

**From:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada info@elcic.ca  
**Subject:** ELCIC News: December 23, 2025  
**Date:** December 23, 2025 at 7:08 am  
**To:** oslcospika@gmail.com



[View this email in your browser](#)



1. National Bishop
2. Communications as Ministry
3. Cycle of Prayer
4. From the National Office

Christmas Message  
Christmas Preparations  
December 28, January 4  
Greetings from the Staff, Office Closure Notice

## 1. Bishop Larry Kochendorfer's Christmas Message





In this 2025 Christmas message to the church, ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer reflects on Luke 2:1: “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.”

Set against a world of power and decree, we are invited to listen closely to the Christmas gospel and to ask urgent, faithful questions in the midst of worship, family gatherings, loss and mourning, concern for creation, and the realities facing the world: Who saves and who gives peace? Who claims our ultimate loyalty? Who is it who is good news of great joy? And who brings peace built on justice, equality, and the recognition of every human life as sacred?

Watch the video on the [ELCIC YouTube page](#).

[Download the video from the ELCIC here.](#)

[A pdf version of the text is available to download](#) and a [transcribed version is available on the website](#).

Related News - Messages from our partners:

[LWF Christmas Message 2025](#)

[WCC Christmas Message](#)

## 2. Communications as Ministry: Christmas

As we enter the seasons of Christmas, our communications become more than reminders and schedules. They are a part of our ministry of welcome and care. In a season filled with expectation and activity, thoughtful communication can be a quiet but powerful act of hospitality. Here are a few thoughts to consider:

1. **Share information with care.**

Make key details such as service times, locations and special events, easy to find and consistent across bulletins, emails, websites, outdoor signage and social media. Clear communication is a simple but powerful act of welcome. Your members may know where to find details about when services are this week, but individuals who may not know how to navigate to newsletters and bulletins will appreciate this information

being on website homepages and easy to find on social media posts.

2. **Highlight the “why.”**

When sharing information about events or programs, briefly explain why they matter to your congregation or community. People connect more deeply when they understand purpose and meaning.

3. **Make it easy to invite others.**

Provide simple, shareable information (i.e. graphics, text or links), so members can invite friends, family and neighbours to join in worship and special gatherings.

4. **Tell the story of your congregation.**

Share glimpses of congregational life. Whether it's up on the screen before worship, on your website or social media channels - consider posting images of volunteers preparing for worship or other gatherings, choir rehearsals, the lighting of candles, etc. ... Share the heart of your ministry!

5. **Prepare for the unexpected.**

Regardless of where your community might gather, weather and other disruptions can happen. It can take just a few extra minutes to prepare in advance and have messages ready in case you need to move worship to the livestream, or post change via email, website, or online quickly.

### 3. Cycle of Prayer

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

The following are the prayer petitions for:

##### Sunday, December 28

**ACC:** Henrieta Paukov, Director, and the staff of General Synod Communications and Information Resources; Amal Attia, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer and the staff of Financial Management and Administration

**ELCIC:** Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the National Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation, and the staff of Communications

**MOR:** Mike Riess, Executive Director and staff of Interprovincial Board of Communications for the Moravian Church

##### Sunday, January 4

**ACC:** The Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

**ELCIC:** Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership  
Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the National Bishop, Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

**MOR:** The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, Ecumenical Officer, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the School of Theology at Moravian University



## 4. From the National Office

### Staff Greetings

As our staff get ready for Christmas and a short time of rest, we pause with gratitude—for the work we share, for the communities we serve, and for the many ways we are connected as church. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. May this holy season bring you rest, hope, and joy.



### Holiday Office Closure

The ELCIC National Office will be closed starting on Christmas Eve, December 24 at noon, re-opening on January 2. The office main line will still record messages during that period of time. ELCIC News will also take a pause next week and will return the first week of January 2026.

Please note the following upcoming days of emphasis for the ELCIC:

- 
- January 18-25, 2026: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
  - February 1, 2026: Global Mission Sunday
  - February 22, 2026: Diaconal Sunday

---

***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:**

ELCIC News  
400-185 Carlton St,  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J1  
[info@elcic.ca](mailto:info@elcic.ca)



## 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.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)