



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for August 16, 2019

The Season of Pentecost

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness."

James 1:19-20 NRSV



2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 5-10, 2019 • MILWAUKEE

Representatives from the Northern Great Lakes Synod gathered in Milwaukee, August 5-10 at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly under the theme “We Are Church,” joining around 900 voting delegates from across the country. In his sermon during Monday’s opening worship, Rev. William “Chris” Boerger, secretary of the ELCA, emphasized how the assembly theme is central to the assembly’s purpose.

“We are church,” said Boerger. “We gather here in Milwaukee with this theme. We are church. But we do not say, ‘We are the church.’ We know the church of Jesus Christ is much larger than the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. But we are part of it.

“We are the church because of what is happening here among us ... the gospel is being preached, the sacraments are the center of what’s happening here this week. ... We are the church because of what God is doing.”

Go to: www.elca.org/churchwidewayassembly to read more and see selected videos from the assembly. Representing the Northern Great Lakes Synod were: Mary Lou Blomquist, Bishop Katherine Finegan, Rev. Terry Frankenstein, Rev. Doug Johnson, Rick Pink, Evan Rein, and Chuck Thomas.

[Some Highlights of the Churchwide Assembly included...](#)

- Re-election of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to a

second 6-year term on the first ballot!

- Election of Deacon Sue Rothmeyer to serve as the new Secretary of the ELCA
- Approved a declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Adopted a new social statement, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action,” and its implementing resolutions.

For further reading go to:

<https://www.elca.org/womenandjustice>

- Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) will now be “ordained”—a change from the previous practice of “consecration.”
- There were celebrations of the milestones of 50 years of women’s ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.
- For more background information and perspectives on the assembly vote to declare the ELCA a “sanctuary church body”, please see Bishop Finegan’s pastoral and congregational letter about this topic at:
<https://www.nglsynod.org/newsletter-articles/>
- For a full summary of all the Churchwide Assembly actions go to: <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/Recent-News-Stories>



You are invited to a mini-Festival of Congregational Renewal. This event in each conference will include leadership training, address current concerns, equip you for the future, and offer the blessing of being church with other congregations in your area.

Ask you pastor or interim pastor how to sign up!

Updated **Fall 2019 Schedule**

Conference 1 at All Saints, Wakefield

Sunday - October 20

2:00-5:30 pm Meal-5:30 pm

Conference 2 at Holy Trinity, Chassell

Sunday - September 22

4:00-7:00 pm Meal-6:00 pm

Conference 3 at Prince of Peace, Eagle River

Saturday - October 26

9:00-11:30 am Snacks

Conference 4 at Bethany, Norway

Saturday - October 19

9:00-11:30 am Meal-11:30 am

Conference 5 at Gethsemane, Wallace

Thursday - October 17

5:30-8:00 pm Meal-5:30 pm

Conference 6 at Immanuel, Escanaba

Thursday - October 24

5:30-8:00 am Meal-5:30 pm

Conference 7 at Zion, St. Ignace

Saturday - October 5

11:15 am-2:30 pm Meal-11:30 am

Conference 8 at Bethany, Ishpeming

Thursday - November 7

5:30-8:00 pm Meal-5:30 pm

**The Synod Staff and conference leadership are
planning a positive and energizing event!**

**Northern Great Lakes Synod
2019 Fall Theological Conference
and Retreat**

Registration Update

**Due to Mission Point requiring the rooming list
no later than August 30th,
registrations must be received in the Synod
Office no later than August 28, 2019.**

Who: **All Clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers**
(Spouses and families are also invited)

Where: **Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island**

When: **Sunday, October 6 - Tuesday, October 8, 2019**

With: **North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA**
Southeast Michigan Synod, ELCA

Presenter: **Rev. Matthew L. Becker, Ph.D.,**
Professor of Theology, Valparaiso University

***For more information and to download a registration form,
click this link:***

<https://jwwmedia.s3.amazonaws.com/ngls/pdf2019/Fall%202019%20Theological%20Conference%20Brochure.pdf>



Portico's Board of Trustees has approved health plan and benefit changes for 2020, featuring new ways for ELCA-Primary members to save on out-of-pocket costs and strengthen their emotional well-being. You can read more at PorticoBenefits.org/2020rates.

Later in August, Custom Comparison Reports will be available to congregations, who will make their selections in October. Members will complete benefits enrollment in November.

Attention all Council Presidents: A letter from Portico explaining the new health plan and benefit changes will be included in the next congregational mailing.



"By Faith"

Honoring Suomi Seminary

1904 - 1958

You are invited to the "By Faith" event
celebrating the rich history of the Suomi
Seminary and the lives and ministries of its
graduates!

September 21-22, 2019
Finlandia University
Hancock, MI

You will receive a full schedule of events in the next congregational
mailing!



