

From: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada info@elcic.ca 🇵🇪
Subject: ELCIC News: January 27, 2026
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Week of January 27, 2026

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1. Join Us for Conversations Across the Church - February 22

Mark your calendars for February 22 for our second *Conversations Across the Church* online event!

2026 is a milestone in the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as we mark 40 years since the formation of our church. Join ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer as we begin our Lenten journey and reflect on this 40th anniversary milestone: where have we been, where are we today, and how is God calling us forward as we seek to be a church *Living out God's grace and unconditional love* for the next 40 years. To register for this online event, please click on

button below:

Register Now

2. Global Mission Sunday



Photo courtesy of ELCJI

The ELCIC celebrates Global Mission Sunday annually on the first Sunday of February, which this year lands on February 1.

Global Mission Sunday is an opportunity for congregations across the church to give thanks for God's mission in the world, and our shared call to serve, accompany and bear witness alongside our global partners. Since 2018, the ELCIC has recognized Global Mission Sunday, lifting up and reflecting on the many relationships that connect the ELCIC with Lutherans around the world.

[Learn more about Global Mission Sunday here.](#) The sermon, prayers and a bulletin insert for February 1 can also be found when you click on the button below:

Global Mission Sunday Resources

3. Diaconal Ministry Sunday



On Sunday, February 22, 2026, congregations across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will observe Diaconal Ministry Sunday. This annual day of emphasis lifts up the ministry of service — *diakonia* — and honours the ministry of diaconal ministers, who share Christ's love through service, compassion, and justice in the world.

Within the ELCIC, diaconal ministers are rostered leaders called to ministries of word and service. They serve in congregations, schools, hospitals, social service agencies and other community organizations, helping the church live out its faith in daily life while serving the needs of the wider community.

To support congregations, the ELCIC has prepared 2026 Diaconal Ministry Sunday resources, including a sermon (both text and video files available) and worship and education materials, available for use throughout February.

2026 Diaconal Ministry Sunday Resources

4. Lutheran Leaders Write in Support of Greenlandic People



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love



VIBORG STIFT
— EN DEL AF FOLKEKIRKEN —





Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, along with Lutheran church leaders from the United States and Denmark issued a message of support for the people of Greenland, affirming their right to independence, dignity and self-determination.

Released in mid-January, Bishop Kochendorfer — alongside Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Rt. Rev. Henrik Stubkjær of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark — voiced solidarity with the Church of Greenland and Bishop Paneeraq Siegstad Munk amid growing international concern regarding Greenland's future.

"This is a question of human rights, dignity, and respecting international laws and treaties," the leaders shared. "We are a small people, but we are not invisible."

In their shared message, the bishops call for prayer, peace and respect between nations, while encouraging advocacy for the rights of the Greenlandic people.

5. A Letter to the Church From the National Bishop

ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer has written to the church, expressing solidarity with the people of Minnesota and for all who have been impacted by recent aggressive and violent immigration enforcement by federal agents.

"As a church, we join with The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in calling for a thorough investigation into this case, accountability for the shooting, and a de-escalation of ICE enforcement across the United States," the letter reads.

[Read the full message here.](#)

6. Youth

'And It Was So' - National Youth Project

Join with leaders from CLWR, Alongside Hope and Canadian Food Grains Bank to learn more about the current National Youth Project! The webinar takes place February 12, beginning at 6:00 pm EST and is open to youth and youth leaders who want to learn more about this project. Register through the QR code found in the event poster below:

AND IT WAS SO

NATIONAL YOUTH PROJECT

Please join us for an upcoming webinar
where you'll learn more about the
National Youth Project

FEBRUARY 12TH 2026

6:00 - 7:00 PM eastern time

This is a great opportunity to connect,
ask questions, and explore ways to
engage youth in your community.

REGISTER HERE



Visit the Alongside Hope website to get
more information:
<https://alongsidehope.org/national-youth-project-2025/>



7. Lent 2026

Prayer Vigils for Climate Justice – Lent 2026

Each Tuesday evening during Lent, 7:00-7:30 pm, Central Time, the ELCIC and its synods are hosting a *Prayer Vigil for Climate justice*. Feb. 24, and March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31.

Please [register here](#) to join the vigils live and/or to receive a link to the recording.

Addressing Anti-Judaism During Lent and Eastertide

Last year, the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT) guidance on addressing anti-Judaism and proposed alternate readings for Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday, along with revisions to the lectionary for the season of Easter and the time after Pentecost. This provisional [update to the Revised Common Lectionary](#) (RCL) is now commended to the churches for a three-year trial period, beginning in Advent of 2025. ELCIC worship leaders are invited to integrate these

process, beginning with the review of the current worship resources and moving to integrate those revisions into worship planning.

8. Justice Updates

Climate Induced Displacement: A Human Journey

A new [study by LWF World Service](#) examines how climate change leads to internal displacement in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, forcing communities to move due to recurring extreme weather events such as droughts and floods.

Anglican Primate Writes to Leaders About Proposed Amendment to Bill C-9

The ELCIC joins with the Anglican Church of Canada in upholding a common commitment to Canada being a country where every person and community is free to live without facing hate-based discrimination and violence. Bill C-9 seeks to address hate-motivated speech and conduct and raises questions about maintaining freedom religion. The ELCIC commends to you this [letter from the Anglican Primate on Bill C-9](#).

Book Launch: On Dismantling Settler Colonialism by John A. Olthuis

- Thursday, February 12, 3:00 PM (CST).
- Live stream & In person at Marpeck Commons, 2299 Grant Ave., Winnipeg.
- [More information on the book launch here.](#)
- Join the livestream at www.commonword.ca/go/4398.

