

King of Life Lutheran Church Newsletter

February and March 2026
The Season of Lent



When Hope Feels Thin



Ash Wednesday arrives quietly.

A smudge of ash.

Ancient words.

A moment that reminds us of something we often try to forget: we are human, we are fragile, and we cannot save ourselves.

Lent begins not with celebration, but with honesty.

For many of us, hope can feel thin right now. We look around and see broken systems, strained relationships, unanswered prayers, exhaustion we can't quite shake. Some of us come into this season carrying grief, disappointment, or a sense that life has not turned out the way we hoped.

And yet—this is exactly where Lent meets us.

Lent does not ask us to pretend everything is fine. It invites us to slow down, to tell the truth about our lives, and to remember who God is even when the road feels uncertain. It is a season that says: you are dust—and you are deeply loved.

When hope feels thin, Christian hope is not about optimism or pretending things will improve quickly. Biblical hope is sturdier than that. It is rooted not in circumstances, but in memory. We remember what God has already done.

We remember a God who heard the cries of enslaved people and made a way through the sea.

A God who stayed close to the brokenhearted.

A God who stepped into our suffering in Jesus, who walked dusty roads, wept real tears, and carried a cross.

Hope, in Lent, is not loud. It whispers.

It says: God has been faithful before.

It says: God is still at work—even here.

It says: This story is not finished.

As we journey through these forty days, we are not walking toward despair but toward resurrection. Lent helps us clear away distractions so we can see again the steady, grace-filled presence of God. It teaches us that even in the wilderness, God provides. Even in waiting, God is near.

So this season, may we be gentle with ourselves and with one another. May we allow space for reflection, repentance, and rest. And when hope feels thin, may we lean not on our own strength, but on the love of a God who meets us in the ashes and leads us, step by step, toward new life.

*Blessings,
Pastor Dorothy*

For Reflection:

What does it mean to trust God when answers don't come quickly?

Where have you seen God show up before—and how might that memory sustain you now?

What might you need to let go of this Lent to make space for hope again?

How can we practice hope together as a community when life feels heavy?

IMPORTANT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE (AGM) – Sunday, March 8th

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 8**, following the worship service. All members are encouraged to attend and participate.

AGM REPORTS

All reports for the Annual General Meeting are due on **Tuesday, February 17**. Please submit your report in **Word format**, so they can be edited, compiled, and filed together.

Important Dates this February

SUNDAY SCHOOL – February 1st

Dear Children and Families, We are so excited to welcome you to **Sunday School on Sunday, February 1st!** Come ready to sing joyful songs, hear an inspiring story, and get creative with a fun craft. It's a wonderful time to learn, play, and grow together as God's family. We can't wait to see your smiles and share this special morning with you!

With joy and blessings, Your Sunday School Team

CHURCH HIKING TRIP – Saturday, February 7th at 9:30am.

Let's gather to explore the beauty of our Coquitlam River.

We will meet at the church for **9:30am** for those who would like to carpool to Lions Park to start the walk. For those that want to meet at Lions Park please be there for 9:45am. This is about an hour's walk and afterwards we will find a place for coffee...probably Waves on Shaughnessy which we can walk to from Lions Park.



"The trail named for the "red fish up the river." is part of the Traboulay PoCo Trail which follows the Coquitlam River, and gets its name from the Kwikwetlem First Nation term "kʷikʷəƛ̓əm." The river is an important salmon habitat, and a walk here connects you to that long history. The path is gentle and well-maintained, making it a relaxing place to get some fresh air."

Please RSVP Kimberly Bortnak if you are planning to attend at kbortnak@telus.net or 604-765-6549. Hope to see you there, rain or shine.

KOL CHOIR WINTER/SPRING PRACTICE



The King of Life Church Choir will resume rehearsals on **February 1st until Easter Sunday at 9am at the church on Sunday mornings.** Interested singers are warmly welcome. Contact Lorna Yeates for all information. lwyeates@yahoo.com



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – February 18th at 7:00PM

Ash Wednesday invites us to slow down and reflect on who God is and all that God has done for us. As we receive the sign of ashes, we are reminded of our human fragility—but also of God’s unfailing love. This service is a space to bring our honest hearts before God, and to begin the Lenten journey together. Even in our struggles and uncertainty, God is with us, guiding us toward hope, healing, and new life. I warmly invite you to join us and enter this sacred season with open hearts.

THURSDAYS LENTEN SOUP SUPPER & SERVICE - February 26th – March 26th

Join us each Thursday during Lent, February 19 – March 26, for a time of fellowship, food, and reflection. We’ll share a simple soup supper together, followed by a brief Lenten service that offers space to pause, pray, and reflect on God’s presence in our lives. All are welcome—come as you are and take a moment to nourish both body and spirit.

