



# Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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May 8, 2016

Dear sisters and brothers at Faith Lutheran, Duluth:

As we concluded our 28th Annual Synod Assembly of the Northeastern Mn Synod of the ELCA we heard the good news of your vote taken on May 1st to transfer your property to your synod. On behalf of your Synod Council and 136 congregations of this Synod, and indeed speaking for the whole church, THANK YOU!

We are filled with deep gratitude for your generous gift of property and the mission and ministry possibilities it holds for the future. So many of our ELCA Lutherans and in fact those in other congregations in Duluth have known of your grace and kindness to Gloria Dei Lutheran after their fire and have personally shared with me their admiration for you. Our Synod Council members have shared with me not only their gratitude for your hospitality to a hurting congregation, but also for this generous gift of property. What a witness you are and will continue to be as this news is spread throughout our synod and this church. I will tell this story wherever I go. You embody what Saint Paul said so clearly in Colossians 3: 12 "***As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience...and above all clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony.***"

We also want you to know that we understand that closing one chapter of ministry in order to open up a new day for God's work, comes with its own sense of grief and loss. Good ministry in Christ's name has been done for years through Faith Lutheran. We are not immune to this reality and we keep you in our prayers as you walk through transition personally in the days ahead. God has given you a Resurrection faith - one that moves through death and into new life: New life at the end of our earthly lives, yes, but also new life *right here and now* to live into God's purposes

May you be richly blessed as you have blessed others.

In the name of Jesus, crucified and risen for the life of the world,

**+Bishop Thomas M. Aitken**  
**Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA**