



**NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

May 15, 2008

The Reverend Hance A. O. Mwakabana  
ELCT – South Central Diocese  
P.O. Box 22  
Makete, Tanzania

Dear Bishop Mwakabana,

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

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, it is my privilege and pleasure to extend our warmest greetings and sincere congratulations on the occasion of your consecration as Bishop of the South Central Diocese. Please know that you and your family, your staff and the entire Diocese will be in our prayers as the Holy Spirit guides all of you into the next chapter of your life together in ministry and mission for Jesus' sake.

As the South Central Diocese celebrates your consecration, our Synod will be electing my successor at its Assembly, May 29-31, 2008. My second and final term as bishop ends on July 31<sup>st</sup>; the newly elected bishop's term will begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>. When our delegation of pastors and youth visit the Diocese next month, they will bring you news of our Assembly and information about the bishop-elect.

The establishment and growth our companion synod relationship has been and will remain one of the most satisfying accomplishments of my service as bishop. Our synod has been richly blessed through our companionship with the South Central Diocese; friendships have been created and nurtured; prayers have been and will continue to be offered for each other; our accompaniment will be woven ever more deeply into the fabric of our life together as diocese and synod, companions in Christ our Lord.

With my prayer that you will be richly blessed in your important ministry, I remain

Your servant in Christ,

David R. Strobel, Bishop

Copies: Pastor Kurt Garbe  
Pastor Russell Haab  
Mr. Charles Mohn  
Mrs. Priscilla Schlenker-Kinney