



Until 1990, convocations and chapel services were held in the CLC gym/auditorium.

Love of Christ, Truth, and Freedom*

Samuelson Chapel, built in 1990, serves as the focal point of spiritual life on campus and the center of Campus Ministry programs. Its construction marked a significant milestone for California Lutheran University. Worship, however, has always been at the center of the University's life.

California Lutheran College was the inspiration of five national Lutheran church bodies that have since merged into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. When representatives of the five churches met on July 9, 1957, they shared their passion to establish a place where "Love of Christ, Truth, and Freedom" would be taught, learned and explored.

In 1959, when California Lutheran College was born, the founders realized that educating and serving the needs of the world as a ministry of the Lutheran Church would be no small task. They gathered dreamers, visionaries, caregivers and caretakers to aid in imagining how the

Founding Churches

- Augustana Lutheran Church**
- American Lutheran Church**
- United Lutheran Church in America**
- United Evangelical Lutheran Church**
- Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*"Love of Christ, Truth, and Freedom" appears on the University seal.



Several members of the clergy and university friends gather at the dedication of Samuelson Chapel in 1990. L to R: The Rev. Robert Miller, Beverly Anderson, Dr. Ernie and Muriel Gulsrud, the Rev. Dr. Howie Wennes, Joan and the Rev. Dr. Gaylerd Falde, Ruth and the Rev. Carl Segerhammar.

fledgling school could carry forward the rich tradition of Lutheran higher education in the Southwest.

Living Faith in a Vibrant Community

Campus Ministry carries out that tradition by offering students opportunities to discover the presence of God in their lives and helps them to nurture their identity, faith and calling.

During the formative years of the college, pastoral care was provided by Dean of Students the Rev. Lyle Gangsei, who also served as the chaplain. By 1969 the college, sensing a need for a full-time pastor, called the Rev. Gerald K. Swanson to serve. In 1973 the Lord of Life student congregation was established as a community of Christian believers drawn together as a witnessing, worshiping, learning and serving congregation.

The Rev. Mark Knutson was called to lead Campus Ministry in 1986. Building upon the strong foundation laid by Swanson, Pastor Knutson initiated the Urban Plunge, giving students another avenue to carry out social ministry and provide service in the inner city.

In 2000, the Revs. Scott '76 and Melissa '77 Maxwell-Doherty became the first alumni to be called as campus pastors. Like their predecessors, they shared a desire to provide opportunities for people to encounter Christian faith in both thought and practice through worship, learning and service.

Visible Expression of Mission

Samuelson Chapel's prominent sanctuary, with its sweeping 75-foot spire topped with a 7-foot cross, is the tallest building on campus and one of the tallest in Thousand Oaks. The stunning edifice and the worship that happens there bear witness to California Lutheran University as a ministry of the Lutheran Church. Under the shadow of the chapel's cross, today's mission and ministry of CLU continues the legacy of the founders, gathering people in to grow in and share their faith, and sending them out to serve the needs of a hurting world.

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CLU HISTORY IN THE MAKING PROJECT

Ritch K. Eich, Ph.D., Chair; Michael L. Adams '72; Carol Keochekian '81; Della Greenlee '83; Interim President Howie Wennes, D.Min.