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**Annual Report to Minneapolis Area Synod Congregations
From Interim Bishop Glenn Nycklemoe
January 2012**

I began my work as interim bishop on August 1, 2011. I have been working hard catching up with all of you. Obviously, I will never get to know everything about the Minneapolis Area Synod in this short period of time. However, what I have learned about you is very impressive. Here are a few things I have learned:

- You are the largest synod in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (192,000 members in 159 congregations).
- You collectively give \$123,000,000 every year through your congregations.
- You worship about 30% of your members at weekly worship.
- You have 38,000 of your children attending weekly Christian education classes.
- You worship in nine different languages.
- You provide support for all the rostered leaders (there are more than 700, including 300 retired pastors).
- You assist congregations in the call process and when congregations are experiencing conflict.
- You establish new congregations, renew congregations, and assist new ministry starts.
- You provide program support for congregations and provide training for lay leaders.
- You have many global mission connections, especially your companion synods in Nigeria and Leipzig.
- You support the young people with training, mission trips, camping opportunities, and youth gatherings.

All of this and much more is what the Minneapolis Area Synod is doing in mission and ministry. I commend all of you, the Minneapolis Area Synod, for all you do in Christ's name.

There is much for which to be thankful. In particular, I thank Bishop Craig Johnson for his excellent service as bishop of this synod for the past 10 years. I thank the synod's officers and council for their faithful work on our behalf this past year. I thank the synod staff for their excellent and faithful work this past year, and especially their service during this interim time. I thank all of you for welcoming me and offering your support during my ministry as your interim bishop.

Soon there will be a new bishop elected at the Synod Assembly on February 17-18, 2012. I invite you all to hold in your prayers the Minneapolis Area Synod bishop's election. I know you will join me in giving your full support to our new bishop.

Let us press on with hope and joy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Glenn W. Nycklemoe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'G' and a long, sweeping tail.

Interim Bishop Glenn Nycklemoe
Minneapolis Area Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America