



Northern Illinois District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

February 10, 2022

Statement of Encouragement to all Called Workers in the LCMS Northern Illinois District

As Paul sat in chains for the sake of Christ, he was inspired by the Spirit to write to the Church in Ephesus, “Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3)

The Word of God always rightly applies to our lives as followers of Jesus, and these words certainly seem especially fitting to commend to us in light of the unrest and anger that seems to surround us as our state grapples with masking policies.

No matter where you stand on the masking issue (or any issue for that matter), your NID staff would humbly entreat you to take these Words of our Lord to heart as you deal with church and school leaders and express your viewpoint. Please recall that as members of the Body of Christ, it is our great blessing not to assert our rights but rather to yield in humility, gentleness, and patience with one another, and thus also give a Christ-like, and *Christ-centered witness to our neighbors* and to an unbelieving world around us.

We continue to lift you all up in prayer as together we seek to navigate these challenging days for the care of our neighbor and the faithful witness of Christ as our Savior.

With You, My eyes are on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2,3)

Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss
President, LCMS Northern Illinois District