



Northern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## Report of Northern Illinois Synod Vice President

Dear Members of the Synod Assembly,

And just like that another year has passed and it is time for us to gather together again and reflect on the work of our congregations, committees, and the synod for the past year.

As we were coming out of the pandemic, we were optimistic about the time that everything would return to “normal”. I believe that we have figured out that we are not going back to what was normal and familiar to us before, at least not entirely. Many things that were implemented during the pandemic like on-line services and on-line giving are now common. The faithful and dedicated leadership within your congregations and the synod staff, with the support of the council amidst those trying times, ensured that our congregations and synod continued to thrive.

I encourage you to read the reports of the committees, agencies, and other leaders to see all of the wonderful work that is happening within the synod. It really is inspiring to see how the Spirit continues to work in among us and through us as individuals, congregations, the synod, and part of the larger church.

As the church in an ever changing and conflicted world, we will of course continue to have struggles and challenges. I would like to extend a huge word of thanks to Bishop Stacie and to the synod staff for their constant forward and out-of-the-box thinking that allows for quick responses to new challenges, sometimes anticipating the problem and having a solution ready.

I would also like to extend thanks to the synod council for their prayerful diligence in conducting the business of the synod and supporting the Bishop and the staff in their work.

To each of you, the heart and soul of our congregations and synod, I extend my heartfelt thanks. Your unwavering dedication and generosity are what make our collective mission of Walking Together—loving Christ, loving all, for the sake of the world—a reality.

Peace be with you,  
Minnette Willard  
Vice President