



## February 2019 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

Over the past several months I have participated in three continuing education opportunities which were each very good learning experiences.

- “Shared Stories: Promising Practices in Canadian Churches” through Ambrose University, Calgary and its *flourishing Congregations Institute*.
- A leadership development event for Bishops from across North America and representing several denominations.
- The ELCA/ELCIC Bishop’s Academy which focused on: Caring for Our Common Home with keynote presenters: Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda and Dr. Larry Rasmussen

Continuing education is an important piece for all rostered and lay leaders, including bishops. As a way to remain diligent to learning goals, ELCIC rostered ministers are expected to engage in at least ninety hours of continuing education over each three-year period. Rostered Ministers have you reported all your 2018 continuing education hours to ELCIC Group Services Inc.? Members are encouraged to submit continuing education hours, even when no funds were used. You can report your continuing education hours to GSI, using the CEP Expense Reimbursement Form: <https://www.elcicgsi.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/CEP-Short-Term-Expense-reimbursement-request-form-revised-Jan-2019.pdf>

Continuing education is not just important and valuable for rostered ministers...and bishops...it is equally as important and valuable for lay leaders and for congregational members.

Have you considered participating in “Pathways to Prayer” offered through the Lay Academy at our Seminary? Join Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken from our Synod online or in person (Ascension, Edmonton and Hope, Calgary) as we look at the Lord’s Prayer and its invitation to intimacy with God. Feb. 2 and Feb. 9, 2019 from 9:30am – 12 Noon. For Registration and Payment see: <https://layacademy5.wixsite.com/elcicwla/prayer2> To learn more about the Lay Academy see: <http://www.usask.ca/stu/luther/programs-lay-academy.html>

Happy learning lifelong learners!

In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom,  
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

*“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.” (Romans 15:13)*