


**From:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada info@elcic.ca   
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**To:** oslcospika@gmail.com



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## Week of May 20, 2026

1. Conversations Across the Church
2. ELCIC Day of Action
3. Justice Updates
4. Partnerships
5. ELCIC Sermon Series
6. National Office

Join Us on May 24  
Get On the Map Today  
LWF, Webinars on Peace in Palestine  
LWF Lay Leadership Seminar, Cycle of Prayer  
Deepen Your Connections  
*Canada Lutheran* - Subscribe Today

## 1. Conversations Across the Church - Join and Listen to Our Global Mission Partners on May 24

Join us for our next *Conversations Across the Church* online gathering **this week on Sunday, May 24!**

*\*\*You must register to receive the registration link. Can't attend on Sunday, register to receive the recording.*

Our time together will include a brief time of worship. surrounding us in prayer and communit

as we listen, learn and reflect together with ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer.

We'll be joined by voices from our Global Mission partners: Bishop Imad Haddad from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), Pastor Mariela Pereyra, President of Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Unida (IELU), and Pastor Ofelia Davila, President of Iglesia Luterana del Perú (IL-P). Together, our Global Mission leaders will reflect on a shared question: *Where do you see life in your church?*

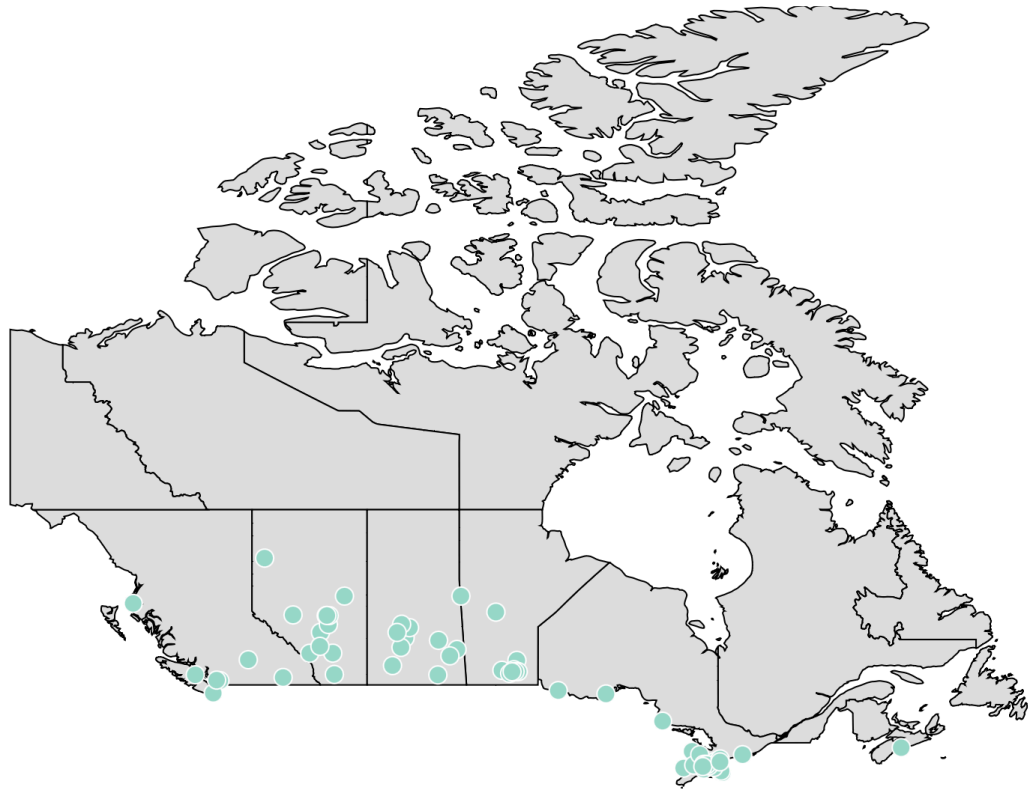
Through these perspectives, we'll hear stories from across our global community—reminding us of the many ways God is at work with and among us.

Join us for this meaningful time of connection and reflection. Come ready to listen, be inspired, and consider where you see signs of life in your own context.

Register now to reserve your spot!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/s27TUCRVTGS2EUyJJBvLKg>

## 2. Share Your Plans and Get on the Map Today!



The ELCIC Day of Action is almost here!

Whether you are finalizing plans for your community clean-up, church picnic, food drive, classic car parade, or more, be sure to tune in over the coming week to find out what other congregations in the ELCIC are doing on May 31.

The online interactive map is filling up with commitments from coast to coast. If you still have yet to submit your church's plans, [you can do so here](#).

