

Our Synod Welcomes All



...and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. — Revelation 22:2c

In the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we feed the hungry as we have been fed by Christ. In 2016, our synod became a Reconciling in Christ Synod. We welcome with full participation and inclusion all who are seeking God’s love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Jesus Christ.

MISSION PRIORITIES: Equipping Leaders, Encouraging Cooperation, Engaging in New Mission

Key synod efforts include ...

Fostering Spiritual Wellness

Walking together as baptized children of God, we share responsibility for faithfully focusing our lives on Christ and deepening our connection to the Holy Spirit. We accompany one another in nurturing spiritually healthy relationships with God, each other, and the world.

Nurturing Congregations

Christ calls us to nurture congregations whose faith shines in our relationships with God, each other, and our community. We support congregations in naming their identity and responding to God’s invitation to participate in the mission of Christ’s church.

Growing Justice Outreach

We believe that each person is created in the image of God. Jesus calls us to be a diverse and inclusive church caring deeply for all children of God. Loving our neighbor means seeking justice and equity where it is absent by addressing harmful prejudice and the exclusion of traditionally marginalized people. We seek to deepen understanding, listen with respect, and partner in advocacy as diverse communities to build a culturally competent church.

Developing Leaders

We are called to identify, raise up, and equip Christ-centered leaders for the sake of the gospel. From faith formation in the first third of life to vocational call for both rostered and lay leaders, we accompany God’s people in discerning ways to live out their baptismal identity.

Relating Globally

As part of the larger church, we intentionally accompany our partners in Christ across the world through mutual prayer, relationship, and shared learning. We engage in global partnerships to share our common humanity and life of faith.

Interacting Authentically

We practice Gospel-centered hospitality, meeting people where they are, as they are. Recognizing we are all created in God’s image, we celebrate the richness in community by encouraging genuine, loving, Christ-like relationships.



OUR NEW LOGO

Launched in April 2021, our new logo (called The Diversity Tree — above right) reimagines a tree in the shape of a heart. Its many different leaves — like the diverse members of a community — are fed by a sturdy trunk and the cross of Christ, representative of our understanding of the word of God. This, in turn, is nourished below by the water of our baptism — water which can also be seen as that of the Susquehanna River.

OUR IDENTITY AND CALLING

As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. With our hands, we do God’s work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ’s name throughout the world.

We are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ, who gathers us around word and water, wine and bread. Because we are grounded in God’s love and forgiveness, we are equipped to live and serve here and now, in the world, with all its complexities, tensions and ambiguities.

As a synod, we live into our calling by equipping leaders, encouraging cooperation, and engaging in new mission.