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August 20, 2021

The Rev. Dr. Yonas Yigezu, President  
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus

Dear brother in Christ,

Grace to you and peace in the name of our Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

We greet you and all the saints who are the Body of Christ in EECMY. We pray that as we struggle, together, through this worldwide pandemic that the Lord is bringing healing, strength and peace to the people of Ethiopia.

We give thanks for your public greeting, on behalf of EECMY, to our 2021 NALC Mission Convocation. We were reminded of the fond affection and bond which exists between our two church bodies, hindered in some ways by COVID-19. At the same time, we were reassured that even this deadly virus could not keep us from remaining united in Christ Jesus across these many miles!

Yet even now, we are saddened to have been informed of the great flooding which has so dramatically impacted EECMY and the Mekane Yesus Seminary. We grieve the loss of life, the pain and difficulty of those who have lost loved ones and, certainly, the destruction to the property which is so instrumental to the theological education and formation of those who will serve EECMY.

Because you asked for prayer in your greeting, a resolution was presented to our convocation and was approved unanimously. It stated, in part:

*Whereas our full communion partnership agreement commits us to praying for one another;*

*Therefore, be it resolved that the NALC, in convocation, will offer prayer for these intentions during our gathering, will invite every pastor, congregation and member to enter into intentional and intensive prayer for Ethiopia;*

*And be it further resolved that the Bishop of the NALC together with executive staff, prepare a letter to be sent to President Yigezu assuring him of the love, concern and prayers of their brothers and sisters in the NALC.*

I write, today, to fulfill that prayerful and heartfelt directive. We will also be inviting “every pastor, congregation and member to enter into intentional and intensive prayer for Ethiopia” in upcoming newsletter (and email). Upon approval of this resolution, the following prayer was offered at convocation by Chaplain, Pastor Nila Cogan:

*Merciful and gracious God, we ask for your healing hand to be with the people of Ethiopia, especially in the Northern Tigray Region. Be with all who suffer from the conflict, for the families of the thousands who have died, for the 1.7 million who fled their homes and for those who face famine and despair. May the people feel your presence, Lord, as they go through these troubled times. May you send peace and healing to them all. Lord, in your mercy, we pray. Amen.*

Together with that prayer, we also now will be adding prayers for healing and restoration after the recent flooding.

Be assured of our ongoing love for and appreciation of EECMY, its leaders, pastors, congregations and laity as you have been shining light in the midst of a world all too ready to embrace the darkness of unbelief, ungodliness, biblical ignorance and secularization. We know that you will continue to stand firmly and faithfully upon the unchanged and unchanging Word of God, the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ as the only Way, Truth and Life, and the Great Commandment and the Great Commission!

We look forward to that time when we will once again meet, pray and worship together, in person, as one family in Christ. Until that time, please pray for us as well!

In Christ,



The Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Selbo, Bishop  
The North American Lutheran Church