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To: oslcospika@gmail.com



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British Columbia Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

March 19, 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, March 23rd we pray for:

Living Faith Lutheran in Sechelt - Rev. Richard Hergesheimer (Interim), Rev. Glenn Inglis (Presbyterian)

Lord of Life Mission in Sandspit - Rev. Jim Whaley (Interim)

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

HIGHLIGHTS

A sermon for Sunday, March 23rd will be emailed later this week.

- **NEW** [A Message to the Church from National, Synod Bishops on Hope Amid Uncertain Times](#)
- **NEW** [Low Fee Counselling Spots Available - Living Systems Counselling](#)
- **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](#)
- **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](#)
- **May 8** [Lutheran Manor AGM](#)
- **NEW May 26-30** [Engage Difference! \(DUIM\)](#)
- **May 31** [Deadline for Charitus Grant Applications](#)
- [A Multifaith Resource Manual for Educators in BC](#)
- **June 5-7** [Worship and Music Symposium in Camrose, Alberta](#)
- [National Convention](#)
- [CLAY Registration](#)
- [Resources for Lent](#)

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

PRAYERS

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.

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.

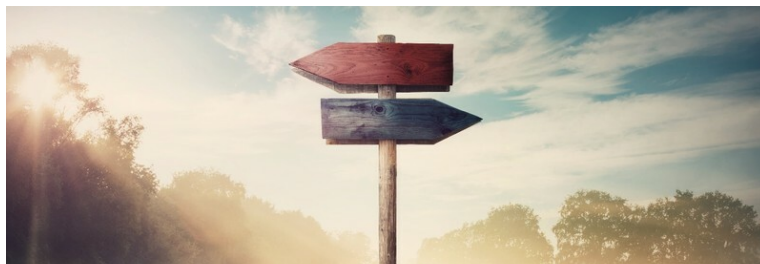
ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Are One Body: 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.](#)





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](#).
Early bird registration deadline is March 31.



ELCIC NEWS

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.](#)

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 . Stay up-to-date with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and X; and [sign-up for the newsletter](#) today!

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**.

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.

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.](#)

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*](#)

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



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

Additional options, and services 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!



**LOW FEE
COUNSELLING
SERVICES
STARTING AT \$15**



- Counselling for individuals, couples, and families
- Online and in-person appointments available in multiple locations across the Lower Mainland
- Sliding fee scale from \$15-\$65 CAD per session
- Services offered from a Family Systems perspective for a wide range of family and relationships problems

Contact info@livingsystems.ca

To inquire please visit <https://livingsystems.ca/about/contact/>

Space may be limited but we endeavour to keep our waitlist to a minimum.

We also have Registered Clinical Counsellors and Canadian Certified Counsellors available and they are experienced Bowen family systems therapists. They also charge on a sliding scale starting at \$75 (can vary depending on the specific counsellor). For details, please inquire.

Thank you,
Living Systems Counselling

Lutheran Manor AGM

The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Manor 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.

Worship and Music Symposium

June 5-7 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Camrose, Alberta.
To see the brochure click [here](#).

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.

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

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

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!

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!

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:

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

asaroop@elcic.ca

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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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