



Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 29

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, June 30

Tuesday, July 1

Wednesday, July 2

Thursday, July 3

7:30 pm NA

Friday, July 4

OFFICE CLOSED



Saturday, July 5



The Church office will be closed July 4th to celebrate the holiday.

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THE 38TH SYNOD ASSEMBLY

of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Camp Mount Luther, Mifflinburg, Pa 17844

June 13-14, 2025



“Living into the Good News”

Based on *Ephesians 4:1-6*

The Assembly began Friday morning, with workshops. There were 6 workshops, which focused on the many ways the Good News of Jesus can be spread. These included: ways to tell our own stories; tools for improving preaching and listening, for both lay and rostered; ways the congregation can work together; ways of stewardship for the future; and ways to reach the youth.

The bible study leaders re Rev. Norma Malfatti, Church wide Rep, and Sue Ellen Spots, Director of Evangelical Mission. Their bible study was based on the Assembly theme, “Living into the Good News”, Ephesians 4:1-6. Their focus was on ways to live into Jesus, even when times and situations, make it difficult.

The Assembly conducted the business of the synod.

Rev. Lisa Barnes was elected Synod Secretary, for a term of 3 years. Election was also held for the Synod Council, Consultation Committee, and Committee of Discipline.

The Assembly adopted a resolution to begin conversations, about the realignment of Synods. This would occur due to changes in membership and finances.

The Rev. Chad Hebrink, Synod Treasurer, presented the report for the fiscal year ending, January 31, 2025. Mission support from congregations was 94.31% of the amended budget amount. This was a decrease, from the previous year. Total revenue was 93.4% of the budgeted amount. Total expenses were 99.79% of the budgeted amount. One of the biggest challenges is the expectation, that the Synod will continue, to provide the same level of services and support each year, with declining income.

The Assembly approved the budget for the fiscal year ending, January 31, 2027. This is a balanced budget. It does not reflect a projected decrease of \$15,000, in contributions from congregations. It also anticipates the need to transfer money, from reserves, to cover deficit increases.

The Assembly also approved the 2026 salary and housing benefit guidelines. This reflects a 4% increase.

(continued on inside)

June 29, 2025

Service Assistants

Ushers: Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner
Lay Assistant: Carola Storrs; **Communion Assistant:** Candy Watkins
Acolyte: Brennen Hess; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower
Greeters/Presenters: Pam Eveleth, Carol Hessert; **Cantor:** Bob Schweppenheiser
Flower Delivery: Paul Weaver



Sunday, June 22, 2025: Attendance: *In Church: 82; Online: 7*; Offering: **\$2,458.99**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Gary and Gladys Hilling's 63rd wedding anniversary on June 30th with love by their children.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William and Charlotte Winter on the anniversary of their wedding in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd on June 29, 1944. Given by their daughters, Carol and Marilyn Winter.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, June 29: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; John 21:15-19

Monday, June 30: Psalm 140; Genesis 24:34-41, 50-67; 1 John 2:7-11

Tuesday, July 1: Psalm 140; Jeremiah 3:15-18; Ephesians 5:6-20

Wednesday, July 2: Psalm 140; Jeremiah 23:16-22; Matthew 10:16-25

Thursday, July 3: Psalm 66:1-9; 2 Kings 21:1-15; Romans 7:14-25

Friday, July 4: Psalm 66:1-9; Jeremiah 51:47-58; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Saturday, July 5: Psalm 66:1-9; Zechariah 14:10-21; Luke 9:1-6



Pastoral Care Number: Please call (570) 326-9171. (Available 24 hours a day) During work hours the office staff will assist you. After hours, please press "3" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.

Reminder: Articles for the Messenger and Bulletin are due in the office by Monday at noon.



School Kits Update: While we do not have an official final count for the backpacks as of yet, we can tell you that a significantly higher number were sewn this year than last year! Our ladies have been working hard and now the Bible School kids will have their work cut out for them stringing the cord through the casing this week.

We will kick off our collection on July 6 beginning with a temple talk, at which time we hope to have an official count. Back by popular demand – we will also be holding another “knotty” party to tie the knots in the drawstrings. Everyone had a good time last year chatting while they worked! Even if you are not adept at tying knots, please join us if only for the fellowship. Watch for more info to come!



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children – **Tiny Baby Moses** – This is the story of Baby Moses in the River Nile. Great for parents reading to their children and super for those who want to read this Old Testament story for themselves. 3rd grade level reader. Found in the Arch Book spinner in our library.

Adults – **Tuesdays with Morrie** – Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago. This book is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world. Found in the Biography section of our library.



