



**Mission Stories of the
Northern Great Lakes Synod
&
Ministry Financial Review and Plan
May 2023**

Phone: 906-228-2300

Email: ngls@nglsynod.org

Website: www.nglsynod.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



“Synod” means “Walking Together”

All the congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod are intertwined in this mission work of Christ. We are grateful for the financial and people resources offered up for the sake of Christ’s mission. We are truly in this work together.



The Church is the people of God gathered together by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

In planning for, facilitating, and nurturing the mission of this Church through congregations, the responsibilities of the synod include:

- ♦ Facilitating the call process and supporting congregations in transition
- ♦ Developing new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries
- ♦ Leading and encouraging congregations in evangelism efforts
- ♦ Assisting congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world
- ♦ Encouraging congregations to respond to human need
- ♦ Encouraging financial support for the work of the local and global church by individuals and congregations
- ♦ Providing resources and trainings for lifelong faith growth



The ELCA’s 65 synods vary greatly in size, geography, membership, staffing and program. Our smallest synod has 30 congregations – the largest nearly 300. Our Northern Great Lakes Synod has 79 congregations. The synods are grouped into nine regions, which are points of connection for them and the churchwide organization. Synods unite the work of congregations within their areas, serve as regional support, and guide pastoral and other staff candidates. In order to strengthen the relationship between synod leaders and the churchwide office, many churchwide teams relate to and support the work of the synods. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.

“We have a great and faithful God. We have been entrusted with a ministry of reconciliation and hope. God is at work in our ELCA and in the 79 congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. We have a story to tell. We have good news to share! We are blessed to hear each other’s stories of faith, and we are more effective in our ministry efforts when we are all moving in the same direction.”
~Bishop Katherine Finegan

Faithful Innovations—Holy Experiments

It all begins with LISTENING...

1. LISTENING TO GOD

- DWELLING IN THE SCRIPTURES
- PRAYER

1. LISTENING TO YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ONE ON ONE CONVERSATIONS
- SHARING YOUR FAITH

1. LISTENING TO YOUR “NEIGHBORHOOD”

- WALKING AROUND AND PAYING ATTENTION
- “GOD SIGHTINGS”



Faithful Innovations Training at
Fortune Lake

Then, based on your listening, try an “experiment”.

What are people saying about Faithful Innovations?



Faithful Innovations is a wonderful training available to all congregations in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Participating congregations form a team of 4-7 people including their pastor and are assigned a coach from the synod who will walk with them through this process.

Life is constantly changing for individuals, churches and communities. Faithful Innovations teaches skills that help the teams become more aware and to dream of new ways to share the Gospel amidst these changes. The process is anchored in Dwelling in the Word, which is an exercise in noticing God at work through the words of scripture and in our own lives. Faithful Innovations helps us acknowledge and celebrate the ministries that are already happening. It also gives permission to try something new or resurrect an old ministry, without the worries of fully committing to a permanent change. I personally believe that every congregation, team

and individual can benefit from investing in Faithful Innovations. I have witnessed it many times over.

~Pastor Grant Van Lishout,
Prince of Peace Lutheran,
Eagle River, Wisconsin

Next Faithful Innovations Trainings at Fortune Lake:

- Saturday, June 17, 2023 *All times 9am to 3pm CT
- Saturday, September 23, 2023 *
- Saturday, November 4, 2023*

Contact Pastor Jim Duehring at 906-228-2300 by
June 1

Check out the Video Testimonials from Grace Lutheran of Pembine:

Go to our Northern Great Lakes Synod YouTube page:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ha_N-7rbx3I (Steve Strom, Council President)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AxH0xLU4RI (Pastor Lloyd Luedeman)



Release Time in Crystal Falls

Every Monday and Tuesday during the academic year, students in the 1st - 5th grades have the opportunity to participate in the Release Time program in Crystal Falls. On the first day of school, a note goes home with every student to sign up for the program, with either the Lutheran Church or

the Methodist Church. When proper paperwork has been submitted with both the school and the churches, the kids are good to go. One hour before school ends for the day, the kids are released from class and met by volunteers from the churches. They are then

escorted to the respective church buildings where they receive a brief Christian education lesson, a snack (we can't have a day without a snack!), and then escorted back to the school in order to catch the bus home or be picked up by parents. On Mondays, the 4th - 5th graders are released, and on Tuesdays the 1st - 3rd graders are released.

It is really a remarkable program. It functions as the whole of the Christian Education program for the churches. "With all of the churches I've worked with over my time as pastor, I have never seen so much consistency with attendance in our educational programs! I am so grateful for inheriting such a solid and successful educational program," says Pr. D. J. Rasner of United Lutheran Church. "Both the Methodist pastor and I realize that we are very fortunate to have the Church School program and are indebted to our predecessors for their creative vision for how our churches and school could work together."

