

From: BC Synod - ELCIC bcsynod@elcic.ca
Subject: Synod Announcements - December 23, 2025
Date: December 23, 2025 at 9:40 am
To: oslcospika@gmail.com



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British Columbia Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

December 23, 2025

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 **BC Synod 2025-2026 Prayer List for Congregations**, please click [here](#). It can also be found on our website bcsynod.org under Resources.

Sunday, December 28th
Benediction Lutheran in Delta
King of Life Lutheran in Coquitlam - Rev. Dorothy Chu

Sunday, January 4th
Christ Lutheran in Kelowna – Rev. Barbara Groote
Shared Ministries in BC Synod

You are also invited to continue to hold Pastor Kristen Steele in your prayers.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Please note the office will be closed Dec 24 through Jan 4. Emails and voicemails will be monitored.

- **NEW** Bishop Larry Kochendorfer's Christmas Message
- **Dec 30** Nominations Due for [9th LWF International Seminar for Lay Leaders](#)
- **NEW Jan 1** [New Orleans Jazz Funeral for the Year 2025](#)
- [Invitation to Join ELCIC Task Forces on Inclusion, Racial Justice and Community Engagement](#)
- **NEW Jan 5** [Singing in the Lutheran Tradition - A course from LTS](#)
- **NEW Jan 8** [Morning Brew / More Leisurely Brew / Lay Leaders' Gathering](#)
- **Jan 19, 21, 25** [CLAY 2027 is in Nanaimo! Are you interested in being involved?](#)
- **Aug 10-14** - [Save the Date Justice Camp at Loon Lake](#)
- [CLWR Placemats for Pancake Tuesday](#)

- [Living System Counselling-Understanding Faith Communities through Bowen Theory](#)

For more details, other announcements,
prayer requests and resources, [see below](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morning Brew / More Leisurely Brew / Lay Leaders' Gathering

Thursday Morning Brew (for all rostered leaders)

Meets monthly

Next date: **Thursday, January 8th at 9 am**

[Click here join the Morning Brew by ZOOM,](#)

Or call in by dialing: 778-907-2071

Meeting ID: **811 6876 9079**

Passcode: **926542**

More Leisurely Brew (for retired rostered leaders)

Meets monthly

Next date: **Thursday, January 8th at 10am**

[Click here to join the meeting,](#) or contact the synod office if you need to connect by phone.

Lay Leader Gatherings

Meets monthly

Next date - **Thursday, January 8th at 7pm**

[Click here to join the meeting,](#) or contact the synod office if you need to connect by phone

New Orleans Jazz Funeral for the Year 2025





CLAY 2027 is in Nanaimo! **Are you interested in being involved?**

Did you know that CLAY (national youth gathering) 2027 will be taking place in Nanaimo, BC August 19 - 22, 2027! Would you like to learn more about the gathering and how you might be involved?

There are a variety of ways to be involved - some long term (for the next 1.5 years) and some shorter term (one day during August 2027). Some ways to help might be more active (running a workshop on site or a late night activity) and some are more sedentary (registering groups as they arrive). The youth gathering takes a whole bunch of people, with a variety of skills to help make it happen.

Come to an info session with Deacon Gretchen Peterson, assistant to the national bishop for youth for the ELCIC and learn more! See [poster](#) for an info session near you in January, 2026!

CLAY 2027

Youth gathering

Info sessions

Come and learn how you might get
involved in the planning for
CLAY 2027, in Nanaimo, BC!

Three different info sessions available:

Monday, January 19, 2026
7 pm PST
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1504 Spruce Ave.
Coquitlam, BC

Wednesday, January 21, 2026
7 pm PST
St. Paul's Anglican Church
29 Church Street
Nanaimo, BC

Sunday, January 25, 2026
4 pm PST
Lutheran Church of the Cross

3787 Cedar Hill Rd
Victoria, BC

for more information please contact
Deacon Gretchen Peterson
at gpeterson@elcic.ca

9th LWF International Seminar for Lay Leaders

Calling for Nominations who would like to attend the **9th International Lay Leaders Seminar in Wittenberg and Geneva from 7th to 15th May 2026.**

You can find the invitation with more detailed information.

Those who are interested please email the Synod office before 10 AM on the 30th Dec, 2025. We will then send you the nomination form to be completed.

