

Dear St. John's Board of Worship and Congregation

October 1, 2019

In July, I had the opportunity to attend the Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) Camp for two weeks. It was held on the campus of Valparaiso University in Indiana. There were a couple of reasons why I wanted to go that I would like to share with you, tell a few things that I did there, and thank you for supporting me in this area of my life.

First of all, my brother Peter attended LSM when it was in Decorah, IA at Luther College. He absolutely loved making connections with other music loving Lutherans and meeting professional musicians who strengthened his dream and gifts in different ways. Peter benefitted in the music theory instruction and the individual lessons in piano, trombone, and voice.

For me, I have been trying to determine my path, seeking where God wants me to go. I have a love for the arts, particularly in two areas: music, and art. I felt that attending LSM would be a good way to see if music is the area where God wants me. My family told the director of Walther's music department that I wanted to attend LSM and they helped fund a good amount of the tuition to attend. Then we asked St. John's if they would help us out too. So, I can say that I am so grateful that I was able to learn from this experience.

The best part to me was the chapel services. There were so many beautiful songs that we sang and such wonderful worship opportunities. We had a mass devotion in the morning and an amazing evening worship to end every single day. This was a great way to give God all the glory and praise!

Another area that was interesting were all the recitals. There are so many talented youths out there who love to sing and play instruments. I really enjoyed going to as many of these as I could attend.

After attending LSM, I have decided that music will always be a part of my life. I hope to continue to sing and give honor to God with my voice. I am not sure if music will be my career choice, but I can say that LSM helped solidify the fact that I want to attend a Christian college. Thank you again for not only supporting me financially in attending LSM, but also for all the support St. John's has given me my whole life!

In Christ,

Rachel Wykert