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To: oslcospika@gmail.com



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British Columbia Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

May 7, 2025

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 **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 and Next Sunday

To download the **BC Synod 2024-2025 Prayer List for Congregations**, please [click here](#). It can also be found on our website bcsynod.org under Resources.

Sunday, May 11th we pray for:

Grace Lutheran in Victoria

Mount Olive Lutheran in Surrey – Rev. Lori-Anne Boutin Crawford

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Full Communion Cycle of Prayer. Please [click here](#)

HIGHLIGHTS.

- **May 7, 14, 21** [Wisdom for Times Like](#)
- **May 8, 15, 22, 29** [CJAG Book Club](#)
- **May 8** [Lutheran Manor AGM](#)
- **May 15** [ELCIC Mission Fund Application Deadline](#)
- **May 15** [Job Posting Deadline for Editor, Eternity Today](#)
- **May 22** [CLWR Summer Job Posting Deadline](#)
- **NEW May 24** [Church Yard Sale at Good Shepherd, Coquitlam](#)

- **May 26-30** [Engage Difference! \(DUIM\)](#)
- **May 31** [Deadline for Charitus Grant Applications](#)
- **June 5-7** [Worship and Music Symposium in Camrose, Alberta](#)
- [Hymns available from Christ Lutheran Chilliwack](#)
- [National Convention](#) Pre-Identification Committee and Registration Deadline
- **Update** [Summer Sermon Series 2025](#)
- [LTS Board - Lay Representative](#)
- [CLAY Registration](#)

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

PRAYERS

Prayer for Pastor Kristen Steele

Thank you for your continued prayers for Pastor Kristen, her family and the people of Shepherd of the Valley in Langley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The CJAG Book Club invites you to read with us: *Laudato Si, Care for Our Common Home*

A PDF poster can be downloaded [here](#)





Images by Freepik.com



In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis provides a Christian perspective on the ecological crisis that is ravaging planet Earth. He is calling on humanity to move toward an ecological conversion in response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Christians in particular are reminded that their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith, and that because God is with us, we can all strive to change course.

Please make a commitment to read *Laudato Si* this May.

Meet in faith to share your concerns, prayers, and ideas over four 45-minute sessions.

Book Club meetings by Zoom will be May 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 7:00 pm

Register free at <https://bit.ly/CJAGbookclub> or scan the QR code



We will send you the link to *Laudato Si* and a link to the book club sessions.

Credits: Revs. J. Martin & N. Darragh

CJAG (Climate Justice Action Group) is a mission of the BC Synod

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, 2025.

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>

Church Yard Sale



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

1504 Spruce Avenue, Coquitlam, V3J 2P6

(Corner of Spruce & Schoolhouse) is holding their

Church Garage/Yard Sale

on **Saturday, May 24th** from **9 am to 2 pm.**

ALL PROCEEDS SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN

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

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



Hymnals Available

Christ Lutheran Chilliwack would like to offer the following worship hymnals to anyone interested.

Please contact Gerhard Preibisch <gapreibisch@gmail.com>

With One Voice - 101
Hymnal Supplement (red) - 47
Renewing Worship Songbook (pink) - 13
Songs for Gospel People - 140

They also have many German worship and hymnals (green) available

ELCIC NEWS

Summer Sermon Series 2025



For the sixth year in a row, the ELCIC bishops and assistants to the bishops have agreed to provide sermons for congregational use **from May to September 2025**.

[The first available sermon will be for May 25.](#)

Resources include both text and video files of the sermons for each week. These are downloadable files that may be used as part of your congregation's worship in whatever works best for your context.

As sermons are submitted and edited, they will be posted publicly to the online folder and made available for download.

Not only are the sermons helpful to use if you need to cover vacation leave over the summer but they are a wonderful way to introduce members of your congregation to our bishops and assistants to the bishops from across the ELCIC.

