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The newsletter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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1. Letter on Non-Binary Safety

National and Synodical leaders of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) (ELCIC) have written a letter to the church on non-binary safety. The letter, dated February 11, 2025, calls on the members of the church to join in prayer, learning, speaking out, advocating for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, and providing safe spaces and opportunities. Read the full letter here: <https://elcic.ca/2025/02/11/letter-to-the-church-on-non-binary-safety-asking-all-to-join-in-prayer-learning-speaking-out/>

2. Black History Month: Resources and Events

Black Anglicans of Canada's AGM Coming Up - February 15

[Black Anglicans of Canada](#) (BLAC) will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) **on Saturday, February 15 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time via Zoom**. This gathering will provide a platform for Black Lutherans to share their own experiences, voice their concerns, and work collaboratively towards solutions that benefit their entire Anglican and Lutheran communion. For more information, please visit their website [here](#) or send an email to The

Rev. Wilson Akinwale, National Board Chair, Black Anglicans of Canada at blackanglicans@gmail.com or email Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the Bishop for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at cramirez@elcic.ca.

Celebrate Black History Month with a Video Series and a Sunday Service

Black History Month is a time for all of us to both celebrate and uplift the achievements and contributions of African Canadians, as well as recognizing and learning more about the historic and systemic challenges people of African descent were and are still faced with in Canada. To that end, the Racial Justice Committee of the [Eastern Synod](#) will be releasing a **series of videos** over the next three weeks to provide you with opportunities to learn more about Black History Month and listen to racialized perspectives from across the Synod. Finally, the Racial Justice Committee and Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Waterloo, invite you to conclude the month by joining Mt. Zion's **Black History Month Service**, either in person or by live stream, **on Sunday, February 23 at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)**. To learn more, [please click here](#).

2025 Black Heritage Celebration

A red poster for the 2025 Black Heritage Celebration. On the left, there is a stylized silhouette of a person's head in profile, facing right. The silhouette is filled with the colors of the South African flag (green, yellow, black, and blue) and a red flower. The text on the right side of the poster provides details about the event.

**2025 Black Heritage
Celebration**
**Saturday
February 22**

**Luncheon conference
Cultural performances
Fulford Hall, 10am-11:30
1444 Union, Montreal**

**Eucharistic Celebration
Christ Church Cathedral
11:30am**

*With the Rev. Dr. Ali Tote
Lutheran bishop of Saskatchewan*

DIOCÈSE
ANGLICAN
MONTREAL

MONTREAL

The 2025 Black Heritage Celebration event will take place **on Saturday, February 22 at 10:30 a.m. (Eastern Time)**. The celebration will start off with a luncheon conference and cultural performances, followed by a Eucharistic celebration at Christ Church Cathedral at 11:30 a.m. (Eastern Time). ELCIC Saskatchewan Synod Bishop Rev. Dr. Ali Tote will be at the event. For more information, [please click here.](#)

3. Nominate Someone You Know for the ELCIC Leadership Award - Due February 28

The ELCIC Leadership Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of rostered and lay members in service to the wider church. Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the life and work of the wider church; gone the extra mile to serve both community and church; demonstrated a life of spirited discipleship; modelled for others one or more of the ELCIC's strategic priorities? Nominate them for the 2025 ELCIC Leadership Award! Further information on the [award criteria and the application form can be found on the ELCIC website.](#) Nominations must be submitted **by February 28, 2025.**

4. Luther League Legacy Fund: Call for Applications

This is your chance to submit an application for the Luther League Legacy Fund (LLLLF). If you are 30 years of age or under, and looking to be involved in a leadership development opportunity or looking to plan a project that would benefit people 30 years of age and under, please check out our application guidelines by [clicking here.](#) Deadline for applications is fast approaching **on March 1, 2025.**