Find out some of the many great examples of ELCIC members stepping out into service, living out God's grace and unconditional love through ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer's new video on the upcoming event below:



### **Download Our Resources**

Visit the [ELCIC Day of Action website](#) - You will find a toolkit, information on ordering t-shirt and frequently asked questions!



# **ELCIC Day**



**of ACTION**  
MAY 31, 2026

### 3. Justice Updates

#### **Seminar for Lay Persons in Church Leadership Positions**

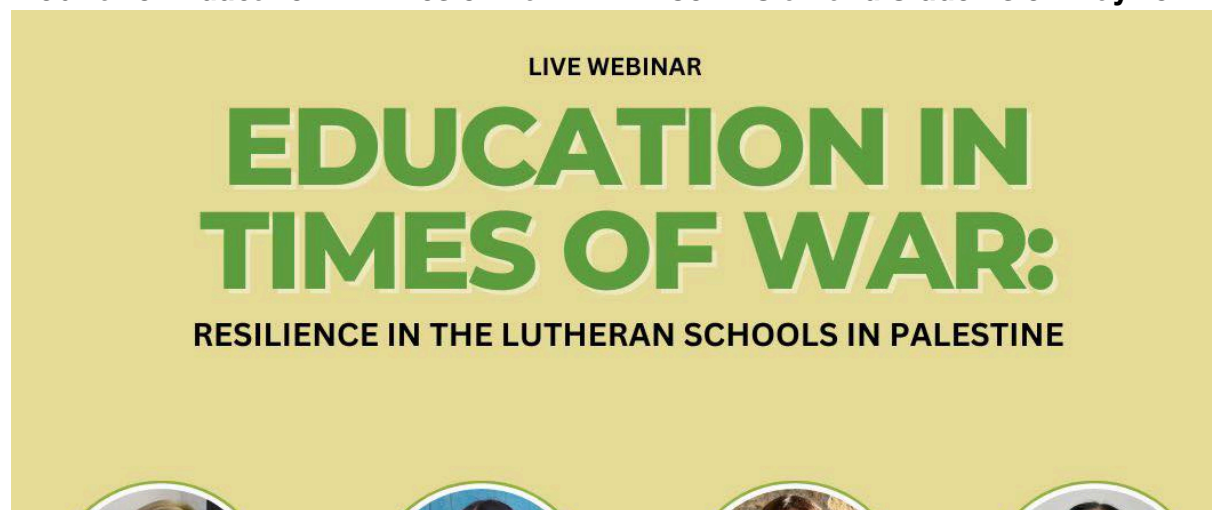
More than 20 lay leaders from across the global communion of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) gathered this May for the ninth International lay Leaders Seminar, held in Wittenberg and Geneva from May 7-15, 2026. After beginning their time at the LWF Center in Wittenberg, Germany, participants continued in and around Geneva - another historic city of the Reformation for a period of reflection, learning, and leadership formation. Together, they explored practices of faithful leadership, deepened self-awareness, and reflected on how the church, including lay leaders, is called to share hope and speak out for justice and peace in today's world. Among them was Nahema-Bea Tchokonte Deudjeu, a lay leader from the ELCIC, who reflected on the richness of learning in a global community.

“There are different backgrounds that shape us. We have different contexts. We have different age. So that brings an entirety of different perspectives, and being able to learn from each other and grow from that is a gift that's truly wonderful,” she said.

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

#### **Two Webinars on Peace in Palestine:**

**Webinar on Education in Times of War with ELCJHL Staff and Students on May 23**





**Eva Azar**

ELCJHL Director of Education



**Ashley Hayek**

ELS Student



**Natalie Jawabreh**

Dar Al-Kalima Student



**Natalia Quora**

School of Hope Student

**SATURDAY MAY 23, 2026**

**REGISTER HERE**

**11AM EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME (US)  
6PM JERUSALEM**



PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH THE GOOGLE FORM, AND WE WILL SEND THE LINK AND DETAILS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS 24 HOURS BEFORE THE EVENT.

WWW.OPPORTUNITYPALESTINE.COM

Join us for a powerful webinar to hear directly from ELCJHL students and staff about the effects of war on education in Palestine **on May 23, 11:00 a.m. EDT**. Register now by scanning the QR code or by [clicking here](#). The event link will be sent to all participants, as we get closer to the date. Don't miss this amazing conversation!

