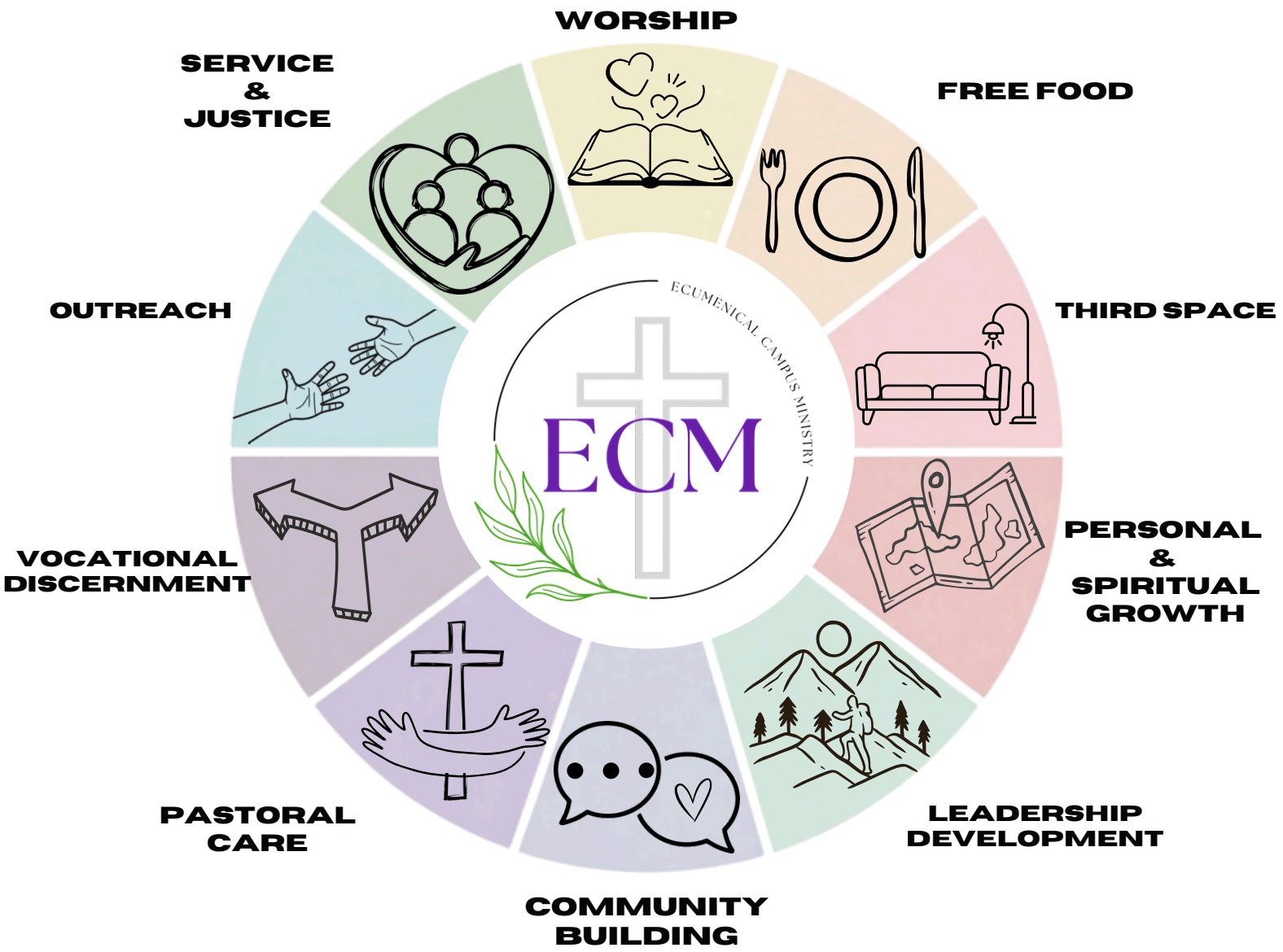
10 HALLMARKS OF

ECM STUDENT MINISTRY



From Jessie Kuehner, Campus Pastor

At ECM, we believe campus ministry should care for the whole student. These ten hallmarks name the commitments that guide how we worship, share meals, offer welcome, nurture growth, develop leaders, build community, provide pastoral care, explore vocation, reach out, and seek justice. They are not separate programs or boxes to check. Together, they describe the kind of community we are becoming: a place where students can doubt, discover, and belong while experiencing God's expansive grace. This is adapted from the UKirk 8 Hallmarks to reflect the uniqueness of ECM.

