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ELCIC NEWS



Week of August 18, 2026

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Young People are Agents of Healing
August 24
NATI-RETI, CPJ, More
Save the Date
Cycle of Prayer
Stewardship Conference, Sermon Series, More

1. WCC: Young People are Agents of Healing





WCC general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay interacts with participants of the Emerging Peacemakers Forum, July 2023. Photo: Gregoire de Fombelle/WCC (Source: WCC website)

On International Youth Day, August 13, World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Prof. Jerry Pillay encouraged young people to recognize their role as agents of healing. Reflecting on the theme, “*Creating Healing Spaces: R.E.S.T. - Restore, Empower, Strengthen, Thrive*,” he acknowledged the many challenges young people face today including conflict, discrimination, economic hardship, mental health struggles, climate anxiety and uncertainty about the future. Yet amid these realities, young people continue to demonstrate courage, compassion, resilience and hope by working for peace, justice, creation and stronger communities. To read the full news including the general secretary’s message, please [click here](#).

2. Ukrainian Churches Appeal for Worldwide Prayer

The Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations is appealing for churches everywhere to join a Worldwide Prayer for Ukraine **on August 24**, which also marks the 35th anniversary of Ukraine’s Independence. For resources and more information, please [click here](#).

3. Justice Updates

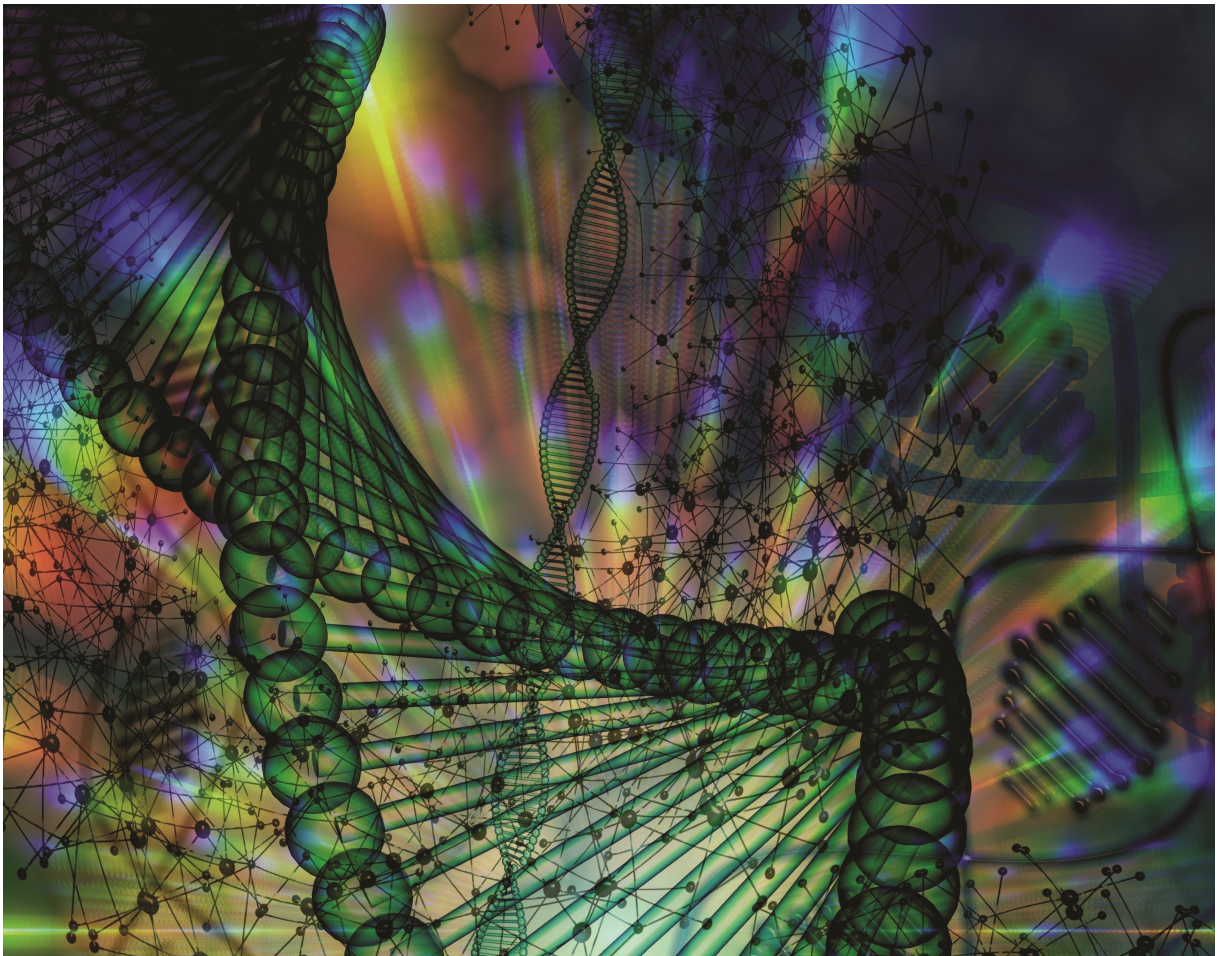
NATI-RETI: “Where Now for Visible Justice?”

