



METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SYNOD ELCA

Bishop Phil Hirsch's Welcome Message

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

It is my great honor to begin this day as Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod! I am excited for what God has called us to do together and am eager to get started. My family and I are in the midst of finishing our move from Chicago to D.C. and look forward to living here again.

This is a particularly poignant and difficult moment to be returning to Washington with troops on the ground, the homeless displaced, loss of employment, and checkpoints established around the city. I have been fasting and praying along with you, and I come with the hope that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. I believe in the power and the promise of God's love and that this is stronger and greater than anything we may face.

I also believe that leadership begins with listening, and so I will be taking time these first 90 days to meet with called rostered ministers all over our synod. I am interested to hear whatever you want to share with me but especially what your challenges and priorities are. Together we will begin to set the groundwork for our ministry in the years to come. [Called rostered ministers can sign up to meet with me](#), and if you have any questions related to this process, please email kwheeler@metrodcelca.org.

In Christ,



Bishop Phil Hirsch