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WE News of the LSS: October 16, 2025

1 message

Lower Susquehanna Synod <mroscoe@lss-elca.org>

Thu, Oct 16, 2025 at 3:22 PM

Reply-To: mroscoe@lss-elca.org

To: zionlutheranudh@gmail.com

WE ARE
Synod



THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD | October 16, 2025



Lower Susquehanna Synod Photo Of The Week
© Kellen Michalowski, Photographer



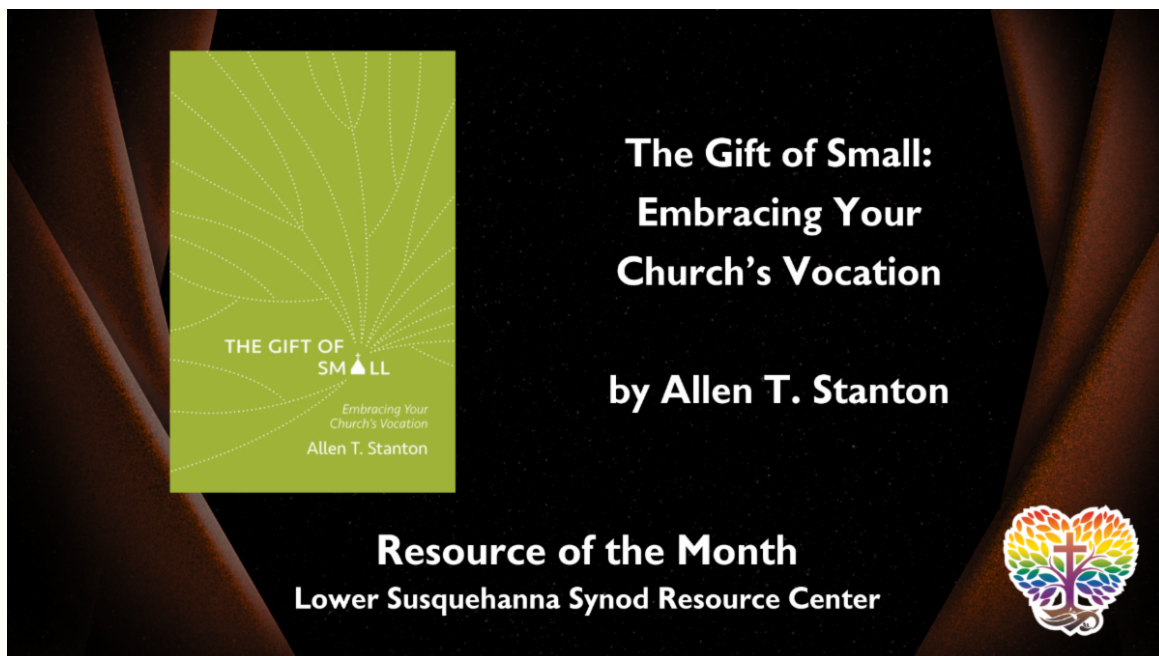
Better Together

Alive 2025 Recap

What does it mean to be *Better Together*, to be united by our common bond as beloved children of God, gathered around our Lord's table and sent into the world as one body in Christ?

Last month, middle school youth, their advisors, and peers from 38 congregations across our synod gathered at Camp Nawakwa for our annual ALIVE! event to explore that very question. Under the theme of *Beloved Community*, participants reflected on what it means to belong to one another in Christ and to live out that belonging in everyday life. Pastor Matthew Best, who served as our chaplain, helped us to recognize the presence of Christ in all our neighbors and in the ordinary encounters of daily life. We explored the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of Beloved Community and put our faith into action. Youth created quilt squares that will be joined into blankets for the Homeless Remembrance Memorial Blanket Project, a ministry born right here in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Each December 21, the longest night of the year, these handmade blankets are distributed to individuals experiencing homelessness and we remember those who have died without a place to call home.

Youth also shared in unique outdoor worship, campfires, games, and all the fun and fellowship that helps create powerful shared community at our annual events. We encountered the living Christ through the shared stories, teachings, conversations and activities we shared, reminding everyone that Jesus is present whenever we gather in community. To learn more about our annual ALIVE Middle School Event or our upcoming Winterfest High School and Young Adult Gathering in January, visit lss-elca.org/faith-formation/ministry-with-youth-young-adults. Registration for Winterfest opens soon!



Resource of the Month

Lower Susquehanna Synod Resource Center

The Gift of Small: Embracing Your Church's Vocation

by Allen T. Stanton (Fortress Press, 2024)

Most congregations are small in membership, yet the majority of church leadership resources continue to measure ministry success primarily by numerical growth. The author examines the central role of relationships in faith formation and leadership, arguing that small-membership congregations are well suited for the Church's faithful mission. The book highlights how such communities can embody vitality, intentionality, and impact.

