C., Houston, San Diego, and Denver. Since the gathering is hosted in a hotel and we take pride in seeking out inspirational speakers, there is a significant cost associated with the gathering (usually around \$350 plus travel expenses). To assist students who would not otherwise be able to afford this cost, LSM offers scholarships and students should check the LSM website for applications a couple months prior to the gathering.

LSM also participates in the quadrennial “Celebrate” ecumenical gathering, organized by the Council for Ecumenical Student Christian Ministry. As Celebrate is also held over New Year's Day, LSM does not hold a separate gathering in those years, choosing instead to incorporate its gathering as part of Celebrate. The most recent “Celebrate” gathering was the 06-07 gathering in New Orleans.

Breaking Out!

In 2006, an annual alternative spring break opportunity, known as “Breaking Out!” was instituted by LSM-USA. This was a week-long event that consisted of service projects, theological education, social-ministry training, small group discussion, and community worship.

“Breaking Out!” was originally envisioned as three separate weeks for up to thirty students each. A challenge grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans allows students to participate in the program at minimal personal expense. The inaugural event was held in Atlanta, March 19-25, 2006.

The event is overseen by two committees of students - a planning committee and a fundraising committee. These committees are responsible not only for planning the event, but also for selecting the participants from among the applicants for the program. In order to foster a diverse community, the planning committee will generally not accept more than two people from any single college or university.

Following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, the 2006 planning committee made a pledge that the 2007 event would be held in a Gulf Coast city. In response, the 2007 planning committee chose the town of Ocean Springs, Mississippi as the site for “Breaking Out!” 2007. The event was held March 11-16, 2007.

The 2008 event, which was planned to be held in Washington, D.C., was canceled due to lack of participation. Differences in spring break dates have made planning “Breaking Out!” especially challenging. LSM is currently looking into ways to improve the “Breaking Out!” event or another way to implement a service opportunity at the national level.

The Officers

President

Name: Craig Talmage
Grew up in: Peoria, AZ
Currently resides in: Tucson, AZ
School: The University of Arizona
Major: Family Studies and Human Development
Year: Senior
Phone: (623) 980-9288
Email: lsmpresident@gmail.com

When Craig is not off fighting the evil monsters that attack LSM, he enjoys going to movies and writing songs on his guitar. Craig is currently the program director at the campus ministry in Tucson at The University of Arizona. After graduation, he will be pursuing a Master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Minnesota State University in Mankato, MN. He hopes to start his own management/personnel consulting firm in the next ten years, which will focus on bettering organizations in the non-profit and community sector (like churches!).

Secretary

Name: Julie Rower
Grew up in: Walnut Creek, CA
Currently resides in: San Luis Obispo, CA 93410
School: Cal Poly State University
Major: Business
Year: Sophomore
Phone: (925) 788-2531
Email: julie.rower@gmail.com

This is Julie's second year working with LSM, and she has enjoyed every minute of it! Last year she served as the Pac-SW Regional Representative, and this year she is serving as the National Secretary. Aside from LSM and school, Julie enjoys being outdoors and being active. She loves going camping, hiking, hanging out at the beach and playing just about any game or sport you could imagine. Julie is excited to see LSM grow throughout this year, as we look into who we truly are as an organization of students pursuing our Creator and God.

SIMC

Name: Eryn Kvernevig
Grew up in: South Dakota
School: University of South Dakota
Major: Criminal Justice/Psychology
Year: 3rd
Email: ekvernev@usd.edu

Eryn was born and raised in South Dakota, when she's not working on the LSM board; she's enjoying her family and friends, the outdoors, and going to class. She's still a role model for her former high school and keeps in touch with the school. She sees the LSM as a great way for students of the Christian faith to gather and fellowship in their journey through life.

Alto Regional Representative (AR, LA, TX, OK)

Name: John Parsons
Grew up in: San Antonio, TX
School: Northwest Vista College
Major: Graphic Design Then seminary
Year: Junior
Phone: (210) 404-5973
Email: johnwparsons@gmail.com

When John is not doing LSM stuff, he can be found at work or church. John is heavily involved at his church Zion of Helotes. He Teaches Adult Ed there and is also chairing there current building committee. In his personal time you can find him studying or in front of the TV.

