



July/August 2025

Dear beloved,

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

*My Life Flows on in Endless Song, EvLW #769, refrain*

This was the sending song at the Biker Blessing held at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Olds on June 8. Those "bad" bikers in the church stomped their boots to the strong rhythm as a powerful affirmation of faith. Moments like this I am bolstered in my belief (yes, songs and music can have such an impact!) and I trust that all will be okay.

But will it? I write this mid-June coming out of a weekend with all kinds of grievous news. Israel and Iran are locked in a deadly conflict. The US National Guard has been deployed on home soil in California. Escalating tensions in US politics emboldened murderous attacks on public servants. And those are just the headlines. In the background, the oceans and forests are crumbling, people are literally starving, education and science are undermined, once hard-fought-for-rights are being stripped away. If you are unsure what this means to us in the church, then you are right in line with most people, especially Canadians who watch from a relatively safe distance.

But is it? I mean are we safe? Of course not. We ought to be paying close attention to the world's health these days, because the unease, violence, upheaval, and confusion that occurs (even in a far-off land) does affect us right here at home. And while we might not be sure how to respond, we can begin by remembering that people of faith are called to stand up for justice and equity - the welfare of all humanity (including Creation) not because someone else is a Christian or Lutheran, but because we are. When danger lurks, we light a light. When misinformation is spread, we share the truth. When hope is frail we sing from the bottom of our hearts. When we hunger for peace we nourish one another with bread, wine and encouragement.

I commend to you a sermon<sup>1</sup> I recently watched by Rev. Dr Lori Walke of *Mayflower Congregationalist Congregation* in Oklahoma, Texas (June 15, 2025.) She is calling her people to stand firm in the present storm, to remember who they are and what the good news is all about, to protect the vulnerable of every colour and shape. If there ever was a time to cling to the Rock of Christ, it is always today, this day.

Keep singing,

Bishop Trish

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8QPoEnvxSo>, gospel reading and sermon begin at 28:10