

**From:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada info@elcic.ca 🇺🇸  
**Subject:** ELCIC News: July 8, 2026  
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**To:** oslcospika@gmail.com



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## Week of July 8, 2026

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Venezuela Emergency Appeal | Donation Matching           |
| 2. Emancipation Sunday        | July 26                     |
| 3. ELCJHL                     | Natalie Abudayyeh           |
| 4. Justice Updates            | MAID, CJP, Training Program |
| 5. Partnerships               | Cycle of Prayer             |
| 6. Sermon Series              | Sign-up                     |

## 1. Government of Canada to Match Donations for Venezuela Earthquake Relief





The [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) joins with partners around the world in prayer and support following two powerful earthquakes that struck Venezuela in late-June.

Local media reports that over 3,500 people have now died since the quakes.

Through its partnership with [Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#) (CLWR), the ELCIC is encouraging members to accompany those affected through prayer and financial support. And **until July 14, the Government of Canada is matching all donations.** Give today through CLWR to have your impact doubled.

To read the full news article and to know how to make a donation, please [click here](#).

## 2. Emancipation Sunday

The 2025 ELCIC National Convention formally designated the last Sunday in July as Emancipation Sunday. Emancipation Sunday commemorates the coming into effect of the Slavery Abolition Act on August 1, 1834 - Emancipation Day - freeing approximately 800,000 enslaved people in British colonies, including Canada. Members are encouraged to observe this day through worship, reflection, and community engagement. Check out these [Anglica resources for Emancipation Sunday](#).

An Emancipation Sunday worship service will be held on July 26; details to be posted soon on the [Black Anglicans and Lutherans Facebook page](#).

## 3. Update From ELCJHL

### ELCJHL Update on Natalie Abudayyeh

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) continues to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Natalie Abudayyeh, an ELCJHL journalism student who has been imprisoned for more than a month following her detainment on June

2. In a July 6 update, Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad shared that Natalie remains in prison after an Israeli military court denied her request for bail. Her next court appearance is scheduled for July 22.

"We call on you, our friends and partners around the world, to keep advocating on Natalie's behalf," Bishop Haddad wrote, asking supporters to continue urging fair legal processes and access for Natalie to her family and lawyer. The ELCIC joins the ELCJHL in praying for justice, peace and Natalie's safe return to her family.

[Read the full letter from the ELCJHL here.](#)

## 4. Justice Updates

### **Canada is Better and Stronger with Refugees and Migrants**

Ask your MP to join us and so many others in supporting and celebrating the ways in which welcoming refugees enriches our community. Please join our call to protect Canada's legacy as a welcoming country by [writing a letter to your MP](#) and sharing this call to action in your networks.

### **Apply for the "Faith and Genetics" Training Program**

An 11-week "Faith and Genetics" course jointly offered from September to December by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and Christian Medical College will share and discuss ethical concerns to ensure that progress in genetics serves humanity holistically and builds public trust. For more information and to apply for this course, please [click here](#).

### **Ministry With the Sick and Dying in the Context of MAID**

The Anglican Church of Canada has prepared a new liturgical prayer resource for use at the time of death in contexts of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). You can [access the prayer here](#). You may also be interested in the ELCIC's 2019 [Call to Faithfully Journey with the Dying](#).

### **A Call to Listen: Launching a New National Initiative to Respond to Poverty**

The Canadian Council of Churches' Commission on Justice and Peace (CJP) is launching [Churches Listening & Responding to Poverty](#). This national initiative invites local congregations, para-church organizations, and ecumenical groups into a structured process of shared listening with people who have lived experience of poverty. Rather than introducing another programmatic model, the initiative seeks to move beyond traditional charity toward relationships rooted in dignity, humility, and justice. You are invited to get involved by connecting with the CJP.

## 5. Partnerships

### Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, July 12**

**ACC:** The Rt. Rev. Rachael Parker, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Brandon

**ELCIC:** Bishop Trish Schmermund, the people and rostered ministers of the Synod of Albert and the Territories

**Moravian Church (MOR):** The Van-Es Camp and Conference Centre

## 6. Sign-up for Our Weekly Sermons from May to October



A collection of weekly sermons is available to support congregations in their worship life from May through September. Offered in both written and video formats, these resources are designed to be easily accessible and adaptable for a variety of local worship settings.

As congregations navigate the rhythms of the summer months and beyond, this series offers a meaningful way to sustain worship while hearing from bishops and assistants to the bishops from across the ELCIC. [Sermons through July 26 are now available to download online.](#)

Congregations interested in receiving the full collection of sermons can sign up to access each new resource as it becomes available throughout the season.

We invite you to incorporate these sermons into your worship life as your congregation gathers throughout the summer and fall. [Sign up here!](#)

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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.*

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**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](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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