

**From:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada info@elcic.ca 🇨🇦  
**Subject:** ELCIC News: September 23, 2026  
**Date:** September 23, 2026 at 9:34 am  
**To:** oslcospika@gmail.com



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## Week of September 23, 2026

- |                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Prayer                    | Acts of Violence                     |
| 2. ELCIC                     | Treaty Recommitment                  |
| 3. National Church Council   | September Meeting                    |
| 4. Palestine and Israel      | World Week for Peace                 |
| 5. Orange Shirt Day          | September 28                         |
| 6. ELCIC's 40th Anniversary  | National Worship Service, October 25 |
| 7. DEIA Initiatives          | Grace At The Table, ReconcilingWorks |
| 8. Luther League Legacy Fund | Applications Due October 1           |
| 9. Justice Updates           | KAIROS, WCC, More                    |
| 10. Partnerships             | Cycle of Prayer                      |

## 1. Prayer for Anxious Times

This has been a difficult week with violence, threats and acts of hate leaving many people feeling anxious and unsettled. Communities of faith and others who gather in places meant for worship, learning and community have been deeply troubled by the targeting of people because of who they are or how they worship, and are carrying real concerns about safety.

In the midst of this uncertainty we turn to prayer. We seek God's peace, holding one another in care and recommitting ourselves to communities where all people are welcomed and safe.

ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer shares the following prayer:

*God of grace, you have made all people in your image.*

*Our hearts are heavy with the reality of racism that persists in our world, our communities and our own hearts.*

*Forgive us for the times we have been blind to the pain of others, silent in the face of injustice or complicit in structures and systems that divide us.*

*Open our eyes to see the dignity and worth of every human being and to rejoice in the diversity among your children.*

*Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by discrimination.*

*Open our minds to seek truth and transformation.*

*Open our lips to challenge discrimination and to proclaim your grace and unconditional love for all.*

*Open our hands to actively work for equity and peace until every child can live freely, and every voice is heard and honoured.*

*Give us courage to name what is and to work for what should be.*

*And give us hope that change is possible, for hope is what we do today.*

*Amen.*

## 2. Reaffirming the Commitment to Living as Treaty People





*Photo credit: Bishop Larry Kochendorfer*

National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) joined other Christian faith leaders at The Forks in Winnipeg, Man. for a recommitment ceremony as part of the ***We Are All Treaty People Celebration 2026*** on Sunday, September 20. Representatives from the Roman Catholic, Anglican, United, Mennonite, and Quaker communities were also present. [Read more about it here.](#)

### 3. National Church Council Meeting Highlights Now Available



*(Pictured: NCC members in attendance at the fall meeting.)*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's (ELCIC) National Church Council (NCC) recently held its meeting in Winnipeg, Man. from September 10 to 12. Highlights from the significant work done are now available in our [Meeting Highlights](#). These highlights can be shared at upcoming council meetings, area ministry meetings, and other gatherings, as a way of sharing some of the work and decisions from the meeting. [Read more about it here.](#)

### 4. World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

The World Council of Churches (WCC) invites people and churches all over the world to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the Holy Land during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, to be observed **from September 20-26, 2026**. The WCC World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel will focus on protecting children. The theme is from Psalm 127:3, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord." Read the full article when you [click here](#).

## 5. Orange Shirt Day: September 28

**September 30** marks National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters. For information, resources, and more, please [click here](#). You can also find more resources from the [Anglican Church of Canada website](#).

Related News:

### **Resources for Truth and Reconciliation Week: September 21-26**

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) offers many resources related to Reconciliation Week 2026 and beyond. The Truth and Reconciliation Week (TRW) website was officially launched, and the education portal for teachers is open - with new learning resources being added through the fall. The website also provides other valuable resources for everyone, such as lunch & learn webinars and national events. Truth and Reconciliation Week this year is **from September 21 to 26**. For more information and to access these resources, please [click here](#).

## 6. Save the Date for National Worship Service - October 25





As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada celebrates 40 years in 2026, members and congregations from across the church are invited to come together for a special National Worship Service **on Sunday, October 25**. Led by National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, the service will be livestreamed from Camp Kinasao at Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan, where youth from across the Saskatchewan Synod will gather for a weekend retreat. Mark your calendars for October 25 and join the livestream for the 40th anniversary worship service by clicking here.

## 7. DEIA Initiatives

***Grace At the Table...Two Stories, Two Journeys - Register Today***



# GRACE *at the* TABLE



## Two Stories, Two Journeys

Join us for a meaningful conversation with **Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken** (*Lutheran*) and **Jodey Porter** (*Anglican*), as they each share their personal stories of lived experience of abilities, inclusion and belonging.

