

From: BC Synod - ELCIC bcsynod@elcic.ca 🇨🇦
Subject: Synod Announcements - April 15, 2026
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To: oslcospika@gmail.com

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British Columbia Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

April 15, 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, April 19

St. Peter's Estonian Lutheran in Vancouver – Rev. Andres Rebane (interim)

Peace Lutheran in Vernon

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

- [Summer Sermon Series](#)
- [CLWR is hiring a Communications Associate](#)
- **NEW** [CLWR CEO Announcement](#)
- **April 15** [Deadline for Compassionate Justice Initiatives - Synod Antipoverty Grant](#)
- **April 16** [Every Square Foot Matters-A Quiet Practice of Care by Katja](#)
- **April 21** [Forget-Me-Not Cafe, Kelowna](#)
- **April 22** [Join Earth Day](#)
- **April 24** [LTS and Queer Theologies begins April24](#)
- **April 25 and NEW May 3** [LTS President's workshop at Spirit of Life and St. Paul's Maple Ridge](#)
- **April 27** [Forget-Me-Not Cafe, Penticton](#)
- **Apr 30** [Karren Stinson Bursary for Lutherans and Anglicans](#)
- **May 7-9** [Worship and Music Symposium at Regina, SK](#)

- [BC Synod Youth Camp "Growing in Faith, Friendship & Justice"](#)
- **May 23** [Save the Date Installation Service for Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker](#)
- **May 31** [ELCIC Day of Action - Save the Date!](#)
- **Update June 14** [Cross-Border Friendship Gathering](#)
- [Charitus Announces Calls for Partner Impact Grant Applications](#)
- **June 6-7** ['We are One Body' Part 2](#)
- **July 2-5** [Whitehorse Worship Arts Festival & Contemplative Retreat](#)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are One Body - Part 2



You Are Invited

We invite you to continue a journey that began last year - a journey of connecting, reflecting, and growing together as we explore the yearnings we share for the future of our church here in BC.

This gathering is an opportunity to:

Connect deeply with friends in Christ from across the province

Reflect on the initiatives we began last year—celebrating what has flourished and learning from our experiences

Grow new possibilities rooted in the yearnings that call us forward

Who Should Attend

Each congregation is invited to send up to **four representatives**, their called or interim pastor included. This gathering is for anyone who cares deeply about the future of our church in BC. We especially welcome those who attended last year and those who wanted to come but could not. We encourage you to have conversations in your congregation on who should attend.

We will gather June 5-7, 2026, at King of Life Lutheran Church, Coquitlam

Important Notes

This gathering builds on the foundation laid in 2025, but it is not simply a status report. It is an invitation to continue co-creating the future of our church through Spirit-led collaboration rooted in genuine passion and shared responsibility. BC Synod will cover the costs of the event (gathering program and on-site costs).

Registration

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Registration deadline is **April 24, 2026**. We cannot guarantee accommodations after that date.

Accommodation will be arranged at Executive Plaza in Coquitlam. This includes parking and breakfast. Since we have to confirm our group booking early, other accommodations will not be reimbursed. Travel costs will be covered by the synod. If air travel is required, please book your air fare early.

Forget-Me-Not Cafe, Kelowna



The poster features a green and yellow color scheme. At the top, the text 'FORGET-ME-NOT' is in white serif font on a green background, with 'Café' in a purple script font below it. A tagline reads 'A friendly café welcoming those with dementia and their family and caregiver'. The event details are in a central green box: 'Tuesday, April 21 from 11:30am to 1:30pm (cost \$5 per person)'. Below this, it says 'Enjoy a healthy lunch, treats, arts & crafts, and music'. The bottom right corner has the pre-registration contact info. The poster is decorated with a sun, flowers, a watering can, and butterflies.

FORGET-ME-NOT
Café
KELOWNA

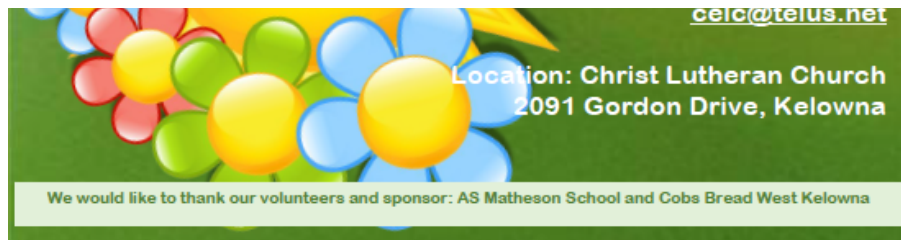
A friendly café welcoming
those with dementia and
their family and caregiver

SPRING

Tuesday,
April 21
from 11:30am to 1:30pm
(cost \$5 per person)