5. Compassionate Justice

Jubilee Debt 2025: Turn Debt Into Hope



Time: 7 pm - 8:30 pm EST

Hear Indigenous partners, including Rev. Tony Snow (Stoney Nakoda First Nations), biblical scholar Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat, Global South partners and more.



my.linkpod.site/Jubilee-2025-launch

Join us **on February 19 at 7:00 p.m. (EST)** for the official kick-off event for Jubilee 2025: Turn Debt Into Hope! This webinar will kick off Canadians' participation in signing the Jubilee 2025 petition and feature insights from Indigenous and Global South voices, as well as from Canadian faith advocacy leaders. To learn more and register for this webinar, [please click here.](#)

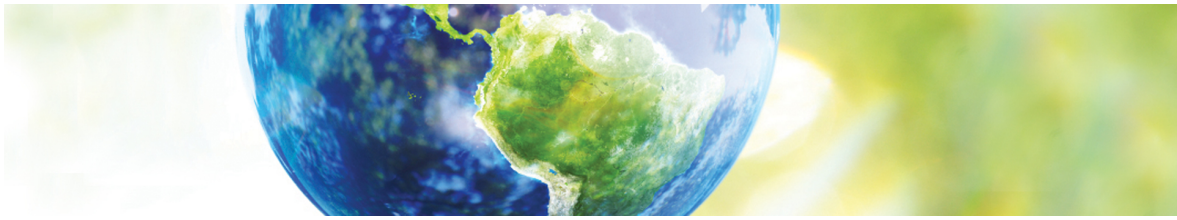
KAIROS Canada along with its ecumenical partners is leading Jubilee 2025 -part of a global movement addressing the urgent crises of unjust debt and ecological harm. The goals of this campaign include the following: debt cancellation for unjust and unsustainable debts; global financial reform to prevent future crises; and a debt resolution framework within the United Nations that is transparent, binding and fair. If you would like to join this movement, please sign the Jubilee 2025 Petition! For more information and to sign this petition, [please click here.](#)

Online Forum: Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition

You are invited to an online forum for [KAIROS' Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition project](#) **on February 13, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST.** This project aims to nurture community dialogue, develop bold and creative visions of societal transformation, and strengthen just transition policies and programs with principles from Indigenous peoples, young people, and those most affected by climate change. The project also nurtured a cohort of young changemakers - building their capacity to advocate for a just transition in their communities. Join us for an evening of stories, art, ideas, and strategies to help guide us through the next stages of the energy and economic transition in Canada. To register, [please click here.](#)

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 February from Tim Schaner (Eastern Synod) is now available. [Please click here.](#)

WCC Calls on President Trump to Follow International Law for a Just Peace in Gaza

[World Council of Churches](#) (WCC) general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay has described the proposal of US President Trump as "tantamount to proposing full-scale ethnic cleansing and neo-colonization of the homeland of the 2 million Palestinians of Gaza." To read the full statement, [please click here](#). We pray for peace, justice, and respect for all people who suffer under the tyranny of the powerful in this world.

6. Effective Partnerships

Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer

The following are the prayer petitions for **Sunday, February 16:**

ACC: The Rt. Rev. Sam Rose, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

ELCIC: The dean, council, and congregations of the Central Toronto Area and Greater Toronto Area East and the West of the Eastern Synod

MOR: The people and ministries of Rio Terrace Moravian Church in Edmonton

WPCU: Around the World With One Heart

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was observed across the world with services, prayers, and gatherings - all with a heart for bringing together people in profound ways. From January 18 to 25, people were inspired by the 2025 theme, "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26), as they united in prayer and reflection. To read the full article, [please click here](#).

Share Your Story! Thanks to all who participated, planned, and/or prayed during the 2025 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU). The planning team invites you to share your stories, photos, videos, or impressions from your local celebrations [on the website](#) or email wpcu@councilofchurches.ca. Your great tips, feedback, or ideas for Canadian Week of Prayer organizers are also welcome!

