

Retreat for Lay Persons

Grief matters.... learning how to speak the language of grief

April 4-6, 2025
Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre
Niagara Falls, ON

Dear friends,

This letter is written to invite laypersons of the Eastern Synod, ELCIC, and the Diocese of Niagara, Anglican Church of Canada, to attend a spiritual retreat.

Our theme this time will be ***“Grief matters.... learning how to speak the language of grief”***

Our retreat presenter will be Bishop Carla Blakley. Carla took a Grief and Bereavement course from the University of Toronto and started facilitating grief support groups. During the pandemic we all suffered from ambiguous grief – grief that was largely unnamed. We lost so much; we lost freedom, security, ability to gather, ability to have celebrations, our church friends and so much more.

We live in communities that are death averse and grief illiterate. You have probably experienced this when you have a loved one die, people treat you differently, people say odd things to you and people don't know how to talk to you. You may feel very alone in your grief.

Please join us April 4th – 6th and learn why grief matters. We need to learn to talk grief, with each other, with our family and friends and in our churches.

Carla has a B.A. in Religions Studies, majoring in Islam and a M. Div from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, (Martin Luther University College) and a M.A in Religious Studies majoring in Human sexuality. Most recently she completed a certificate in Grief counselling and a second unit of Clinical Pastoral Education in Palliative care. Carla has a specialty in walking with folks in times of challenging deaths: sudden death, murder, accidents, overdose or addictions, suicide and teen and infant death.



Retreat Director: Bishop Carla Blakley
Chaplain: Bishop Carla Blakley
Registrar: Anne Woolner

To register, visit: <https://form.jotform.com/250334933696262>

Register soon, for space is limited!

The retreat will be held from Friday April 4th – Sunday April 6th, at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The all-inclusive registration rate is \$300.00, and commuter rate is \$150.00

*Payment can be made via Paypal or credit card when registering online, or by mailing a cheque to:
The Eastern Synod 74 Weber St. W Kitchener, ON N2H 3Z3

Please make cheques payable to 'The Eastern Synod' (be sure to write on memo line 'Lay Retreat').
Your registration will not be complete until payment has been received.

Please note that the registration deadline is Friday March 21st at 4pm

Registration will be available at: <https://form.jotform.com/250334933696262>
or on the Eastern Synod website at www.easternsynod.org

****ALL ATTENDEES MUST COMPLETE AN ONLINE REGISTRATION****

If you have any questions about the retreat, you are invited to contact the Registrar,
(annewoolner@hotmail.com) or the Retreat Director, Bishop Carla Blakley

Looking forward to seeing you in April!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Carla Blakley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Bishop Carla Blakley