

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

St. Paul reminds us, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 THESS. 5:16–18).

When the Thessalonians heard Paul’s urging to rejoice, pray and give thanks, they did so. This July, so will we, when elected delegates and visitors from around the world gather in Tampa for the 67th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. And through that rejoicing, praying and giving thanks, we will bear witness to God’s love in Christ.

As we prepare joyfully to take on this work, we invite your congregation together with all of the LCMS to participate in the 2019–21 LCMS National Offering. This special collection of monetary gifts sets the tone for our next triennium under the theme, “Joy to the World,” preparing hearts for prayerful rejoicing, gratitude and bold action. I assure you that any gifts received go directly to the mission of the LCMS to make known the Good News of Jesus Christ, joy incarnate, to the world.

We know that the Gospel of Jesus Christ brings great joy to God’s people through the forgiveness of sins and the certain hope of eternal life. Your church’s gifts will help support work that reflects the Christ-centered joy of Lutheran Christians everywhere, and share that joy across boundaries among those who have not yet heard the powerful message of His salvation.

Having joyfully received the Gospel through Word and Sacrament, let’s come together for the 2019–21 National Offering and watch how it emboldens the work that God has given His people to do and brings true and lasting joy to the world, that all might rejoice and give thanks to God for every good gift.

Rejoicing with you,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