Blue Ridge Regional Representative (NC, TN, VA)

Name: Amy Kuchenreuther
Grew up in: Raleigh, NC
Currently resides in: Berlin, Germany
School: University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Major: Biology
Minors: German and Chemistry
Year: Junior
Email: amyrk@email.unc.edu

Amy has enjoyed sharing her faith journey with fellow LSMers for the past 3 years. She loves sports, especially soccer and tennis, and of course watching Carolina basketball, Go Heels! Amy is especially interested international ministry and hopes to convey the joys of students active in fellowship in outreach programs for international students.

Central Regional Representative (KS, MO, NE)

Name: Cara Knott
Grew up in: Overland Park, KS
Currently resides in: Lincoln, NE
School: University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Major: Psychology
Minor: Religion
Year: Senior
Phone: (913) 522-8512
Email: lsmcentralregion@gmail.com

When Cara is not busy working or going to school, she enjoys playing all kinds of sports, watching movies and participating in Kappa Delta. She recently picked up learning how to machine quilt and hopes to be able to hand quilt some day. Being a part of LSM is a new thing for Cara yet she is looking forward to working with the national council and schools in her region to boost involvement in LSM and to help students have their voice heard.

Central Midwest Movement Regional Representative (IA, Upper MI, WI, IL)

Name: Mike Yeutter
Grew up in: Greenfield, WI
Currently resides in: Madison, WI
School: University of Wisconsin - Madison
Major: Civil Engineering ~ Construction Management Engineering
Year: Junior
Phone: (414) 610-0333
Email: Yeutter@wisc.edu

Mike takes refuge in his friends. He loves to hangout with them and loves making new ones. He is very involved with his campus ministry at UW-Madison. He also works with the university engineers on new campus building projects. Mike is very excited for LSM both nationally and regionally. He hopes to help restructure the organization on both levels. At the end of the year, Mike believes LSM can be a strong voice for students in the Lutheran church.

Desert South West Regional Representative (AZ, NM)

Name: Katie Gorin

Grew up in: Mesa, AZ

Currently resides in: Tempe, AZ

School: Arizona State University

Major: History and Religious Studies

Year: Senior

Phone: (480) 390-8337

Email: katiegorin@gmail.com

Katie has been involved with LSM for four years, and this is her first year on National Council. When she isn't busy with schoolwork or church (which keeps her quite busy), she spends her time playing in the university orchestra (viola), and playing fiddle for an English folk dancing troupe based in Phoenix. She also loves to go on road trips and travel, and has participated in study abroad three times. She has lived in southern Mexico, Ireland, and New Zealand.

Gulf Atlantic Regional Representative (AL, FL, GA, MS, SC)

Name: Erin Chonka

Grew up in: Marietta, GA

Currently resides in: Athens, GA

School: University of Georgia

Year: Alum

Phone: (404) 966-0674

Email: chonkachick@gmail.com

Erin has been a member of LSM for 4 years, and is serving her second term as regional president. She looks forward to working with this years council on restructuring LSM and renewing it's meaning as we promote our "Student Led, Christ Driven" organization. She has led her campus ministry for a few years now. Outside of church Erin enjoys playing sports and being active, as she's involved in many IM sports.

IMOK Regional Representative (IN, KY, Southern MI, OH)

Name: Jess Messner

Grew up in: Tallmadge, OH

Currently resides in: Ashland, OH

School: Ashland University

Major: Communications and Business Administration

Year: Junior

Phone: (419) 606-7796

Email: jmessner@ashland.edu

This is Jess' second year as the IMOK representative. She thoroughly enjoys serving on the LSM National Council and looks forward to helping LSM rediscover its identity. Outside of LSM, Jess leads a discipleship group for four high school girls and helps to plan youth events at her church. Jess also enjoys reading romance novels, taking bubble baths, and eating lots of chocolate.

MALSM Regional Representative (DE, MD, NJ, PA, WV, D.C.)

