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www.HOPELC.ORG

We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

**Upstate NY Synod
Assembly**

~ details on pgs. 5 & 6

Red Cross Blood Drive

~ info. on pg. 11

Our Core Values



*faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love*



A Message from Our Pastor

The Upstate New York Synod Assembly took place on May 26th and 27th in Syracuse, New York. I attended the assembly along with our two delegates: Lois Batsios and Daniel Hoh.

The scripture for this assembly was taken from Isaiah 43:19: *“Behold, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”*

This scripture fit in perfectly with the theme of the Assembly: Experimentation.

The work of the Holy Spirit could be felt throughout this event. While much occurred and was accomplished at the assembly, I’d like to share with you just a few of the events that took place.

We opened the assembly with Worship and communion. Hope Lutheran Church of North Greenbush was recognized and celebrated as a newly Organized congregational member of the ELCA during the service (and yes, we were members as a mission development congregation, but we’ve moved beyond a mission development site to full membership in the ELCA as an Organized congregation). Lois, Daniel and I participated in the liturgy, and also served as communion assistants. Our banner was up on the stage during the entire assembly. It was wonderful how many people congratulated and welcomed us as an Organized congregation in the ELCA.

With gratefulness we welcomed The Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos from the ELCA church-wide offices. He brought us greetings on behalf of presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

The assembly also elected a new vice-president for the Upstate New York Synod, Lindsay Stannard. Some of you may remember Lindsay, as she was the synod representative at our annual meeting and Organizing meeting. Lindsay spoke with passion about her vision of lifting up leadership amongst the laity of the church. I am excited for her and for us as a synod.

In this newsletter you will also see included a flyer giving more details about some of the key events which occurred at the assembly.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Pamela



Food Drive / Bake Sale

Do we let a little rain stop us? No, we do not!!

The weather conditions on May 9 were not ideal, but our latest food drive and bake sale was a success anyway. We raised \$500 and about 650 pounds of food, thanks to many generous people in and outside our congregation.

Many thanks to all those who helped out! Bakers, tent pitchers, bake sale table attendants, various go-fers, and the clean-up crew -- many hands made light work, and your help was greatly appreciated.

Food and checks were delivered on May 11 to CoNSERNS-U and Doors of Hope, and both organizations were very grateful.



Donna, Pam, Lynda, Karen and Dawn at the bake sale table.

Gene, Mike, Jim and Dickie at the food collection table. Jim weighed all the food as it came in.



April 7, 2026

Dear Pastor Pam and Friends of St. Paul's Center,

On behalf of St. Paul's Center, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of 14 Easter dinner meals for families in our local community. Your kindness brought comfort, dignity, and joy to households who might otherwise have faced the holiday with worry instead of celebration.

These meals make a tremendous difference. For the families we serve, they are more than food on the table. They are a reminder that their community sees them, cares for them, and stands beside them. Your willingness to share in their need reflects the very heart of service and compassion.

As Jesus taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Your continued support embodies that truth in a powerful and tangible way. Throughout the year, your church shows what it means to live out charity with purpose, and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing donations to St. Paul's Center and the families that we serve.

Thank you for helping strengthen our community through your generosity. Your commitment brings hope to those who need it most, and we are truly thankful for all you do.

Sincerely,

Jason Chaplin

Sr. Housing Stability Advocate

St. Paul's Center, Inc.

Office: 518-434-2910



Doors of Hope

Matthew 25:35

"For I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
naked and you clothed me..."

*Thank you so
much for your donation
of food and a sheet.
Doors of Hope depends
on people like you
to help us help others.
God Bless you!*

G.R.A.C.E. mindset

Synod Assembly
May 26-27, 2026



UPSTATE NEW YORK SYNOD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

Highlights

- New logo revealed
- Budget - approved
- Learning
 - Bible Study with Dr. Karyn Wiseman
 - Experiential Learning with Pat Greene
- Elections
- Celebrations
 - Synod Discipleship Award
 - Welcoming a new congregation
 - Installation of Deacon Rachel Sosebee
 - Anniversaries of congregations
 - Anniversaries of rostered leaders
- Amendments, Resolutions, and Memorials
- Resources
- Next Assembly

Mission Plan 2027-28

Revenue \$1,365,300
Expenditures \$1,408,044

APPROVED

New Logo

See above ...

