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NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Together in Ministry, Looking Ahead in Hope

Submitted by Stacey Burke, Director of Communications

When we give an offering in worship, we help sustain the ministry of our congregation. Through Mission Support, that generosity also reaches beyond our own church doors, connecting us with ministry across Northeastern Pennsylvania and the wider church.

Mission Support is the portion of a congregation's regular offerings shared with the synod. The synod, in turn, shares a portion with the ELCA churchwide organization. These gifts bring our resources together to support the work we share as church.



Here in the NEPA Synod, that work includes supporting lay and rostered leaders, accompanying congregations, strengthening outreach ministries, and connecting people across mission districts. It makes possible the ongoing presence of synod leaders who worship with congregations, listen to their questions, help navigate challenges, and support their ministry.

Throughout 2026, our monthly newsletters have shared glimpses of what this support makes possible. At St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Birdsboro, a Witness & Service Grant helped support the Our Daily Bread Mobile Food Ministry. Alongside local fundraising and community partnerships, that support helped bring an idea to life, taking meals and opportunities for connection directly to neighbors. The mobile kitchen serves at veterans' events, partners with other ministries, and brings the church's presence into the community.



Mission Support also helps sustain the work of equipping and encouraging leaders. In May, Licensed Lay Minister Tanya Kantner reflected on how the synod helped her answer a call to ministry within the Pretzel City Parish. Her ministry includes supporting food programs, gathering people for Bible study, and accompanying people through moments of grief and joy. "Their encouragement, guidance, and investment in creating pathways for people like me have made this journey possible," she wrote.

These stories give us a closer look at the shared ministry Bishop Dee describes in her October letter to congregations:

“Thanks to you, we are able to show up and listen, work through challenging situations, and be the church together.”

Behind each story are people offering their time, sharing their gifts, and responding to the needs around them. Mission Support helps sustain the relationships and resources that encourage this work, connecting each congregation to ministry beyond what it could do alone.

As this year comes to a close, we give thanks for the congregations and individuals whose generosity makes this shared ministry possible. Each congregation brings its own gifts, experiences, and needs to our life together. Through Mission Support, we help care for one another and participate in God’s work throughout the wider church.

In 2027, our monthly newsletter features will turn to Healing in Hope, sharing stories of care, connection, healing, and hope from across the synod. These stories will help us recognize God’s presence in our communities and learn more about the ministry we share.

As your congregation prepares for the coming year, we invite you to reflect on its participation in Mission Support and the ministry those gifts help sustain. Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your partnership in being the church together.

Read Bishop Dee’s full letter to congregations and her invitation to support our shared ministry in 2027 by visiting godslove.org/missionsupport.

Help Make Ministry Possible

Mission Support strengthens congregations, supports leaders, and helps new ministries take root across our synod and the wider church. Thank you for being part of this shared ministry. Learn more about Mission Support and how your congregation can support at **godslove.org/missionsupport**.

Healing in Hope

Romans 15:13

Help Us Find the Stories

Think of moments of care, belonging, renewed trust, and hope during change, and share it with us.

godslove.org/healing-in-hope

Beginning Advent 2026 and continuing through 2027

Making Room for Hope
Advent Reflections
Weekly video reflections from Bishop Jennifer Dee.

Hope for the Journey
Lenten Devotional
Scripture and short reflections for personal and congregational use.
Available January 12

Where Hope Takes Root
Monthly Newsletter
A closer look at healing and hope in our communities.

A Glimpse of Hope
Short Videos
Brief videos will feature people sharing moments of care, connection, and encouragement.