



September 2009

Dear Partners in Ministry:

Fall activities are in full swing. Rally Day has come and gone. Ben Bernanke has declared the recession “very likely over.” And we in the congregations of the Minneapolis Area Synod look outside our own doors, across the city and around the world at mission opportunities large and small that we are called to answer.

I dare say all of you provide services and supplies in your communities to help those in need. Most of you serve in helping ministries throughout the year; have some kind of global partnership; support hungry and homeless people; collaborate with Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota or reach out in any one of a myriad of other ways to serve in Jesus’ name.

In September and October, we will be sharing conversations about congregational mission support. These are the dollars that your congregation shares with the ministries of your synod and our ELCA.

In our mission support consultations, we’ll share with one another the stories from our congregational ministries and the ministries that you together through the Minneapolis Area Synod are carrying out. We’ll talk together about how we all in the ELCA carry out local and global ministry. You see, your story is our story. And our story is your story. We aren’t detached from one another. We are part of the same body and we share the same calling: **God’s Work. Our Hands. In God’s Economy.**

We’ve sent invitations to every pastor for the mission support consultations. If you’re interested in attending (they are being held in the evenings), please ask your pastor or contact Dawn Wickner at d.wickner@mpls-synod.org. What we are accomplishing together is astonishing. The resources needed continue to be a challenge for our synod as they are in this time for many congregations. Our generosity provides for ministry that is impossible without working together. So thank you. Thank You.

God’s peace,

Glennady Ose, Bishop’s Associate
Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America