



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Dear Supporter of Lutheran Campus Minister at Georgia Tech's Grace House,

"We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love."

Friends in Christ, as we are one in mission and one in call as Christ church, I give thanks for your profound ministry and partnership in the Gospel; through the support you offer and your investment into the transformational ministry of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Georgia Tech's Grace House. Whether you are a student who has been richly engaged by this ministry, a passion collective intern, a coffee drinker recipient, a donor, a volunteer, a church supporter, a pastor, an alumnus, or any other. Thank you!

Campus ministry was one of the many avenues that shaped, challenged, and affirmed my own call to public ministry in the church. If it were not for my own experience in campus ministry, I would not be where I am today. My story is not any different from so many across our church. Grace House is one of those holy ministries that lives out its mission of "Transforming Students, the Church, and the World through the Love of Jesus."

In addition to my thanks for all that has been accomplished through this ministry, **I am asking you to join me in committing to and supporting this ministry with your financial gifts, prayers, and presence.**

I'm excited to tell you that Grace House received a matching donation up to \$20,000.

This means that every dollar YOU give will be doubled!

Give now and double your support at ATLLutheran.org/double

Alternatively, you can mail support to Lutheran Campus Ministry at Georgia Tech, PO Box 55590, Atlanta, GA 30308.

Soli Deo Gloria

+The Reverend Kevin L. Strickland, Bishop



Grace House

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT GEORGIA TECH 2022 / 2023

ANNUAL
REPORT

TRANSFORMING
STUDENTS ❖ THE CAMPUS ❖ THE WORLD
THROUGH THE LOVE OF JESUS



Lutheran Campus Ministry at Georgia Tech's Grace House

TRANSFORMING

STUDENTS ✦ THE CAMPUS ✦ THE WORLD

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BECAUSE *TRANSFORMED* STUDENTS *TRANSFORM* THE WORLD.

TRANSFORMERS

Last Spring, one of our Grace House students and Passion Collective members graduated. It was a big day! Years of grueling work in school, of countless hours serving coffee and welcoming fellow students, were coming to fruition.

This student (now graduate) had trained as an environmental engineer. They soon accepted a role with an company that works heavily on Atlanta's civic infrastructure.

Now, whenever I see a newly paved road, I wonder if this student had a hand in making it happen. Quite literally, this person is transforming our city.

Georgia Tech's students change the world. Their fingerprints are all around our city, our country and our world. The list of notable alumni is long and illustrious. But as followers of Christ, we believe that it is not enough to make an impact – at a minimum it must be an impact that bears good fruit. Ideally, we want to see students making the Good News of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom more manifest in the world.



Grace House exists to equip students to make that kind of an impact – the kind of impact that goes beyond just making a mark and instead seeks lasting transformation.

A personal encounter with Christ's love is the first step to making that kind of transformation possible. We emulate Christ's incarnation and dwell among students. We serve coffee. We laugh together. We offer band-aids and nail polish remover. We welcome the young women in the middle of the night who have fled a party where they didn't feel safe. We pray with students who are processing another death by suicide on campus.

These are the moments where students both meet and deeply experience God's love. Our Bible studies, worship services and prayer gatherings are vital spaces where students take that encounter further and start to build a lasting relationship.

We strongly believe that when students experience the transformative power of Jesus' love, their impact is not only greater, but it is also qualitatively distinct from what they could achieve without this transformation.

Whether a student is just starting to explore their faith or has been on the journey for years, we are here to create spaces where God's love can transform them, because *transformed* students *transform* the world.

Your support is making this possible every day, and we are eager to see what God has in store for the coming year.

Rev. Andrew Rickel, Campus Pastor & Executive Director

BECAUSE TRANSFORMED STUDENTS TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

MORE THAN COFFEE

At Grace House we understand that in order to connect with students spiritually we need to attend to them holistically. Our programs are marked by radical love, safe inquiry and inclusive justice. They are designed to ensure that students encounter Christ's love through both word and deed every time they step into Grace House.

Here are a few ways we do that:

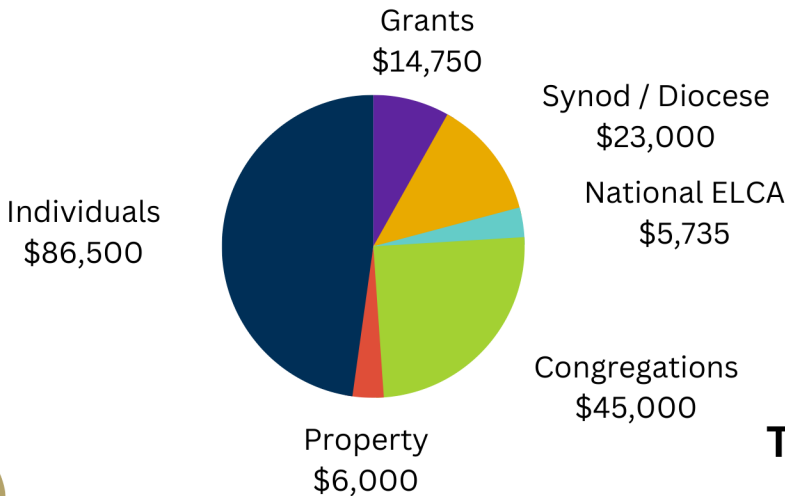
- Serving free coffee every week
- Small groups for Scripture study
- Weekly dinner and worship
- 1 on 1 meetings with students to discuss theology and life
- Free food + toiletries pantry on-site

In addition to these core practices, Georgia Tech itself has called upon us to address needs that the University cannot on their own. For example, we have been called upon to support timely and effective aid to students in crisis. We have also been asked to provide memorial services and pastoral care for the student body when a student dies by suicide.

