

**From:** BC Synod - ELCIC bcsynod@elcic.ca   
**Subject:** Synod Announcements - May 13, 2026  
**Date:** May 13, 2026 at 1:00 pm  
**To:** oslcospika@gmail.com

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**British Columbia Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

**May 13, 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](mailto: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 **Updated BC Synod 2025-2026 Prayer List for Congregations**, please click [here](#).

It can also be found on our website [bcsynod.org](http://bcsynod.org) under Resources.

Sunday, May 17

*Peace Lutheran in Abbotsford - Rev. Dean Andersen (interim)*

*Emmaus Lutheran in Burnaby - Rev. Timo Saarinen*

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 the Synod Office will be closed Monday, May 18th

- **NEW** [Upcoming Memorial Services](#)
- [Summer Sermon Series](#)
- [Job Opening at Benediction Lutheran](#)
- **May 15** [Deadline for ELCIC Mission Fund Grant Applications](#)
- **May 21** - [Workshop: Every Square Foot Counts - The Case for Fair Pricing](#)
- **May 23** [Installation Invitation for Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker](#)
- **May 23** [Good Shepherd Yard Sale](#)
- **NEW May 24** [Conversations Across the Church](#)
- **NEW May 26** [VBS Webinar - Creation Care Quest](#)
- **May 31** [Refugee Benefit Concert at Benediction](#)
- **May 31** [ELCIC Day of Action](#)
- **Updated June 6-7** ['We are One Body' Part 2](#)

- **Updated Deadline June 14** [Cross-Border Friendship Gathering](#)
- [Charitus Announces Calls for Partner Impact Grant Applications](#)
- **August 10-14** [Camp - Growing in Faith, Friendship and Justice!](#)

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming Memorial Services

Memorial Celebration for **Walter Baker**, spouse of Pr. Patricia Giannelia, will be held on Saturday, May 30th, at 1:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 250 Gibbs Road, Kelowna with a reception to follow. Everyone welcome.

The service will be livestreamed and can be accessed through the congregation's website, [www.faithlutheranelowna.ca](http://www.faithlutheranelowna.ca), or through their YouTube channel.

Celebration of Life for **Trudy Hergesheimer**, spouse of Pr. Richard Hergesheimer (Pr. Hergy) will be on Sunday, June 7th at 3:00 pm at St. Hilda's Anglican Church, 5838 Barnacle St, Sechelt. Everyone welcome. Reception to follow.

The service will be livestreamed. You can view it here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85148232565>

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### Cross-Border Friendship Gathering

BC Synod and NW Washington Synod

You can download a pdf poster [here](#)

**NEW** - Check out the video here: <https://youtu.be/JtYkxHGn4iE>

Borders are meant to divide us, the lines that have been drawn are meant to keep us apart. But we are one in Christ. To celebrate our shared mission and our oneness across the border, we will gather for a picnic to share food, stories, and joy. Come and meet Lutheran friends from across the border.

The picnic shelter is of limited capacity - please [register here](#) so we can reserve additional space if needed. The deadline for registration is **May 31st**.



# FRIENDSHIP GATHERING



BC Synod



## **We are One Body - Part 2**



### **You Are Invited**

We invite you to continue a journey that began last year - a journey of connecting, reflecting, and growing together as we explore the yearnings we share for the future of our church here in BC. This gathering is an opportunity to continue a journey that began last year - a journey of connecting, reflecting, and growing together as we explore the yearnings we share for the future of our church here in BC.

**We will gather June 5-7, 2026, at King of Life Lutheran Church, Coquitlam**

### **Important Notes**

This gathering builds on the foundation laid in 2025, but it is not simply a status report. It is an invitation to continue co-creating the future of our church through Spirit-led collaboration rooted in genuine passion and shared responsibility. BC Synod will cover the costs of the event (gathering program and on-site costs).

If you have registered and are travelling from a distance, please contact the synod office regarding your travel plans. We will try to find ways to share rides / rental cars / carpool, etc. Please let us know if you can help with rides, or if you'd need a ride.

**Registration**  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Benefit Concert at Benediction



**PLENTY OF HOPE**  
Refugee Benefit Concert

*Featuring the Gospel Sounds of*

**MARCUS MOSELY  
& FRIENDS**



**SUNDAY MAY 31, 2026  
1:30 PM**

BENEDICTION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
5575 6TH AVE  
TSAWWASSEN

*Also featuring*

**CHRISTINE MAGEE**



**BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT:**  
[benedictionlutheran.tickit.ca](http://benedictionlutheran.tickit.ca)  
Adults: \$30  
Seniors: \$25  
or email: [benediction@eastlink.ca](mailto:benediction@eastlink.ca)  
Tickets are also available at the door

*Presented by*  
BENEDICTION LUTHERAN & TSAWWASSEN UNITED CHURCH

## Job Opening at Benediction Lutheran

Benediction Lutheran Church in Tsawwassen is seeking a part-time office administrator. The position is approx. 9 hrs per week, onsite. Candidate should be compassionate, organized, work well independently, and have strong computer skills.

independently, and have strong computer skills.

