



# LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

WHERE THE HUNGRY ARE FED AS WE HAVE BEEN FED BY CHRIST.

The Rev. James S. Dunlop  
Bishop

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*For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have died. . .  
So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!  
- 2 Corinthians 5:14; 17*

Dear Partners in Christ,

Over the course of this past year amidst all the challenges, the love of Jesus Christ sustained us and urged us to participate in God's work in the world using all the gifts God entrusted to our care. We have seen you respond to the Spirit's invitation to reshape how and where we gather for worship and, most importantly, how we relate to, care for, and love one another. Yet, through many changes and disruptions, we are so grateful for the many ways in which you have served as ambassadors for Christ.

We recognize that each of our congregations is carefully and uniquely planted by God, and brings varying expressions of time, talents, gifts, and resources engaging God's work in the world. Your partnership in ministry witnesses to the abundant blessings from God and honors our connectedness in the body of Christ. Your continued generosity in this extraordinary time brings us deep hope for the future. We remain hopeful that God is still at work among us, and, through our shared ministries, God blesses the world.

At the heart of our synod's ministry is an ongoing commitment to equip and support Christ-centered lay leaders, deacons, and pastors who participate in God's mission to heal the world. As we grow in God's love, we remain committed to developing leaders, nurturing congregations, and fostering spiritually healthy relationships with God, each other, and the world. In this past year, your Mission Support enabled us to continue our shared partnership in the Gospel.

Your generosity allows us to care deeply for our congregations and leaders. Giving in response to God's love for the sake of the Gospel, we are set free to be generous with one another. As your congregation develops a budget for the year 2022, we prayerfully invite you to consider the possibility of growing your Mission Support to the ministries of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our synod's ministry is especially dependent on Mission Support. Your Mission Support, which makes up most of our budget, allows us to be church for the sake of the world in ways which we could not in our individual congregational settings. To assist with your budget preparation, Bishop Dunlop offers a brief video to share with your council and congregation. (<https://youtu.be/4Jwjj1YEHpw>)

We also invite you to remember that our bishop's staff is available to assist your ministry. If you would like support for your congregation's mission and stewardship, we encourage you to contact our synod's Director for Evangelical Mission, the Rev. Richard E. Jorgensen Jr.

Grateful for your faithful ministry and the way in which God continues to renew and strengthen us, you remain in our hearts and prayers as we live into the future together.

Yours in Christ,

† James S. Dunlop  
bishop

Jennifer R. Lau  
vice president

Richard E. Jorgensen Jr.  
director for evangelical mission