Looking for a Good Devotional Resource?

Check out our synod website and the "Prayfaithfully Resource".

People from our synod write weekly devotionals.

Go to www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully to explore this resource. Make daily devotions a part of your routine. You'll be blessed by this inspiring discipline.

Maybe God is inspiring you to write for this synod devotional resource.

If interested, contact Betsy Koski in the Synod Office, 906-228-2300 or bakoski@nglsynod.org.

Is your Constitution up to date?

Avoid the rush before January congregational meetings. Begin the process now! With the Churchwide Assembly in August, new required updates are on the horizon. Form a team now to begin a review of your constitution. If it's been a few years, begin with the current model constitution found at http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Model_Constitution_for_Congregations_2016.doc?_ga=2.23401470.535700308.1553779167-988264540.1542743346

Try to send any constitutional updates to the Synod Office for review by October 1 - prior to January 2020 Annual Meetings!



Women's Fall Retreat
September 20 - 22, 2019
at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Click this link to get more information and
registration form:

<https://jwwmedia.s3.amazonaws.com/ngls-welca/2019-05.pdf>

All Clergy and Seminarians: UPDATE

**Are you interested in an
Ecumenical Civil Rights Pilgrimage
from Memphis to Montgomery this fall (October 21-24)?**

Wisconsin Council of Churches will be taking one bus of faith leaders
(seats 25) on a pilgrimage starting in Memphis, travel through
Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery.

Participants will be responsible for getting themselves to the trip origin
in Memphis, and home from the finish point in Memphis. Cost is \$495
per person (shared room)/\$695 per person (single room) covers most
costs. Seats on the bus are first-come, first-serve. Registration is
secured with a \$200 down-payment on the website or by check
received in our offices.

For more information on how to register, visit this link:

[online registration link](#)

Final payment due August 21st!

Please contact Rev. Kerri Parker, Executive Director
Wisconsin Council of Churches

**Rostered Leaders
in First 3 Years of Call:**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

The 2019 FCTE (First Call Theological Education) Fall Conference will be held **November 10-13** at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, Wisconsin. The cost will remain the same - \$300 - which includes all meals and lodging. Please reserve these dates now, and watch for more detailed information to arrive during the latter part of September.



Mission Interpreters Needed

Pastor Jim is still looking for Mission Interpreters. Mission Interpreters visit a congregation and thank people for their mission support and tell the mission story of our synod. God is at work and these stories need to be told! If you like your church, and don't mind speaking in front of people, perhaps God is calling you to be a Mission Interpreter. Call Pastor Jim Duehring at the Synod Office to learn more: 906-228-2300.

Bishop's Newsletter Article

All congregations are encouraged to add the Bishop's newsletter article for July/August in their own newsletters. The article can be found by clicking this link: <https://www.nglsynod.org/newsletter-articles/>.

Congregational leaders are encouraged to check out the wide variety of resources available online. Go to www.elca.org/stewardship or



www.nglsynod.org/stewardship.

Contact Pastor Jim Duehring in the Synod Office (906-228-2300) if you would like him to visit with your congregation about stewardship.

TRANSITIONS

~ Pastor-Elect Molly Eversoll was ordained by Bishop Finegan in Roscoe, Illinois on August 3rd. She has been called to be the Associate Pastor at Messiah, Marquette.

~ Pastor Ken Ranos (Faith, Three Lakes) has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. His last Sunday at Faith, Three Lakes was July 28th. We thank Pastor Ken for his ministry at Three Lakes. We thank Pastor John Kuziej for assuming the Administrative Interim duties at Faith and pray for this congregation during this time of change.



FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Fall Fest

Saturday, October 5, 2019

Quilt & Fine Arts Auction

Previewing 9:00 - 11:00 am - FLLC Chapel

Buffet Brunch (Dining Hall): 9:00 - 10:30 am

Market (Dining Hall): homemade breads & pies

Country Store (Chapel): small handcrafted
items and gifts, artwork, etc.

Auction begins promptly at 11:00 am

Go to www.fortunelake.org



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

For more information on Lutheran Immigration and Refugee
Services may be found at www.lirs.org.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

- Doug Norquist and his family whose mother died August 1, 2019. Be with all those grieving the loss of loved ones.
- Teachers and students preparing for the upcoming school year
- Peace with justice across the nations
- Those adjusting to major changes in life
- The leaders of our country
- Pastor Jim Duehring and Mission Developer Lanni Lantto attending training in Baltimore

CHECK OUT www.prayfaithfully.org
for weekly "Breath Prayer"
and Daily Devotions

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

Bishop's Articles for Congregational Newsletters:
<https://www.nglsynod.org/newsletter-articles/>



E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter
from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastor Jim Duehing

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