

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in CAR
BOUAR, Central African Republic
Official action by the administration**



In Bouar on August 12th of 2026

MESSAGE OF THE ELC-RCA ON THE OCCASION OF THE INSTALLATION OF BISHOP LISA LEWTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I send you my greetings as from a brother in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

On this day of joy and grace, we rejoice with you on the occasion of the call of our sister, the Rev. **Lisa LEWTON** as **Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod**.

First of all, let me express our deep gratitude to Pastor Lisa for responding in faith to this call of the Lord. We pray that God accompany her, fortify her, grant her wisdom as well as the grace necessary to serve faithfully God's Church, God's people, in this new vocation.

We are especially honored to partner with you on this day. Our presence in spirit is not accidental, but it testifies to a common history and a commitment that has united us for more than a century. For many years, our two churches journey together in the mission entrusted by the Lord to the people in Central African Republic and Western North Dakota.

We express our deep gratitude to you for your loyalty, your friendship, and your constant commitment to us over the years. Thank you for walking with us and for sharing the joys, challenges and hope of God's mission.

In the Central African Republic (CAR), we also have an appreciative and joyful memory of the visit of Bishop **Craig SCHWEITZER** on the occasion of the centennial celebration in 2023. His presence with us has been a source of encouragement, comfort and above all a mark of trust. This physical presence reminded us in a concrete way that despite the distance that separates us, we belong to the same family and together form **THE BODY OF CHRIST**.

We thank God for Bishop **Craig's** ministry and for all that he has accomplished in the service of the church and of our missionary partnership. We also pray for him in the pursuit of his new vocation, so that the Lord may continue to guide him and to bless his ministry.

As you celebrate the installation of **Bishop Lisa** today, know that the whole of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in CAR is united with you in spirit and in prayer.

We look forward to continuing this missionary journey together with trust and hope for the years to come and, by the grace of God, for generations to come.

May our partnership remain a living witness to the love of Christ who transcends borders, cultures and distances.

We especially hold **Bishop Lisa** in our prayers. May the Holy Spirit inspire her and assist her in her new duties. May God himself grant her a heart of a servant, a Word full of grace, a clear vision for her Church to lead it with humility, justice, and love.

We also pray for all of you that God may bless your synod, renew your commitment to mission work, and make our partnership bear good fruit.

Finally, allow me to renew our brotherly invitation to you to come and visit CAR to discover and celebrate together the work that God accomplishes amid his people here. We will be happy to welcome you and to continue to strengthen the brotherly bonds that unite us.

On this blessed day, receive congratulations from your brothers and sisters here, and the assurance of our most sincere prayers.

May God bless you and accompany you in your ministry.

With all our connectiveness through Jesus Christ,



Pastor Joseph Ngoe

President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in CAR