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WE News of the LSS: August 28, 2025

1 message

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

Thu, Aug 28, 2025 at 9:49 AM

Reply-To: mroscoe@lss-elca.org

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Farewell to Bishop Dunlop

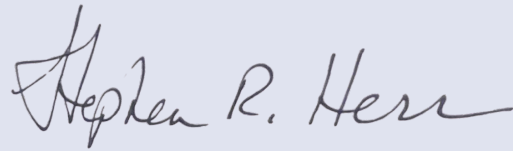
On Saturday, August 23, 2025, our synod gathered at Camp Nawakwa for a BBQ Farewell & Godspeed celebration in honor of Bishop James S. Dunlop. The afternoon included reflections, tributes, prayers of blessing, and a sending liturgy led by Bishop Kurt Kusserow. We send Bishop Dunlop and Connie into retirement with love and appreciation. You can view highlights from the day in our [photo album here](#). As we give thanks for Bishop Dunlop's faithful ministry, Bishop-elect Stephen Herr shares the following message with our synod:

Dear Siblings in Christ of the Lower Susquehanna Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

As Bishop James Dunlop's tenure as the fourth bishop of the Lower Susquehanna draws to a close, I invite you to join me in giving thanks to God for his faithful episcopal service throughout the last twelve years. For his commitment to God's Word, administering the holy sacraments, sharing the Gospel, and his emphasis on feeding the hungry and advocating for justice, we give thanks to almighty God. He leaves a legacy of faithfulness and dedication to strengthening and expanding the ministry of this synod. We also give thanks to God for his wife Connie. Their marriage and partnership have enriched the life and ministry of this synod. We also give thanks to God for their family and the many ways they supported Bishop Dunlop throughout his service. May the God of grace, mercy, and love bless Bishop Dunlop and Connie in retirement and in this next chapter of their faith journey.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. Stephen R. Herr
Bishop-Elect

Lower Susquehanna Synod Staff Transitions



Staff Transition Announcement

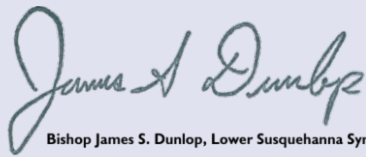
Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Carla Christopher Accepts New Call

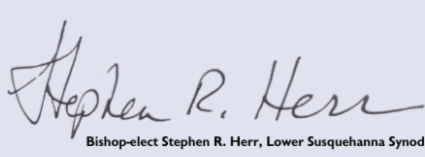
On Sunday, August 24, the people of Community Lutheran Church, Frankford, Delaware, extended a call to Pastor Carla Christopher to serve as their Lead Pastor, alongside Pastor Karis Graham, their Pastor for Outreach and Mission. Pastor Carla accepted the call and will begin serving on a three-quarter time basis October 1, 2025.

Pastor Carla's new call also allows her to continue serving as a teacher, consultant, trainer, and speaker, which is welcome news for her colleagues at United Lutheran Seminary's Kindling Faith, the Lower Susquehanna Synod, and the Delaware-Maryland Synod. This work will be coordinated through her ongoing quarter-time appointment on the Delaware-Maryland Synod staff.

Pastor Carla's time as assistant to the bishop in the Lower Susquehanna Synod has been a blessing to our shared mission, and we give thanks for her faithful, gospel-centered ministry. We rejoice with Pastor Carla and the people of Community Lutheran Church, and thank God for the many ways her gifts have, and will continue to, bless the wider church.

Yours in Christ,


Bishop James S. Dunlop, Lower Susquehanna Synod


Bishop-elect Stephen R. Herr, Lower Susquehanna Synod


Bishop William Gohl, Jr., Delaware-Maryland Synod



Bishop Eaton Sends Letter to President Trump and Congress Addressing Situation in Gaza

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has issued letter to President Donald Trump and members of Congress expressing support of “our Jewish-American and Israeli siblings who have suffered because of the October 7 attacks,” yet voicing “profound horror regarding the catastrophe in Gaza and the wider crisis in the Holy Land.”

[Read the letter.](#)



2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Recap

2025 Churchwide Assembly Recap

Review the official summary of actions taken at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, prepared by the Office of the ELCA Secretary.

[Access 2025 CWA Summary of Actions.](#)

The August 2025 ELCA Mission Support Memo provides a picture into the 2025 Churchwide Assembly where nearly 1,000 ELCA Lutherans made their way to toasty Phoenix, Arizona. Hear about what a joyous, thoughtful and busy week it was for the voting members who considered resolutions, memorials and social statements and also elected a new presiding bishop and secretary to lead our church for the next six years.

[Learn More.](#)

Lower Susquehanna Synod Year of Prayer

September Concludes LSS Year of Prayer

As September approaches, we give thanks to God for the ways the Spirit has been moving across the Lower Susquehanna Synod throughout our Year of Prayer. From weekly worship petitions to congregational discernment, this year has been a sacred invitation to pause, pray, and listen for God's voice together. Thank you to every congregation, leader, and individual who embraced this year of prayer. The spiritual roots we've nurtured will continue to grow as we move forward in faith.

[Access September Prayer Resources.](#)



BETTER TOGETHER ALIVE 2025

Registration Now Open!

Lower Susquehanna Synod Jr. High Youth Event
September 26th-28th, 2025 at Camp Nawakwa
Event Cost: \$142/Person



Register Today for ALIVE 2025
Registration Closes Soon!

There's nothing quite like a weekend of authentic community with Christian friends in the fall at Camp Nawakwa. Join us for ALIVE, our event for middle school youth and advisors, scheduled for September 26-28, 2025, at Camp Nawakwa. Youth who are entering grades 6-8 are eligible to attend with their congregation advisors. It's a great way to begin the new school year immersed in a loving community of Lutheran peers and leaders.

Registration has opened! Please consider publicizing to your Confirmation families now!

Our theme, 'Better Together,' dives into our Lutheran understanding of being part of a larger community of Christ. Drawing upon some of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s understanding of the beloved community and the value of every human being, we will explore how being united to Christ and others deepens and enriches our lives. Fun, fellowship, campfires, faith formation and inspired worship all highlight this annual fall event. We hope you will make it part of your youth group year!

[Learn More & Register.](#)



National Hispanic Heritage Month

Justice Ministries Resource Blog

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Spanish: Mes nacional de la herencia hispana) is annually celebrated from September 15 to October 15 in the United States, recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic/Latine Americans. Learn more history, and consider sharing the resources below with your congregations!

[Learn More.](#)

ULS Kindling Faith Fall Training Opportunities

LGBTQIA2S+/ Racial Justice/ Boundary Trainings



United Lutheran Seminary
Kindling Faith
Learning Never Ends

Kindling Faith Fall 2025 Training Opportunities

LGBTQIA2S+/Racial Justice/Boundary Trainings

LGBTQIA2S+ Training

- September 8 & 9, online from 6 – 8:30 p.m. (one training, two nights)
- October 7, Philadelphia Campus in person, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- November 11, online from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Toward Racial Justice Training

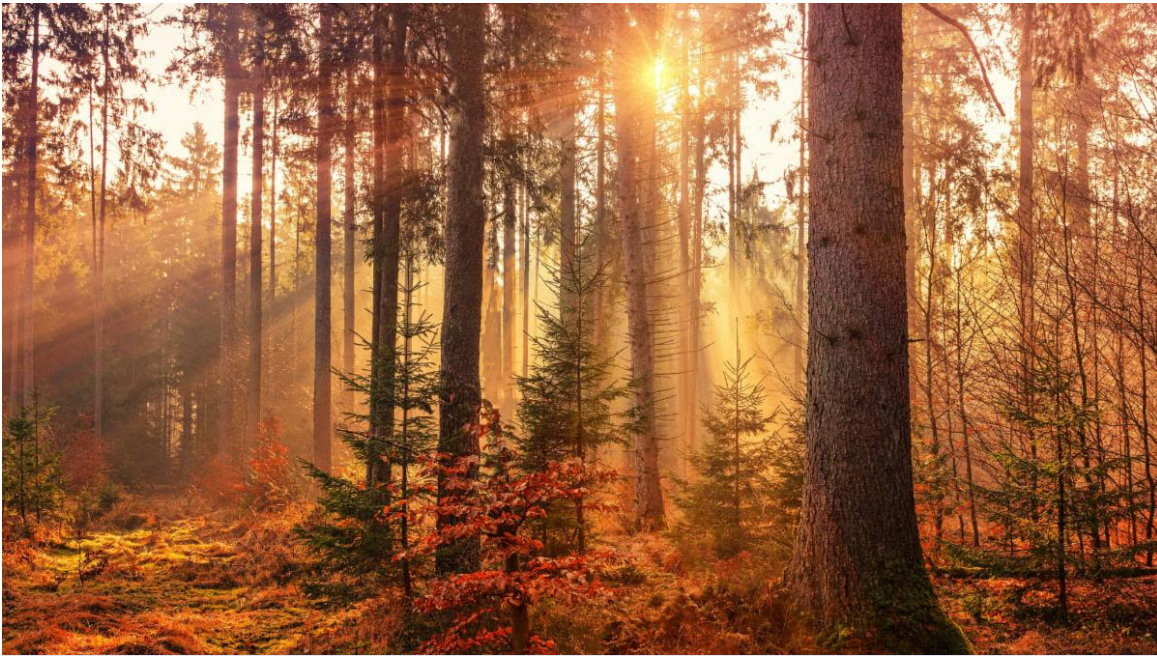
- September 15 & 16, online from 6 – 8:30 p.m. (one training, two nights)
- October 8, Philadelphia Campus in person, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- November 12, online from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Boundary Training

