

**From:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada info@elcic.ca  
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## 1. Earth Day Message 2024



*Photo by Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully*

"We firmly believe that it is not too late for us to halt the most destructive impacts of climate change, but it requires commitment and determination from us now," Lutheran and Anglican church leaders write in their joint Earth Day message. "We cannot afford to wait any longer. This Earth Day, April 22, may our faith in the promise of the resurrection move us forward in hope to take action together."

[Read that statement and view their calls to action here.](#)

**Related News & Updates:**

**For the Love of Creation: Earth Week 2024**

**From April 21 to April 28**, you and your congregation can engage in a climate justice activity - praying, learning, acting. Coming together for the love of creation is a way to connect, grow, listen, inspire hope, and affect change. Your activity could be visibly joining a community-wide event or creating something new. This a chance to reach out to other faith communities and neighbours in your climate justice initiatives. Change takes all of us. Each action brings hope. Let's make hope visible across the country. To learn more and share your events, please [click here](#).

**Citizens for Public Justice: Give it up for the Earth! Lenten Campaign Wraps Up But You Can Still Take Action**



During Lent, communities of [Citizens for Public Justice](#) (CPJ) supporters pledged to ***Give it up for the Earth!*** by committing to reduce their personal greenhouse gas emissions, embracing eco-spirituality, and signing an open letter to Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault. There is still time to sign the letter and urge Minister Guilbeault to set more ambitious climate action targets and to support a just transition towards a low-carbon economy. To read the letter and sign, please [click here.](#)

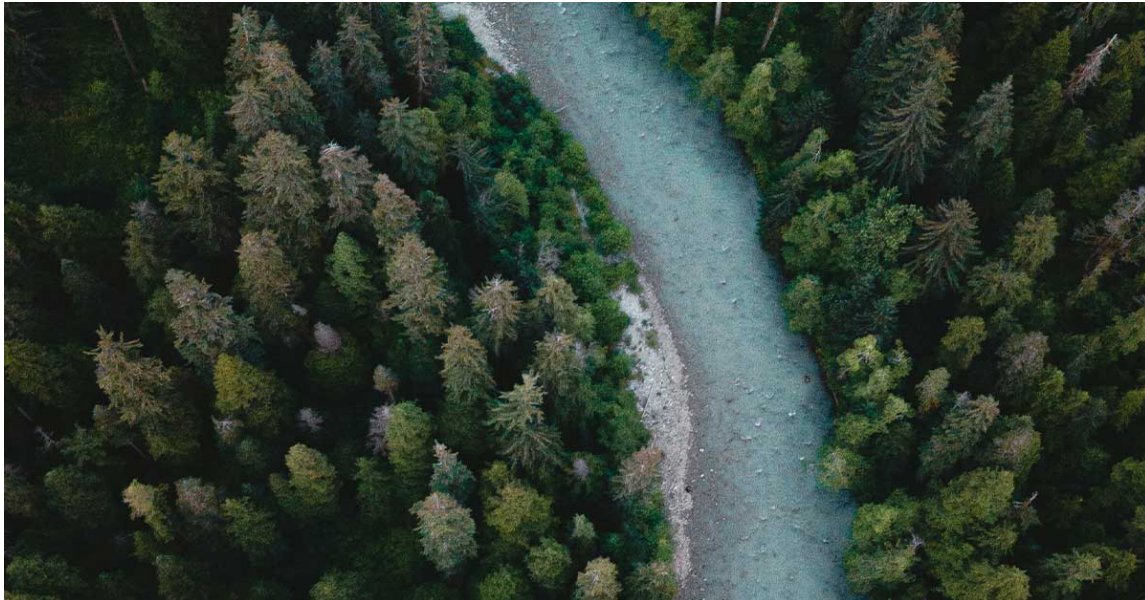
## 2. Vocational Sunday, April 21



Members and congregations of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) (ELCIC) are invited to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, this year **on April 21** as a **Day of Prayer for Vocations to Rostered Ministry**. This year's resources which include prayers and hymns can be downloaded when you [click here.](#)

## 3. Compassionate Justice

Join the Webinar on Social and Ecological Justice Work - May 7



If your congregation is interested in deeper engagement in God's mission to love and heal the world, you are invited to join a webinar on ***Engaging Your Parish in Social and***



**Ecological Justice Work: From Discernment to Action** on **May 7 at 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time**. In this webinar, you will be equipped with the tools to help you and your congregation prayerfully discern and engage in work on social and ecological justice. You will learn more about the tools offered in the [Parish Engagement Resource](#) for social and ecological justice which was developed and shared with Assembly in July 2023 when the [Anglican Church of Canada](#) and the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) gathered for Assembly 2023. For more information and to register for this event, please [click here](#).

