



August 22, 2014

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

What a joy it is to be part of The American Association of Lutheran Churches (TAALC) where God's Word is seen as the final authority in all matters of faith and life. When we gathered at the National Convention in St. Paul, MN at the end of June many decisions were made that affect all the members of The AALC. For one, we passed a budget that included a full-time Presiding Pastor. Given the demands made of the man who serves in this office this was a good and important decision. We also voted to make the Administrative Assistant to The AALC full time again and to continue with a full time National Mission Developer. Together, this team will work with the Executive Committee and the ALTS President to strengthen and revitalize our congregations, support and encourage our pastors, add new churches to The AALC, train the next generation of AALC pastors and increase dialogue and fellowship with other world Lutheran bodies. This is a vital work and witness in our day marked by moral relativism and the denial of God-ordained values for life.

We all understand from our household and congregational budgets that it does take substantial funds to do all that is necessary. We certainly seek to be wise in the use of available resources. At our national convention we passed a budget that we feel is reasonable and necessary to support this work. It is important that all of our congregations share in this effort.

Therefore, we are asking all of our congregations to prayerfully consider tithing to The AALC on the total amount of their general church budget. We certainly are not making this a law, and The AALC has never had an "apportionment" as do many other denominations. Tithing should be seen as a blessing and an opportunity to grow in faith. Consider Malachi 3:10. The tithing was always to come from the top of our income giving us the opportunity to see God meet all of our needs with the remaining 90%. Our God is faithful!

It was the agreed upon desire of the delegates of our national convention that we commit ourselves to tithing to benevolence. For this reason, we are asking each congregation to send one check to The American Association of Lutheran Church's general budget which will be used to support The AALC and ALTS operations as needed rather than designating amounts to missions, youth, ALTS, and other individual commissions and the work they do. The AALC, in turn, is committed to tithing to benevolence including world missions, American missions, youth,

seminarian support and other important concerns as they arise. By having the flexibility to use incoming funds where most needed and the support of all our congregations, we will be able to support the entire work of ministry that God has called us to. The AALC has stood firmly upon the truth of Scripture for its 25 years of life, and has sought to honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in all we do. By God's grace we will continue to do that until our Lord returns.

Jesus promises in His Word, "Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38, ESV). Giving to the work of the Lord is a joy and a privilege. May the Lord do a work of grace in us individually and as church families so that we might grow in the grace of giving.

If you have any questions regarding these requests or the financial and budget decisions that were made at the national convention, please send a message to The AALC Treasurer Dan Kruger at: dan@demonstratives.com.

In Christ, the Executive Committee of The AALC,



Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins
Presiding Pastor



Rev. Roger Twito
Assistant Presiding Pastor



Rev. Irvin Stapf
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Dan Kruger, Ph.D.
Treasurer