

# EMMAUS

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

Living Faith Through Community, Dialogue & Service

June 2017

[www.ecmum.org](http://www.ecmum.org)

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## Re-Claiming Our Faith *by John Lund*



In reflection, this has been one of the strongest years we have had in terms of leadership, organizing, participation, depth of conversations, and campus and community impact. It has been a long hard push of many events, retreats, dinners, banquets, rallies, and lots of meetings of course. But it has been a good year and even though we have over 18 students and young adults graduating and/or leaving our community it feels like we will be strong as we move into the fall. It continues to be true that many of our core group of students barely identify as Christian and that the students and young adults who we mostly are trying to connect with often don't identify as Christian at all any longer.

Yet, they are wanting for community, justice work, and spiritual grounding of some sort. Some are wanting a reclaimed Christianity, and others can't imagine what that might even look like. Often, they want to work for us and be part of our organizing and advocacy work. If I am open to it, we can bring on some really dynamic, passionate, and committed people to do great service/justice/ and advocacy work. They are just not fully Christian. I used to say that students had to be Christian (sort of) to live with us, or work with us. Now I ask if they are open to the conversations of inquiry, discovery and growth around spirituality and religion, so at least the door is open. I have to assume they are not sure about faith or even God, and maybe that is where they should be, given the world they grew up in.

It begs the question, "Are we a Christian group any longer?" Well, we still pray and we offer theological conversations, and do some Bible study. And we give opportunities for students to do Gospel reclaiming work if they want to; with a feminist, liberation, deep ecology, and decolonize lens to it. We also offer forms of grounding and worship. However, we walk a fine line: we don't start our work because we all love Jesus (that would be way too much for this group), or because we are Christians we need to... (again, they don't agree to the premise). Those might be my convictions because I consider the original story an indigenous and liberation movement. I still believe that if they get the raw version of the story without all the layers of Roman and Americanized imperialism, then they will want to be part of the story. Maybe that is true, but me having stake in getting them to identify as Christian is a hard place to be.

On the other hand, if we are not Christian, what is the grounding narrative and principles that we are working with? "Because we care" might be closer to what people believe, but it's rather unsatisfactory as a spiritual or community base. We aren't going to convert to anything else, and we aren't really "Nones" as the demographics claim. We basically become a group of "not them" or "disenfranchised Christians" or "ex-Christians". Maybe that has to be good enough. Maybe in the post-Christian world we can use the best from many sources and we need to discover a new narrative of humanity that has roots in Christianity and many other people as well. But to push back, if we are not claiming Christian, what are we giving up? Why are we letting our own religion be co-opted by others who make hideous judgements about everyone else, or worse yet coddled into gentle cooing that says and does nothing significant? Perhaps we have to own the co-option of our own selves. Maybe we are afraid to actually join the movement and go all in. I would rather play it safe while I have kids in school. Let me get them through college and then I will take a few more risks. Maybe claiming Christianity in its raw form asks too much of us. How far are we willing to go?

It seems that if we are going to reclaim the movement, we have to be ready to go. We can't just talk liberation and justice and equality and deep ecology and diversity; we have to be in the work ourselves if we are going to invite others to see what we see and go for the ride. I realize it's never just in or out. To the degree that I can take risks and invest in the work, others engage and get invested and enthused. Recently our board chair told a prospective board member that our group is more about living out Christian than saying we are Christian or trying to define it. He said that we just do it and the rest just sorts out. I am ok with that for now, but not satisfied. I would also like to help people find their way back to that grounding story of liberation and God's action in the world. Maybe it's a fanciful dream I have, partly because I work for an organized religion. But I also think about what will sustain people and community for years and generations to come. We need that compelling story of hope and the Jesus story could be that, if we can get through all the layers of history. I don't know if it's too late or if we can, but for now it's still worth the try. What do you all think?

# EMMAUS CAMPUS MINISTRY

[ecmum.org](http://ecmum.org)

## STAFF

**Rev. John Lund**  
ECLA Campus Pastor  
(406) 396-4974  
[john.lund@umontana.edu](mailto:john.lund@umontana.edu)

**Bethany Youngblood**  
Payroll and Accounting

**Alicia Fowler**  
Communications, Finance, Development  
(406) 549-7821  
[ecmumt@gmail.com](mailto:ecmumt@gmail.com)

**Aurora Boylan**  
Graphic Design

**Abby Huseth**  
Faith & Climate Action

**Confluence  
Outreach Worship**  
Alishka Gusky

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### We welcome two new board members:

Kathleen Heiskell, graduate student in social work

Allison DeJong, Our Savior's Lutheran, Bonner

Also, thanks to Peter Olsen and Char Alonas for their service on our board!!

