



Dear members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada,

Over the past couple of years I have been encouraging a call to spiritual renewal and deeper discipleship within our church which includes: daily prayer and scripture reading; regular attendance at worship; yearly involvement in a program of study; regular service in the community (not just the congregation); regular and proportional giving similar to the understanding of the tithe found in scripture; and commitment to sharing the good news with those around us, beginning with our family and friends. A simplified list of this call to deeper discipleship includes: **Pray, Read, Worship, Study, Serve, Give and Tell.**

I would like to invite you to join your sisters and brothers across this church, individually and as congregations and specialized ministries, to strive for a deeper discipleship as we live out our baptismal covenants.

You are encouraged to:

- Use the *Ideas for Individuals* list to help you find ways to deepen your spiritual practices.
- Encourage your congregation, specialized ministry, or faith community to use the *Ideas for Congregations* list to find ways to help members deepen their spiritual practice.
- Fill out a covenant form alone, with a buddy, or with a small group.
- Check out the resource page on the ELCIC website (elcic.ca/CSR).
- Participate in the discussion. Check out the Forum on the Call to Spiritual Renewal website (elcic.ca/CSR) and share your ideas and experiences as we all try to deepen our discipleship.

Remember, don't overdo it! It's just like starting a physical exercise program. Start with one or two new practices and make them a habit before you start trying anything else.

Finally, don't forget that although I am the one asking you to join me in deepening our discipleship, it is God who is calling you into deeper relationship.

Blessings in your journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan C. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

