



January 26, 2023

Dear Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church Congregants,

Thank you to the congregations' leadership and members for your time as you convene. We respect the thoughtful process in which you have engaged for the sale of the churches that your congregations have called their respective homes for many decades.

We want to first express our continued commitment to purchasing these properties and reinforce our interest in being thoughtful stewards of these spaces. Lehigh's future, and our past, are inextricably connected to Bethlehem and the Southside. We recognize that each church has unique significance to the areas and communities you serve. We have a history and experience with preserving historic buildings, and deep respect for the roots of each of these congregations.

Regarding our thoughts for each of the three churches, St. Peter's is in close proximity to Lehigh's campus, and we can envision many short-term and long-term uses for St. Peter's that align with our mission and advance our ability to teach, develop new knowledge, and serve the community. It is our understanding that your combined congregations would prefer to continue to worship at Light of Christ while you search for your long-term home, and we welcome Blessed Trinity to continue worshiping in this space in the coming months as your search continues. St. John's Windisch has been the focus of substantial discussion by members of the community and the City; we are committed to open conversations with a variety of organizations and partners to gather input from the community and leaders on future uses of the St. John's Windisch church and parking lot that reflect the needs and interests of both Lehigh and the local community. We would like to state clearly and unequivocally that we have no intention of building student housing on any of the church sites, including the parking lot associated with St. John's Windisch.

Lehigh is deeply engaged in service and investing in the Southside. Our students, faculty and staff belong to countless community organizations and dedicate several thousands of hours of service each year through local schools in South Bethlehem and community organizations such as the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley. We have many programs that engage the community as partners in ways that reflect the university's mission and help benefit and support the Bethlehem community. We remain committed to the greater Bethlehem community to ensure a bright future for all.

On behalf of Lehigh, we wish the very best for your congregations and communities.

Sincerely,

Joseph Helble  
President

Nathan Urban  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs