

**From:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada [info@elcic.ca](mailto:info@elcic.ca)   
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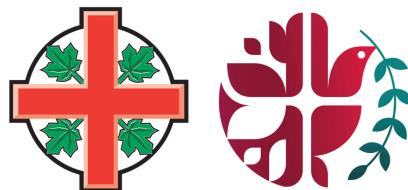
# ELCIC NEWS



## Week of February 3, 2026

1. Lutheran Anglican Moravian Commission	ESM Online Events
2. Conversations Across the Church	February 22 Event
3. In Memoriam	Rev. Leon Gilbertson, Rev. Philip Jorgensen
4. Diaconal Ministry Sunday	February 22
5. Youth and Leadership	National Youth Project, Luther League Legacy Fund
6. Lent 2026	Prayer Vigils, Anti-Judaism
7. Justice Updates	Book Launch, World Day of Prayer, More
8. Effective Partnerships	Cycle of Prayer
9. From the National Office	Parochial Report, More

## 1. LAM-C: Exploring and Connecting in Ecumenical Shared Ministry



The Moravian Church



Two online sessions this February will offer opportunities to explore and connect around local congregational partnerships. **On February 12, a learning session** introduces newcomers to

Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM). **On February 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. For more information including details on these events, please [click here to download our informative poster](#) which you can share widely to your network.

Please register now for these events! You will need to register for each one when you click on the links below:

[Register here for the February 12 learning session](#)

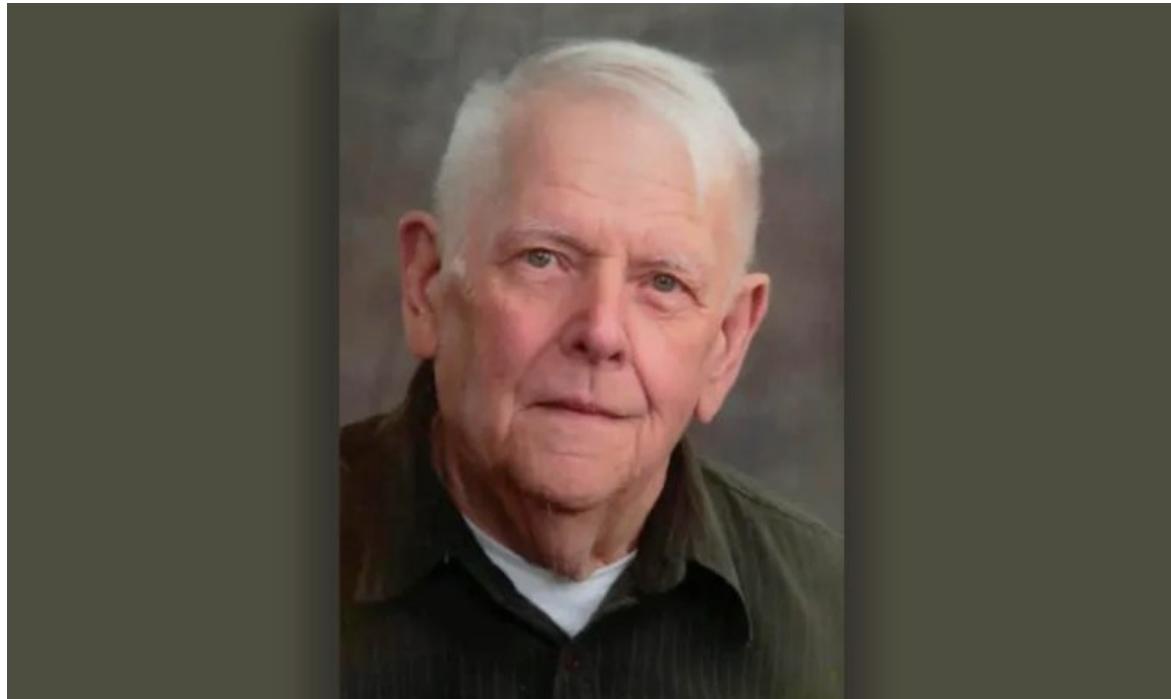
[Register here for the February 26 networking session](#)