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY – Sunday March 29th

Join us as we gather for Passion/Palm Sunday, a day that holds both celebration and solemn reflection. Together, we remember Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and begin the journey toward Holy Week. Come as you are, and walk with us through this meaningful moment in our faith story.

BIBLE CLASS IN MANDARIN ON ZOOM – Every Friday at 8:00pm

Join us on Zoom every Friday evening at 8:00 PM for our Mandarin Bible Class! Come and explore God’s Word, grow in faith, and connect with others in our community. All are welcome—whether you’re new to Bible study or have been learning for years, there’s a place for you here. Grab a cup of tea, log in, and let’s discover God’s promises together!

SAVE THE DATE:

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE OF Jan Mojmir Skrebsky - Saturday, March 7th
3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at KOL. Please RSVP by Saturday, February 21.**

If there are any stories or memories you would like to share, you are welcome to do so, as we honour Jan's remarkable life and the warmth, he brought to all who knew him. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Instead of flowers, please consider a donation to, King of Life Lutheran Church, in Jan's memory. Your presence will mean so much as we remember and cherish Jan together.

With love and gratitude,
The Skrebsky Family.

Church Hiking Trip - Saturday, March 14th
The March monthly hike. *Details forthcoming...*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
To Our
February and March Celebrants!**



“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”
Psalm 118:24

To all our dear brothers and sisters celebrating their birthdays this month, we give thanks to God for the gift of your life and celebrate the joy you bring to our church family. May this year be filled with His blessings, love, laughter, and abundant grace.

Happy Birthday and God bless you richly!
With love and prayers, Your Church Family.

Other Notices

Canada Lutheran

This Magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) is a great way to keep us connected to what is happening in the church across Canada and around the world. The church office has several copies available to lend.

Remember in Prayer

Please remember in prayer the weak, sick, suffering and shut-in members and friends of our congregation. If you wish to be added to our prayer list, please contact Javney at kolchurchoffice@telus.net or Pastor Dorothy Chu at pastor.dorothy.chu@gmail.com

Pastoral Care/Visit or Hospitalized

If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the church office and Javney will get you in contact with Pastor Dorothy.

NEWS FROM BC SYNOD/ELCIC

Why We Share Synod News - From time to time, our newsletter includes updates from the BC Synod and the National Synod. While we are a local congregation, we are also part of a larger church family. Sharing these updates helps us stay connected with what is happening in other congregations and in different parts of the body of Christ. It reminds us that we walk this journey of faith together, learning from and supporting one another.

Global Mission Sunday – February 1st

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada celebrates Global Mission Sunday annually on the first Sunday of February. Global Mission Sunday is an opportunity for congregations across the church to give thanks for God's mission in the world, and our shared call to serve, accompany and bear witness alongside our global partners. Since 2018, the ELCIC has recognized Global Mission Sunday, lifting up and reflecting on the many relationships that connect the ELCIC with Lutherans around the world. Each of the five ELCIC synods has at least one global companion relationship partner church:

British Columbia Synod – Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church
Synod of Alberta and the Territories – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia
Saskatchewan Synod – Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida
Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon.
Eastern Synod – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Pictured: A student at the Environmental Education Center in Beit Jala, Palestine – an educational ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Photo courtesy of the ELCJHL.



Join Us for Conversations Across the Church - February 22 at 3:00pm

2026 is a milestone in the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as we mark 40 years since the formation of our church. Join ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer as we begin our Lenten journey and reflect on this 40th anniversary milestone: where have we been, where are we today, and how is God calling us forward as we seek to be a church Living out God's grace and unconditional love for the next 40 years. To register for this online event, please ask Pastor Dorothy if you are interested.

Diaconal Sunday - February 22

Let us recognize and give thanks to God for all of those who serve as deacons in the regions of this synod and across the world. We are grateful for your ministry! Deacon Brigitte is the preacher for the Diaconal Sunday resources this year!

Deacons in the BC Synod include: Deacon Connie Landstrom (retired), Sechelt. Deacon Brigitte Mackenzie, Victoria. Deacon Keirra Maher (retired), Nanaimo. Deacon Denise Pawliuk, Kamloops. Deacon Judy Whaley (retired), Sandspit. Robin Dielissen, Diaconal candidate for ministry.

Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership:
Deacon Gretchen Peterson

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Maple Ridge - Installation of Rev. Erik Parker - Sunday, March 1st at 2:00pm. Address: 12145 Laity Street Maple Ridge, BC V2X 5A7.