### **Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage - Canada**



The [Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: Canadian Churches for Just Peace!](#) invites local faith communities and leaders to walk as a way of praying for a ceasefire and a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Learn more and [share your events, experiences, and photos with Kairos Canada](#). If you can, join national church leaders for the final leg of their pilgrimage, converging on Parliament Hill on May 22.

### **7 Weeks for Seven Sacred Teachings - Resources Now Available**

The [Circle for Reconciliation and Justice](#) of the [Eastern Synod](#) invites congregations to "**Save the Dates**" for 7 Sundays, **from May 19 to June 30** as a time in the church year to walk with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We encourage you to learn about and reflect upon the Seven Sacred Teachings of the Anishinaabe, also known as the Seven Grandmothers or the Seven Grandfathers. A series of resources are now available to accompany you as you lean into these teachings as we celebrate National Indigenous History Month in June. To access and download these resources including a video message from Bishop Michael Pryse, please [click here](#).

## **4. Effective Partnerships**

### **Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer**

The following are the prayer petitions for **Sunday, April 21**.

**ACC:** The Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Huron

**ELCIC:** The congregations of the Western Manitoba area of the Manitoba Northwestern

ELCIC: The congregations of the Western Manitoba area of the Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Synod

### ELCJHL Appeal

The ELCIC has an ongoing [appeal to support our partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land \(ELCJHL\)](#). Looking for more resources? You can find a [list of updates, statements and resources on the ELCIC website here](#).

### 2024 National Worship Conference



# STONES CRY OUT: *Praying with the Land*

ELCIC/ACC National Worship Conference  
July 18-21, 2024 – Regina, Saskatchewan

It's not too early to start planning your summer schedule! The [2024 National Worship Conference](#) titled "**The Stones Cry Out: Praying with the Land**" will be held **on July 18-21, 2024** in beautiful Regina, Saskatchewan. For more information and to register, please [click here](#) and follow us on Facebook [@nationalworshipconference](#) for updates regarding keynote speakers, workshops, and Friday evening hospitality options!

In the continuing spirit of full communion, the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) (ELCIC) and the [Anglican Church of Canada](#) (ACC) are pleased to announce the recipients of the **2024 Companion of the Worship Arts** (CWA). The CWA is awarded every three years in recognition of significant contributions to the worship life of both churches. Since 2014, one Anglican and one Lutheran recipient receive the honour, recognizing ongoing inspiration and encouragement to others, and service to God, through worship, spirituality and the arts. This year's Lutheran recipient is the Rev. Lyle McKenzie and this year's Anglican recipient is the Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett. The CWA awards will be presented by ACC Primate Linda Nicholls and ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson at the **2024 National Worship Conference "STONES CRY OUT: Praying with the land"**. To read the full article and the bios of our 2024 CWA recipients, please [click here](#).

