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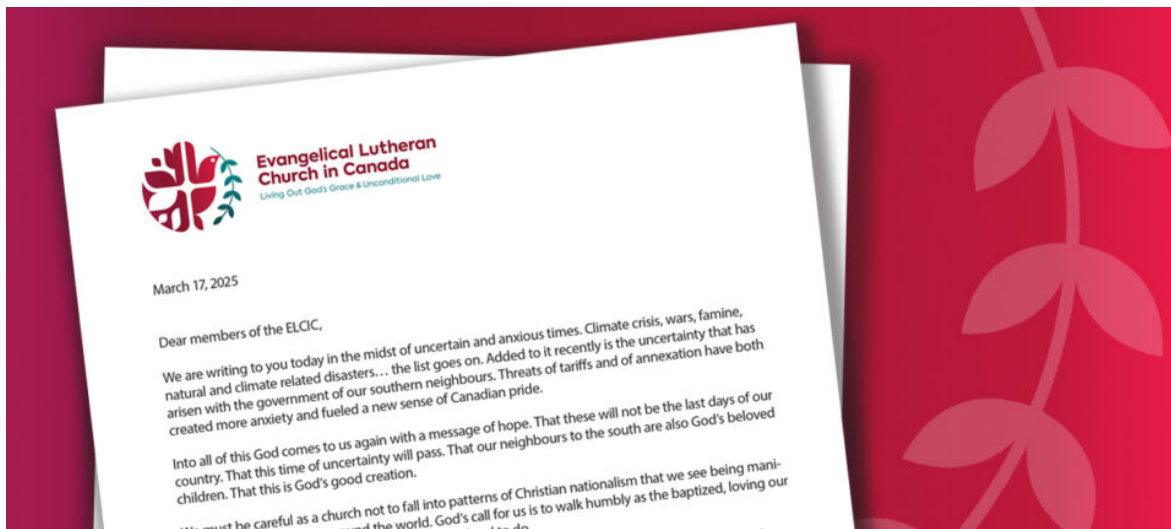
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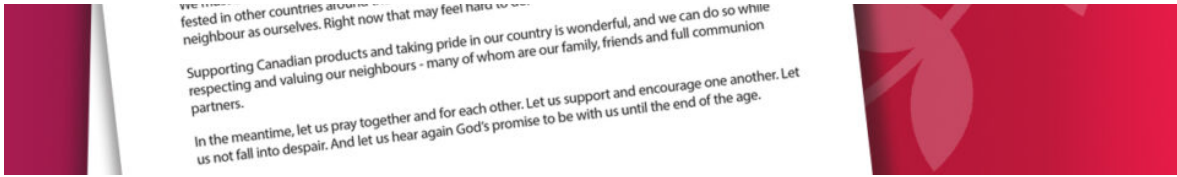


The newsletter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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|--|--|
| 1. ELCIC National, Synod Bishops | Message of Hope |
| 2. Canadian Lutheran World Relief | Pray for Gaza |
| 3. Manitoba Congregation Lost in Blaze | Grace - St. John's, Carman |
| 4. Eternity for Today | Rev. Dennis Becker |
| 5. Lenten Resources | ELCA, CPJ |
| 6. Compassionate Justice | ELCIC Task Force, CPJ's Election Tour 2025 |
| 7. Youth Ministry | Charitus Legacy Fund |
| 8. Effective Partnerships | Cycle of Prayer, Job Opportunities, More |
| 9. 2025 ELCIC National Convention | Pre-Identification Process |
| 10. National Office | Canada Lutheran, Eternity for Today, More |

1. A Message to the Church From National, Synod Bishops on Hope Amid Uncertain Times





[Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) (ELCIC) National Bishop Susan Johnson and the ELCIC Synod Bishops have shared a message of encouragement and hope to the church in the midst of uncertain and anxious times. To read the full letter on our website, [please click here](#).

2. Please Pray for Gaza

Please pray for Gaza

Our hearts are broken today at the news that Gaza is being bombed again as the ceasefire has been broken.

Our partners at LWF Jerusalem and the ACT Alliance have been at work since the start of the war, providing emergency medical care, food and water, blankets and shelter, and trauma support.

Please join us today in fervent prayer for:

- A just peace throughout the region
- Safety, security and the comforts of home for all Palestinians and Israelis
- All those suddenly grieving, gravely injured or traumatized after the new violence
- Our partners in LWF and ACT Alliance, and all the humanitarian workers, health care professionals and others who will risk life and limb today to save lives and bring hope

You can support CLWR's response at clwr.org/gaza.



**Canadian Lutheran
World Relief**

[Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#) (CLWR) has released a response to the news that Gaza is being bombed again as the ceasefire has been broken.

National Bishop Susan Johnson offers the following prayer:

God of peace, we pray for an end to the hostilities in Gaza. We pray that aid would once again be able to get in to help those in need. We pray for peace in Gaza and the whole region.