Celebrations



Brad Wendel
Synod Discipleship
Award

Bible Study



Dr. Karyn Wiseman - "If it's not about love, it's not about God."

Experimentation

Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E. Mindset:
Experimentation



Pat Greene - try using "yes ... and ..." rather than a flat "no." And ask, "What is God doing that's new?"

Assembly by the Numbers

World Hunger:
\$25,656.85

ALDI Gift Cards for
Appleseed Ministries
\$1,050.00

Zambia
\$1,600.00+

ELCA Representative



The Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, Director for Theological Diversity and Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement



Special guest appearance by ImaLu Thran

Celebrations



Installation of Deacon Rachel Sosebee Associate with the Bishop for Transitions



Reception of Hope Lutheran Church, North Greenbush

Anniversaries

We celebrated the anniversaries of congregations throughout the synod with significant anniversaries, and we celebrated rostered leaders with anniversaries ranging from 5 years to 70 years. Thanks be to God!

Constitution Amendments, Resolutions, and Memorials

- **Amended** our governing documents related to the changes from the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.
- **Approved** a plan to realign the conferences of the synod, which includes disbanding the Southern Tier Conference.
- **Adopted** a bylaw creating term limits for officers of the synod.
- **Referred** the memorial concerning Synod Authorized Ministry to Synod Council.
- **Directed** the Synod Council to study the ability to grant voice at vote at assemblies to rostered ministers on the roster of another synod and serving in our synod.

Elections



Vice President: Lindsay Stannard
Deans: Amy Walter-Peterson, Genesee Finger Lakes, Jeff Silvernail, Foothills
Synod Council Young Adult: Halley Telaak
Consultation Committee: Lance Kelly
Discipline Committee: Garth Olsen



Newly elected Vice President, Lindsay Stannard, with Bishop Lee M. Miller II.



Two Bishop Lees?!

Resources

Resources shared at the Assembly will be available using the QR code below, including:

- Books
- Websites
- Slide decks
- Movies

Next Synod Assembly

- Bishop's Election
- Election of voting members for Churchwide Assembly 2028

Scan this QR code for a wrap-up video and other Assembly-related documents.



Save the Date

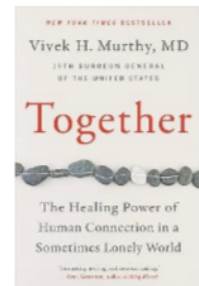
JUNE 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Dr. Vivek Murthy: One of the most compassionate and vulnerable people I have come to know--through his writings and talks--on the subject of loneliness; one of the most knowledgeable professionals I know on the role of connection and community as significant healing factors in the healing of loneliness.

Every month I write about the podcast and how my guests are healing their loneliness through connection and community. This month I would like to share with you a deeply moving and researched book by Dr. Murthy: “Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World.”



In “Together” Dr. Murthy shares how he has personally experienced several episodes of loneliness: both as the child of immigrants and as an adult. He knows what loneliness feels like. He also knows what it feels like to have connection and be part of a community.

I really treasure this book because of his honesty and vulnerability from both his personal experiences and also the information he shares from his professional experiences as a physician and U.S Surgeon General:

Part 1: The Ties That Bind

- Explores the invisible nature of loneliness and its impact on human evolution, physical health, and emotional well-being.

Part 2: The Three Circles of Connection

- Discusses the different forms of human connection: *Intimate circle, Relational circle, and Collective Circle.*

Part 3: Healing Ourselves and Our World

- Provides actionable frameworks to cure the epidemic of loneliness, specifically focusing on how to spend time with loved ones, embrace solitude (this is a surprise), and serve others.

