



Dear Friends in Christ,

The threefold emphasis of **WITNESS, MERCY, LIFE TOGETHER** began as a way to frame the restructuring of the national work of the LCMS into biblical themes. Very soon we realized that these themes are not only the pervasive and central themes of the Church's life in the New Testament, they are "scalable" from the individual Christian, pastor, to the congregation, circuit, district, national Synod, and worldwide communion of orthodox Lutheran churches. It has been a pleasure to chase these themes through Holy Scripture, with a joyous surprise at nearly every turn of the page.

WITNESS, MERCY, LIFE TOGETHER describes what the Church does in this world while living under the shadow of Jesus' cross. From the Gospels, we see that Jesus' work is to bear witness, show mercy, and share His divine life together with His people. In a similar way, the Church, as the bride of Christ, engages in **WITNESS, MERCY, LIFE TOGETHER**.

The enclosed DVD and Bible study were developed from a series of presentations to the staff at the LCMS International Center in January 2011. Through a generous donation, we were able to make the DVD and Bible study available to the church at large by sending one copy to each congregation.

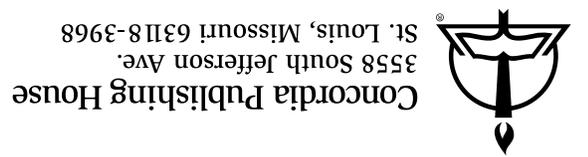
We pray that by the study of the Scriptures on **WITNESS, MERCY, LIFE TOGETHER**, and through the DVD and Bible study, you may be blessed and enriched.

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."*

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

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President Matthew C. Harrison



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