

**From:** BC Synod - ELCIC bcsynod@elcic.ca  
**Subject:** Synod Announcements - March 5, 2025  
**Date:** March 5, 2025 at 3:21 PM  
**To:** oslcospika@gmail.com



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## British Columbia Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

**March 5, 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](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 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](http://bcsynod.org) under Resources.

Sunday, March 9th we pray for:  
*Faith Lutheran in Powell River*  
*Our Saviour's Lutheran in Prince George*

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **NEW** [We Are One Body Survey](#)

- **March 6** [Morning Brew / More Leisurely Brew / Lay Leaders' Gathering](#)
- **March 15** [Applications due for Compassionate Justice Initiatives](#)
- **! March 22-23** [We Are One Body: Synod Gathering](#)
- **March 26** [LTS hosts a Storaasli Lecture with Cody Sanders on Zoom](#)
- **March 31** [Parochial Reports Due](#)
- **NEW April 30** [Deadline for Charitus PYM Legacy Fund Grant for CLAY 2025](#)
- **May 5-7** [New Wine and Mustard Sandwiches: An Unexpected Feast: BC Synod Study Conference](#)
- **NEW May 8** [Lutheran Manor AGM](#)
- **NEW May 31** [Deadline for Charitus Grant Applications](#)
- **NEW** [A Multifaith Resource Manual for Educators in BC](#)
- **NEW** [BC Synod New Regional Deans](#)
- **NEW June 5-7** [Worship and Music Symposium in Camrose, Alberta](#)
- [National Convention](#)
- [CLAY Registration](#)
- **UPDATED** [Resources for Lent](#)

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

### We Are One Body: Inviting Your Wisdom and Prayers

In a few weeks, on March 22-23, people from across the BC Synod will meet for a

in a few weeks, on March 22-23, people from across the BC Synod will meet for a two-day conversation focused on exploring innovative ways to collaborate across congregations/geographies as we consider the challenges and opportunities ahead.

As you think about the future, as Lutherans engaged in the work of the Gospel across BC:

1. What important things should we protect, save, and use wisely?
2. What is one question you would like to ask about how our BC Synod works?
3. What are 1-2 creative ideas you have for working together across congregations and geographies?

We would like to get input from as many people in the BC Synod as possible.

***Please respond before March 14th.*** [You can access the survey here.](#)

If you'd like to receive a summary of the responses, please indicate this in the survey.

Thank you for your prayers, and for joining us in this work.

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## **We Are One Body: Synod Conversation**

You are invited to join us for a transformative two-day envisioning and dialogue session on March 22-23. This gathering is designed to explore the profound meaning and practical implications of embracing the idea that We Are One Body. We will gather at **King of Life Lutheran in Coquitlam on March 22-23**, for a full day on Saturday and until noon on Sunday.

[For more information, see here.](#)



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## **BC Synod New Regional Deans:**

We are glad to announce the regional Deans in our Synod.

Rev. Lyndon Sayers- Vancouver Island

Rev. Erik Bjorgan- Southern Interior

Rev. Nathan Fong- Lower Mainland

Dean for the North will be announced later.

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## **Invitation to the Farewell Service for Pastor Ingrid**

Invitation by St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

Pastor Ingrid Cramer-Doerschel is retiring in March 2025. She was ordained in Germany in May 1992 and moved to Canada in 2006, where she served at Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton. Since December 2021 she has been serving as the transitional - interim Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Vancouver.

To embrace their retirement, Ingrid, her spouse Kosmas, and their dog Shesh will be relocating to the landscapes of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

Please come and celebrate her journey with us:

**Date:** March 9, 2025

**Time:** 10:30 a.m

**Location:** St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
1593 E. 18th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5N 2H4

After the service, we'd love for you to join us at the reception hosted by the St. Mark's congregation.

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**Morning Brew / More Leisurely Brew / Lay  
Leaders' Gathering**

**Thursday Morning Brew** (for active rostered leaders)

Meets monthly

Next date: **Thursday, March 6th at 9 am**

[Click here join the Morning Brew by ZOOM,](#)

Or call in by dialing: 778-907-2071

Meeting ID: **811 6876 9079**

Passcode: **926542**

**More Leisurely Brew** (for retired rostered leaders)

Meets monthly

Next date: **Thursday, March 6th at 10am**

[Click here to join the meeting,](#)

or contact the synod office if you need to connect by phone.

**Lay Leader Gatherings**

Meets monthly

Next date - **Thursday, March 6th at 7pm**

[Click here to join the meeting,](#)

or contact the synod office if you need to connect by phone.

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## **New Wine and Mustard Sandwiches: An Unexpected Feast BC Synod Study Conference**

BC Synod Study Conference for rostered leaders will be held at **Loon Lake in Maple Ridge, BC, May 5-7, 2025**. More information and the link to register are available [here](#).





## ELCIC NEWS

### CLAY Registration



Registration for CLAY 2025 opened on February 15! Early bird registration costs only \$350 for each participant. After March 15, the regular registration fee will be \$450. Sign-up early to avoid disappointment! Registration is limited. To register for this gathering and for more information, please visit: [www.claygathering.ca](http://www.claygathering.ca) . Stay up-to-date with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and X; and [sign-up for the newsletter](#) today!

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## Compassionate Justice Initiatives - Synod Antipoverty Grant 2025

The ELCIC and CLWR work in partnership to foster sustainable development in communities around the world, including here in Canada. This work includes challenging the causes and responding to the consequences of injustice and poverty through Compassionate Justice Initiatives. The BC Synod is accepting applications for funds for such initiatives. The application deadline is March 15, 2025. [You can find out more here.](#)

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## Parochial Reports Due by March 31

Now is the time of year when ELCIC congregations are asked to complete their **Parochial Reports for 2024**. Congregational contacts should have received a copy of the form via email, but the form can also be accessed [by clicking here](#).

