

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

We are writing on behalf of our students in Lutheran Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech and members of your congregation. As you know the end of our spring semester was marked by a violent incomprehensible tragedy. The students in our ministry have found islands of support in the campus community, churches, and Lutheran Campus Ministry. The losses they have experienced are varied, the ripple effect is broad. The semester is now at a close and we are sending them home with fresh grief. We suspect that the full impact of these events is yet to be realized. We return them to your good care, confident that they will find solace and healing.

The pastoral staffs of Lutheran Campus Ministry, Luther Memorial, and St. Michael congregations have found the challenges in the wake of such events to be outside of our experiences. For those of you who are in the Virginia Synod there will be a workshop at Synod Assembly that will address specific pastoral needs that people may have following such a crisis. This will be led by Lutheran Disaster Response. We invite you to participate. For those who may be outside the synod we are sending you a booklet that may help in tending to the needs of these young people. We hope that these resources will help you as you minister to our students.

We are thankful for your care and support. Your e-mails, phone calls, cards, banners, and the like have sustained us all. They have been tangible evidence of the larger community of faith that suffers when anyone experiences pain. We are grateful for your prayers. We will continue to need them. We anticipate that the real work for our community will begin when the students return for the fall semester and on into the foreseeable future.

As the summer progresses please let us know how we can support you and how we can best prepare for our students as they return to Virginia Tech. With deep gratitude we thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ,