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ELCIC NEWS



Week of October 15, 2026

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World Food Day, CPJ Event
Cycle of Prayer
CRA Guide for Treasurers, Ecumenical
Stewardship

1. Join Us for Worship in Celebration of the ELCIC's 40th Anniversary on October 25





As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada celebrates 40 years in 2026, members and congregations from across the church are invited to come together for a special **National Worship Service on Sunday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m. (Saskatchewan Time)**. Led by National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, the service will be livestreamed from Camp Kinasao at Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan, where youth and young adults from across the Saskatchewan Synod will gather for a weekend retreat. Please plan to join our celebration worship via livestream by [clicking here](#).

NEW - Worship Resources for Sunday, October 25

Whether you and your congregation are able to join us for all or part of the service, make sure you access the worship resources for the day including:

- Prayers for the day
- A special anniversary litany
- A sermon from National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer (text and video available)
- Leaders guide

Worship resources can be viewed on the following [website page](#).

2. Youth Ministry and Leadership





SAFE HARBOUR

CLAY 2027 • Nanaimo, BC

Lutheran and Anglican youth and their leaders are invited to attend CLAY 2027 - Safe Harbour! The gathering will take place **August 19-22, 2027** in Nanaimo, BC at Vancouver Island University. CLAY is an opportunity to gather with youth age 14-19 from across Canada for a time of fellowship, worship, learning, and fun! Want to learn more? Check out updates that will be coming out on the website at claygathering.ca and watch our socials for more info (Instagram, [Facebook](#)). Deacon Gretchen is hosting **coffee chats for leaders on October 18 and November 15, 4:00 p.m. Saskatchewan time**. Please register when you [click here](#).

An Invitation to LWF's 32nd International Seminar for Pastors

The Lutheran World Federation's (LWF) 32nd International Seminar for Pastors is taking place at the LWF Center in Wittenberg, Germany. The theme for this seminar is "The Healing Power of the Gospel: Responsible Theology in Luther's Writings." Presenters include the academic team of Prof. Sidnei Vilmar Noe and Prof. Toshihiro Takamura. The dates are **from February 27 to March 13, 2027**. If you are interested in being nominated to participate or would want more information about this exciting opportunity, then please contact Deacon Gretchen Peterson at gpeterson@elcic.ca.

3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Initiatives

Available Resources and Tools on Anti-Racism



The 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism initiative of The United Church of Canada offers tools and resources to help you and your community carry or unfold conversations around racism. Wherever you are on the journey, today is the right day to take the next step. Across Canada and beyond, people are gathering in faith and courage to confront racism, to listen deeply, and act for justice.

For this season and throughout the year, you can explore these six new videos from three different younger church leaders. Each video is available in a shorter version (about one minute) as well as a longer version (about three minutes). Some people explored the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism during the seven-week period from October 14 to November 28, 2026. The videos and related resources can be used at any time of the year. To see the videos and for more information, please [click here](#).

4. Sermons By Email: A Ministry of Sharing and Connection

What began as a temporary resource within the ELCIC's British Columbia Synod in 2016 under the oversight of Rev. John Graham has grown into a valued ministry of sharing preaching resources and connecting congregations across the church. We give thanks to Rev. Jane Gingrich for her many, many years of dedicated coordination and service of this valued resource to the church.

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Since 2020, the ministry has also been enriched by the ELCIC Sermon Series contributions of Synod and National Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops. This fall, we welcome Rev. Steve Johnston who takes on the role of coordinator for Sermons By Email, with contributions from ELCIC leaders from across the church.

October contributors will begin with members of the ELCIC's Program Committee for Worship. Rev. Tanya Varner prepared a sermon for Sunday, October 11; Rev. Sean Bell is providing the sermon for Sunday, October 18; And as part of the ELCIC's National Worship Service in celebration of the ELCIC's 40th Anniversary, ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer's sermon will be available for congregational use (you may also choose to join with your congregation to watch the livestream that day). More information can be [found here](#).

If you are interested in receiving Sermons By Email, please sign-up by sending an email to: sermonsbyemail@elcic.ca.

5. Justice Updates

Let's End World Hunger: Setting the Table for Peace





Let's End World Hunger: Setting the Table for Peace

World Food Day Worship Service with Inshallah Singing Community

Friday, October 16th at 7:00 p.m. ET

St. Matthews Lutheran Church | 54 Benton Street, Kitchener, ON

All are welcome! Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to donate to 519 Community Collective to help those dealing with food insecurity in Waterloo.

