

Formed, Reformed, Transformed
IK Synod Assembly 2017
Pastor Nancy Nyland, Director for Evangelical Mission

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. (Romans 12:1-2 The Message)

It is a privilege and my great pleasure to travel around our IK Mission Territory witnessing how you are taking your everyday, ordinary lives and placing them before God. God is transforming you, changing disciples and congregations from the inside out. How exciting to see the joy experienced in fellowshiping with one another inside the faith community and outside in your neighborhoods and communities; the peace of knowing that you have listened well to discern what God is calling you to do and are acting on it; the hope that comes from knowing that the best years of your ministry are yet to come; the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit that inspires and empowers all of this transformation of congregational mission and ministry around this Mission Territory.....yes, indeed, how exciting!

Fixing our attention on God, the Spirit is at work forming, reforming, transforming all of us in our everyday, ordinary lives.....in our sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around lives.

Thank you, people of God, for opening your hearts and lives, embracing God, and joining God in God's mission in the world.

- ❖ Thank you for the ministry you do in your faith communities to care for one another.
- ❖ Thank you for the ways the Spirit is empowering you to share your faith in your daily lives.
- ❖ Thank you for your generous gifts of Mission Support to the IK Synod and ELCA – gifts which are transforming lives and making Christ known around the world.
- ❖ Thank you for your designated gifts to other IK Synod and ELCA ministries, such as Campus Ministry, World Hunger, Malaria Campaign, the ELCA Campaign, New Starts, and Transforming Congregations.
- ❖ Thank you for the ways you are engaging in your neighborhoods and communities, growing relationships and responding to opportunities to serve and partner with others.
- ❖ Thank you for studying God's Word, and listening, and discerning God's calling for you and your congregation as you plan intentionally for your future.
- ❖ Thank you to those who serve so selflessly on the Tables and Committees with which I work.

God is bringing the best out of you! Thanks be to God!

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Nancy Nyland, DEM