

Bishops' Post August/September 2025

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Romans 8:38–39)*



The Apostle Paul offers a bold and comforting assurance: nothing—absolutely nothing—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. He names everything that might seem like a threat—life, death, powers, the present, the future—and declares with confidence that God's love holds firm through it all.

This is the foundation of our faith. It is not our strength, achievements, or stability that sustain us, but God's unchanging grace. Like a tree that draws strength from deep roots, we draw our life from the love of Christ. This rootedness gives us courage in times of crisis, peace in uncertainty, and hope when the way forward is unclear.

Yet being rooted does not mean standing still. The Church, and each of us as part of it, is called not only to hold fast to Christ but also to grow, to stretch, and to be continually renewed by the Spirit. Throughout Scripture, we see how God calls His people into newness—Abraham journeying into the unknown, the prophets speaking uncomfortable truths, Jesus' reshaping expectations with His message of grace and transformation.

To be rooted in Christ is to be both secure and open—firmly anchored in God's love, yet always being shaped and re-formed by that same love. It is this dynamic life of faith that has carried the Church through centuries of change, challenge, and renewal. And it is this same faithful love that carries us today.

Let us remain grounded in what cannot be shaken, and open to the Spirit who continues to lead and transform us.

News from NELCSA

Internship in Namibia: Rutendo Gora, one of our theology students who successfully completed her first theological examination earlier this year, will soon begin her internship at the Inner-City Lutheran congregation in Windhoek. May our Lord guide and lead her.

Synods 2025: In the next months, several synods will be taking place across our Lutheran fellowship. Please keep these gatherings in your prayers as they are important times of reflection, discernment, and decision-making in the life of the Church:

- 14–16 August **Free Evangelical Synod in South Africa (FELSISA)**
- 11–14 September **Northeastern Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa (NELCSA)**
- 18–21 September **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) (Cape Church)**
- 2–5 October **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN–GELC) (German Evangelical Lutheran Church)**

May these synods be times of Spirit-led renewal, rooted in God's Word and open to God's guiding presence.

Preparing for our NELCSA Synod – *Rooted and Re-forming*

Under the theme "*Rooted and Re-forming*", the upcoming NELCSA Church Synod (12-14 September 2025) invites us to reflect on who we are as a church grounded in Christ and open to renewal through the Spirit.

All congregations are encouraged to participate in two key initiatives:

1. **"Fruits and Roots" Tree** – A creative whole-congregation project to express the spiritual fruits you witness today and the roots that have shaped your community. These will form part of a visual symbol displayed at Synod.
2. **Youth and the Church** – A listening exercise to gather the voices of our young people (13+) and youth workers through a short questionnaire.

Exact details will follow in a letter to all congregations and pastors. Let us prepare in faith, grounded and growing together.

The General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), **Rev. Dr. Anne Burghardt**, together with the LWF Africa Regional Secretary, **Rev. Dr. Samuel Dawai**, will be visiting South Africa in September 2025. The Lutheran World Federation represents approximately 78 million Lutherans worldwide and includes 150 member churches in 99 countries. Their visit will begin at our NELCSA Synod.