



**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
AND THE
TERRITORIES**

Incorporated as Alberta Synod

The Office of the Bishop

10014 - 81 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8

Ph: (780) 439-2636

Fax (780) 433-6623

Email: info@albertasynod.ca

www.albertasynod.ca

***Spirit -Led
Leadership***

***Hope-Filled
Discipleship***

***Innovative
Tradition***

***Collaborative
Partnerships***

May 15, 2020

Mayor Don Iveson
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Don Iveson,

My name is Larry Kochendorfer and I serve as the Synodical Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. I am writing to you today to voice my grave concern, and that of the synod, its congregations and members, over the "Ramadan Bombathon" incident that threatened Al-Rashid Mosque in Edmonton on April 24, 2020.

We have learned this week from the *National Council of Canadian Muslims* that our neighbors and friends at the Al-Rashid Mosque were once again terrorized by an individual who has made an intimidating video documenting his hateful beliefs and some actual threats. This incident has frightened their community of faith during this Holy month of Ramadan and has left us all wondering if we are safe as people of faith, here in Edmonton.

We know that even during these unprecedented times many communities of faith continue to gather on-line for prayers and worship. This is something that has been put at risk for our friends at Al-Rashid Mosque – and we stand in solidarity with them as they continue to face these kinds of threats.

We write, trusting that you will do everything in your power to raise our concern that such incidents of hate, racism, islamophobia, and white supremacy would not be allowed to make a home in our city, including that the Edmonton Police Services would take seriously the concerns of the Al-Rashid Mosque, and that a full investigation would take place into the event that occurred April 24, 2020.

We seek a city where all can feel safe to worship and to express their faith without fear.

In peace, hope, and solidarity,

+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

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