



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

October 22, 2025

Dear members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC),

We write to you today as the Conference of Bishops. Recently we had the opportunity to be together for a time of intentional meeting, following the meeting of the National Church Council and Installation Service of our National Bishop. We seek to meet regularly, and our recent gathering included two days of prayer, reflection and conversation regarding our common work.

A strong and cohesive relationship among us is valued and integral to not only our work, but the health of the church. Our time together as the Conference of Bishops nurtures these relationships, allowing us to share in one another's joys and to hold one another in prayer during difficult times of pain and sadness.

It is for that reason that we issue this joint letter. During our meeting we debriefed together about the recent National Convention. It was difficult to hear that during convention, one of our colleagues was the subject of unfounded rumours and false information. These actions were personally harmful and hurtful, and undermined the integrity of the ELCIC.

In the ELCIC, we are committed to being a church that welcomes all of God's people in a safe and accepting environment. We recognize the image of Christ in every person and serve that person as Christ himself. In all meetings of the church, we begin with a core sense of respect for the value of each person as a unique child of God.

To ensure we uphold these values, every meeting of the ELCIC has in place a Code of Conduct, and a complaint handling committee to address any concerns that go against the Code of Conduct. Complaints received in connection with allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct must remain confidential to ensure a fair process to those involved.

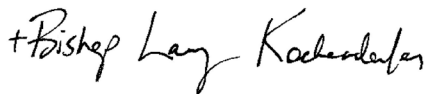
While matters pertaining to Code of Conduct reports are confidential, we want to assure you that any allegations regarding the spread of unfounded rumours and false information within our membership are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken as required. The Code of Conduct process exists to ensure that concerns are resolved in harmony with Matthew 18:15–17, which is the basis of the ELCIC's Code of Conduct. We call upon this church to refrain from speculation, gossip and spreading misinformation and at the same time to commit ourselves to healthy, gospel-centred relationships.

Let us commit ourselves to these pathways so that our church may continue to be a place of justice, grace, and mutual respect and help us in *Living Out God's Grace and Unconditional Love*.

In Christ's service,

The Conference of Bishops

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer
National Bishop, ELCIC



Rev. Dr. Ali Tote
Bishop of the Saskatchewan Synod



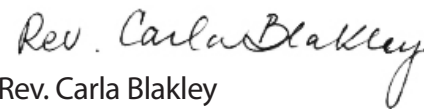
Rev. Kathy Martin
Bishop of the British Columbia Synod



Rev. Jason Zinko
Bishop of the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod



Rev. Patricia Schermund
Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories



Rev. Carla Blakley
Bishop of the Eastern Synod