

Lower Susquehanna Synod Year of Prayer

In the Lower Susquehanna Synod, we equip leaders, encourage cooperation, and engage in new mission, all for the sake of sharing God's love in the world; our bishop serves as the spiritual and administrative leader in this work. In June 2025, we will elect a new bishop as Bishop Dunlop wraps up his second term and steps into retirement. Electing a bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of a synod. As such, it involves discernment, from the perspective of individual potential nominees and the synod as a whole. Thus, engaging in prayerful reflection and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit are critical aspects of the process of nomination and election.

To support this journey, we are inviting the Lower Susquehanna Synod to participate in a year of prayer. 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.

Ideas for Using These Resources:

Monthly Prayer Focus:

- Post the monthly prayer focus to your website and social media channels by using the graphics provided with each month's resources.
- Distribute the monthly focus to your congregation's prayer chain for inclusion in the group's prayers.
- Include the monthly focus in your congregation's digital or printed monthly newsletter.
- Incorporate the monthly focus into meeting devotions.

Weekly Prayer Petitions:

- Intentionally written in *Sundays and Seasons* format, include each week's prayer petition as part of your congregation's Prayers of the Intercession during worship.
- Utilize the weekly prayer petitions as an opening or closing prayer during bible studies, meetings, or other church gatherings.
- Share the weekly petitions on your congregation's website and/or social media channels using the graphics provided here:

Hymn Suggestions:

- Incorporate any of these hymns into your worship practices. Care was taken to suggest songs that suit a variety of settings.

Spotify Playlist:

- A *Spotify* playlist has been developed for personal use and spiritual reflection. We invite you to share this information with your congregations, especially youth and young adults, [making the list easily accessible here](#). New songs will be added each month that correlate with the prayer theme.
- For easy access, include the *Spotify* playlist link on your congregation's website and/or social media channels.
- Use the playlist as background music during congregation events.
- Incorporate the songs and your reflections as part of meeting devotions or other church gatherings.

Coloring Pages:

- Created for our youth and can be used during Sunday school, faith formation activities, and children's sermons. You are invited to share their purpose of uniting the greater church in a year of prayer.
- Provide coloring pages in your children's worship bags.
- Include these coloring pages in your church bulletin for kids (or even adults!) to doodle during the service.
- Print the coloring pages, with the monthly prayer focus printed on the back of the page, for families to take home.

Videos/Podcasts:

Throughout the year of prayer, we will post additional prayer resources, including videos and podcasts. Use these in whatever way makes the most sense in your context. You can easily post them to your congregation's website, social media channels, or stream during worship or other gatherings.