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ELCIC NEWS



Week of June 30, 2026

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1. ELCIC Joins in Prayer Following Venezuela Earthquakes





The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada joins with partners around the world in prayer and support following two powerful earthquakes that struck Venezuela. On Wednesday, June 24, back-to-back earthquakes impacted communities in Venezuela, leaving many families facing uncertainty and in need of urgent support. Through its partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), the ELCIC is encouraging members to accompany those affected through prayer and support.

To read the full news article and to know how to make a donation, please [click here](#).

2. 25th Anniversary of Waterloo Declaration



Telmor Sartison, then-national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and Archbishop Michael Peers, then-primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, sign the Waterloo Declaration in 2001. (Photo courtesy of ACC website)

The Anglican and Lutheran churches across Canada are invited to mark 25 years of full communion in Sunday worship on July 5. Primate Shane Parker and National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer have issued a joint statement with a prayer for the occasion. To read the joint statement, please [click here](#).

3. Watch Our ELCIC Day of Action Wrap-up Celebration



The ELCIC Day of Action wrap-up celebration took place online on June 25. Members of the ELCIC National Office hosted the online celebration with a warm welcome to all attendees from various congregations and partner organizations, which participated during ELCIC Day of Action on May 31. To watch a video recording of our online celebration which included highlights, feedback and more, please [click here](#). The next ELCIC Day of Action in 2027 is on May 30. Be sure to save the date!

4. National Office

Staff Transitions

This week, two staff members conclude their ministry at the National Office. We want to express our deep gratitude for their faithful ministry and many contributions to the life of our church, and invite you to hold them in prayer during this season of transition.

The Very Rev. Peter Wall retires as Assistant to the Bishop for Worship. We give thanks for the wisdom and dedication Peter has brought to the planning of the National Worship Conference, the *Eternity for Today* devotional, his collaboration with the Program Committee for Worship, his service as chaplain for the 2025 National Convention, and his many contributions to our wider church.

Carmen Ramirez concludes her service as Assistant to the Bishop for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). We are deeply grateful for Carmen's leadership in advancing the national church's DEI work, the workshops she has facilitated, and the support and guidance she has provided to three national task forces.

As the ELCIC responds to significant financial realities, changes are being made within the National Office. Even as these staffing transitions take place, the work supported by both of these positions remains vitally important to the life and ministry of our church. Next steps are currently being discerned. In the meantime, National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer will serve as staff liaison to the Program Committee for Worship and to the three task forces previously supported through these roles.

Please join us in giving thanks for Peter's and Carmen's ministry, and in praying for them as they begin this new chapter.

5. Justice Updates

Canada is Better and Stronger with Refugees and Migrants

Ask your MP to join us and so many others in supporting and celebrating the ways in which welcoming refugees enriches our community. Please join our call to protect Canada's legacy as a welcoming country by [writing a letter to your MP](#) and sharing this call to action in your networks.

Apply for the "Faith and Genetics" Training Program

An 11-week "Faith and Genetics" course jointly offered from September to December by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and Christian Medical College will share and discuss ethical concerns to ensure that progress in genetics serves humanity holistically and builds public trust. For more information and to apply for this course, please [click here](#).

6. Partnerships

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, July 5**

ACC: The Rt. Rev. David Greenwood, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Athabasca

TOGETHER: Lutheran, Anglican, and Moravian summer camping ministries

Moravian Church (MOR) : The July 6 anniversary of the martyrdom of Jan Hus in 1415 - we remember, not his death, but his faithful witness, even unto death.

7. Sign-up for Our Weekly Sermons from May to October



You and your congregation are invited to welcome our Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops into your worship gathering through a collection of weekly sermons available from May to October.

Offered in both written and video formats, each sermon is easy to access and adaptable to your local worship setting. Whether you're navigating the rhythms of vacation season or simply looking to bring a wider church voice into your community, these resources offer a meaningful connection to leaders across the ELCIC.

If you're interested in receiving the full collection of sermons, simply [sign up to access the full set of resources as they become available.](#)

A collection of weekly sermons is being made available to support congregations in their worship life from May to October. Offered in both written and video formats, these resource

are designed to be easily accessible and adaptable for a variety of local contexts. Sermons through July 19 are now available for download online.

As congregations navigate the rhythms of the summer months and beyond, this series provides a helpful option for sustaining meaningful worship and connecting to leaders across the ELCIC. Those interested can sign-up to receive access to the full collection of sermons as they become available throughout the season.

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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