



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for October 31, 2019

Reformation Day

Quotes of the Day

Attributed to Martin Luther

*I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God.
Amen.*

Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.

Every man must do two things alone; he must do his own believing and his own dying.

Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are?

God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.



FORTUNE LAKE
A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake

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.

Wednesday Noon Live



Join the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin the first Wed. of each month beginning November 6 at noon for updates on legislation and interview with a guest via Facebook Live! Search LOPPW on FB.



"The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in
from this time forth forevermore."

Psalm 121

THANK YOU to all who participated, all who hosted, all who prepared and cleaned up. It was wonderful to be Church together and journey as the community of faith.

If you missed your Walking Together event, you are invited to join us for the very last one:

Conference 8 at Bethany, Ishpeming

Thursday - November 7

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



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.



Fuel the Mission

24 hours. 24 stories of hope. 24 opportunities to fuel \$2.4 million.

Join Lutheran Social Services on their [Facebook](#) page for 24-hours between 6 pm November 12 and 6 pm November 13 for their Fuel the Mission event. Be sure to like and follow so you don't miss any of the inspiring stories of hope!



LSS on Facebook



Autumn in the Superior Central Conference

Seasons of the Synod Photo Contest

In an effort to make our Synod office more representative of the people and areas we serve, we would like to feature seasonal nature photographs from each of our 8 conferences on our office walls. If you have a nature photo for consideration, please send it our way!

In your submission message please include your first and last name, conference, and a short description of the area in which your picture was taken.

Photos should be in JPG format, landscape orientation and high resolution for enlargement purposes. Submissions will be accepted through November 30, 2019.

[Submit Your Photograph Here](#)



Renaming Notes & Quotes Contest

Our Synod newsletter, Notes & Quotes, is getting a new name,
and we need your help!

Please click the button below to submit your idea(s). Submissions will be accepted through December 31, 2019 and a prize will be awarded to the person with the winning idea.

Clergy Spouse Conference

January 31 - February 2, 2020

Join ELCA Clergy Spouses from Wisconsin and Upper Michigan for a weekend at the Country Inn & Suites in Iron Mountain, MI. The weekend will be an informal, fun time with valuable workshops, good food, lots of laughter and fellowship.

Barbara Solsaa, owner and director of Clergy Life Coaching will be joining us again this year as our program leader. There will also be time throughout the weekend to visit the alpacas at Rainbow's End Alpacas in Norway, participate in a service project, go shopping and explore the Iron Mountain area, swim in the hotel pool or enjoy time on your own.

Click [here](#) for complete event details and to register.

The registration deadline is January 14, 2020.



Clergy Life Coaching

Northern Great Lakes Synod
presents

Professional Leader's Retreat

February 9-10, 2020

Ramada Inn
Marquette, MI



Dr. Lois Malcom
Luther Seminary

Life in the Spirit

As churches become more anxious about the future, more intentional reliance upon the Holy Spirit is being encouraged. But what does that mean, exactly? What does that look like? Come and consider together the work of the Holy Spirit in pastoral and congregational leadership and the power of spiritual discernment to inspire mission and ministry.

Clergy, spouses and families are all welcome at this event! Click [here](#) for complete event details and to register. The deadline to register is January 10, 2020.



Daily Devotions

Prayfaithfully Devotions

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.

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.



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.**

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.



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.

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

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 at 3:00pm. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is 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.



**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 those in harm's way, especially in Syria and Mexico.
- For those congregations interviewing pastoral candidates.
- For those congregations in transition.
- For Pastor Stacy Pethke, Sean Korpela, and Katie McEachern travelling to the Youth Summit.
- For our congregations that they may listen deeply, to God, to each other, and to their community.

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/>



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

+Bishop Katherine Finegan

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