

For donation of \$50 given on 3/31/2021
through the SWPA Synod

To the congregation of St. John's Lutheran,

Thank you for your support of this ministry. We know there are many different places where a congregation can send mission support. Thank you for being a partner with us. Your support helps people in the universities we serve connect their faith to their vocation. Thank you for your generosity.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. B.O. Bennett



Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh

Lutheran University Center

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15213

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The Rev. Brian O. Bennett
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Choir Director
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May 1, 2021

Hello to the members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

The Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh has a long history of serving the university communities of Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, Chatham and Carlow. In fact, in 2021 we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of our official establishment as an organization. We are a vital ministry for young adults and others in these universities. You know that because your congregation is a supporter of the campus ministry. Congregations are vital partners with us. And we are incredibly thankful that you are. However, even this support has seen changes.

In my nine years as campus pastor, we have seen the support levels by congregations drop by over half. This decrease can be attributed to the influence of many forces, but it basically boils down to the financial stress felt by congregations to maintain their own ministry. We also realize that motivations for charitable giving have undergone a fundamental change since 1946. The conventional wisdom used to be that people gave out of a sense of obligation. In the Lutheran tradition, we would say that we give out of response to the God who gave us so much. But all too often organizations began to believe that people would always act in such a way.

That has not remained the case. People are not more stingy or self-centered. But the motivations have shifted. People give now, not out of a sense of obligation, but because they want to have a relationship with the organization. There must be a reciprocation between donor and recipient. This connection is vital, but is something we at the campus ministry have not been the best at fostering.

To nurture this community of donors, we are launching the Congregational Partnership Plan, where we work to put flesh on the skeletal structure of our current relationship. We want you to see concrete benefits that could help you and your congregation's ministry.

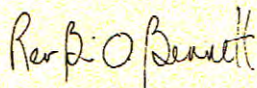
We have created a system for congregations who support us. The first tier of the partnership will include a quarterly e-newsletter with resources and reflections from our ministry that we hope help your ministry. The second tier will include access to a quarterly forum or study, of two to four sessions. Finally, the third tier will provide a specific forum or study developed for a congregation in conversation with their leadership. We hope that as we build these relationships, the work we do as a campus ministry with the students, faculty and staff of our universities will also enrich the ministry of your congregation.

Your congregation is a valued partner already in this mission of ours, and we want you to be aware of this before we unveil it fully at our synod assembly this June. We will be providing the appropriate links and information soon to you as

we bring this new thing to life. We want increased connection with you so please let us know what you think about this new thing. We would love to hear from you.

We are all together in this wonderful endeavor that we call church, and we value your partnership with us as we all work to share the love of God in Christ Jesus with everyone around us.

Grace and peace,



The Rev. Brian O. Bennett
Campus Pastor/Executive Director
Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh

You gave \$950 during 2020. Your congregation is in Tier II.

	Tier	Benefit	Bonus
I.	For congregations that give at least \$150 annually:	The congregation will receive a quarterly newsletter that will include reflection and resources that are helpful for ministry with young adults, or ministry in general: discussion guides for pop culture offerings, book reviews, rites, etc.	If at least three members of this congregation meeting this level are also individual donors to the campus ministry totaling \$150 annually, the congregation will also receive a monthly email with conversation starters and discussion questions for small groups or other settings.
II.	For congregations that give at least \$350 annually:	This congregation will receive the above and access to a quarterly forum or study (2-4 sessions) on a topic to be decided upon by folks in this tier. This will happen both in person at the Lutheran University Center and online for maximum availability.	If the congregation meeting this level also financially supports a Lutheran Outdoor Ministry site (e.g. Camp Lutherlyn, Camp Agape) giving at least \$350 annually, the congregation will receive a visit from the campus pastor or a board member, and a student or recent alumni for a discussion on life at this particular campus ministry.
III.	For congregations that give at least \$1000 annually:	The congregation will receive the above and the campus pastor will, in conversation with congregational leadership regarding topic, offer a mid-week study, forum, or discussion. This could be done online or in-person, for adults or youth. (Depending on the timing, it could possibly be done on a Sunday morning.)	If this congregation meeting this level also fulfills the Synod's newly adopted Mission Support Formula (that is, the congregation sends 10% of their income to the Synod for mission support), the campus ministry will provide one service of supply preaching at no cost (excepting mileage) to the congregation.