3. Manitoba Congregation Lost in Blaze



Photo courtesy of the Grace - St. John's Facebook page

Grace - St. John's a Total Loss After Overnight Fire

The congregation of Grace - St. John's Anglican/Lutheran is reeling after an early-morning fire that destroyed the Carman, MB church building on Thursday, March 13.

"Please join me in praying for comfort and strength for this community as they grieve and process the loss of their building," wrote MNO Synod Bishop Jason Zinko. "As there are more concrete ways we can support them, I will share those.

God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In the midst of unexpected tragedy, draw us together in prayer, support, comfort and compassion. Guide leaders with wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen."

Local news stories on the fire:

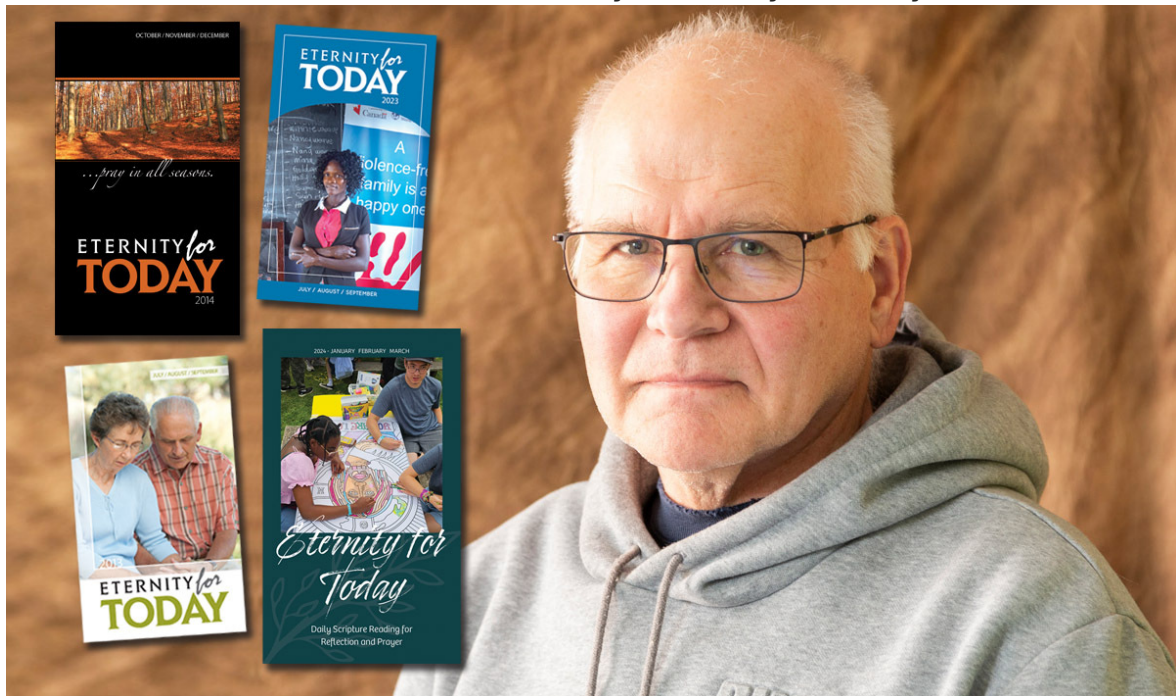
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/carman-church-grace-st-john-s-anglican-lutheran-fire-1.7483161>

<https://www.elp.ca/2025/03/13/manitoba-church-destroyed-by-fire/>

- <https://chvnradio.com/articles/please-keep-us-in-your-prayers-manitoba-church-destroyed-by-fire>
- <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/13/overnight-fire-destroys-carman-church>

4. Eternity for Today

Rev. Dennis Becker Reflects on the Ministry of Eternity for Today



For more than two decades, Rev. Dennis Becker has served as the editor of the ELCIC's daily devotional publication, *Eternity for Today* (EFT). With the arrival of the April-May-June 2025 issue, his service to the church in this way will come to an end. Having recently retired from his call to Faith, Oshawa, ON., Becker felt "the time was right" for a new editor of the national publication. [Read this story here.](#)

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5. Lenten Resources

ELCA: Sumud Lenten Series 2025 - A Resource Focused on the Plight of Palestinians





In Photo: ELCA's Middle East Ready Bench gathers in Chicago in February, 2025, to discuss Sumud and how the church can mobilize for justice in the Holy Land. (Photo credits: RNS website and ELCA)

The [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) (ELCA) shares a Lenten resource focused on the plight of Palestinians. The devotional called "Sumud," an Arabic word meaning "steadfastness," offers churches and individuals a six-week study with videos and reflections to raise awareness of and advocacy against Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands and its military rule over Palestinians. For more information on this Lenten devotional including a feature story on this initiative, [please click here](#). To download this resource which includes links to the weekly devotionals and featured videos, [please click here](#).