**Sunday, October 4, 2026**  
**5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST, via Zoom**





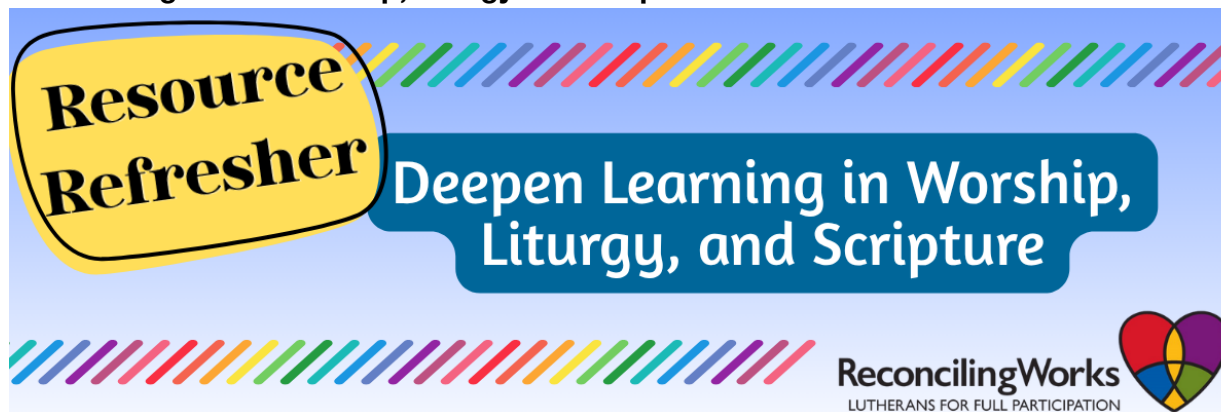
**SCAN HERE TO REGISTER:**



Join us for an evening of listening, learning and reflection through ***Grace At The Table... Two Stories, Two Journeys*** on Sunday, October 4, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST. The online event, part of the ELCIC's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Initiatives, will feature Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken (Lutheran) and Jodey Porter (Anglican), as they share their personal stories and lived experiences of abilities, inclusion and belonging. For more information on this event and to register, please [click here](#). To view the event poster and share it to your congregation and network, please [click here](#).

***Grace At The Table*** is part of ELCIC's DEIA Initiatives - offering a space for learning, listening, and understanding through the lived experiences, stories, and perspectives of others. Through these event series, ELCIC members are invited to listen, reflect, and deepen their understanding of the diverse experiences within our church and communities.

#### **ReconcilingWorks: Worship, Liturgy and Scripture Resources - NEW**



Inclusive worship is more than changing a few words. It is about helping every person hear and experience the good news that they are beloved by God. Through thoughtful liturgy, expansive scripture engagement, and intentional worship planning, congregations can create spaces where people experience belonging, healing, and hope. ReconcilingWorks invites you to explore these resources, share them with worship planners and ministry leaders, and consider how they might enrich the worship life of your community. Start exploring their resources when you click on these links: [Worship, Liturgy & Scripture](#) and [Worship Resources](#).

## **Sight Loss Sunday - October 11**

Sight Loss Sunday, an annual awareness day for churches to celebrate blind and partially sighted members and make services more accessible, is on **October 11**. Organized by the UK-based Torch Trust, the special day will explore the theme “Who does God call?” To read the full article, please [click here](#).

## **8. Luther League Legacy Fund: Last Call for Applications**

This is your chance to submit an application for the [Luther League Legacy Fund](#) (LLLFF). If you are 30 years of age or under, and looking to be involved in a leadership development opportunity or looking to plan a project that would benefit people 30 years of age and under, please check out our application guidelines when you [click here](#). Deadline for applications is fast approaching on **October 1, 2026**.

## **9. Justice Updates**

### **KAIROS' Renewed Vision & Strategic Plan - Learn More, Sept. 29**

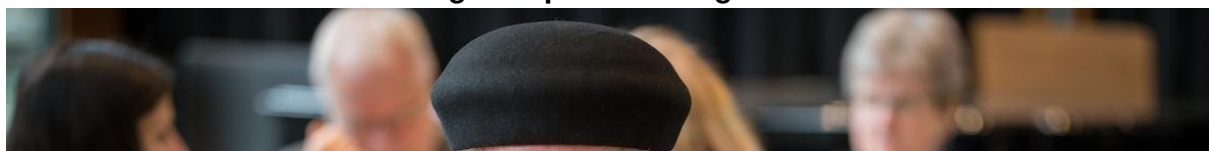
You are invited by [KAIROS](#) to attend its virtual event ***Two Paths. One Journey. Shared Purpose*** on **Tuesday, September 29, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Eastern Time**. Hear from Murray Pruden, Director of Indigenous Programs and Tania Principe, Executive Director, who will share KAIROS' renewed vision and strategic plan, and how you can be part of it. Register for this event when you [click here](#).

### **Season of Creation: Resources and Events for You**

**Season of Creation** is here **from September 1 to October 4** - a time when we can pray and respond together to the cry of Creation. The theme for Season of Creation this year is ***Living Water***. Inspired by Ezekiel 47:9-12, the theme invites us to reflect on God's life-giving waters that bring healing, renewal, and flourishing for all creation, and to consider our shared responsibility to protect and restore the Earth's ecosystems.

Visit the [Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2026](#) to find theological reflections on the theme, an Ecumenical Prayer Service, invitation from ecumenical faith leaders and the Season of Creation 2026 Prayer.

### **WCC Faith and Science Working Group: Rethinking What It Means To Be Human**





*Photo credit: Albin Hillert/WCC (WCC website)*

The World Council of Church's Faith and Science Working Group is currently working on evaluating modern technological and scientific advancements through theological and ethical lenses, focusing on human dignity, digital justice, and existential risks. To read the full article, please [click here](#).

## 10. Partnerships

### Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, September 27.**

**ACC:** The Rt. Rev. Clara Plamondon, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Territory of the People

**ELCIC:** The people and ministries of the Mission Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

**TOGETHER:** Every child matters! Remember the Indigenous children who didn't return home from residential school; for survivors and their families; for truth, healing, and reconciliation.

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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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**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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