

*Ezekiel 34:12 - As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.*

# The Shepherd's Staff

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**Mission & Vision Statements** – Our church exists to welcome all to faith in Jesus Christ, to equip believers for daily life, and to empower them to carry out their God-given ministry.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

**230 Brookside Avenue, Roosevelt, NY 11575**

Rev. Chryll Crews, Interim Pastor

Church Office - 516-378-5486

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we step into the new year, let us take a moment to reflect on the incredible blessings God has bestowed upon us and the lessons we've learned through our trials.

This is a time for renewal, where we can embrace the promise of hope and purpose that Scripture offers.

With faith as our foundation, let's commit ourselves to living boldly, seeking God's guidance in every step we take.

May we be instruments of His love and grace, uplifted by the assurance that He has plans for our lives, plans to prosper us and not to harm us.

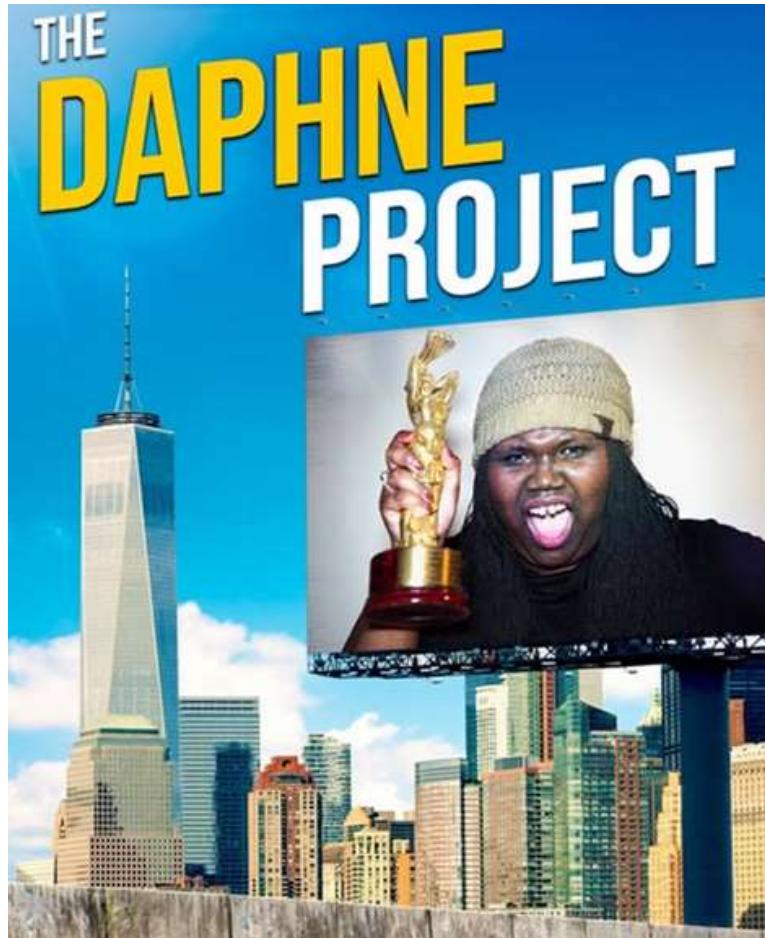
As we embark on this journey together, let's encourage one another, spread kindness, and pursue our divine calling with unwavering courage.

Here's to a year filled with faith, community, and the joy of serving our Lord!



ROOTED IN GOD'S  
WORD, WE SHARE  
FAITH, HOPE, AND  
LOVE IN OUR HOMES,  
CHURCH, COMMUNITY  
AND AROUND THE WORLD.

# Pastor's Reflection



You still have time to catch my daughter's film, "The Daphne Project." This was Zora Iman Crews' first film, in which she is the co-director with Alec Tibaldi, the co-screenwriter, and stars in the film. The film is available on several platforms: Amazon Prime Video and Fuse.

Zora is a 2010 graduate of Fiorella H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, one of New York's specialized High Schools. She is a 2014 graduate of Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (Poetry) from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, in 2020.

