

From: BC Synod - ELCIC bcsynod@elcic.ca 
Subject: Synod Announcements - October 1, 2026
Date: October 1, 2026 at 1:00 pm
To: oslcospika@gmail.com

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British Columbia Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

October 1, 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 **Updated BC Synod 2025-2026 Prayer List for Congregations**, please click [here](#).

It can also be found on our website bcsynod.org under Resources.

Sunday, October 4

Hills of Peace Lutheran in Kamloops Rev. John Boyd

Redeemer Lutheran in Vancouver - Rev. Katrina Vigen

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Full Communion Cycle of Prayer. Please [click here](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **NEW** [Update from Pastor Kristen Steele](#)
- **NEW** [Warning: Synod Treasurer's email Hacked](#)
- **NEW** [Update on the BC Synod's representation on the NCC](#)
- **Oct 4** [Grace at the Table - DEIA](#)
- **NEW Oct 4** [Feast Day of St. Francis Resources](#)

- **Oct 14** [Langley Christmas Choir](#)
- **Oct 15** [ELCIC Mission Fund Grant Applications Deadline](#)
- **NEW Oct 16** [World Food Day Resources](#)
- **Oct 26** [Forget-Me-Not Cafe](#)
- **NEW Nov 14** [Why Should Christians Care about Palestine and Israel?](#)
- **NEW Feb 22-26** [Engage Difference DUIM 2027](#)

For more details, other announcements, prayer requests and resources, see below.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update from Pastor Kristen Steele

Two and a half years ago I began medical leave from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Langley). Throughout these last 2 and a half years my congregation, my family and I have been held in prayer by individuals and congregations across the synod. Those prayers meant so much to all of us. It has been a very long and complicated journey with thyroid cancer that spread to other parts of my body. I am now gradually returning to serve as pastor at Shepherd of the Valley once again. I want to thank each and every one of you who held me, my congregation and my family in prayer while we were on this journey. The surgeon who performed my second surgery had a plaque in his office that said "Doctors put bandages on, God heals". Thank you for your love, support and encouragement and most importantly your prayers throughout this journey.

- Pastor Kristen Steele

Warning: Synod Treasurer's email Hacked

It has come to our attention that our Synod Treasurer, Jerry Nieman's email has been hacked. If you receive an email from Jerry pretending to share a proposal invitation, **DO NOT** open the email or click the link.

A similar attack happened last week with Bishop Trish's email (bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories). Please be vigilant around safeguarding your accounts and know that the synod would never send an email asking for your password.

If you suspect your account has been compromised please change your password immediately.

Thank you,
Bishop Kathy

Update on the BC Synod's Representation on the NCC

Dear friends in Christ,

I thought you might find it helpful to receive a few updates about the BC Synod's representation on the ELCIC National Church Council (NCC).

In mid-August, Ben Lukenchuk moved from the BC Synod to the Synod of Alberta and the Territories. With this change in residence, he is no longer eligible to serve as the BC Synod's lay representative on NCC. Andrew Macauley, who was also on the ballot for this position at the last National Convention, was appointed to fill the vacancy prior to the September in-person meeting.

After much prayerful consideration Rev. Aneeta Saroop recently resigned from National Church Council. Just prior to its September meeting, NCC appointed Rev. Katrina Vigen to fill the BC Synod rostered position. All four of these individuals had been nominated for election to National Church Council before the last National Convention, and their biographies were available to voting delegates.

We thank Ben and Pastor Aneeta for their service and wish them well. We also thank Andrew and Pastor Katrina for their willingness to take up these responsibilities. Please hold them and the whole National Church Council in your prayers as they serve our church.

Warm regards in Christ,
Bishop Kathy Martin

ELCIC Mission Fund - Grant Applications

We are inviting applications for grants to fund neighbourhood and community experiments and learning opportunities that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) explore what God is doing in your neighbourhood
- b) seek to develop relationships with others in your community
- c) encourage participation in God's mission in the local community
- d) encourage action and reflection learning

Through these experiments, we will continue to learn from and with each other as we share our stories, experiences, and our learning with the rest of our synod and the wider church.

Experiments need not be large-scale or require the commitment of large dollar amounts. Successful applications are inspired by imagination and a curiosity about what God is up to in our midst.

Grants are funded by the ELCIC through the ELCIC Mission Fund and are given on a one-time basis and are not intended to subsidize ongoing funding needs of regular church programming. Grant recipients will be invited to submit the "faith story" of their missional experiments, which will be shared with the synod and the communities and be asked to give an accounting of how the grant money is spent, and to return any unused funds.

The application deadline is October 15, 2026

Applications and information can be found [here](#)

Please note that all congregations and groups that receive funding must complete the reporting form when their experiment is complete. This allows us to reconcile funds and report to the National Church, which is a requirement of our committee. It also gives you a chance to reflect with your team and share your experience with us. The updated reporting form contains both reflection questions and a space for financial reconciliation, and is available in word or pdf format here: <https://bcsynod.org/resources/funds-grants>

Why Should Christians Care about Palestine and Israel?

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church together with Lynn Valley United Church is hosting a Panel Discussion on **November 14 at 3:00pm** - "Why Should Christians Care about Palestine and Israel?"

