

**From:** BC Synod - ELCIC bcsynod@elcic.ca  
**Subject:** Synod Announcements - April 22, 2026  
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**To:** oslcospika@gmail.com

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**British Columbia Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

**April 22, 2026**

BC Synod announcements are sent out on **Wednesdays**. Do you have an announcement you want to send out? Please send it to [bcsynod@elcic.ca](mailto:bcsynod@elcic.ca) **no later than 9:00 pm on the Sunday prior to the week of first publication**. All announcements may be edited as needed. Thank you.

## Prayer Petitions for This Sunday

To download the **BC Synod 2025-2026 Prayer List for Congregations**, please click [here](#).

It can also be found on our website [bcsynod.org](http://bcsynod.org) under Resources.

Sunday, April 26

*Lutheran Church of the Cross in Victoria - Rev. Lyndon Sayers  
For prison chaplains and their ministries*

You are also invited to continue to hold Pastor Kristen Steele in your prayers.

**Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Full Communion Cycle of Prayer**. Please [click here](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **NEW** [Getting Ready for Summer Camp!](#)
- [Summer Sermon Series](#)
- **April 22 or 25-26** [Join Earth Day](#)
- **April 25, NEW April 26 and May 3** [LTS President's workshop at Spirit of Life \(25\), Luther Church of the Cross \(26\) and St. Paul's Maple Ridge \(3\)](#)
- **April 27** [Forget-Me-Not Cafe, Penticton](#)
- **Apr 30** [Karren Stinson Bursary for Lutherans and Anglicans](#)
- **NEW May 3** [Installation of Rev. Elisia Deifeld](#)
- **NEW May 7** [Banquet of Belonging](#)
- **May 7-9** [Worship and Music Symposium at Regina, SK](#)
- **NEW May 15** [Deadline for ELCIC Mission Fund Grant Applications](#)
- **May 23** [Save the Date Installation Service for Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker](#)
- **May 31** [ELCIC Day of Action](#)

- **June 6-7** ['We are One Body' Part 2](#) \* **Updated registration deadline April 30**
- **June 14** [Cross-Border Friendship Gathering](#)
- [Charitus Announces Calls for Partner Impact Grant Applications](#)
- **NEW June 23** [Lutheran Manor Society of Vancouver BC has rescheduled the AGM](#)

For more details, other announcements, prayer requests and resources, [see below](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Getting Ready for Camp!!

We will be having a planning meeting on Thursday, April 30th at 1pm. If you are interested in helping out at camp please consider attending the meeting. [Here](#) is the zoom link.



The Financial Aid Application form can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the BC Synod Office and your inquiry will be directed to the camp director Sarah Pawlos.

## We are One Body - Part 2



### You Are Invited

We invite you to continue a journey that began last year - a journey of connecting, reflecting, and growing together as we explore the yearnings we share for the future of our church here in BC.

This gathering is an opportunity to:

**Connect** deeply with friends in Christ from across the province

**Reflect** on the initiatives we began last year—celebrating what has flourished and learning from our experiences

**Grow** new possibilities rooted in the yearnings that call us forward

### Who Should Attend

Each congregation is invited to send up to **four representatives**, their called or interim pastor included. This gathering is for anyone who cares deeply about the future of our church in BC. We especially welcome those who attended last year and those who wanted to come but could not. We encourage you to have conversations in your congregation on who should attend.

**We will gather June 5-7, 2026, at King of Life Lutheran Church, Coquitlam**

### Important Notes

This gathering builds on the foundation laid in 2025, but it is not simply a status report. It is an invitation to continue co-creating the future of our church through Spirit-led collaboration rooted in genuine passion and shared responsibility. BC Synod will cover the costs of the event (gathering program and on-site costs).

### Registration

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**\*UPDATED** Registration deadline is **April 30, 2026**. We cannot guarantee accommodations after that date.

Accommodation will be arranged at Executive Plaza in Coquitlam. This includes parking and breakfast. Since we have to confirm our group booking early, other accommodations will not be reimbursed. Travel costs will be covered by the synod. If air travel is required, please book your air fare early.

## Save the Date - June 14

### Cross-Border Friendship Gathering - BC Synod and NW Washington Synod

Borders are meant to divide us, the lines that have been drawn are meant to keep us apart. But we are one in Christ. To celebrate our shared mission and our oneness across the border, we will gather for a picnic to share food, stories, and joy. Come and meet Lutheran friends from across the border.

The picnic shelter is of limited capacity - please [register here](#) so we can reserve additional space if needed. The deadline for registration is May 20th.



### LTS President Rev. Dr. Harrison's workshop

at Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Sat Apr 25, 10am

Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria, Sun Apr 26, 1pm

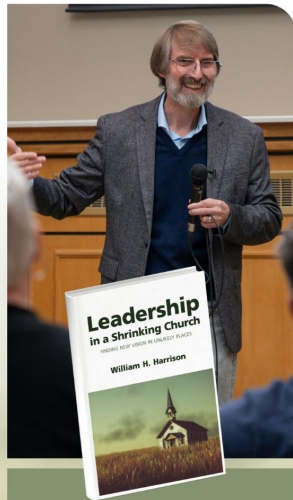
and at St. Paul's, Maple Ridge, Sun May 3, 6:30-8:30pm

You're Invited!

