

Putting the 'Intentional' in Christian Community
Lutheran Campus Ministry, University of Alberta

“My name is Katie Brager, and I had the privilege of living at Martin Luther House this past year and will be living there again this coming school year. I have a Bachelor of Science degree from Augustana Campus, and I am currently completing my Education degree on the North Campus of the U of A in Edmonton. When I was looking into student housing in Edmonton, I remembered reading about a place referred to as an ‘intentional Christian community.’ Granted, the list of expectations for living there seemed daunting, at times borderline excessive, but I decided to apply anyway.

“The application process required a letter in which applicants describe what it is that they hope to get out of living at the House. As I was reapplying this past April, I read over this first letter I had written to see if my original objectives matched my lived experience.

I am thrilled to report that I received everything I had hoped for and more. I felt like a part of the community from the first day and developed friendships that I believe will last a lifetime. Getting to meet and converse with other young people about God and our place in this world, I have also found that my faith and spirituality grew and developed considerably over this time, and I feel closer to God and Our Lord Jesus Christ than I have since my early childhood. I enjoyed the opportunities to live in service to my peers, friends, and the greater Edmonton community. The leadership opportunities helped me to develop confidence in my abilities to lead and the service opportunities increased my feelings of belonging and gratitude.

And that list of expectations that was so overwhelming at first—some of those expectations became my favourite parts of the week! Sunday evening worship to start the week grounded in God and fellowship; House suppers on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday when we could all just forget about school for a few minutes and enjoy each other’s company; and Tuesday night Lutheran Student Movement suppers, where we welcomed the greater campus Christian community into our home for celebration.

It was truly a blessing to live at the Martin Luther House. I can feel the Potter’s hands shaping me into the person I am supposed to be every moment I spend in connection with that ‘intentional Christian community.’” *(from Katie’s speech at Synod Convention, 2014)*

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