To borrow this and other resources, please contact Marty Shifflett at mshifflett@lss-elca.org or call 717-652-1852 x115.

**LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD**

THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH. THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.

Your prayers and presence are
requested for the installation of**The Reverend Stephen R. Herr**Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

OCTOBER

25

2025

2:00 p.m.

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

30 WEST CHESTNUT ST., HANOVER, PA 17331



Bishop's Installation Updates

Join the Pick-Up Choir for the Bishop's Installation

You are invited to join the Bishop's Installation Pick-up Choir. The choir will help lead the congregation in song, lead the psalm, and share an anthem. The music will be accessible for all singers. We are excited to welcome Deacon John Weit, Executive for Worship in the ELCA Office of the Presiding Bishop, and a native of our synod, as our director. Rehearsal will be Saturday, October 25 at 11:00 a.m., St. Matthew, Hanover. Children are also welcome to take part in a small music leadership role. They will not need to attend the morning rehearsal. Please email Deacon Marsha Roscoe (mroscoe@lss-elca.org) to let us know how many will be participating (adults and/or children).

Installation of the Reverend Stephen R. Herr

October 25, 2025 | 2:00 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, [30 West Chestnut St., Hanover, PA 17331](#)

Join us in celebrating the installation of the Rev. Stephen R. Herr as Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. This joyful worship service is a time for the whole church to worship God, celebrate our unity in Christ, and pray for our synod and Bishop Herr as we begin our ministry together. ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry will preach and preside.

All are welcome to attend as we share in fellowship and celebration. For those unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed on [St. Matthew's YouTube Channel](#).



**LOWER
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Synod Assembly 2026

Call for Nominations

2026 Synod Assembly Update

We need your help to identify faithful, gifted individuals to serve in key leadership roles. Nominations are an important part of our shared ministry, as they ensure our synod's leadership reflects the diverse voices of our community. Here's where we need nominations to fill the slates:

- **Synod Council:**
 - Ordained Minister
 - Lay Woman
 - Lay Man
 - Lay Person Any Gender
- **Susquehanna University Board Member:**
 - Rostered Minister or Lay Person Any Gender

We ask you to prayerfully consider who might serve well in these roles—or perhaps this is a call for you to step forward! Please think of individuals who embody spiritual wisdom, integrity, and a passion for our shared mission. For more information or to seek nomination, please visit the website www.lss-elca.org/synod-assembly/nominations/, complete the nomination form and return to dclark@lss-elca.org as soon as possible.

ULS Kindling Faith Training Opportunities

LGBTQIA2S+/ Racial Justice/ Boundary Trainings



United Lutheran Seminary
Kindling Faith
Learning Never Ends

Kindling Faith 2026 Training Opportunities

LGBTQIA2S+/Racial Justice/Boundary Trainings

LGBTQIA2S+ Training

- February 2 & 3, online from 6:00–8:30 p.m. (one training, two nights)
- February 17, Gettysburg Campus in person, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- March 10, online from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Toward Racial Justice Training

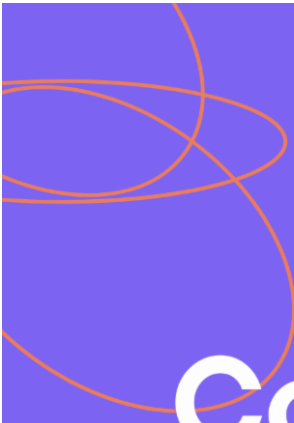
- February 9 & 10, online from 6:00–8:30 p.m. (one training, two nights)
- February 19, Gettysburg Campus in person, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- March 11, online from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Boundary Training

- February 24, Gettysburg Campus in person, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- March 2 & 3, online from 6:00–8:30 p.m. (one training, two nights)
- March 12, online from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

These trainings fulfill requirements for rostered ministers according to ELCA guidelines.

[Learn More & Register.](#)



Constitution 101

What's In, What's Out, What's Next

Constitution 101

What's In, What's Out, What's Next

Congregation councils are entrusted with guiding the life and mission of the church, and the congregation's constitution is a vital tool in that work. This training is designed to help all leaders gain a clear understanding of the purpose and role of constitutions and be equipped for faithful leadership and governance. Together we will explore:

- Why a constitution matters and how it functions in congregation life.
- What belongs in the constitution (what's required, what's optional, and what's not).
- The recent changes to the ELCA Model Constitution following the Churchwide Assembly.
- Practical steps for updating your congregation's constitution.

When: Saturday, November 8, 2025, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Where: Wentz Library, Gettysburg Campus, United Lutheran Seminary

Cost: Free

Registration: Not required. This event is for laity and rostered ministers.

