



Saint Paul Area Synod

105 West University Avenue St. Paul, MN 55103-2094
651.224.4313 Fax 651.224.5646 www.spas-elca.org
A synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2010 Annual Letter to Congregations

Dear Partners in Ministry,

As you gather for annual meetings, I want you to hear the thanks of countless people beyond your congregation's walls, who thank you for the witness and ministry you do that touches their lives in ways you don't fully recognize. In most of these reports, you will also receive the thanks of Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. He and I and many others see with regularity the fruits of the life we have together in this synod and church body.

So we thank you on behalf of people in Tanzania and Guatemala who receive food during drought, clean water, support for the pastors and evangelists who care for them, education for the children and pastoral leaders, and a host of other connections that give their lives hope and dignity. People in more than 80 countries in the world hear of and feel the love of Jesus because of what we do together as church.

We thank you on behalf of new and supported ministries in this east metro area—the Saint Paul Area Synod. People here also hear of and feel the love of Jesus in what we do together—in supporting new ministry efforts, in guiding each other through transitions in ministry that match the gifts of leaders with the needs of congregations, in expanding ministries as we successfully did through our Crossing Bridges work. These people thank you.

We thank you on behalf of all the connected and related ministries and the people who are touched by them as well—the largest social service network in the country is Lutheran and together we support colleges and seminaries and campus ministries to prepare future citizens and leaders to bring the values of our faith into the world of the future. These emerging leaders and the people whose lives they touch thank you.

I could go on. For some of our congregations feeling the effects of the economy, this has been a hard year. For our church body as we seek together to find ways to be connected and faithful and yet different as we face different contexts, this can be a stressful time. Yet I continue to give God thanks that in the midst of these challenges, God continues to send us forth with this dizzying array of ministries and uses us to tell and live the love of Jesus in the world. Your support for the work we do together makes all this and more happen!

For your faithful telling and living the love of God, I thank you. And I thank God for each one of you!

Grace and peace,

Peter Rogness
Bishop, Saint Paul Area Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America