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ELCIC NEWS



Week of October 20, 2026

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Staff Updates, Canada Lutheran, CRA Guide

1. THIS SUNDAY - Join Us Online for Worship and Celebrate ELCIC's 40th Anniversary!





Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) are invited to join our National Worship Service celebrating the ELCIC's 40th anniversary on Sunday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m. Saskatchewan time. Led by National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and to be joined by youth and young adults from the Saskatchewan Synod who are gathering that weekend at the camp for their retreat, the service will be livestreamed from Camp Kinasao : Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan.

Please plan to use the livestream and use it as your own! There are also more resources included such as an anniversary litany, prayer, and sermon written by National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer in video and text. To get the link to our livestream and other resources, please [click here](#).

2. Justice Updates

An Economy of Life” - Faith Leaders Public Statement on the Climate Crisis



ECONOMY OF LIFE”

Faith leaders from across Canada release statement urging the federal government to change course.

More than 20 faith leaders from churches, religious congregations, theological institutions and faith-based organizations across Canada have released a public statement, “An Economy of Life,” calling on government, faith communities and the public to respond to the escalating climate crisis with bold action rooted in justice, care for creation and hope for future generation. To learn more, please [click here](#). We welcome endorsements from: individuals, faith communities, and congregations. Faith-based organizations, community organizations, educational institutions, and anyone who supports the statement’s principles and calls to action. To endorse the statement as an individual or organization, please [click here](#).

For The Love of Creation: Help Light the Way for Climate Justice

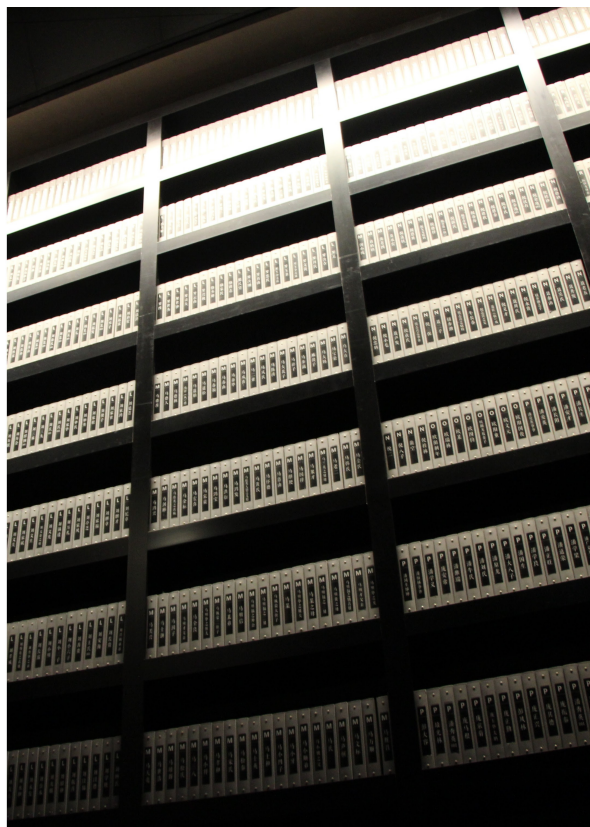
**THIS NOVEMBER 13-15
HELP US LIGHT THE WAY FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE**



Host or join a Candles for COP31 Vigil in your community

Join communities across Canada for candlelight vigils for climate justice, hope, and a livable future on November 13-15, 2026, as world leaders gather for COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye. To learn more and add your event to the map, please [click here](#).

Webinar Discusses Ecological Cost of AI



The World Council of Churches (WCC) and Canadian Council of Churches hosted a webinar panel discussion, entitled “Counting the Ecological Cost of AI - Data Centres, Water, energy and Critical Mineral Extraction,” on September 17. To read a full article and watch the webinar recording, please [click here](#).

3. Youth Ministry and Leadership





SAFE HARBOUR

CLAY 2027 • Nanaimo, BC

Lutheran and Anglican youth and their leaders are invited to attend CLAY 2027 - Safe Harbour! The gathering will take place **August 19-22, 2027** in Nanaimo, BC at Vancouver Island University. CLAY is an opportunity to gather with youth age 14-19 from across Canada for a time of fellowship, worship, learning and fun! Want to learn more? Check out updates that will be coming out on the website at claygathering.ca and watch our socials for more info (Instagram, [Facebook](#)). Deacon Gretchen is hosting **coffee chats for leaders on October 18 and November 15, 4:00 p.m. Saskatchewan time**. Please register when you [click here](#).

An Invitation to LWF's 32nd International Seminar for Pastors

The Lutheran World Federation's (LWF) 32nd International Seminar for Pastors is taking place at the LWF Center in Wittenberg, Germany. The theme for this seminar is *"The Healing Power of the Gospel: Responsible Theology in Luther's Writings."* Presenters include the

academic team of Prof. Sidnei Vilmar Noe and Prof. Toshihiro Takamura. The dates are **from February 27 to March 13, 2027**. If you are interested in being nominated to participate or would want more information about this exciting opportunity, then please contact Deacon Gretchen Peterson at gpeterson@elcic.ca.

4. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Initiatives

Explore the Collection: Advocacy for People Living With Disabilities and Neurodiversity



You are invited to explore the Justice Resources collection which offers a starting point for learning about disability advocacy and neurodiversity. As you explore these materials, you are encouraged to consider how your congregation can move beyond welcome toward a meaningful access, participation, and leadership. A few of the important areas you'll explore include: understanding disability justice, learning about neurodiversity, creating accessible faith communities, and centering lived experiences. To find out more and access these resources, please [click here](#).

5. Partnerships

One Flock, One Shepherd: An Evening of Prayer and Friendship in Full Communion





This Public Event on the evening of **October 29** will be hosted at New Dawn Moravian Church in West Toronto. It will be a time of ecumenical prayer shaped by the Moravian Tradition and will include opportunities for sharing about the full communion work of the Lutheran Anglican Moravian communion. All are welcome! No registration required. Please contact Rev. Paul Gehrs at pgehrs@elcic.ca for more information.

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for: **Sunday, October 25.**

ACC: The Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of New Westminster

ELCIC: Remembering October 31, 1517 - as the day Martin Luther published the *Ninety-Fiv Theses*. Sometime cited as the launching of the Protestant Reformation.

TOGETHER: For an end to gender-based violence and human trafficking

The following petitions were unintentionally missed out in last week's issue:

ACC: The Rt. Rev. Lynne McNaughton, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Kootenay

ELCIC: The dean, council, and congregations of the Vancouver Island Region of the British Columbia Synod

TOGETHER: The people and ministries of the Southern Province of the Moravian Church in America

6. From the National Office

Staff Transitions

As the ELCIC continues to discern how to best organize and support its work, some roles and responsibilities at the National Office are evolving. These changes provide an opportunity to build on the gifts and experience of our staff as they continue to support the life and ministry of our church.

Beginning August 1, Desiree Mendoza took on an expanded role supporting and advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) initiatives across the church. An important part of this work is fostering continued learning, dialogue and engagement throughout the ELCIC.

Two additional changes will take place beginning December 1, 2026. Rev. Paul Gehrs will move to a part-time role as Assistant to the Bishop for Justice and Leadership. Building on his experience in the justice portfolio, Paul will take on leadership responsibilities currently held by Deacon Gretchen Peterson. We are grateful for Paul's significant contributions to ecumenical and interfaith relations over the years and for the experience he brings to this new focus.

Deacon Gretchen Peterson will transition to the role of Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Young Adults, building on her work with youth and extending her portfolio to include young adult ministry. This work will include supporting the ELCIC's newly formed Youth and Young Adult Advisory Board and helping advance plans for a gathering of young adults across the church.

We give thanks for the gifts Desiree, Paul and Gretchen bring to the ELCIC and the ways they continue to serve our church through these roles. Please join us in supporting them in prayer as they take these next steps, and in giving thanks for the ministry of the entire National Office team.

Job Opportunity - *Canada Lutheran Editor*

The ELCIC National Office is seeking an experienced and creative editor to lead the editorial development of *Canada Lutheran*, the ELCIC's national magazine. This is a part-time

contract position requiring approximately 15 hours per week, with eight issues published annually. [For more information and application details, visit here.](#) **Applications close on October 20, 2026.**

“CRA is Going Digital - Here’s How to Keep Your Congregation Compliant” A Quick Guide for ELCIC Treasurers

Starting January 1, 2027, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will require all registered charities, including ELCIC congregations, to file their annual T3010 charity information returns electronically. A Quick Guide for ELCIC Treasurers on how to keep your congregation compliant has been prepared as a resource, outlining these changes and providing guidance to help ELCIC congregations prepare for the transition. To download the resource now, please [click here](#).

Join the Ecumenical Stewardship Conference in November

FUNDING MINISTRY *into the* **FUTURE**

A CONFERENCE OF **HOPE & STEWARDSHIP** FOR THE CHURCH

How to put stewardship at the heart of your congregation's life



Conference includes practical workshops and our key-note speakers:

GRACE DUDDY POMROY

from Luther Seminary and author of *Funding Forward*, Grace understands church redevelopment and buildings, plus traditional stewardship



PAUL NAZARETH

Renowned Canadian speaker on generosity, expert in giving, tax, financial and estate planning

Come join in fellowship with Christians from many denominations as we explore the future of funding church ministry

NOVEMBER 20-21, 2026

KNOX WATERLOO | 50 ERB ST W, WATERLOO, ON N2L 1T1

Early Bird Registration (until Oct 30): \$125; \$95/additional attendee from same church

After October 30: \$175; \$125/additional attendee from same church

FREE PARKING | [HTTPS://PRESBYTERIAN.CA/FUNDINGMINISTRIYEVENT](https://presbyterian.ca/fundingministriyevent)



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

Abundance
CANADA



Mennonite
Church
Eastern Canada

Charitus



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 worships, 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. Registration is now ongoing. For more information and to register, please [click here](#). To view and/or download the event poster and share it to your network, please [click here](#).

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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