

Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry (ELCM) - Columbia, MO

ELCM exists to share and partake of the radical and transformative love of Christ at the University of Missouri (and other local campuses) by proclaiming and living into the truth that in the way of Jesus all are welcome and all belong. We invite students+ (staff, faculty, alumni, and others connected to local schools) to join our community as we are formed together by prayer, scripture, sacrament, shared meals, service, activism, and connection with our supporting congregations (Calvary Episcopal and St. Andrew's Lutheran).

This past year has been one of steady growth and transition. Our Monday night gatherings—including bible study, prayer rooted in the Episocal and Lutheran traditions, and a meal (generally provided by congregational volunteers)—have continued as the anchor of our ministry. We have continued to table weekly on campus at MU offering conversation, prayer, blessings, information, treats, and more. We have continued to work with local open and affirming congregations and campus ministries in TIDES to host ecumenical events such as Ashes to Go and Finals Blessings. We have continued to participate in the Vinery network's collaborative learning program seeking to become ever more connected with our university neighbors. We have continued to partner with Calvary and St. Andrew's in worship, service, activism, events, and communal life.

A few major highlights this year include: Transitioning to a whole new student leadership—president, vice president, treasurer, and congregational representatives; our first ELCM leadership retreat with these new leaders; experimental prayer services in the kitchen making calzones together; and, this October, our first visit from the Bishop including the first baptism at one of our Monday night services!

Aside from all the regular challenges of ministry to students, there is a pre-existing and seemingly growing challenge of having our proclamation of Christ's love—rooted in communal justice, peace, and queer joy—be heard and received amid the clamor of other competing Christian testimonies, ones that tend to be louder, larger, and more established. Certainly, there has been a noticeably increased frequency of students+ who disagree with us openly (and at times aggressively) making their contentions known. Pray that we might remain rooted and grounded in the love of Christ as we continue to bear bold, and creative witness, to this love that overcomes every boundary and division.

Fe'd love to hear from you! Feel free to reach out to Josh Huber (revjosh@calvaryninth.org) with questions and comments, to talk, or to subscribe to our newsletter. And you can follow us on Instagram and TikTok: **@elcmcomo**.