Learn more or sign up for the livestream at untilallarefed.ca/join-us

 Canadian Lutheran
World Relief
  inshallah
  Martin
LUTHER
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
  Canadian
Foodgrains
Bank
A Christian Response
to Hunger

World Food Day Worship Service with Inshallah Singing Community this **Friday, October 16th at 7:00 p.m. ET**. You are invited to join in person at St. Matthews in Kitchener, Ont. or online for this special ecumenical worship service event in partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and Canadian Foodgrains Bank. For those attending in person, please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to donate to 519 Community Collective, supporting people dealing with food insecurity in the Waterloo region. For more details regarding the service or to sign up for the livestream, please [click here](https://untilallarefed.ca/join-us).

The Renewed Canadian Welcome: Eleven Visions from Migrants and Advocates Book Tour

"A Renewed Canadian Welcome" brings together the voices of those who experience the system firsthand to ask a question fundamental to public justice. What would Canada's immigration policies look like if they were reimagined from a human rights perspective, informed by lived experience? Panelists from Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ), the Catholic Diocese of Montreal, the Theological Research Institute for the Study of Interculturality, Migration and Mission (IERTIMM) and Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church host an evening of dialogue and sharing through the particular lenses of the Quebec experience.

The book launch event will feature book contributor Rena Namago, Alessandra Santopadre and Martin Bellerose. This is offered as part of the ten-day "Communities of Peace and Light" event, **October 16-25**. For more information, please [click here](#). The book tour for The Renewed Canadian Welcome: Eleven Visions from Migrants and Advocates is happening online and in-person (Montreal) **on Thursday, October 22, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (EDT)**. For more information and to register for this event (online and in-person), please [click here](#).

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6. Partnerships

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, October 25.**

ACC: The Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of New Westminster

ELCIC: Remembering October 31, 1517 - as the day Martin Luther published the *Ninety-Fiv Theses*. Sometime cited as the launching of the Protestant Reformation.

TOGETHER: For an end to gender-based violence and human trafficking

7. From the National Office

Job Opportunity - *Canada Lutheran Editor*

The ELCIC National Office is seeking an experienced and creative editor to lead the editora development of *Canada Lutheran*, the ELCIC's national magazine. This is a part-time contract position requiring approximately 15 hours per week, with eight issues published annually. [For more information and application details, visit here.](#) **Applications close on October 20, 2026.**

"CRA is Going Digital - Here's How to Keep Your Congregation Compliant" A Quick Guide for ELCIC Treasurers

Starting January 1, 2027, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will require all registered charities, including ELCIC congregations, to file their annual T3010 charity information returns electronically. A Quick Guide for ELCIC Treasurers on how to keep your congregation compliant has been prepared as a resource, outlining these changes and providing guidance to help ELCIC congregations prepare for the transition. To download the resource now, please [click here](#).

Ecumenical Stewardship Conference - November 20-21



Conference includes practical workshops and our key-note speakers:

GRACE DUDDY POMROY

from Luther Seminary and author of *Funding Forward*, Grace understands church redevelopment and buildings, plus traditional stewardship



PAUL NAZARETH

Renowned Canadian speaker on generosity, expert in giving, tax, financial and estate planning

Come join in fellowship with Christians from many denominations as we explore the future of funding church ministry

NOVEMBER 20-21, 2026

KNOX WATERLOO | 50 ERB ST W, WATERLOO, ON N2L 1T1

Early Bird Registration (until Oct 30): \$125; \$95/additional attendee from same church
After October 30: \$175; \$125/additional attendee from same church

FREE PARKING | [HTTPS://PRESBYTERIAN.CA/FUNDINGMINISTRYEVENT](https://presbyterian.ca/fundingministryevent)



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

Abundance CANADA



Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Charitus



Looking to put stewardship at the heart of your congregation's ministry? Plan to attend **Funding Ministry into the Future: A Conference of Hope and Stewardship for the Church** - taking place **November 20 and 21, 2026** in Waterloo, Ont. This ecumenically planned event, including the ELCIC, will feature practical workshops, along with keynotes from Grace Duddy Pomroy from Luther Seminary and author of *Funding Forward*, and Paul Nazareth, renowned Canadian speaker on generosity and an expert on giving, tax, financial and estate planning. Registration is now ongoing. For more information and to register, please [click here](#). To view and/or download the event poster and share it to your network, please [click here](#).

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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