Enjoy a healthy lunch,
treats, arts & crafts,
and music

Please pre-register:
250-860-2447 or



LTS President Rev. Dr. Harrison's workshop

at Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, Sat April 25, 10am

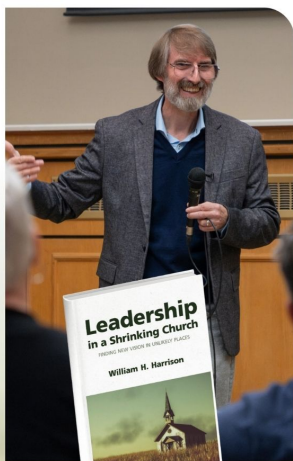
and at St. Paul's Maple Ridge, Sun May 3, 6:30-8:30pm

You're Invited!

Join us for a morning with the Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President of Lutheran Theological Seminary, as he introduces his new book *Leadership in a Shrinking Church: Finding New Vision in Unlikely Places*. We invite you to come and bring a parish team. Together, we will explore ways that we can respond to God's love when people aren't joining churches (or any voluntary organizations!). All are welcome!

LET'S GO TO WORK!

Leadership in a Shrinking Church: Book-Based Workshops



Leadership in a shrinking church means learning to see God's transformation in places we never expected — and to trust that smaller does not mean lesser.

Join Rev. Dr. William Harrison for a guided, hands-on workshop rooted in the bold, hopeful vision of his book — *Leadership in a Shrinking Church*.

- Live workshop events across Canada
- Afternoon and evening sessions — accessible, practical, and engaging
- For lay leaders, clergy, and congregational members
- Work with practical tools for courageous ministry in uncertain times
- Engage the big questions: identity, mission, and the future of the Church



Spirit of Life Lutheran Church
 375 W 10th Ave, Vancouver, BC
 Saturday, April 25th 10:00 am



JOIN EARTH DAY 2026

On April 22nd, or on April 25-26 Weekend


See <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca> for a host of useful resources.

JOIN EARTH DAY 2026

On April 22nd, or on April 25-26 Weekend

Environmental progress does not happen in silence. It happens when God's children show up. It is built through every day action - from communities protecting ecosystems, to innovators advancing solutions, to churches advocating for justice and creation. Every action counts. Every voice matters.

Join the Party for the Planet on April 25th (outside Surrey City Hall) or find out about local activities. We encourage you to take personal responsibility for stewardship, turning awareness into action. Join a group who plants trees in your neighborhood, who builds trails, or a beach cleanup crew.



See <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca> for a host of useful resources.

Have you considered a monthly action, like reducing plastic use, carpooling, going paperless, or mending your clothing?

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it."*
Psalm 24:1

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 April 27, 2026

11:30am - 1:30-ish (\$5.00/person)

Enjoy lunch, music, arts,
conversation & laughter

Pre-register for the Cafe by:

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

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church*
1370 Church Street, Penticton

Sponsor:
Quality Greens



COBS BREAD

*Accessible Back Entry



BC Synod Summer Youth Camp - Registration Now Open!

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**.

Congregations, please pass this information along to families.

The registration form can be found [here](#).

UPDATE: The Financial Aid Application form can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the BC Synod Office and your inquiry will be directed to the camp director, Sarah Pawlos.

BC Synod Youth Camp
Aug. 10th-14th 2026



GROWING

✝ in faith

♥ in friendship

★ in justice

Save the Date - June 14

Cross-Border Friendship Gathering - BC Synod and NW Washington Synod

Borders are meant to divide us, the lines that have been drawn are meant to keep us apart. But we are one in Christ. To celebrate our shared mission and our oneness across the border, we will gather for a picnic to share food, stories, and joy. Come and meet Lutheran friends from across the border.

The picnic shelter is of limited capacity - please [register here](#) so we can reserve additional space if needed. The deadline for registration is May 20th.



Save the Date - Installation of Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker

On Saturday, May 23rd, Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker will be installed at Mount Zion Lutheran Church in

On Saturday, May 20th, Holy Communion will be installed at Mount Zion Lutheran Church in New Westminster at 3:30pm. More details, and an invitation, will be sent out a closer date.

KARREN STINSON BURSARY for Lutherans and Anglicans based in Western Canada

The deadline is 30 April 2026. For more information and to download the application please click [here](#).

ELCIC NEWS

ELCIC Sermon Series



Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops are once again offering weekly sermons for congregational use, available from May through October.

Each weekly sermon includes both written and video formats, ready to download and use in ways that best fit your worship context. These resources are especially helpful during vacation season and offer a meaningful way to connect your congregation with leaders from across the ELCIC.

Interested in using these sermons? [Sign up to access the full set of resources](#).

