Fifty Lehigh Students are treated to a hot dog and a bottle of water every Thursday, weather permitting, during fall and spring semesters, at the corner of Packer and Vine Street.

St. Peter, Bethlehem began this ministry in the spring of 2015 to reach out to the Lehigh community in an effort to be a good neighbor and offer a welcoming snack to students. Usually four or five members of the community of faith hand out the hot dogs and offer greetings and encouraging words to their young neighbors. Many students are mystified as to why St. Peter would be giving anything away for free. Some are tentative to approach, thinking there is going to be some kind of a catch. Some reach into their wallet in an effort to give a donation which is always politely refused. But generally, after overcoming these initial reactions, all are grateful for the hot dog and the kindness. Many return week after week and bring other friends along to enjoy the treat. Social media seems to be the best form of advertisement! St. Peter has become known as the “hot dog church” on campus.

Grants from the synod’s Campus Ministry Affinity Group and Witness and Service Ministry Team along with a Thrivent Action Team contribution helped make this ministry come alive. This semester St. Peter is blessed to have received a grant from the synod’s Campus Ministry Affinity Group which will allow them to continue this ministry through the spring and fall semester of 2016.

Find more stories of how we are doing God’s work with our hands at: nepasynod.org or visit our facebook page Mission Interpreters of NEPA Synod.