



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



The last of my “occasional” letters to the synod...

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I take my leave from the work of this synod with a full and grateful heart.

Our oldest daughter married a Norwegian 24 years ago and moved to Norway, so we have visited often. We noted that when we walked through cemeteries the omnipresent gravestone words were “Takk for Alt” – For All Things, Thanks. Obviously, those lives contained many hard things, but the final word was gratitude for *everything*.

When I began 12 months ago it was not possible to anticipate what all has transpired. We had a notion that it would lead to a new bishop but weren't clear what that path would turn out to be. And, of course, we had no idea of how drastically life would change because of a virus. We didn't foresee the mass demonstrations for societal change.

One thing proven by these events is that the Spirit is faithful in breathing life into the church. We had to suspend the gathering of the community of faith... one might have anticipated that suspending the pivotal moment of the church's life would cause its demise. But the life of the church goes on, in new ways. It has been challenging and is leaving a weariness that we pray diminishes. But I have admired the leadership of so many, faithfully leading, serving people's needs, finding ways to continue to nurture the life of the church in this place. God's faithfulness will sustain the church.

It has been a joy to have connected personally with so many of you, in some cases people I have known years before, in most cases people who become new fibers woven into the tapestry that is my life. I am grateful for it all.

I leave with a confidence for the next chapter of this synod's life. And I leave grateful for all that has taken place. All.

Takk for Alt.

Peter Rogness  
Interim Bishop