



Southern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Dear Friends,

Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" (Mark 16:2-3)

In this text, Mark shares a conversation between Mary Magdalene; Mary, the mother of James; and Salome, as they prepared to anoint the body of Jesus on the third day after his death.

What strikes me about this text is how we sometimes see only the obstacles in our way. We wonder, "Who will roll the stone away?" The stone may be fear, pride, hurt, finances, job, or even apathy.

Last year, I told you about the "large financial stone" that was blocking the way for us to meet our obligations to synod supported ministries; including basic mission support of national/global ministries, congregations dependent upon synod subsidy, leadership support, and congregational programming, and our agencies, such as Ohio Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio, Wittenberg and Capital Universities and Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

I thank you for your generous response to my request for donations to build up our common ministries. You helped us meet our promises of financial support in 2010.

I am again asking that you consider a "Roll Away the Stone" Special Offering in your congregation this Easter, as our synod supported ministries are still underfunded. Please provide leadership for this effort, as you are able. This will allow us to meet our mission obligations here and throughout the church. I pray for a strong response and the opportunity to make a special report and recognition about this at the Synod Assembly.

On this Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter season, may God "roll away the stone" that keeps all of us from fully engaging in life in our synod and carrying out our role in His masterful plan.

"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15)

In Christ,

Callon Holloway, Jr.

Callon Holloway, Jr., Bishop

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