



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



Dear Friends in Christ,

Earlier this month, I had the joy of celebrating All Saints Sunday with two of our synod's oldest congregations (325 years and 250 years). Standing in those sacred spaces, surrounded by generations of faith, I was reminded of the countless saints who have supported the work of ministry in our region for centuries. Their faithfulness gives me great hope—for all the saints who will come after us.

As we remember the saints who have gone before us, we also look toward the future God is calling us to build. Through our annual **All Saints Appeal**, we give thanks for our ministry together, we celebrate what the Holy Spirit is doing in our synod, and we invite your financial support and your prayers for what's next. Your gift to the All Saints Appeal helps our synod nurture the next generation of leaders, strengthen vibrant and vital faith formation in our congregations, and support mission development across our metro area.

The highlight of 2025 is how we are equipping congregations to live into the next phase of their ministry. This year's **Building Summit** discussed innovative strategies for transforming how buildings serve their communities. Our **Generosity Extravaganza** provides practical, usable ideas and programs to help congregations develop a culture of generosity. **In God's Image** is a day of resources, conversation, and holy imagination to better equip congregations to welcome LGBTQIA+ persons. The **Gathering of Church Council Officers** gives leaders opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills, build relationships with fellow leaders, and deepen their relationship with the synod. The **Evangelism Initiative** taught practical tools to help people share their faith story and make faithful connections with their neighbors.



Gone are the days when the synod could rely solely on the Mission Support that congregations provide. Today, we depend on a broader base of generosity—from individuals like you—who believe in the work we do together to build up Christ's church. We need your support to continue offering workshops like these.

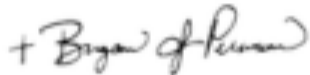
I invite you to join me in giving to this year's All Saints Appeal. Whether you make a one-time annual gift or choose to become a monthly donor, your contribution helps ensure that the work of the saints continues in and through us.

Visit our website (<https://ministrylink.org/donate/>) to make your gift to the All Saints Appeal today.

In addition to my tithe to my congregation, I personally give monthly to the All Saints Appeal. It is one of the ways I express my gratitude for the church that shaped me—and my hope for the church we are building together.

Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and your partnership in the gospel.

With gratitude and hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryan Penman".

The Rev. Bryan Penman
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA