

Adam Umbarger's latest prayer letter from Bellin College and Lawrence University

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MINISTRY UPDATE FROM ADAM UMBARGER

## UMBARGER UPDATE



Lawrence students after our last large group of Winter Term

### Ministry in Digital Spaces

As campuses across the country face the threat of COVID-19 and move to online classes, I am praying and asking the Lord for what ministry will look like in the next few months. I am convinced that God can still use other means for us to train students, cultivate fellowship, and even do evangelism.

The first thing I want to be able to do is to help students grieve the things they are losing. For seniors, this comes as an abrupt end to their collegiate careers. Conservatory students put on an [impromptu rendition of this year's](#)

transition to online, and all students will miss the time spent together with friends and their campus community. Thankfully, the Lord knows our hurts and is our comforter in these challenging times.

Second, while we cannot be physically together, we can still meet and interact in ways in digital spaces. I am planning to use tools like Zoom and Calendly to train students and lead Bible studies. My hope is that we can continue to be salt and light. With many churches impacted and live-streaming or canceling services altogether, we have an opportunity to provide ways to interact and have fellowship. I hope my students will add their creativity and think of ways to continue building community and doing evangelism in digital spaces.

Lastly, I am also feeling the impact of this for my financial support. I was hoping to be able to travel back to Michigan and speak at my home church, River Terrace, where they take an offering for my work. Without this, I am facing a possible shortfall in my support. **Would you consider making an extra gift to help me meet my fundraising goals?**

### **How Can You Help?**

- I am praying for new and creative ways for me and my student leaders to continue to study God's Word and do evangelism. We expect the Holy Spirit to continue to work in the hearts of students. **Pray with me as we seek the Lord for guidance in this uncertain time.**
- The ability to use digital tools well comes with some additional costs for my budget. I am looking for financial support to help offset these costs for my work with students online. This will potentially add \$20/month to my budget. **Please consider making a gift to enhance ministry in digital spaces.**

In the midst of this uncertainty, we declare our trust in the Lord. **"The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does."** - Psalm 145:17

### **Give Today**

#### **Displacement for Students & Faculty**

This is an unusual time for both our students and faculty as they adjust to a new academic environment. Pray for students as they grieve the loss of being together, and as they prepare to take classes online. Pray to for faculty and staff who are



## What A Mighty God We Serve

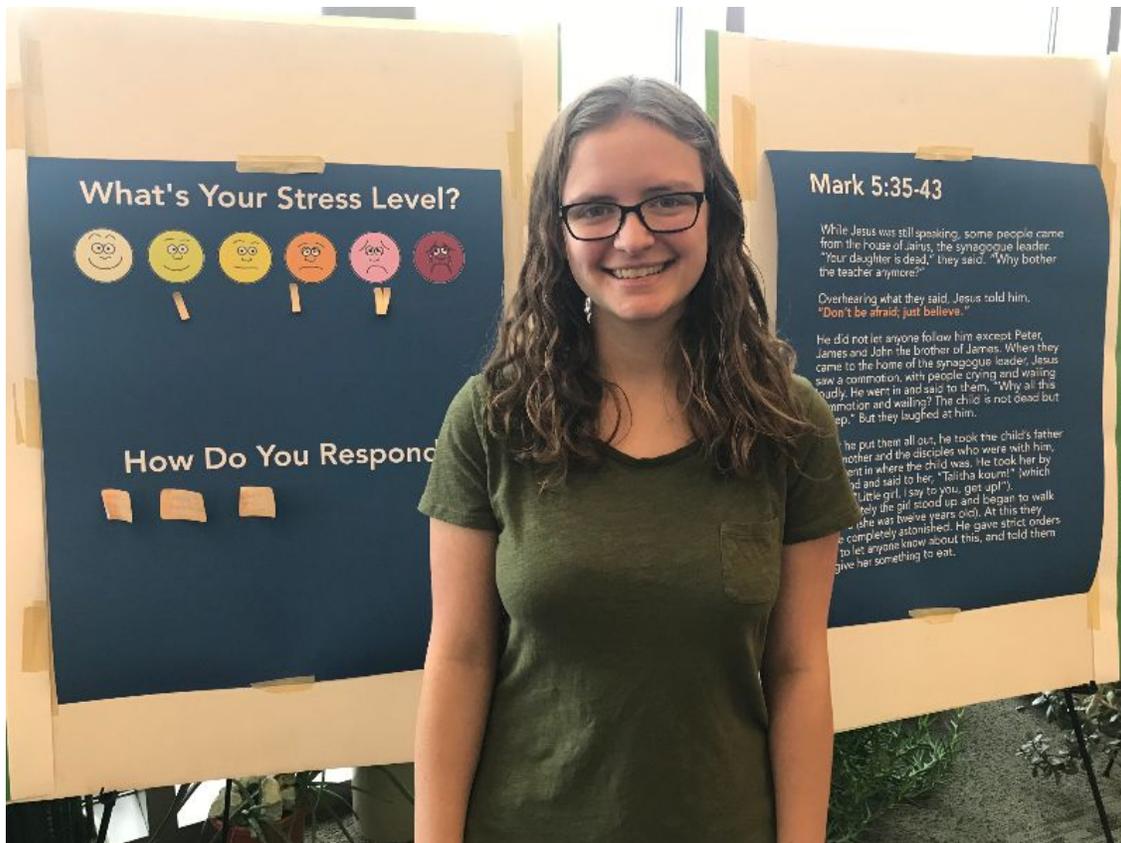
by Alison Umbarger

This evening, Nathan was singing the one line he remembers from a song he learned at daycare, "What a mighty God we serve." What a perfect thing to sing as we head into all this uncertainty with Coronavirus. It is amazing to see just all the events that have changed in a week's time. As I reflect, here are some of the things I am thankful for:

1. A chance to say good-bye to several Lawrence students as they headed to their respective homes in different states for the spring term. We caught the impromptu performance of Elijah for orchestra and choir as a whole family.
2. For now, work remains open, and I am able to provide for my family. Neenah Paper has sent all non-essential people home to work, but engineers are still considered essential. I have been filling

3. Toddlers love to read the same book over and over again, so we will not run out of books to keep them entertained. Hope is starting to pick up lots of words, and it is fun to watch her vocabulary grow each day.
4. Walking and playing outside will be easier now that the weather will be getting warmer. Nathan biked over two miles last Sunday to church on his balance bike, and we hope to get him on his new pedal bike soon. I am also looking forward to gardening this spring.
5. Babies come despite global pandemics, and ours will be coming in a little over a month. While I have had to reduce my carbohydrate intake, the baby appears to be healthy and we are looking forward to welcoming him or her.
6. I have plenty of books on the bookcase to read and fabric in my drawers that I have been meaning to sew with, so now I have an excuse to get caught up on some projects and books.
7. Despite all the chaos and confusion, God is still in control. This virus did not surprise him. I have been reading *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy*, a book on lament, for women's book study at church, and it seems very appropriate now.

May you rest in the peace of Christ this season.



Tiegan leading our first proxe station at Bellin

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