Accepted. Challenged. Sent.

PO Box 355, Prospect, PA 16052

(724) 865-2161

www.lutherlyn.com

May 10, 2021

**St. John's Perrysville
920 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15229-1130**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for making a difference at Lutherlyn! It is friends like you who make it possible for Lutherlyn to keep our vitally important promise to never turn a child away from summer camp for financial reasons.

By supporting Lutherlyn you are ensuring that all children, regardless of their financial circumstance, can attend summer camp at Lutherlyn where they learn how to be Christ's light in the world.

Your recent gift of \$50 goes further than just helping kids get to camp. As their time at Lutherlyn draws to a close, we challenge each camper to take Christ's love into their communities and to shine their light everywhere they go. Through them, your gift is a blessing to their families, friends, and communities.

Each year, registrations for summer camp programs arrive at the Lutherlyn office, and with these registrations we also receive requests for camperships. It is thanks to you, and people like you, that these requests will be approved.

We are truly grateful for your dedication to this ministry and for the many Life-Changing Adventures in Faith you have made possible for campers this summer at Lutherlyn!

Yours in Ministry,

Deb Roberts
Executive Director

P.S. The Federal Internal Revenue Service requires we advise you that Lutherlyn did not provide you with goods or services of value in exchange for these contributions.



A MINISTRY OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNODS OF
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA





*On behalf of our moral owners, Lutheran SeniorLife
serves elders so that recipients of our services
will experience a more Abundant Life®
regardless of their physical condition
or financial circumstances.*

May 12, 2021

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perrysville
920 Perry Hwy
Pittsburgh, PA 15229-1130

Dear Partners in Christ,

Thank you for the thoughtful gift of \$50.00 received on May 12, 2021 for Lutheran Service Society. Your gift joins with that of many others to create a concrete manifestation of the Christian community's care for older adults.

For more than 120 years, Lutheran SeniorLife has reached out to provide excellent care for the health and well being of older adults. We are equally dedicated to serving their spiritual needs. As a Lutheran social ministry organization, we are committed to those principles.

Your partnership in our mission is deeply appreciated. Thank you for helping us bring a more *Abundant Life®* to older adults whom we serve regardless of their physical condition or financial circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane E. Bittcher".

Jane E. Bittcher
President

JEB/qjh

A handwritten note in blue ink that reads "Thank you for your continued support.".

*This letter will serve as a receipt of your gift.
No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution.*

Please remember Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation in your will or estate plan.

May 2021 Pastor's Report

Concern List: Lori Stossel,

Baptisms: 3

Weddings: 1

Funerals: 3

New Members: 1

Confirmation: 3

Congratulations to Jack Halley and Monica Laird upon their wedding next week June 12th.

I am encouraged by the news from Hollowood that they will begin installation of our new sound and video system which will allow us to both live stream and record and broadcast worship services. I anticipate that the first service that we will live stream will be Sunday July 4th. We will need a few weeks to ensure that the system is working.

We also are in need of volunteers to learn how to operate the system so that we have more than one person available for operation.

The Southwestern Synod Assembly will be held virtually again this year. Our delegates will gather in the Sanctuary. Our congregation will be represented by Shirley Mueller, Susan Falk, and Charlie Wingerd. Please pray for the Synod Assembly and its members that God would guide us by His Holy Spirit through these unfamiliar times.

I have placed a copy of "Becoming a Hybrid Church" in each council members box. I believe there is some useful guidance and advice in this book which should spark our imagination about charting a course for the future of St. John's Church.

I am communing shut-ins and in May communed 5 members of St. John's. I look forward to giving all 17 shut-ins communion as restrictions continue to ease.

I will be on vacation June 23-30th. Steve Slepcki will preach on the 23rd & 27th.

May 17, 2021 Meeting of the Worship and Music Committee

The meeting began at 7:00 o'clock p.m.

Attending: Scott Obrosky , John Frantz, Pastor Michael Robinson, Susan Falk, John Halley, chair

The Committee continued its ongoing discussion of worship services and the Church, in general, post pandemic. With diminished attendance at the in-person worship services on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings the Committee reviewed the feasibility, wisdom and practicality of returning to a two service Sunday worship in the future. Without reaching a specific recommendation for a single Sunday morning worship service the Committee concluded a joint discussion with the Christian education committee was appropriate and Mr. Halley said he would contact the committee chair.

Pastor Robinson said he would announce mask use and the relaxing of other pandemic restrictions at the worship services. Hymnals and Bibles will be returned to the pews.

For the time being the evening service will continue on Wednesdays primarily for video recording purposes. The Wednesday evening service will be similar to the Sunday service. The plan is to resume an outdoor Fireside Wednesday evening service near the end of June. This depends on the installation of the audio-video equipment and the training of operators. The intent is to both live stream Sunday morning worship service and record the service for later playback.

Holy Communion will be offered on Pentecost Sunday. It is the intention to resume weekly communion in June with assistants.

The Committee discussed resumption of the Music Series. Mr. Halley said he would contact the soloist with whom he exchanged emails to ascertain her interest in performing an organ celebration concert in the Fall when St. John's would recognize those who contributed to the organ restoration fund. The Committee will also pursue any other suggestions for solo artists. Ms Falk suggested the St. John's Music Series assemble and schedule a concert event of musical talent within St. John's. This could be an initial or "welcome back" concert featuring vocal and instrumental performers including, for example, St.

John's bell choir.

Following his announcement at the May Council meeting Pastor Robinson said he would be ordering copies of *Becoming a Hybrid Church* by Rev. Richard E.T. Jorgensen, Jr. and Rev. Dave Daubert and encouraged Committee members to read the book.

Mr. Frantz reported that the signal system for the chancel organ is in place; it was used and worked well during a recent wedding. He also reported there remains approximately \$12,000.00 in outstanding pledges to the organ restoration fund. The pledge period concludes in early 2022.

The Committee, with Pastor Robinson, will inquire of Mr. Thickey the future plans for resumption of choir participation in worship services.

The Committee encourages that the lector at worship services announce and lead the reading of the psalm between the first and second readings.

The Committee also discussed a Church picnic in July (on Church property) and suggests the Council make an effort to do this. It was not known at the time of the meeting whether Ross Township would have an Independence Day parade. If there is a parade the Committee encourages St. John's participation as in previous years.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 o'clock p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
John Halley, chair

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JUNE 2021 REPORT TO COUNCIL

Confirmation on May 16

Congratulation to Jadyn Stillwagon, Willie Harris, and Ryan Hetcko! There was a reception afterward with wrapped cookies to go along with cans of iced tea and lemonade. Each of them received a gift bag with a metal wall cross (compliments of Thrivent), a Teen Prayer book, personalized book mark, and a Luther rose pin. Since a cake reception was not possible, they each received a small cake to take home and enjoy with their families. Shop 'n Save at Pines Plaza did a nice job decorating the cakes with an icing cross and red trim.

Vacation Bible School

Kerry Anderson has plans underway for July 16-23 VBS for PreK through 6th Grade. A lot of fun activities are planned so please invite your friends and neighbors. All are welcome! Most activities will be outside. We will follow Lutherlyn's example of "Ministry of Role Modeling" so that when there are children present who are not able to be vaccinated (and therefore required to wear masks), everyone will follow the masking policy to show our youth that we care about them.

The committee will meet sometime in June to begin plans for:

Rally Day – Sunday, September 12

The first week of the new school year will begin with Rally Day. We hope to be back in person for weekly Sunday School/Confirmation classes. Stay tuned for more details about Rally Day.

Confirmation Retreat – October 8, 9, 10.

For everyone in 7th, 8th, and 9th grade in Fall 2021, the confirmation retreat will be Friday October 8 to Sunday, October 10, 2021. Plans are to continue the St. John's tradition of a weekend overnight retreat, most likely at Lutherlyn.

First Communion – Sunday, November 7

For all 4th and 5th grade students in the Fall, they will celebrate the sacrament of Communion on November 7. First Communion lessons will be during Sunday School each week beginning in September and leading up to November 7. We will also decorate the pew banners on one of those Sundays.