

New England Synod College Student Contact Network

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Dear Friends,

Greetings! I've been commissioned by the NES Campus Ministry Committee to continue to develop a system of collecting the names and addresses of college students from NES churches, and passing them along to campus ministers and partner congregations in campus ministry (churches near campuses who take on ministry with students as part of their work). This will enable those ministries to contact the students and invite them into local communities of faith while in college.

Soooooo, we're asking for your partnership in this effort. Would you be willing to take some time, make some phone calls to students and their families, and help them make their transition to college life? We in campus ministry consider ourselves partners with you in ministry to students at a special time in their lives, when their style of life is so different from home life.

What we are asking:

1. Fill out and send me the enclosed postage-paid card **today** to let me know if a) you received this letter and will send us names, etc. soon; b) if you are located near a college campus and would like to invite Lutheran and other students to be a part of your community of faith; c) you have no college or graduate students; and d) are not interested in being a part of this effort.
2. Fill out the form with students' names, home addresses & email address, college they will be attending, and year of graduation from college. Make a copy of this completed form, and keep it. Send us the original completed form by **July 26**.
3. If you know the student's address while at college, send that to us as well. We realize this is more difficult to obtain, since students often don't know their addresses until they get to college.

We need this information by July 26!

Why? So we can pass it along for campus ministries and partner congregations to make contact in the summer. Students are deluged with things to do when they arrive on campus. A friendly contact in the summer, when the livin' is easy, can help students look forward to a community of faith on campus. Students are known to bring their parents to church when they move to college! This can help them find an inviting, welcoming place.

We need to contact students early in the semester, and sending us the students' address (especially their email address) helps us do this.

Why? So local ministries can contact your students when they get to school. There are many schools that do not allow anyone outside the school to have access to school directories. Your information may be the only way we have of contacting your students and of inviting them into a local community of faith. **Further, we must contact students within the first 6 weeks of their arrival on campus.** Academic work gets really tough after that, and students not only stop seeking new communities, but drop out of activities as well.

Thank you for your partnership in this mission in Jesus' name. Please let me know if I can be of any service to you or your congregation.

In Christ's Service,

Carl Sharon
for the New England Synod, ELCA