

OCTOBER 2022 • ISSUE 21

WINTHROP ECUMENICAL LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

A NOTE FROM THE CAMPUS MINISTER

There is a lot of newness in the air at WELCM this fall!

Winthrop has a new president, Dr. Eduard Serna, who has taken time to meet with all the campus ministers, and attend the annual Ecumenical Worship service and Convocation tabling events during Welcome Week. I am encouraged by his warmth and interest in addressing the spiritual needs of Winthrop students. We also have a new Dean of Students coming on board: Dr. Amber Slack has joined the Winthrop staff this month. Campus ministries at Winthrop operate under the office of the Dean of Students, so we are eager to get to know Dr. Slack.

WELCM has two new peer ministers this year—Lexi Meyer and Cat Windham are enjoying working together on worship, service, retreat, and fellowship events. Read on to hear more from them!

And we're making new friends: God has brought us six new regular attendees at WELCM programs, and nineteen other Winthrop students have visited our Gatherings or Evening Prayer. Currently, we have about fifteen students attending regularly, and another seventeen we are getting to know. We continue to table on campus and build our visibility at Winthrop. In our Gatherings this fall, I have been teaching on Lutheran distinctives, as a way of exploring WELCM's identity as both Lutheran and Ecumenical, since our students come from so many different denominational backgrounds.

We have started a new program on campus—a Wednesday “Deep Dive” lunch group, where I’m leading conversations and answering questions that students bring up. So far this fall, we have been focused on a Lutheran approach to understanding and reading the Bible.

Overall, everyone is noticing that there is a sweet, warm energy to the class of 2026, and we are excited to witness the new things God will do in our midst this year!

Grace & peace,
Olga-Maria

WELCM NEWS

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A NOTE FROM THE PEER MINISTERS

Lexi Meyer

This semester so far has been wonderful! I've been enjoying tabling with WELCM, especially during Convocation and the Fall Involvement Fair. The freshmen this year have been so eager to get involved and learn more—it is a great energy to be around.



Our Thursday night gatherings are one of my favorite parts of the week. Talking with other students, eating together, and sharing experiences from our lives, gives me a wonderful sense of community and fellowship that is hard to find in today's world.

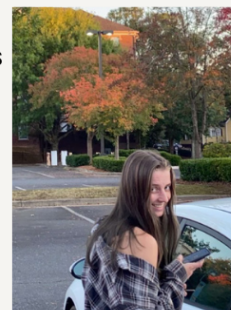
It's been especially meaningful to plan fellowship events and bring back old WELCM traditions that we couldn't do in the past couple years, such as the Fall Fun Day. We are currently working on collecting plastic bags for a community service project, to make sleeping mats for unhoused neighbors. I'm excited to have Friendsgiving with WELCM this November!



Tabling at Convocation included Lexi, Deja, and Olga-Maria. We met hundreds of incoming Winthrop Eagles that day, made new friends, and shared the good news of God's love!

Cat Windham

The first half of this semester has flown by! WELCM has settled into a wonderful rhythm. In my time here so far, I have found both great comfort and great chances for growth.



I was relatively unfamiliar with the practice of evening prayer before I joined WELCM, but participating in it—and now, beginning to help plan it—has been a great chance for me to learn. I also love the time it gives me to gather at Grace, with other WELCM students and members of the church, to center myself before each coming week. I'm excited to continue to grow my leadership in this way, as well as to foster my relationships with those around me.

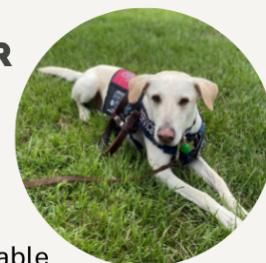
I've also enjoyed getting to better know other students through our Thursday Gatherings, as well as other social events; I loved pumpkin picking together and I'm already looking forward to our Friendsgiving plans. All in all, the semester is going well, and I'm excited to see what happens as we finish it out!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 27 - Communion Worship
with Pastor Rachel
Nov 10 - Evening of
Remembrance
Nov 17 - Friendsgiving
Dec 4 - Advent Hymn Sing
Date TBD - Winter Activity
Date TBD - Service Activity:
Art for Nursing Home
Residents

WOOFs FROM THE PUP MINISTER

Hi, I'm Dallas! I'm Lexi's service dog, and you might even call me the Pup Minister here at WELCM! I love greeting new students at tabling, and being a conversation starter for someone who may be less comfortable talking with new people. My favorite event is Thursday Gatherings! I love spending time with college students, and sniffing out those that may need a puppy cuddle or a lick of encouragement. Woof!



ALUM SPOTLIGHT

Griffin Rohrer: class of 2018 Winthrop Admissions Counselor

Taylors, SC native Griffin served at WELCM as student board member and Region 9 Representative for Lutheran Student Movement from 2016-2018. She says:

"WELCM meant many things to me during my undergraduate experience. WELCM was a safe space to relax, have fun, form friendships, get involved in the community. All the experiences that WELCM provided allowed me to grow as a college student and are a big part of why I stayed in the area even after college. The community that WELCM led me to will forever be part of who I am every day."

Griffin is one of Winthrop's newest Admissions Counselors. We are so pleased for Griffin in her new job and proud of her service to Winthrop!



Fall Fun Day



We visited Bush n' Vine's pumpkin patch to start off our day. First-year student Clara says, "I enjoyed hanging out with everyone, and bonding over pumpkins and donuts!"



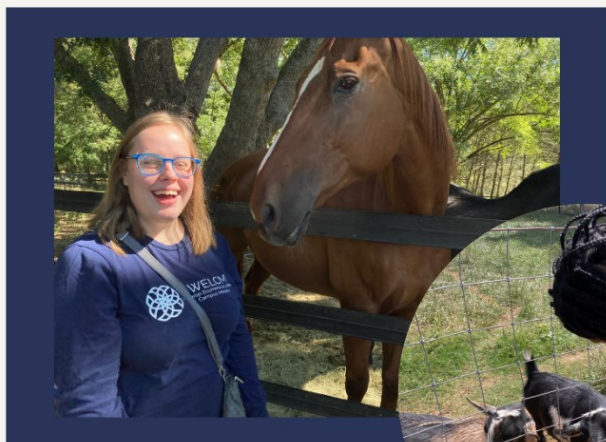
Courtney picks out a pumpkin to take home and decorate.



A trip to Windy Hill Orchard for some apple cider and donuts was the perfect way to end the day! Ellery says, "It was great to spend time with friends and enjoy the fall weather."



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Jamison says, "I enjoyed the farm with my friends from WELCM. Spending time with animals outside helped me reset for the coming week."



Students spent a "Creation Appreciation" day visiting two local farms, encountering cows, sheep, chickens, goats, and retired horses, and soaking up the peace of the countryside.

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