**A Note from Pastor David**

***Defining Benevolence***

Lord of Life has long been known for our heart for others and generous response to the mission of our Lord Jesus locally and throughout the world. I experienced that when I first arrived on our campus in 2013 and heard the story of Family Promise and LOL’s steadfast support for families experiencing homelessness. Rather than renting our house on County Road 5, our leadership moved to undergird a much-needed ministry by gifting the use of the house as The Family Promise Day Center.

Your defining of benevolence stirred my core calling to love those whom God has planted in our lives. And I’ve only known a continued stirring of the heart with you over these years as we are quick to share and pay it forward from God’s great providing. This season of COVID, with all of its challenges, has not slowed our benevolence. Indeed, last Thanksgiving, we were blessed with a gift of $20,000 to offer support where needed and that has been added to over this last year. Truly, we are blessed. Blessed to give, share, and give God our thanks and praise.

We and the 153 churches of the Minneapolis Area Synod have recently been invited to give a special gift in support of a new Lutheran university in Nigeria. The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) prepares high school graduates for post-secondary studies through its vast network of primary and secondary schools. Students consistently graduate with superior marks. However, there aren’t enough university spots available for these graduates. The LCCN has identified and obtained land for the university. They have raised initial funds for filing with the Nigerian government to establish the university. But, the government requires there to be at least $500,000 in the bank before the university can be finally approved. $100,000 has already been given through our Minneapolis Area Synod, the only companion synod of LCCN in the United States.

Lord of Life has already committed $1,000 of our Benevolence Fund to LCCN. I invite you to join me in growing that commitment with an additional gift this month (simply mark your gift as LCCN). Let’s warm the hearts of our Nigerian brothers and sisters with our passionate defining of LOL benevolence.

We are truly blessed.

Pastor David