[To access these resources, please complete the following form by clicking here.](#)

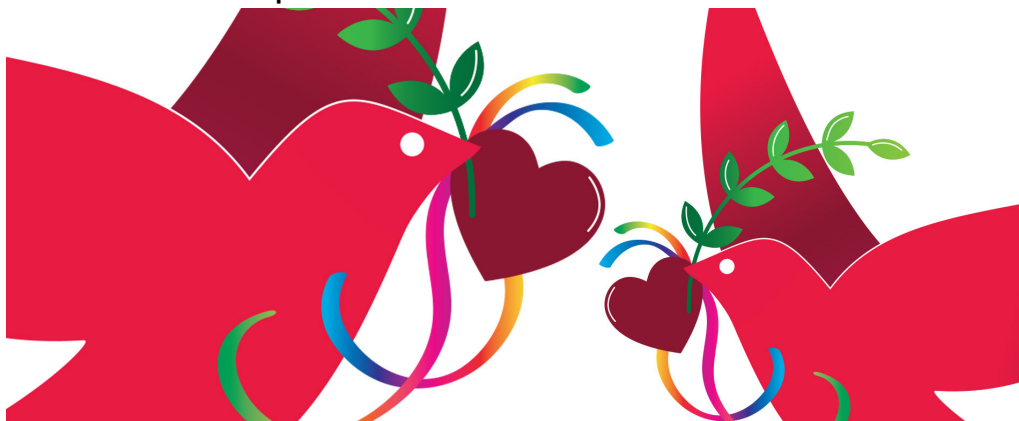
CLAY Registration



Registration for CLAY 2025 is ongoing. To register for this gathering and for more information, please visit: www.claygathering.ca . Stay up-to-date with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#); and [sign-up for the newsletter](#) today!

2025 National Convention News

Un Update from the Pre-Identification Committee



The ELCIC National Church Council's (NCC) Pre-Identification Committee received seven submissions for possible candidates for National Bishop. After prayerful consideration, one has discerned that they are not called to this role; six candidates are continuing in the process. Currently, biographies are being submitted by the candidates and video interviews are underway. Questions asked of the candidates were decided on by the committee using examples from the ELCA, Synods in the ELCIC, and conversations at NCC.

Watch for both bios and videos to be posted on the ELCIC website middle of May. A reminder that at the ELCIC National Convention in Winnipeg (July 10-13, 2025), delegates elects a National Bishop according to the bylaws of the ELCIC.

Last Call to Register for Our National Convention - *Deadline is April 30*

Are you a delegate to the 2025 ELCIC National Convention? The [2025 National Convention](#) of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) (ELCIC) is open for registration for delegates as of April 1st. The Registration Information Package and Agenda are both available online at: <https://elcic.ca/national-convention/>. Please also visit this webpage for updates on our 2025 National Convention. Other pieces of information will be uploaded as they become available. For any questions on the registration process, please contact the convention manager, Peace Anthony-Idoko at nationalconvention@elcic.ca. **Deadline for registrations is on April 30th.**

MORE NEWS

CLWR Job Posting - Administrative Assistant, New Westminister, BC Office

[Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#) (CLWR) is hiring a dedicated and organized Administrative Assistant to join their team! This position will be at CLWR's Westminister, BC office. If you are a youth between 15-30 years of age at the beginning of the employment period and has a genuine desire to support resettled youth in addition to being detail-oriented among others, please apply for this position **before May 22**. For more information on this position including qualification and how to apply, please [click here](#).

Editor, Eternity for Today

The ELCIC is looking for a new editor for its quarterly devotional publication, *Eternity for Today*. [View the full job description here](#). For more information or to apply for the posting, please email tgallop@elcic.ca or pwall@elcic.ca. Deadline for applications is **May 15, 2025**.

