## **CAMPUS MINISTRY**

## OUTREACH MEMBERS FOSTER FELLOWSHIP March 2017 Spread

Most weekends for students at Augustana include at least one of the following: a concert in the Back Alley, Late Night Elmen festivities, hanging out with friends, binge-watching their favorite Netflix series and/or avoiding every responsibility until Sunday night.

Weekends for members of Outreach teams can often look different. Each month, Outreach's four teams go on outings to churches across the Midwest, including locations throughout South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. These outings often include leading church services on Sunday mornings, hosting lock-ins for youth, and—Outreach co-coordinator, sophomore Jonah Kistenmacher's personal favorite—serving at Bible Camps.

For one of their monthly outings in the fall, Kistenmacher's team was planning to help clean up the grounds at Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp before winter. When they arrived, the team learned the camp was also hosting an elderly women's retreat during the weekend.

"We spent Friday night chatting with them, watching them knit and sew," Kistenmacher said. "All of those things that Midwestern grandmas do—it was a real treat!"

Kistenmacher's co-coordinator, junior Tina Geistfeld, said that while she enjoys outings, her favorite part of Outreach is the weekly Bible study with her peers.

"I wanted fellowship with people my own age," Geistfeld said. Another of Geistfeld's favorite aspects of Outreach is getting to know underclassmen she might otherwise not have the chance to meet and connect with.

One of those underclassmen, Tiffany Miller, said Outreach has filled her freshman year at Augie with wonderful memories. One of her favorite memories, and admittedly most embarrassing, was "when I spilled the Communion wafers all over the ground during one of the services we helped out with."

And while spilling Communion wafers isn't the typical Sunday morning experience for most college students, members of Outreach agree the fellowship and friendships they share with their team, as well as the opportunity for developing their faith, make for a wonderful weekend.