- September 22 & 23, online from 6 – 8:30 p.m. (one training, two nights)
- October 9, Philadelphia Campus in person, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- November 13, online from 10 – 3 p.m.

These trainings fulfill requirements for rostered leaders according to ELCA guidelines. Folks from all synods are welcome, of course!

[Learn More & Register.](#)



Fall Into Grace: Sacred Rhythms for a New Season

September 23, 2025, 7:00 p.m. ET

As the days shorten and the season shifts, we're invited to pause, reflect, and realign with God's rhythms of grace. Join Deacon Marsha Roscoe for a free 45-minute evening workshop designed to nurture both soul and schedule. Together we will explore Breath prayer for grounding in God's presence; Calendar reflection to notice what's draining or restoring; and Seasonal intention setting to guide you through autumn. By the end of our time together, you'll walk away with practical tools for shaping a simple, personalized Rule of Life and a renewed sense of grace for the season ahead.

[Register here.](#)

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

September 7, 2025: God's Work. Our Hands.

Tell Us Your Plans for “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday!

Each year, congregations across our synod and the ELCA participate in “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, which is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.” We’d love to hear how your congregation is planning to participate this year! Whether you’re organizing a community cleanup, assembling care kits, writing notes of encouragement, or partnering with a local nonprofit, **please take a few moments to fill out this form to share your plans.**

[See what others are planning and get involved here.](#)

Need inspiration or resources? **[Visit the ELCA's resource page to learn more.](#)**



Updates Across The Synod

Bishop-elect Herr Contact Information

Bishop-elect Herr now has a synod email address and phone extension. You can find his synod contact information on our **[staff page here.](#)**

2025 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly Preliminary Minutes

The minutes of the 2025 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly are now available online. We encourage you to read them and stay connected to the

ministry we share in Christ's name.

[Learn More.](#)

New Employment Listings

New employment listings are now available on our website!

- Christ Lutheran, Elizabethtown, is searching for a youth coordinator.

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

Synod Office Closure & Office Schedule

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, please note our synod office will be closed on Monday, September 1. Our office will reopen on Tuesday, September 2. Following the Labor Day holiday, the synod office will resume normal office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



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.](#)

EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, & UPDATES FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS

LAMPa Action Alert

It's Past Time for PA to Pass a Budget that Cares for the Well-Being of All!

Pennsylvania lawmakers have failed to pass a budget for FY26, and as negotiations continue to be drawn out, funds to many services and programs are at risk. Notably, a centerpiece of the negotiations are different proposals to fund public transit agencies across the state - SEPTA, PRT, and others. Public transportation is an issue that impacts rural and urban communities alike. In all 67 counties of the Commonwealth, public transportation provides critical access for our elders, youth, disabled community members, and households without access to a personal vehicle. Transit systems statewide are hitting a funding "cliff," which would devastate communities already suffering.

Take action on this and other budget issues by letting your lawmakers know people of faith want our neighbors to be able to access all the tools they need to thrive!

[Learn More.](#)

New FREE Arrangement from Lutheran Summer Music by Anne Krentz Organ

Download a new free arrangement from Lutheran Summer Music 2025 by Anne Krentz Organ: *Beach Spring* for solo instrument with keyboard accompaniment. Based on the well-known shape-note hymn tune, this versatile work is this year's installment in the LSM Hymn Tune Project and can be performed either in full or as individual movements. Listen and download for free at LSMacademy.org/lsmprint

37th Annual LS SWO Convention Minutes

The Women of the ELCA, Lower Susquehanna Synod, held their annual convention on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Middletown. The minutes to the convention can be found [here](#).

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](https://ELCA.ORG).

CONNECT WITH US



**LOWER
SUSQUEHANNA
SYNOD**

EQUIPPING LEADERS. ENCOURAGING COOPERATION. ENGAGING IN NEW MISSION.

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