Schedule for the Day

8:30 a.m. – Gathering

9:00 a.m. – Program Begins

11:30 a.m. – Presentation on Congregation Archives
with ELCA Region 8 and Seminary Archivist Victoria Jesswein

12:00 p.m. – Optional Tour of the Region 8 and Seminary Archives

This is the first in a new series of offerings for our congregations designed to strengthen and support congregation leadership.



Updates From Across the Synod

New Employment Listings

New employment listings are now available on our website!

- St. Paul's Lutheran, Spring Grove (Stoverstown), is searching for a pianist.
- St. Matthew Lutheran, Lancaster, is seeking an organist or pianist.
- Trinity Lutheran, Lemoyne, is looking for an office administrator.

To learn more about these employment opportunities and others from around our synod, or to submit a job posting, visit the [LSS Employment Listings page](#).

Attention Congregation Treasurers and Pastors

[A letter dated October 16, 2025, from Synod Treasurer Joe Stepansky, addressed to congregation treasurers and pastors](#), is now available on our website. The letter includes important information about our shared mission and financial ministry for the coming year. [The 2026 Mission Support Intent Form](#) is also available online. We invite you to access the treasurer's letter, intent form and other mission support resources [here](#).



LNP
LancasterOnline

Bishop Herr Featured in Lancaster Online

"There is more that unites us than divides us, we need to see what we can do together to show unity to the world."

Bishop Stephen Herr was recently featured in *LNP | LancasterOnline* in a story highlighting his Lancaster roots and lifelong connection to the community.

[Read More.](#)



LARC Day of Dialogue

November 5, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic Day of Dialogue

The First Council of Nicæa met in 325AD to bring peace to the Church by teaching about Christ and by establishing a common date for Easter. It was the first large-scale gathering of Christian leaders. As we celebrate the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicæa, this year's Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue will feature speakers to discuss the background of the Council, how it took the Christian faith to the culture of the time, how it addressed Christian life, and the ongoing importance of the Creed for contemporary Churches. This event is sponsored by the Lower and Upper Susquehanna Synods, the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg.

[Learn More & Register.](#)



We Pray Together

We are a synod that prays together and for one another. Be sure to visit our website prayer page each week.

[Prayer Lists.](#)

In Memoriam: The Rev. Martin J. Carlson

We recently received word of the death of the Rev. Martin J. Carlson. Ordained in 1986, Pastor Carlson died December 28, 2024, at the age of 90. While some time has passed, we share this now in thanksgiving for his faithful service within our synod while serving Trinity Lutheran Church, Arendtsville, from 1994 until his retirement in 2004.

EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, & UPDATES FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS

United Lutheran Seminary Fall Convocation Address

United Lutheran Seminary Fall Convocation Address features Freedom Rider, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, and filmmaker, Loki Mulholland, is now available online. Also available for a limited time for Lower Susquehanna and Delaware-Maryland congregations, the historical journey towards racial justice and freedom study, with all usage donations going to the Trumpauer Foundation scholarship fund for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. [Link to faith formation and small group resources can be found here.](#)

Her Freedom Rider mugshot has been called one of the most iconic in American history. By the time she was 23 years old, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland participated in over 50 sit-ins and demonstrations including the Freedom Rides, the Jackson Woolworth's Sit-in, the March on Washington, the Meredith March and the Selma to Montgomery March. Her path has crossed with some of the biggest names in the Civil Rights Movement: Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, John Lewis, Diane Nash, and Julian Bond, to name a few.

Loki Mulholland is an Emmy-winning filmmaker, author, and activist. His work has received over 40 Telly Awards and his films on race and social justice issues have won over 20 Best Documentary awards. Loki is the author of multiple books including *She Stood for Freedom* and *Get Back to the Counter*. His films have appeared on Showtime, PBS and Amazon where "The Uncomfortable Truth" has been viewed over three million times. He is the founder and Executive Director of the Joan Trumpauer Mulholland Foundation which was created to end racism through education.

[Watch.](#)

Lutheran World Relief

The LWR Fall Packet and updates on the LWR drop-off center in New Windsor, Maryland, are available now.

[Learn More.](#)

WE ARE SYNOD, the e-newsletter of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, connects and shares news and events highlighting the mission and ministry of congregations, our synod, and the ELCA. If you have an idea or a story to share, a prayer concern, or an event or job posting you'd like to advertise on our website, please submit using the our [Community Submissions Form](#).

NEW! We plan to feature photos from a variety of photographers, congregations, and ministries for the **LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD PHOTO OF THE WEEK**. Have a photo to submit? Submissions (1200 X 400) can be uploaded to our [Community Submissions Form](#). By submitting a photo, you are giving the Lower Susquehanna Synod permission to use that photo in promotional materials.

For more detailed information about what's happening around our synod, [VISIT LSS-ELCA.ORG](#).

CONNECT WITH US



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