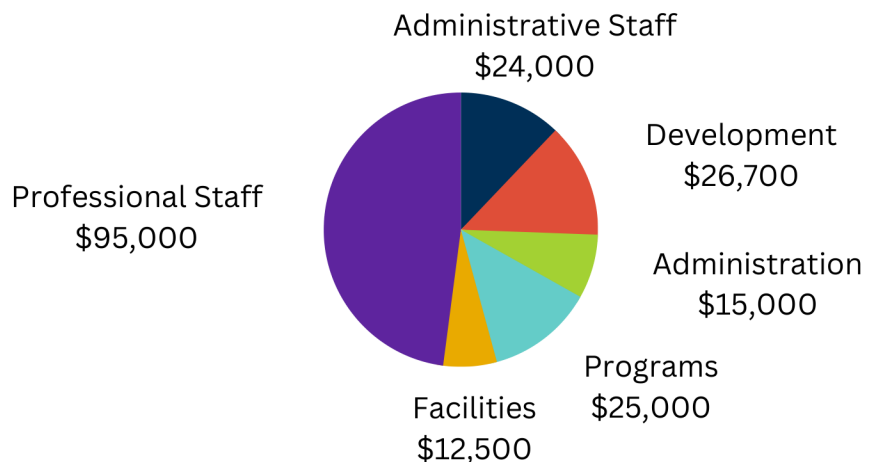


By caring for students in body, mind and spirit, we offer space for students to be transformed by God's love.

Total Income \$198,200



Total Expenses \$198,200



**GET TO KNOW OUR
STAFF & BOARD**
ATLLutheran.org/people

TRANSFORMING THE CAMPUS

In 2022, as Georgia Tech and the world began to reopen after the pandemic, so did Grace House. By remaining open, students continued to rely on and find us. During the 2022 / 2023 academic year we...

Welcomed over 400 students weekly



Served students 10,400 cups of coffee



Gathered for Worship 32 Times



Received visits from 17 Faith Leaders



Served 330 Meals to Students

before worship and during other events



Spent 510 Student Hours in Small Groups



Developed 6 Student Leaders

serving on our executive student leadership team



Distributed an Estimated 1 Metric Ton of Food

through our food pantry to students experiencing food insecurity



Catalyzed a New Social Justice Student Org



BECAUSE TRANSFORMED STUDENTS TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

TRANSFORMING STUDENTS



"Since I started coming to small groups, I feel like seeking God and spirituality in my life has become a joyful and loving process instead of a shameful one. I love being here!"

-El, Class of 2026

"Grace House has been one of the best things I've been a part of during my time here at Georgia Tech. I really noticed that the work that this place is doing is much greater than what is confined within the walls of this community but reaches out to the entire Georgia Tech student body."

-Ashleigh, Class of 2025



"Whether it's daily prayers, small groups, or even sharing an evening prayer and meal, everything about Grace House is just lovely and I love it here so much."

-Katherine, Class of 2024



"It's an experience that makes you feel valuable and respected, which is the same attitude with which we see Jesus approach so many marginalized people throughout his ministry. And it's this attitude that helps create a deeply genuine atmosphere of radical love and acceptance."

-Josh, Class of 2023



"I've been coming almost 2 years now and have been steadily getting more involved as it took a while for me to open up. I'd definitely say that they've challenged me while I've been there, and I'm confident I've added to them as well!"

-Alix, Class of 2026

TESTIMONIES



BECAUSE TRANSFORMED STUDENTS TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD



Rachel joined our worship gathering during the 2021 / 2022 academic year. They made an immediate impression. During a discussion on the Book of Revelation, Rachel dove into an in-depth explanation of the "tree of life" and the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Over the next few months, Rachel got to know Grace House and had many conversations with Pastor Andrew. They talked about their family, schooling, relationships and their views on faith. They wrestled with various theological concepts for years, including faith, salvation, judgment and the inerrancy of scripture. Rachel was seeking clear answers to these complex questions. They were open to exploring.

Over time, Rachel became more open to the possibilities of the Spirit. They embraced the mystery of faith while holding onto the foundational truths: God loves all creation, God calls us to do justice and love mercy, and God is not done working in the world.

Rachel sensed the Spirit calling them to teach particularly the younger generation. After graduating this spring, they will start a teaching position in Virginia. We are excited to see how they will grow and transform themselves and the world around them through their work!



TRANSFORMING

STUDENTS ✦ THE CAMPUS ✦ THE WORLD

THROUGH THE LOVE OF JESUS

**H Grace
House**

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