



# Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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*"We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us. Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

Summer 2018

Dear friends in Christ,

The prayer noted above is a familiar one in our Lutheran liturgy. We hear and say it as we gather and bring our offerings to the altar for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. Gifts are given and shared both as thanksgiving... *we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us* and as a response to the gift of life and salvation God has given us... *for the sake of him who offered himself for us*. What a good reminder that *all* we have has been given to us by God. And with this reminder comes the understanding that God has entrusted us with these gifts for purpose of stewarding God's love and God's mission in the world.

Thank you for your congregation's participation in this important work. Enclosed you will find the statement of your congregation's second quarterly gifts to the mission and ministry we do together as the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. Your leadership in generosity contributes to the long-standing effectiveness of our life together. Because of your commitment to the ministry and work we do in Christ's name, we are an ever increasing witness to the love of Jesus in the communities of Northeastern Minnesota and throughout the world. Thank you for being faithful stewards.

Giving to others is such a joy. Being a partner in efforts that change the lives of individuals and enrich communities is so satisfying. Our financial gifts do remarkable things when they are transformed into ministry and mission! Our God is a generous God – a God who has been revealed in Jesus as the One who deeply and passionately loves us. Our God is a God of transformation – who changes us, and through us, changes the world. Thank you for your support and for the intentional ways that your congregation shares their gifts in faith and trust.

Your synod partners join in the hopes of creating congregational cultures of generosity and the continued discovery of God's great abundance. May you be blessed through generous living and generous giving!

In Christ,

Pastor Amy Odgren  
*Assistant to the Bishop*  
*Director for Evangelical Mission*