



Upstate New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear People of God,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the One who makes us one, Jesus Christ, our Lord!

As the Upstate New York Synod winds down its fiscal year, and I look back on the first five months in my call as a partner with you in Christ's work, I continually give thanks each time I encounter the amazing generosity you have shown, not only in your own community, but to the Synod, and as part of the Body of Christ in this world. Your continued commitment to God's work in our Synod is an occasion to celebrate the steadfast love of our God.

As a Synod staff we are small, but mighty. Your gifts enable us to continue God's work in our congregations and mission starts, supporting our rostered ministers, raising up candidates for rostered ministry, dreaming together the future the Spirit has in store for us, and equipping lay leadership for the sake of the whole church. Your mission support enables us to accompany congregations in transition, strengthen new missional communities, and enable our deans to be present in times of transition and need. We are grateful.

Your 2022 mission support will help us expand our staff so that we are able to more fully meet you where you are and walk with you as you serve Christ in your community. A portion of our gifts go on to work with our siblings in Christ throughout the ELCA and into the world through supporting new congregations, encouraging the work of evangelists, responding to crisis through Lutheran disaster response, and world hunger. Your commitment to this shared vision and mission truly makes us #churchtogether.

Where will we find God doing a new thing? What neighbors, near and far, cry out for our love and our stewardship? I pray boldly that together we can do this work of justice, sharing God's joy with all we encounter, spreading Christ' message of healing, hope and love.

God bless you in all that is to come; God strengthen you as you carry out Christ' commission; and may the Holy Spirit work in you that which is pleasing in God's sight, for the sake of the world. Thank you for your support and partnership!

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Lee M. Miller II
Upstate New York Synod, ELCA
bishopmiller@upstatenysynod.org

Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E. Mindset
ELCA Upstate New York Synod
PO Box 160 Syracuse, NY 13214
Phone: (315) 299-4955
www.upstatenysynod.org