

From: BC Synod - ELCIC bcsynod@elcic.ca 
Subject: Synod Announcements - January 28, 2026
Date: January 28, 2026 at 1:00 pm
To: oslcospika@gmail.com

B

[View this email in your browser](#)



January 28, 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 **BC Synod 2025-2026 Prayer List for Congregations**, please click [here](#). It can also be found on our website bcsynod.org under Resources.

Sunday, February 1
St. Paul's Lutheran in Maple Ridge – Rev. Erik Parker
Matsqui Lutheran in Matsqui

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 that Bishop Kathy is on sabbatical until May 2026.

Please contact the synod office during this time. Thank you.

- [ELCIC Task Forces - Call for Applications](#)
- **NEW** [Prayer Vigils for Climate Justice – Lent 2026](#)
- **NEW** [2025 ELCIC Parochial Reports](#)
- **NEW Jan 31** [Hybrid CLWR & LWF event](#)
- **Jan 31** [Deadline Campus Ministry Grant Applications](#)
- **Feb 1** [Global Mission Sunday](#)
- **Feb 4** [Treasurers Together - 6pm - Deadline to Register January 30](#)
- **NEW Feb 5** [Morning Brew / More Leisurely Brew / Lay Leaders' Gathering](#)
- **Feb 9-13** [Engage Difference DUIM, hosted in British Columbia](#)
- **Feb 12 & 26** [Exploring and connecting in ecumenical shared ministry](#)
- **Feb 15** [Deadline for Mission Fund Applications](#)
- **Feb 22** [Diaconal Sunday](#)
- **NEW Feb 22** [Conversations Across the Church](#)

- **NEW** [New Course Offering- Addictions Ministry](#)
- **Mar 1** [Save the Date - Installation of Rev. Erik Parker](#)
- **Aug 10-14** - [Save the Date Justice Camp at Loon Lake](#)
- [CLWR Placemats for Pancake Tuesday](#)
- **May 4-6** [Save the Date Study Conference](#)
- **NEW** ['And It Was So' - National Youth Project](#)
-

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Campus Ministry Grants for 2026

As a synod we are seeking to support and inspire those with a passion for campus ministry.

The deadline for applications is January 31, 2026. [You can download the application form here](#) You may submit more than one application for consideration.

Please submit your completed application(s) to the synod office at bcsynod@elcic.ca. You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your application. Please contact the BC Synod office at 604-524-1318 if you do not receive your confirmation by February 1, 2026.

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:

- explore what God is doing in your neighbourhood
- seek to develop relationships with others in your community
- encourage participation in God's mission in the local community
- 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 February 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>

Morning Brew / More Leisurely Brew / Lay Leaders' Gathering

Thursday Morning Brew (for all rostered leaders)

Meets monthly

Next date: **Thursday, February 5th 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, February 5th 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, February 5th at 7pm**

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

Diaconal Sunday, February 22

Sunday, February 22nd is Diaconal Ministry Sunday. Let us recognize and give thanks to God for all of those who serve as deacons in the regions of this synod and across the world. We are grateful for your ministry!

Deacon Brigitte is the preacher for the Diaconal Sunday resources this year!

Deacons in the BC Synod include:

Deacon Connie Landstrom (retired), Sechelt

Deacon Brigitte Mackenzie, Victoria

Deacon Keirra Maher (retired), Nanaimo

Deacon Denise Pawliuk, Kamloops

Deacon Judy Whaley (retired), Sandspit

Robin Dielissen, Diaconal candidate for ministry

Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership:

Deacon Gretchen Peterson

PRAYER FOR DEACONS (from Sneak It Plain by Meta Herrick Carlson)

...AND THEN ON DIACONAL (from Greek diakonia, ministry of service)

The call is to stand between, in the liminal and fuzzy boundaries where church and world blur, coaxing folks out of stark categories and into real life where proclaiming the gospel and serving the neighbor are never separate. You are ordained for action that embodies God's love on the margins and moves people toward purpose and love that do not require a crucifix, font or altar. Instead you show them how God lived in a body, wrapping a towel at your waist, stooping down to fill a basin with water, washing and drying your neighbor's feet with such care, they are certain they've seen Jesus. Amen

[Resources for Diaconal Sunday can be found here.](#)

Save the Date - Installation of Rev. Erik Parker

On Sunday, March 1st Rev. Erik Parker will be installed at Saint Paul's Lutheran church in Maple Ridge at 2pm. Details and an invitation will be sent out at a closer date.

Save the Date

2026 BC Synod **Rostered Leaders Study Conference**
May 4 to 6, 2026 - Loon Lake Lodge in Maple Ridge



More information will be coming soon.

Save the Date! Justice Camp at Loon Lake!

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





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.

ELCIC NEWS

2025 ELCIC Parochial Reports

By this time, congregations should already have received an email invitation to complete their 2025 ELCIC Parochial Reports. If you haven't received it yet and would like to complete it now, please use either of the following:

[2025 Online Parochial Report](#)

[2025 Parochial Report \(Downloadable PDF\)](#)

Parochial Reports are to be completed with year-ending December 31, 2025. Please contact Peace Anthony-Idoko, Director, Finance and Administration via [email](#) if you have any questions or would need help in completing the form.

Prayer Vigils for Climate Justice – Lent 2026

Each Tuesday evening during Lent, 7:00-7:30 pm, Central Time, the ELCIC and its synods are hosting a *Prayer Vigil for Climate justice*. Feb. 24, and March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31.

Please [register here](#) to join the vigils live and/or to receive a link to the recording.

Join Us for Conversations Across the Church - February 22

Mark your calendars for February 22 for our second *Conversations Across the Church* online event!