For a complete job description and more information, contact the church office email address

[benediction@eastlink.ca](mailto:benediction@eastlink.ca)

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## 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:

- a) explore what God is doing in your neighbourhood
- b) seek to develop relationships with others in your community
- c) encourage participation in God's mission in the local community
- d) 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 May 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>

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## Invitation to the Installation of Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker



*You are cordially invited to  
attend the Installation*

of  
*Rev. Courtenay Reedman  
Parker*

*Saturday, May 23, 2026  
3:30 pm*

*Mount Zion Lutheran  
930 Cumberland Street  
New Westminster, BC V3L 3H4*

*Reception to follow*

Rostered Ministers are invited to vest.  
The liturgical color is Red.

**Garage Sale at Good Shepherd, Coquitlam**



**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

1504 Spruce Avenue, Coquitlam, V3J 2P6

(Corner of Spruce & Schoolhouse) is holding their

**Church Garage/Yard Sale**

on **Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** from **9 am to 2 pm.**

ALL PROCEEDS ARE SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN

*Aunt Leah's Place On Eagle's Wings The Good Samaritan*

*Come and find some treasures for yourself and support three  
great charities in the process. Win - Win!!*



# Church-Wide Garage Sale

## BC Synod Youth Camp *Growing in Faith, Friendship and Justice*

August 10-14, Loon Lake, Maple Ridge. Everyone welcome. Click the image below to register.

The Financial Aid Application form can be found [here](#).

Youth Camp Core Planning Team Members:  
Pastor Courtenay Reedman Parker, Sarah Pawlos,  
Pastor Eric Krushel, Rachel Genge, Pastor Erik Parker

This is where we're having youth camp for BC synod youth?

Sure is!  
We're looking forward for youth to joins us to talk justice August 10-14 @ Loon Lake

**REGISTER NOW**

## Conversations Across the Church - Sunday, May 24

Mark your calendars for **May 24** and join us for our next *Conversations Across the Church* online gathering!

This time together will include a brief time of worship, grounding us in prayer and community as we listen, learn and reflect together.

We'll be joined by voices from our Global Mission partners: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Unida, and Iglesia Luterana del Perú (IL-P). Together, we will reflect on a shared question: *Where do you see life in your church?*

Through these perspectives, we'll hear stories from across our global community—reminding us of the many ways God is at work with and among us.

Join us for this meaningful time of connection and reflection. Come ready to listen, be inspired, and consider where you see signs of life in your own context.

Register now to reserve your spot! <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/s27TUCRVTGS2EUyJJBvLKg>

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### ELCIC Sermon Series



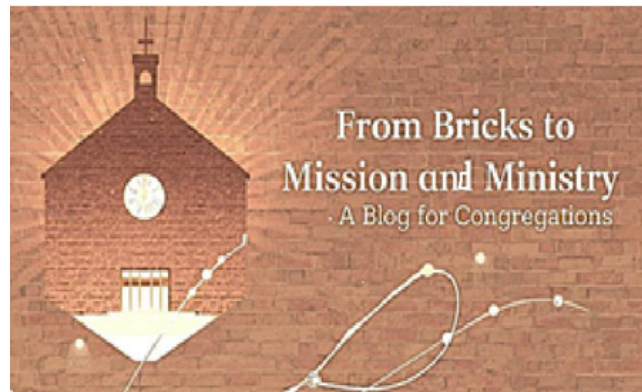
Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops are once again offering weekly sermons for congregational use, available from May through October.

Each weekly sermon includes both written and video formats, ready to download and use in ways that best fit your worship context. These resources are especially helpful during vacation season and offer a meaningful way to connect your congregation with leaders from across the ELCIC.

Interested in using these sermons? [Sign up to access the full set of resources.](#)

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**Upcoming Workshop – May 21, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. (ET)**  
**Every Square Foot Counts: Generous and Solvent: The Case for Fair Pricing**



Join us on Zoom for the May session. This session moves from principle to practice: How do congregations calculate and communicate fair pricing? How do you hold a values-based conversation about money with long-standing partners?

In this session, you will:

- Work through a simple cost-recovery calculation for your own building
- Explore language for transitioning groups from informal to formal arrangements
  - Identify where generosity ends and financial strain begins
- Leave with one concrete pricing or communication step for the next 30 days

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Time: 7:30 p.m. Eastern

Format: Zoom

Open to: All members of ELCIC congregations

Registration: please register [here](#)

A PDF with more information can be downloaded [here](#).