### **Webinar Focusing on the Untold Stories of Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem on May 30**



**CATHOLICS  
for  
JUSTICE  
and  
PEACE  
in the  
HOLY  
LAND**

**FAITH UNDER PRESSURE:  
THE UNTOLD STORY OF  
PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS  
IN JERUSALEM**

**Free**  
**Live Webinar**  
registration needed  
Saturday the 30th of May 2026,  
12:00-13:30 EDT.



## BY HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP DR. IMAD HADDAD, BISHOP OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN JORDAN AND THE HOLY LAND



[cjphl.canada@gmail.com](mailto:cjphl.canada@gmail.com)



[cjphl.canada](https://www.instagram.com/cjphl.canada)



[Catholics for Justice & Peace in the Holy Land](#)

Catholics for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land (CJPHL) invites you to attend a webinar focusing on the realities and untold stories of Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem in the webinar titled “Faith Under Pressure: The Untold Story of Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem” by Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) **on May 30, 2026, 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. The webinar seeks to shed light on the urgent realities, hear from those directly affected, and reflect together on the social, moral, and spiritual responsibilities of the international community and global churches in this critical moment. To register for this webinar, please [click here](#).

### [Subscribe to CJPHL’s newsletter](#)

If you are interested in getting updates and other information that helps engage individuals in issues of justice and stand in solidarity with Palestinians striving for a just peace, please [click here](#).

### **LWF Call to Strengthen Protection for Vulnerable People on the Move**

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) joined ecumenical, interfaith and other civil society partners at the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to reaffirm the human rights of migrants and to demand strengthened protection for the most vulnerable people on the move. Read more about this work when you [click here](#).

## 4. Partnerships

### **Strengthening Lay Leaders in the Global Communion**

Over the course of the past week, more than 20 lay leaders from churches across all seven regions of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), including ELCIC Member Nahema-Bea Tchokonté Deudjeu, gathered in Wittenberg and Geneva for the 9th International Seminar for Lay Persons in Church Leadership Positions. Participants engaged in a variety of themes relating to the ministry of the LWF today.

The distinct backgrounds and experiences of people gathered around the table stood out as a core component to the learning process.

“There are different backgrounds that shape us. We have different contexts. We have different age. So that brings an entirety of different perspectives, and being able to learn from each other and grow from that is a gift that’s truly wonderful,” reflected Nahema-Bea Tchokonté Deudjeu.

Read the full LWF story here: <https://lutheranworld.org/news/strengthening-lay-leadership-global-communion>

### **Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer**

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, May 24**

**ACC:** The Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Ottawa

**TOGETHER:** Jerusalem and the Holy Land Sunday; The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and for peace in the Middle East

### **NATI-RETI 2026: Cross-Border Theological Learning Program**



NORTH AMERICA TURTLE ISLAND  
REGIONAL ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

# NATI-RETI 2026

Where Now for Visible Justice?

The North America-Turtle Island and Regional Ecumenical Theological Institute (NATI-RETI) will convene on **August 3-16** under the theme “Where Now for Visible Justice?” The application **deadline has been extended to May 31**. This is a formational experience for those with an interest in theology, ecumenism, mission, and justice. The program is open to emerging ecumenical leaders, with priority given to those aged 21-35. Nevertheless, people of all ages may consider applying. [Details and application to NATI-RETI are available here.](#)

ELCIC members, please contact Rev. Paul Gehrs at [pgehrs@elcic.ca](mailto:pgehrs@elcic.ca) for support or questions in making your application.

## 5. Deepen Your Connection to the Wider Church with the ELCIC Sermon Series



Congregations across the ELCIC are invited to deepen their connection to the wider church through a collection of weekly sermons offered by our Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops from May to October.

Available in both written and video formats. Each sermon is easy to access and adaptable to

available in both written and video formats, each common to easy to access and adaptable to your local worship setting. Whether you're navigating the rhythms of vacation season or simply looking to bring a wider church voice into your community, these resources offer a meaningful connection to leaders across the ELCIC.

National bishop Larry Kochendorfer's Sermon Series submission also doubles as a resource for the May 31 ELCIC Day of Action. His sermon (and all other sermons leading up to May 31) have been shared to the Box folder for easy access.

If you're interested in receiving the full collection of sermons, simply [sign up to access the full set of resources as they become available.](#)

## 6. From the National Office

### Discover the Stories Shaping Our Church

Across the ELCIC, faith is lived out in ways both quiet and bold. *Canada Lutheran* brings these stories together, highlighting communities, voices, and moments that reflect God's work in Canada and beyond.

Each issue offers thoughtful articles and reflections that connect readers to the wider church and invite deeper engagement with faith in everyday life.

Subscribe today: <https://www.simplecirc.com/subscribe/canada-lutheran>

Congregations can access reduced-rate group subscriptions. For details, contact [tgallop@elcic.ca](mailto:tgallop@elcic.ca).

Give a subscription as a gift:

[https://www.simplecirc.com/give\\_a\\_gift/canada-lutheran](https://www.simplecirc.com/give_a_gift/canada-lutheran)

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***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.](#)***

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*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.*

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



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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Canada**

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

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](mailto: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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