



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

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[ngls@nglsynod.org](mailto:ngls@nglsynod.org)

**E-Notes for August 28, 2019**

# **The Season of Pentecost**

## **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Congregations might effectively model every other best practice, but it is clear that if a God-centered focus brought alive through active prayer is not present, healthy growth simply does not happen."

Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations, p. 26

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

**Registration Due!!**

**Registrations must be received in the Synod Office by Friday, 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>

## **First Lutheran Church, Dollar Bay**

We give thanks to God for the ministry of First Lutheran Church in Dollar Bay, Michigan. First was founded in the year of our Lord 1900 and served the community in Christ's name for 119 years. The congregation voted to dissolve on Sunday, August 25.

A service of celebration for this ministry will be Sunday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m. at First Lutheran, Dollar Bay. All are invited to join the congregation of First in giving thanks for all that God has done in and through their church.

The congregation wishes to "re-purpose" as much of its sacred furnishings

and building contents as possible. Congregations and individuals are invited to consider the items that are available. Please e-mail Vicar Micah Cavaleri at [Micah.Cavaleri@gmail.com](mailto:Micah.Cavaleri@gmail.com) to receive a list or make arrangements to visit and see what is available.



## 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](http://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 your 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!**



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](https://PorticoBenefits.org/2020rates).



Custom Comparison Reports will be available by the end of August 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](http://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](mailto: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-](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Model_Constitution_for_Congregations_2016.doc?_ga=2.23401470.535700308.1553779167-)



**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>

## **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 September/October, "Sanctuary...What Does This Mean?" 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](http://www.elca.org/stewardship) or [www.nglsynod.org/stewardship](http://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 Kellan Weyer resigned his call from Mission United Lutheran Church in Pelkie, MI. His last Sunday was August 11, 2019. Special thanks to Pastor DJ Rasner for serving as half-time Intentional Interim.



# 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 (CT) - 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](http://www.fortunelake.org)



**Lutheran Immigration  
and Refugee Service**

More information on Lutheran Immigration and Refugee  
Service may be found at [www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org).

## **LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER**

- For teachers and students as they begin another school year.
- For congregations waiting for their next pastor.
- For pastors in the call process.
- For abundant harvest, that all may be fed.
- For all those displaced by violence, fear, or changing climate.

CHECK OUT [www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org)  
for weekly "Breath Prayer"  
and Daily Devotions

The synod website is [www.nglsynod.org](http://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.

**Bishop Katherine Finegan**