



# *Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod*

## *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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April 5, 2020  
The Passion of Our Lord  
Palm Sunday

Dear Synod,

Thank you. One of my faults is I do not say that enough. Thank you.

Over the last three days I have had encounters with individuals who are “outside my norm.” People who I do not expect to talk with or meet whether as a pastor or bishop. These individuals have reached out to me and raised you up. They are people of faith, and not so much faith. They have recognized your work in your communities, on-line and yes, even in your homes. As we as global community, a nation, a corner of the state of Pennsylvania deal with the physical, mental and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic there are people who recognize the spiritual dimension and its importance in their lives.

“Our souls hurt.” As we enter this most holy of weeks and walk more closely with the story of Jesus our Christ know there are those who are most grateful for what you are doing to comfort the hurting souls. You are bearing the cross to and for them. You are witnessing, proclaiming the gospel good news: sin, death and the devil are defeated, and Jesus our Christ is alive.

So, thank you. Thank you for bearing witness to our Eastering in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

We are an Easter people! God is with us!

Called to Serve,

Bishop Lozano