When not creating, you can find her at Bloomingdale's flagship store in Manhattan as a Coordinator, Luxury Sales Facilitator

4 TODAY < > January 2026

 (GMT+00:00) UTC 

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28  ■ Hannah Ministry ■ First Sunday of Christmas, Year A	29	30	31	1	2	3
4  ■ Hannah Ministry ■ Second Sunday of Christmas, Year A	5	6	7	8	9	10
11  ■ Hannah Ministry ■ Baptism of Our Lord / Lectionary 1, Year A	12	13	14	15	16	17
18  ■ Hannah Ministry ■ Second Sunday after Epiphany	19	20	21	22	23	24
25  ■ Hannah Ministry ■ Third Sunday after Epiphany	26	27	28	29	30	31
1  ■ Hannah Ministry	2	3	4	5	6	7

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# **Fruitful Branches**

## **Bearing Good Fruit through Abiding in Christ**

**Volunteers teach children ages 4-10 Bible Stories with supplied materials**



# Year at a Glance

## NEW MEMBERS



## CELEBRATION SUNDAY



## Family Game Night



## HEALTH FAIR



## NEW DEACONS

## FIRST COMMUNION



## 76<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

## MOTHER SHEPHERD 100 YEARS



## New Deacons



## BOOTS ON THE GROUND



## Mission Ministry - GIVING THANKS

**Psalm 107:1: "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"**

**Psalm 7:17: "I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High."**



# The Deacons Corner

Denise Nurse

Yvonne Tucker-Canty

Kevin Dowtin

Rona Oliver

Carol Campbell

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by  
the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the  
good and acceptable and perfect will of God"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# *Farewell and Godspeed to our sisters, Barbara Swoopes, Annette and brother George Baptiste*

**"Lord, as we remember them with love,  
help us to stay connected to them, and  
let our love for them remain with us".  
Bless them with new memories and  
help them feel Your presence in their  
new space.**



## Welcome Our New Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod

In faith,  
The Rev. Dr. Katrina D. Foster  
Bishop, Metropolitan New York Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Rev. Dr. Katrina D. Foster is from Florida. She earned a B.A. in Religion/Philosophy and Sociology from Newberry College, a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia. She was ordained on December 4, 1994, and served at Fordham Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx from 1994 to 2010. Bishop Foster then served St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Amagansett, NY, and Incarnation Lutheran Church in Bridgehampton, NY, from 2010 to 2015, and St. John's Lutheran Church in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, from 2015 to 2025.**

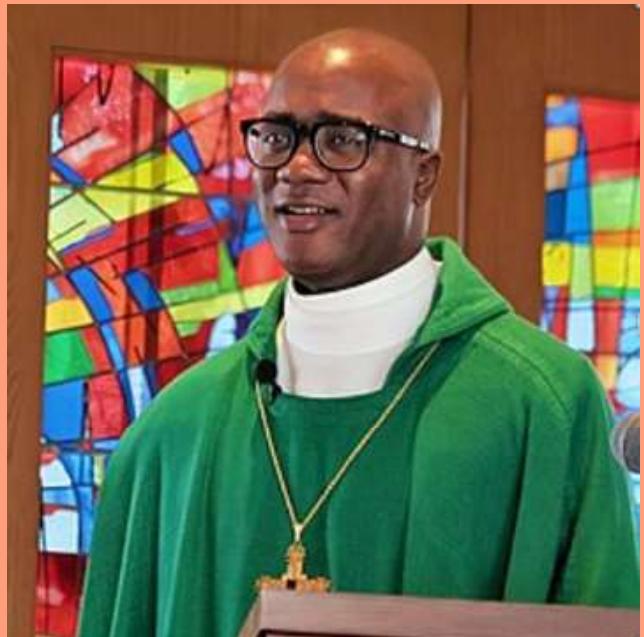
**Bishop Foster has been featured in various documentaries and articles, including One Baptism, Many Gifts: The Story of Three Lutherans Called to Ministry, Working Women: The Urban Pastor, and the "Heroes" segment of PBS' The Great American Read.**

**The particular ministries of evangelism, discipleship, and financial stewardship have been passions of Bishop Foster throughout her thirty years of parish ministry in MNYS. She is also focused on building affordable housing throughout the synod and hopes to inspire the wider church with these passions and new directions for ministry.**

**Pastor Foster lives in the Bronx, commutes to the synod offices by train, and believes that the city's mass transit system is a glimpse of what the Kingdom of God looks like.**

# Welcome Our New Bishop Metropolitan Chicago Synod

**Yehiel Curry Elected Presiding  
Bishop of the ELCA**



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America elected its first Black presiding bishop last week. Bishop Yehiel Curry — who currently leads the Metropolitan Chicago Synod — will start his new role in October.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the next presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., on July 30, 2025. He began this role on Oct. 1, 2025, and was installed on Oct. 4 in Minneapolis.

