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Subject: ELCIC News: August 26, 2026
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To: oslcospika@gmail.com



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Week of August 26, 2026

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1. Prayers for Nepal

As we receive the news of the devastating landslide and flash flooding in Nepal, ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer offers the following prayer:

“Gracious God, strengthen and embrace all touched by the landslide and flash flooding in Nepal. Accompany all who grieve, who suffer, who are in pain. Be near to those who watch and wait. Support all who seek to provide care, who sit with the grieving, who search for th

living. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.”

2. Season of Creation



National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer invites members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to join Christians around the world in observing the **Season of Creation from September 1 to October 4.**

This year's theme, ***Living Water***, is inspired by Ezekiel 47:9–12 and invites us to reflect on God's life-giving waters and our shared responsibility to protect and restore the Earth's ecosystems.

In a pastoral letter to the church, Bishop Kochendorfer encourages ELCIC members and congregations to engage in the season through worship, prayer and action, including the new Feast of Creation, resources from the 2026 Season of Creation Celebration Guide and an upcoming Conversations Across the Church gathering.

Read Bishop Kochendorfer's pastoral letter and explore resources for the 2026 Season of Creation.

Related Items:

3. Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad's Message on the First Day of School for Students in the ELCJHL

Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land** (ELCJHL) shares a message marking the first day of classes in all schools of the ELCJHL for the 2026-2027 school year. The message reflects on the uncertainty and challenges facing students, teachers and communities across the region while affirming the church's commitment to education as a way of choosing hoping, supporting young people, and creating safe and welcoming spaces for learning and growth.

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

4. Faith in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

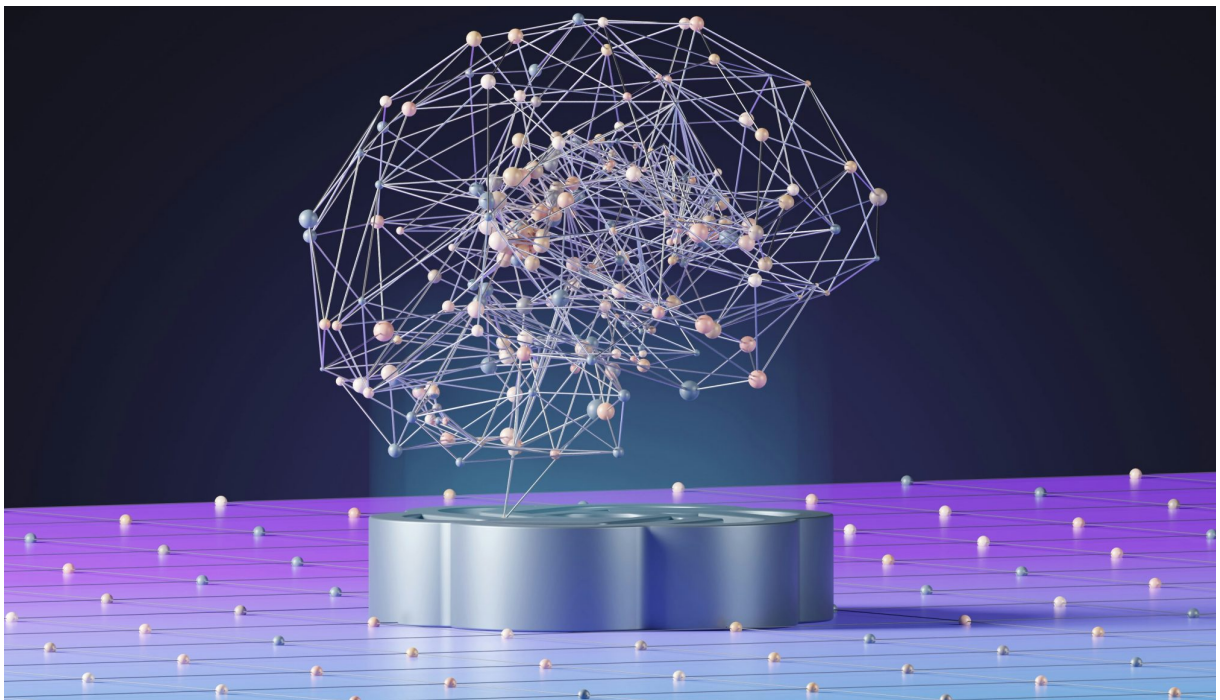


Photo credits: CCC website

What does it mean to safeguard the human person in the age of Artificial Intelligence?

This fall, the [Canadian Council of Churches](#) (CCC) invites you to explore that question through a small-group reading experience focused on Pope Leo XIV's encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* (*Magnificent Humanity*).

As AI becomes increasingly present in our daily lives, participants will have an opportunity to reflect together on its ethical implications and consider how our faith traditions call us to respond. No prior knowledge is required - just a willingness to reflect, learn and join the

conversation.

[Learn more and sign up.](#)

5. DEIA Updates

Everyone Deserves a Safe Home



Everyone Deserves a Safe Home.

Join us at Capital Pride in Ottawa!

