

Ministry Link

AN EMAIL MINISTRY OF



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Lutherans Together: Loving God, Loving Neighbor

SEPA Synod News Week of September 14, 2026

[Who To Call For What In The SEPA Synod Office](#)

Prepare for Portico Annual Enrollment for 2027 Benefit Selections

Portico Benefits is offering workshops to help plan members and sponsoring organizations prepare for annual enrollment in October.

Annual enrollment for sponsoring organizations is October 1-14, 2026. Annual enrollment for plan members begins in waves starting on October 19, 2026.

All members and sponsoring organizations will be sent emails about their enrollment window at the address that Portico has on file for them.

[Read Bishop Penman's Letter to Congregations HERE](#)

Webinars for Plan Members

(Rostered Ministers and others covered by Portico Benefits)

If you are sponsored in the Portico Benefits plan, this webinar will review the selections you have for benefits in 2026 and provide helpful and contextual information for enrollment.

Tuesday, September 22 at 11:00 am

[Register HERE in advance for this meeting](#)

Wednesday, September 23 at 11:00 am

[Register HERE in advance for this meeting:](#)

Webinars for Sponsoring Organizations

(Congregations, Synods, Agencies)

If your congregation/organization sponsors members in the Portico Benefits plan, this webinar is for you. We will discuss employer benefit

selections, review the health plan options for ELCA-Primary Health Plan members (non-Medicare) and review the annual enrollment process.

Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 pm

[Register HERE in advance for this meeting](#)

Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 pm

[Register HERE advance for this meeting](#)

Both webinars will be led by Pastor Cathy Schibler (ELCA Regions 6 and 9) and Pastor Tara Lynn (ELCA Regions 7 and 8), who serve as Regional Reps for Portico.

Make plans to attend

**SEPA Antiracism Team Presentation with Rev. Dr. James Thomas
September 22, 2026**

7:00 pm

Reformation Lutheran Church

1215 E. Vernon Road, Philadelphia

Join the SEPA Antiracism Team for a conversation with The Rev. Dr. James Thomas on his book *A Rumor of Black Lutherans: The Formation of Black Leadership In Early American Lutheranism*.

SEASON OF CREATION

Make Living Water Flow this Season of Creation

Every act of care for creation becomes part of a global stream of hope. The Season of Creation, a church season, is from September 1 through October 4th.

"The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home."

[Lutherans Restoring Creation Resources](#)

[Download The Celebration Guide](#)

Called by Faith: Caring for Creation

Zoom presentation **October 5**

7:00 pm

In Genesis 2:15, God calls on us to care for God's creation. How do we do that? In this presentation, we will explore the interconnections between our faithful

missions of feeding the hungry, caring for the poor, racial justice, and creation care.

The goals of the presentation are to:

- Provide information about our changing environment & climate
- Help you make the connection between faith & climate
- Empower you with solutions

REGISTER FOR OCTOBER 5

Connections Call: Advocacy in our Congregations & Data Centers September 28

7:00 - 8:30 pm, Zoom

Join us as we discuss how we can bring advocacy into our congregations. First, three congregations in the SEPA synod will share examples of how they used the tool of advocacy. Second, we will be joined by the ELCA Program Director for Environment and Energy Policy, Christine Moffett and LAMPa's Tracey DePasquale to discuss the advocacy topic of Data Center expansion and environment impacts. An opportunity to share how your congregation participates in advocacy for various topics will be included.

REGISTER HERE

Come celebrate with us

Upcoming Installations

Rev. Brynn Anderson

October 25

4:00 pm

Resurrection Lutheran Church

620 Welsh Rd, Horsham

You are invited to join in this celebration. The color of the day is red.

Rev. Stacey Kyle Rea

November 15

3:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

1141 W. Chester Pike, Havertown

Seminarian Kendyll Ward will serve as preacher, with Rev. Marie Sager, Delaware Conference Dean and Pastor of St. Timothy's, Aston presiding.

*Clergy are invited to process. The color of the day is red.
A light reception will follow.*

Don't miss the deadline!

2026-2027 Forward Together in Faith Grant Applications Open

The mission of the Forward Together in Faith campaign is to support the communities of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod as we enter the changing mission field of the 21st century, in order to more successfully share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The goal of the Forward Together in Faith granting process is to provide resources to the congregations and ministries of this synod, in particular as those resources relate to the four pillars of the campaign, which are Networking, Innovating, Communicating, and Equipping. A strong grant application will integrate at least one pillar into their project proposal.

Networking: Creating and sustaining new networks and partnerships among congregations and leaders. Building bridges within the synod, and with other community partners.

Innovating: Prioritizing piloting new forms of ministry (such as worship, faith formation, and/or community service) and planting new communities of faith, particularly among underserved populations.

Communicating: Training/consulting for websites, social media, and use of other forms of media (e.g. video). Equipping the communication needs for events for communities, multiple congregations, and/or the larger synod.

Equipping: Training for lay leaders, mission/outreach based continuing education for rostered ministers, supporting seminarians.

The application deadline is September 30.

COMPLETE AN APPLICATION

In God's Image

Attendee Registration Now Open

October 10, 2026

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Reformation Lutheran

102 West Rose Tree Road, Media, PA

The keynote speaker is the Rev. Carla Christopher.

Registration for attendees is now open! **REGISTER HERE** for this event. You also may register on the calendar on the Synod's website.

Vendors for In God's Image, an annual event in SEPA Synod will be held Saturday, October 10. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at Reformation Lutheran Church (102 West Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063). Vendors must register using

this [link](#) by September 15. Participant registration will open in August. Contact ingodsimagesepa@gmail.com with any questions.

Submit An Event

If you want to submit an event to appear in a future MinistryLink e-mail, go to the [SEPA website](#) and in the Contact Us tab, you can complete our [Submit an Event](#) form. The deadline for items to appear is Monday at Noon for Tuesday publication.