



## Northern Illinois District

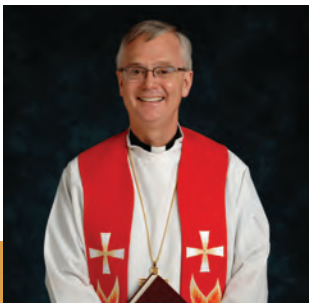
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Luke 10:1 says that Jesus sent out His disciples two by two. What a joy to know our Lord still sends us into His harvest field together! Among the partners we are grateful to have in service to Christ are Recognized Service Organizations. These not-for-profit groups work alongside our District to foster the mission and ministry our Lord gives us. Let me share a few of the ways we are blessed by RSOs.

**Walcamp:** This year we celebrate 60 years with Walcamp, exploring God's creation, exalting Christ, and Equipping Christians for service! The camp provides a unique environment for our churches and schools to use as an extension of their own ministries. Traditional summer camp is merely one aspect of the services provided both to our ministries. The camp is able to partner with our ministries, bringing the Good News amidst the wonder of God's creation through Jr. High retreats, local Summer Day Camp, and Camp Agape for those with special needs. With the addition of DCE Anna Reineke in 2022, Sr. High retreats have also been added to programming. Thanks be to God for our partnership with Walcamp!

**Phil's Friends:** Our partners at Phil's Friends are on the front lines of serving cancer patients and their families. Over the past 17 years, partnering with our LCMS Northern Illinois District churches and schools, over 45,000 care packages and Bibles have been delivered, over 1,000,000 Cards of Hope with Scripture mailed, and countless prayers have been lifted up for those touched by this disease. Volunteers of all ages from our ministries are able to come to Phil's Friends for Hope Packing events where packages and cards are prepared to send, as Immanuel Lutheran Church, Elmhurst was recently able to do. Immanuel was able to take some of the packages back for their own local ministry to those with cancer. Thanks be to God for our partnership with Phil's Friends!

We are grateful for all our partners found on the reverse side of this letter and for you as well! May Christ bear fruit in our service together!



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

Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss, President