Previously, he served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he leads a synod staff and 160 congregations by providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and overseeing ordinations and installations. He was elected synod bishop in 2019 and reelected in spring 2025. Curry chaired the ELCA Conference of Bishops, fostering ecumenical relationships and theological engagement across the Lutheran communion.

Previously, Curry served as the mission developer (2007–2012) and pastor (2013–2019) of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale, Ill. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the proud parents of three daughters.

# Drawn Together!



**Doodles of Devotion**  
Illustrated devotionals that help families grow in faith  
[Patreon](#)

This week's Gospel comes from John 1:1–18, a passage that feels especially powerful at both the end of one year and the beginning of another. It speaks of Jesus as the Word who was with God from the very beginning—life itself, light itself.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

As we step into a new year filled with unknowns, this passage reminds us that God's light is not little. It is strong, enduring, and already present. Christ's divinity means that God has been with us from the beginning of time—and will continue to be with us in every season ahead. This is a story of hope, strength, and deep assurance: darkness does not get the final word.

As you move through this devotional together, I invite you to reflect on where you have seen light this past year, and where you are longing for light in the year to come. Even the smallest flickers matter.

Thank you for being part of this creative ministry.

As always, I hope this issue brings a little peace into your home, your congregation, or wherever you gather to color, question, and pray.

With gratitude and confetti,

Raquel

[Click Here To View Site](#)

# Hello Good Shepherd Family – Please come out and Support Our African Descent Lutheran Association Event

## Facing the Challenge of a New Age

Where Do We Go?

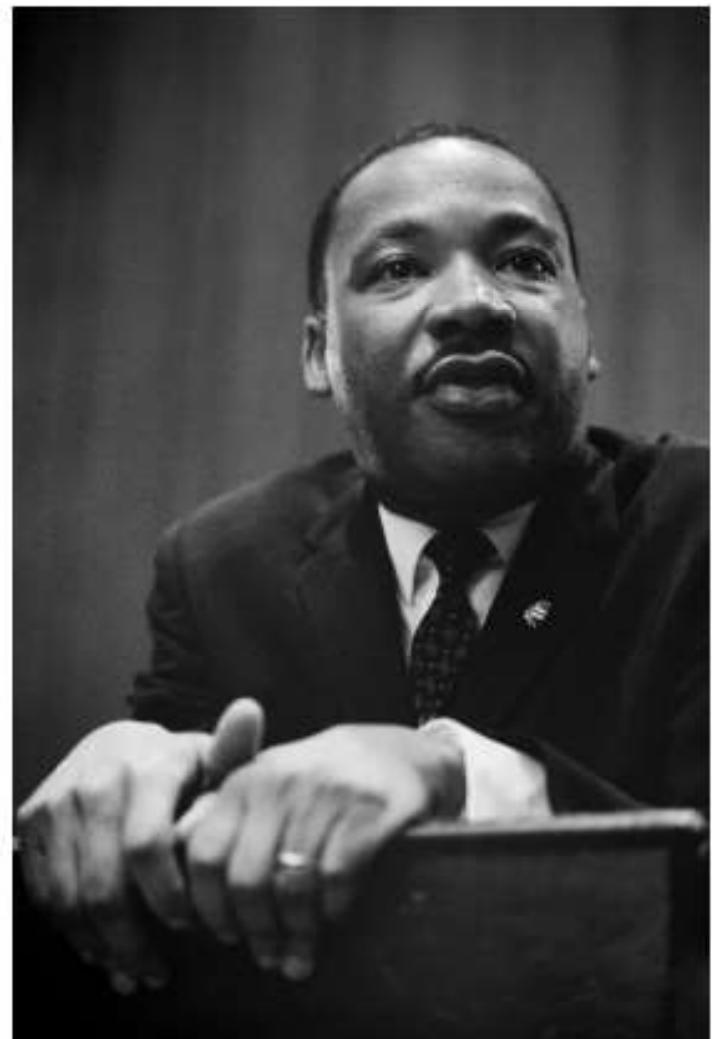
Sunday, January 11

4pm

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
230 Brookside Avenue, Roosevelt, NY

Join the **African Descent Lutheran Association** for their Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, with Bishop Katrina Foster as preacher. The worship will be followed by a dinner. All are welcome!

Please consider donating to the ADLA Scholarship Fund, which supports seminarians and students in the Growing in Faith – Diakonia Program. Donations can be sent to Prince of Peace **Lutheran Church**, 225-17 115 Avenue, Cambria Heights, NY 11411. Membership of the ADLA is open to all. Please consider becoming a member.



