



# Focus on Faith

You probably saw Maxwell (Max) Hessling around Faith Lutheran Church this past academic year, participating in a variety of ways. A lifelong Lutheran, Max came to Oxford to study Business and Finance at Miami University in August 2019. However, before he was able to find Faith Lutheran, his studies and time in Oxford were disrupted by the COVID pandemic in March 2020. Max spent most of his sophomore and junior years at Miami watching online services from his home congregation in the Chicago area. Fortunately, by the start of his senior year at Miami, worship services were once again being held in-person regularly at Faith Lutheran Church and Max found his way here. Both Max and Faith Lutheran are better for it.



*Campus Ministry students: Maggie Fryman, Olivia Waits, Lindsay Stevenson, Mason Santalucia, and Max Hessling*

During his first visits to Faith Lutheran, Max was drawn to Pastor Logan's message and sermons as well as the welcoming attitude of the congregation and campus ministry. He also pointed to the timelessness of the traditional Lutheran worship service and music as reasons he was compelled to return. Max jumped fully into life at Faith Lutheran, regularly attended Sunday services, participated in the choir and helped with Faith's Table. Max's commitment and contributions to Faith's Table especially stand out as he regularly brought a dish to share.

Being a member of a smaller but vibrant congregation allowed Max to get to know the members of Faith and their lives, something he greatly appreciated. Helping out when and where he could in a congregation the size of Faith allowed him to not only make an immediate difference but to see the difference he made. Max also brought friends to worship and talked about his positive experience at Faith with others. He pointed to Faith Lutheran as an example of the good that Christians can do in their community and the world.

Max graduated from Miami University in May and will most likely be moving out of the area. He will miss attending Faith and in particular, participating in the choir. Of his time attending services at Faith Lutheran, Max was thankful for the opportunities it provided him to grow and said worshiping at Faith "always makes me feel good afterwards." It was a pleasure for us all to know him and he will be missed!