



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

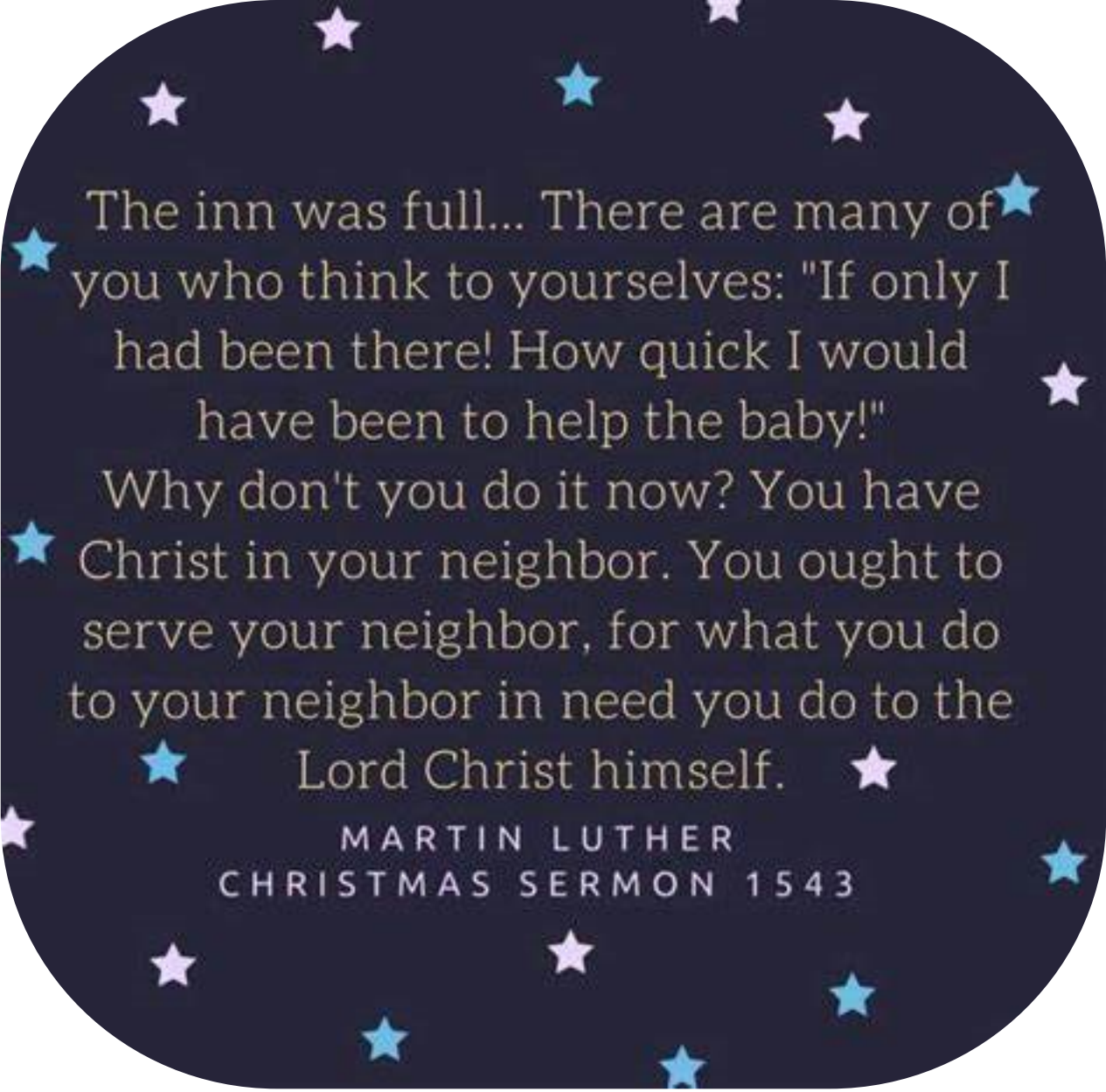
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for December 17, 2019

The Season of Advent



The inn was full... There are many of
you who think to yourselves: "If only I
had been there! How quick I would
have been to help the baby!"

Why don't you do it now? You have
Christ in your neighbor. You ought to
serve your neighbor, for what you do
to your neighbor in need you do to the
Lord Christ himself.

