



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

WE News of the LSS: November 13, 2025

1 message

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

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Reply-To: mroscoe@lss-elca.org

To: zionlutheranudh@gmail.com



THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD | November 13, 2025



Retired Rostered Ministers Luncheon
Lower Susquehanna Synod Photo Of The Week
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Healing Justice: Love in Action

Lower Susquehanna Synod Generosity Appeal

Everywhere Jesus went, He brought healing and restoration. Through the Lower Susquehanna Synod Healing Justice Fund, we join Christ's work of repentance, reconciliation, and new life - supporting diverse leaders, expanding accessibility, and creating spaces of grace and inclusion. Every gift plants a seed of hope and healing. Together, we are growing into the Church God dreams of: beautifully diverse, deeply compassionate, and guided by the Spirit toward new life.

Learn More & Give.

This #GivingTuesday, Plant a Seed of Healing and Hope

On Tuesday, December 2, we celebrate **#GivingTuesday**, a day dedicated to doing good, giving generously, and joining together to make a difference. As followers of Jesus, we know that generosity is more than a single act; it's a way of life rooted in God's abundant grace. Every gift we give reflects Christ's healing love in the world. This year, we invite you to take part in GivingTuesday by supporting our Healing Justice Fund. Through your generosity, the Healing Justice Fund supports:

- Scholarships for emerging leaders from marginalized communities.
- Congregations expanding accessibility for all.
- Spaces for dialogue, reconciliation, and healing across our synod.

Let's make this #GivingTuesday a day of grace in action.

Learn More & Give.

End-of-Year Giving Reminder

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our shared ministry! As the end of the calendar year is approaching, please note that all contributions intended for 2025 tax-year credit need to be received by the synod office at [1959 Market Street, Camp Hill](#), no later than Tuesday, December 30, 2025. Your generosity helps sustain vital ministries across the Lower Susquehanna Synod and beyond. Together, we continue to share Christ's love, serve our neighbors, and strengthen the Church for God's mission in the world.



Memorial Blanket Project Returns

December 21, 2025

On the longest night of the year, December 21, communities across the country pause to remember those who have died while experiencing homelessness. What began in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 2021 as the Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project has become a growing movement of compassion.

Hundreds of handmade blankets and quilts, each one stitched with prayer and love, will once again cover the ground, this year, outside the Denver City and County Building in Denver, Colorado. After the vigil, every blanket will be given to someone in need of shelter through the cold winter nights. The Lower Susquehanna Synod is once again a sponsor of this national initiative. You and/or your congregation can take part by:

- Hand crafting blankets.
- Making a donation.
- Offering prayers for those without homes and for those working to end homelessness.

Learn more & Get Involved.

When You See Need, Share Hope: Remember 211

As winter approaches, many neighbors in our communities are struggling with housing insecurity, hunger, and mental health concerns. If someone you meet is in need of shelter, food, or crisis assistance, remind them of 211: a free, confidential resource that connects people to essential services 24 hours a day. A simple call to 211 can offer what we all long for: help, hope, and the reminder that no one is forgotten.

[Learn More.](#)



Register Now For Winterfest 2026

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

There's nothing quite like a weekend of authentic community with Christian friends to kick-off the new year! Join us for WINTERFEST, our event for high-school youth, young adults and advisors, scheduled for January 2-4, 2026, at the Wyndham Resort, Lancaster. Youth in grades 9-12, and young adults 18-24, are eligible to attend with their congregation advisors. It's a great way to begin the new year immersed in a loving community of Lutheran peers and leaders.

We are thrilled to announce that we are offering a food packing service event on Saturday afternoon following lunch. Our goal is to pack 30,000 meals for neighbors dealing with the realities of food insecurity. All

participants are encouraged to participate in this event so that we might reach this ambitious goal!

[Learn More & Register.](#)

Advent 2025 Justice Resource Blog



Advent 2025 Justice Uplifting Resources

These uplifting justice resources have been curated for use in your ministry's Advent 2025 events and activities.

[Learn More.](#)



From Hurry to Holy
A Pre-Advent Retreat to
Prepare for an Unhurried Advent

From Hurry to Holy
A Pre-Advent Retreat to Prepare for an Unhurried Advent

November 22, 9:30 a.m. - Noon

This 2.5-hour online pre-Advent retreat is designed to create sacred space for you to pause, breathe, and prepare your heart for the season ahead. Together, we will slow down and reflect on what may be weighing on your spirit, gently release the pressures that often come with this time of year, and embrace stillness as we wait for the hope of Advent. Through guided reflection and prayer, we will reimagine what time with God can look like in the rhythm of daily life, practice simple breathwork to quiet the mind and open the heart, and explore weekly practices that will help you stay grounded in hope throughout the Advent season.

[Learn More & Register.](#)

**Updates From Across the Synod****Come Meet Your Synod Staff!**

You're invited to join us on Wednesday, December 3, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in Messiah Lutheran Church, 901 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg, for a time of connection with our Lower Susquehanna Synod staff. Everyone is welcome to stop by, meet the team, and learn more about how we aspire to serve and support your ministry. At noon, all are invited to participate in Messiah's Wednesday worship service, followed by a light lunch. No RSVP is needed unless you plan to stay for lunch. If so, please RSVP to mshifflett@lss-elca.org. We look forward to being with you and celebrating the many ways we are on the way together in Christ's mission.

Planning for Mission Support in 2026

As your congregation prepares and approves budgets and ministry plans for the coming calendar year, we invite you to prayerfully consider your Mission Support commitment for 2026. Mission Support is how we, together, live out

our shared calling as the Body of Christ: strengthening congregations, nurturing leaders, supporting new ministries, and accompanying global and local partners in God's mission. Every gift makes a difference in sharing the gospel and serving our neighbors near and far. Congregations are encouraged to complete their Mission Support Plan and submit it using the 2026 fillable form.

[Learn More.](#)

New Employment Listings

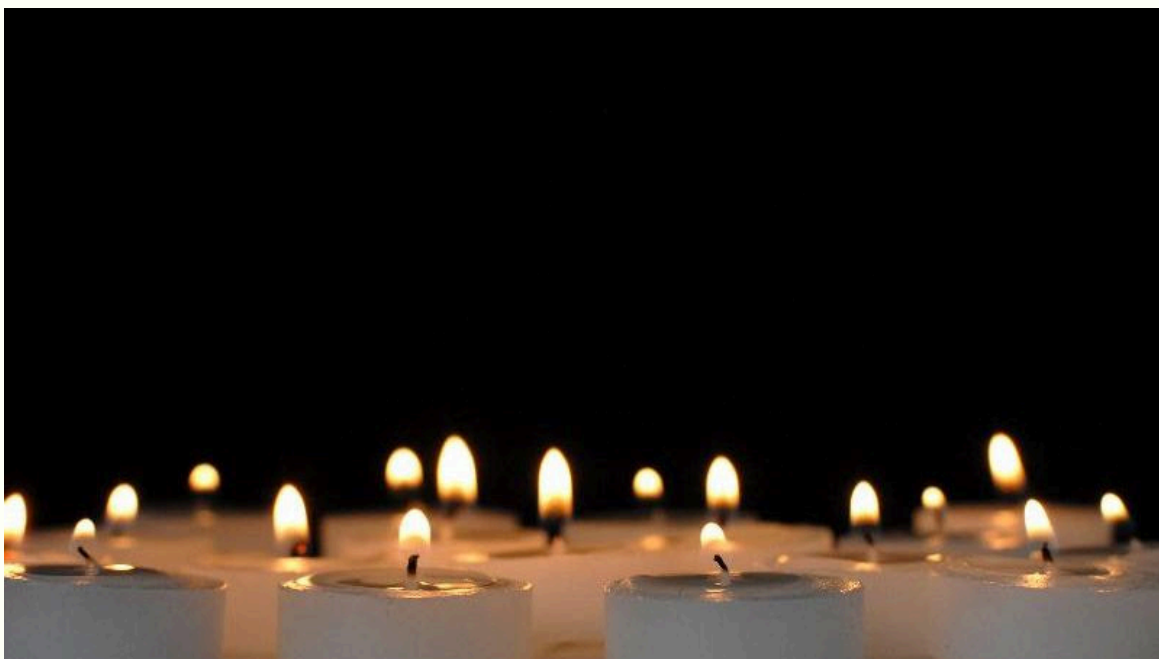
New employment listings are now available on our website!