Join us for a morning with the Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President of Lutheran Theological Seminary, as he introduces his new book *Leadership in a Shrinking Church: Finding New Vision in Unlikely Places*. We invite you to come and bring a parish team. Together, we will explore ways that we can respond to God's love when people aren't joining churches (or any voluntary organizations!). All are welcome!

# LET'S GO TO WORK!

## Leadership in a Shrinking Church: Book-Based Workshops



Join Rev. Dr. William Harrison for a guided, hands-on workshop rooted in the bold, hopeful vision of his book – *Leadership in a Shrinking Church*.

- Live workshop events across Canada
- Afternoon and evening sessions — accessible, practical, and engaging
- For lay leaders, clergy, and congregational members
- Work with practical tools for courageous ministry in uncertain times
- Engage the big questions: identity, mission, and the future of the Church

*Leadership in a shrinking church means learning to see God's transformation in places we never expected — and to trust that smaller does not mean lesser.*

### Spirit of Life Lutheran Church

375 W 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver, BC  
Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am

## Installation of Rev. Elisia Deifeld



*You are cordially invited to  
attend the Installation*

*of*

*Rev. Elisia Deifeld*

*Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026*

10:00 am

*Lutheran Church of the Cross*

3787 Cedar Hill Road  
Victoria, BC V8P 3Z4

*Reception to follow*

Rostered Ministers are invited to vest.  
The liturgical color is White.

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## ELCIC Mission Fund - Grant Applications

We are inviting applications for grants to fund neighbourhood and community experiments and learning opportunities that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) explore what God is doing in your neighbourhood
- b) seek to develop relationships with others in your community
- c) encourage participation in God's mission in the local community
- d) encourage action and reflection learning

Through these experiments, we will continue to learn from and with each other as we share our stories, experiences, and our learning with the rest of our synod and the wider church. Experiments need not be large-scale or require the commitment of large dollar amounts. Successful applications are inspired by imagination and a curiosity about what God is up to in our midst.

Grants are funded by the ELCIC through the ELCIC Mission Fund and are given on a one-time basis and are not intended to subsidize ongoing funding needs of regular church programming. Grant recipients will be invited to submit the "faith story" of their missional experiments, which will be shared with the synod and the communities and be asked to give an accounting of how the grant money is spent, and to return any unused funds.

**The application deadline is May 15, 2026**

Applications and information can be found [here](#).

Please note that all congregations and groups that receive funding must complete the reporting form when their experiment is complete. This allows us to reconcile funds and report to the National Church, which is a requirement of our committee. It also gives you a chance to reflect with your team and share your experience with us. The updated reporting form contains both reflection questions and a space for financial reconciliation, and is available in word or pdf format here: <https://bcsynod.org/resources/funds-grants>

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## Forget-Me-Not Cafe, Penticton



# The Forget-Me-Not Cafe

A Dementia Friendly Neighbourhood Cafe  
welcoming those with dementia  
& their family or friends

## Next Cafe:

MONDAY April 27, 2026

11:30am - 1:30-ish (\$5.00/person)

Enjoy lunch, music, arts,  
conversation & laughter

## Pre-register for the Cafe by:

- Calling 250-492-6861 or
- Emailing: [pentictondementiacafe@gmail.com](mailto:pentictondementiacafe@gmail.com)

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church\*  
1370 Church Street, Penticton

Sponsors:  
Quality Greens



COBS BREAD

\*Accessible Back Entry



## Banquet of Belonging

Thursday, May 7, 2026

9:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. in person in Langley, BC or over Zoom

Gather with dis/abled and non-dis/abled Christians, pastors, and families to explore discipleship shaped by mutual learning across differences. Together we'll reflect on theology, access, relationships, and lived experience—grounded in practices that build shared tables, not separate ministries.

Join us for a shared meal, embodying a community of welcome, celebrated gifts, and true belonging.

Information and registration can be found here: <https://www.thelazaruscentre.org/events/banquet-of-belonging>

May 7, 2026

banquet of



## Discipleship, Disability, & Shared Tables

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### Save the Date - Installation of Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker

On Saturday, May 23rd Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker will be installed at Mount Zion Lutheran Church in New Westminster at 3:30pm. More details, and an invitation, will be sent out a closer date.

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### KARREN STINSON BURSARY for Lutherans and Anglicans based in Western Canada

The deadline is 30 April 2026. For more information and to download the application please click [here](#).

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### JOIN EARTH DAY 2026

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, or on April 25-26 Weekend

See <https://fortheLoveofcreation.ca> for a host of useful resources.

### JOIN EARTH DAY 2026

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, or on April 25-26 Weekend

Environmental progress does not happen in silence. It happens when God's children show up. It is built through every day action - from communities protecting ecosystems, to innovators advancing solutions, to churches advocating for justice and creation. Every action counts. Every voice matters.