MARTIN LUTHER
CHRISTMAS SERMON 1543

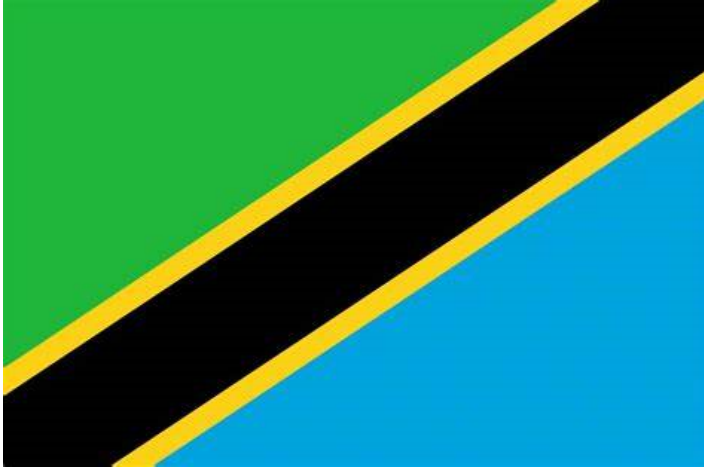


Renaming Notes & Quotes Contest

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**](#)



Tanzania 2020: Companion Synod Visit to the Eastern & Coastal Diocese Thursday, July 23-Thursday, August 6

Assistant to the Bishop, Jim Duehring invites you to travel with him to Tanzania to build relationships with your Companion Congregation. This is open to pastors and lay people who already have a companion relationship in Tanzania or those interested in forming a companion relationship with a congregation in Tanzania.

Total Cost: \$3,000 to \$4,000*

*some designated grant money for companion congregation relationships could be available from the synod to help defray some costs.

Plan on spending about ½ of your time with your companion congregation in Tanzania developing relationships and ½ of your time with the Northern Great Lakes Synod group visiting various ministries of the Eastern & Coastal Diocese in Tanzania. A safari trip is also an option!

Contact [Pastor Jim Duehring](#) by January 4 if you are interested or have questions!



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](#)! Due to the New Year, the next Wednesday Noon Live will take place January 8, 2020.



LOPPW on Facebook

LAST DAY

Synod Benevolence Deadlines

January 10, 2020

Last day for checks to arrive in Synod Office so that 2019 benevolence gifts can be credited to 2019 giving.

February 10, 2020

Last day for checks to arrive in Synod Office so that January 2020 giving can be credited to Synod fiscal year.

Reminder: be sure to update your pastor and lay employee compensation with Portico.

Northern Great Lakes Synod
presents

Professional Leader's Retreat

February 9-10, 2020

Ramada Inn
Marquette, MI



Dr. Lois Malcom
Luther Seminary

Registration deadline is coming up on January 10, 2020

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.**

Clergy Spouse Conference

January 31 - February 2, 2020

Registration deadline is coming up on January 14, 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



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!

