

North/West Lower Michigan Synod - ELCA

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Rev. Craig A. Satterlee Ph.D., Bishop

Rev. David E. Sprang, Asst. to the Bishop - Director for Evangelical Mission

Rev. Rosanne Anderson, Asst. to the Bishop



Feb. 10, 2021

Dear Partners in Ministry,

The year 2020 will go down in history as a complex and challenging year. And it will also go down in history as a year of faithfulness. Congregations, ministries of the church, synods, and the churchwide office have all had to adjust and retool to meet the changing needs of the year. All in all we have been faithful to our calling.

I write this letter to accompany a copy of your Mission Support Giving for 2020. With all the challenges facing us in 2020, I give thanks to God for you and the faithful mission support we received. For 2020 Mission support was only down 3.9% over the previous year. Miraculously, 15% of congregations increased their mission support, 38% stayed relatively the same, and only 47% were less than last year. That is amazing and faithful.

I also want to brag about the work congregations have been doing. We had 24 congregations apply for ELCA COVID-19 Response Grants funds. Those funds were for continued and additional community outreach during the pandemic. Priorities were food, shelter, and personal needs. My rough calculations are that congregations in our synod are helping an additional 2,000 people per week in the pandemic. THANKS BE TO GOD!

We also had 7 congregations apply for COVID-19 Educational Grants to assist local school systems during the pandemic. Since the last time I wrote a letter like this, early in 2020 76% of our congregations have begun or increased their on-line presence broadcasting worship, bible studies, Sunday School, and so much more.

We have so much to be thankful for. I continually pray the word of Paul from his letter to the Philippians: *³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Phil 1:3-5*

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attached – Mission Partner materials