Also, thanks to Mick Hanson and Adrian Hoyer for their continued work on our renovation team!

**Emmaus Campus Ministry is a ministry of ELCA Lutherans in partnership with the Episcopalians and United Church of Christ. We are Reconciled in Christ Ministry, welcoming students of all perspectives and identities.**



# STUDENT TESTIMONIES



I connected with Emmaus through our alternative spring-break trip to Portland in 2015. Emmaus is welcoming, open-minded, and community-oriented. I wanted to become a part of and live at Emmaus. So I did during my senior year in college. At Emmaus, I met new friends and engaged in a vibrant and dynamic community lifestyle. Falling into ice cold water seemed to be a theme of my involvement at Emmaus: first in Portland on an April day, second on a recent whitewater rafting trip. Looking back, it probably was my personalized baptism. I thought I

was dying on both occasions. However, I lived. It was liberating, and really, I became less stressed out about trivial concerns. On a more serious tone, my involvement at Emmaus and conversations with Pastor John helped me realize that personal achievement was only one aspect in life. I learned to have conversations with strangers we met during our Portland trip. I listened to their stories and related to them. Emmaus gave me an opportunity to experience social issues, such as poverty and prejudice. I now see how trivial my stress was to worry about every assignment, every point and every exam. I can't even remember most of them now. Involvement at Emmaus broadened the scope of my horizons and strengthened my belief in social responsibility. I reach for a higher achievement not only to satisfy my own goals, but also to obtain better capability to give back to the society we live in. Yes, I get stressed out and frustrated and uncertain at times. But there always has been people at Emmaus willing to listen to me, whether it is Pastor John or my beloved friends. Thank you for being here for me.

*Cara Zhou*, 2017 graduate in pre-med and will be attending medical school at the University of Washington (at MSU) in the fall

I first heard about Emmaus a few years ago when a friend told me about their wild spring break trip, and encouraged me to come on the next one. Wild, you ask? Yes, it's still pretty wild to spend your whole spring break volunteering and talking about social justice. But at the time that was just the sort of wild I needed. I came back from our trip to Vancouver with more questions than I brought, not only about poverty, but about the possibilities of advancing social justice through the church. Up until then, I hadn't really met Christians my age interested in living out the principles of the Gospel.



*Eamon Ormseth*

I graduated and traveled before coming back to Missoula a few years later, when we were busy launching our Muslim ally group SALAM, or Standing Alongside America's Muslims. I jumped right in, excited about the possibilities of organizing with faith communities. In the fall, I became the interfaith organizer, and as I've worked with faith communities, I've come to appreciate the breadth and depth of Christianity. I also learned valuable organizing skills as SALAM rode a wave of public sentiment following the election. Emmaus, or E-Mouse House as we like to call it due to the prevailing pronunciation Emmaus on campus, has been a place for me to explore questions of faith, my own spirituality, and the possibility of reclaiming Christianity. I'm excited to announce I'll be continuing my journey by serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission Program next year. Please consider supporting my trip by making a donation at <http://support.elca.org/goto/eamondo> or with a check to the ELCA with "Eamon Ormseth - GCS3347" written in the memo line.

# EMMAUS SNAPSHOTS



*Emmaus Lochsa Trip Group*



*Congratulations to Natalie Faltin, our former seminary intern, who married Chris Faltin at FLBC on May 20 with Pastor Lund officiating.*



*Rafting on the Lochsa River*



*Confluence group making pizzas*

## **Partners: In our work with these ventures we have developed numerous partners in our work, both on campus and in the community.**

1. **Campus partners** include the Branch Diversity Center coordinating committee, Student Involvement Network, Diverse U planning board, Davidson Honors College, the Office for Civic Engagement, Social Work department, Religious Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Lambda, American Indian Student Services, and the Association of Campus Ministers.
2. **Key partner Congregations:** These are core partners with us: Our 7 ELCA Lutheran congregations in the area, UCC Missoula, Holy Spirit Episcopal; the Montana Synod of the ELCA
3. **Secondary congregational partners:** These are congregations that we worked with on various projects through the year with deeper engagement: Har Shalom Jewish Congregation, Unitarian Universalist, the two Methodist congregations, the Greek Orthodox church, four Roman Catholic congregations, and the Presbyterian church in town.
4. **Agencies and Non-profit partners:** Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, YWCA, Empower Montana, Missoula Urban Indian health Center, Salvation Army, Soft Landing Missoula (immigrant advocacy), Missoula Rising, 350.org, the Sierra Club, Climate Smart Missoula, Indian People's Action, the Poverello, Family Promise, Earth Ministry

