



# South Dakota Synod

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*"In the beginning was THE WORD, and THE WORD was with God, and THE WORD was God. ... THE WORD became flesh and made his dwelling among us."*

Dear partners in ministry of the South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! – **Thank you** for your generosity to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod as we *journey together in Christ*. Because of your generosity and our ministry partners, hope and new life in Christ is cultivated in people and communities.



**You have made a difference in Susanne's<sup>1</sup> life.** Susanne faces daily challenges as she roams the streets of Sioux Falls as a person who is housing insecure. But because she connected with "Church on the Street" she now has a monthly worship to look forward to and a community to connect with as she hears the good news of Christ's love for her. On behalf of Susanne, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in Dillon's life.** Dillon grew up on the farm and a caring church family. After his high school graduation, he set out to attend college. While the first few days were new and exciting, the excitement soon wore off, and Dillon fell in a hole of anxiety and depression, wondering if he would make it. Then he remembered the speaker from Lutheran Campus Ministry that had visited his home church one Sunday and decided to look them up on campus. Dillon still goes to college, and while life at times can still be overwhelming, he now has a community which supports him and cares for him when he is away from home. On behalf of Dillon, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in Pedro's life.** Pedro lives in Nicaragua with his family. His family doesn't have much, but they survived by farming a small plot and sharing a small space they call home. All that changed when first a drought and then hurricanes devastated the little the family had. His parents would prepare the little food the family had for their children, but the family would go to bed hungry each night. But because of the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua's partnership with the South Dakota Synod and 'Helping Kids' Round First', Pedro and his family received meal kits that provided much-needed nourishment for the family. On behalf of Pedro, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in Tony's life.** Tony admits that he has made some bad choices and deserves to be incarcerated. But because of St Dysmas' weekly worship services at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, Tony has found new life in Christ. He hears weekly that his choices are not what defines him, but instead Christ's mercy is for him. On behalf of Tony, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in the life of the synod staff.** As we travel the state and work with you, we see the impact your generosity makes in people's lives. Every time THE WORD of TRUTH is proclaimed in the pulpit, washed over a person in the waters of baptism, and celebrated at the Lord's Table we give thanks for your faithfulness. Our gathering makes a difference, because when we gather God shows up. Your witness, you showing up, and your generosity make a difference in your neighbor's life as the community of Christ bears witness to the defeat of sin and death. On behalf of your synod staff, **THANK YOU!**

It is my sincere hope that your synod staff has made a difference in the life of your congregation as we strive to live our shared vision of journeying together in Christ. Please know that your synod staff is always happy to be in conversation with you. We are committed to show up – just let us know where, when, and why.

Looking forward to the continued journey,

C. Hagmaier

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

<sup>1</sup> Names and stories are fictitious and altered to protect the individuals.