

July, 2013

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President  
and Delegates to the 65<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Dear Reverend President, treasured sisters and brothers!

It is a joy to write these lines on behalf of more than 300 Lutheran Church-Canada congregations from Nova Scotia on the Atlantic to Vancouver Island on the Pacific, as well for all our pastors and deacons, our Concordia University College of Alberta, our Concordia seminaries at Edmonton and St. Catharines, our Council of Presidents and synodical Board of Directors.

Just seven years after your Missouri Synod was organized in Chicago, you began work in Canada in 1854. With love and devotion you trained pastors and included us in your synodical family for 135 years until we began to function as a self-governing partner church on January 1, 1989. We are now approaching our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Even since we “left the house,” so to speak, you’ve been a praying and caring mother to us. You offer guidance whenever we ask for it. You share your marvelous resources from agencies like Concordia Publishing House and your Commission on Theology and Church Relations. You have respected the dignity and authority of our Canadian church as we matured.

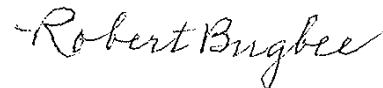
So this greeting is not just a formality. We thank God for this opportunity to tell you how much we treasure the tie we have with you. It is not only rooted in a shared organizational past. It lives and breathes because it is rooted in Jesus Christ and in the faithful confession of His Name.

Despite all the troubles and challenges besetting the church throughout North America, He is still the same Son of God and Saviour of the world. He is still the Life and Hope of His people. He still welcomes our prayers and can make us able witnesses in the exact time and place He has caused us to live. Your convention theme has it right: He has baptized us for this moment.

I thank you especially for the work of Dr. Albert B. Collver, Assistant to the President for Church Relations, who has invested much energy in the LCMS-LCC relationship in the past triennium. Your partner churches are also deeply grateful for the work he is doing as Executive Secretary of the International Lutheran Council as we try to expand a Biblical Lutheran witness around the world.

God bless your days in St. Louis, your talking and listening, your prayers and praises. Thanks for everything. We really mean it!

In Christ our dear Lord,



Robert Bugbee, President  
Lutheran Church-Canada