Job Opportunities:

ELCIC Group Services Inc: Executive Director

After 23 years of strong leadership as Executive Director of ELCIC Group Services Inc. (GSI), Lisa Thiessen has announced her retirement at the end of March 2025. GSI's Board of Directors has initiated the search for a new Executive Director. Further information is available here: <https://elcicgsi.ca/?p=11881#Employment>

WCC Vacancy: Programme Executive for Ecumenical Diakonia and Sustainable Development

[The World Council of Churches](#) invites suitable and qualified individuals to apply for the position of Programme Executive for Ecumenical Diakonia and Sustainable Development. The incumbent will lead and coordinate the implementation of the WCC's Capacity for Ecumenical Diakonia and Sustainable Development programme in the Latin America region. The role focuses on enhancing the capacity of WCC member churches, ecumenical and civil society partners to contribute effectively to sustainable development and ecumenical diakonia in alignment with the WCC's 2023-2030 strategic plan. Please apply **by February 15**. [Please click here](#) for more details.

CCC Extends Deadline on Applications for Two Positions

The Canadian Council of Churches has two job openings! These are for the position of Program and Research Assistants for the Commission on Faith and Witness (CFW) Program and for the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning (FILL). Deadline for applications has been extended **until Friday, February 21**. For more details on these jobs, please click on the following links:

[CFW Program and Research Assistant](#)

[FILL Research and Program Assistant](#)

Luther College High School: Position Open for Principal

Luther College High School invites applications for a five-year term position in the role of Principal, effective July 1, 2025, with the possibility of renewal. Reporting to the President, the position is responsible for the promotion of the best possible school culture for students to excel, both inside and outside of the classroom. For more information on the job description, salary, and how to apply, [please click here](#). Interested candidates are asked to submit a cover letter, resume, and a list of references by 9:00 a.m., Friday, **February 28, 2025**.

STU: Recruitment and Advancement Ambassador

The Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) is looking for a highly motivated recruitment and social media expert to become its first Recruitment and Advancement Ambassador (R&AA). The R&AA will focus on attracting prospective students, fostering engagement with STU's alumni communities, and promoting STU's mission and programs through strategic use of social media and recruitment initiatives. Preference will be given to a

successful candidate who can be on site, and consideration is possible for hybrid, but not for remote. For more information on this job opportunity, [please click here](#). Deadline for applications is **on March 7, 2025**.

7. 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.

Nominations for Elections Held at the 2025 ELCIC National Convention

Elections will be held at the 2025 ELCIC National Convention for vacant positions on the National Church Council and Court of Appeal. A list of vacancies and the process for nominations is available on the [National Convention section](#) of the ELCIC website. Please note that the deadline for submission of Nominations Committee is **Friday, February 14, 2025**. Also note that during convention, the opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor.

8. From the National Office

Diaconal Sunday is on February 23



The last Sunday of February is Diaconal Ministry Sunday - a day to celebrate the witness

expressed through service (diakonia). Through our baptism all Christians are called to share God's word and to serve our neighbours in Christ's name. It is also a day to recognize and give thanks to God for all of those who serve in official calls as deacons in our church. [Resources for Diaconal Sunday can be found here.](#)

Donations

If you are considering an end of year donation to the National Office, we invite you to [use our secure website for your gift.](#) The federal government has announced an extension of its 2024 charitable donation tax deductions to February 28, 2025 due to the recent postal strike.

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.](#)

Treasurers Handbook Information Request Form

The treasurers handbook is an information booklet designed to provide updated financial information that will promote the financial wellbeing of the church. This book is updated annually to accommodate the changing information needs. Our goal is to keep up to date treasury information and to ensure that all the treasurers of ELCIC have access to this information at their fingertips. The link below is open to all treasurers and all ELCIC members who wish to contribute to this update. [Please consider clicking here to fill out the form.](#)

Canada Lutheran and Eternity for Today - SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

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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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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