Release Time, commonly called "Church School," began over 50 years ago in cooperation with Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, and Episcopal churches. (All four of the churches are within three blocks' walking distance from the school.)



The pastor of the Lutheran church was such an active person in the community that he was the one who was able to put the pieces in place to make Church School a reality. Pr. John Linna coached the Debate Team at Forest Park Schools for many years. During his time in Crystal Falls, Pr. Linna campaigned and was elected to the School Board. Then, in cooperation with the ministers of the other churches, Pr. Linna argued that, "a Christian education is vital to the well-rounded education for every student," and that a student with a Christian education makes them a better student in the school and a better citizen outside of the school.

While it remains debatable whether one can make that kind of connection, the fact remains that the most consistent and well participated educational program that Pr. Rasner has ever seen is found right there in Crystal Falls. And, for over 50 years the school administration has continued to support the partnership that it has with the churches. Even though the Lutherans and the Methodists are the only ones who continue to participate in the Release Time program, there is no sign whatsoever that the future of this program is in jeopardy. Indeed, it is built in to the elementary calendar a year in advance.

This goes to show just how much can happen in communities when pastors become involved in the life of their community, and when church members let their pastors do their ministry outside of the church building. Pastors and congregations may never really know what is possible until they get involved in their community.

"ELCA Fund for Leaders Scholarship- A Journey of Gratitude" by Pastor Brenda Greenwald

"May 26, 2015: On a day where I watched folks literally line-up to be interviewed for my music job (ugh), I came home to find a letter from ELCA, informing me that I was selected to receive a **full-tuition scholarship** from the **ELCA Fund for Leaders!** Whoa. WHOA! One of just



20 scholarships granted! I'll meet with Bishop Eaton, church leadership, and all Synod Bishops at a Banquet in Chicago in October. WHOA! "Exciting candidate for ministry... tremendous promise for leadership...clear sign of

hope". Humbling words, to say the least, and the exciting empowerment I needed for these last few days of school! I AM CALLED! **ALLELUIA, AMEN!"**

I will forever read this message with **JOY** and **DEEP** gratitude. I can distinctly remember walking to my mailbox that night, terribly saddened from the emotions of the day and seriously questioning what my next steps were...only to open this letter of promise. This letter of support. This letter of **HOPE!**

What came next wasn't just **money** - wasn't just the paying of many, MANY bills - what came next was a **relationship!** Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson (the first woman to head a seminary in the United States, I might proudly add) was the person identified as my miraculous **benefactor**, and a woman who became one of my fiercest supporters, cheerleaders, and prayer-warriors as I studied my way through seminary.

When you receive a scholarship along the magnitude of the ELCA Fund for Leaders **FROM** one of the people who originally dreamed it all up, well, you **KNOW** you've stumbled onto something amazing. Phyllis and her colleagues had long-dreamed about a fund that would cover tuition for students at Lutheran seminaries. They took what was a **dream** (back when I was still in elementary school) and turned it into a **reality** for this teacher-turned-Pastor.

For this Sheboygan, WI-born gal (with bills from my undergrad degree in Music Education at UW-Eau Claire), who had already moved to Castle Rock, CO to teach (with bills from my Master of Teaching degree at Regis University in Denver), the move to Berkeley, CA (to study for my Master of Divinity at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary) was going to be a **BIG** shift, and one that was going to come at **quite the cost:**

not only was **EVERYTHING** more expensive, but the thought of books and supplies and rent and materials and tuition and food was, well....overwhelming! It was clear that the Fund for Leaders scholarship was going to allow me to live - to **THRIVE** - as a growing Pastor-to-be.

When you hear the **call** to ministry, it's **MUCH** more than just an "I love Jesus! I'll go be a Pastor" kind of conversation with God. It's more like "Ok, God... how are WE going to make this happen?" God's answer came through the **generosity** of Phyllis (and her husband Herb), and her willingness to **believe** in a leader whom she knew little about. We intentionally got together each semester, sharing the joys and woes of seminary life over meals in Berkeley.

Fast-forward to **May of 2019**, and after four years of Phyllis' **GENEROUS** commitment and contribution to the next generation of leaders, I received both my Master of Divinity degree **AND** a call to two congregations in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan! The same woman who cheered me on in this **adventure** and who had embraced a **stranger** in 2015 was **present** in 2019 to proudly place my hood at the Commencement Ceremony (at the very Seminary where SHE was President.)

