



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

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for September 18, 2019

The Season of Pentecost

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side.
My greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God
is always right."

*Abraham Lincoln's response when asked if he thought God
was on the side of the Union*

Northern Great Lakes Synod
2019 Fall Theological Conference
and Retreat

Rooms are still

available!!

**Call the Synod Office Now (906/228-2300)
to make arrangements**

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

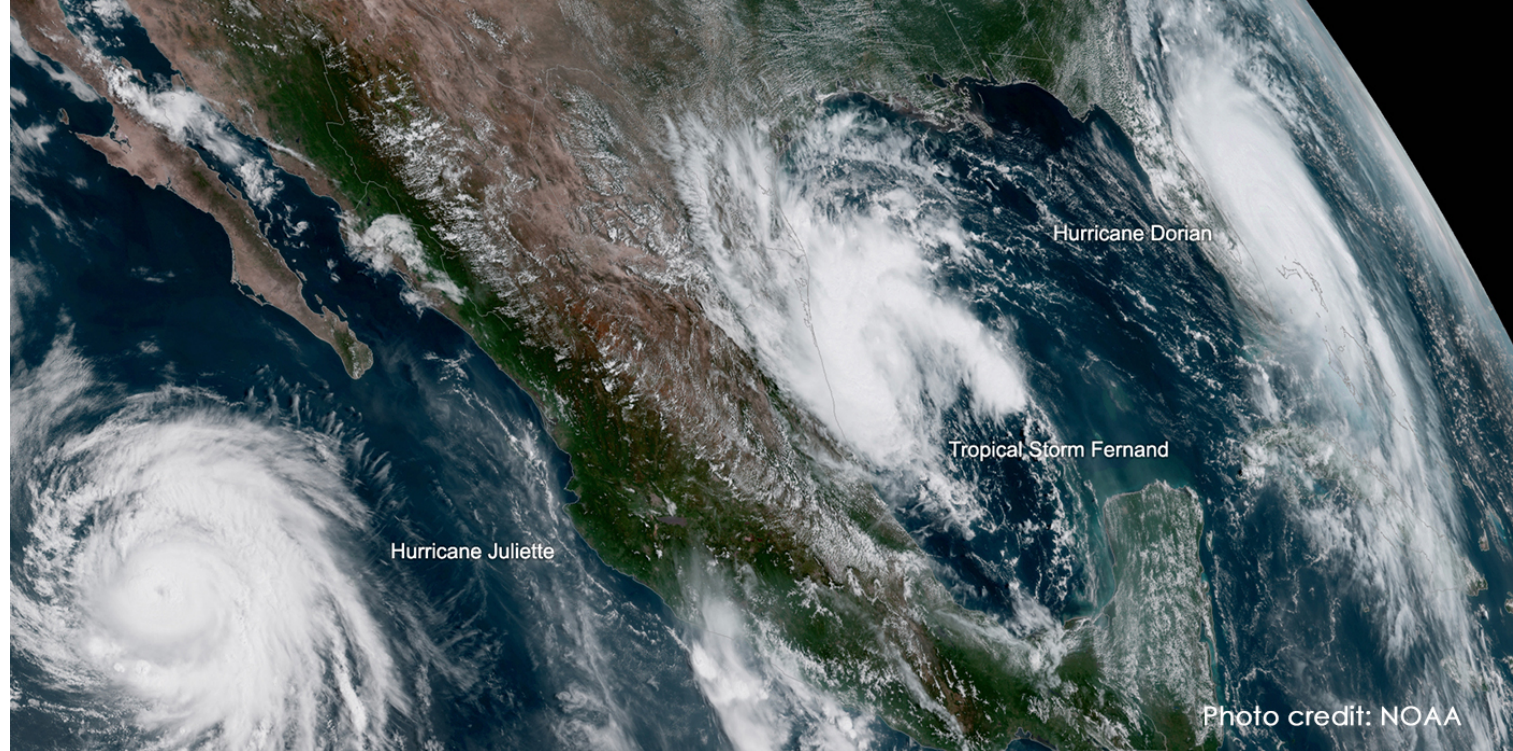
We give thanks to God for the ministry of First Lutheran Church in Dollar Bay, Michigan. First was founded in the year of our Lord 1900 and served the community in Christ's name for 119 years. The congregation voted to dissolve on Sunday, August 25.

