



Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC)

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is my privilege to bring greetings to you on behalf of CALC's National Council, as you gather for your congregation's annual general meeting (AGM) for 2021. This is the last letter of greeting I will write to you, since my third term as President of CALC ends in 2021.

At an AGM, members of a congregation look back and look forward. In the reports presented, the challenges, accomplishments, and joys of the past year are remembered, and God is thanked and praised. In the budgets, plans, goals, and resolutions that are presented, a path forward is charted. Vacancies in leadership are filled. The assembled cast votes and then beseech God to bless their leadership, and to bless their plans and goals and to order their steps so that they may be accomplished to His glory.

We will remember that 2020 began with great promise. The future seemed so bright. Progress seemed unstoppable. The unbridled progress was stopped by a microscopic virus. Much of normal life ground to a halt. God gave us the grace to adapt in the way that we gathered to worship and serve him. God gave us the grace to endure. With the advent and approval of various vaccines, there is a path forward.

God calls us to see that this pandemic will end, and we will praise God for rescuing us from the grips of fear and illness (bodily, economic and emotional illnesses). God calls us to lift up our heads and to look to and plan for the future. He calls us to believe that we will gather together again in the way we were accustomed to. Our Heavenly Father calls us to see this return to familiar worship and fellowship as a clean break from the past and a new beginning. He calls us to pray: Create in us a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us, draw us closer to you O Lord, and anoint us afresh and anew with your Holy Spirit. We must beseech God to give us the wisdom and grace to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ with purity and to rightly administer the Sacraments. We must ask God to give us wisdom, to order our thoughts and steps so that from our worship and service, He will cause justice to flow like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream.

I call upon the people of all of our congregations to fast and pray for our Association in advance of our Annual General Convention scheduled for April 10, 2021 (the Saturday after Easter weekend). The convention will be in Alberta. Some delegates will meet in person and others will participate online. This will be a pivotal convention. Five of the eight positions on National Council will become vacant and will be filled: President, Secretary, two positions on the Board of Trustees and one position on the Board of Elders. To this end, pray that God will raise up candidates to fill these positions and will use these new leaders to guide and navigate CALC's congregations deeper into this 21st Century. God is calling us to take bold steps. God calls us to maintain and expand our online presence as an association and as individual congregations. God will bless us with many opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in so doing will inspire us to grow in grace and faith.

God bless you for all your support for CALC in the past year, most especially your generous benevolence. We hope and pray you will remember CALC in your deliberations. We pray that God will bless your AGM and will direct your congregation in all your discussions and votes. We also pray that God will continue to guide, direct and bless your worship, Christian Education, evangelism, service and fellowship. We pray that God will bless all that you approve at your meeting and order your steps so that all your plans will be accomplished to God's glory.

In Christ's Service,

Edward P. Skutshek

Pastor Edward P. Skutshek, President