

Dear friends in Christ,

February-March 2018

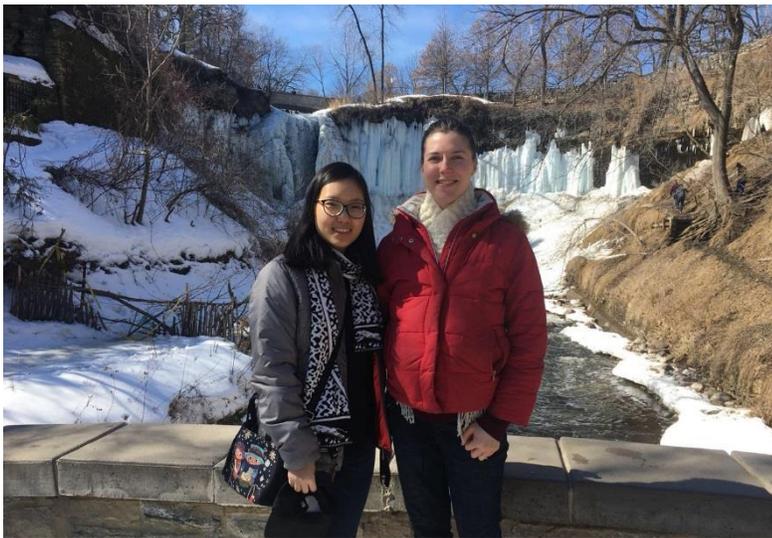
Our Sunday afternoon student group lunches in February and March have been well attended with good theological questions. In one, we took a closer look at the Apocrypha and noted where it shows up in the liturgy and discussed Luther's comments on its value and proper use. At another, we discussed the simultaneously corporate and individual roles of the Christian, which Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 12 when he describes Christians as members of one body, yet with many vocations.



*Pastor Kind leads the conversation at a Sunday afternoon student group talk.*

One frigid weekend in February we took a group of American and international students to Aitkin, MN for a bonfire, sledding, and potluck hosted by Immanuel Lutheran of Iron Hub. That Sunday everyone attended Divine Service there and heard Pastor Stolz preach from Luke's account of Jesus telling his disciples of his upcoming death and resurrection, and His healing of a blind man. In this passage, even though Jesus' disciples heard Christ tell them plainly that he would be crucified and rise again and yet did not understand, the blind man nonetheless saw more clearly than the disciples that Jesus was his Lord and Savior.

Around the same time, I began to meet up with a Korean student named Jihyun, who grew up Presbyterian and knows very little about other Christian denominations. However, she is interested to learn more about the differences between denominations, which has led to discussions about what sets Lutheranism apart.



*Exploring Minnehaha Falls with Quynh.*

Late in February, LCMS photographer Erik Lunsford visited our campus ministry to shadow Pastor Kind and me for a day. It was a joy to have him with us to share with students how his Christian faith influences his day-to-day life, and to see how he uses his skill in photography to serve and strengthen the Church.

Spring break provided opportunities to spend longer periods of time with students who remained on campus for the week. This was particularly good because some students tend to be more introverted, but after spending a

few hours together they feel comfortable bringing up deeper or more sensitive topics. Such was the case with Quynh, a Vietnamese student with whom I spent an afternoon exploring the Twin Cities. Quynh, a Buddhist, has told me in the past that she is not at all interested in Christianity. But at the same time, she thinks about others' worldviews. That afternoon she asked me about the Christian perspective on children. What do Christians think about birth control? Do they want to have lots of children? Obviously even among Christians the answers can be across the spectrum, but the Bible itself has the best answer: "Children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate." Psalm 127:3-5. And Matthew 18:10: (Jesus said) "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." I pray that through these conversations Quynh will come to know how Christ wants each of us to be a child of God to receive His love and salvation.

Cheryl is another student who professes no interest in Christianity but also wants to learn about other worldviews. Please pray for her as we continue to meet as often as schedules allow, that the Holy Spirit will lead our conversations to Christ and the Cross.

My due date is April 6, which is fast approaching. I am planning to take 12 weeks of maternity leave. God's blessings on you and the people God has placed around you with whom to share of his saving grace! Please feel free to email or write and share about yourself. Once I return to work (with our little girl in tow!), I would like to come visit you in person to thank you for your support of our campus ministry and outreach to international and national students. Let me know when I and my husband Peter and little one can come visit.

Christ is Risen!

Yours,

Rebecca Wagner



*Spending time with Cheryl at a baby shower hosted for our little girl.*