



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

NEBRASKA

The Twenty-first Week after Pentecost
October 16, 2024

St. John Lutheran Church
11400 Panama Road
Crete, NE 68333

Dear St. John Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Concordia University, Nebraska where God's grace pours forth abundantly, never in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:10

I am writing to express my gratitude for the privilege of serving as the preacher of God's Word at your 150th anniversary worship service on October 13, 2024. Mrs. Carol Brinkmeyer and Rev. Maynard Toensing's detailed guidance to help me prepare was collegial and thorough. The warm welcome I received in your midst was also a blessing. While I enjoyed reading the history of God's work through St. John's 150 years, I was even more inspired to listen to various stories about your ancestors prior to the dinner.

Please also accept my deep appreciation for the gift of a beautiful Lord's Supper wood carving. It is unique among the mementos of Nebraska congregation anniversaries I have received over the years. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace... Philippians 1:3-7.

Cordially in Christ,

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld
Director of Institute for Rural and Small Town Ministry