

Ministry Link

AN EMAIL MINISTRY OF



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Lutherans Together: Loving God, Loving Neighbor

SEPA Synod News Week of September 21, 2026

NEW! At its September 2026 meeting, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee for a 3% Cost of Living Increase for all rostered ministers for 2027. Please plan accordingly as you begin the budget process for 2027.

Livestream option added!

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*.

[Can't attend in person, click here to watch the live event.](#)

NEW! Spirit and Truth Worship Center Service of Holy Closure

October 4, 2026

4:00 pm

1000 Church Lane

Yeadon, PA 19050

If you'd like to read a history of the church, click [HERE](#)

NEW! SEPA Building Summit 2026

October 17, 2026

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Brossman Center of United Lutheran Seminary

7301 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia

[INFORMATIONAL FLYER](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

NEW! National Hispanic Heritage Month

We give thanks to God for the gifts, contributions, traditions, languages and rich cultural diversity of our Latiné neighbors and siblings in Christ. We pray for the ELCA's Latiné congregations and ministries, the [Latino Ministries Association](#) and the [Latinx Lutheran Leadership Initiative of the ELCA](#).

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.

Don't miss the September 30 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.

The application deadline is September 30.

COMPLETE AN APPLICATION

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

In God's Image

Attendee Registration and Childcare Registration close October 5

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.

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.*

Calling all Middle School Youth!
[What Really Matters? Middle School Retreat](#)
November 7, 2026

2:00 PM
Bear Creek Camp
3601 Bear Creek Blvd
Wilkes Barre, PA 18702

Youth Leaders & Confirmation Classes! Come spend 24 hours in the mountains with us and we'll explore concepts that are core to our faith. This middle school retreat includes worship, large and small group discussions, hiking, bonfire, outdoor games and we'll sleep in heated cabins.

Registration is open, \$80 per person, spaces are limited.
[Contact Karolin Brechbill](#) or [Janet Hilsmier](#) for more details.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)
