

January 8, 2018

To the Congregations, Pastors and Deacons
of Lutheran Church –Canada

Treasured friends in Christ Jesus,

It is impossible in a few sentences to tell you all everything I feel as I conclude my work as the President of Synod. Endless meetings, trips, telephone calls, invitations to preach, personal conversations and letters have brought you close to me since my election in 2008. Now our calendars say “2018” at the top of the page! How can that be?

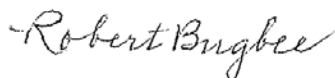
For anything I was able to do or say that ended up building Christ’s kingdom and helping you, I owe all the credit to God and His mercy. For actions of mine that were defective or hurtful, I beg His pardon, and ask your forgiveness, too. I must tell you that, all in all, the Lord’s people have been undeservedly kind to me throughout these years. For every place I was welcomed, for every e-mail and personal note of support, for every intercessory prayer on behalf of me and my wife, I want to thank you with all my heart.

I am especially grateful for the massive approval given by last October’s convention in Kitchener to simplify the structure of LCC. I encourage your congregations during this ratification phase until mid-April to vote to approve the convention’s changes to the Synodical Constitution. I am hopeful that, with a simplified “machinery,” all of us will give clearer focus to what should really matter most in our churches: First, to root our congregations ever more deeply in the Word of Christ; and, second, to reach out with the love of Christ to the staggering number of people around us who do not confess Him, even though they need Him as much as we do. He wants them! It is His loving wisdom to make that clear through people like you and me!

In a very few days Pastor Timothy Teuscher will succeed me to become the fourth President of Lutheran Church –Canada. Whether you have met him yet or not, I ask you to pray faithfully for his ministry, and to support him in every way you can. His adjustment to this call will be demanding, especially since we are shifting in the coming months to a different way of doing many things under the new structure. It will take time for dust to settle, and for details to become fully clear. I implore you to be patient with him and the new Board of Directors, even as God in Christ has shown His endless patience toward you.

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32 NIV).

In Christ our dear Lord,



Robert Bugbee, President
Lutheran Church-Canada