

From: BC Synod - ELCIC bcsynod@elcic.ca
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To: oslcospika@gmail.com



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British Columbia Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

January 7, 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 **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 under Resources.

Sunday, January 11

Our Global Mission Companion, the Evangelical Lutheran Church – Peru (IL-P), President Ofelia Davila. IL-P's other partner synods, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod – Bishop Tracy Breashears Schultz; LaCrosse Area Synod (WI) – Bishop Felix Malpica

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

Happy New Year!

- **NEW** [Concern, Prayers for Venezuela](#)
- **Jan 8** [Morning Brew / More Leisuredly Brew / Lay Leaders' Gathering](#)
- **NEW Jan 15** Deadline to apply for [Church admin job posting in Victoria](#)
- **NEW Jan 15** [Church Buildings Workshop and Communication Blog](#)
- **Jan 19, 21, 25** [CLAY 2027 is in Nanaimo! Are you interested in being involved?](#)
- **NEW Jan 26** [Forget-Me-Not Cafe, Penticton](#)
- **NEW Feb 4** [Treasurers Together - 6pm - Deadline to Register January 30](#)
- **NEW Feb 22** [Diaconal Sunday](#)
- **Aug 10-14** - [Save the Date Justice Camp at Loon Lake](#)
- [CLWR Placemats for Pancake Tuesday](#)
- [Invitation to Join ELCIC Task Forces on Inclusion, Racial Justice and Community Engagement](#)

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

PRAYERS

Prayers for Pastor Patricia, family, and friends

Please hold Rev. Patricia Giannelia (retired) and her family in your prayers. Pastor Patricia's husband, Walter Baker, died peacefully at Kelowna General Hospital in the early morning of Sunday, December 28.

Obituary can be found [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diaconal Sunday, February 22

Sunday, February 22nd is Diaconal Ministry Sunday. Let us recognize and give thanks to God for all of those who serve as deacons in the regions of this synod and

across the world. We are grateful for your ministry!

Deacon Brigitte is the preacher for the Diaconal Sunday resources this year!

Deacons in the BC Synod include:

Deacon Connie Landstrom (retired), Sechelt

Deacon Brigitte Mackenzie, Victoria

Deacon Keirra Maher (retired), Nanaimo

Deacon Denise Pawliuk, Kamloops

Deacon Judy Whaley (retired), Sandspit

Robin Dielissen, Diaconal candidate for ministry

Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership:

Deacon Gretchen Peterson

PRAYER FOR DEACONS (from Speak It Plain by Meta Herrick Carlson)

The call is to stand between, in the liminal and fuzzy boundaries where church and world blur, coaxing folks out of stark categories and into real life where proclaiming the gospel and serving the neighbor are never separate. You are ordained for action that embodies God's love on the margins and moves people toward purpose and love that do not require a crucifix, font or altar. Instead you show them how God lived in a body, wrapping a towel at your waist, stooping down to fill a basin with water, washing and drying your neighbor's feet with such care, they are certain they've seen Jesus. Amen

[Resources for Diaconal Sunday can be found here.](#)

CLAY 2027 is in Nanaimo!
Are you interested in being involved?

Did you know that CLAY (national youth gathering) 2027 will be taking place in Nanaimo, BC August 19 - 22, 2027! Would you like to learn more about the gathering and how you might be involved?

There are a variety of ways to be involved - some long term (for the next 1.5 years) and some shorter term (one day during August 2027). Some ways to help might be more active (running a workshop on site or a late night activity) and some are more sedentary (registering groups as they arrive). The youth gathering takes a whole

bunch of people, with a variety of skills to help make it happen.
Come to an info session with Deacon Gretchen Peterson, assistant to the national bishop for youth for the ELCIC and learn more! See [poster](#) for an info session near you in January, 2026!

The poster has a teal background with dark red abstract shapes in the corners. White starburst graphics are in the top right. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold black and red fonts.

CLAY 2027
Youth gathering
Info sessions

Come and learn how you might get involved in the planning for CLAY 2027, in Nanaimo, BC!

