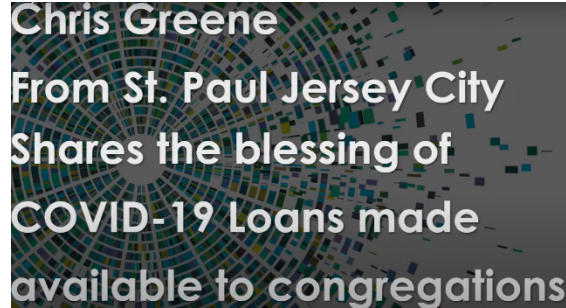


Generosity in Motion ~ January 2021



Chris Greene
From St. Paul Jersey City
Shares the blessing of
COVID-19 Loans made
available to congregations

'Like many of you, our congregation has not worshipped together inside this beautiful sanctuary for eight months.'

These are some of the opening words shared by Mr. Chris Greene who serves as the Director of Music at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Jersey City. They were shared back in October and if they were updated, they would reflect how this time of being apart has now grown to eleven months. This is obviously an experience we may all relate to.

One very significant thing has changed for them, they have been able to expand and improve their virtual worship capacity. This was made possible for them through your NJ Synod's COVID-19 Loan, a loan which becomes a grant made available because of your congregation's Mission Support. This enhanced virtual worship capacity has not only improved the quality of their online worship, but it has grown its congregation! *'Carol has worshipped with us since our first Sunday!'* Carol is but one example of a new member, and implied in this testimony is that were it not for this technological enhancement, she and others who are new to this congregation may very well have no place to worship. But thanks be to God, that is not the case! She and others like here are able to pray to God, to know that they are not alone, and to have some sense of continuity in the midst of so much discontinuity. This is a blessing indeed. And it is just one congregational example of many.

There are similar stories that could be told by the other twenty congregations (and still counting!) who have received these loans. And these ministry projects have ranged from technology upgrades, to feeding ministry assistance, to meeting infant/baby needs for the community, to providing assistance to neighborhood outreach programs. The offerings you make to your congregation are helping NJ Synod congregations thrive, and to minister to their communities while navigating their way into God's new day.

May you be filled with the same joy that others experience because of those ways you make offerings to this church and in service of Christ's gospel, the Word and the Life it brings.

In Christ,
Rev. Dean R. Brown
Assistant to the Bishop

P.S. There are many wonderful stories -Chris Greene's among them- highlighting the impact of congregational generosity found at www.njsynod.org/assembly. Click on the 'Fiscal Management, Administration and Property Committee' YouTube video to find more.