There is a function in the form to save unfinished work. A link will be emailed to you which can be used to continue your work. This link can also be shared to allow others to contribute to filling out the form, as long as people save the form when they are done editing it. Please remember to submit your report when completed.

Please complete and submit your form **by March 31, 2025**.

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## 2025 National Convention News

### Spiritual Discernment on the Election of a New National Bishop

At the 2025 ELCIC National Convention, delegates will elect a new National Bishop. The ELCIC's National Church Council invites members into a discernment process leading up to the election. Further information about the discernment process is available on the [ELCIC website](#). As of January 2025, a form is now available for individuals to complete when they are ready to formally identify someone they feel has the skills and gifts for the call to serve as national bishop. Supporting materials and the form are available on the [2025 ELCIC National Convention](#) section of the ELCIC website. If you have questions about the process, please submit them via email to [discernment@elcic.ca](mailto:discernment@elcic.ca).

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## RESOURCES

### Lenten Resources

Various resources for Lent, including worship planning, devotionals, and other resources, have been posted on the BC Synod website. The list of resources has been updated this week. [You can access it here.](#)

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### An Ecumenical Devotional Towards Anti-Racism

The new Commission on Justice and Peace (CJP) devotional resource has been posted on the Canadian Council of Churches website. The resource includes Lutheran authors from the BC Synod.

You can find the resource here:

[\*\*\*Journeys to the Well – An Ecumenical Devotional Towards Anti-Racism\*\*\*](#)

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### A Multifaith Resource Manual for Educators in BC

The Education Committee of the [Multi-Faith Summit Council of BC](#) has produced a Multifaith Resource Manual that is now available to social studies teachers in BC, but which may also be of interest to all who wish to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the spiritual and religious communities in our province.

You can download the "Sharing Light" Manual [here](#).

## MORE NEWS

### Lutheran Manor AGM

The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Manor Society of Vancouver BC calls the



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LUTHERAN MAJOR SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER BC CALLS THE Annual General Meeting of the Society for Thursday, May 8, 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in hybrid mode: both in-person at 375 W. 10th Ave, Vancouver, and by Zoom. The business meeting will include elections to the Board of Directors, and the Board welcomes candidates from the broader church. The event will feature Guest Speaker Rev. Tim Dickau, Director of Citygate Vancouver, an organization devoted to helping congregations engage more fully with their neighbourhoods.

For more information, please refer to the [PDF document](#) and/or contact the Chair, Rev. Clifford Reinhardt, [reinhardtcf@gmail.com](mailto:reinhardtcf@gmail.com).

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## Worship and Music Symposium

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

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

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## Charitus Pym Legacy Fund Grant - CLAY 2025

**Charitus Pym Legacy Fund Grant: Planting the Seed for CLAY 2025** – Rooted & Rising. This grant is designed to support youth attendance at **CLAY 2025** in Saskatoon, SK, and we are inviting all **ELCIC congregations, Synods,** and **Charitus stakeholders** to apply.

### What is the Pym Legacy Fund Grant Opportunity?

Charitus is offering **\$500 per congregation or group** to support fundraising initiatives aimed at assisting youth with the financial commitments necessary to attend and/or register for **CLAY 2025: Rooted & Rising**, which will take place in August 2025 in Saskatoon, SK (Learn more: [CLAY 2025](#)).

**Grant Application Form:** Available [here](#)

**Deadline:** Submit your completed application by **April 30, 2025**, via email to [krista@charitus.ca](mailto:krista@charitus.ca).

**Notification:** Successful applicants will be notified in early May 2025.

Full details at [2025 Partner Grant Application and Details - Charitus](#)

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## 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](mailto:krista@charitus.ca).  
Let's work together to create lasting impact!

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## LTS hosts a Storaasli Lecture with Cody Sanders on March 26th

On March 26th, at 6pm SK time, LTS will be hosting a Storaasli lecture on Zoom by The Rev. Cody J. Sanders, PhD. Titled "Understanding Christian Nationalism, Practicing Christian Community," this lecture will focus on the degree to which Christian nationalism has upset the U.S. political and ecclesial landscapes for the past several years. Now Canadians are witnessing its emergence north of the border in unsettling ways.

Here is the link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/my/kdh.lts>

Please save the date!

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## GSI Announcement



The GSI Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Barb Fortier has been appointed as the Executive Director of GSI, effective April 1, 2025.

Barb holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree and has served as the pension and benefits administrator with GSI for nearly twenty years. Her experience at GSI and her expertise will serve her well in this new role as Executive Director.

Congratulations, Barb, on your new position with GSI!

## Transitions in Ministry

Transitions, Vacancies and Call Processes in the BC Synod can be found here:  
[Transitions in Ministry | Resources | British Columbia Synod \(bcsynod.org\)](https://www.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 \(bcsynod.org\)](https://www.bcsynod.org)

### Contact us:

Office phone: 604-524-1318

Bishop Kathy Martin - [kmartinbcsynod@gmail.com](mailto:kmartinbcsynod@gmail.com)

Rachel Genge (Administrative Assistant + BC Canada Lutheran editor - remote) -  
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Durga Pandithurai (Administrative Assistant - Synod Office) - [bcsynod@elcic.ca](mailto:bcsynod@elcic.ca)

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

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Rev. Matthew Senf (Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations -  
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Rev. Aneeta Saroop (Assistant to the Bishop for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion -  
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Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer (Assistant to the Bishop for Special Service - remote) -  
[lkochedorfer@elcic.ca](mailto:lkochedorfer@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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