

Gratitude

We are in a season when we take time to reflect on God's goodness. There is much to trigger such awareness. As a synod, we just celebrated the ordination of our 14th seminary graduate. Should we be thankful for: The families who served as faith incubators? The congregations who nurtured the faith? The Bible camps, Lutheran colleges, and campus ministries that challenged and strengthened them for growth and service in God's so loved world? The seminaries and congregations who honed their skills and gifts for ministry? The candidacy committees who provided guidance and encouragement? The congregations who called them to serve, seeing God's Spirit at work in their lives?

Yes! There is so much we do together for which we can be thankful. At the synod assembly, many of the faces I saw reminded me of the good work we have done together over the past years. God has raised up so many faithful lay leaders in congregations, it is truly our privilege to serve alongside of you.

Mission

It is also a season of making mission plans, of seeing how we will continue to be about God's work through our hands in 2012. This leads to a thank you and a challenge. Thank you for your mission support which allows us to do all of the above and so much more. The challenge comes when we find ourselves reducing our support of these key ministries at the very time we need them most. As you and your congregation plan your mission support for 2012, prayerfully consider increasing your support for our shared ministries. Many of the good things we do together are at risk due to our flat or reduced support. It is my sincere hope that you have experienced the faithfulness our staff and synod council have exercised during challenging times.

In this season, it is not enough to say "thank you" to God for all of the blessings entrusted to our management. It is critical that our lives, the way we live out our gratitude, reflect the one who has blessed us to be a blessing. Thank you for being such a blessed and blessing people!

Your brother in Christ,



Bill Rindy

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now..." Philipians 1:3-5

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