

Mission Story- Central Illinois District

Involvement

"I'm singing in the choir!" a University of Illinois graduate wrote back to University Lutheran Church, Champaign. He had recently joined an LCMS congregation where he was getting involved. Had he not sung in University Lutheran's choir first, he said, he might never have considered involvement in this particular way anywhere else.

When a campus church consists basically of students, it comes as no surprise that their involvement is needed. Getting involved while in school today, they are preparing for further service tomorrow.

University Lutheran Church and our other campus ministries regularly hear from graduates – including those who were confirmed while in college and are new to the church – about their singing in choir, helping the fellowship committee, taking part in LWML, volunteering as youth leaders and Sunday School teachers, being members of Church Councils, and serving as Elders and congregational Presidents. University Lutheran has two alumni who were married after graduation and have begun working in campus ministry at a local college through their new church home.

Graduates also go on to full-time church work, ranging from teaching in Lutheran schools to Lutheran universities. Eleven young men who came through University Lutheran Church now serve in the Office of the Holy Ministry. One is currently the Secretary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

In campus ministry, one spends time with people whose stories are just beginning. Focused on Christ and taking hold of the life He gives in Word and Sacrament, they will be known as men and women who serve for the sake of the church and the world, and who do so because Christ served them and gave Himself for their salvation.

The Lord used your congregation's gifts to the Central Illinois District to put in place campus ministries like University Lutheran Church in Champaign, and to maintain these ministries down to the present and – we pray – into the future. Thank you!

"I thank my God . . . because of your partnership in the gospel" (Phil. 1:3-5).

April 2019

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