



**SYNOD OF  
ALBERTA  
+ AND THE +  
TERRITORIES**

Incorporated as Alberta Synod

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*Spirit-Led  
Leadership*

*Hope-Filled  
Discipleship*

*Innovative  
Tradition*

*Collaborative  
Partnerships*

November 28, 2022

Dear Beloved of God--

***The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.***

As we approach the darkest days of winter and prepare to weather the snow and winter winds throughout the province and the territories, we begin a new church year, again reminded of the promise of God's constant presence with us, whatever our circumstances.

In this season, the rise in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), the spread of influenza, and the ongoing circulation of COVID-19 move me to strongly recommend that we carefully consider once more what can best be done to guard the safety and welfare of our neighbour, including those most vulnerable to these serious health risks.

As an expression of our ministry of love and service to others, attendees at synod events will be strongly encouraged to wear masks and to observe appropriate hygiene practices. Likewise, congregations are encouraged to consider measures such as masking, hand sanitization, and social distancing. In addition, congregations might examine how their church building's air quality might be improved, through the addition of air filter systems or air purifiers, and how airflow might be improved.

I know that it is discouraging to once again be asked to consider returning to these measures. And yet, we are better equipped to address these needs than ever before. Our collective actions today will help to ensure the health and safety of all God's children.

Thank you for your continued partnership in this ministry. I am truly grateful for each and every one of you. As God's people, we know that in every season God is with us and that God is ever faithful.

***"The God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).***

In Christ Jesus—Shalom,

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories