

[View this email in your browser](#)



Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

npls@nplsynod.org

E-Notes for February 16, 2021

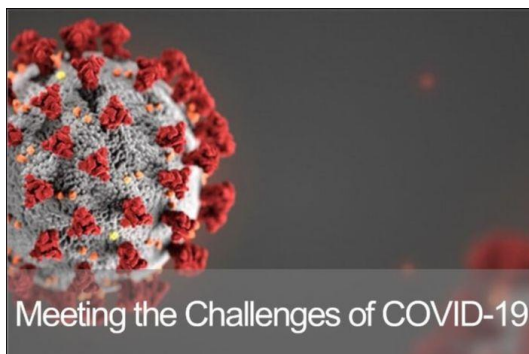
The Season of Epiphany

Word of the Day

“Faith cannot be taught by any method of instruction; we can only teach religion...Faith, therefore, and not religion, must become the concern of Christian education...experienced faith, therefore, results from our interactions with other faithing selves.”

~ John Westerhoff, from “Will Our Children Have Faith?” 1976

On the Web & Quick Links



[COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Tool](#)

[Donate Online to the Northern Great Lakes Synod](#)

- [🔗 Check out more resources on the NGLS website](#)
- [📌 Like us on Facebook](#)
- [🔗 Link to Prayfaithfully Daily Devotions](#)
- [📺 NGLS YouTube Channel](#)
- [🔗 February Prayer Calendar](#)

Annual Reports & Reminders



REPORTS

**Congregational A & C Reports
Overdue! Complete Yours Today!**

The Congregational A&C Reports were due on Monday, February 15. It is important for each congregation to submit their reports ASAP!

Your congregation should have received the A&C Reports in the mail. Your ELCA Church ID# and this year's password are printed on the report in the upper right hand section of the "A" side of the report. You will need these numbers if you want to fill out the forms online. Please click the **gold** button below to access the A&C forms online.

If you cannot find your paper copy of the report, please contact Heather or Betsy at the Synod Office (906) 228-2300 for your congregation's ID# and password.

[Link to A & C Reports](#)

Pastors Report to the Bishop

Due March 15, 2021

Below you will find links for filling out your Report to the Bishop online. Please use the following instructions:

1. Click the appropriate button below to access your report. Links to reports for Ministers of Word and Sacrament are in **red**. Links to reports for Ministers of Word and Service are in **blue**. Please note that LLM's should use the link for Minister of Word and Sacrament-- Under Call from a Congregation.

2. Save the report to your computer.
3. Fill out the report and save it again.
4. Attach the report file to an email to Heather (hoysti@nglsynod.org)
OR print out your report and mail to the Synod Office.

The reports can also be filled out by hand and mailed to the Synod Office if you prefer to do that. Please note: the deadline for getting your report to the Bishop is **Monday, March 15, 2021!**

Ministers of Word and Sacrament

Under Call from a Congregation

On Leave or Disability

Retired

Under Call from Synod Council or ELCA Church Council

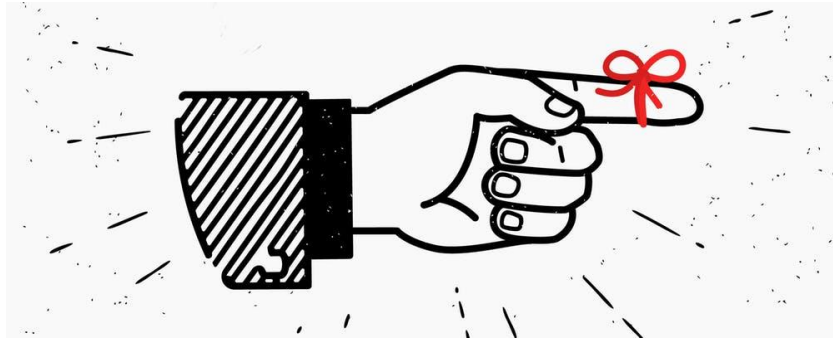
Ministers of Word and Service

Under Call from a Congregation

On Leave or Disability

Retired

Under Call from Synod Council or ELCA Church Council



Please Send to the Synod Office

Please remember the following documents need to be sent to the Synod Office from each congregation:

Statement of Intent

Congregation Annual Reports

Feel free to email these items to npls@nglsynod.org or mail to 1029 N. Third St., Suite A, Marquette, MI 49855.

