



Dear Friends in Christ,

It is an honor to write to you on behalf of Carthage College to share information about the mission and ministry happening on campus.

This is the second year of our Center for Faith and Spirituality (CFS) student staff. These students are critical to growing ministries on campus. They provide programming in their residence halls, help students to connect to faith organizations, and lend a listening ear when needed.

A Peer Ministry retreat in October proved empowering for our student leaders. Ministries are growing at the CFS. Each week, 40-plus students, faculty and staff attend our Interfaith Lunch. The attendance at our Wednesday night program, Open Table, has grown, along with our Sunday service at 4 p.m. The youth outreach team, CUMBYA, hosted both a confirmation group and a group of 4th and 5th graders on campus last fall.

We continue to do all of these ministries under the theme “What is your story?” The story of Jesus urges us to gather together, hear God’s word, take part in God’s supper, and to share our lives and our stories with one another. We continue to seek ways to do that each week.

As part of the Luther 500: Here I Stand celebration on campus, the Roman Catholic lay worker and I will host a book club to discuss “One Hope: Re-membering the Body of Christ”. Protestant and Catholic students will come together to hear one another’s faith journey stories and to see what we share in common.

This spring, Luther 500 continues with a keynote address by Eboo Patel, founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core. Next fall, on the weekend of Oct. 20-21, the Rev. Anna Madsen, Ph.D., from OMG: Center for Theological Conversation, along with the Rev. Andrea Ng’weshemi, Carthage’s Jerald C. Brauer chair for Lutheran studies, will lead a conversation about what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century. In addition, the College has commissioned a new musical composition for our 2017 Christmas Festival and the H. F. Johnson Gallery of Art will feature an exhibition of the St. John’s Bible.

There are many things to celebrate, both at the Center for Faith and Spirituality and throughout the campus. Here are a few other Carthage highlights:

- ❖ \$150,000 grant from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation to create a robust four-year Urban Teaching Preparation Program.
- ❖ Carthage was added to the list of Top Fulbright producers. This year we have four scholars in the program in Germany (2), Taiwan, and Czech Republic
- ❖ The simulation lab for the new nursing program opened for Spring Term 16-17.
- ❖ \$15 million gift was received from the Ms. Jan Tarble, the single largest gift in college history, for a distinctive career and welcome center.
- ❖ The 2016-2017 incoming class is the most diverse in the history of the college with 27% of the student coming from diverse backgrounds.
- ❖ A new Masters of Science program in business design and innovation has begun. The 39 credit program can be completed in as few as 10 months.
- ❖ Our NCAA Division III men’s team had a great season with four teams going into tournaments: volleyball, soccer, lacrosse and tennis.

Please keep Carthage in your prayers as we continue to strive in our mission of Seeking Truth, Building Strength, Inspiring Service – Together.

The Rev. Kara Baylor, Campus Pastor / Director of Congregational Relations