



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

The Office of the Bishop

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Al-Rashid Mosque
13070 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5E 5A8

Re: Solidarity and prayer for hope and peace following threats

Grace and peace to you.

***Spirit -Led
Leadership***

I am writing to you today as your sibling in faith – to offer solidarity, prayers, and support to the people of Al-Rashid Mosque on behalf of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), of which I serve as Synodical Bishop.

***Hope-Filled
Discipleship***

We wish to join our voices with those who have denounced the horrifying acts of intimidation on your Mosque during this holy time of Ramadan.

***Innovative
Tradition***

Threats of violence, racism, islamophobia, and white supremacy have no place in any community – and it is our great hope that through continued allyship, support, and shared learning about the Islamic community's beautiful and peaceful faith - that such events will cease to take place. Until that day comes, know that we will continue to stand with you and beside you as people of faith.

***Collaborative
Partnerships***

The attached letters have been written in solidarity with your community of faith and have been sent to the head of the Edmonton Police Services Chief Dale McFee, the head of the Hate Crimes Unit Sergeant Gary Willits, and to the City of Edmonton's Mayor Don Iverson.

In 2015, our ELCIC National Convention endorsed the Lutheran World Federation's document, *Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders*. In this action, we affirmed that our "faith teaches that compassion, mercy, love and hospitality are for everyone: the native born and the foreign born, the member of my community and the newcomer." We join with people of all faiths on a journey toward peace, respect and true community. The ELCIC has encouraged the use of the resource *Encountering People of Other*

Faiths: Interfaith Guidelines. This resource, and, *A Statement to Muslims in Canada by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada* were adopted with by the ELCIC in 2017. And more recently, together with the Anglican Church of Canada, our full communion partner, the ELCIC strongly supported *A Common Word*.

Our prayer for your community throughout Ramadan is that you would come to feel safe in our city again. That you would find healing through the support and care of those within and outside of your community. That you would find justice and reconciliation with those who have committed this crime.

We hope that you will receive this letter in the manner intended: as a genuine expression of love for our neighbour and desire for the well-being of all who call our world “home”.

In peace and in hope,



The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders

https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/Welcoming_the_Stranger.pdf

Encountering People of Other Faiths: Interfaith Guidelines

<https://elcic.ca/Documents/documents/EncounteringPeopleOfOtherFaiths-InterfaithGuidelines.pdf>

A Statement to Muslims in Canada by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

<https://elcic.ca/Documents/documents/StatementtoMuslimsinCanadabytheEvangelicalLutheranChurchinCanada.pdf>

A Common Word

<https://acommonword.ca/>