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Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

npls@nplsynod.org

E-Notes for February 26, 2021

Our E-Notes email earlier today had an error and we wanted to be sure you received the corrected information:

Faithful Innovations costs \$50 per congregation.

Please enjoy another edition of E-Notes!

The Season of Lent

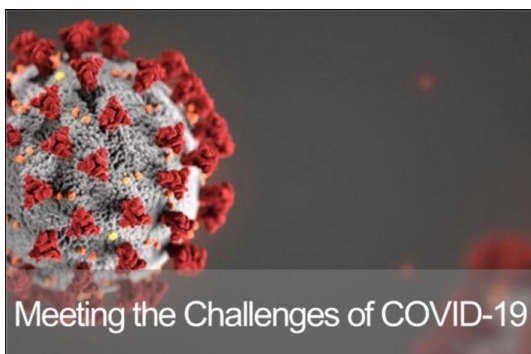
Word of the Day

“In a highly anxious society there is a quest for certainty. And a quest for certainty is one of the reasons that fundamentalist religious traditions do better in anxious times.”

~Rabbi Ed Friedman

On the Web & Quick Links





Meeting the Challenges of COVID-19



Congregational Resources

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

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

- [!\[\]\(79de0df6c6ddd2d4eb74f1cc5f48ec50_img.jpg\) \[Check out more resources on the NGLS website\]\(#\)](#)
- [!\[\]\(d4c9768318b38eff1042b07478e20b4c_img.jpg\) \[Like us on Facebook\]\(#\)](#)
- [!\[\]\(27d314856359a9d7feca17161bc1f4a4_img.jpg\) \[Link to Prayfaithfully Daily Devotions\]\(#\)](#)
- [!\[\]\(d355663486c698e3972a8b93ac8b2102_img.jpg\) \[NGLS YouTube Channel\]\(#\)](#)
- [!\[\]\(1858f6a9022d088c0a7eca873f99643b_img.jpg\) \[March Prayer Calendar\]\(#\)](#)

[Annual Reports & Reminders](#)



Congregational A & C Reports

Overdue! Complete Yours Today!

Your Congregation's A&C Reports were due on February 15! It would help us immensely if you could please submit your forms **NO LATER than March 1!**

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 (hovsti@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

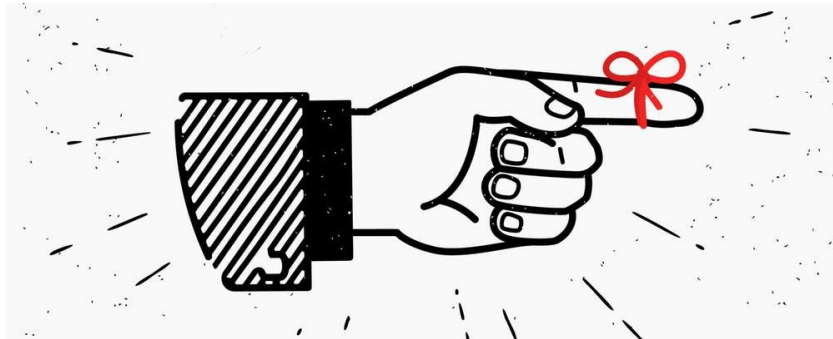
Ministers of Word and Service

[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:

Congregation Annual Reports

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

News & Information



Leadership Coaching in our Synod

Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring, is an ELCA trained coach through CoachNet. **He is available for free coaching sessions** for interested and motivated individuals within our synod. Whether you are a rostered leader or a lay leader in your congregation, you might benefit from coaching.

- Coaching is a posture of helping someone achieve a goal.
- Deep listening happens and a supportive relationship is developed.
- ELCA Coaching is an interactive process between three people: the leader, the coach, and the Holy Spirit.
- Coaching trusts the Holy Spirit will guide, enlighten, and empower the process of self-discovery, marshal the needed resources to accomplish what is desired, and empower the change to achieve the desired results.
- Coaching is about growth, change, and results.

- It believes that the answers to what a leader wants to do lie within the leader.
- The task of the coach is to draw those out by creating the opportunity for the “ah-ha” moments of discovery.

It is the hope of our Synod Vitality Team to build up a culture of coaching within our synod to help individuals and congregational systems grow in faith and vitality!

Contact Pastor Jim at (906) 228-2300 with your questions or interest around coaching.



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](#)!