Winter Wonderland Retreat

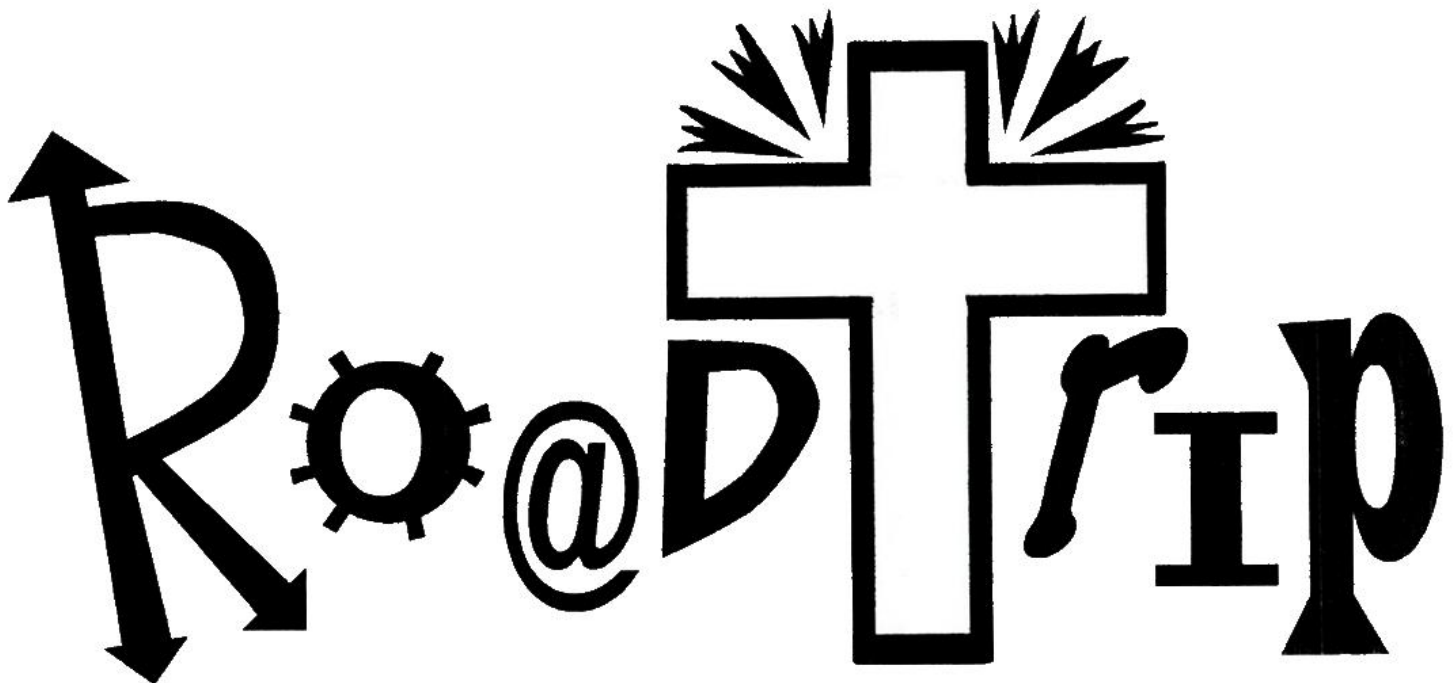
January 17-19, 2020

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. 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](#).

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

As a service project for these Marked Events we are encouraging youth and congregations to collect items for LWR Baby Care Kits. The kits will be assembled at the Marked Events, so start gathering the items needed for these Baby Care Kits.

- TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®).

- TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)·
- TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36” and 52” square·
- FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap·
- TWO pairs of socks
- ONE hand towel, dark color recommended·
- TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars·
- TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

Youth are encouraged to bring these items to the Marked Events where they will be assembled. To learn more about these kits please visit the Lutheran World Relief [website](#).

Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. Keeping a new baby healthy, clean and comfortable takes a lot of resources. The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the basics a family needs to care for their new members in the way they hope! Worry will always be present for all parents, but having some essentials allows them to enjoy and get to know their little ones and introduce them with pride to the world.





Personal Finance & Stewardship Events

Plans are in the works for two significant events sponsored by the synod featuring guest presenter, Grace Pomroy from Portico. Grace is the co-author of the book, *Embracing Stewardship*. She is also a blogger on financial wellness. Go to gracepomroy.com to learn more.

Save the dates!

Sunday, May 3

“Personal Financial Wellness for Rostered Leaders”

6 pm to 9 pm Central at Fortune Lake

Research shows that when rostered leaders have anxiety about their personal finances they are less effective stewardship leaders in their congregation. This evening workshop is open to rostered leaders and licensed lay ministers.

Monday, May 4

“Stewardship in the Congregation”

9 am to 3 pm Central at Fortune Lake

This workshop is for rostered leaders, licensed lay ministers and congregational lay leaders interested in Stewardship matters. You will come away with some practical ideas to implement in your congregation

More details will be coming out to allow you to register for these two events.



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 15-21 by Pastor Doug Schoen

December 22-28 by Karen Carter

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.



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.

Transitions

Pastor Tim Johnston of Bethany, Mohawk and Shepherd of Sea Chapel, Copper Harbor has accepted a call to a new congregation, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. His last Sunday will be January 5, 2020. We thank Pastor Peter Vorhes for being the Administrative Interim Pastor after Pastor Johnston's departure.

**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 those without shelter
- For those grieving the loss of a loved one during this season
- For our nation's leaders
- For the light to shine in the dark places of this world
- With thanks for the Christ born among us

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.

Pastor Jim Duehring
Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

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E-Notes from Northern Great lakes Synod

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