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WE News of the LSS: October 30, 2025

1 message

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

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 3:50 PM

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WE ARE
Synod



THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD | October 30, 2025

**LSS Photo of the Week**



CELEBRATING REFORMATION DAY



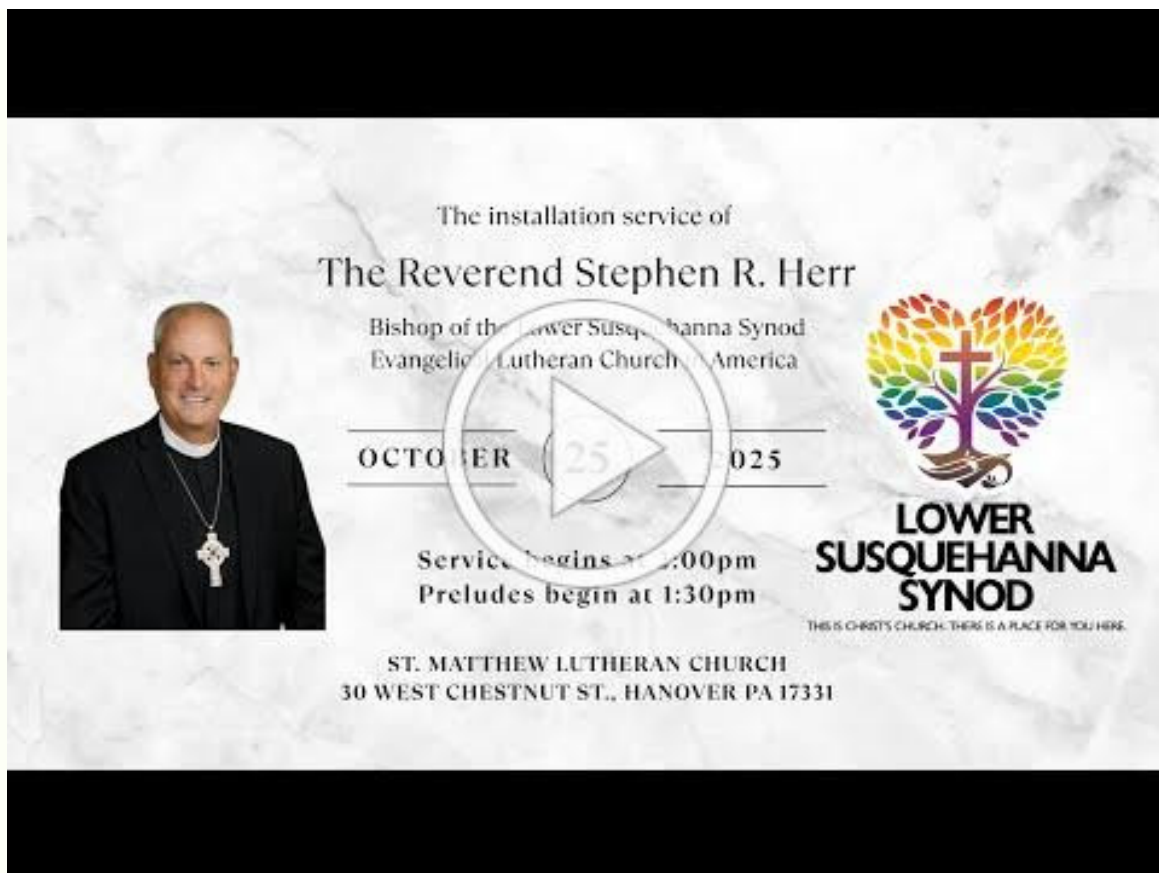
Celebrating Reformation Day

October 31, 2025

October 31 is Reformation Day, when we commemorate Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free. (Adapted from Bread for the Day, p. 415)

"For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith." (Romans 3:22-25)

"Also they teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight. Rom. 3 and 4." (Article IV: Of Justification)



The Installation of Bishop Stephen R. Herr

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, in St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover, we worshiped almighty God and celebrated the installation of Bishop Stephen R. Herr. We are deeply grateful for the presence of pastors, deacons, lay leaders, ecumenical partners and guests who gathered to celebrate this new chapter in our synod's life together. The video of the service is now available online. Thank you to all who helped plan the worship service and receptions.



Konde Diocese Delegation Visit Deepens Our Global Partnership

This October, we were excited to welcome Bishop Geoffrey Mwakihaba, the Rev. Neema Mwakihaba, Dr. Lee Mwakalinga, and the Rev. Emmanuel Mchomvu from the Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Their time among us deepened our long-standing covenant of faith and friendship between the Konde Diocese and the Lower Susquehanna Synod. From worship and fellowship to conversations about shared mission and education, the visit renewed our commitment to global partnership and mutual learning in Christ. [Learn more about their visit, see photos, and read how your congregation can get connected.](#)



November 14 Worship with Rite of Ordination

Rosalie Brunner will be ordained into the Office of Word and Sacrament Ministry during a Service of Holy Communion with the Rite of Ordination on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in Trinity Lutheran Church, [108 South Robeson Street, Robesonia, PA](#). Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process. The color for the day is red. Rosalie Brunner has been called to serve as associate pastor for Evangelical Lutheran Church of Waynesboro. If you are unable to attend, your prayers are requested for this ordinand.

Lower Susquehanna Synod 2026 Wellness Retreat

January 25-26, 2026 at The Hotel Hershey

Relax, restore, and nourish your Spirit with a retreat specifically designed to foster your spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being.