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 to receive a list or make arrangements to visit and see what is available.



Bishop Finegan is pleased to announce the hiring of our new Office Administrator, Heather Oysti. Heather begins her training with outgoing and retiring Office Administrator, Louise Ingalls, on September 23. Louise's last day in the office is October 4. Heather resides in Ishpeming and has most recently served as the Youth Director at Bethel Lutheran, Ishpeming. She has also worked in the Media Center with the NICE School System. Heather brings a strong faith, enthusiasm, and a variety of church and business experiences to this position. Stop by and welcome Heather! Welcome, Heather, to your new position! Thanks, Louise, for your 24 years of service in the Synod Office! Enjoy your retirement!



2019 Hurricane Response

The situation:

Hurricane Dorian has hit the Bahamas with devastating force, leading to major damage and a growing number of reported deaths. The storm is now moving along the southeastern coast of the United States, threatening our neighbors with dangerous winds and life-threatening storm surge.

Our response:

Lutheran Disaster Response is in communication with the Florida-Bahamas Synod, the South Carolina Synod, the North Carolina Synod, Lutheran Services Carolinas and other partners who are preparing to respond. We are ready to stand by our neighbors as they recover from this hurricane and any others the 2019 season may bring.

What you can do:

Pray

Please pray for people who have been affected by hurricanes. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

Give

Your gifts designated for “[Hurricane Response](#)” will be used entirely (100 percent) for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes.

Resources:

Click this link for more information and a bulletin insert for congregations: www.elca/ldr



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!**



CROP Hunger Walk *and* **The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Walking together to end hunger!

**Join a team and walk
crophungerwalk.org**



CROP Hunger Walks Stepping Up to End Hunger Since 1969

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the national CROP Hunger Walk movement, CROP Hunger Walks continue to raise millions of dollars each year to help end hunger and poverty through long-term sustainable approaches to significantly reduce or eliminate hunger. In each CROP Hunger Walk community, 25% of money raised comes back to local agencies. Across the country, over 1600 local agencies receive funds from CROP Hunger Walks

This year some 800 communities nationwide are joining together in interfaith CROP Hunger Walks around the theme "Stepping up to End

Hunger Since 1969." The CROP Hunger Walk was started in 1969 by a group of energized young people in Bismarck, North Dakota who wanted to mobilize their community to fight global hunger. Today, the CROP Hunger Walk is a national movement raising funds for the global hunger-fighting work of Church World Service and local hunger-fighting agencies. Last year, over 800 events raised over \$8 million dollars.

