



"Synodical Notes"

by Bishop Greg Mohr

September/October 2018

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September and October are very busy months in the life of the church. Summer holidays seem but a distant memory. But there also is an excitement and energy about the fall season, as we gather together in our communities of faith and look forward to the coming year's programs. We are immersed again in word and sacrament; there are choir practices and educational events to attend; we explore what this new year shall be about and what opportunities might await us as the people of God.

What I notice time and again as I travel across our synod are the many faithful people who are there, year after year, in our churches. People of faith; people of such devotion; people seeking to be faithful to God's calling in their daily lives.

I notice as well the deep devotion and commitment of our pastors and I give thanks to God for them. These are challenging times to be a pastor. So let us say thank you to our pastors, lift them up in prayer daily, and support them in their ministry among us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF CLAY

I also write these notes so that I may say thank you to all of you for your engagement in youth ministry across our church. Immediately upon my return from our family holidays, I travelled to Thunder Bay for the biennial Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering (CLAY). Your faithful financial stewardship helps make these important events possible. Your prayers for the youth and youth leaders of our church are vital. CLAY is our youth ministry together. Some of your congregations may not have any youth in attendance, but CLAY is one way by which you can support youth ministry for others. It is a great example of how we are the body of Christ together.

WELCOME TWO NEW PASTORS TO OUR SYNOD

Please join me in welcoming Rev. Rebekah Swanson and Rev. Lyndon Sayers to our BC Synod. Rev. Swanson is newly ordained and began her ministry at First Lutheran Church, Vancouver, in August. Rev. Sayers has been serving in the Virginia Synod of the ELCA for the past seven years. He will begin his ministry at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria, in January 2019, serving alongside Rev. Lyle McKenzie.

TRANSITIONING DEADLINE RE CONSTITUTIONS

One last thing: Please remember that you must “transition” your Constitution and Bylaws by this November. This is a requirement of the new BC Societies Act. Amendments to your Constitution or Bylaws can be made later. However, it is important that you transition.

Also remember that amendments to your Constitution and Bylaws needs to be approved by Synod Council. It is advisable that you submit your documents for approval by Synod Council before you file them with the Registrar, but it also is possible to send them for approval after you have filed them. If certain clauses are not acceptable, then they can be changed later.

My advice is to ensure that you complete the provincially mandated transition of your documents first, just because of the time constraints. We will send out once again a letter I prepared back in 2016 that describes this process. You do not need to have a congregational meeting to do the transition. It is mandated by the government, so you need to do it. Also, there are no changes to any of the text, except for references to unalterable sections (which no longer are permitted).

The next step in your review of your Constitution and Bylaws is to refer to the new model for congregations. This was approved by National Church Council last year and our synod constitution committee has dovetailed the new BC Societies Act requirements into the national model. Please use the model as found on our BC synod website (www.bcsynod.org) <http://bcsynod.org/documents-forms/>

WITH THANKSGIVING

Pastor Kathy Martin (Assistant to the Bishop) and I have a full and exciting fall schedule. There are Regional gatherings, training sessions, Council meetings, congregational and guiding team meetings, ministerials, call meetings, worship services and more. We are grateful for these opportunities to serve among you. At the end of these synodical notes, I have included a partial list of the ministry in which we will be involved this fall.

May God continue to bless your ministry, enliven your hearts, and call you forth in exciting and engaging ways.

Peace,
+Bishop Greg Mohr

Late Summer - Fall 2018 Schedule (selected dates)

for Bishop Greg Mohr (GM) and Rev. Kathy Martin (KM), Assistant to the Bishop for Missional Renewal and Congregational Support

- Aug. 14-19 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering, Thunder Bay (GM)
 16 Tsawwassen First Nations meeting (KM)
 25 Ordination of Rebekah Swanson, Bellingham WA (GM, KM)
 26 Worship: King of Life, Coquitlam (GM)
 28-29 Officers' retreat
 30 Western Synods Joining God in the Neighborhood meeting (KM)
- Sept. 5-6 Conference of Bishops meeting, Winnipeg (GM)
 6-9 National Church Council meetings, Winnipeg (GM)
 8 Ordination of MNO Bishop Jason Zinko, Winnipeg (GM)
 11 Lower Mainland: Rostered Leaders Community Field Experiments (GM, KM)
 14-16 Ascension, Nelson, congregational meetings (KM)
 16 Worship: Ascension, Nelson (KM)
 16 Worship: St. Peter's Estonian, Vancouver; Anniversary worship (GM)
 19 Articulating Theology group (KM)
 21-22 Southern Interior Regional gathering, Kamloops (GM, KM)
 23 Worship: Deo, Salmon Arm; 50th Anniversary (GM)
 23 Central Island Ministry Area, Comox (KM)
 23 Hope, Nanaimo, Guiding Team meeting (KM)
 25 Mission Exploration consultation (KM)
 26 Officers and Staff meeting (GM, KM)
 29 North Regional gathering via Zoom (GM, KM)
 29 Installation of Rebekah Swanson, First, Vancouver (KM)
 30 Worship: Shepherd of the Valley, Langley (KM)
- Sept 30 to Oct 8: holidays (GM)
 Oct 4 to 12: holidays (KM)
- Oct. 3 Missional Regional Leaders Conversations - UK, USA, CAN (KM)
 9-12 First Call Program for western synods; Victoria (GM)
 13-15 Ascension, Nelson; 50th Anniversary events (GM)
 16 Mt. Olivet, North Vancouver, council meeting (KM)
 18 Southern Interior Region ministerial, Our Redeemer, Penticton (KM)
 19 Committee for Theological Education and Leadership, Victoria (GM)
 20 Lower Mainland Regional gathering, Coquitlam (GM, KM)
 21 Worship: Shepherd of the Valley, Langley (GM)
 21-24 Healthy Boundaries Training course (KM)
 25 Missions Committee (GM, KM)
 26-27 Vancouver Island Regional gathering, Port Alberni (GM, KM)
 28 Worship: Trinity Lutheran Anglican, Port Alberni (GM)
 28 Worship: Shepherd of the Valley, Comox (KM)
 29-30 Congregational Renewal Team (KM)
- Nov. 1-3 Synod Council meetings, Surrey (GM, KM)
 4 Missions Committee grant applications, conversations (KM)
 5-7 Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Board of Governors (GM)
 18 Worship: Peace, Abbotsford (KM)
 24 Central Island Ministry Area, Hope, Nanaimo (KM)
 27 Lower Mainland: Rostered Leaders Community Field Experiments (GM, KM)
 27-28 Deans Retreat (GM, KM)