



July-August 2018 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

I am writing on Tuesday morning, June 12, just days before the Synod Convention begins in Camrose under the theme based on I Cor. 13:13, **“Faith, Hope, Love: and the greatest of these is love.”**

As we gather on Thursday afternoon we will take time for a few minutes of conversation around expectations of our time together: what are you looking forward to at this convention? What do you anticipate taking home with you from convention? What am I looking forward to? What are my hopes as we gather? In no particular order:

- Worship that is deeply meaningful
- Welcoming and learning from our Colombian guests
- Signing, together with Bishop Atahualpa, the “Covenant” between our Synod and The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia
- Daily Eucharist
- Singing that blows the roof off of the Convention Hall
- Nourishment through the three presentations – Faith, Hope, Love – from Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen
- Enriching debate, decision-making and elections
- Conversations
- Learning through “Lunch and Learn” opportunities and guests to the Convention: for example, CLWR, Pastor Brian Rude, Lutheran Theological Seminary, and so on
- Ordination Anniversaries and presentation of the first Synod of Alberta and the Territories *Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award*
- Chillin’ with the Chaplains gelato event
- Mission Priority videos – hearing the stories
- Prayerfully walking through the Art Display with items from across the Synod
- And the list could go on...

As we gather from across our Synod please remember all who gather in your prayers that together we will be open to the Spirit’s work among us...shaping...transforming...reworking...guiding...and that we will know the reality of the words of Paul to the church in Rome (15:13): *“The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom,

+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer