



COLLEGE MINISTRY MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF LUTHERAN MINISTRIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION OF NYC

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

FALL 2016

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This September, tens of thousands of students began their college and graduate studies at universities in New York City. As a result, late August found neighborhoods and campuses across the city swarming with excited, overwhelmed students and their families, who came from across the country and world to move into new dorm rooms and apartments.

Knowing that move-in time is stressful, The Vine and its partners wanted to do something to make new students and their families feel welcomed and connected in New York City. With temperatures in the 90s and high humidity,

ecumenical branch in Morningside Heights, handed out over 500 sno-cones to new students and their families. In addition to the refreshing treats, LaMP students also gave out neighborhood guides full of helpful tips, from where to find the best pizza to where to find welcoming churches.

A few days later, The Vine partnered with Canterbury

Downtown Episcopal Campus Ministry to greet over 200 new NYU students with free sno-cones in Washington Square Park. Vine Pastor Becca Seely and Episcopal colleagues chatted with new students about their orientation, the stresses of moving, their faith

At first some students were wary, assuming anyone giving out something free also wanted to sell them something or collect their personal information. "But when they talked with us," Pr. Seely reflected, "it was so powerful to be able to offer something truly free with no strings attached. It was amazing to see the students realize this and have this small experience of grace."

When August rolls around again, The Vine and its branches plan to make sno-cones of grace a back-to-school tradition. Please be in touch if you want to help bring sno-cones of grace to a college campus near you!



Pr. Seely and Episcopal Chaplain Intern, Hank Tuell, greet brand new NYU students with sno-cones.

the solution seemed obvious: why not give out welcome sno-cones to newcomers?

During Move In Days at Columbia and Barnard, students from LaMP, The Vine's

traditions—and, of course, what syrup flavors taste best.

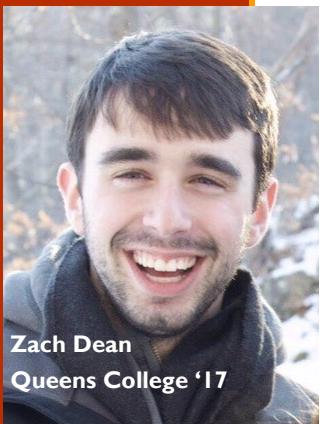
Save the Date for Trivia Night!

LMHE's 2nd Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser for The Vine will take place Friday, February 10, 2017.



LaMP Students, Michael Hammett and Huiqiao Yao, welcome an incoming student to the neighborhood.

Student Profile: Zach Dean



Zach Dean
Queens College '17

"I think sometimes people my age want to be too independent. Being part of a faith community humbles me, and allows me to say 'I need help.'"

Zach Dean is a Senior at Queens College. He studies history with a focus on the history of Jewish peoples. Zach is an active leader in The Vine NYC and The Vine Queens College. In addition to his studies, Zach is a gifted church musician and serves as Student Council President of Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Ministries.

Where are you from? I am from Wantagh, NY, a town that is ON (definitely not *in*) Long Island.

Did you grow up in church? I grew up going to church and when I was three, I screamed and cried because I didn't want to be "baptized" in front of a group of people. God was an important part of my whole life, but when I was a kid and a teenager, I didn't realize it because to me, God was waking me up on Sunday mornings. From my mid-teens until now, my

awareness of God has only increased. God wakes me up every day, and for that I am grateful. I am more aware of God and my faith than ever.

As a student, why does being part of a faith community matter to you? I think that sometimes people my age want to be too independent—I know I am guilty of that. Being part of a faith community humbles me, and allows me to say that 'I need help' sometimes, which I think is contrary to how society thinks. Also, a student's first priority should be to learn. My faith community has always been a place where I have learned so much — so to do it in a college environment makes it matter that much more.

What impact has being part of The Vine branch at Queens College had on your life? The Vine Queens College is a great

place to talk about faith in my school community, both with others that share my beliefs and those that do not. Not only is that safe space created for all, but it also allows me to grow more comfortable in talking about my faith at school. I find myself talking about my faith more and more amongst my peers that are not involved with The Vine.

What draws you to be involved both in a congregation and campus ministry? Ultimately, the Spirit. But what I get from each is different. From a congregation, I am fed spiritually and mentally for the week ahead. In the college community, I am able to share more than I would on a Sunday morning. I appreciate the opportunity to have a place to be filled and a place to allow the Spirit to flow.

Many blessings on your senior year, Zach!

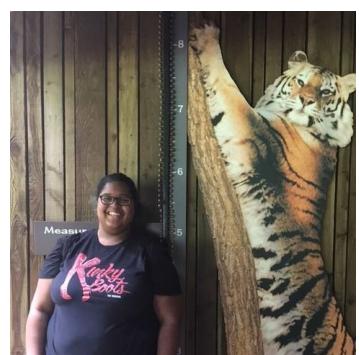
Snapshots: Summer Outings

In the summer, The Vine gathers students for fellowship outings to explore New York City.