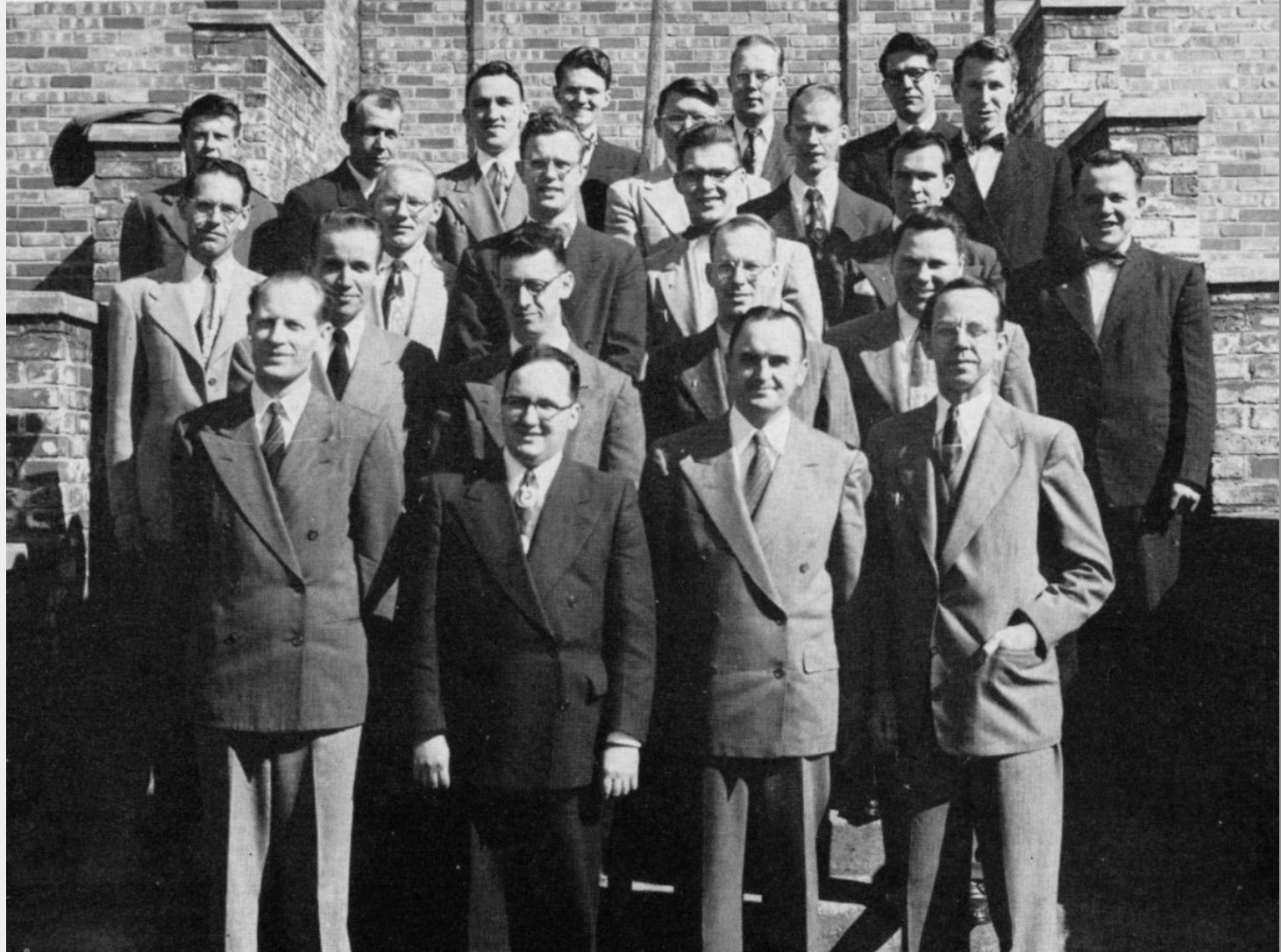
Click here for more information or to find a local Walk near you: www.crophungerwalk.org.



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.

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 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 on the

Synod's website at

https://jwwmedia.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/ngls/pdf2019/Model_Constitution_for_Congregations_2019.docx

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 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 Molly Eversoll** will be installed as the Associate Pastor at Messiah Lutheran, Marquette, Michigan at 4pm Eastern Time on Sunday, October 27. Clergy are encouraged to vest with the color of the day being red.

~ **Pastor Brenda Greenwald** will be installed as Pastor of St. Stephen of Stephenson, Michigan and Gethsemane, Wallace, Michigan at 3pm Central Time on Sunday, November 17. Clergy are encouraged to vest with the color of the day being red.

~ We welcome to our synod **Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith** and **Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith**. **Pastor Brahm** will start serving as pastor at Gloria Dei, Hancock, Michigan on September 23 with his installation date to be determined.

~**Pastor Sarah Semler Smith** will be installed as Finlandia's Campus Pastor as part of Finlandia's "[By Faith](#)" festivities during the community worship honoring the Suomi Seminary at 11am Eastern Time on Sunday, September 22 at the Chapel of St. Matthew.



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



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

More information on Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service may be found at www.lirs.org.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

- For the Amazon Rain Forest and those places facing ecological harm
- For those dealing with addictions
- For those grieving the loss of loved ones
- For the congregations of our synod involved in the Faithful Innovations cohort
- For receptive hearts to receive the love of God through the good news of Christ

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 Duehring
Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

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