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WE News of the LSS: August 7, 2025

1 message

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

Thu, Aug 7, 2025 at 9:47 AM

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WE ARE
Synod



THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD | August 7, 2025



LSS Photo of the Week



2025 Churchwide Assembly Elections

Yehiel Curry elected presiding bishop of the ELCA

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer. During that time he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, and both rural and urban settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

"I'm what a return on your investment looks like," he said. "Perhaps I'm out there in one of you. I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

Lucille "CeCee" Mills elected secretary of the ELCA

"I do believe it's a new season for our church," Mills said. "I do believe that the reason why I, an African American woman, [can stand] before you with no degrees in a church that loves to have people who are educated, is because you saw the gifts and potential in me. I celebrate with you that we listen to God's call and that we will become God's beloved community."

The elections took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly held July 28–August 2 at the Phoenix Convention Center, Arizona.

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.**

A BBQ SEND-OFF FOR BISHOP DUNLOP

Saturday, August 23, 2025
Camp Nawakwa

Registration Open Now!



Join Us for a Retirement BBQ

Saturday, August 23, 2025 at Camp Nawakwa

You are invited to a Retirement BBQ on Saturday, August 23, 2025, at Camp Nawakwa, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will be a joyful gathering with laughter, stories, good food, and shared gratitude for Bishop Dunlop's faithful service.

Registration closes August 8, 2025, so please register now!

[Learn More & Register.](#)



**Better Together
Alive 2025**

Lower Susquehanna Synod Jr. High Youth Event
September 26th-28th, 2025 at Camp Nawakwa

Alive
Lutheran Community for Middle Schoolers

Learn More & Register Now!

The poster features a green background with a large heart shape on the right containing a photo of youth with their hands raised. A circular play button icon is overlaid on the heart, and a QR code is positioned to its left. The text is in a mix of bold sans-serif and decorative script fonts.

Register Today for ALIVE 2025

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.](#)



Season of Creation 2025

Resources Available Now

The Season of Creation, which runs from September 1 to October 4, is an annual celebration of prayer and action for creation that Christians on six continents have commemorated for years, including the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation. This year's theme is "A Home for All: Renewing the oikos of God." The 2025 Celebration Guide is available at seasonofcreation.org.

[Read Resource Blog.](#)

PORTICO®

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

Upcoming Events from Portico Benefit Services

WEBINAR FOR SPONSORED PLAN MEMBERS:**Wednesday, August 20, 10:00 a.m.**

If you are sponsored in the Portico Benefits plan, this webinar is for you. We will review the Portico bundle of benefits, the upcoming changes to the traditional health plan for 2026, and provide timely updates regarding annual enrollment. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

[Register in advance for this meeting.](#)

WEBINAR FOR SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:**Monday, August 25, 6:30 p.m.**

If you make decisions regarding benefit selections in your organization, this webinar is for you. We will review the upcoming changes to the Portico traditional health plan for 2026 and share other information that will be helpful as you prepare for annual enrollment. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

[Register in advance for this meeting.](#)

IN-PERSON EVENT FOR SPONSORED PLAN MEMBERS:**Wednesday, August 27, 1:30 p.m.**

Our Portico representative will be on site here in the Lower Susquehanna Synod on Wednesday, August 27, at 1:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church, 2000 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill. This in-person session is especially important for those sponsored in the Portico Benefits plan. The presentation will cover an overview of the Portico bundle of benefits, highlight upcoming changes to the traditional health plan for 2026, and share timely updates about annual enrollment.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#) by Thursday, August 21, 2025.

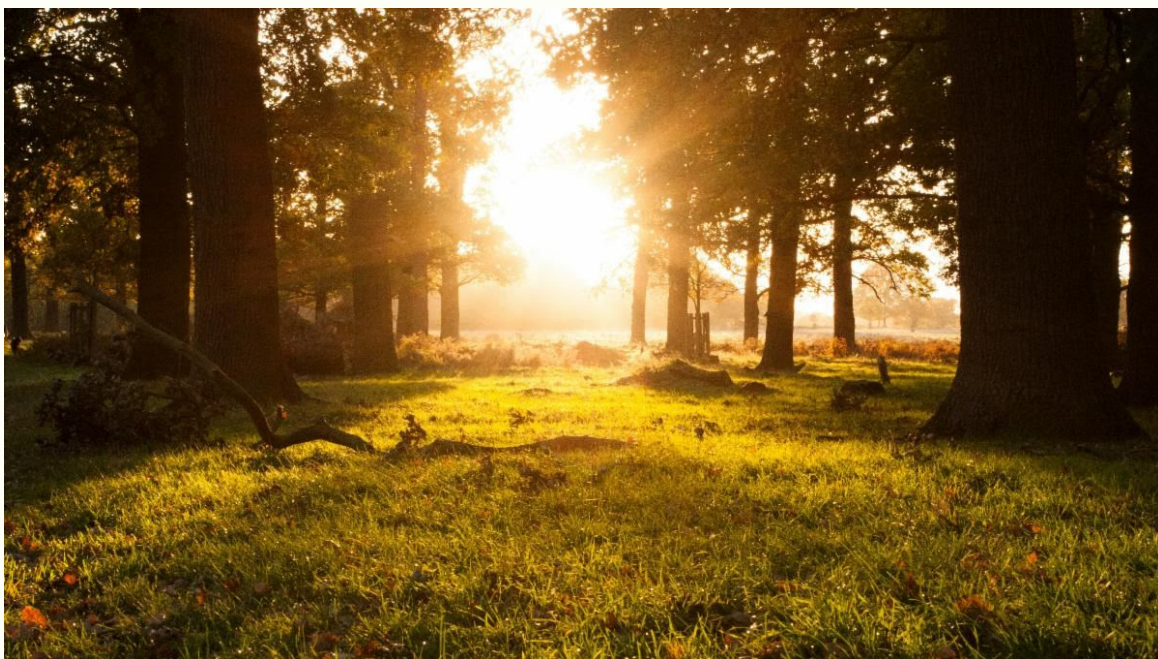
All events will be led by our Portico Regional Representative, Pastor Tara Lynn.



Wittel Farm Food Ministry Featured on WGAL8

The Wittel Farm Growing Project, a ministry of the Lutheran Camping Corporation, grows thousands of pounds of produce for those in need. This ministry was highlighted in a story on WGAL8 this past week, [read the story here](#).

[Learn More & Support The Wittel Farm Growing Project.](#)



From Exhaustion to Energy

A Free 5-Day Challenge From Breathing In Christ

Feel like you're running on empty, just getting through the day? You don't have to live in survival mode. Join Deacon Marsha Roscoe for a free 5-day

challenge, From Exhaustion to Energy, where we'll take small, Christ-centered steps to restore your energy and renew your faith.

Dates: August 25–29, 2025

Where: Online (join from anywhere!)

Cost: Completely FREE

[Learn more and sign up here.](#)



Updates Across The Synod

Hunger Grants Available from our Synod and ELCA

Grant funding is available from both the Lower Susquehanna Synod and the ELCA to support your hunger ministries. Please see below for funding opportunities. These applications are due Monday, August 25, 2025. Grant awards will be announced no later than mid October and disbursements will follow.

[Learn More & Apply.](#)

New Employment Listings

- Trinity Lutheran Church, Lemoyne, is searching for a director of music/organist.

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](#).



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 Events

Join a Network for Updates During this August Recess

Overwhelmed by the news? See new bills passing and executive orders issued and want to know what they mean for your ministries and our neighbors? Want to know how you can take action? Join one of LAMPa's Issue Networks for an August Recess Update Zoom call with policy experts! Connect with other advocates passionate about the issues and people you care about and find out how we can be church together for the sake of the world God loves.

Hunger And Creation Care Call: Wednesday, August 13 at 12 p.m.

Speakers: Andrew Fuller, ELCA Advocacy Program Director for Economic Policy, and Christine Moffett, ELCA Advocacy Program Director for Environmental and Energy Policy. Hear updates on the Farm Bill, which shapes hunger and environmental policy.

[Register for the call here.](#)

In God's Image Network Call: Wednesday, August 20 at 12 p.m.

Speakers: Antoine Cummins, ELCA Advocacy Program Director for Civil Rights Policy, and Jason Landau Goodman, Pennsylvania Youth Congress

(PYC). Hear updates on DEI restrictions and state-level advocacy efforts to protect LGBTQ+ healthcare.

[Register for the call here.](#)

Immigration Network Call: THURSDAY, August 21 at 12 p.m.

Speakers: Kate Parsons, ELCA Advocacy Migration Policy Advisor, and Julio Rodriguez, Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition (PIC) Political Director. Hear updates about immigration enforcement, deportation, and detention policies, and state-level efforts to protect our immigrant neighbors.

[Register for the call here.](#)

Join the [Hunger Network Facebook Group](#).

Join the [Creation Care Facebook Group](#).

Join the [In God's Image Network Facebook Group](#) (includes updates on immigration policy and actions).

Time is Running Out to Register for a Feast of Abundance Grant!

The Stewardship of Life Institute is giving away \$100,000 in \$1,000 grants for ELCA congregations to throw a Feast of Abundance for their church neighborhoods!

Project Details

Any ELCA congregation can use the link to do the following:

- Enter a drawing to win a \$1,000 grant;
- Donate \$1,000 to increase number of grants; or
- Announce plans to self-fund a Feast of Abundance neighborhood gathering.

Drawing will take place live on YouTube (link will be sent) August 18, at 2:00 p.m. ET

[Learn More & Register to Receive Your Grant Today.](#)

Trauma-Informed Outreach and Ministry Event August 25, 2025

There's no shortage of pain in the pews. People are tired, isolated, grieving, skeptical or simply done. And if we want to be effective evangelists in this generation, we need to shift our mindset from programs to presence, from pressure to pastoral care. That's why the ELCA Evangelism Network is hosting a vital conversation on Monday, August 25 at 3:00 p.m. ET: "Trauma-Informed Outreach and Ministry: Pathways to Healing Engagement for the Hurt, Burnt-Out, or Checked-Out."

Led by the Rev. Carla Christopher, this session will walk us through what it means to be a trauma-informed congregation; how we can be safe,

compassionate, and healing spaces for those carrying invisible wounds. This is essential work for anyone doing outreach, preaching, caregiving, or leadership in today's post-pandemic, high-anxiety, emotionally complex world. You'll learn:

- How trauma shows up in spiritual life and church participation
- Ways to engage without re-triggering or overwhelming
- Models of ministry that center restoration, not recruitment

Zoom Details:

Meeting ID: 818 8446 7818

Passcode: 331005

Please join us, and reach out to your synod staff if we can be of support in your journey to be a more trauma-informed congregation. We have multiple staff members with specialized training to accompany you and provide you with resources.

St. Mark's Nursery School Enrollment Open Now

Enroll Now for 2025-2026 School Year

St. Mark's Nursery School, located at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, is open for enrollment! There are 2, 3, and 4/5 year-old classes available for play-focused, Christian-based, social-emotional learning.

[Learn More.](#)

Gathering at the Gate

"Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate." – Amos 5:15

September 16 at 1:00 p.m. - September 17 at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, [4900 Connecticut Ave NW Washington, DC 20008](#)

Wednesday Location: Lutheran Church of the Reformation, [212 East Capitol St NE Washington, DC 20003](#)

Why We Gather

We are Lutheran Christians—rostered and lay—gathering in a time of growing injustice against refugees, immigrants, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, those experiencing poverty, and many pushed to the margins and harmed by unjust systems. We are compelled by our faith to proclaim good news and act with courage. Rooted in Amos' call to justice, we gather not only to pray, but to build relational power and pursue sustained change.

This is more than a two-day event in our hearts and minds. It's a faithful step into a sustained movement over multiple years—deepening relationships, naming what is broken, and discerning a shared call to action.

[Learn More & Register.](#)

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.

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