In June, The Vine took a **Kayak Outing** on the Hudson River in Midtown Manhattan.

In July, The Vine solved puzzles and discovered clues to escape from a **Mystery Room**. The group nearly freed itself in the hour provided ... but not quite.



In August, The Vine visited the **Bronx Zoo** and witnessed the delightful diversity of animal life God has created.

Exploring Vocation in the Wilderness

This fall, The Vine NYC went on its first ever fall retreat to the Catskill Mountains. Students from five college and universities spent a crisp, beautiful weekend at Koinonia Retreat Center in Highland Lake from September 30 to October 2.

Throughout the weekend, students engaged in activities and conversations centered on themes of vocation and calling. Participants had the opportunity to discuss the many questions

that arise in student life, including what to study and what professions to pursue, through the lens of Christian vocation and to discern together where God may be calling them.

In addition to rich conversation and worship, the group also took a rafting trip on the Delaware River, built campfires, hiked, took a hay ride and did puzzles together. Michelle Goff, Columbia College '19, said, "It was great chance to clear my head and get away from

the stresses of college for a little bit. We really bonded over our treacherous rafting excursion and conversations around discernment. I felt really connected to every person there by the time the weekend was over."

Participants came from The Vine NYC citywide community and from its local



Students get ready for a day exploring the outdoors.



Vine retreatants conquer the rushing Delaware River!

branches, including LaMP and The Vine Queens College. With the support of the Lutheran Crusader Fund, The Vine was able to offer this opportunity at low cost to students. This retreat kicked off a yearlong emphasis on vocation for The Vine. Future plans include a visit from a seminary representative to lead further conversation, service projects and a *Faith in Action* spring break trip to Washington, D.C.

**Students from 5
colleges and
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retreat this fall.**

Board Bids Farewell to Rev. Paul Block, Welcomes New Board President

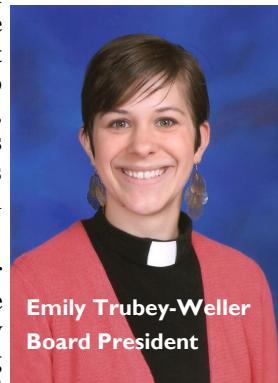
This past summer was a bittersweet time for LMHE's Board of Directors. The board said goodbye to its President, The Rev. Paul Block, who had served LMHE faithfully in multiple roles for 8 years. Pr. Block moved west this summer to begin a new call in Henderson, NV. Pr. Block and Linda Kelly, another longtime board member who transitioned off this summer, were instrumental leaders during a time of change for the organization. Without their creative vision, energy and commitment to college ministry, The Vine NYC would not exist today. At its May meeting, the Board

gave thanks for their service and sent them off with blessings and well wishes.

While it was certainly difficult to say goodbye, the LMHE Board was delighted to elect a gifted new President at its regular meeting in September. The Rev. Emily Trubey-Weller of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Hicksville has stepped into this role with enthusiasm and passion. While relatively new to the LMHE Board, Pr. Trubey-Weller is very familiar with the ministry, having served as Program Director of The Vine NYC during the 2014-2015 school year. She reflected, "I am so

grateful to the Board Members before me who worked hard to develop a new vision for college ministry in NYC. As an organization, we are now able to implement that vision, and to work through the real, day-to-day challenges and joys it brings. Lots of good things are in store for LMHE."

Pr. Trubey-Weller takes the helm as the board begins a new Missional Planning Process to help LMHE faithfully cultivate The Vine and plan for a sustainable future.



**Emily Trubey-Weller
Board President**



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of New York City**

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Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education, New York City, Inc. is a pan-Lutheran, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. With its roots reaching back to 1912, LMHE was founded in 1972 to establish, maintain, support, develop and promote Christian ministry to students in the greater New York City area. Flowing from the Lutheran tradition, the mission of LMHE is to build a welcoming community of college students for the purpose of forming servants of Christ through worship, pastoral care, study and spiritual friendship.

In 2014, LMHE launched **The Vine NYC** college ministry, a citywide Christian community for college and graduate students from campuses across the greater New York City area.

Become a Partner in College Ministry

Do you believe that college ministry is vitally important—both for today's students and for the future of the Church? If so, please prayerfully consider making a one-time or recurring donation to LMHE. Your gift will make it possible for us to reach more students in Metro New York and to continue to provide students with regular opportunities to worship God, serve their neighbors and grow in Christian faith.

To make a gift, please give online at thevinenyc.org/support or

Detach and mail the form below along with a check made out to LMHE:

-
- Yes! I would like to support The Vine NYC College Ministry
 I will pray for The Vine NYC and its students
 I will commit to make a gift of \$_____ One-time Monthly

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

*Please make checks payable to Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education,
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