**M E M O**

**TO:** Rostered leaders of the Minneapolis Area Synod

**FROM:** Bishop Ann

**RE:** An Audacious Campaign to raise $500,000 to start Lutheran University Nigeria – a general message to share with your Church Council

**DATE:** October 20, 2021

The last two years have been a time of hyper-focus on the local and regional. As those of us in the Minneapolis area have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and the racial reckoning within our communities, we have necessarily responded with care and compassion, often testing our capacity.

This is a moment for re-engagement with the global church. And, our companion synod, the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, is at a critical stage in birthing a dream.

Archbishop Musa Panti Filibus and the leadership of the LCCN have faithfully put in place a realistic plan for a Lutheran University in the northeastern part of Nigeria. They have acquired land, provided environmental impact statements, fulfilled reporting requirements, and more to prepare to launch the university.

The Nigerian government, probably rightly, requires a bank account with $500,000 to ensure that it is not left “holding the bag” in case of a default. We, the people of the Minneapolis Area Synod, can support our siblings’ vision by raising this money for the LCCN.

Every congregation in the LCCN – all 2,000 of them – is setting aside the offering one Sunday in November to pay for other aspects of starting the university. We can join them by holding special thank offerings in November in order to raise the $500,000.

At the moment I write this, we already have $114,000. We only have $386,000 to go!

Will you please join us? First, watch the 5:45-minute video about the project, and our commitment to bringing this miracle into being. Second, consider how your congregation might contribute to this effort. Third, please hold a special thank offering during November.

Of course, we will need some heavy lifting to put this dream over the top. But, we would also love to say that every synod congregation participated in this effort.

The Lutheran University Nigeria is an opportunity for making a real change in individual lives and will bring real stability to the nation, with the Lutheran church as an important partner.

Will you and your congregation join with others to bring this epoch-changing opportunity into reality?