



**Northwest Synod of Wisconsin**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## **2011 ANNUAL REPORT** **FROM BISHOP DUANE C. PEDERSON**

Dear Congregations of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

How quickly we complain when we are unhappy or disappointed. How seldom we say "thank you" when we are appreciative. Perhaps you've heard that it takes over 20 positive affirmations to counter-balance the effect of one negative criticism.

Because of the office I hold, I am often caught in the crossfire of whatever complaints members, congregations, or rostered leaders might have. This isn't surprising because when we are unhappy or upset, we tend to be highly motivated to express ourselves, especially in this era of internet anonymity. But when we are appreciative, we too often remain silent.

Thus, at a time when expressions of thanks seem to be few and far between, I think it is important as the pastor of the synod that I express my thanks to *you*:

- **Thank you** for all the ways you live out your baptismal vocation in everyday life, living for Jesus in whatever arena you find yourself, following the Lord as a disciple Monday through Saturday, not just on Sunday.
- **Thank you** for every effort your congregation makes to live beyond itself in Jesus' name for the sake of neighbor. Keep centering everything you do in God's call to engage the world.
- **Thank you** for seeking to be a transformative community dedicated to witness and service, healing the fractures of the world, and living for the sake of others through Gospel witness and work.
- **Thank you** for the countless ways that you have blessed me and my staff as we support one another in living as God's missionary people.

As you review your congregation's annual report celebrating your mission of the past year, and as you gear up to worship, witness, and serve in 2012, may the Spirit blow mightily in and through you!

Duane C. Pederson, Bishop  
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA

Walking together † for the sake of mission † in God's world.