



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Meeting Neighbors Where They Are

Written by Pastor Jim Farnsworth of St Mark Lutheran Church, Birdsboro



When congregations across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod share Mission Support, they are participating in something much bigger than any one ministry. Together, we are making it possible for congregations to dream, collaborate, and step into new ways of loving, healing, and engaging like Jesus.

One powerful example comes from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Birdsboro, whose Witness & Service Grant helped support their Our Daily Bread Mobile Food Ministry. What began as an idea discussed for years became a reality through faith, partnership, and community support. Within just a few months, they raised \$54,000 to launch a fully equipped mobile kitchen, allowing them to bring meals directly to people in need.

Today, that mobile kitchen is on the move, serving at veterans' events, supporting local outreach efforts, partnering with other ministries, and showing up in places where people may not otherwise experience the Church. Rather than waiting for neighbors to come through their doors, St. Mark's is going out to meet people where they are, offering both nourishment and connection.

Through this ministry, relationships are being built across congregations, nonprofits, and community organizations. Volunteers and partners are working side by side, and new connections continue to grow. As those involved share, they see God at work in the faces and stories of the people they serve, reminding them that those they encounter are "the treasures of the Church."

This is what Mission Support makes possible.





Through your shared gifts, the synod is able to invest in ministries like this through initiatives such as Witness & Service Grants, equipping congregations to respond to real needs in their communities. These are not just projects, they are expressions of the Gospel in action, rooted in relationships and shaped by the hope of Christ.

Together, we are connecting congregations for life-giving mission and ministry, so that, as a synod, we can continue to love like Jesus, heal like Jesus, and engage like Jesus, bringing the good news beyond our walls and into the world.

Thank you for the ways you make this work possible through your Mission Support.

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod and ELCA like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.



Would you like to propel an idea into action, engaging both congregation and broader community leaders?

A variety of learning opportunities are available including:

- Small- and Large-Scale Context Mapping
- World and Spirit Cafe Methodologies
- Launching Fresh Expressions
- Demographics Research
- Biblical Models of Evangelism
- Forming Action Plans
- And More!

QUESTIONS

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EXPLORING & CREATING NEW MINISTRIES

Do you have an idea that you would like to explore with other leaders?

Learn More
godslove.org/new-ministries