Compassionate Justice Initiatives - Synod Antipoverty Grant

The ELCIC and CMB work in partnership to foster sustainable development in communities around the world.

The ELCIC and CLVWH work in partnership to foster sustainable development in communities around the world, including here in Canada. This work includes challenging the causes and responding to the consequences of injustice and poverty through Compassionate Justice Initiatives. The BC Synod is accepting applications for funds to such initiatives.

The closing date for grant applications is April 15, 2026. Please note that your project must be completed by the end of the 2026 calendar year and a report of your project will be required by January 31, 2027.

Please send your completed application form to bcynod@elcic.ca. The Compassionate Justice application form can be found on the [BC Synod website](#) under Resources or click [here](#) to download the form. Recipients will be informed shortly after the closing date.

ELCIC Day of Action - Save the Date!

This year marks 40 years in the life of our church! This milestone not only invites us to remember our story, but also to reflect on who we are today and how God is calling us forward as a church *Living out God's grace and unconditional love*.

One of the key moments as we celebrate this milestone will be the ELCIC Day of Action on May 31. On that day, you and your congregation are invited to join with congregations across the ELCIC in stepping beyond your church walls and engaging in acts of service in your community. Watch here and on the ELCIC website for further details which will be available soon!

Interested in how you can support help organize your congregation's participation for the ELCIC Day of Action? [Complete the following form and we'll send you information!](#)

Every Square Foot Matters: A Quiet Practice of Care by Katja Brittain

As congregations reflect on stewardship in the season around Earth Day, this month's blog invites a shift in perspective. Rather than focusing on large-scale changes, it highlights the quiet, everyday practices through which care for creation is lived out in church buildings. From attentive maintenance to small preventative actions, the blog explores how faithful stewardship emerges through steady, manageable steps that support both the life of the congregation and its wider community. Read [the full blog here](#):

Upcoming Workshop – April 16, 7:30pm ET: Practical Climate Action for Church Buildings

Join this month's 90-minute online workshop designed to help congregations move from intention to action in a clear and manageable way. The session will introduce practical steps for energy stewardship that align with your building, capacity, and resources. Registration are available through [this link](#).

More information can be found [here](#)

MORE NEWS

CLWR CEO Announcement

CLWR is excited to share that the Board of Directors has appointed Darryl Loewen as its next Chief Executive Officer, starting June 1st. Darryl comes to CLWR after serving for nearly a decade as Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Manitoba. "Darryl's experience leading a historic, faith-rooted organization in challenging times is exactly what this moment calls for," said Rev. Adam Snook, CLWR Board President. The full announcement can be found [here](#).

CLWR is Hiring a Communications Associate

CLWR is hiring a [Communications Associate](#) to support its communications and marketing team. This position will write content for our website, church relations team and donor materials and will help manage the collection and organization of photos and other communications assets. You'll also provide hands-on communications support to departments across CLWR. **Closing date is April 16, 2026.** [See full job description.](#)

Charitus Announces Calls for Partner Impact Grant Applications

Charitus has launched its 2026 Partner Impact Grant Program, offering matching grants to ELCIC congregations and institutions for projects addressing social and environmental needs in both church and broader community contexts. Grants of up to \$3,000, covering up to 75 percent of project costs, are available to support impactful initiatives under three key objectives:

The deadline for submission is May 31, 2026. For more details or to apply, visit [Charitus Apply for a Grant](#).

Whitehorse Worship Arts Festival & Contemplative Retreat

July 2–5, 2026 | Whitehorse, Yukon

Join us in the Yukon for a four-day immersive gathering designed to heal and inspire. A partnership of the Anglican, Lutheran, and United Church traditions, this practice-forward retreat offers a restorative balance of deep contemplation and vibrant, embodied worship.

Register at www.worshipartsfest.ca. (Early Bird pricing of \$250 ends March 15)

