



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for October 15, 2019

The Season of Pentecost

Quote of the Day

"A key to effective ministry is acknowledging, celebrating, and using the gifts of a congregation's place and its people."

Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations,

by David Poling-Goldenene & L. Shannon Jung, pg. 97 (Augsburg Fortress 2001),

used by permission

Walking Together



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!

Pastors, please contact your Conference President and the Synod Office one week prior to your event with how many from your congregation will be attending. Numbers are needed for handouts and meal planning.

Updated Fall 2019 Schedule

Conference 1 at All Saints, Wakefield

Sunday - October 20

2:00-5:30 pm Meal-5:30 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 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[®]

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

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.



Looking for a Good Devotional Resource?

Check out "[Prayfaithfully](#)" on our synod website!

People from the Northern Great Lakes Synod write weekly devotionals.

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.

Rostered Leaders in First 3 Years of Call:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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.



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. If you would like Pastor Jim Duehring to visit with your congregation about stewardship, please contact him at the Synod Office (906) 228-2300.



FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

UPCOMING FORTUNE LAKE EVENTS

Visit www.fortunelake.org for more details and to register!

Adoptive & Foster Families Retreat

November 1-3, 2019

After a hiatus, this meaningful weekend returns with opportunities for adoptive and foster families to connect, discuss unique situations their families face, and enjoy all the

fun and relaxation camp has to offer.

Unfinished Objects (UFO's) Crafter's Retreat

November 15-17, 2019

Come to Fortune Lake during the opening weekend of deer season. Bring those projects that you've been intending to tackle, without concern for cooking, cleaning or bedtime.

Winter Wonderland Retreat **January 17-19, 2020**

This snowy getaway will include sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and possibly even ice skating. Downhill packages for Ski Brule can be purchased for an additional fee. Prefer indoor activities? The sauna will be lit, the hot drinks will abound with board games aplenty!

Jr. High & High School Youth Retreat

February 7-8, 2020

Come to camp in the winter to reconnect with God, reunite with other campers and former staff, and rejuvenate your faith. There will be camp-style worship, sauna, authentic conversation and (maybe?) sleep.



Tithe.ly

Tithe.ly Giving Option Webinar

As many of you are aware, Tithe.ly is one of the Preferred Vendors for ELCA congregations. While their initial services emphasized online giving, this partner is growing rapidly and is announcing new digital tools to help congregations grow, especially small congregations. This would include Church Management Software and Web Design Services. Pricing will start as low as \$9 per month.

Please plan to join us on Thursday, October 17 at 2 pm CST. Simply sign up using the link below.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ev9zdGtzRgSG72GZm2OyOA

Tithe.ly now has more than 500 congregations using their online giving. We already have more than 160 congregations signed up for this webinar announcement.

Through Tithe.ly, donation forms are integrated into the congregation's website and a mobile app instead of sending donors to third-party sites. Donors have the option to make one-time or recurring gifts to provide more consistent giving. Tithe.ly can work with every ELCA congregation.

Learn more at: <https://get.tithe.ly/elca>



Another Electronic Giving Option

Vanco makes handling donations easy for church administrative staff and offers churches new ways to increase donations by making it convenient for members to donate. GivePlus also integrates with the most popular names in church management software to reduce the amount of time spent on reconciling offerings. Along with Tithe.ly, Vanco is one of the preferred giving options for ELCA congregations.

To learn more about GivePlus and the benefits of this preferred vendor agreement, go to www.giveplus.com/elca.

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** started serving as pastor at Gloria Dei, Hancock, Michigan on September 23 with his installation date set for Sunday, November 10.



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 Pastor Tom & Sue Wickstrom who grieve the death of Sue's mother
- For newly graduated and assigned seminarians ready to serve in ministry
- For the people of Syria
- For those harvesting
- For Pastor Tom Otis recovering from surgery
- For ecumenical efforts to bear witness for Christ

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org for weekly
Breath Prayer and Daily Devotions

Visit the Northern Great Lakes Synod
website: www.nglsynod.org

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



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from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the
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Pastor Jim Duehring
Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

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