



DIACONAL SUNDAY

February 28, 2016



Celebrating witness expressed through service (*diakonia*) and leadership offered by the ELCIC's diaconal ministers.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: . . . to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

— **Affirmation of Baptism, EvLW p. 236**

Serving our neighbours is an essential element of spiritual renewal, of life in the church and of sharing the gospel. Internationally, the Greek word *diakonia* is used to discuss and encourage mission expressed through compassionate justice, service, advocacy and development. Along with *Theology and Dialogue* and *Holistic Mission and Relationships*, *Diakonia* is one of the priorities of Lutheran World Federation.

Diaconal Ministers are called by the ELCIC for a public ministry of Word and Service. This includes skilled and faithful service to marginalized persons, and a deep commitment to equipping all the baptized for spirited discipleship. Today, we give thanks for the 30 people on the ELCIC Roster of Diaconal Ministers and for the service and leadership they offer.

Prayer for Diaconal Sunday

Lord, we remember that in the waters of baptism you renew us, cleanse us and call us to live as spirited disciples. Help us to live as Noah lived, listening and obeying your will, carrying out your calling, and following through on the work you have for us. We remember the covenant you made with Noah and we rededicate ourselves to fulfilling your covenant, to trusting you, to following you and to practicing the spiritual gifts you have given each of us for the building up of our communities. Help us Lord to use our gifts to serve one another. Help to give of ourselves in ways that build up our brothers and sisters, most especially those in need, the lonely, the poor, the isolated, the marginalized and the oppressed. Thank you for your strength to live out our individual calling. Today, we pray especially for those who live out their call as Diaconal Ministers of the ELCIC, called to the ministry of Word and Service.

—Prayer by Keirra Maher

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