The North America-Turtle Island Regional Ecumenical Theological Institute (NATI-RETI) took place from August 3-16 under the theme: “Where Now for Visible Justice?” The institute began with a residential week in Detroit, followed by a second week at the University of Toronto, where emerging theologians and ecumenical leaders from Canada and the United States spent two weeks of intensive learning, prayer, encounter and community life. For more information on NATI-RETI and to read the full article, please [click here](#).

Join the CPJ Ride for Refuge

The Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) is holding a fundraising initiative called CPJ Ride for Refuge - where they're fundraising for refugee and migrant rights, and to keep the advocacy work going strong. On October 3rd, CPJ and their supporters are gathering in downtown Ottawa (and at satellite events across the country) for the CPJ Ride for Refuge. Teams of CPJ supporters are collecting pledges now. Those who will will fundraise will celebrate their achievement at the CPJ Ride for Refuge event. For more details on this and to learn how to join, please [click here](#).

Join in the Faith and Life Sciences Essay Contest



The Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group (FLSRG) is an active group of life scientists, ethicists and Church leaders, working under the aegis of The Canadian Council of Churches tasked to capture, evaluate and provide recommendations for faith-based perspectives in the rapidly-emerging area of the life sciences and related technologies. The FLSRG has created this essay contest to engage students in robust reflection on pressing issues that have bearing on the Canadian church today. Each year winning essays are eligible for cash awards. This essay contest is fully bilingual; submissions written in French or English are invited. For more information and to learn how to join, please [click here](#).

4. Save the Date: Conversations Across the Church



Conversations Across the Church

Sunday, September 13, 2026
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST

Please join **National Bishop
Larry Kochendorfer** and
guests for an hour of devotion,
reflection and conversation.



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



Join us for our next Conversations Across the Church **on Sunday, September 13!**

Our focus for the third Conversations Across the Church of the year will be on Season of Creation — a time to come together in prayer and action. ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer will be joined by three speakers on why this is a priority for our church.

Join with ELCIC members across the church for Conversations Across the Church by registering here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/-PPJGV3gQ2SLvj9Mr1Rwyg> (Please note, you must register to receive the Zoom link.)

Watch previous Conversations Across the Church online events by [clicking here](#).

5. Partnerships

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, August 23**

ACC: The Rt. Rev. Richard Reed, Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Adam Halkett, Bishop of Missinippi, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Saskatchewan

ELCIC: The dean, council, and congregations of the South West Area of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories

6. From the National Office

Ecumenical Stewardship Conference

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. Mark your calendar - further details and registration will be shared in ELCIC News very shortly.

Messages and Statements from the National Bishop

If you're looking to find timely messages and statements from ELCIC's leadership, the National Bishop's Messages and Statements page on our elcic.ca website brings together pastoral letters, reflections, and responses to current issues that matter to the church. Stay informed and connected when you [click here](#).

Weekly Sermons from our Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops

Looking for sermon help this summer? The ELCIC Sermon Series offers weekly sermons from bishops and assistants to the bishops from across the church to support congregations throughout the season.

Available in both written and video formats, these sermons are designed to be adaptable for a variety of worship settings. New sermons are added as they are received and prepared, with resources currently available through August.

Congregations sign up at anytime to receive each new sermon as it becomes available through September, or access the resources currently available online.

Whether you're planning for vacation coverage, lay-led worship or simply looking to hear voices from across the ELCIC, these resources are here to support your congregation's worship life throughout the summer and into the fall.

[Sign up here](#) to access the sermons available so far.

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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