## **2. Join Us for Conversations Across the Church - February 22**

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

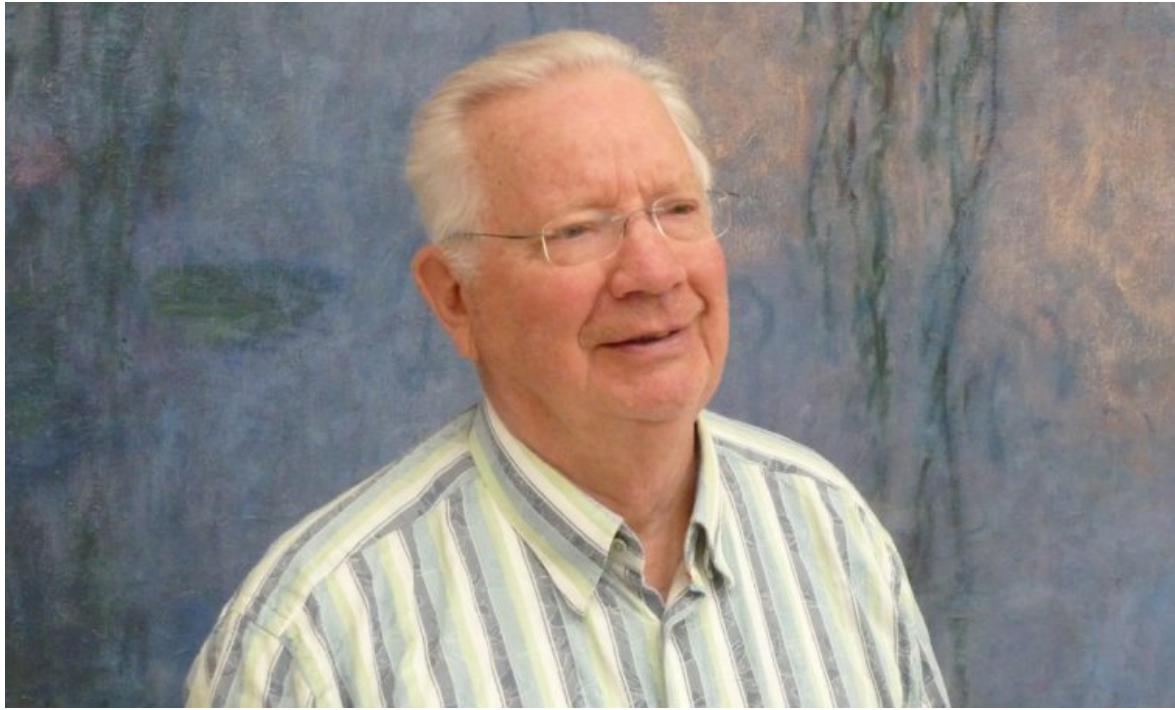
2026 is a milestone in the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as we mark 40 years since the formation of our church. Join ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer as we begin our Lenten journey and reflect on this 40th anniversary milestone: where have we been, where are we today, and 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. Please [click here to register](#) for this online event.

## **3. In Memoriam**



**Rev. Philip Jorgensen**, former Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada pastor and staff member

passed away on Monday, January 26, 2026 at age 91. Please [click here](#) to read the full obituary.



**Rev. Leon Charles Gilbertson**, former National Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, died on Monday, January 26, 2026, in Camrose, Alta. at the age of 92. Please [click here](#) to read the full obituary.

#### 4. Diaconal Ministry Sunday



**On Sunday, February 22, 2026**, congregations across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will observe Diaconal Ministry Sunday. This annual day of emphasis lifts up the ministry of service — *diakonia* — and honours the ministry of diaconal ministers, who share Christ's love

through service, compassion, and justice in the world.

Within the ELCIC, diaconal ministers are rostered leaders called to ministries of word and service. They serve in congregations, schools, hospitals, social service agencies and other community organizations, helping the church live out its faith in daily life while serving the needs of the wider community.

To support congregations, [the ELCIC has prepared 2026 Diaconal Ministry Sunday resources](#), including a sermon (both text and video files available) and worship and education materials, available for use throughout February.

2026 Diaconal Ministry Sunday Resources

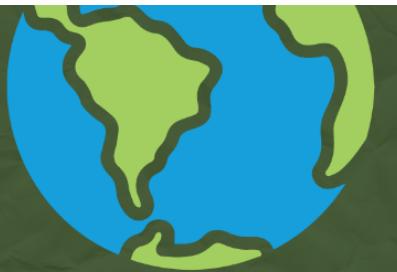
## 5. Youth and Leadership

### ‘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 through the QR code found in the event poster below:



REGISTER HERE



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

**Luther League Legacy Fund: Call for Applications**



Join This is your chance to submit an application for the [Luther League Legacy Fund](#) (LLL). If you are 30 years of age or under, and looking to be involved in a leadership development opportunity or looking to plan a project that would benefit people 30 years of age and under, please check out our application guidelines when you click on the button below. Deadline for applications is fast approaching **on March 1, 2026**.

[Application Guidelines Here](#)

## 6. Lent 2026

### **Prayer Vigils for Climate Justice – Lent 2026**

**Each Tuesday evening during Lent, 7:00-7:30 pm, CST**, 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.

### **Addressing Anti-Judaism During Lent and Eastertide**

Last year, the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT) guidance on addressing anti-Judaism and proposed alternate readings for Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday, along with revisions to the

*lectionary for the season of Easter and the time after Pentecost. This provisional update to the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is now commended to the churches for a three-year trial period, beginning in Advent of 2025. ELCIC worship leaders are invited to integrate these revisions into worship planning.*

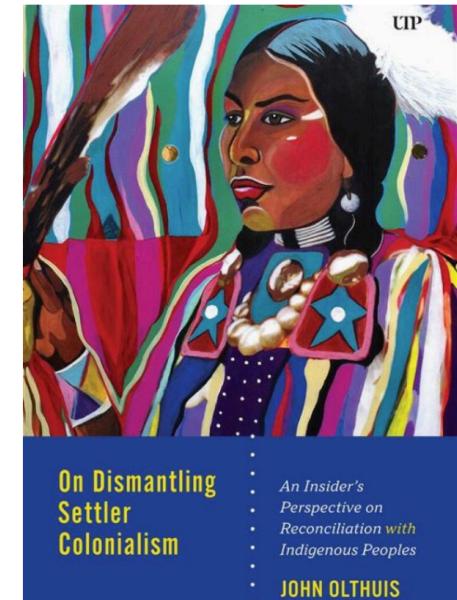
## 7. Justice Updates

### Climate Induced Displacement: A Human Journey

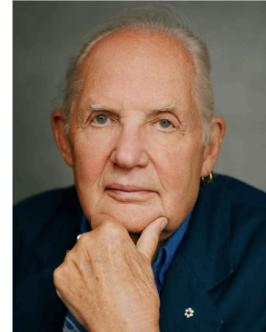
A new study by LWF World Service examines how climate change leads to internal displacement in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, forcing communities to move due to recurring extreme weather events such as droughts and floods.

### Book Launch: On Dismantling Settler Colonialism by John A. Olthuis

- Thursday, February 12, 3:00 PM (CST).
- Livestream & in-person at CMU's Marpeck Commons, 2299 Grant Ave., Winnipeg.
- [More information on the book launch here.](#)
- Join the livestream at [www.commonword.ca/go/4398](http://www.commonword.ca/go/4398).



Join us for an afternoon conversation with John Olthuis, prominent Indigenous rights lawyer and member of the Order of Canada. His book calls for a shift from assimilation to true reconciliation by empowering Indigenous nations to self-govern, reclaim their lands, and live by their own values. Drawing on five decades of activism, he shows how dismantling colonialism can lead to healing for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.



On Dismantling Settler Colonialism  
An Insider's Perspective on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples  
JOHN OLTHUIS

Join the livestream at [commonword.ca/go/4398](http://www.commonword.ca/go/4398)



### World Day of Prayer – Informed Prayer. Prayerful Action.

The World Day of Prayer (WDP) is generally celebrated on the first Friday of March with a different country writing the service materials each year. For 2026, the writing committee is WDP Nigeria

and the theme is “I Will Give You Rest: Come” Matthew 11:28-30.

Videos are available: Full-service World Day of Prayer Nigeria video. Country background video on Nigeria. Service promo video. Music video. 25-minute WDP service video.

Please add your service details to the online map to promote your local observances.

## 8. Effective Partnerships

### Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, February 8**

**ACC:** The Rt. Rev. John Watton, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Central Newfoundland

**ELCIC:** The dean, council, and congregations of the Two Rivers, Nith Valley and Niagara Areas of the Eastern Synod

**MOR:** For a growing openness to dialogue and encounter with people of other faith traditions during World Interfaith Harmony Week

## 9. From the National Office

### 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.

### Engage Difference: DUIM 2026





# DIFFERENCE! DUIM 2026

British Columbia

FEBRUARY 9–13, 2026



Register now for Engage Difference: DUIM 2026 - a forum for intercultural leadership and learning - running February 9-13 in Chilliwack, B.C. The deadline for registration is January 30th.

Transform how you practice ministry across cultures. Join us in British Columbia for five intensive days of learning, reflection, and dialogue. This isn't your typical workshop—it's an immersive journey into the art of intercultural ministry, where you'll gain practical tools for building authentic relationships across cultural lines.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

## Renewals Now Overdue

Are you part of a Congregational Subscription Plan for Canada Lutheran or Eternity for Today? If so, congregational renewals for this year are now overdue. Please ensure you [contact the ELCIC national office](#) to confirm your subscription!

- New to [Canada Lutheran](#) and Eternity for Today? Subscribe now!

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***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.](#)***

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*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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**Contact us:**

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[info@elcic.ca](mailto:info@elcic.ca)



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Canada**

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

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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](mailto: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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