

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As Ebola continues its deadly sweep across West Africa — the death toll rising to some 3,500 at this writing — the people of the LCMS continue to respond with prayer and support for our relief efforts.

So far, we have given mercy grants totaling \$67,729 to help our brothers and sisters in the most afflicted nations — Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea — grants made possible by the generosity of LCMS members.

We are providing food supplies, as well as sanitation and cleaning supplies to households as a preventive measure. And, we are engaging with Lutheran congregations and schools to educate people on how Ebola is spread and contained. Everything the LCMS is doing, working through our main point of contact, missionary David Erber, the Synod's area director for West Africa, is being done with church leaders in the region. Many have contacted our offices wondering how they can help fight Ebola. The most effective way is to give through the LCMS Disaster Response and Health Ministry efforts. The Synod's online giving page — <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/epidemics> — directs funds to the LCMS' *Epidemics & Infectious Diseases Response Fund*.

With thanksgiving to God for your faithful service on behalf of the Gospel, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod