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The newsletter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Season of Creation | September 1 to October 4 |
| 2. Jerusalem and the Holy Land | Statement on Ongoing War |
| 3. Compassionate Justice | World Week for Peace, Theology and AI Webinar |
| 4. Effective Partnerships | Cycle of Prayer, CLWR, More |
| 5. From the National Office | ELCIC Annual Report, Canada Lutheran, More |
| 6. New ELCIC Logo and Tagline | Files Now Available |

1. Join the "Celebration" for Season of Creation: September 1 - October 4



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

The [Season of Creation](#) is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together for the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home. The "Celebration" **begins September 1**, the Feast of Creation, **and ends October 4**, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. The theme for Season of Creation this year is **to hope and act with Creation**, and the symbol is "the first fruits of hope," inspired by Romans

8:19-25. To learn more about this, please click on this [Celebration Guide](#) and access advocacy and liturgical resources through the [Season of Creation website](#).

Related News:

Join the Prayer Service for Creation Day

On September 1, Day of Creation, also known as Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation or Feast of Creation, opens the Season of Creation 2024. Faith leaders from around the globe will lead this time of prayer and reflection as we celebrate the start of the Season of Creation, on this year's theme: "To hope and act with Creation." The Opening Prayer Service begins at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Time. To join the online service, please [click here](#).

For the Love of Creation Blog

Many new postings on [For the Love of Creation \(FLC\) Blog](#) including a challenge to initiate new [Faithful Climate Conversations](#). There will be regular postings during the Season of Creation. To view the FLC Blog, please [click here](#).

2. Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem: Statement on the Need to Conclude War in the Holy Land

The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem which includes the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land](#) (ELCJHL), released a statement on the continuing war in the Holy Land. In view of the alarming developments, the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches implore the leaders of the warring parties to heed their calls and those of the international community to reach a rapid agreement for a ceasefire resulting in the end of the war, the release of captives, the return of the displaced, the treatment of the sick and wounded, the relief of those who hunger and thirst, and the rebuilding of all public and private civilian structures that have been destroyed. To read the ***Statement On The Urgent Need To Conclude The Present War And Turn From The Pursuit Of Death And Destruction Towards The Promotion Of Life And Peace***, please [click here](#).

3. Compassionate Justice

World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel - September 16 - 22





Photo credits: MECC Department of Services to Palestinian Refugees / WCC website

The [World Council of Churches](#) (WCC) has announced the theme for the [2024 World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel](#), to be observed **on September 16 to 22 of this year**. This week includes the UN International Day of Peace on September 21, now in its 25th year. The theme is: "Whatever you did...you did for me" (Matthew 25:40), based on the larger context of Matthew 25:35-40. During the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, church organizations, congregations, and people of faith are encouraged to bear a common witness by participating in worship events, educational events, and acts of support in favour of peace and justice for Palestine and Israel. To learn more, please [click here](#). Make sure to mark your calendars!

Upcoming Theology and AI Webinar - October 1

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to spark interest and concern around the globe. But how do generative AI and transhumanism challenge or reflect our understanding of personhood and the image of God? The meaning of the Incarnation? And the Trinity? Join us for a free webinar on ***Theology and Artificial Intelligence: Systematic and Denominational Perspectives on October 1 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Eastern Time***. An ecumenical panel will lead the discussion. Please [click here](#) to register for this free webinar.

4. Effective Partnerships

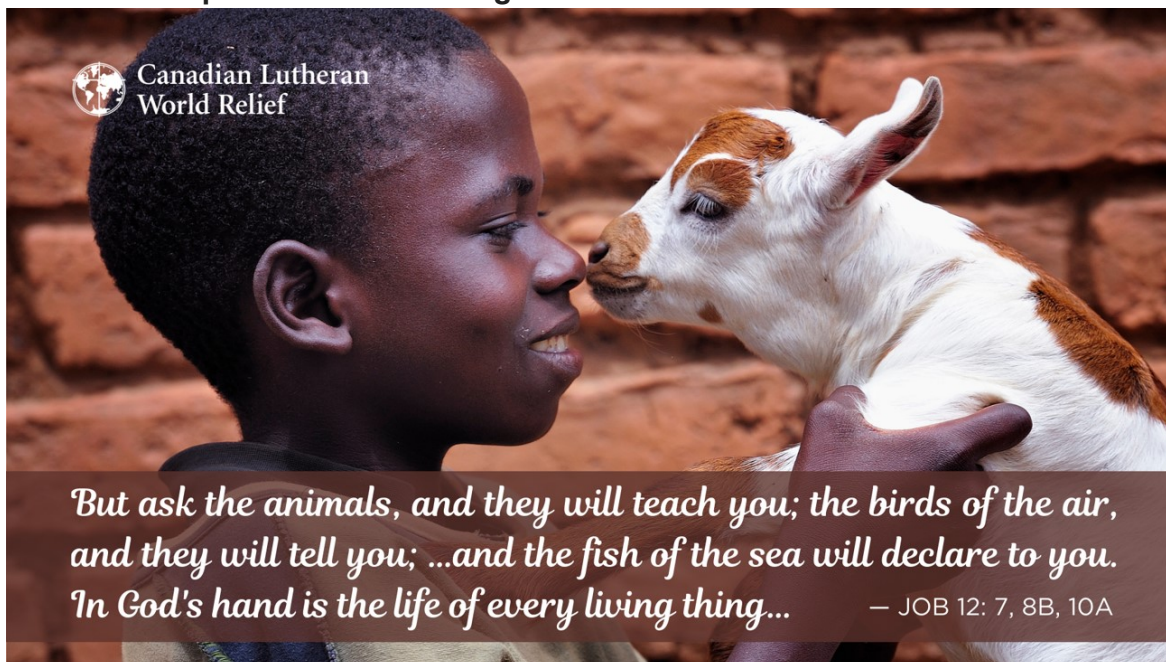
Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for **Sunday, September 1:**

ACC: The theological colleges and training programs within the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land: Arthur Turner Training School, the Centre for Christian Studies, the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, Henry Budd College for Ministry, Saint John's College, Dr. William Winter School for Ministry, James Settee College for Ministry

Together: For the Season of Creation which continues in the month ahead and a renewed commitment to a healthy relationship with the Earth

Let CLWR Help Make Your Planning A Little Easier This Fall



As congregations prepare for fall activities, [Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#) (CLWR) has new resources to help make your planning a little easier! If you are looking to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with a blessing of the animals and prayers for creation, CLWR has designed resources to integrate into your service or Sunday School ministry. Resources can be found when you [click here](#) and include prayers, activity sheets and a PowerPoint slide. CLWR encourages us to lift up animals, and those who care for them, including the many animals gifted to families through *Gifts from the Heart* and CLWR programs, and the opportunities these animals provide to their families. CLWR also has Bible Studies available on a variety of topics, and is adding new ones each month, so check back often! Bible Studies are free to download and can be found on the [CLWR website](#).

LWF Helps Evacuate Sick and Injured From Gaza

[The Lutheran World Federation](#) (LWF) has been supporting the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Palestinian Ministry of Health with the largest evacuation of sick and severely injured patients from Gaza since the current conflict started last October. Doctors and nurses from Augusta Victoria Hospital were asked to support the United Nations' evacuation effort because of their experience in coordinating the transport of patients from Gaza to the hospitals prior to the start of the conflict. To read more, please [click here](#).

5. From the National Office

Get Social With Us!

Do you follow us on social media? Highlights from across the ELCIC and our partners are sharing on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianLutherans>), Instagram

(<https://www.instagram.com/canadianlutherans/>) and X (<https://x.com/elcicinfo>).

Over on Instagram, we recently shared highlights from joint services of Messiah, Gloria Dei and St. Mark's Lutheran churches in Winnipeg, MB through an Instagram takeover! Perhaps you or your community would love to share highlights from worship or an upcoming event with the wider church! If so, please contact Trina at tgallop@elcic.ca for more information.

Do you subscribe?

Did you know the ELCIC has several publications and resources that you can subscribe to at any time throughout the year? Some are free ([such as this newsletter](#)) and others are a paid subscription such as:

- ***Canada Lutheran*** - Our national publication of the ELCIC is produced eight times a year and can be subscribed to either in the print format or digitally. Congregations can get a discounted rate by ordering as little as five copies. Some congregations paid for this subscription for their members, and others ask for a contribution to cover all or part of the individual subscription rates but organized it on behalf of their members to take advantage of the Congregational Subscription Plan (CSP) rates. Individual subscriptions are also available. Visit the [Canada Lutheran website](#) for more information and to sign up today.
- ***Eternity for Today*** - A daily devotional series of the ELCIC. Available in print or digital format, this publication follows the lectionary of the church and provides daily reflections and prayers from ELCIC members. Congregations can get a discounted rate by ordering as a group. Individuals can subscribe for as little as \$8.95/year. For further information, please [contact us](#) at office@elcic.ca.

ELCIC Annual Report Available

Did you know the ELCIC produces an Annual Report? The 2023 Annual Report for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada [is now available](#). Read about the work of our church, our connection to our partners, and how together we are living out God's grace and unconditional love!

Copies of this publication are available online and in print. Individuals and congregations wishing to order print copies of the publication can request these from the National Office (office@elcic.ca). There is no cost to order copies of this publication (donations to offset postage are always greatly appreciated). They are a great way to share more about the mission and ministry of the ELCIC with your members AND with those new to the church.

[A PDF version is available online here.](#)

Stewardship Resources

The summer is a good time to start considering stewardship programs that you may want

to begin in your congregation comes September. For many years, the ELCIC National Office shared resources with ELCIC congregations from the Ecumenical Stewardship Centre (ESC). While ESC closed a few years back, all of the various stewardship resources, materials and programs are still available free of charge for download from [The Lake Institute](#). As well, Lori Guenther Reeser, a Canadian stewardship speaker, recently shared on her blog a template for a [Summer Stewardship Check-in Letter](#).

6. ELCIC Vision Statement Inspires New Logo and Tagline



Have you been starting to see the new ELCIC logo and tagline across the church?

Inspired by a new vision statement - which was developed through extensive consultation with members across the church - the new ELCIC logo and tagline will start to become more prominent in the coming weeks and months! If you would like access to the logo files, please contact [Trina Gallop Blank](#), assistant to the bishop for communications and resource generation.

To read the full news release, [please click here](#).

Do the officers, council and members of your congregation receive ELCIC News directly? From information and resources, to upcoming events -- ELCIC News keeps you connected!

Encourage them to [sign up for ELCIC NEWS today.](#)

ELCIC News is an electronic Newsletter full of information and resources from the ELCIC National Office.

Please share this information widely.

Forward this email to others in your congregation.

Items can also be copied and pasted into worship bulletins, calendars and announcements.

Follow the ELCIC on social media by following the links below:



Contact us:

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Some of the resources mentioned in ELCIC News are available from the ELCIC National Office. If you prefer to order those materials in print, phone 1.888.786.6707 ext 177 or 204.984.9177; email orders@elcic.ca; or fax your order to 204.984.9185 "Attn Orders Desk". Be sure to fully describe the item and tell us the quantity you need. You will be invoiced when the order is filled.

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