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WE News of the LSS: July 17, 2025

1 message

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

Thu, Jul 17, 2025 at 11:10 AM

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WE ARE
Synod



THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD | July 17, 2025



Lower Susquehanna Synod Photo Of The Week
© Kellen Michalowski, Photographer

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.**

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



**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 graphic features a large play button icon over a QR code, which is positioned over a photograph of a group of youth at Camp Nawakwa. The background is green with white leaf patterns.

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.](#)



2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly meets under the theme “For the Life of the World”

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will gather for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, July 28 - August 2 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz. Meeting under the theme “For the Life of the World,” the assembly will participate in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They will also spend time in worship and engage in various ways of theological reflection. Two key action items at the assembly are election of the ELCA’s presiding bishop and secretary. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, the first female presiding bishop of the ELCA, was elected in 2013 and reelected to a second term in 2019. She will retire at the end of her current term. Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, elected secretary in 2019, will retire at the end of her current term. Live video of the plenary sessions will be accessible at [elca.org/CWA](https://www.elca.org/CWA).

[Learn More.](#)



Together by Grace: Bible Conversations

Augsburg Fortress, 2025

Resource of the Month
Lower Susquehanna Synod Resource Center



Resource of the Month

Lower Susquehanna Synod Resource Center

Together by Grace: Bible Conversations (Augsburg Fortress, 2025)

Gather together, dwell in the stories of the Bible, and engage with the text and one another. With guided conversations and open-ended questions, everyone is invited to share thoughts and experiences in these roundtable discussions that approach biblical stories honestly, wrestle with tough questions, and build community. Each session can be led by anyone, regardless of their level of biblical knowledge. Each unit is eight sessions and study materials include facilitator and participant guides.

Currently published are studies for Matthew and Romans. To borrow these and other resources, please contact Marty Shifflett at mshifflett@lss-elca.org or call 717-652-1852 x115.



August 16 Worship with Rite of Ordination

Rose Tonkin will be ordained into the Office of Word and Sacrament Ministry during a Service of Holy Communion with the Rite of Ordination on Saturday, August 16, at 4:00 p.m. in St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, [121 N. Spring St, Middletown, PA 17057](#). Rostered Ministers are invited to vest and process. The color for the day is red. Rose Tonkin has been called to serve as pastor of St. John, Steelton, on behalf of St. John's and Salem, Oberlin. If you are unable to attend, your prayers are requested for this ordinand.

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

We want to make sure you mark your calendars for a special event in celebration of Bishop Dunlop's ministry. **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.

[Learn More & Register.](#)



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.](#)

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



Updates Across The Synod

Year of Prayer Resources

August 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.](#)

New Employment Listings

- Friedens Lutheran, Myerstown, is searching for a praise band music leader.

- Christ Lutheran, Elizabethtown, is seeking a facilities assistant. 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](#).

2026 Salary Development Worksheets Available

2026 Salary Development Worksheets for Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service are available to download now.

[Learn More.](#)

EMAIL SCAM WARNING



ELCA IT Announcement Scam Warning

It has been reported that some individuals are receiving an email looking like it came from the ELCA asking for updated email information. The email is shown above.

The ELCA has reported this as fraud to several independent agencies as well as the sending email domain. If you receive any reports of this email being received, please advise NOT to click on any links or open any attachments. They should report as Spam to their email service provider and permanently delete the email.

ACTION ALERT

**Write to Governor
Shapiro TODAY**

*Tell Him You Stand
with Immigrants and
Pennsylvania Should Too*



LAMPa Action Alert

Tell Governor Shapiro to Stand with Our Immigrant Neighbors

Lutherans stand for a "generous policy of welcome for immigrants and refugees." Current federal enforcement policies feed on fear and violence while tearing apart families and communities. People of faith need to stand up and stand with our immigrant neighbors. Call on Gov. Shapiro to use his power and voice to stop state-level collaboration with ICE to keep our communities safe.

[Learn More.](#)



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

Neurodiverse Inclusion Seminar

July 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Led by the Neurodiverse Network, this seminar draws on the lived experiences of neurodivergent individuals to provide meaningful insights, practical tools, and simple, actionable steps for extending Christ-like hospitality to all. Together, we'll explore how to recognize and remove unintentional barriers so that our community can more fully embody the radical, inclusive welcome of Jesus. Spots are limited!

When: July 30, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Tree of Life Lutheran Church, [1492 Linglestown Rd., Harrisburg, PA 17110](#)

[Register today.](#)

Here I Pod ELCA Advocacy

ELCA Advocacy Resource Alert

Resource alert from ELCA Advocacy, "Here I Pod", the fresh and engaging issue-based podcast featuring authentic and personal stories from across the church. Wonderful for faith formation, social media sharing, summer engagement, or small group use!

Season 1's 10 episodes

Ep1: Housing and Homelessness Trends and Policy Impacts

Ep2: Climate Care and Policy Trends

Ep3: Connecting Faith-Based Advocates and Lawmakers (Plus: Resources to Address Christian Nationalism)

Ep4: Foreign Assistance Funding Freeze Effects and Actions

Ep5: Migration Policy Changes and Their Impacts

Ep6: Higher Education and Schools in Today's Policy Climate

Ep7: People & Budget Choices - Perspective from Lutheran Services in America

Ep8: MMIW Awareness & Indigenous Ministries of the ELCA

Ep9: Middle East & North Africa Advocacy through Accompaniment

Ep10: Faith Leadership in Complex Times

[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



EQUIPPING LEADERS. ENCOURAGING COOPERATION. ENGAGING IN NEW MISSION.

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