1. Worship

We gather students into sacred time and space where they can encounter God, bring their whole selves, and practice faith together. ECM worship is rooted in the Reformed tradition, shaped by our ecumenical partners, and open to honest questions, beauty, wonder, and grace.

WHY Psalm 150; Romans 12:1-2

HOW Sunday Chapel at 5:00 p.m.; student-written prayers and liturgy; music, Scripture, preaching, sacraments, blessings, and seasonal practices; connecting students with local congregations when they are looking for a church home.

2. Free Food

At ECM, food is never just food. A free meal offers nourishment, dignity, welcome, and a place at the table without requiring anyone to prove that they belong. Sharing food helps turn strangers into neighbors and a ministry center into a campus home.

WHY Luke 14:13-14; Acts 2:46

HOW Free Sunday dinner following Chapel; Real Food Lunch on Fridays; to-go meals when available; menus that consider dietary needs; student and church volunteers preparing and serving food; conversation and community around the table.

3. Third Space

ECM is a third space - not home, not class, and not work - where students can breathe, study, rest, laugh, and be known. We offer a low-pressure place where belonging can begin before belief is settled and where students do not have to perform to be welcomed.

WHY Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2

HOW Open Center hours; free Wi-Fi and printing; snacks and drinks; comfortable study and gathering areas; games and informal conversation; Ask Me Anything time; hospitality that makes room for both community and quiet.

4. Personal & Spiritual Growth

We make room for students to explore who they are, who God is, and how faith connects with everyday life. Growth at ECM is not about having perfect answers. It is about asking honest questions, practicing wonder, and discovering faithful ways to live with courage and compassion.

WHY Isaiah 43:1-2; Philippians 1:6

HOW Bible study through conversation; creative prayer practices; reflection and devotional opportunities; interfaith learning; resources for daily spiritual practice; space to explore doubt, identity, relationships, purpose, and the questions that matter most.

5. Leadership Development

Students learn leadership by being trusted to lead. ECM creates supported opportunities to practice listening, planning, decision-making, collaboration, and theological reflection - skills that strengthen both the ministry and the communities students will serve beyond college.

WHY John 13:14-15; 1 Timothy 4:12

HOW Internships and volunteer roles; planning worship, meals, events, and outreach; leading small

6. Community Building

We are building beloved community: a place to listen, laugh, cry, pray, learn, break bread, and simply be together. ECM is a community, not a club. Students are welcomed as they are, and each person helps shape the life we share.

WHY Acts 2:42-47

HOW Weekly meals; one-on-one relationship building; check-ins; games and creative activities; community nights; outings and campus events; celebrations; shared traditions; intentional welcome for new students and those who are unsure where they fit.

7. Pastoral Care

College can hold tremendous joy, change, grief, pressure, and uncertainty. I want students to know they do not have to carry those things alone. ECM offers confidential spiritual support, steady presence, and connections to additional care when needed.

WHY 1 Corinthians 12:26; Galatians 6:2

HOW One-on-one conversations with the Campus Pastor; regular availability in the Center and by appointment; prayer and accompaniment through major life events; support after personal or campus crises; referrals to appropriate campus, health, and community resources.

8. Vocational Discernment

Vocation is bigger than choosing a major or landing a job. We help students notice their gifts, values, relationships, and the needs of the world so they can discern how God may be calling them to live, work, serve, and love.

WHY 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Micah 6:8

HOW Practicing discernment; identifying gifts and values; hearing vocation stories from alumni, pastors, and community leaders; exploring Scripture about call; connecting faith with work and service; helping seniors prepare for life after college.

9. Outreach

We invite students into Christian community to experience God's expansive love and to discover that there is room for them at ECM. Outreach begins with genuine relationships, clear hospitality, and a willingness to meet students where they already are.

WHY Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 4:14-21

HOW Welcome Week and student-organization events; campus tabling; social media and clear invitations; partnerships across K-State and Manhattan; one-on-one conversations; students inviting friends; visible practices of welcome, inclusion, and care.

10. Service & Justice

Faith sends us beyond ourselves. ECM helps students put faith into action by serving our neighbors, examining the roots of injustice, and joining God's work for a world in which people and all creation can flourish.

WHY Matthew 25:37-40; Amos 5:24

HOW Volunteer projects with local organizations; partnerships addressing food access and community needs; creation care; learning about public issues; advocacy and letter writing; theological reflection that connects service with systemic change.

These hallmarks are living commitments. We will keep listening to students, our board, our supporting congregations, and the Holy Spirit as ECM grows into them.