



**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
* AND THE *
TERRITORIES**
Incorporated as Alberta Synod

January 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Office of the Bishop

10014 - 81 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8
Ph: 780-439-2636
Fax: 780-433-6623
Toll free: 1-866-430-2636
Email: abtsynod@elcic.ca
www.albertasynod.ca

Ronald B. Mayan
Bishop
rbmayan@elcic.ca

Larry Kochendorfer
Assistant to the Bishop
lkochendorfer@elcic.ca

Sharon Villetard
Administrative Coordinator
svilletard@elcic.ca

Kathy Budgell
Administrative Assistant
kbudgell@elcic.ca

In this Epiphany season, the season of light, I send you greetings in the Name of the One who is the Light of the world, Jesus our Lord. As you gather in your congregational meetings, my prayer is that the Holy Spirit who is the driving force of the Church would guide your deliberations and bless you with wisdom, counsel, knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

As you meet for your Annual General Meeting, you will quite possibly be continuing to deal with the ELCIC National Convention decisions of July 2011, and the outcomes those decisions are having on individual members and congregations. I am aware that not many member congregations of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories have begun living into the July 2011 decisions without some measure of stress and strain. I call on all to remember that we are bound to one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all. Our Lord would have us maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. The Great Commandment is clear: to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength – and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This love, which is a God-given gift of the Holy Spirit, indeed can cover a multitude of sins. Let us make love our aim.

A further action of National Convention 2011 was the adoption in principle of two focal points for the coming three to four years. These focal points are spiritual renewal and structural renewal. Our Synod – and indeed all Synods of the ELCIC – are asked to commit to a process of renewal both spiritually and structurally. As a Church, we need a renewing of Spirit individually and in our corporate life together as congregations. National Bishop Susan Johnson called on the ELCIC to commit and devote itself to *Worship, Pray, Serve, Study, Read, Give and Tell*. This is a call for a renewing in the Holy Spirit and a reclaiming of our discipleship – to BE disciples and to MAKE disciples. This spiritual renewal will be the locomotive that informs and provides power for the structural renewal we require as a Church. We need to form the institution called the ELCIC in a way that empowers congregations and individual members to engage in the Great CO-Mission. I urge your study and support of both the spiritual and structural renewal impetus.

Now, I thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. Believe, with me, that Jesus is Lord of this Church in all its manifestations. And let us strive to walk together and work together in the Spirit of Christ, in mission for others.

In Christ,

+ 

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories