



# **NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD**

## **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Marquette, Michigan**

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

## **E-Notes for December 2, 2019**

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### **The Season of Advent**

#### **Quote of the Day**

"The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven,  
a gleaming array in the heights of the Lord...

By his command he sends the driving snow  
and speeds the lightnings of his judgement....

The voice of his thunder rebukes the earth;  
so do the tempest from the north and the whirlwind.

He scatters the snow like birds flying down,  
and its descent is like locusts alighting.

The eye marvels at the beauty of its whiteness,

and the mind is amazed at its falling."

~Sirach 43: 9, 13, 17-18



The Conference 8 meeting was rescheduled due to inclement weather. So, if you missed your Walking Together event, you are invited to join us for the very last one:

**Conference 8 at Trinity, Ishpeming**

**Thursday, December 12**

**5:30-8 pm Meal-5:30 pm**

**Bring 10 or more Congregation Councils and members!!**

**Call in your numbers to the Synod Office on Monday,  
December 9!**



## Wednesday Noon Live

Join the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin the first Wednesday of each month at noon for updates on legislation and an interview with a guest via

[Facebook Live](#)! The next Wednesday Noon Live will take place

December 4, 2019.



LOPPW on Facebook

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## **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.

**[Submit Your Newsletter Idea Here](#)**

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# FORTUNE LAKE

*A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI*

## Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake

Visit [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org) for more details and to register!

