



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Report of the Outreach Committee

Dear Siblings of the Northern Illinois Synod,

The stated mission of the Outreach Committee is to “assist congregations of the Synod to learn, think and live Jesus’ life, death and resurrection to build faithful and vital Christian communities.” Tangibly, the committee seeks to illustrate that mission through:

- **Grants**

This year we are in the process of updating our application procedures.

- **Promoting Congregational Vitality Work**

The Vitality Survey is a 36-question survey that scores each question/topic as “high”, “medium”, and “at-risk.” This free program helps congregations have conversations about vitality and goal-setting. The program also uses demographic information so that congregations can compare themselves to their surrounding community. Our goal is to visit congregations who have done the survey or are in the process to help support ongoing work.

- **Helping Synod new starts**

San Jose Obrero is 10 years old. The new pastor started in July 2023. NIS is partnering with SE Iowa Synod to support this ministry in the Quad Cities which worships at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline. They worship 30-40 people each Sunday.

A second new start, Becoming in Oswego, started in November. A part-time mission developer is having one-to-one meetings throughout the community. They are not yet worshipping.

Members of our committee will be helping to evaluate these ministries.

- **Helping congregations create outreach ministries**

Some members of our committee were involved in presentations at CRE to provide churches with ideas to create and strengthen their outreach. We are also available for support and questions.

Without the members of the committee none of our work would be possible. I am grateful for the efforts of my fellow committee members: Sharon Beksell, Rev. Josh Ebener (Synod Liaison), Deb Keaschall, Don Kinney, Pastor Robin Luckey, David Musser, Pastor Brandon Nelson, Andrew Rex, Nancy Rex, Pastor Bob Stark, and Pastor Sarah Wilson.

We strive to live up to the words expressed in Mark 16:15 “And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation’.”

Peace be with you,
Lisa Gerloff-Banker