And if you’d like to read more I recommend: “Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community” (2023). <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>

I would love to hear from you on your thoughts and feelings regarding these publications!
(catherinejura@gmail.com)

Till next time,

Catherine

FAITH Family FRIENDS

Prayer Calendar

JUNE

2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sue Anthony	Marilyn Dyer	Pr. Elaine Berg	Linda Hunter	Nancy Davis' Birthday	Catherine Jura	Lynda Seiling
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Donna St. John	Eugene St. John	Linda Turner	Lucas Boyer	Lisa Boyer	Dave Armento	Ken Newberry
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Charlie Huff	Zina Huff	Bill Cosgrove	Judy Cosgrove	Peggy Farrell's Birthday	Emily Filuta-Gray	George Gray
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Henry Gray's Birthday	Pam Dodson	Dickie Dodson	Kathy Zorian	Wayne Felt	Dale Felt's Birthday	Victoria Dooley
29	30					
Mateo Dooley	Richard Dooley					



EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)



We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Birthday ...

Nancy Davis ~ June 5th

Peggy Farrell ~ June 19th

Henry Gray ~ June 22nd

Dale Felt ~ June 27th





A big THANK YOU to our May Mowing Crew!!!

Wayne Palka Rick Covey Charlie Huff Kevin Willis

Mike Daus Peggy Farrell Debbie Favro

June Schedule:

June 1st – 6th: Wayne Palka

June 8th – 13th: Rick Covey

June 15th – 20th: Kevin Willis

June 22nd – 27th: Charlie Huff & Peggy Farrell

June 29th – July 4th: Mike Daus & Debbie Favro



American Red Cross

Give a Pint, Get a Pint
with Stewart's Shops!

Blood Drive **Hope Lutheran Church**

470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180
Sanctuary

Saturday, June 13, 2026
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To schedule your appointment, please call
1-800-REDCROSS, visit
www.redcrossblood.org, or,
download the free Blood Donor App.
Use sponsor keyword: **hopelutheran**



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Come to give blood 6/1-28 for a \$15 e-gift card +
chance to win a \$7.5K prize! See rcblood.org/June.**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.



All presenting blood donors this June will receive a voucher redeemable for one pre-packaged pint of ice cream or gelato at any Stewart's Shops!* For more information and Stewart's Shops locations, please visit StewartsShops.com.

© 2025 The American National Red Cross | 49301-03 MS | 2019-APL-00047 | *Offers and items are non-transferable and are not redeemable for cash.

[26] • Order ID: 19555879 • Item ID: 10046728 • Qty: 2 of 10 • 369854 • 2026-APL-0148 • A-R01 • 255243

Worship Volunteer Duties for June 2026

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	7-June	14-June	21-June	28-June
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Donna S	Debbie F	Donna S	Bonny M
Greeter	Marlies P	Chris N	Ja'net M	Diane C
Usher	Maureen H	Janis Z	Pam D	Diane C
Lector	Janis Z	Bonny M	Pam D	Cindy W
Communion Assistant	Janis Z	Bonny M	Luis C	Pam D
Snack Set-Up	Maureen H	Charlie H	Susan C	Bonny M
Offering Counters	Maureen H & Nancy C	Bonny M & Charlie H	Pam D & Chris N	Pam D & Diane C



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNE OF 2026

We have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM.

We also live-stream our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

6th: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.

7th: Prayers of Hope meets in the small classroom following worship service.

9th: Beginner Tai Chi with Pam Dodson @ 7 PM in the sanctuary (also 16th, 23rd, & 30th).

10th: Qigong with Pam Dodson @ 1:30 PM in the sanctuary (also 17th, 24th, & July 1st).

Advanced Tai Chi with Pam Dodson @ 3 PM in the sanctuary (also 17th, 24th, & July 1st).

Worship & Music Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the small classroom.

13th: Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 AM – Noon, in the sanctuary.

16th: TBD – (Hope's Hands @ 10 AM in the small classroom).

17th: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom & via Zoom.

18th: Grief Support Group @ 5:30 PM in the large classroom.

19th: Juneteenth.

21st: Father's Day.

26th: Newsletter Articles Due to Tonya.

