

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I want to start off the New Year by expressing my gratitude for you, for the partnership we share in the Gospel, and for your prayers. Most everywhere I go, people tell me that they pray for the work of our synod. This is greatly appreciated more than you know. Also, I want to thank you for your continued financial support of all of our shared ministries in a less than ideal year, especially for our farming communities.

During our 2011 synod assembly, many expressed concern regarding the ministries that would receive less financial support due to budget cuts. Many have gone the “extra mile” for our regional ministries, some designating specific ministries, others wanting to support all that received less. Thank you! Some congregations and individuals have given above and beyond what they had planned and for this, all of these ministries are grateful. For those of you wanting to make sure that the work of our church continues, there is still time to make a difference.

Any funds that you would like to apply to help us reach our 2011 mission goal can still be submitted to our office postmarked on or before January 31, 2012. They can either go towards general mission support or to one/all of our “extra mile” for regional ministry partners if you choose.

As of Tuesday, January 17, we are still \$130,000 from reaching our 2011 mission goal. Lutheran Campus ministry of ND will receive \$50,000 less than last year even if we reach our goal; Luther Seminary \$20,000 less.

If you would like to make a difference, either as a congregation or as an individual, please know that it will greatly appreciated.

Serving on your behalf as bishop,

*Bill Rindy*

Pr. Bill Rindy