

First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA – Campus Ministry

What Lutheran Student Fellowship and First Trinity Meant to Me

Esther Assa, international student from Indonesia, LL.M. in International Law, Pitt, '25

When I think about the Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) and First Trinity, one word comes to mind: *family*. Not just in the sense of people I see on a weekly basis, but in the truest sense—a group that has supported me, helped me grow, and genuinely cared for me.

I was first introduced to LSF somewhat unexpectedly—just outside of the William Pitt Union after I had gotten a flu shot. I was a bit nervous as, at the time, I was very shy when meeting new people, but a friendly Bible quiz session soon put me at ease. [LSF was the only religious organization tabling the Pitt Wellness Fair – ed.] That very first impression stuck with me: LSF is friendly, welcoming, and a whole lot of fun! And the first couple of meetings that I attended showed me that LSF is not just about spiritual growth, but also about having fun and forming meaningful connections.



LSF Bible Study, Fall 2025, Esther is 6th from right

Beyond the laughs and snacks and dinners, what had kept me coming back was the depth. The beauty of LSF and First Trinity is that they provide space for real, godly conversations. Whether it is discussing Scripture, sharing life challenges, asking honest questions, or reflecting on faith, there is always room for open dialogue and encouragement. It was very refreshing to be part of a community where spiritual conversations felt natural and meaningful. These discussions have been instrumental in my personal growth and in strengthening my relationship with God.

Another thing I loved about LSF and First Trinity is how diverse and accepting the community is. People come from all different backgrounds, yet there is a shared spirit of kindness and respect. I really did feel that the presence of God was among us during the student weekly dinner and Bible study on Wednesday evenings.

One of the most important things is that this group is always there when life gets tough. Whether it is a bad day, a personal crisis, or just needing someone to talk to, LSF and First Trinity are quick to offer prayer, help, and support. We look after each other—not out of obligation, but out of godly love.

In short, LSF and First Trinity were my home away from home. They were my family, my support system, and my spiritual home. And for that, I am incredibly grateful that God connected us during my time in Pittsburgh.

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