

**He Changed the World - April 6, 2005**  
**Bishop Robert A. Rimbo, Southeast Michigan Lutheran Synod,**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

The death of Pope John Paul II reminds us of our own mortality but, more importantly, of the grace of our God. While we mourn with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers, with them we also give thanks to God. The remarkable life and ministry of the Holy Father has changed the world.

Members of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America stand with our friends in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, basking in the light from the empty tomb of Jesus Christ. Today we praise our God that his servant, John Paul, now knows the fullness of God's baptismal promises and the eternal joy of Easter.