## **Many thanks to our Staff and Interns**

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Colter Murphy:</b> Peer minister, outreach worship team, community events</li> <li>2. <b>Lindsey Buck:</b> Friends in Need events, Queer advocacy events, Spring Break organizer, outreach worship</li> <li>3. <b>Maya Overman:</b> Outreach worship, community meals, area youth events</li> <li>4. <b>Alishka Gusky:</b> Outreach worship coordinator, community meals</li> <li>5. <b>Alicia Fowler:</b> Emmaus administrator and communications</li> <li>6. <b>Bethany Youngblood:</b> Bookkeeper</li> <li>7. <b>Eamon Ormseth:</b> Interfaith organizer, SALAM, and Confluence leader</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. <b>Abby Huseeth:</b> Faith and Climate Action organizer, Confluence leader</li> <li>9. <b>Jesse Weis:</b> Helped develop Faith and Climate curriculum</li> <li>10. <b>Amanda Nelson:</b> Confluence leader</li> <li>11. <b>Luke Stappler:</b> Confluence leader</li> <li>12. <b>Erik Sand:</b> Confluence leader, area youth-Pac</li> <li>13. <b>Abby Lynes:</b> Outreach Worship leader</li> <li>14. <b>Natalie Newberry:</b> Outreach worship leader</li> <li>15. <b>PJ Willett:</b> Outreach worship leader</li> <li>16. <b>Ilona Csik:</b> Outreach worship leader</li> <li>17. <b>Kathleen Heiskell:</b> Jump in volunteer for everything</li> </ol> |
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# Program Highlights from 2016-17

- 1. Emmaus student community:** we have two houses with 11 resident students. This group commits to meeting weekly, engagement in hospitality, and be the core of our Emmaus community.
- 2. Faith and Action fall course:** We offered this seminar as an upper level social work course.
- 3. Outreach worship team:** We had 12 different students or young adults lead worship and give the message in 8 different congregations across Montana.
- 4. Local youth events:** we have 6 partner congregations that have youth leaders who collaborate together in monthly Youth-Pac events. This year Maya organized two fall events that our campus ministry students put on for both middle-school and high-school youth that included dinner, service projects, worship, and deeper conversations about teen life and faith.
- 5. Friends in Need:** Lindsey was our coordinator for this program which includes our community service projects. She organized volunteer events at Habitat for Humanity, the Poverello homeless shelter, at a local senior center, and quarterly with Family Promise which is a rotating family shelter at churches. We estimate about 20-30 students who participated in these events.
- 6. Interfaith work:** Eamon was our interfaith organizer for Emmaus. This position includes being the organizer for our Muslim ally group called SALAM (standing alongside America's Muslims). SALAM has a full working group made of UM faculty, students, staff, community members, clergy and church folks. They organized a Celebrate Islam Week in April of 16 and offered many speaker engagements, workshops, church conversations, and speaker panels in the fall.
- 7. Anti-Racism Work:** Emmaus was a partner in planning the MLK community celebration with Empower Montana, the YWCA and campus representatives. We also sent two of our young adults, Eamon Ormseth and Erik Sand, to an anti-racism training course so that they could lead a group for us in the winter.
- 8. Faith and Climate Action Montana:** Abby Huseeth served as our coordinator. She has been a graduate student in the Environmental Studies program and also a member of Our Saviors Lutheran in Bonner. We have been able to help 6-8 congregations build green teams, do some legislative advocacy in the winter, and have held quarterly Faith and Climate Action training and support events. We continue with a solid working group and are entering a phase of evaluation and visioning.
- 9. LGBTQ advocacy and support:** Lindsey Buck was our student leader in this work. This year we teamed up with the Diversity Council at UM to host a Pride Week workshop called Queer and Christian; How Christians can move from judgement to embrace through Biblical interpretation. We also co-hosted Pastor Megan Rohrer from San Francisco to join us for a week of Trans-Visibility. Megan was a keynote speaker, workshop leader, and worship leader for us while she was here.
- 10. Confluence:** This is a group for those who are struggling with the dominant Christian narratives exclusivism, purity, and prosperity, but are still seeking a way to stay connected to the faith, have strong community, and serve others and seek justice in meaningful ways. Part of this work is reclaiming a Gospel of liberation and life for all people; part is building open and honest community that welcomes all people; and part is engaging in the harder social issues of our time. This summer we enter into a visioning and planning phase for the fall.
- 11. Pastor connections on campus and in the community:** In addition to the above programming, Pastor Lund taught a one credit Honor College freshman course called Finding Your Path with 20 students. We also hosted a monthly Emmaus Lunch program with different guest speakers to talk about various topics of study or work that they are involved in. In addition, Pastor Lund serve on the board of the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative which works with about 20 congregations and various agencies to help them work together to address community issues such as housing and prison re-entry.