Saturday, August 29 | Find us at the **street festival** and join us
Sunday, August 30 | in the **parade!**

[Learn more and support the campaign](#)

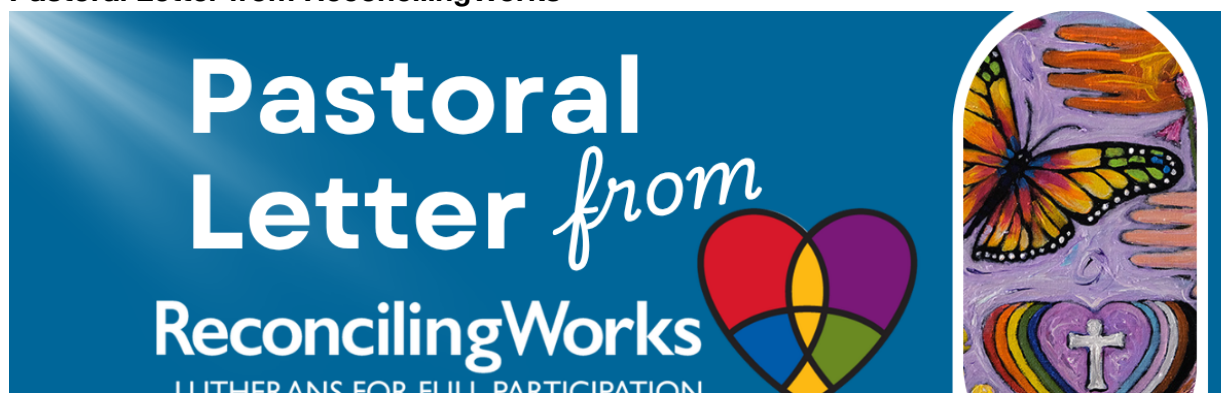
A joint campaign

RAINBOW HAVEN

CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE CPJ

2SLGBTQIA+ people around the world are forced to flee violence, criminalization, and persecution simply because of who they are. While Canada is often seen as an automatic safe haven, systemic gaps and government policy decisions can leave 2SLGBTQIA+ refugees feeling unsafe. That's why [Citizens for Public Justice \(CPJ\)](#) is partnering with Rainbow Haven on **Everyone Deserves a Safe Home** - a campaign to support their joint work in protecting the safety of 2SLGBTQIA+ people while they're fleeing persecution abroad, and upholding their rights as refugees when they arrive in Canada. For those in the National Capital Region, CPJ invites you to join them at Capital Pride **on Saturday, August 29 and Sunday August 30!** To learn more and support this campaign, please [click here](#).

Pastoral Letter from ReconcilingWorks



Pastoral Letter *from* **ReconcilingWorks**

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

ReconcilingWorks has released a new Pastoral Letter on the ongoing work of the ELCA Task Force and revisions to the Human Sexuality Social Statement. For more information and to read the pastoral letter, please [click here](#).

6. Save the Date: Conversations Across the Church



Conversations Across the Church

Sunday, September 13, 2026
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST

Please join **National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer** and guests for an hour of devotion, reflection and conversation.

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



Join us for our next Conversations Across the Church **on Sunday, September 13!**

Our focus for the third Conversations Across the Church of the year will be on Season of Creation — a time to come together in prayer and action. ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer will be joined by three speakers on why this is a priority for our church.

Join with ELCIC members across the church for Conversations Across the Church by registering here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/-PPJGV3gQ2SLvj9Mr1Rwyg> (Please note, you must register to receive the Zoom link.)

Watch previous Conversations Across the Church online events by [clicking here](#).

7. Partnerships

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, August 30**

ACC: The Rt. Rev. Chad McCharles, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Saskatoon

ELCIC: Bishop Kathy Martin, and the people and rostered ministers of the British Columbia Synod

MOR: The administration and staff of the Board of Elders Canadian District and the Northern Province

LWF Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is in search of applicants for the position for Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations (AGS). This position is in primary responsibility for bilateral and multilateral interaction and cooperation with other Christian World Communions and ecumenical organizations, on delegated authority from the General Secretary, who is the Chief Ecumenical Officer of the LWF. The place of assignment for this position is in Geneva, Switzerland. For more information on this position and to apply, please [click here](#). Closing date for application is on September 21.

8. Seminaries and Schools

Transitional President Search for LTS & SAC

Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon (LTS) and St. Andrew's College (SAC) are seeking a Transitional President to provide leadership as the two schools become one institution. Applications are open **until September 20, 2026**. Learn more about the role and view the full posting when you [click here](#).

9. From the National Office

Ecumenical Stewardship Conference

Looking to put stewardship at the heart of your congregation's ministry? Plan to attend ***Funding Ministry into the Future: A Conference of Hope and Stewardship for the Church*** - taking place **November 20 and 21, 2026** in Waterloo, Ont. This ecumenically planned event, including the ELCIC, will feature practical worships, along with keynotes from Grace Duddy Pomroy, from Luther Seminary and author of *Funding Forward*, and Paul Nazareth, renowned Canadian speaker on generosity and an expert on giving, tax, financial and estate planning. Mark your calendar - further details and registration will be shared in ELCIC News very shortly.

Weekly Sermons from our Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops

Looking for sermon help this summer? The ELCIC Sermon Series offers weekly sermons from bishops and assistants to the bishops from across the church to support congregations throughout the season.

Available in both written and video formats, these sermons are designed to be adaptable for a variety of worship settings. New sermons are added as they are received and prepared, with resources currently available through August.

Congregations sign up at anytime to receive each new sermon as it becomes available through September, or access the resources currently available online.

Whether you're planning for vacation coverage, lay-led worship or simply looking to hear voices from across the ELCIC, these resources are here to support your congregation's worship life throughout the summer and into the fall.

[Sign up here](#) to access the sermons available so far.

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:



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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; 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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