

# Report of the Treasurer

During the fiscal year ending January 31, 2009, the Northern Illinois Synod received Mission Support gifts from its congregations of \$2,833,200. We celebrate this wonderful response from our faithful congregations since this is a \$48,587 increase from last year. We are very grateful to our congregations for their generosity especially during these challenging economic times.

The Northern Illinois Synod faithfully forwards 55% of its Mission Support revenue to the Churchwide Ministries of the ELCA. The total amount sent was \$1,558,260.

Your mission support dollars also supported the following agencies and institutions at 100% of budget: Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (\$139,805), Seminaries (\$84,340), Colleges (\$23,740), Campus Ministry (\$52,110), Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (\$20,350), IL Conference of Churches (\$1,020), and Regional Ministries (\$6,850).

Our congregations and communities are not immune to the economic difficulties our country is currently facing. The Statements of Intent received for fiscal year 2009 reflected these challenging times as they were \$174,955 or 5.87% below last year. After careful and prayerful consideration, we found it necessary to put a revised spending plan in place for 2009, holding spending to \$2,797,760 rather than the \$2,987,000 that had been approved at last year's assembly.

As the Synod Finance Committee and the Synod Council considered the budget to be proposed for fiscal year ending January 31, 2011, many factors were discussed, including the continued economic and employment uncertainties. Without the clarity of economic recovery we feel it is most prudent to propose very modest increases from the 2009 revised spending plan currently in place.

Please take the time to review the budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 that is provided in your Assembly materials. A Budget Hearing has been scheduled during the Assembly. Please take this time as an opportunity to meet members of the Synod Council and the Synod Finance Committee. We value your questions and comments and encourage your attendance.

The professional accounting firm of Lindgren, Callihan, VanOsdol & Co. Ltd. has completed their audit of the books and records of the Synod for fiscal year 2008-2009. You can obtain a copy of the audit by contacting the Synod office if you are interested. We will have a limited number of copies available at the Budget Hearing as well.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Assistant to the Bishop Sandy Musch and June Cain, the Synod's bookkeeper for the wonderful work they do. They both work tirelessly on your behalf behind the scenes with incredible dedication and faithfulness.

I would also like to thank the following Finance Committee members for their wise counsel and careful stewardship of the precious offerings we receive: Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim, Esther Prabhakar, Rev. Mark Luepke, Rev. Janet Wold, DiAnne Beynon, Wanda Nelson, Bill Bartlett, Nord Swanstrom, and the following staff serving in an advisory capacity: Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Rev. Kurt Nordby, Sandra Musch, and June Cain.

Our Synod is blessed with abundance and I remain confident that our congregations will continue to respond generously so the future of our Synod and the church remains bright.

In Christ,

Mic Brooks, Treasurer