



Zion Lutheran Church Union Deposit <zionlutheranudh@gmail.com>

WE News of the LSS: May 29, 2025

1 message

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

Thu, May 29, 2025 at 3:19 PM

Reply-To: mroscoe@lss-elca.org

To: zionlutheranudh@gmail.com

WE ARE
Synod



THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD | May 29, 2025

**GEORGE FLOYD:
WE RISE. WE RESIST.
WE REMEMBER.
FIVE YEARS LATER**

Elizabeth Eaton
ELCA Presiding Bishop

**George Floyd: Five Years Later**

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

May 25, 2025 marks the fifth anniversary of the murder of George Floyd. In her message to the church honoring George Floyd, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton calls our attention to how this “horrific act revealed the deadly reality of racism in the United States for many across the world.” Eaton stresses that “racism is one of many tools of white supremacy and a sin that distorts God’s image in all of us, and it stands against the Gospel we proclaim.”



Hunger Grant Applications Open

Applications for the 2025 Synod Hunger Grants are now open! This year, our Synod Hunger Committee will distribute \$29,000 in funding to support hunger-related ministries across our synod.

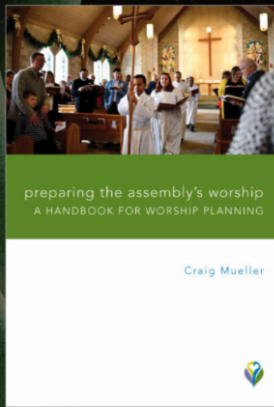
Application Deadline: Monday, August 25, 2025

Grant Awards Announced: By mid October

Funds Disbursed: Shortly after announcements of recipients

We also encourage you to apply for the 2026 ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants, which are now accepting applications as well.

[Learn More & Apply.](#)



Preparing the Assembly's Worship: A Handbook for Worship Planning

by Craig Mueller

Resource of the Month
Lower Susquehanna Synod Resource Center



Resource of the Month

Lower Susquehanna Synod Resource Center

Preparing the Assembly's Worship: A Handbook for Worship Planning by Craig Mueller (Augsburg Fortress, 2025)

This latest book in the *Worship Matters* series offers helpful guidance for preparing worship in your congregation, whether that preparation is done by a large worship committee, a small staff, or a group of volunteers. This useful handbook provides practical ideas, handy checklists, and things to consider for enriching worship as well as questions for deeper reflection.

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

Lower Susquehanna Synod
Year of Prayer

Year of Prayer Resources

June *Year of Prayer* resources are available now! Weekly prayer petitions, hymn selections, and other resources have been created to unite us within our local settings. While we have included ideas for using these resources, please feel free to adapt these resources in whatever way best suits your congregation. We hope our year of prayer meaningfully guides us into the next chapter of our ministry together.

[Lower Susquehanna Synod Year of Prayer Resources.](#)



2025 Synod Assembly Updates

Bulletin of Reports Updated

Our 2025 Synod Assembly Bulletin of Reports has been updated! You can now access a BOR Essentials file containing key highlights and critical information needed for voting, and a Complete BOR file which includes all reports in full detail.

[View 2025 Bulletin of Reports.](#)

Synod Assembly Livestream

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly will be livestreamed. The link will be available directly on [St. Matthew Lutheran Church, York's YouTube Channel](#).

Questions for the Bishop Nominees

As part of our *Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop*, two of the four questions that will be used during the *Question and Answer* period with our seven nominees on Friday morning, June 6, 2025, are to be shared in advance. The two questions are:

1. What new possibilities do you see for mission, ministry, and community life in the years ahead?
2. As bishop, how would you support, challenge, and care for deacons, pastors, and lay leaders who are often stretched thin and serving in increasingly complex ministry contexts?

We invite the voting members of our synod to reflect on these questions as part of our shared discernment. May the Holy Spirit guide us in wisdom, hope, and unity.

ACTION ALERT

WRITE TO PA
LAWMAKERS TODAY

*Urge your state
legislators to prioritize
funding for hunger
programs in the PA budget*



LAMPa Action Alert

With pending federal cuts to hunger programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a stalled negotiation on an updated Farm Bill, and continued inflation of food and housing costs, more and more Pennsylvanians are experiencing food insecurity. Pennsylvania cannot make up the entire gap of funding left by congressional budget cuts; however, we can make a significant investment in proven programs that help those in need and our Pennsylvania farmers and food system.