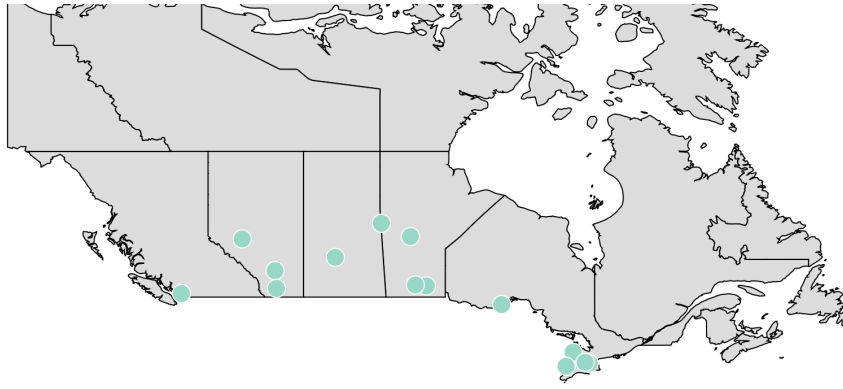
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## **ELCIC Day of Action -**

This year marks 40 years in the life of our church! This milestone not only invites us to remember our story, but also to reflect on who we are today and how God is calling us forward as a church *Living out God's grace and unconditional love.*

**Let's Add Your Congregation to Our Interactive Map Today!**





Let's get every ELCIC congregation **on the map** for the ELCIC Day of Action!

Congregations across the church are stepping out in bold and creative ways — now it's your turn.

### **Have you planned your ELCIC Day of Action activity?**

[Tell us what you're doing](#) and make it visible! When you share your plans, your congregation will be added to the interactive map — helping inspire others across the country and showing the collective impact of our church in action.

### **Not sure what to do yet?**

Explore the map and spark an idea. Whether it's something big or small, every act of service matters.

On Sunday, May 31, we're inviting every congregation to step beyond their walls and into their communities, *Living out God's grace and unconditional love*. As part of our journey during the ELCIC's 40th anniversary year, this is our moment to show up through service in Christ's name.

**Make sure your congregation is part of it. [Share your plans. Get on the map.](https://form.jotform.com/ELCIC/DayofActionSubmissionForm)** (<https://form.jotform.com/ELCIC/DayofActionSubmissionForm>)

### **Download resources, find out about t-shirts and more!**

Visit the [ELCIC Day of Action website](#) - You will find a toolkit, information on ordering t-shirts and frequently asked questions.

**\*\*NOTE:** our online website requires at least 10 business days for t-shirt orders! That means NOW is the time to order. There are two ways to order t-shirts for your congregation (if you choose to order locally, you may be able to get them much quicker). Full information is available here: <https://elcic.ca/dayofaction/t-shirts/>

[Information Session](#) - Want to know more about what the ELCIC Day of Action is all about, resources available to you to organize a Day of Action in your congregation, information about t-shirts, ideas on what your congregation can do on May 31 and more? A [video recording of our](#)

[information session is now available.](#)

[Video Invitation](#) - Hear from our national and synod bishops, and take part of our ELCIC Day of Action. Please share this video during worship. [Download here.](#)

[Let us know how your congregation is getting involved!](#) Let's get your congregation on the interactive map!

We are looking forward to hearing how you and your congregation are getting involved in the ELCIC Day of Action on May 31.

## MORE NEWS

### Join us for a VBS webinar!



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief



Dear Pastors, Rostered Leaders, Friends,

I have been very excited to see the response to the new **Vacation Bible School curriculum, Creation Care Quest – Learning to Love our World.** We are so happy to hear this is a needed resource, and we want you to be able to use it in the ways that fit your needs as a congregation!

We are hosting an information night for you to learn more about this program, how it connects to CLWR's Friends of Creation program and how you can use it in a variety of ways beyond Vacation Bible School (Sunday School programming or children's time at your Sunday service for example).

We hope that you or someone in your congregation that works with children can come! If this time doesn't work, let us know and we can share the recording of the event or set up a time to connect and answer your questions.

**Date: Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Time: 7:00pm EDT | 6:00pm CDT | 5:00pm CST/MDT | 4:00pm PDT

[Register here](#)

Your congregation doesn't need to be signed up for Friends of Creation to use this program or come to the webinar. We would just like to let you know about how you can use these options available to your young people!

If you haven't seen the curriculum yet [you can download it here!](#)

Peace,

Sheilagh McGlynn,  
Specialist, Church Relations  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief

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## Charitus Announces Calls for Partner Impact Grant Applications

Charitus has launched its 2026 Partner Impact Grant Program, offering matching grants to ELCIC congregations and institutions for projects addressing social and environmental needs in both church and broader community contexts. Grants of up to \$3,000, covering up to 75 percent of project costs, are available to support impactful initiatives under three key objectives:

The deadline for submission is May 31, 2026. For more details or to apply, visit [Charitus Apply for a Grant](#).

## 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 \(bcsynod.org\)](#)

### 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](mailto:bcsynod@elcic.ca)

Durga Pandithurai (Administrative Assistant - Synod Office) - [bcsynod@elcic.ca](mailto:bcsynod@elcic.ca)

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

[esinghbcsynod@gmail.com](mailto:esinghbcsynod@gmail.com)

Rev. Matthew Senf (Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations - deployed) -

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

Rev. Aneeta Saroop (Assistant to the Bishop for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - deployed) - [asaroop@elcic.ca](mailto:asaroop@elcic.ca)

eTransfers are linked to the office email address: [bcsynod@elcic.ca](mailto: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](#)

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