For more information, and to register, please click [here](#).



Why Should Christians Care about Palestine and Israel?

November 14, 3:00pm





Rabbi Laura Duhan-Kaplan



Shadia Qubti



Ron Dart

Join Lynn Valley United Church and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for a truly eye-opening panel exploring the complex intersection of faith, politics, history, justice, and peace. Hosted at Lynn Valley United Church, this event will prompt attendees to ask, in a time of deep polarization, how can Christians move beyond slogans and engage in the realities of Palestine and Israel with humility, compassion, and courage?

Learn more and register now:

3201 Mountain Highway, North Vancouver
www.lynnvalleychurch.com



Forget-Me-Not Cafe, Penticton, Oct 26



The Forget-Me-Not Cafe

A Dementia Friendly Neighbourhood Cafe
welcoming those with dementia
& their family or friends

Next Cafe:

Monday October 26, 2026
11:30am - 1:30-ish (\$5.00/person)



**Enjoy lunch, music, arts,
conversation & laughter**

Pre-register for the Forget-Me-Not Cafe by:

- Calling 250-492-6861 or

• Emailing: pentictondementiacafe@gmail.com



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church*
1370 Church Street, **Penticton**

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G. Reis, Quality Greens, Cobs Bread

Langley Christmas Choir



— L A N G L E Y —
CHRISTMAS
— C H O I R —

If you or someone you know loves to sing in choirs and is looking for an opportunity to sing in a short-term choir, why not consider singing in the Langley Christmas Choir? Now in its 4th year, Gail Suderman started the choir when she began working at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Langley, BC as part-time music director in 2023. Each year, almost 50 singers join, rehearse from mid-October to the beginning of December, and then sing one concert performance on the first Sunday of December. We are excited to welcome gospel/R&B singer Crystal Hicks and classical baritone, Stephen Duncan as our guest soloists.

Previous experience singing in a choir and reading choral music is recommended. For more

information and a link to a registration form, check out <https://www.svic.ca/featured-event/langley-christmas-choir/>

Rehearsals are at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, [20097 72nd Avenue](#) in Langley on **Wednesday evenings from 7:45 - 9:30 pm, beginning Wednesday, October 14th.** Choral arrangements from traditional SATB to popular music and gospel will be included - something for everyone to enjoy singing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Gail. Her email address can be found by clicking the link above. And if you know of anyone who might enjoy singing in the choir, please feel free to pass this message along.

ELCIC NEWS

Grace at the Table -

Join us for an evening of listening, learning and reflection through ***Grace At The Table... Two Stories, Two Journeys*** on **Sunday, October 4, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST.** The online event, part of the ELCIC's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Initiatives, will feature Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken (Lutheran) and Jodey Porter (Anglican), as they share their personal stories and lived experiences of abilities, inclusion and belonging. For more information on this event and to register, please [click here](#). To view the event poster and share it to your congregation and network, please [click here](#).

A poster and more information can be found here:
[Grace at the Table | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | British Columbia Synod](#)

MORE NEWS

Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi – October 4





A day where many congregations hold a Blessing of the Animals and pray for God's creation. Resources include:

- [Prayer](#)
- [Sermon](#)
- [PowerPoint slide](#)
- [Pet Blessing certificate](#)

[View all resources for Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi.](#)

World Food Day – October 16



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

A day where we unite in prayer for those who don't have enough to eat. At CLWR, we continue to see conflict, droughts and disasters make it tough for families to put enough food on the table. Resources include:

- [Prayer from Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer](#) – National Bishop, ELCIC
- [Sermon](#)
- [PowerPoint slide](#)
- [Bulletin insert](#)
- World Food Day – October 16th – Nearly one third of the world's population can't afford healthy food. This World Food Day, please join us in prayer for a future where everyone has enough to eat. Visit clwr.org/wfd for resources and to learn more.

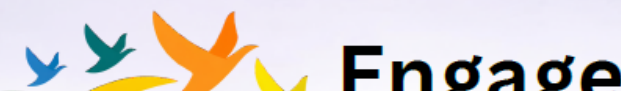
[View all resources for World Food Day.](#)

DUIM 2027

Registration is now open!

To register click [here](#) and to download a pdf poster click [here](#)

Registration closes January 31st





Engage Difference!

DUIM 2027

(Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry)

Ottawa, Ontario - February 22–26, 2027

Kanata United Church | 33 Leacock Dr, Kanata, ON K2K 2B9

Registration has two options:

- Commuters who will join daily after breakfast.
- Residential who will stay at the Kanata Comfort Inn.

PRICING

Commuters:
\$950

Residential:
\$1,770

 This program is in person.
  Bursaries are available for participation.
  If childcare is a barrier, email intercultural@councilofchurches.ca
 [See Program Agenda](#)

Do not miss this opportunity to engage with diverse leaders and learn about interculturality together!!

REGISTER NOW!



Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning
Forum pour le leadership et l'apprentissage interculturels

Transitions in Ministry

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

[Transitions in Ministry | Resources | British Columbia Synod \(bcsynod.org\)](https://bcsynod.org/Transitions-in-Ministry-Resources)

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://bcsynod.org)

Contact us:

Office phone: 604-524-1318

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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: bcsynod@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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Our mailing address is:

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