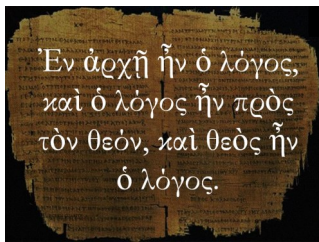
I could give you **numerical** figures that would blow your mind, from the cost of Seminary tuition, to the cost of moving to and from Internship and then again to one's new home, to the cost of all the incidentals in-between (and let's not forget about simple laundry and **EATING** while being unemployed and attending classes), but the **bottom line** is this: without the love and financial support of my benefactor Phyllis, there is **no way** I could have embarked upon this wild and mysterious call of **ministry!** The cost was great, but the **VALUE** was incredible!



The **intentional** and **thoughtful** gift from Phyllis and her family did not just happen without some serious forethought. Her choice to give **NOW** (and building that **relationship** with all of her scholarship recipients) and the value of giving **LATER** (a beautiful way to steward what she had been given to those who will shape the future) not only benefitted me directly, but continues to benefit my congregations in Wallace (Gethsemane Lutheran) and Stephenson (St. Stephen's Lutheran)! Her partnership with me - both **fiscal** and **friendly** eased the financial strain of life, and brought us together on this journey of hope. **Alleluia, amen!**

**We love to tell a story ... and so did
Jesus and his followers.
Lifelong Faith Formation with the
Northern Great Lakes Synod**

Launched in 2020, Lifelong Faith Formation engages those who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, world religions, and more. Twice a year, the

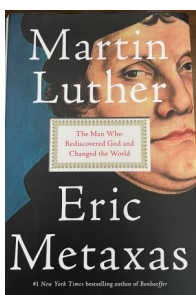


synod offers a new schedule of free classes which are held in the fall and the winter. Meeting mostly online, courses are free of charge, but some may require book purchase.

When I was a child at Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, the counselors acted-out "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" for their talent show. They modernized the costumes and the language to the 1960s. Because of their creative take, I can still picture the action on the stage inside the chapel. They gave new meaning to the way that Jesus used stories to teach.

According to Scripture, Jesus drew huge crowds over the course of his ministry. People walked for many miles just to listen and learn from the "Teacher," as he was so often called.

Stories about Jesus and the stories he told cover everything and anything. That's what we do as Christians today. We share, explore, and respond to stories through our Lifelong Faith



Formation program, guided by wonderful instructors (mostly pastors) from across the synod.

In addition to various Bible Studies, classes have included Holy Communion, Greek, Hebrew, Anishinaabe Culture, Islam, The Spirituality of Death and Dying, and Empowering Congregations to Recognize and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse.



The program has covered such topics as prayer, seasons of the church, spiritual practices, stewardship, engaging young people in our congregations, racism, our companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and more. Book studies have included a biography of Martin Luther by Eric Metaxas, Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*, and *Friedman's Fables* by Rabbi Ed Friedman, who artfully uses parables to explore deep concepts.

Over the course of any class, participants share stories about their lives and their congregations. Learning together through Lifelong Faith Formation helps us to better see ourselves in God's story.

For more information, visit the web page www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation

-- Deacon Lori Ward
Lifelong Faith Formation Administrator
Lori.Ward@nglsynod.org



Youth Ministry Collaborations

When we work together, we achieve more. In the fall of 2022, the NGLS Youth Ministry Team initiated a holy experiment encouraging pastors, youth leaders, parents, and anyone who engages with young people to work together to develop and plan faith-forming events for youth between 7th-12th grade in their conferences. We decided to focus on this age group after noticing an absence of this demographic in our own church communities. Many churches offer Sunday School programs and Confirmation class, but the programming often stops there. Confirmation signifies an important milestone between childhood and becoming an adult member of a congregation; however, our young people are still growing, developing, and trying to figure out how they fit into their communities, the church and the world.



By offering regional Conference-Wide Youth Events for junior and senior high students, we can provide a safe space for them to continue to grow in their faith and learn how they are connected to the larger church. Many congregations only have a handful of youth, so **by working together, we can offer more opportunities, share planning responsibilities, and combine resources to reach a larger group of kids.**

In the first seven months of our experiment, five of the eight NGLS Conferences have accepted the challenge of planning collaborative events for 7th-12th graders. Events typically involve a faith aspect, service project, time for connecting, food, and of course, fun! It has been encouraging to see kids from different school districts get to know each other through these events after recognizing each other from sports rivalries!

As these Conference-Wide Youth Events continue to grow and evolve, we are confident they will gain momentum. If you would like to be part of this holy experiment, please contact NGLS Youth Ministry Coordinator, Stefanie Ehle (youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org).



A Legacy of Caring in Tanzania

Milestone Reached at St. Paul's in Mass City, Michigan



The Malaria Net/Maternal Child Health ministry at St. Paul's celebrated another wonderful milestone as the grand total reached \$29,108 on February 5, 2023!

This outreach began in the fall of 2008 and has been richly blessed by the amazing generosity of our church family. Even throughout the pandemic slowdown, with no monthly fellowships held from April 2020 until April 2022, almost \$2,000 was raised for this lifesaving ministry!



Malaria once claimed the life of a child every 30 seconds, then every 45 seconds, by 2013 it was one life every 60 seconds, and by 2022, it was one life every two minutes. These 15-30 second increments may seem miniscule, but they translate to thousands of lives saved each day.

Several years ago, upon the recommendation of Bishop Skrenes, some of the malaria net offerings were directed to other necessary maternal and child health programs as good progress was being made on the malaria net front.

Some years ago, St. Paul's was visited by two representatives from the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of Tanzania. They both said that they needed to meet the people who were so committed to assisting their church family overseas. Sadly, since that visit, Robert Charles Lyimo (one of our visitors), lost his young son to malaria.

When we started on this journey, we had no set "fund-raising goals" or time period for this ministry in mind, we just did our best to follow the Holy Spirit's leading.

Ephesians 3:20 expresses it best, "Now all glory to God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us."

ASANTE SANA! (THANK YOU VERY MUCH!) BWANA ASIFIWE! (PRAISE THE LORD!)

~Ken Raisanen, member of St. Paul, Mass City

YOUR CONGREGATION'S MISSION SUPPORT DOLLARS (\$757,980 GIVEN IN FY2022)

ALLOWS THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD TO OFFER
MINISTRIES LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, AND GLOBALLY.

SUCH AS:

- Campus Ministry
- Synod Administrative Staff Support
- Seminary Partners – Wartburg & Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- Support for ELCA domestic & global ministries (\$341,091 – 45% passed on to ELCA)

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Individual and Congregational “Restricted” Gifts support **(\$170,113 IN FY2022)**

- Candidacy – the raising up and support of new rostered leaders
- Faithful Innovations Training
- Professional Leaders’ Enrichment
- Youth Programming
- UP Wild Mission Development
- Domestic and World Hunger Needs
- Seminarian Scholarships
- Stewardship Efforts
- Campus Ministry
- Lifelong Faith Formation Classes
- Lutheran Social Services
- Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
- Tanzanian Companion Synod Relationships and Ministries



NMU
Campus Ministry



Michigan Tech
Campus Ministry



Dr. Brian and Dr. Danielle Anderson
at Companion Congregation, Tabata Shule
in Tanzania

Endowment Funds — “Equipping the Saints Fund”



With a Current Balance of some \$401,050, the Undesignated “Equipping the Saints Endowment Fund” allows for 5% minimum distribution for ministries that are not necessarily part of our synod budget. These funding distributions are crucial as the regular budget of the synod has been reduced in past years.

We thank God for those who had the wisdom to create this synod endowment fund. And, we welcome gifts of all kinds—direct monetary gifts or deferred legacy gifts in the form of trusts, property, insurance, etc. These distributions allow creative and ongoing ministries to happen!

Proposed 2023 distributions totaling \$25,500 (6.25%) are:

Bay College Campus Ministry in Escanaba— A part-time campus pastor serves at Bay and this modest funding helps make a Christian presence on campus possible.

Synod Youth Events— Plans are in the works for youth events throughout the year.

Lifelong Faith Formation Classes— In recent years more than 400 people have participated in adult education via Zoom. Funds support teachers, the administrator, and curriculum help.

Website Development and Maintenance— The synod recently switched to a different website manager to update the site and make it more efficient and user friendly.

WLUC TV6 Christmas Worship— The pandemic created need and opportunity for a quality TV broadcast at Christmas. We plan to continue offering this worship service into the future.

Leadership Support— Fall Theological Conference, Clergy Women’s Retreat, and Health Boundaries Trainings.

Justice Advocacy— To support the efforts of Christ’s Kaleidoscope, Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors, and efforts toward Cultural Competency and Inclusion.

U.P. Wild— Our collaborative and innovative ministry focusing on outdoor worship.

Leadership Support— A Bishop’s Convocation provides local continuing education.

Endowment Fund to Restricted Endowment— Seed Sowers development events to promote gifts to our Endowment Ministry.

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An additional \$81,283* was distributed out of designated restricted endowment funds for: Seminarian Scholarships, Rural Ministry, Pastors’ Debt Relief, and Tanzanian Scholarships and Companion Relationship. These are areas that people have a passion about in their designation of these funds.

Any individual or congregation who wants information about legacy giving or endowment funds is encouraged to contact our ELCA Regional Gift Planner, Cynthia Halverson, at (773) 380-2572



Northern Great Lakes Synod



79 Congregations

2 SAWCs (Mission Development) – UP Wild

1 Bible Camp – Fortune Lake

1 Retirement Home – Northland Lutheran

49 Pastors under Call

6 Active Candidates for Rostered Ministry

2 Deacons under Call

1 Hospital & 2 Care Facility Chaplains

2 Military Chaplains

1 State Police Chaplain

9 Licensed Lay Ministers

Over 20,000 Baptized Members

ELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

We are Lutheran

We are church together

We are church for the sake of the world

8,900 Congregations

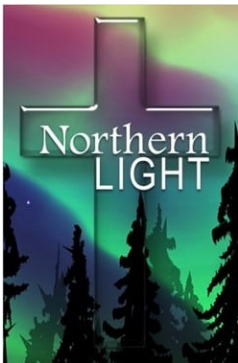
3.1 Million Baptized Members

27 Colleges and Universities

7 Seminaries

**2,000 schools and early childhood education
centers, campus ministries,
outdoor ministries, social service agencies**

**Over \$1 Billion in Regular Offerings
by Congregations to support local and global
ministries**



**LET YOUR
Light
SHINE**
MATTHEW 5:16

Your Congregation's Unrestricted Mission Support Dollars

***47% in FY2022 sent by Northern Great Lakes Synod**

to the ELCA churchwide to:

- Grow and support hundreds of new congregations throughout the U.S.
- Enable congregations to renew their local ministries
- Develop and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship
- Grow the Lutheran church around the world through accompaniment
- Support and develop current leaders and future leaders
- Provide governance, oversight, and leadership through the 65 synods and ELCA ministries
- Invest in technology and communication for the whole church
- Provide research and strategic planning resources
- Address social issues and advocate for justice

***45% Mission Support + \$20,833 (extra) = 47% net Mission Support for 2022**

Where did the Synod spend the monies we received?

*The approximate numbers below represent distributions from both
unrestricted income (money the synod has some discretion of where to spend it) and
restricted income (money the synod received with a specific designation)*

\$486,000 of Congregational Mission Support sent to the Northern Great Lakes Synod and designated gifts was passed on to the ELCA Churchwide organization.

The ELCA uses that money to provide domestic and global ministries in



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

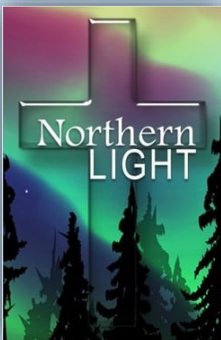
God's work. Our hands.

Christ's name. Some of that money is funneled back to our synod through grants for synod personnel and campus ministry. The ELCA proclaims Christ through hunger relief, missionary efforts, disaster relief, training leaders, providing educational resources, and advocacy just to name some of the ELCA's many impacts. Having a national church pool its efforts makes our witness stronger than any single congregation or synod.

\$111,000 was shared with partners in ministry such as seminaries, campus ministries, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Lutheran Social Services, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Seminaries train leaders for the church. Campus Ministries in our own synod are active at Michigan Tech in Houghton, Bay College in Escanaba, and Northern Michigan in Marquette. Colleges are often critical times for people of all ages to grow in their faith in Christ and create a community that shares the love of Jesus with others. The Wisconsin Council of Churches was most helpful in providing great resources to pastors and congregations during the pandemic.



\$73,000 was used by our synod for specific congregational ministries, outreach, Tanzania ministries, hunger ministries, endowment development. Congregational programming was supported, people heard the Good News of Jesus and people were fed.



\$45,000 was used for Candidacy, Professional Development for Pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers, Debt Support Relief for Pastors, and Mentoring.

\$437,500 was used for Office Operations, Communications, Synod Assembly, Personnel and Administration. The synod office has 4 full-time staff: Bishop Katherine Finegan; Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission Jim Duehring; Office Administrator Heather Oysti; and Bookkeeper/Secretary Betsy Koski. Deacon Lori Ward is a part-time Synod Missioner working with our Licensed Lay Ministers and Lifelong Faith Formation. Stefanie Ehle is part-time Synod Youth Ministries Coordinator. We assist congregations and leaders in their ministries both administratively and pastorally. We are just a phone call or email away. We are here to serve you and serve the Lord's work in this synod and beyond.



SOME MINISTRIES OF THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD AND ELCA



Young Adults spend a year of community and service abroad through the lens of faith, justice and accompaniment



Lutheran Disaster Response

God's hope, healing and renewal with those impacted by disasters – 38 countries, 25 U.S. states & territories served in 2022

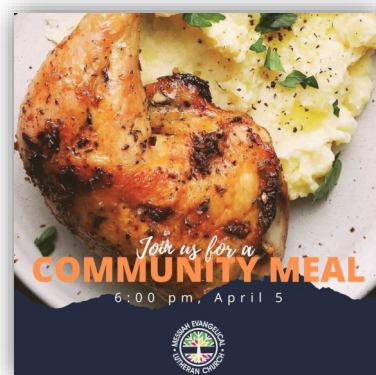


Licensed Lay Minister, Michael Holman, proclaims our hope in the cross of Christ at Emanuel, Skandia & Bethany, Negaunee



Many of our congregations do work projects for their communities on God's Work. Our Hands Sunday

Like Messiah, Marquette, many congregations have community meals and/or local food pantry ministries



Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp has been a place of grace for over 90 years impacting people of all ages and diverse backgrounds



Trinity, Rhinelander hosts a Wednesday Night Connect – a meal, singing, prayers, bible reading, lesson for all ages



A Collaborative Ministry of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

Wild Church is a "Church Outside the Box."

It is a means of encountering the actively Living God, based on shared values of faith, connection, and nature. Deep within the Christian tradition there hides a wealth of wisdom on how to cultivate a culture of compassion.

Wild Church is for everyone. You are welcome whether you are a part of a Christian faith community already, questioning your faith,

in recovery from wounds inflicted by religious trauma, simultaneously receiving nourishment from other faith traditions, or simply seeking to go deeper.

We offer monthly Nature Prayer Service in a public car, monthly wilderness walks at a revolving location, mobile prayer stations, online wilderness walks and events, and family programming from those within our community. From regularly scheduled prayer gatherings, to moonlight snowshoe hikes or silent strolls across deer trails to special Kids Gatherings. One intergenerational gathering featured the creating of Valentines Day cards for

the unhoused at the Warming Center in Marquette.

What people are saying about UP Wild:

"This space that is created through your service has allowed me to tap into the calmness before and during the storm and let me know with a calm heart and deep breaths that I am where I need to be. Thank you all - much love and appreciation."

"UP Wild created a sacred space very well."

"This is utterly life giving".

Lanni Lantto has been the Mission Developer for UP Wild since its inception in 2019. Generous grants from the ELCA, the Northern Great Lakes Synod, the national Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan, and individual donors are critical for UP Wild and it's expanding "branches" to exist. We thank Lanni for her creative and faithful leadership with this unique ministry that is expanding.

UP Wild has expanded to the Rapid River area and the Keweenaw!

It has been prominently featured in two ELCA publications

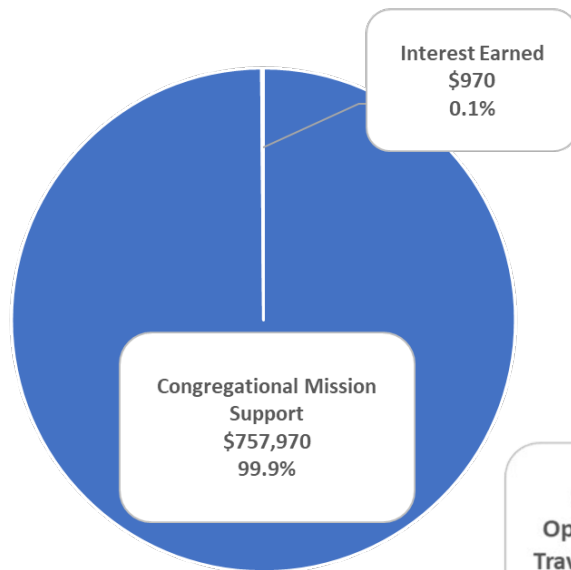
Living Lutheran, (March/April 2023) www.livinglutheran.org/issues

Stories of Faith, www.livinglutheran.org/sofia/up-wild-brings-worship-outdoors.php