Faith Communities Unite for Climate Justice: Join 'Give it up for the Earth!' 2025





[Citizens for Public Justice](#) (CPJ) has announced **Give it up for the Earth! 2025** - a national Lenten campaign mobilizing faith communities **from March 5 to April 17, 2025**. As the climate crisis deepens, this initiative invites individuals and churches to reduce emissions, embrace eco-spirituality, and advocate for federal climate policies that reflect justice and sustainability. For more information including resources and how to engage your congregation, please visit their website when you [click here](#). Share also your Lenten journey with #ForTheEarth and #ClimateJustice to inspire others.

6. Compassionate Justice

Task Force on Carbon Neutrality: Reflections On A Low-Carbon Life



The ELCIC Task Force on Carbon Neutrality is writing monthly reflections on climate justice to encourage engagement, share resources, and call for prayer, reflection and learning. The reflection for the month of March from Korno Sailleev (she/her) MNO Synod is

learning. The reflection for the month of March from Kaitie Gandy (she/her), MP's Synod is now available. [Please click here.](#)

Announcing Part One of CPJ's Election Tour 2025

A graphic for the 'Election Tour 2025' featuring a map of Canada in the background. The text is contained within green rectangular boxes. The top box says 'Election Tour 2025' and 'March and April 2025'. A middle box says 'Join Citizens for Public Justice and partner organizations at pre-election dialogue events to learn what your role can be in the 2025 federal election and beyond.' The bottom of the graphic features the 'CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE CPJ' logo. On the right side, there are three circular icons: a crossed-out circle, a circle with two hands shaking, and a circle with a megaphone.

Before the 2025 federal election, [Citizens for Public Justice](#) (CPJ) is hitting the road! During March and April, CPJ will be teaming up with partner organizations across the country to hold local events during their 2025 Election Tour. Three events will be taking place: March 18, March 25, and April 1 with the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice. Each event will have a slightly different public justice focus. At all of them, we'll hear from and speak to experts and advocates. To learn more and register for these events, [please click here.](#)

7. Youth Ministry Updates

Charitus Pym Legacy Fund Grant: Planting the Seed

[Charitus](#) is offering a grant to congregations, ELCIC Synods and other Charitus stakeholders to apply for the Charitus Pym Legacy Fund Grant: Planting the Seed for CLAY 2025 - Rooted & Rising. This fund is designed to support youth attendance at CLAY 2025 in Saskatoon, The funding of \$500 is being offered to each congregation or group to support fundraising initiatives aimed at assisting youth with the financial commitments necessary to attend and/or register for CLAY 2025. For more information and to learn how to apply, [please click here.](#)

8. Effective Partnerships

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

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

ACC: The Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Montreal

ELCIC: The Assistant to the Bishop and the staff of the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod

TOGETHER: The elimination of racial discrimination

Job Opportunities:

ELCA: Various Positions Open in Five Regions of the World

The [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) (ELCA) is recruiting for pastors, teachers, education and communication coordinators, and a West Africa Regional Representative. A little over a year ago our two Bishops signed a covenant that we would work together on recruiting and sending mission personnel to work with our companion churches. For more information including job description, please click on the specific region of the world where recruiting is required.

Global Mission Opportunities: [Africa](#), [Europe](#), [Middle East North Africa](#), [Asia and the Pacific](#), and [Latin America and the Caribbean](#).

Charitus Announces Calls for Partner Grant Program Applications

Charitus has launched its [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 percent 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. 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](#).

LTS: Storasli Lecture on March 26

[Lutheran Theological Seminary \(LTS\)](#) will be holding a Storasli lecture online titled

[Lutheran Theological Seminary \(LTS\)](#) will be holding a Storast lecture online titled **"Understanding Christian Nationalism, Practicing Christian Community" on March 26 at 6:00 p.m. (SK time)**. This lecture will focus on the degree to which Christian nationalism has upset the U.S. political and ecclesial landscape for the past several years. Now Canadians are witnessing its emergence north of the border in unsettling ways. The lecturer for this event is The Rev. Cody J. Sanders, PhD. For more information on this event, [please click here](#).

9. 2025 ELCIC National Convention

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. Deadline for this pre-identification process is **on March 31, 2025**.

10. From the National Office

2024 Parochial Reports

Congregations are asked to complete their 2024 Parochial Reports. An online form is available as well as PDF that can be downloaded. Please complete and submit your form **by March 31, 2025**. To get started, [please click here](#).

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ELCIC congregations are encouraged to complete their 2025 renewals as soon as possible so they don't miss out on any upcoming issues. If you need a link to your online renewal form, please contact us at office@elcic.ca

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--> Eternity for Today subscription form: <https://www.simplecirc.com/subscribe/eternity-for-today>

[today.](#)

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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:



Contact us:

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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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