- The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lancaster, is seeking a cantor.
- Trinity Lutheran Church, 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](#).

Synod Office Closure

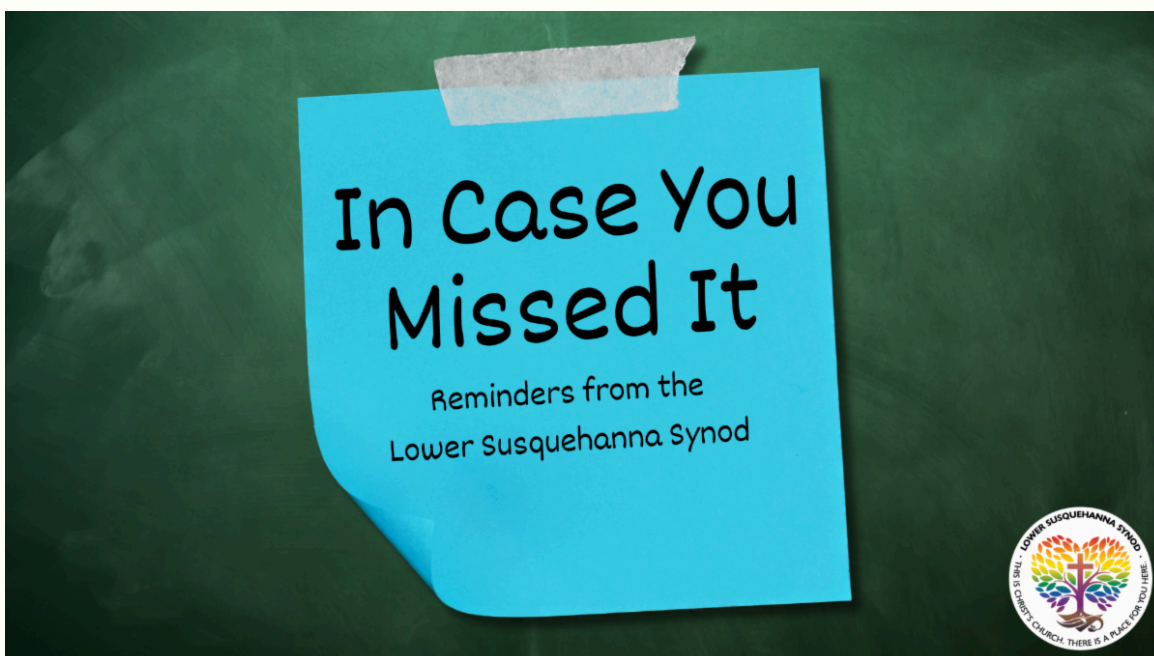
Please note that our synod office will be closed for the holiday from Monday, November 24, through Friday, November 28. The office will reopen on Monday, December 1. Throughout the week, staff will be working remotely or using vacation time, and a staff member will be on call. In the case of an emergency, please contact our office at 717-652-1852. We pray that you have a blessed and restful Thanksgiving!



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 Case You Missed It

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, Robeson, Pennsylvania](#). 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.

2026 Wellness Retreat Now Open 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.](#)

Honoring Our Retired Rostered Ministers

On Monday, November 10, 2025, we gathered with gratitude and joy for the Retired Rostered Ministers Luncheon in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Middletown. During the celebration, retired rostered ministers marking

ordination anniversaries were invited to offer words of wisdom for those new to ministry or still serving. Their reflections reminded us that ministry is a lifelong journey of grace, humility, and trust in God's call. They spoke of the importance of listening deeply, caring for one's own spirit, and remembering that the heart of ministry is always love: love for God, for the people we serve, and for the world Christ came to redeem. Together, we celebrated an extraordinary milestone: 1,522 combined years of ministry service to Christ's Church! We give thanks to God for the faith, witness, and continued presence of these leaders whose ministries continue to bless and inspire.

EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, & UPDATES FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS

West Shore Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 23, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Please mark your calendar for this year's West Shore Interfaith Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 23, at 6:00 p.m. in Trindle Spring Lutheran Church, 14 State Road, Mechanicsburg. This gathering will be a time to learn more about the three Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Islam, Christianity) and offer reflections of gratitude through spoken word and music. A time of fellowship will follow the service. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food donation for New Hope Ministries.

[Learn More.](#)

Prophets, Saints and Kings

Resisting Christian Nationalism and Building the Beloved Community with King and Bonhoeffer

On Saturday, January 17, 2026, join LAMPa, ULS Kindling Faith, and Gettysburg College Department of Public Policy for a day with internationally renowned Bonhoeffer scholars, Dr. Stephen Haynes and Dr. Reggie Williams. On MLK weekend, learn about the intersecting legacies and lessons of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Luther King, Jr., while deepening your understanding of how people of faith can confront and resist the growing forces of authoritarianism and Christian nationalism in our own time.

[Register for in-person attendance here.](#)
[Register for the livestream here.](#)

Nawakwa Work Retreat

January 16-19, 2026

Come together as God's community to serve one another and the surrounding community of Nawakwa for a weekend of service! We will be serving camp and local organizations. Working could include making

blankets, packing care kits, and cleaning camp facilities. There will also be games, a winter hike and worship. This retreat is for adults, families, youth, and even youth groups! Put your faith into action this weekend through service work with Nawakwa.

Check-in for the retreat on Friday, January 16, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The retreat will conclude on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. The registration fee of \$210 per person includes all meals on Saturday and Sunday, as well as Monday brunch.

[Learn More & Register.](#)

Equipping Pastoral Leaders

Faithful Ministry with People of All Abilities | ULS Kindling Faith

All too often, persons who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are marginalized by the church and the world. This online course, by bringing in subject matter experts, will offer both a holistic overview and practical ministry tools to support those with IDD and their guardians and families. CEU certificate available. An online seminar with Mosaic, Mondays in the afternoon or Thursdays in the evening.

[Learn More & Register.](#)

Certificate in Faith-rooted Community Organizing for Climate Justice

The Center for Climate Justice and Faith at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) is accepting applications to two of their certificate programs: the Certificate in Faith-rooted Community Organizing for Climate Justice and the Spanish-language Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith. Since 2021, the Center for Climate Justice and Faith at PLTS has equipped 293 students from 36 countries with the skills, spiritual-grounding, and community of support needed to be effective advocates for climate justice. Learn more about the center and subscribe to the newsletter here: www.centerforclimatejusticeandfaith.org.

The Certificate in Faith-rooted Community Organizing for Climate Justice equips teams of 3-6 people from faith-based organizations to engage their broader community in designing and implementing a climate justice project. This nine-month program is 100% online and follows a three-week cycle of full group workshops, team coaching, and implementation. By the end of the course, teams will have designed and conducted community listening campaigns to develop a project that helps their larger community address the climate crisis in ways that further economic, racial, and gender justice.

The program costs \$1,000 per team of 3-6 individuals. Graduates earn 6 Continuing Professional Education credits through PLTS. Applications are

due December 15, 2025.

[Learn More & Apply.](#)

Spiritual Direction Sessions

Provided by the Rev. Dr. Karen Minnich-Sadler

Spiritual Direction is conversation designed to help others grow spiritually. It is not pastoral counseling or therapy. It is a safe place to discuss questions about life and faith. The Spiritual Director is trained to ask questions and even more importantly, to listen, so that people can discover insights already existing in their heart and spirit. Working together, we create space for the Spirit to call forth new ways of understanding how God is present in our lives.

[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



**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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