Join the Party for the Planet on April 25<sup>th</sup> (outside Surrey City Hall) or find out about local activities. We encourage you to take personal responsibility for stewardship, turning awareness into action. Join a group who plants trees in your neighborhood, who builds trails, or a beach cleanup crew.





See <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca> for a host of useful resources.

Have you considered a monthly action, like reducing plastic use, carpooling, going paperless, or mending your clothing?

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it."*

Psalm 24:1

## ELCIC NEWS

### ELCIC Sermon Series



Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops are once again offering weekly sermons for congregational use, available from May through October.

Each weekly sermon includes both written and video formats, ready to download and use in ways that best fit your worship context. These resources are especially helpful during vacation season and offer a meaningful way to connect your congregation with leaders from across the ELCIC.

Interested in using these sermons? [Sign up to access the full set of resources.](#)

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**ELCIC Day of Action - Save the Date!**

## ELCIC Day of Action Save the Date!

This year marks 40 years in the life of our church! This milestone not only invites us to remember our story, but also to reflect on who we are today and how God is calling us forward as a church *Living out God's grace and unconditional love*.

One of the key moments as we celebrate this milestone will be the ELCIC Day of Action on May 31. On that day, you and your congregation are invited to join with congregations across the ELCIC in stepping beyond your church walls and engaging in acts of service in your community. Watch here and on the ELCIC website for further details which will be available soon!

Interested in how you can support help organize your congregation's participation for the ELCIC Day of Action? [Complete the following form and we'll send you information!](#)

## MORE NEWS

### Lutheran Manor Society of Vancouver BC Notice of Rescheduling of AGM and Call for Nominations

You can download a pdf of the notice [here](#).

The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Manor Society of Vancouver BC has rescheduled the Annual General Meeting for Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026, at 7:00 PM. The mode of meeting will be hybrid: both in-person at 375 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver, and by Zoom.

### Charitus Announces Calls for Partner Impact Grant Applications

Charitus has launched its 2026 Partner Impact Grant Program, offering matching grants to ELCIC congregations and institutions for projects addressing social and environmental needs in both church and broader community contexts. Grants of up to \$3,000, covering up to 75 percent of project costs, are available to support impactful initiatives under three key objectives:

The deadline for submission is May 31, 2026. For more details or to apply, visit [Charitus Apply for a Grant](#).

### Worship and Music Symposium at Regina,SK



**WORSHIP & MUSIC**

# SYMPOSIUM 2026

MAY 7-9  
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
REGINA, SK

DR. JOY BERG  
REV. KRISTIAN WOLD  
DR. REV. DENNIS HENDRICKSEN  
REV. DR. LARRY KOCHENDORFER  
BEN JOHNSTON-UREY  
NEIL COCKBURN

Register for the whole event (includes meals)  
Early Bird \$199 (before April 15)  
\$275 (after April 15)  
or \$30/workshop



To register SCAN HERE  
OR e-mail [clcregina@sasktel.net](mailto:clcregina@sasktel.net)



## FREE Community Events

May 7, 7pm - Hymn Festival - Come and See  
May 8, 7pm - Mysterium Service

For more information visit [www.clcregina.ca](http://www.clcregina.ca)

With the support of:



## Transitions in Ministry

Transitions, Vacancies and Call Processes in the BC Synod can be found here:

[Transitions in Ministry | Resources | British Columbia Synod \(bcsynod.org\)](#)

## BC Synod Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

BC Synod staff work a variety of hours in various locations, including from home offices. To better serve you, please contact the synod office before dropping by to ensure someone is present to receive you.

**Website:** [British Columbia Synod \(bcsynod.org\)](http://British Columbia Synod (bcsynod.org))

### Contact us:

Office phone: 604-524-1318

Bishop Kathv Martin - On Sabbatical until May 2026

Rachel Genge (Administrative Assistant + BC Canada Lutheran editor - remote) - [bcynod@elcic.ca](mailto:bcynod@elcic.ca)

Durga Pandithurai (Administrative Assistant - Synod Office) - [bcynod@elcic.ca](mailto:bcynod@elcic.ca)

Rev. Elina Singh (Assistant to the Bishop + Executive Administrator - Synod Office) -  
[esinghbcynod@gmail.com](mailto:esinghbcynod@gmail.com)

Rev. Matthew Senf (Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations - deployed) -  
[msef@elcic.ca](mailto:msef@elcic.ca)

Rev. Aneeta Saroop (Assistant to the Bishop for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - deployed) - [asaroop@elcic.ca](mailto:asaroop@elcic.ca)

eTransfers are linked to the office email address: [bcynod@elcic.ca](mailto:bcynod@elcic.ca)

Auto Deposit has been enabled. No password is required.

The message field of the eTransfer should explain what the payment is for. (It is like the memo field of a cheque, but with more space). If a congregation is doing their monthly congregation remittance, then the remittance form can be emailed or mailed separately at the same time that the transfer is done.

Do the church council and members of your congregation receive the  
Synod Announcements directly?

We encourage you to forward this email to them so that they can  
[sign up for The Synod Announcements](#)

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New Westminster, BC V3L 4R5  
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