Name: Joshua Kelly

Grew up in: Quakertown, PA

Currently resides in: Warrington, PA

School: Drexel University

Major: Architecture

Year: 5th of 6

Phone: (215) 872-8321

Email: joshak0703@gmail.com

Josh is currently 23 years old. He is left handed, right brained, and politically in the middle. He loves music, movies, his friends and family, being a Lutheran and of course God! Besides being active with LSM/MALSM, he teaches high school Sunday school, vacation Bible school, and chaperones for various youth events like the national ELCA youth gathering. (Look out New Orleans!) He is also active with my synod (SEPA). He works full time at an architectural firm outside of Philly, and takes his classes at night.

NELSM Regional Representative (CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT)

Name: Alli Watson

School: Plattsburgh State

Email: wats9044@mail.plattsburgh.edu

Pacific Northwest Regional Representative (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA)

Name: Anthony (Tony) Rhodes
Grew up in: Everett, WA
Currently resides in: Bellingham, WA
School: Western Washington University
Major: Human Services
Year: 3rd
Phone: (425) 343-4673
Email: tony-rhodes@comcast.net

Tony is currently a third year student at western and enjoys being a student very much. He is very active in his campus ministry and is excited to serve LSM during this year of great change. When not working with LSM or LCM he loves spending time with his friends and family. He is very much a people person and would be lost without the people in his life. He also loves cars and likes to integrate that passion into his passion for photography.

Pacific Southwest Regional Representative (CA, HI, NV)

Name: Brian Rower
Grew up in: Walnut Creek, CA
Currently resides in: San Luis Obispo, CA
School: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Major: Computer Science
Minor: Business Administration
Year: 4th
Phone: (925) 788-2532
Email: brian.rower@gmail.com

Brian has been involved with LSM for 3 years. In addition to being regional representative, Brian is also the LSM webmaster, chair of the PR & Marketing committee, and co-chair of the National Gathering alternatives task force. Brian currently works as a campus network administrator part-time. He is currently very active in his local campus ministry and helps with his congregation's high school group.

Rocky Mountain Regional Representative (NM, UT, WY)

Name: Jacob Dunn

Grew up in: New Berlin, WI

School: University of Northern Colorado – Greeley

Major: Philosophy

Year: Senior

Phone: (303) 945-9175

Email: Weaslwazoo@aol.com

Jacob has only been involved with LSM for a few months now, but has been in Lutheran Campus Ministry at UNCO for the past 3 years. He has a passion for history and theology, Early Church theology specifically, but enjoys a historical leap every now and then. Jacob is hoping before too long to be sent into the ordained ministry. Currently he is trying to lead LSM into taking its place in the Body of Christ in the world. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact him via Facebook, email, or phone.

Tri-Ota Regional Representative (MN, ND, SD)

Name: Bob Stein

Email: tri-otapres@hotmail.com

School: Bemidji State University

Year: Graduate Student

We Want to Get to Know You!

Thank you for reading the Lutheran Student Movement – USA informational packet. If you are interested in learning more about LSM and would like someone to contact you, or you are already familiar with LSM and would like to help LSM by keeping your contact information up to date, please fill out this form and mail it to:

Lutheran Student Movement
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631-4194

To save a stamp you may also fill out this form on our website (www.lsm-usa.org). Click on the Information Packet link!

Name

Associated School

Phone Number

Email Address

Mailing Address

Appendix A

The Cereal Analogy

The following are instructions on how to make a perfect college meal, whether its breakfast, lunch, dinner or even a midnight snack. Picture the United States as one giant bowl. Then you take your favorite cereal, let's just say it is the red box of cereal with the little leprechaun on the front and it has the initials "LC" or also known as Lutherans on Campus. So obviously the next step is to pour LC into the bowl of America, because there are Lutherans on campuses all across the country. Some Lutheran students are fortunate enough to be at college with an official Lutheran Campus Ministry, and so those are the marshmallows. They are bright and colorful and scattered throughout the bowl and the actual cereal (the students) cluster around these yummy centers. However when you look in your bowl you notice that lots of the cereal is just on its own, without being anywhere close to a campus marshmallow, I mean ministry. They are scattered and separate. Well of course there is one ingredient missing...MILK! Which is just like LSM. So pour that milk and what happens, suddenly there is a substance that is everywhere in the bowl; it is "connecting all the dots." Whether an individual is with a campus ministry or not, the milk (LSM) is still there surrounding everything and binding the all the LCs together! So of course both ingredients can exist without the other, but they are so much better when they are combined to form the best college meal ever!