[Invitation](#)

Save the Date! Justice Camp at Loon Lake!

*BC Synod Youth Camp
Aug. 10th-14th 2026
Loon Lake Lodge, Maple Ridge*



GROWING

† in faith

♥ in friendship

★ in justice

BC Synod is hosting a youth camp in 2026, "Growing in Faith, Friendship and Justice". The camp will be August 10-14 at Loon Lake in Maple Ridge. It is open to all youth aged 11 to 18.

We are looking for camp leaders (lay and rostered adults of all ages) to join our team. If you are interested, or know someone who might be a great camp leader, please get in touch with the synod office.

More details will follow early next year.

Bishop Larry Kochendorfer's Christmas Message



In this 2025 Christmas message to the church, ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer reflects on Luke 2:1: "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered."

Set against a world of power and decree, we are invited to listen closely to the Christmas gospel and to ask urgent, faithful questions in the midst of worship, family gatherings, loss and mourning, concern for creation, and the realities facing the world: Who saves and who gives peace? Who claims our ultimate loyalty? Who is it who is good news of great joy? And who brings peace built on justice, equality, and the recognition of every human life as sacred?

Watch the video on the [ELCIC YouTube page](#).

[Download the video from the ELCIC here.](#)

[A pdf version of the text is available to download](#) and a [transcribed version is available on the website](#).

Related News - Messages from our partners:

[LWF Christmas Message 2025](#)

[WCC Christmas Message](#)

Invitation to Join ELCIC Task Forces on Inclusion, Racial Justice and Community Engagement

The ELCIC is seeking passionate, committed members from across Canada to join one of three task forces shaping our church's ongoing work in justice, inclusion, and faithful witness. These groups will help guide national initiatives, offer insight from diverse ministry contexts, and support the ELCIC's calling to be a welcoming, accessible, and compassionate church for all.

Task Forces:

Ability & Inclusion Task Force

Task Force on Addressing Racism, White Supremacy and Racial Justice

Amazing Grace Task Force: Diversity Equity and Inclusion for All Task Force

Who should consider applying:

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.

Deadline:

Applications are open **until January 15, 2026**.

If you feel called to contribute, learn more and sign up through the JotForm link below.

[Apply Here](#)

CLWR Placemats for Pancake Tuesday

You might not be thinking about Lent yet, but it will be here before we know it. To help in your planning, CLWR has new placemats ready for Pancake Tuesday, Easter breakfasts, or other group events! There is no charge to receive these placemats and they are a great way to raise awareness of the difference we are making around the world together. Please email churches@clwr.org with your requested quantity and mailing address if you'd like some for your upcoming event. Please note, we are unable to deliver to P.O. Boxes.

More Announcements

Singing in the Lutheran Tradition - A Course from LTS

Singing in the Lutheran Tradition (Winter 2026)

How do Lutherans sing their theology? This Zoom-based course from Lutheran Theological Seminary explores hymnody as a doxological, formational, and instructional practice—shaping faith in worship and daily devotion. Taught by The Rev. Kristian C. Kohler, the course examines hymns as theological texts and equips participants to engage congregational song thoughtfully and faithfully.

Mondays, 5:00–8:00 pm | Jan 5–Feb 13 & Mar 9–Apr 20

Open to lay people auditing the course.

To register or to learn more, contact Colleen Walker, Registrar:

colleen.walker@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

Living Systems Counselling

Understanding Faith Communities through Bowen Theory



USING BOWEN FAMILY SYSTEMS THEORY IN MINISTRY

INVITING CLERGY AND FAITH LEADERS TO
EXPLORE THE CORE CONCEPTS OF BOWEN
FAMILY SYSTEMS THEORY AND REFLECT ON
THEIR OWN ROLE WITHIN BOTH THEIR FAMILY
OF ORIGIN AND FAITH COMMUNITY

6 Wednesday classes
(Feb 4, 11, 25, Mar 4, 11, 18 2026)
11:00am-01:00pm PDT

Online via Zoom
\$300 CAD

Transitions in Ministry

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

[Transitions in Ministry | Resources | British Columbia Synod \(bcsynod.org\)](#)

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 \(bcsynod.org\)](#)

Contact us:

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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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