

**A**t this year's Synod Assembly, Bishop Duane Pederson received a standing ovation for his report, "It's Time to Talk Turkey." He began, "I want to share some thoughts that reveal what stirs deeply within me these days as your bishop. It is my intent to confront, challenge, inspire, and perhaps irritate. *I want what I say to be part of an ongoing conversation about who we are as the people of God and how we witness to and serve Jesus in this time and in this place. It's time to talk turkey!*"

This publication is the first in a series designed to get us thinking (and acting) on the challenges that lay before us as we answer the question, "How is God calling us to engage our neighbor in this time, in this place?"



## It's time to talk turkey . . .

It's not about taking care of ourselves.

**It is about being a blessing to others in Christ's name.**

It's not about getting members.

it is about making disciples and deepening faith for witness and service in the world.

It's not about maintaining and preserving the institution.

It is about using our God-given gifts as a community of faith to invite **others into the good news of God's grace.**

It's not about pining for the good old days, not about circling the wagons because change is afoot, not about agreeing on social statements, forms of worship, or assembly resolutions.

**It is about claiming who God has made us to be and "living the Word" in everyday life.**

It's not about random acts of kindness.

**It is about intentionally engaging the neighbor, the world, in Christ's name.**

To read Bishop Pederson's report in its entirety, visit our website:  
[www.nwswi.org](http://www.nwswi.org).