Most of our congregations help feed many thousands of Pennsylvanians through the direct service or support of hunger ministries. Many of our pantries rely on food made possible through two of the state's major anti-hunger programs, which are not keeping up with need. Some ministries report numbers three times pre-pandemic levels.

It is unacceptable that neighbors are going hungry in a state of such agricultural abundance. It is time to end shortfalls and adequately fund the State Food Purchase Program at a level of at least \$24.88 million in the State's 2025-2026 fiscal year budget. This needs to be IN ADDITION TO at least \$9 million for the Pa. Agricultural Surplus System, which allows

Pennsylvania farmers to direct high-quality surplus produce, that would otherwise go to waste, into the charitable food system.

Please alert your lawmakers to the need our ministries are witnessing first-hand and urge them to act. The church sees the needs of our neighbors.

[Learn More.](#)



Updates Across The Synod

New Employment Listing

- Bergstrasse Lutheran Church, Ephrata, is looking for an administrative assistant.

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

Please note that our synod office will be closed on Monday, June 9, 2025, following the 2025 Synod Assembly. We will reopen on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 8:30 a.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

Meet the Worship Faculty of LSM 2025

Join Us In Person or Virtually This Summer!

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is delighted to announce the 2025 Worship Faculty of The Eugene and Mary Sukup Church Music Program, led by Cantor Chad Fothergill (LSM 2000). These gifted and highly respected leaders will guide students and the broader LSM community through a rich tapestry of sacred music experiences during morning and evening prayer, rehearsals, concerts, and more.

Whether you can join in person or tune in from afar, they invite you to be part of this vibrant, creative community that nurtures the next generation of church musicians and breathes new life into the future of sacred music.

Learn more at LSMacademy.org.

Cancer Support Group

The Cancer Support Group will be having a guest speaker on June 9 at 6:00 p.m. A clinical dietitian from WellSpan York Cancer Center will be speaking on "Nourishing our Bodies before, during and after cancer treatment." They welcome all cancer patients, caregivers and community members. There is nothing easy about having cancer. Though the road is long, a person does not have to walk alone. If you have any questions, please call 717-659-0854. They continue to meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at Advent Lutheran Church in York.

Kindling Faith Summer Opportunities

ULS Kindling Faith has some incredible summer opportunities coming up, learn more below!

June 1, 7:00 p.m. in the chapel on the Gettysburg Campus. Meet an American Treasure (and learn about the incredible foundation she created with her son). Joan Trumpauer Mulholland was one of the original Freedom Riders from the summer of 1961 and was part of the Jackson Mississippi Woolworth counter sit-in in 1964. The event is free to the public and sponsored by the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. [Learn more here.](#)

Pride Month Events, June 17 & June 23 featuring the Bruesehoff Family, authors of *Raising Kids Beyond the Binary* and *A Kid's Book about Being Inclusive*; and Jeff Chu, author of *Does Jesus Really Love Me?: A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America*. Also, Dr. Debbie Doubrava with "Beyond Binary...SAFE Space Practices AND Play" for allies. [Register here](#) for the Bruesehoff family on the 23rd. [Register here](#) for the Chu and Doubrava events.

June 29 – July 3: Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate. A week of respite for rostered leaders with the Rev. Jim Hazelwood, author of *Everyday Spirituality: Discover a Life of Hope, Peace and Meaning*. [Register here.](#)

July 13 – 18: Theological Education with Adults. A week of learning and fellowship for lay people featuring lectures from the Rev. Dr. Allison deForest on the Gospel of John. On Gettysburg campus and online. [Register here.](#)

August 10 – 15: Summer Ministry Institute: "Sighs Too Deep for Words: Worship in Times of Lament and Hope." This week of learning is available to anyone involved in the worship life of congregations, with church musician Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and Dr. Deanna Thompson, Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at St. Olaf College. [Register 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](#).

CONNECT WITH US



EQUIPPING LEADERS. ENCOURAGING COOPERATION. ENGAGING IN NEW MISSION.

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

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