Three different info sessions available:

Monday, January 19, 2026 7 pm PST Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 1504 Spruce Ave. Coquitlam, BC	Wednesday, January 21, 2026 7 pm PST St. Paul's Anglican Church 29 Church Street Nanaimo, BC
Sunday, January 25, 2026 4 pm PST Lutheran Church of the Cross 3787 Cedar Hill Rd Victoria, BC	

for more information please contact
Deacon Gretchen Peterson
at gpeterson@elcic.ca

Church admin job posting in Victoria



Admin position job posting

lutheranvictoria.ca/news

Lutheran Church of the Cross in Victoria is currently seeking someone to fill an admin position in the church office. [Read the job description and how to apply here.](#) Deadline to apply is January 15, 2026.

Morning Brew / More Leisurely Brew / Lay Leaders' Gathering

Thursday Morning Brew (for all rostered leaders)

Meets monthly

Next date: **Thursday, January 8th at 9 am**

[Click here join the Morning Brew by ZOOM,](#)

Or call in by dialing: 778-907-2071

Meeting ID: **811 6876 9079**

Passcode: **926542**

More Leisurely Brew (for retired rostered leaders)

Meets monthly

Next date: **Thursday, January 8th at 10am**

[Click here to join the meeting,](#) or contact the synod office if you need to connect by phone.

Lay Leader Gatherings

Meets monthly

Next date - **Thursday, January 8th at 7pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#), or contact the synod office if you need to connect by phone

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 January 26, 2026
11:30am - 1:30-ish (\$5.00/person)

Enjoy lunch, music, arts,
conversation & laughter

Pre-register for the Forget-Me-Not Cafe by:

- Calling 250-492-6861 or
- Emailing: pentictondementiacafe@gmail.com

Sponsors:
Quality Greens Our Redeemer Lutheran Church*
1370 Church Street, Penticton

est. 1995 *Accessible Back Entry

COBS BREAD

Save the Date! Justice Camp at Loon Lake!

BC Synod Youth Camp
Aug. 10th-14th 2026
Loon Lake Lodge, Maple Ridge



GROWING

✝ in faith

♥ in friendship

★ in justice

BC Synod is hosting a youth camp in 2026, “Growing in Faith, Friendship and Justice”. The camp will be August 10-14 at Loon Lake in Maple Ridge. It is open to all youth aged 11 to 18.

We are looking for camp leaders (lay and rostered adults of all ages) to join our team. If you are interested, or know someone who might be a great camp leader, please get in touch with the synod office.

More details will follow early next year.

ELCIC NEWS

Concern, Prayers for Venezuela

The ELCIC joins with [The Lutheran World Federation \(LWF\)](#) and stands in solidarity with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela and with the communities affected by the situation in the country that has been deteriorating for months. ELCIC National Bishop Larry

Kochendorfer offers the following prayer:

God most mighty, God most merciful, you are our refuge and strength.

We come before you with heavy hearts, lifting up the people of Venezuela following the U.S. military action on January 3. Bring calm where there is fear, clarity where there is confusion, and restraint where there is anger or despair. We pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela and its Bishop, Gerardo A Hands Colmenares.

Let the church be a living sign of your grace and a place of refuge, truth, accompaniment, and hope for all who suffer. Where systems oppress and voices are silenced, raise up pathways of accountability, reconciliation and peace. Guide us all in the way of building peace built on justice, equality, and recognition of every human life as sacred. We entrust Venezuela, its people and your church into your loving hands, trusting not in our own strength but in your steadfast love made known in Jesus Christ, who is our peace, and whose name we pray. Amen.

To read the statement published by LWF on January 3, please click on the link below:

[LWF Statement](#)

Church Buildings: Financial Stewardship (Workshop) and Communication (Blog)

Congregational leaders are invited to the January session of the *Every Square Foot Counts* webinar series on **January 15, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. (ET)**. This session will feature **Charitus**, the ELCIC's investment and financial stewardship partner. Charitus will deliver a comprehensive presentation on investments, revenue generation, and charitable programs and services available to congregations as they navigate questions of financial sustainability and responsible building stewardship, followed by reflective discussions about the topics raised.