2026 Wellness Retreat

January 25–26, 2026 | The Hotel Hershey

Ministry is a sacred calling and it can also be demanding. Our annual Wellness Retreat invites rostered ministers to step away for a time of rest and reconnection with God and one another. Led by synod staff, the retreat centers on connection: deepening our relationships with God and one another, renewing our spirits, and remembering that ministry is never a solitary journey. Held at The Hotel Hershey, known for its exceptional hospitality and beautiful setting, the retreat offers both day and overnight options. Registration open now until January 5, 2026.

[Learn More & Register.](#)

Winterfest 2026 Registration Now Open

January 2-4, 2026 | The Wyndham Resort, Lancaster

Winterfest is our annual Sr. High and Young Adult Retreat for the Lower Susquehanna Synod and gathers youth in grades 9-12, college students on winter break, and their congregational advisors for a weekend immersion in Christian community focused around a central theme. Large group gatherings feature keynote speakers and live music that introduce the theme and help inspire youth and young adult attendees to think critically about how the theme intersects their daily lives. Small group conversations allow participants to go deeper and to explore the ways God may be speaking to them through the theme and the surrounding Christian community. Talk to your pastor or youth director about getting signed up today!

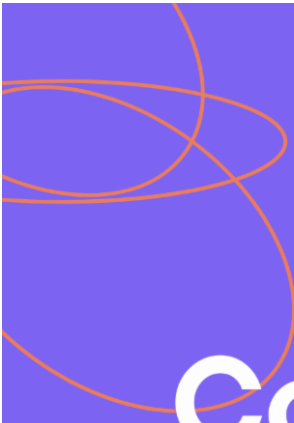
[Learn More & Register.](#)



LSS World Hunger Committee Legacy Grants

We are excited to share that the 2025 LSS World Hunger Committee has awarded 27 Legacy Grants to congregations and community partners, distributing more than \$30,000 in support of ministries in our synod and beyond. These grants honor the creative and compassionate work of many congregations and ministry partners in their efforts to feed the hungry.

[View the full list of recipients.](#)



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.



Congregation Safety Plans

Congregation Safety Plans

We are gathering information from congregations that have developed emergency or safety plans, including procedures for intruders, active threats, or other disasters. If your congregation has created such a plan or formed a safety or security team, we would love to hear from you. Your experience and insights can help us strengthen shared learning and preparedness across the synod. Please contact [Deacon Marsha Roscoe](#) to share your plan or let us know with whom on your team we might connect. Thank you!



Installation of Rostered Ministers

Installation of the Rev. Keith Fair

The Rev. Keith Fair will be installed as lead pastor of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, [839 West Market St., York, PA](#), on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. Reception to follow.

Installation of the Rev. Rose Tonkin

The Rev. Rose Tonkin will be installed as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Steelton, on behalf of St. John's and Salem Lutheran Church, Oberlin, on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in Salem Lutheran Church, 1152 Main Street, Oberlin, PA. All are invited to attend. Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red. Reception to follow.



PA Office of Homeland Security
2025 Faith-Based Pre-Holiday Virtual Workshop
Thursday, November 13, 2025
Holiday Safety for Faith Communities
Free Virtual Workshop for Faith Leaders & Members
 As the holiday season approaches, join us for a timely workshop focused on:

- ✓ Seasonal safety strategies
- ✓ Protecting your place of worship
- ✓ Supporting your congregation
- ✓ Leading with confidence and care

 **Two convenient sessions: Morning & Evening**
Cost: Free | **Format:** Virtual | **Who Should Attend:** Faith-based leaders, staff, volunteers, and concerned members
 Let's work together to ensure a safe and peaceful holiday season.

[Register](#) for the 9 AM – NOON Session
[Register](#) for the 6 PM – 9 PM Session



2025 Faith-Based Pre-Holiday Workshop

PA Office of Homeland Security Holiday Safety for Faith Communities

As the holiday season approaches, join these timely workshops focused on safety in the holiday season.

[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.](#)

EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, & UPDATES FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Don't Forget to Fall Back!

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night!

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.](#)

Nominate Students for Lutheran Summer Music

You're invited to [nominate a student](#) for LSM 2026! Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is a faith-based residential music academy for high school students (grades 8-12) who come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in musical excellence and build an intentional, supportive, and FUN community. LSM 2026 takes place at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN from June 21-July 19 (Full Session) or June 21-July 3 (Half Session). Priority Enrollment is open now through December 1. Nominate students at LSMacademy.org/nominate, and watch and share this [LSM Experience Video](#) to learn more!

October ELCA Mission Support Memo

The October 2025 Mission Support memo allows us to feel a part of St. John's Lutheran Church's Table Grace Ministries, where folks are fed in body with homemade meals and fed in spirit through fellowship and alternative worship and prayer. Check it out to learn more about how Pastor Jennifer believes "we start with worship, so we can do the second worship of being Christ in the world."

The updated "What Does My Offering Do?" poster shows how Mission Support impacts three major funding areas of the churchwide organization: "Building Christian Communities in the United States," "Growing the Global Lutheran Church," and "Strengthening and Sustaining the Ministry and Mission of the Whole Church." Our gratitude this month is in celebration for the installation of our new presiding bishop, the Rev. Yehiel Curry, and the work of the Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills beginning as the ELCA's new secretary in November. They are looking forward to making connections!

[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](https://www.lss-elca.org).

CONNECT WITH US



**LOWER
SUSQUEHANNA
SYNOD** THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH.
THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.

Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA | 1959 Market Street | Camp Hill, PA 17011 US

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