News & Information



Words from the Bishop

Bishop Finegan's latest article, "Hurling Insults" can be found [here](#) on our website. It is also available [here](#) in Word format for your congregation's newsletter.



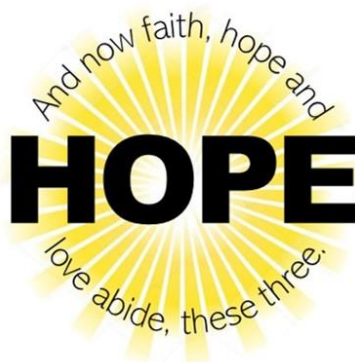
Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center was featured in the Catholic Herald (out of Superior, Wisconsin) in a special retreat issue. The article includes some ecumenical efforts from our very own Rev. Grant Van Lishout! It's a show-and-tell to give a better idea of the ministry to which the Northern Great Lakes Synod has called Pastor Grant. Please enjoy the article [here](#)!



Racial Equity Challenge

Registration ends Friday, February 19 at 4 pm ET

This Lent, you are invited to participate in the Synod-wide Racial Equity Challenge. Participating in the Racial Equity Challenge is a personal commitment to devote time during Lent to engage in provided resources about the history and impact of racism, and the ways that bias, prejudice, privilege, and oppression show up in our everyday lives. Each participant may access the Challenge material [here](#) on our website and is encouraged, but not required, to join a cohort that will meet weekly for conversation via Zoom. To find out more and to register for a cohort, please [visit our website](#).



Synod Assembly

May 10-15, 2021

Voter Registration costs \$50, will open soon and is due by **April 15 at 5 pm ET**. Late Voter Registration costs \$60 and the absolute last day to register for Synod Assembly is April 30 at 5 pm ET due to technology requirements. Stay tuned for more details soon!



LSS Petition

Lutheran Social Services of Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula is in need of your support. The generous bequest of a faithful Lutheran man is being contested. This bequest is sizable and promises to significantly impact the breadth and depth of LSS services. Please use the links below and read the information about this case. And then add your signature if you wish to vouch for LSS as a worthy recipient of this bequest.

change.org/supportlss

[PDF of Willms letter](#)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship

Please use the links below to view Bishop Eaton's guidelines on returning to church, Bishop Finegan's introductory comments and protocols for worship during the COVID-19 pandemic as commended by an ecumenical consultation.

[Link to Bishop Eaton's Guidelines](#)

[Link to Bishop Finegan's Comments](#)

[Guidance from the Wisconsin Council of Churches](#)

Upcoming Events



Upcoming UP Wild Events

Faith communities join together offering wisdom on how to restore our communion with all of Creation. Submit a prayer and watch online.

Eben Ice Caves Hike

Saturday, February 20 | 2 pm | In Person

A day at the caves! Family inclusive outdoor adventure + prayer along the way. Please be mindful that very young children and those unable to handle slippery ice may not want to chance it- enter at own risk- please ask around to those you know who have been there to determine for yourself. Ice cleats a must and safety guidelines followed. If you would like to pre-register & for more information, email lanni@upwild.org.

Evening Centering Prayer

Saturday, February 27 | 8-8:30 pm | Zoom

Closing the month of February out with some centering prayer. Co-hosted with Gabriela Machado. We meet on Zoom and sometimes go live on FB. Light a candle, make a cup of tea. A time of quiet, contemplation, and centering prayer. Email lanni@upwild.org for Zoom link.



[UP Wild Website](#)



[UP Wild on Facebook](#)



[UP Wild on YouTube](#)



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 on

Wednesday, March 3, 2021.



[LOPPW on Facebook](#)



Faithful Innovations

Helping People Connect with God, Each Other, and their Neighbors

The Northern Great Lakes Synod invites congregational lay leaders, pastors, and licensed lay leaders to take a journey with us as we reimagine church in light of today's changing culture. This is a Spirit-led journey in which we are invited to engage the spiritual practices of listening, discerning, experimenting and reflecting. Get the full details [here](#) on our website. The deadline to sign up is **April 5, 2021**.



Faithful Finances

Join Synod Bookkeeper Betsy Koski on **Saturday, April 17** from 9:30 am-12:30 pm ET via Zoom for a workshop for all those entrusted with congregational finances! This event is free, so please invite your Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Pastor, Council and Parish Secretary. For more and to register, please visit our [website](#).