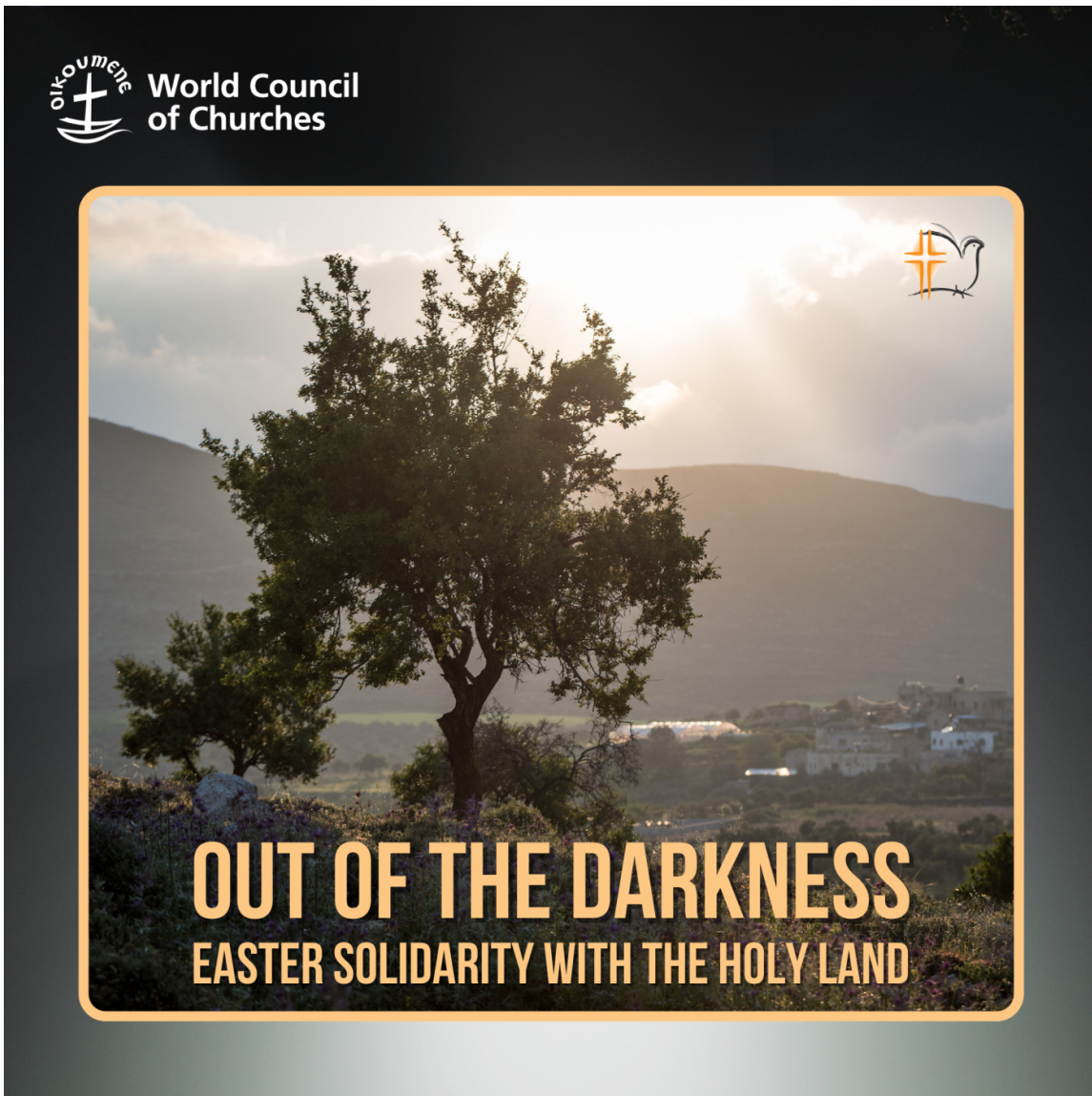
### Go Deeper into Themes of Injustice and Compassion with CLWR Bible Studies





Did you know that [Canadian Lutheran World Relief](https://www.clwr.org/) (CLWR) has created Bible studies to help congregations delve deeper into themes of injustice and compassion by engaging with Scripture and considering how God calls us to act together? These studies can be adapted for your congregation's needs and are free to use. We have been adding a new study to the collection monthly and each one focuses on a unique topic, while exploring local, national and global connections. The most recent study, based on 2 Kings 5:1-14 focused on health and is available now to download when you [click here](#). Please keep an eye on [clwr.org/bible-study](https://www.clwr.org/bible-study) for more!

### WCC Publishes New Materials for "Out of the darkness" Series in Palestine and Israel



The [World Council of Churches](https://www.wcc-council.org/) (WCC) has published online new materials related to the



2024 WCC-EAPPI Easter Initiative "**Out of the darkness - Easter solidarity with the Holy Land**". The Easter initiative is an annual activity of the WCC Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. The materials - which include feature stories and prayers, as well as social media and advocacy resources - connect the stories of Easter with current realities in Palestine and Israel, and spotlight the challenges of a life marked by violence, war, and occupation. For more information and to download these materials, please [click here](#).

## 5. Important Dates, Resources and More

### **Upcoming Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry's 5-Day Program, April 15-19**

Engage Difference! **Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry (DUIM)** is a 5-day interactive and engaging program with practical ideas for implementation in your own context. DUIM is for ministry leaders and community members nurturing cultural relevance, understanding, and awareness in their communities. The next DUIM takes place April 15-19 in Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre (Beausejour, Manitoba). For more information on this event, including available bursaries and registration details, please [click here](#).

### **You Are Invited to Our Online Racial Justice Workshop**

If you're looking for a way to start conversations on addressing racism in the church and Canadian society, you can join our online **Racial Justice Workshop**. ELCIC's Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the Bishop for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will hold two workshops on racial justice. These workshops are intended to be taken together. **Session 1 is on May 9th from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (ET)** and **Session 2 is also on May 9th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (ET)**. Registration is **free to all ELCIC members**. To register for Session 1, please [click here](#). For Session 2, please [click here](#). To view and download the event poster, please [click here](#). You may share this event widely to your network.

***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](#).***

*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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### **Contact us:**

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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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