# 2016-2017 Financial Highlights

*This was an exciting year of growth, development of new projects, and renovations to our properties!  
We are pleased to share our financial highlights with you!*

## Emmaus Campus Ministry Profit & Loss January 2017

### Income Statement

Feb '16 - Jan 17

#### Revenue

Donations by Individuals	14,260
Congregational Gifts	14,419
Organizations / Groups Gifts	1,525
Endowment Distributions	2,391
Grants	72,724
Fundraiser Income	17,316
Rental Income	42,425
Trips & Retreats Income	3,785
Other Income	1,738

**Total Income** 170,582

#### Expense

Operations / Business Expenses	28,955
Building Expenses	5,535
Fundraising Expenses	3,959
Salaries / Wages, Benefits, & Payroll Expenses	116,817
Annual Ark Buy-Out Payment (7 of 10)	18,766

**Total Expense** 174,032

**Net Income** -3,449

### Balance Sheet

Jan 31, 17

#### ASSETS

Current Assets	176,857
Fixed Assets	864,386

**TOTAL ASSETS** 1,041,242

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

##### Liabilities

Current Liabilities	1,571
Long Term Liabilities	124,621

**Total Liabilities** 126,192

**Total Equity** 915,050

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 1,041,242

- We were blessed to receive an incredible \$14,260 from 76 households including Thrivent Choice donors. Wow!
- We are honored that 28 churches and ministries supported our work, totaling \$14,419.
- 9 businesses sponsored us at Oktoberfest including:
  - Five Valleys Financial Associates
  - Mann Mortgage
  - Karin Fodness LCSW
  - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
  - Rhino Bar
  - Superior Hardwoods
  - Jus Chillin
  - Ruby's Café
- Thrivent Financial
- We had 9 grantors donating \$34,857 PLUS the MT Synod & ELCA grants totaling \$37,867

### Grants Received February 2016- January '17

*We were blessed to receive support from generous granting organizations this past year. Thank you!*

ELCA	\$8056
MT Synod	\$29811
Lilly	\$23667
Episcopal Diocese	\$4100
Your Cause	\$400
Hetzel	\$3250
Thrivent	\$1885
Atonement Missoula	\$250
Our Savior's Bonner	\$360

**We couldn't do it without the support of our synod churches, ecumenical partners, and individual contributors. Thank you! We hope to keep the momentum going and the presence of Emmaus strong on the UM campus.**

**As always, we welcome your thoughts, prayers, and donations.**

# EMMAUS CAMPUS MINISTRY

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Emmaus Campus Ministry at the  
University of Montana

*Congratulations to our graduates and others leaving Emmaus!*

- 1. Colter Murphy:** wildlife biology(working at FLBC this summer and then heading to Cambodia with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission)
- 2. Reagan Colyer:** Journalism, grad school at UM for another year of running cross country)
- 3. Tucker Costain:** Biology, one more semester at Emmaus
- 4. Micah Drew:** Journalism, exercise science; grad student in the fall at UM and will run cross country one more year
- 5. Cara Zou:** Pre-med; will be going to medical school at Montana State (through U of Washington)
- 6. Ilona Csik:** Micro-biology; will stay in Missoula and work at a microbrew and live at Emmaus
- 7. Jon Erler:** Secondary Ed teaching credentials; heading to the Seattle area for a teaching job. Will work at FLBC one more summer!
- 8. Abby Huseeth:** Masters in Environmental Studies, staying in Missoula
- 9. Lindsay Buck:** Economics, moving to Bozeman for love and work
- 10. Maya Overman**
- 11. Eamon Ormseth:** served a gap year doing Interfaith organizing; going to Jerusalem with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission
- 12. Stephanie Parker:** Biology, starting grad school at Chico State in the fall
- 13. Amanda Brateng:** Masters of Social Work: getting married in July to Luke, looking for work
- 14. Luke Stappler:** Masters in Environmental Education, Idaho; getting married to Amanda and looking for work
- 15. Erik Sand:** Confluence leader, area youth-Pac; heading to Bozeman to guide rivers and explore
- 16. Jesse Weis:** Psychology, helped develop Faith and Climate curriculum; got into a PhD program at the University of Alabama in psychology.
- 17. Lindsey Trent,** Masters of Accounting, heading to Portland for job
- 18. Augusta McDonnell,** Journalism, full time anchor at KPAX, Missoula
- 19. Emily Eaton,** International Development, exploring options