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The newsletter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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## 1. Join Us for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25

**WEEK of PRAYER**  
for CHRISTIAN UNITY  
**2025**

**SEMAINE de PRIERE**  
pour L'UNITÉ DES CHRÉTIENS  
**2025**

"Do you believe this?"  
(John 11:26)

« Crois-tu cela? »  
(Jean 11,26)

[weekofprayer.ca](http://weekofprayer.ca)

[semainedepriere.ca](http://semainedepriere.ca)



January 18-25, 2025 is **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. WPCU is an annual ecumenical celebration when Christians around the world are invited to pray for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship.

[2025 WPCU resources](#) are now available for download. The 2025 theme, prepared by the monastic community of Bose in Northern Italy, ***“Do you believe this?” (John 11:26)***. Resources for 2025 include marking the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council of Nicaea.

## 2. Apply for the CLAY Crew 2025 by January 31





The [CLAY Crew](#) is a unique opportunity for young people (ages 18-21) to learn about what happens behind the scenes at the gathering. It is an opportunity for leadership development, and the young adults to exercise their gifts and develop skills for ministry within the context of CLAY. The CLAY Crew participates in the gathering by assisting the NPC, the LGG production team, and volunteers in various areas of CLAY. Individual roles and responsibilities for each member will be custom-tailored to suit the unique gifts and interests of that participant, as well as meeting the needs of the CLAY planning team.

Applications are now being accepted to be part of the CLAY Crew for 2025 in Saskatoon! If you are someone between the ages of 18-21, please consider applying now! Application **deadline is on January 31, 2025**. Please go to the website and apply now! For updates and information on our CLAY Gathering, [please click here](#).

### **3. 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](mailto: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.

### **Leadership Award - Open for Nominations**

The ELCIC Leadership Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of rostered and lay members in service to the wider church. The award was most recently presented at Assembly 2023 to Pat Lovell.

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. Compassionate Justice**

### **WCC Gender Justice Reference Group Meets in Zimbabwe**

The World Council of Churches (WCC) Gender Justice Reference Group, which includes ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson, met in Harare, Zimbabwe from December 7 to 12, 2024 for its first in-person gathering. Hosted by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, the meeting brought together church leaders, theologians, and gender justice advocates to reflect on the critical importance of gender justice in the life and mission of the church. Learn more when you [click here](#).

### **Countering Antisemitism in Worship**

From January to May, join a transformative webinar series that will deepen your understanding of scripture, free from harmful biases. Learn to identify and dismantle anti-Jewish and antisemitic readings, engage in meaningful dialogue with a diverse community of learners, and explore scripture through a lens of justice, compassion and understanding. This series offers a blend of live sessions and self-guided learning, providing you with the flexibility to learn at your own pace. [Register now for the January-May 2025 Series](#).

## **5. Effective Partnerships**

### **LWF: Strengthening Leadership for a Sustainable Church and Community**

In Peru, a Lutheran World Federation (LWF)-supported initiative has offered tools to strengthen leadership and continuity of work. Read the inspiring story of a lay leader from

**Iglesia Luterana del Peru (ILP)** in which he reflected on the importance of leadership training for his congregation comprising mostly "older adults," now focusing on attracting younger leaders "to ensure continuity in the decades to come." To read the full article, [please click here](#).

### **Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer**

The following are the prayer petitions for **Sunday, January 19:**

**ACC:** The Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully, Director, and the staff of Faith, Worship, and Ministry

**ELCIC:** Bishop Carla Blakley, the people and rostered ministers of the Eastern Synod

**TOGETHER:** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the ecumenical work and witness of our churches

### **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**.

## **6. From the National Office**

### **Accountant, ELCIC National Office**

The ELCIC is seeking for an accountant to join the National Office team in a part-time capacity working on-site in Winnipeg. [View the job description here](#). To apply, please email [panthony-idoko@elcic.ca](mailto:panthony-idoko@elcic.ca) with your resume and salary expectations. Applications will be accepted **through January 31, 2025**.

### **ELCIC Mutual Ministry Guide**

The *Mutual Ministry Guide* has been prepared by the ELCIC for use across the ELCIC. The purpose of the guide is to:

1. Help congregations and faith communities to nurture good and healthy mutual relationships between ministries and leaders.
2. Provide guidelines to facilitate intentional and regular evaluations of ministries, staff and rostered ministers.
3. Seek together opportunities for growth and renewal.

[Learn more here](#)

### **Donations**

## **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.

## **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**

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

Have you checked out Canada Lutheran and Eternity for Today recently? We are always looking for ways to improve our publications and have made some changes in the last little while! Consider supporting these national publications by signed up for a subscription 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.*

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**Follow the ELCIC on social media by following the links below:**



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### Contact us:

ELCIC News  
400-185 Carlton St,  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J1  
[info@elcic.ca](mailto:info@elcic.ca)

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](mailto: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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