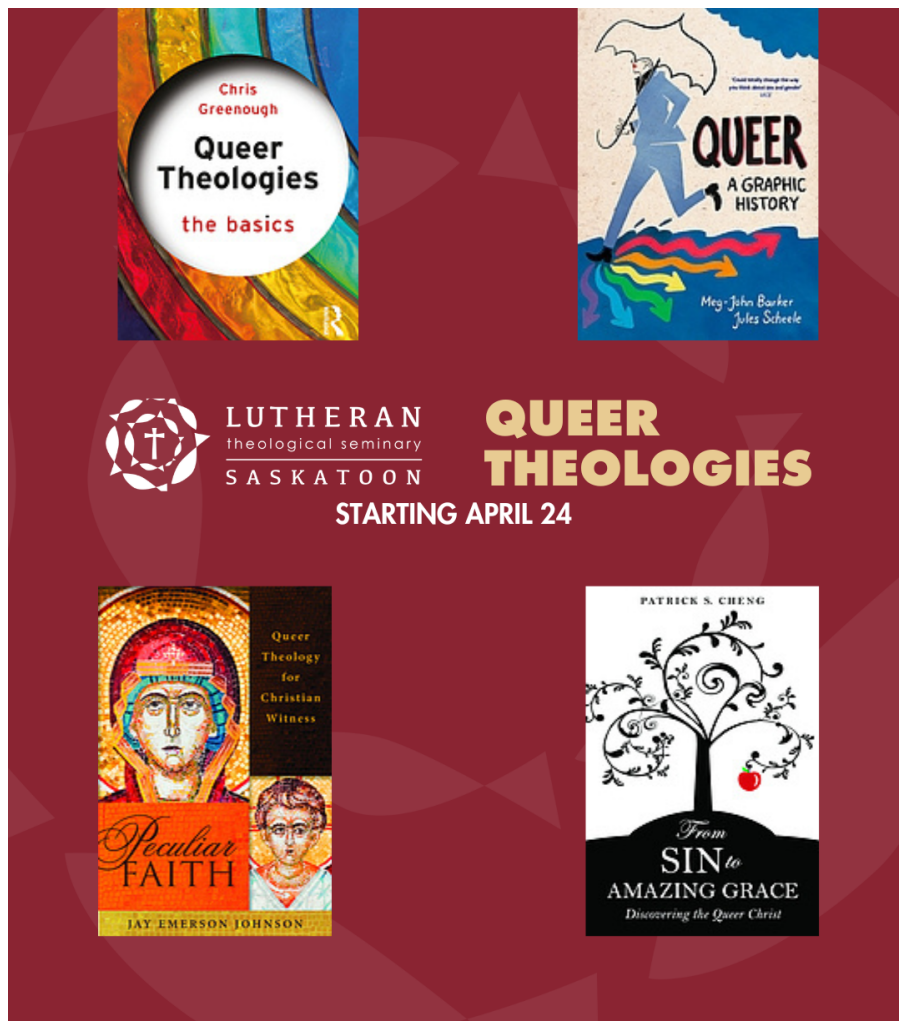
Travel Discount: Fly with our official festival sponsor **Air North** and save 15% using code **MERTON**.

Partners & Support: Presented in partnership with Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver, alongside local hosts Christ Church Cathedral Whitehorse, Whitehorse United Church, and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Made possible with support from the Synod of Alberta Mission Initiative Fund.

LTS and Queer Theologies begins April 24





Queer theologies have become some of the most important and transformative conversations in the church today. They bring forward the lived wisdom, scholarship, and proclamation of 2SLGBTQIA+ Christians and invite the whole church to see the gospel through lenses of liberation, embodiment, and justice. This course offers space to engage voices that have reshaped theology over the last forty years and continue to call the church toward deeper compassion and truth.

At LTS, our identity as a Reconciling in Christ seminary is not symbolic. It reflects an ongoing commitment to welcome, affirmation, and solidarity with 2SLGBTQIA+ people in all areas of learning and ministry. This course is part of that commitment. Students participate in a community that honours dignity, asks courageous questions, and understands that theology becomes richer when marginalized voices are centered.

Classes are hosted online. Auditors and those looking for continuing education credits are welcome. Email colleen.walker@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca if you would like to enroll.

Join us as we learn, reflect, and grow in community shaped by justice and radical welcome.

Worship and Music Symposium at Regina, SK

WORSHIP & MUSIC

SYMPOSIUM 2026

MAY 7-9
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
REGINA, SK

DR. JOY BERG
REV. KRISTIAN WOLD
DR. REV. DENNIS HENDRICKSEN
REV. DR. LARRY KOCHENDORFER
BEN JOHNSTON-UREY
NEIL COCKBURN

Register for the whole event (includes meals)
Early Bird \$199 (before April 15)
\$275 (after April 15)
or \$30/workshop



To register SCAN HERE
OR e-mail clcregina@sasktel.net



With the support of:



FREE Community Events

May 7, 7pm - Hymn Festival - Come and See
May 8, 7pm - Mysterium Service

For more information visit www.clcregina.ca

Transitions in Ministry

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

[Transitions in Ministry | Resources | British Columbia Synod \(bcsynod.org\)](#)

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 \(bcsynod.org\)](http://British Columbia Synod (bcsynod.org))

Contact us:

Office phone: 604-524-1318

Since phone: 604-621-1810

Bishop Kathy Martin - On Sabbatical until May 2026

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

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

Rev. Elina Singh (Assistant to the Bishop + Executive Administrator - Synod Office) -
esinghbcynod@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: bcynod@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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New Westminster, BC V3L 4R5
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