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Lutheran Church of Australia  
The Reverend Dr. John Henderson, Bishop  
Adelaide, South Australia

**Re: Your Call to Prayer for the Synod**

Dear brothers and sisters in the LCA:

We sincerely thank Bishop John Henderson for asking us to pray God's guidance on the delegates in attendance at the upcoming LCA Synod convention. We are keenly aware that this is no routine gathering, and that Bishop John's plea for the prayer support of overseas partners is not an empty formality. We wish you to know that we implore the Lord to guide your convention as the ancients prayed: "Come, Holy Spirit!"

The Lord gladdened your forebears with a hard-won gift of unity when He brought you together in 1966 as one great Lutheran family in your country. This did not come easily. It is not easy to preserve, either. You have struggled for many years now with the question of ordaining women to the pastoral office.

It is no secret that the churches of the International Lutheran Council are convinced that historic Christian and apostolic teaching and practice on these matters represent God's own revealed truth. The Lord knows how we deeply treasure the unity He has given us together with you, and the many contributions you have made to our fellowship. We sincerely hope He may give you endurance to continue bearing the tensions that come with confessing Christ in this challenging time, to refrain from making new decisions in the matter of ordination, and to stand fast in the unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

With sincere greetings and in the love of Christ for the International Lutheran Council

Cordially in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Albert B. Collver  
ILC Executive Secretary  
International Lutheran Council

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop Hans-Joerg Voigt  
ILC Chairman  
International Lutheran Council