



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

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Dear Friends in Christ,

In the next few weeks, many congregations will be setting their budgets for the coming year. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. This has been a difficult year on so many fronts, the COVID-19 pandemic, racial tensions, an unusually dry farming season, and throw into the mix a contentious election year. Yet, during all of this, God has been with us. He has opened new doors for so many congregations to reach a disengaged population through live streaming and Facebook worship services and Bible studies. He has blessed us with members who continue to trust in the Lord and give sacrificially, while doing their best to maintain relationships.



We are so blessed to share a common faith and confession as well as a common mission as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Next summer, we will gather at our District Convention around the theme: *God's Fellow Workers* from *1 Corinthians 3:8-9*. Whenever we gather to receive the gift of God's Grace, we are filled with the joy of knowing Christ came to redeem sinners. We come together in worship to be fed and nurtured through God's Word and Sacraments and we are filled with joy to hear the word of forgiveness. We are reminded as *Fellow Workers* that there is a blessing that comes through the mutual conversation and consolation as the people of God gather for worship.

It is for this mutual work and conversation that congregations join The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I want to thank you for your past financial support. For example, Grace Lutheran Church in Le Mars will be celebrating 20 baptisms as a result of their South Sudanese Ministry. We give thanks to God for the new believers that ministry is seeing through the work of Rev. Tim Geitz and Rev. Daniel Mapur.

This is one example of the importance of your support for the work we do together as Iowa District West. I am thankful for your partnership in the Gospel. I believe, when congregations join together, we are *stronger together*.

Enclosed is a form requesting your 2021 congregational mission and ministry commitment for the fiscal year from February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. We request that your congregation prayerfully consider this commitment and return the form to the District office prior to January 15, 2021. If your voters' assembly meets after that date, the proposed or estimated commitment would be helpful to us in preparing our ministry plan for the next fiscal year. If it is more convenient for you to call or email your response, you may contact Sue Light at 515-576-7666 or sue@iowadistrictwest.org. We thank you.

I believe congregations throughout Iowa District West are sensing that they can fulfill their God-given mission better together than separately. We promise to be good stewards of the offerings that you have entrusted to us as we do our work on the District level.

Rev. Dr. Steve Turner, District President

Rev. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President—Missions, Human Care and Stewardship