2026 is a milestone in the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as we mark 40 years since the formation of our church. Join ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer as we begin our Lenten journey and reflect on this 40th anniversary milestone: where have we been, where are we today, and how is God calling us forward as we seek to be a church *Living out God's grace and unconditional love* for the next 40 years. To register for this online event, please click on button below:

Hybrid CLWR & LWF event

[A Conversation with Sophia Gebreyes Tickets, Sat, Jan 31, 2026 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



A conversation with Sophia Gebreyes

An event with LWF's Ethiopia Country Representative — Building climate resilience through nature-based solutions. Lessons from Ethiopia, Chad and Cameroon.



**Saturday January 31st
2-4pm**

**Hybrid event, streamed
on Zoom:**

Eastern Time 2-4pm
Central time 1-3pm
Mountain time 12-2 pm
Pacific time 11am-1pm



To register and receive the event link, please scan the QR code.



‘And It Was So’ - National Youth Project

Join with leaders from CLWR, Alongside Hope and Canadian Food Grains Bank to learn more about the current National Youth Project! The webinar takes place February 12, beginning at 6:00 pm EST and is open to youth and youth leaders who want to learn more about this project. Register here:

[National Youth Project | Alongside Hope](#)

AND IT WAS SO

NATIONAL YOUTH PROJECT

Please join us for an upcoming webinar
where you'll learn more about the
National Youth Project

FEBRUARY 12TH 2026

6:00 - 7:00 PM eastern time

6:00 – 7:00 PM Eastern time

This is a great opportunity to connect, ask questions, and explore ways to engage youth in your community.

REGISTER HERE



Visit the Alongside Hope website to get more information:
<https://alongsidehope.org/national-youth-project-2025/>

Exploring and connecting in ecumenical shared ministry

Two online sessions in February will offer opportunities to explore and connect around local congregational partnerships. On Feb. 12, a learning session introduces newcomers to ecumenical shared ministry. On Feb. 26, a networking session supports those already serving in partnerships. Both sessions are hosted by the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Commission via Zoom and will include special guest speakers.

[Register for the Feb. 12 Ecumenical Shared Ministry Learning Session...](#)

[Register for the Feb. 26 Ecumenical Shared Ministry Networking Session...](#)

You can download the PDF poster [here](#)



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



The Anglican Church of Canada



Engage Difference, hosted in British Columbia February 9-13, 2026!

January 31 is the last day for registration. There are bursaries available for ELCIC participants.

[Engage Difference DUIM 2026 Registration and Information](#)

[Engage Difference 5-Day Learning Outline](#)





Global Mission Sunday



Photo courtesy of ELCJHL

The ELCIC celebrates Global Mission Sunday annually on the first Sunday of February, which this year lands on February 1.

[Global Mission Sunday](#) is an opportunity for congregations across the church to give thanks for God's mission in the world, and our shared call to serve, accompany and bear witness alongside our global partners. Since 2018, the ELCIC has recognized Global Mission Sunday, lifting up and reflecting on the many relationships that connect the ELCIC with Lutherans around the world.

[Learn more about Global Mission Sunday here.](#) The sermon for February 1 can also be found here. Prayers and a bulletin insert will be posted online very shortly.

ELCIC Task Forces - Call for Applications

The ELCIC is calling on passionate members to join one of three task forces driving our church's work in justice, inclusion, and faithful witness. By sharing your insights and experiences, you'll help shape national initiatives and support the ELCIC's vision of a church *Living out God's grace and unconditional love*.

Task Forces:

Task Forces.

Ability & Inclusion Task Force

Task Force on Addressing Racism, White Supremacy and Racial Justice

Affirming 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.

[Apply Here](#)

Treasurers Together



Barb and Shelley from GSI will be hosting two "Treasurers Together" Info sessions February 4 and 5, 2026. These two-hour sessions will be held over Zoom. Topics will be the same for both sessions.

The sessions will be of particular interest to Treasurers, but members of church councils, clergy, and others who are connected to the ELCIC will also be welcome to join. Topics will cover a range of Treasurer responsibilities, such as:

- enrollments of new employees
- terminations
- life events such as disability and marriage
- T4 completion
- the role of GSI and how it can be helpful for Treasurers and congregations

More information and the registration form is now available on the GSI website: [REGISTRATION](#). **The registration deadline is January 30.**

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 NEWS

New Course Offering- Addictions Ministry

Substance use disorder is a growing concern in our rapidly progressing society. It can be a strange, and terrifying experience both for those who suffer from it, and those who witness it. But did you know that substance use disorder, otherwise known as addiction, has its roots in biological processes, and socioeconomic factors that affect all of us?

Join us as we explore the history, biology, and an approach to substance use disorders, and contextualize it to a Biblical worldview!

Register today:

<https://emmanuelstchad.ca/addictions-ministry/>

• **Dates:** February 28th, March 21st, April 25th

• **Times:** 9am to 12pm

• **Registration:** \$500

* **Please note:** \$250 (for Anglicans) + \$25 one-time registration fee



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 \(bcsynod.org\)](http://BritishColumbiaSynod.org)

Contact us:

Office phone: 604-524-1318

Bishop Kathy Martin - On Sabbatical until May 2026

Rachel Genge (Administrative Assistant + BC Canada Lutheran editor - remote) - bcsynod@elcic.ca

Durga Pandithurai (Administrative Assistant - Synod Office) - bcsynod@elcic.ca

Rev. Elina Singh (Assistant to the Bishop + Executive Administrator - Synod Office) - esinghbcsynod@gmail.com

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](#)

Copyright © 2026 BC Synod - ELCIC, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are on our contact list or because you have asked to receive our announcements.

Our mailing address is:

BC Synod - ELCIC

80 East 10th Ave.

New Westminster, BC V3L 4R5

Canada

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).