Virtual Festival of Homiletics for Rostered Leaders

At the Festival of Homiletics **May 17-21, 2021**, you'll hear respected and thoughtful speakers present on the theme: "Preaching for the Future Church."

Since this year's event is virtual, and we want to welcome as many attendees as possible, you can [register to view the main sessions for free](#). But to get the most out of the Festival of Homiletics, purchase the recordings for full access to on-demand content you can view anytime:

- All sessions in audio and video formats
- Live workshops
- Bonus sermons and lectures from top speakers
- Private social networking with other pastors and leaders

[Purchase the on-demand package for \\$75.](#)

[ELCA Resources](#)



ELCA Coaching Sessions

Join in the online gatherings for ELCA leaders every Wednesday at 1 pm CT / 2 pm ET. Upcoming presentations include:

- February 17 - **Growing Young: Warm Relationships** - Rachel Alley and others
- February 24 - **The Untold Story: Black Lutheran History, Part 2** - Dr. Larry Clark, Dr. Richard Stewart
- March 3 - **The Sacred Work of Grief, Part 7: Jesus' Death and Metabolizing Ancestral Grief** - Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin
- March 10 - TBA
- March 17 - **Growing Young: Jesus' Message** - Rachel Alley and others

Visit the ELCA Coaching [website](#) for the Zoom link and password to join.



Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

Health is on the Way

If the holidays or the pandemic have you tipping the scales a little more these days, ELCA-Primary health plan members can utilize Omada, a free innovative digital program designed to help create modest changes that promote weight loss and help reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Omada's specialized care programs offer eligible members individualized support to stay on track and maintain healthy habits. [Learn more about Omada on myPortico.](#)

Getting Started on Your Taxes Early?

The Richard R. Hammar Clergy Tax Guide and the Federal Reporting Guide for Churches are both [available on myPortico](#) at no cost to you.

Live Well, One Small Step at a Time

The tiniest things can combine to make a significant difference. This year, Portico invites you to check out [2021 Live Well](#). We'll guide you through activities that might seem simple, but can get you on the path to feeling stronger, balanced, and more resilient. Featured this month: 3 ingredients for a healthy breakfast, tracking how much you spend on food, and how to savor your meals mindfully.

Coffee with your Portico Regional Representative

Want to use the ELCA-Primary Plan's terrific stress-management and mental health support benefits? Need to check in on your ELCA Retirement Account? To sign up for a time to chat with Jennifer over the phone or virtually, you can reach out to directly at 563/650-4122 or JPrinz@PorticoBenefits.org



Ignite the Church Conference 2021

Join us online in 2021 for Adapting to a New Reality: Living into a Fresh Vision for God's Church. Monthly webinars focus on key areas:

- January – Encouragement Beyond Fatigue
- February – Justice and the Common Good
- March – Hybrid Community: Virtual & In-Person
- April – Creative Expressions of Church

The Ignite the Church Conference movement continues to grow as leaders are encouraged and ministry is transformed! Please visit igniteTheChurch.net to see the outstanding line up of speakers and panel leaders and to get more information on how **you** can join the movement.

Stewardship Resources



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.

Another helpful stewardship resource is the [Stewardship Toolkit](#), written by Rev. Robert Blezard, Assistant to the Bishop of the Lower Susquahanna Synod.

The theme for the month of February is [Love Your Neighbor](#).



TITHE.LY
Innovative church giving

VANCO

Online Giving Tools

Check out [Tithe.ly](#) for your congregation's online giving needs and more! [Vanco](#) has a current special offer for new sign-ups.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Keeping in Prayer



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:

February 14-20 by Christine Ebert

February 21-27 by Pastor Nick Johannes

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.

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For those who are weary, for those awaiting a vaccination.
- For those seeking asylum, for those applying for citizenship, for those fleeing violence.
- For all those experiencing health concerns: We lift up especially Pastor Matt Lamb, Pastor Gerald Anderson, Pastor Jennie Johnson-Wrege.

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org for a 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

Copyright © 2021 Northern Great Lakes Synod, All rights reserved.

E-Notes from Northern Great lakes Synod

Our mailing address is:

Northern Great Lakes Synod

1029 N. Third St., Suite A

Marquette, MI 49855

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).