[CLICK QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ADLA](#)



Or Click link below:

<https://www.adlaelca.org/>

## Let Us Pray TOGETHER!

**O God, Where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope.**  
**Where anxiety is infectious, grant peace and reassurance.**  
**Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance.**  
**Where distrust twists our thinking and grants healing and illumination.**  
**Where spirits are daunted and weak, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.** We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



Click below for information

[ELCA Resources](#)



**Ministries - Faith**

Formation for vocation is comprehensive, involving the whole Christian life. As such, vocation and formation becomes a broad umbrella encompassing many synod an...

 [mnys.org](http://mnys.org)

Happy  
*Birthday January & February!*

**Elsa Charles - Tuesday Jan 6th**

Carol Campbell - Thursday Jan 8th

**Yvonne Tucker-Canty - Wednesday Jan 14th**

**Kennedy Cleaves - Friday Jan 16th**

**Vielka Todd - Sunday Jan 18th**

**Millicent Mitchell - Jan 6th**

Marc Oliver - Saturday Jan 24th

Brianna Gbowu - Saturday Jan 24th

**Jobie Goodwine - Saturday Jan 31st - 89 Years Young**

**Dr. Jimmy Lee Brown - Saturday Jan 31st**

**Melanie Gbowu - Saturday Jan 31st**

Kevin Dowtin - Saturday - Monday Feb 2nd

Pastor Linda Bell - Saturday - Thursday Feb 8th

Ciana Spurloch-Shackelton - Wednesday - Feb 18th

Beverly Cathenott - Saturday - Feb 28th

If you do not find your birthday listed and would like to be added to the list, please be sure to email the church office [goats2sheep@verizon.net](mailto:goats2sheep@verizon.net).

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NEW MEMBER OR TO SCHEDULE EVENTS AT  
GOOD SHEPHERD - PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE: (516) 378-5486 OR  
EMAIL: GOATS2SHEEP@VERIZON.NET

## WEDDINGS



## Home Going Services

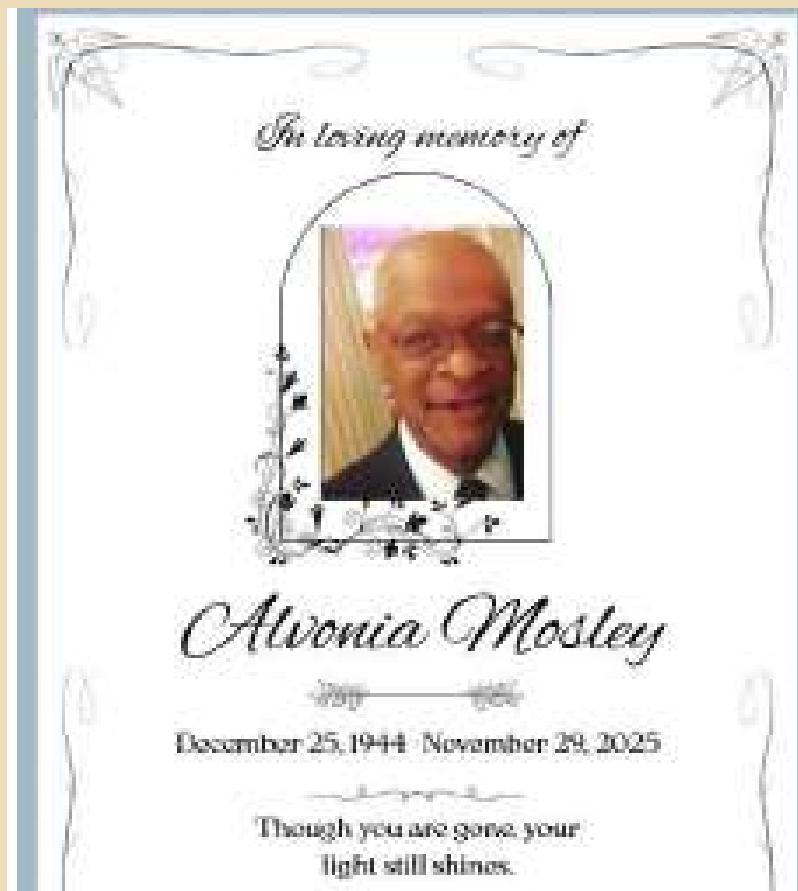


*For Good Shepherd Members*



# In Memoriam

## Alvonia Mosley



**May His Memory Be A Blessing**

# UpComing Events

Featuring Jolene McClean



Song Title “I've Decided”