July Office Hours

July 7th – July 25th
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Because of my upcoming surgery I will need to be off for approximately 2 weeks. While I am off the office will remain open but with limited hours. I apologize for any inconvenience that my absence from the office may cause. I do intend to continue doing the Messenger and bulletin with the help of volunteers. I will also check my emails daily, so if anyone would need anything important to go in the messenger it will get in.

The plan is for me to return to the office on July 21st with my doctor's approval working a 9:00 – noon schedule for the first week. Thank you in advance for all the prayers and well wishes you have offered me.

Blessings to all, Pam

Beginning the last week of July the office will go back to normal hours of 9:00 am – 3:00 p



Our June 30-Day Pack the Pantry Challenge comes to an end this Sunday, June 29th. Please bring in all your items to church with you this Sunday, and place them on the hand bell tables in the sanctuary, so we can see how much food will fill our pantry shelves to overflowing.

Monetary donations are welcomed any time of the year. Please remember to write "food pantry" in the memo line if donating by check, or on the envelope if donating cash. **Thank you to all** who have participated in the 30-day challenge and who have recently brought in donations to meet our immediate needs!



(continued from the cover)

It was announced, that the magazine, LIVING LUTHERAN, was returning to print. It will be quarterly, at a cost of \$19.95, per year.

Bathhouse.

The Assembly blessed those attending the Churchwide Assembly, in Phoenix, Arizona, August 2025. This Assembly will consider the proposed new social statement, "Faith and Civic Life, Seeking the Well Being of All."

The Synod Assembly discussions focused, on the need to tell our Christian stories and to help develop both Lay and Rostered leadership.

Carol A. Winter

Recent Upper Susquehanna Synod Statistics



CONGREGATIONS: 112

13 served by Synodically Authorized Minister

3 served by TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) candidate

37 with interim pastor

10 with no appointed/called leader

63 of 112 congregations (>56%) have no called pastor

LEADERS: 93 pastors, 5 deacons, 37 authorized lay worship leaders

55 (59%) of pastors are retired

6 pastors are in special calls

1 pastor is disabled

2 pastors are on leave

Average age of pastors serving in a call or an interim is 60 years

16 pastors aged above 65 years are serving 35 congregations



For All the Faithful Women (Luke 1:45) This is the theme for the 37th Annual Convention of the Women of the ELCA, Upper Susquehanna Synod that will be held on July 26, 2025, at Faith Lutheran Church, 2349 Old Turnpike Road., Lewisburg, Pa. For the in kind offering this year, we will be putting together

Period Packs, which will be sent to CWS (Church World Service) for distribution. Each WELCA group, attending the convention, is asked to bring the following items: **Regular Tampons, Super Absorbency Tampons, Packs of 12 Pads (unscented, long super thin)** Messiah has also been asked to provide *bath-sized soap (3 oz. or larger)*. No Ivory or Jergens soap, since they have a shorter shelf-life and mold faster. Our plan is to pack 200 kits to send to CWS. Any extra items will go to a local Shelter. A box will be placed in the Narthex for donations, of above items. **All donations need to be made by July 20.**



Camp News

You don't want to miss a chance this summer to get outside, make new friends, and feel God's love at camp. There are still openings for all **Camp Mount Luther** programs. Bring your family to Family Camp to reconnect with God and others and get away from routine life. Camp in the Bald Eagle State Forest during Buffalo Gap Adventure and explore waterfalls, rock formations, and beautiful foliage) starting June 29.

Water Adventure (get wet with fishing, creek hikes, slip and slides, and canoeing) starting July 6. Classic Camp (with special stuff themed around Dr. Seuss) starting July 27. Servant and Leadership Training (SALT) camp for senior high who want to learn what it's like to be on staff during the weeks of July 6 and 27.

Summer Day Camp at Trinity Church, 844 West Fourth Street, Williamsport. Open to children in grades K-6. **Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25 from 9 am – 3 pm.** Come experience outdoor ministries close to home! Staff from Camp Mount Luther and volunteers from Trinity will be on hand to bring fun, fellowship, and the love of God through our day camp program.

Day Camp includes games, sports, Bible study, singing, arts and crafts, special events, and field trips within walking distance of the church. Cost is \$25. Full scholarships are available. Call Trinity Church office at 570-322-0126 or email trinitychurchpa@comcast.net to register.

Alyx Taylor is a camp counselor at Camp Mount Luther for his second year. You can go to the Camp Mount Luther Blog "Good Soil" and see an article about Alyx's favorite place at camp: The Amphitheater.

Week One at Camp Mount Luther is a wrap! Weston Sherman attended Camp June 15 – June 20