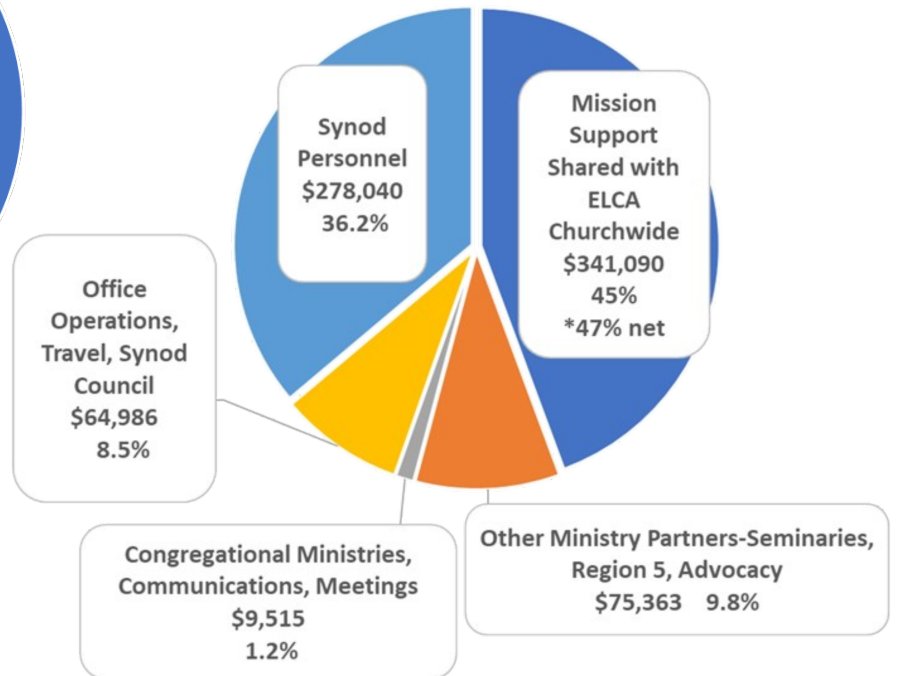
To learn more about UP Wild, go to: www.upwild.org



