



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (ELCSL)

Grace and peace be onto you in the name of our gracious God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a great pleasure and an extreme privilege with honour to send fraternal greetings to your Assembly with the theme “cross border” from a church you have work so hard to nurture.

Borders sometimes deny people of their human rights, dignity and lives are counter to the gospel which calls us to protect and to welcome one another. These borders might be physical, political or spiritual. As sisters and brothers, we should always remember that protecting, welcoming strangers and working together with others on the other side of the boat is at the center of our faith in Christ, and these values are the core Christian messages that we are being called upon to proclaim.

We should recall that every wall that separates us from our neighbors and stops those who flee from persecutions and violence, takes us away from the love of the Lord and our vocation to welcome and protect. As family, we renew our commitments to provide places of safety and dignity, offer aids and hope so that people can rebuild their lives after suffering the wounds of war, persecutions and hunger.

Your theme is gospel centered because Jesus made several crosses and traveled abroad. Mark’s gospel tells us of Jesus visiting Lebanon and semi-autonomous city-states influenced by Roman and Greek cultures. Even though the Jews looked at the non-Jews, Gentiles etc. as foreigners, unclean and to be avoided but Jesus still love them and reach out to them.

We have faith and we gather in church with others who share our faith. Yes, we put a welcome sign outside the building, traveled to their homes and advertise in local papers, but we also assumed that other people in what we view as our secular lives would not fit in, would not be interested in the cultures of our “holy club.”

We should work together as multicultural communities and this will be the basis for future generations. This is the church of the future.

We are grateful to God for the cross border work which has brought us together in partnership and the Leadership of Bishop Erick Gronberg has maintained, promoted and strengthened a more cordial partnership.

ELCSL is with you in Spirit, in prayers and we wish you well in your gathering.

In Christ

Rev. Moses K. Momoh
Bishop – ELCSL.