



## DIACONAL SUNDAY February 26, 2012

*Celebrating witness expressed through service (diakonia) and leadership offered by the ELCIC's diaconal ministers.*

### Diakonia – An integral part of mission

The mission of the church has three inter-related dimensions: Proclamation, Celebration (worship), and Service (diakonia). The word “diakonia” comes from New Testament Greek, and is used to include all of the church’s actions to address the needs of neighbours. “Diakonia” includes relief, development, feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, visiting the lonely, accompanying the oppressed, advocating for justice, studying social issues and building respectful community.

### Diakonia – A call to spiritual renewal

Every baptized person is called to engage in proclamation, celebration and diakonia. The Call to Spiritual Renewal ([www.elcic.ca/csr](http://www.elcic.ca/csr)) invites us to Pray, Read, Worship, Study, Serve, Give, Tell. The practice of serve means “regular service in the community (not just the congregation).” Through diakonia, we get to tell the faith story in deeds (James 1:22), give of ourselves (Romans 12:1), encounter Christ in the presence of another (Matthew 25:31-41), and incarnate God’s love (John 15:12). Service is an essential, faithful response to God, makes a real difference in the world, and deepens our faith.

### Diaconal Ministry – Ministry of Word and Service

Diaconal Ministers are called to a ministry of “Word and Service.” Rooted in the Word of God, and accountable to the church, diaconal ministers train both theologically and for a particular service. Inherent to diaconal vocation is leading and equipping all the baptized for diakonia, by helping people to discern gifts for service, by encouraging awareness of the world’s brokenness, and by forming supportive community in the midst of ministries.

#### Resources

Additional prayers and Resources for Diaconal Sunday are available online. [www.elcic.ca/leadership/diaconal](http://www.elcic.ca/leadership/diaconal)

For more information about becoming a rostered leader in the ELCIC, contact your synod office. <http://elcic.ca/National-Church-Council/Synods.cfm>

For support in growing your diakonia witness, contact your congregation, diaconal minister, pastor or synod office.

### A Prayer for Diaconal Sunday

*Lord Jesus, who washed the disciples feet, open our eyes and hearts to the many needs and hurts in this world. Equip us and strengthen us for witness through diakonia. We give you thanks for the diaconal ministers of the ELCIC, and for those who are candidates for diaconal ministry, and we ask that you bless and direct their ministries. By your Holy Spirit, empower us to be a church In Mission for Others. AMEN.*



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