Register for the January 15 workshop [using this link](#) (Previous registrants do not need to register again.)

Also note the new January blog *Tell Your Story: Communication Strategies for Church Building*. It invites congregations to reflect on how their buildings are seen and understood by their neighbourhoods. Framing communication as an act of hospitality, the blog explores

practical ways how congregations can make their buildings more visible through websites, signage, social media, and storytelling, while staying grounded in mission, sustainability, and community connection.

Read the [blog using this link](#).

Treasurers Together



Barb and Shelley from GSI will be hosting two "Treasurers Together" Info sessions February 4 and 5, 2026. These two-hour sessions will be held over Zoom. Topics will be the same for both sessions.

The sessions will be of particular interest to Treasurers, but members of church councils, clergy, and others who are connected to the ELCIC will also be welcome to join. Topics will cover a range of Treasurer responsibilities, such as:

- enrollments of new employees
- terminations
- life events such as disability and marriage

- T4 completion
- the role of GSI and how it can be helpful for Treasurers and congregations

More information and the registration form is now available on the GSI website: [REGISTRATION](#). **The registration deadline is January 30.**

Invitation to Join ELCIC Task Forces on Inclusion, Racial Justice and Community Engagement

The ELCIC is seeking passionate, committed members from across Canada to join one of three task forces shaping our church's ongoing work in justice, inclusion, and faithful witness. These groups will help guide national initiatives, offer insight from diverse ministry contexts, and support the ELCIC's calling to be a welcoming, accessible, and compassionate church for all.

Task Forces:

Ability & Inclusion Task Force

Task Force on Addressing Racism, White Supremacy and Racial Justice

Amazing Grace Task Force: Diversity Equity and Inclusion for All Task Force

Who should consider applying:

ELCIC members—lay or rostered—who care deeply about justice, inclusion, accessibility, spiritual renewal, and the future of our shared ministries. Lived experience, ministry involvement, professional expertise, and passion for equity are all valuable gifts.

Deadline:

Applications are open **until January 15, 2026.**

If you feel called to contribute, learn more and sign up through the JotForm link below.

[Apply Here](#)

CLWR Placemats for Pancake Tuesday

You might not be thinking about Lent yet, but it will be here before we know it. To help in your planning, CLWR has new placemats ready for Pancake Tuesday, Easter breakfasts, or other group events! There is no charge to receive these placemats and they are a great way to raise awareness of the difference we are making around the world together. Please email churches@clwr.org with your requested quantity and mailing address if you'd like some for your upcoming event. Please note, we are unable to deliver to P.O. Boxes.

More Announcements

Singing in the Lutheran Tradition - A Course from LTS

Singing in the Lutheran Tradition (Winter 2026)

How do Lutherans sing their theology? This Zoom-based course from Lutheran Theological Seminary explores hymnody as a doxological, formational, and instructional practice—shaping faith in worship and daily devotion. Taught by The Rev. Kristian C. Kohler, the course examines hymns as theological texts and equips participants to engage congregational song thoughtfully and faithfully.

Mondays, 5:00–8:00 pm | Jan 5–Feb 13 & Mar 9–Apr 20

Open to lay people auditing the course.

To register or to learn more, contact Colleen Walker, Registrar:

colleen.walker@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

Transitions in Ministry

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

[Transitions in Ministry | Resources | British Columbia Synod \(bcsynod.org\)](https://bcsynod.org/Transitions-in-Ministry-Resources)

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 \(bcsynod.org\)](https://bcsynod.org)

Contact us:

Office phone: 604-524-1318

Bishop Kathy Martin - On Sabbatical until May 2025

Rachel Genge (Administrative Assistant + BC Canada Lutheran editor - remote) -
bcsynod@elcic.ca

Durga Pandithurai (Administrative Assistant - Synod Office) - bcsynod@elcic.ca

Rev. Elina Singh (Assistant to the Bishop + Executive Administrator - Synod Office)
- esinghbcsynod@gmail.com

Rev. Matthew Senf (Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations -
deployed) - msenf@elcic.ca

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

eTransfers are linked to the office email address: bcsynod@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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