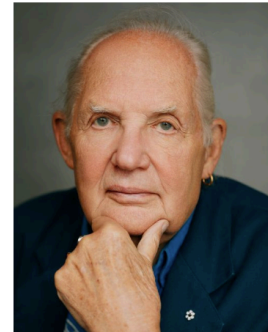


**On Dismantling
Settler
Colonialism**

*An Insider's
Perspective on
Reconciliation with
Indigenous Peoples*

JOHN OLTHUIS

Join us for an afternoon conversation with John Olthuis, prominent Indigenous rights lawyer and member of the Order of Canada. His book calls for a shift from assimilation to true reconciliation by empowering Indigenous nations to self-govern, reclaim their lands, and live by their own values. Drawing on five decades of activism, he shows how dismantling colonialism can lead to healing for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.



Join the livestream at
commonword.ca/go/4398



World Day of Prayer – Informed Prayer. Prayerful Action.

The World Day of Prayer (WDP) is generally celebrated on the first Friday of March with a different country writing the service materials each year. For 2026, the writing committee is WDP Nigeria and the theme is “I Will Give You Rest: Come” Matthew 11:28-30.

Videos are available: Full-service World Day of Prayer Nigeria video. Country background video on Nigeria. Service promo video. Music video. 25-minute WDP service video.

Please add your service details to the [online map](#) to promote your local observances.

Canadian Turn Debt into Hope (Jubilee) Campaign



You are invited to join the campaign in three simple ways:

1. Endorse the campaign by [completing this form](#).
2. Share the petition.
3. Help grow the movement locally. Resources, including a printable petition, are available in the [Animator's Toolkit](#).

9. Effective Partnerships

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, February 1**

ACC: The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

ELCIC: The dean, council, and congregations of the Ottawa, Ottawa Valley and Seaway Areas of the Eastern Synod

MOR: The people and ministries of Heimtal Moravian Church in Leduc County, AB

Joint CLWR/LWF Event





You are invited to a conversation with Sophia Gebreyes, [The Lutheran World Federation Representative for Ethiopia](#) on Jan. 31st. Sophia will share stories about how she has seen communities build climate resilience through nature-based solutions in Ethiopia, Chad and Cameroon. These stories are examples of your support at work in the world!

If you're in the Waterloo area you can join us in person at [Martin Luther University College](#). Everyone across the country is welcome to join the livestream of the event on zoom. [Register for free on the event page and you'll receive the zoom link by email. Do so here.](#)

WCC Job Posting - Director of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism

The World Council of Churches is looking for candidates to fill the position of Director of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. This full-time position will be based in Geneva, Switzerland. The deadline for application is on **January 31, 2026**. For more information and to apply, [please click here](#).

Join Our Ecumenical Shared Ministry Educational Event - February 12

As the landscape of Canadian churches changes across the country, interest in Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM) as a means of supporting vibrant and sustainable church presence and witness in communities from coast to coast to coast is growing. ESM involves the moving into an intentional partnership with one or more of the other Christian churches in your neighbourhood or town to share more of your life and ministry together. This can include things like sharing programs, ministers, buildings, worship services, and more. This online educational event is designed for people in local congregations who are interested in exploring the possibility of ESM as a fit in their context, and who want to learn more.

Special guests include Canadian ESM experts such as Rev. Dr. Sandra Beardsail, and Ms. Cathryn Wood, from the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, together with members of the national Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Commission. While the gathering will have some specific focus on the potential relationships of these three full communion churches, participation from other denominations is also warmly welcome and encouraged.

Curious about what shared ministry could look like where you live? [Register now for the February 12 ESM Education Event](#) and take the first step in exploring ecumenical partnership.

10. From the National Office

2025 ELCIC Parochial Reports

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By this time, congregations should already have received an email invitation to complete their 2025 ELCIC Parochial Reports. If you haven't received it yet and would like to complete it now, please use either of the following:

[2025 Online Parochial Report](#)

[2025 Parochial Report \(Downloadable PDF\)](#)

Parochial Reports are to be completed with year-ending December 31, 2025. Please contact Peace Anthony-Idoko, Director, Finance and Administration via [email](#) if you have any questions or would need help in completing the form.

Join An ELCIC Task Force

The ELCIC is calling on passionate members from coast to coast to join the Task Force Addressing Racism, White Supremacy and Racial Justice. The ELCIC task forces drive our church's work in justice, inclusion, and faithful witness. By sharing your insights and experiences you'll help shape national initiatives and support the ELCIC's vision of a welcoming, accessible, and compassionate church for all.

Who should consider applying for the ELCIC Task Force Addressing Racism, White Supremacy and Racial Justice? - ELCIC members - lay or rostered - who care deeply about justice, inclusion, accessibility, spiritual renewal, and the future of our shared ministries. Lived experience, ministry involvement, professional expertise, and passion for equity are all valuable gifts.

[If you feel called to contribute, learn more and sign up through the JotForm link here.](#)

Questions or would like more information? Please contact [Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the Bishop for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.](#)

Engage Difference: DUIM 2026



Register now for Engage Difference: DUIM 2026 - a forum for intercultural leadership and learning - running February 9-13 in Chilliwack, B.C. The deadline for registration is January 30th.

Transform how you practice ministry across cultures. Join us in British Columbia for five intensive days of learning, reflection, and dialogue. This isn't your typical workshop—it's an immersive journey into the art of intercultural ministry, where you'll gain practical tools for building authentic relationships across cultural lines.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Renewals Now Overdue

Are you part of a Congregational Subscription Plan for Canada Lutheran or Eternity for Today? If so, congregational renewals for this year are now overdue. Please ensure you [contact the ELCIC national office](#) to confirm your subscription!

- New to [Canada Lutheran](#) and Eternity for Today? Subscribe now!

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:

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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; 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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