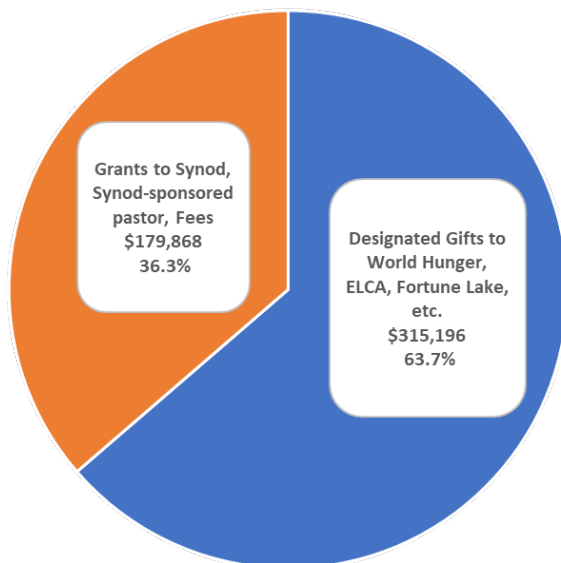
FY 2022 Unrestricted Income



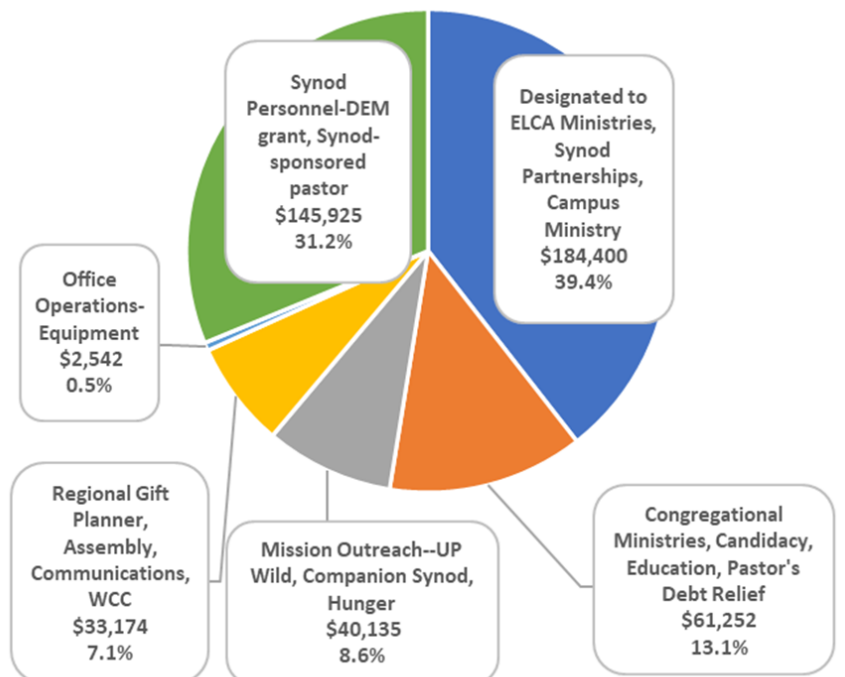
FY 2022 Unrestricted Expenses



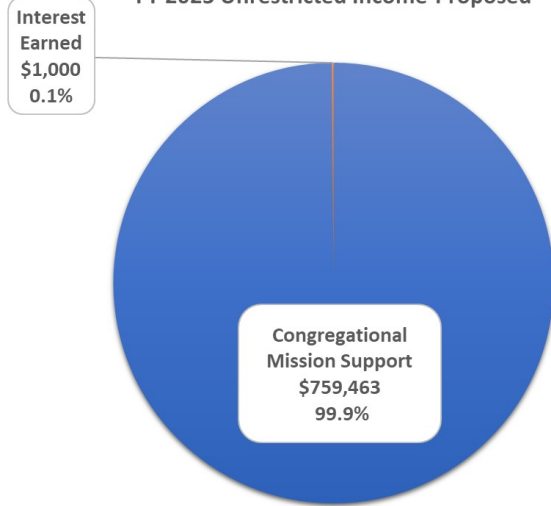
FY 2022 Restricted Income



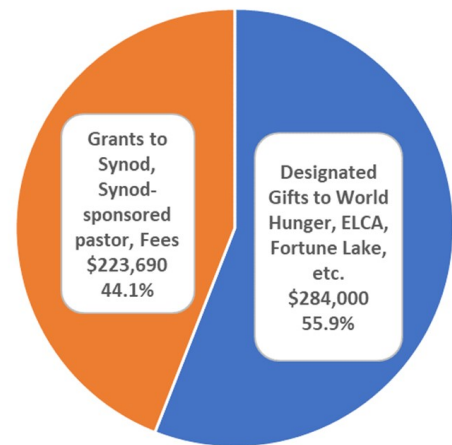
FY 2022 Restricted Expenses



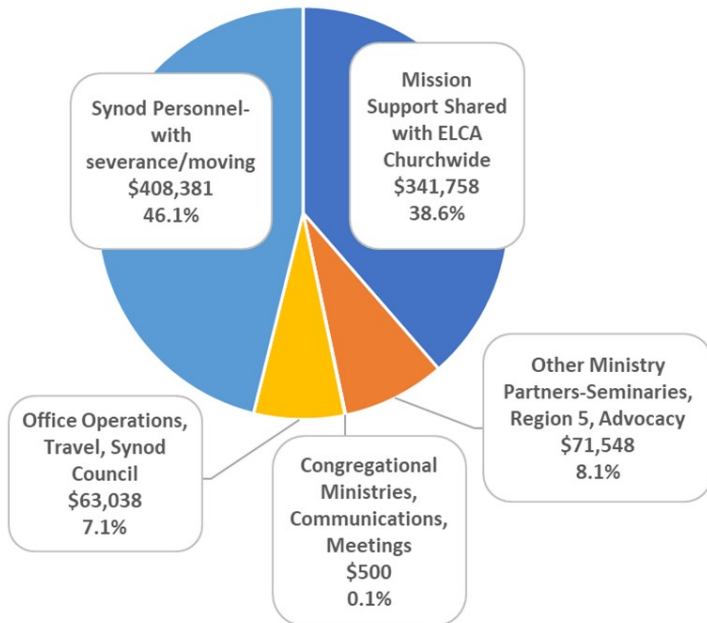
FY 2023 Unrestricted Income-Proposed



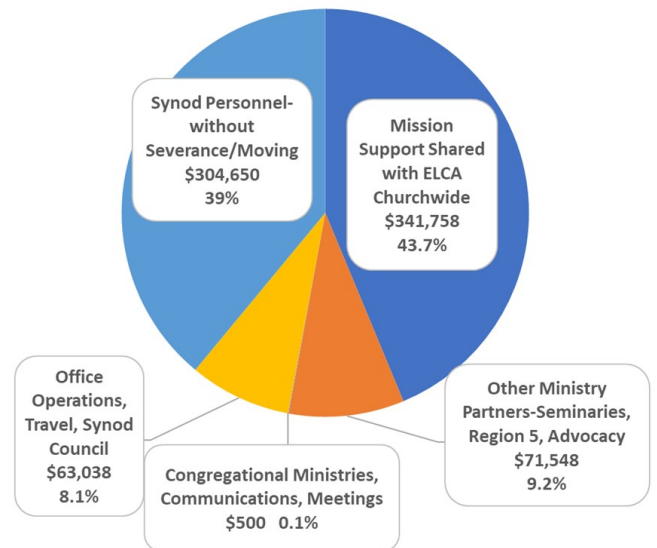
FY 2023 Restricted Income-Proposed



FY 2023 Unrestricted Expenses-w/Severance-Proposed



FY 2023 Unrestricted Expenses w/o Severance-Proposed



Mission Support to ELCA proposed at 45% for FY 2023. Lower percentages in pie charts represent percentage of all unrestricted expenses.

FY 2023 Restricted Expenses-Proposed