### Winter Wonderland Retreat

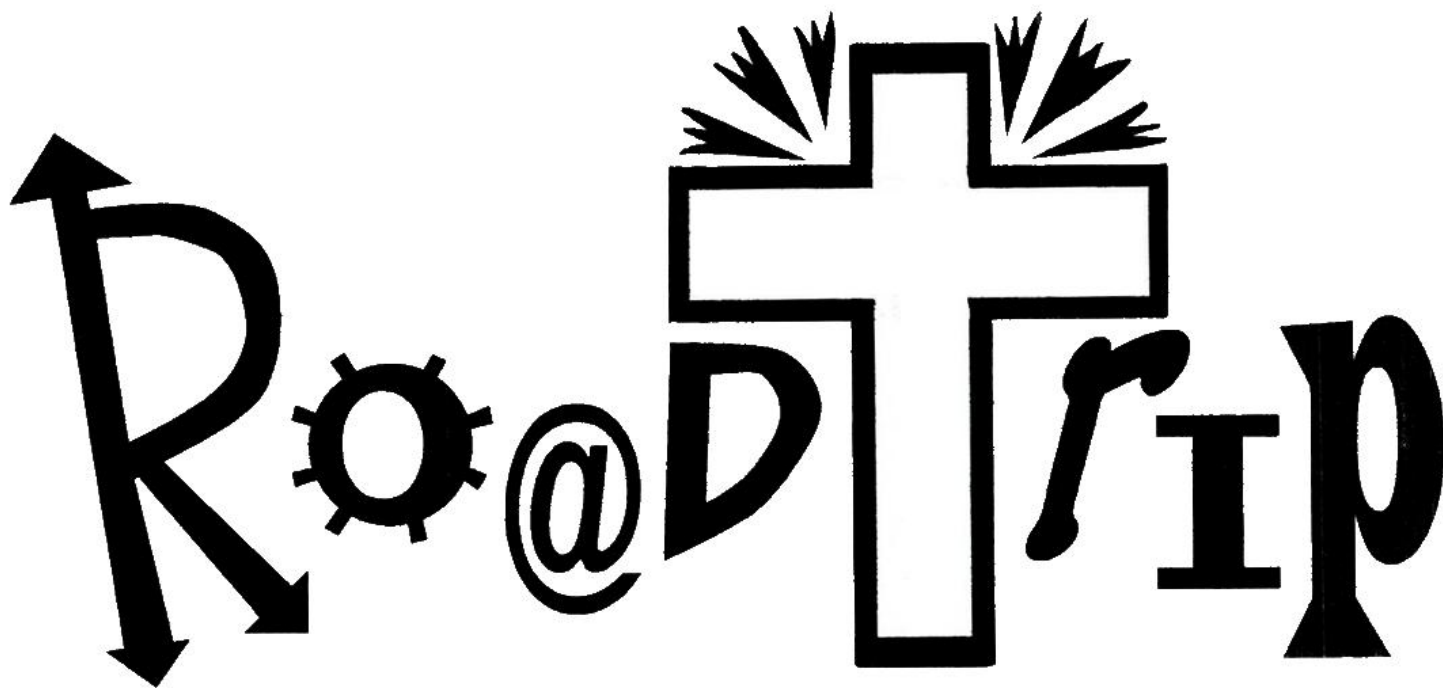
**January 17-19, 2020**

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.



## Synod Youth Gathering in Delaware-Maryland Synod

Our domestic companion synod is the Delaware-Maryland Synod. They have graciously invited our high school youth to attend their High School Youth Gathering, "RoadTrip," January 24-26, 2020 in Ocean City, Maryland. This gracious invite includes their covering the cost of registration (\$250). They will also provide transportation from the nearby airport. If a high school youth from the Northern Great Lakes Synod is interested in this event, please contact Pastor Stacy Pethke at (906) 202-4415 or [pastor.stacyp@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.stacyp@gmail.com). There is the possibility of some financial support from the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the flight to Maryland. For more information and event details, visit the Delaware-Maryland Synod [website](#).

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**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

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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.

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## Marked Events

Once again, the Synod Youth Committee is encouraging confirmation age youth to attend one of these Marked Events offered in our



Synod. It's a chance to meet new friends, participate in a service project, sing, play games, worship and eat. Mark your calendars and encourage your confirmation age youth and leaders to join us...



**Sunday, March 22 at Messiah Lutheran, Marquette, 4-7 pm ET**

**Sunday, April 19 at Our Redeemer, Newberry, 4-7 pm ET**

**Sunday, April 26 at First Lutheran, Iron River, 4-7 pm CT**



## **How is Your Spirit?**

Pastors are constantly sharing the love of Christ through word, sacrament, and caring. In order to keep their ministry at a high level for years to follow, pastors also need time to receive and rejuvenate. There are options available for retreat, sabbath, and spiritual direction. Maybe you have taken advantage of these options and maybe not. We would like to help you out. Please take two minutes, click this [link](#), and take the survey, so we can find the best way to help you out.



## 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. Check out our upcoming devotions:

**December 1-7 by Pastor Micheal Laakko**

**December 8-14 by Pastor Dennis Meyette**

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).





# 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 at the [ELCA](#) and [NGLS](#). 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](http://www.giveplus.com/elca).

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## Transitions

**Pastor-elect Nicole Hanson-Lynn** has accepted the call to serve Zion and Salem in Ironwood, MI. We welcome her and her husband, Anthony, to the Northern Great Lakes Synod! She will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on January 25, 2020 in Kasson, MN. God bless her efforts among us!

**Pastor Doug Johnson** has announced his retirement from Bethlehem, Florence and First Presbyterian, Florence. Pastor Johnson also served as Synod Secretary. He will retire at the end of this year. May God bless Pastor Doug and his wife, Elaine, as they enjoy this new adventure!



# Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Visit the LIRS [website](#) to learn how you can offer hope to migrant families and children who find themselves separated from loved ones this holiday season.

## Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For Pastor Tom Otis as he recovers from surgery
- For Pastor Matt Lamb as he faces some health changes and challenges
- For our congregations in pastoral transition
- For this Advent Season, as we await the promise fulfilled
- For our government and our country

Check out [www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org) for weekly Breath Prayer and Daily Devotions

Visit the Northern Great Lakes Synod website: [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)

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





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**+ Bishop Katherine Finegan**

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E-Notes from Northern Great lakes Synod

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