



THE BRUNSWICK ANECDOTE

Important information for our Members, Friends, and Contributors



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Your Brunswick Offering

For some time, Brunswick has offered a number of different ways for people to contribute to the church. There is only one of them that is not currently available: there is no offering plate to pass to you through the internet or telephone on Sunday morning. However, all of these other options are working beautifully:

Mail a Check

Although our office is officially closed, Pastor Ruth Ann is in the building most mornings and opens the door for our letter carrier. On days when the mail cannot be delivered into the office, it is held securely at the Post Office, where we later pick it up. In no circumstances would your contribution be left unlocked or unsafe if sent in the mail.

Contribute Online Through Realm



Anyone who provides the church with an email address can enroll in our online ministry. One of the big advantages of doing this is that your church directory will never be out of date again: Realm users can look up phone, mail, and online contact information for everyone (except a few who have opted out), and the database is always up to date.

On Realm you can make a pledge to the church or adjust a pledge that you have already made. You can send an offering one time, or create an offering that is paid automatically each month. Should you need to hold your contribution or change its payment date, you can care for that privately and securely. Realm contributions are most effectively made by automatic withdrawal from a bank account; this incurs the lowest fees for the church. However, credit and debit card payments are also available. Sign up for Realm contributions by going to the Giving page on our website (www.brunswicklife.org/giving) and clicking on the "GIVE NOW" button, or contact Lynn Holmen at lholmen@brunswicklife.org for assistance.

Contribute Appreciated Stock

With recent changes to the federal tax code, donating appreciated assets to the church is one of the smartest ways to contribute to the church while also gaining a tax benefit. Contact Lynn Holmen (lholmen@brunswicklife.org) or call Pastor Ruth Ann (651-358-5196) to arrange a stock gift during this time when the office is generally closed.

Give by Text Message

Text message works for everyone, but it is especially handy for people who want to make a quick special contribution to Brunswick. Most of the people sending thank you offerings for masks we have donated are doing so by text message, for example. The number you dial is **73236** (yes, just five digits). For the content of your message write BUMCLIFE followed by the amount of your donation in dollars. For example: BUMCLIFE \$20. That's it!



New Technology Ventures Funded by Endowment Distributions

On April 20, the Leadership Team voted unanimously in support of a proposal from Pastor Ruth Ann to purchase new technology to stabilize and improve our online worship ministry and any other online ministries we may pursue in the future. The items purchased total just under \$5000 and will be funded with endowment distributions from previous years. These funds are designated for "new ministry initiatives" and "evangelism." In other words, we are not using general contributions for this project and the purchase does not directly affect our budget. The Minnesota Annual Conference is also offering \$1000 grants to

Congregations prepared to expand their evangelism through technology; we should learn whether we will receive this award sometime in May.

Items to be purchased include two wall-mounted cameras that will be discrete in the sanctuary, but can be remote controlled to focus in on a speaker, the altar during Holy Communion, or music ensembles. To manage these devices, provide closed captioning and graphic overlays, we will use an AV switcher: all of the audio and visual feeds go to this box, where it takes just one button to move from one camera to another. The audio signal from our existing soundboard will also feed into this switcher, so our online sound quality will be consistently excellent. The last step before our worship service broadcasts out to the world is a video encoder. This device rapidly processes the tremendous amount of data in audio and video feeds; it automatically records a high definition copy of everything we do, and with a separate processor it also prepares our signal with whatever broadcast parameters we choose, sending it out anywhere we want to broadcast. Recently we have been using Zoom and Facebook Live for our online fellowship experiences. This new purchase will allow us to continue using those services if we choose to, but we could also stream to phone applications, smart TVs, or our own web page.



The Leadership Team approved this significant expenditure with the understanding that new visitors to our sanctuary rarely arrive without having visited us online first. A strong online presence going forward provides a way for our elders, homebound, and travelers to connect, but it also opens a door for new people to visit and experience Brunswick easily and without social stress. We look forward to receiving this equipment, some of which is backordered, over the next several weeks and having it in place for regular use by June.

Brunswick Applies for Federal “Payroll Protection Program” Loan

Director of Operations Lynn Holmen was aware of and working through the process of receiving federal loan support almost as soon as the President signed the legislation. Money disbursed through this program is administered as a loan, but the debt is entirely forgivable if you maintain your payroll over the next eight weeks. Our application was submitted within hours of the system being created, and we are known to be “in queue” for loan consideration. Since then, an application has been submitted through a second bank as back-up.

As you have probably heard, the original \$300 billion distribution for PPP was exhausted within days, but Congress has just approved an additional \$300 billion for this program, with a particular concern for small businesses, sole proprietorships, and non-profits including churches.

If approved, Brunswick could receive \$39,000 to help cover payroll and other church expenses during this time. While we can hope to receive this benefit, we need to plan for the immediate future assuming that we are responsible ourselves for the church's ministries. It is critical that those of us who have stable sources of income continue to support the church and consider increasing their support of the church on behalf of those who are struggling financially.

Early Steps Learning Preschool Remains Open

Preschool and daycare programs are among the essential services that Governor Walz has encouraged to stay open at this time, and the ESL program has continued to serve families from the Brunswick campus. A number of families have withdrawn their children out of health concerns or because of the parents' unemployment. A few new families have enrolled, and ESL has applied for both the federal PPP loan program and other support from the state of Minnesota specifically for childcare programs. To date, we have continued to receive full rent payments from ESL, and we are hopeful this will continue. Rent from Early Steps Learning provides \$32,558 toward Brunswick's annual budget.

Construction Results Corporation Presents Superior Bid for Terrace Room Kitchen

Several weeks ago John Snyder whose family has a long history at Brunswick, contacted us with an interest in bidding on the Terrace Room kitchen project. The total estimate for the project came in at \$33,971. This is a significant improvement financially compared to other bids; it is also a company that has had several previous contracts with Brunswick, including the Atrium renovation. The Leadership Team has affirmed this bid and their intention to complete this project. All of the appliances have already been purchased through a gift in memory of Bill Wolff.



We received tremendous support last fall for both the air conditioning replacement (which is now completed at a cost of nearly \$70,000) and our stretch goal of improving the Terrace Room Kitchen as a key community and outreach space for our ministries. This bid falls within our anticipated income set aside for the project, which includes pledges from last year's capital campaign and some funds from our upcoming endowment distribution. If you have made a commitment to the Building Fund which you feel you may not be able to keep because of the changing economy, please contact Pastor Ruth Ann or Director of Operations Lynn Holmen so we can have as accurate an account as possible of funds for this project before contracts are officially signed.