Wisdom for Times Like These Invitation from Pacific Jubilee and Naramata Centre



Wisdom for Times Like These

In times like these, where divisiveness is intentionally sown, we need connection with kindred souls. You are invited to three evening gatherings. We will come together in the spirit of Sacred Pause where inspiration and sustenance – ancient and new – will be our companions. Come and engage in wisdom teachings, spiritual practices, silence, prayer, sound, and image.

Online with Lois Huey-Heck
and Murray Groom

Three Wednesdays:
May 7, 14, 21, 2025
6:30 - 7:30 pm (Pacific)



This program is offered through the partnership of Pacific Jubilee and Naramata Centre.

[Learn more and register](#)

LTS Board - Lay Representative

A message from LTS Board Chairperson Rev. David Hunter

As a rostered rep on the LTS Board of Governors, I want to make you aware that we have an opening on the board for a lay person for BC. Our lay member was unable to finish her term, and so we have two years remaining on a term for a BC representative. If you know of someone who would be a good fit for the seminary board, please let us know. We are especially interested in someone with some financial or legal background, but having a voice at the table is the first priority.

Please speak to me or Bishop Kathy via an email to the BC Synod office (bcsynod@elcic.ca) if any people come to mind.



Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning | Forum pour le leadership et l'apprentissage interculturels

Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry

The Art of Intercultural Ministry: Five Days to Build Bridges with Faith, Heart, and Skill

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are excited to announce that registrations are open for our **upcoming Engage Difference! program**.

The **“Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry (DUIM)** is a five-day intensive designed to build bridges with faith, heart, and skill. This program will take place **May 26-30, 2025, at Mayfair United Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.**

“Engage Difference” will equip participants with the tools and understanding needed to navigate and celebrate cultural diversity in ministry settings. There are residential and non-residential options, and bursaries are available.

We encourage you to consider this excellent opportunity for professional and personal development.

Please see the [flyer](#) for complete details. You can also find all information and registration here: <https://www.interculturalleadership.ca/engage-difference-may-2025-saskatoon/>

For any inquiries, please contact montealegre@councilofchurches.ca

Thank you, and we hope to see you there!

Lutheran Manor AGM

The Lutheran Manor Society will hold its AGM on the evening of May 8, 2025. The event will include a Guest Presentation on redeveloping church properties titled, “Learning to HOLD our Church Land & Buildings Lightly ... as GIFTS.” Please download the [poster](#), print it, and promote the event in your congregations.

Worship and Music Symposium

June 5-7 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Camrose, Alberta.

To see the brochure click [here](#).

Call for Partner Grant Program Applications

Charitus is excited to announce the launch of the [2025 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% of project costs, are available to support impactful initiatives under three key objectives:

1. **Elimination of Poverty:** Projects like low-income meal programs, food distribution, and essential items assistance.
2. **Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples:** Initiatives to promote awareness, education, and community engagement, such as healthy meals, cultural camps, and work programs.
3. **Sustainable Environmental Practices:** Ideas such as energy-efficient lighting upgrades, water conservation measures, or rain barrel installations.

This is an opportunity for your congregation or Synod to receive financial support for projects that make a tangible difference. Though examples are provided, we encourage creativity—let the Holy Spirit guide your ideas!

Applications are open to all Charitus partners and congregations supported by their Synod. The deadline for submission is **May 31, 2025**. For more details or to apply, visit [Charitus Grant Application](#).

Questions? Contact Krista at 1-888-308-9461 ext. 3 or krista@charitus.ca.

Let's work together to create lasting impact!

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 \(bcsynod.org\)](http://bcsynod.org)

Contact us:

Office phone: 604-524-1318

Bishop Kathy Martin - kmartinbcsynod@gmail.com

Rachel Genge (Administrative Assistant + BC Canada Lutheran editor - remote) -
bcsynod@elcic.ca

Durga Pandithurai (Administrative Assistant - Synod Office) - bcsynod@elcic.ca

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

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

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

Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer (Assistant to the Bishop for Special Service - remote) -
lkochedorfer@elcic.ca

eTransfers are linked to the office email address: 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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