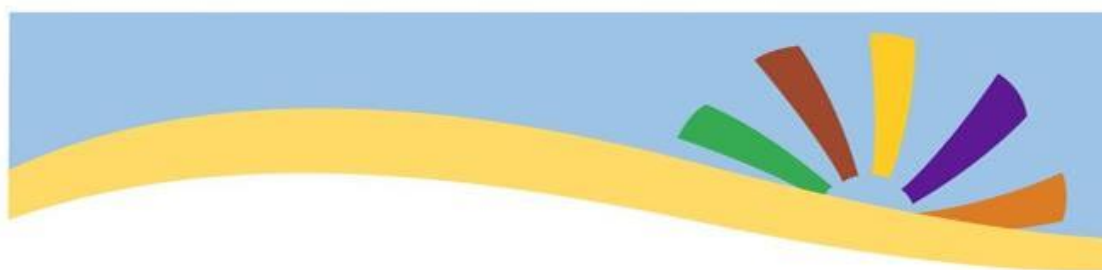
Fasting for Climate Justice

Fast, Pray, Act (22 Days of Fasting)

Reverend Jonathon Barker (ELCA Grace Lutheran, Kenosha, WI) invites all people of faith and conscience to join hands with him, Justin Blake, and Joe Cardinali of Kenosha as they journey through 22 Days of Fasting for Climate Justice (Friday, March 5-March 27). These acts of personal sacrifice and contemplative prayer are encouraged and supported by the ELCA Lutheran Office Public Policy Wisconsin (LOPPW) and the Wisconsin Faith Coalition for Climate Justice, a project of LOPPW. The goal of this prayerful fast is to focus

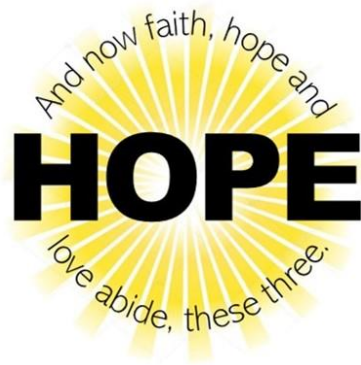
public attention and badly needed action on the climate emergency's harm to lives, jobs, and health of Wisconsin citizens, and to our sacred, life-sustaining natural environment. The growing global climate emergencies have already cost Wisconsinites 100 billion dollars in the last 20 years. So there is compelling urgency to act now.

Pastor Jonathon asks that you consider joining this state-wide climate justice fast in any way that you are able: a daily meditative prayer, fasting and prayer for a single meal, or fasting for one or more of the 22 days. Your thoughts, your prayers, and your participation are gratefully welcomed. You choose the way. And, be on the lookout for updates on the fast, from its launching, all the way to its conclusion. Until next time, peace and blessings.



Racial Equity Challenge

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. Challenge materials are available [here](#) on our website.



Synod Assembly

May 10-15, 2021

Registration for Voting Members should be available on our website by March 15, if not sooner! Registration is \$50 and is due by **April 15 at 5 pm ET**. After April 15 at 5 pm ET, Late Voter Registration costs \$60. The absolute last day to register for Synod Assembly is **April 30** due to technology requirements!





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.

Evening Centering Prayer

Saturday, February 27 | 8-8:30 pm ET | 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.

Rediscover in the Wild

Friday, March 5 | 8:30 pm ET | Facebook & YouTube

Have we often wondered why watching the wildlife in our backyards or tending our gardens is not more encouraged as a form of spiritual practice? Are we curious enough about the connection between the extreme climate shifts in nature and the lack of young people in our pews? By reawakening our senses to the wonder and awe of the natural world, we begin to fall back in love with all that God created. By reconnecting ourselves to the soil, our watersheds, the oak trees, the caterpillars, we live into our original vocation of living in right relationship with God. We will learn more about how UP Wild aims to foster this connection as we take a look at clips from past virtual nature walk in Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



[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](#)



Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly needs volunteers to deliver and/or help prepare traditional Easter Ham Dinner for our elderly community. We are asking that homemade dessert donations be held off currently, as we are attempting to minimize exposure risks as much as possible. Download the flyer [here](#). For more information on how to reserve a meal or donate call (906) 273-2575. If you would like to volunteer go to register.littlebrothers.org.



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 cost is **only \$50 per congregation** and 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:

- 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
-

- March 24 - TBA - Giovana Oaxaca, Program Director for Migration Policy with ELCA Advocacy

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



ELCA Primary Health Help Guide

Portico has developed a quick guide to how to get the help you need! Everything from COVID-19 coverage to the Employee Assistance Program, video wellness learning and more can be [found here](#).

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:

- 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 March is [Lent: Time to Go the Second Mile](#).



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 28-March 6 by Pastor Doug Schoen

March 7-13 by Pastor Doug Johnson

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.

Transitions

We welcome **Pastor Lon Hider** who began serving at **Christ the King, Escanaba** on February 16. Pastor Hider comes to our synod from a different denominational tradition and will be pursuing additional seminary training to become an ELCA pastor while also serving Christ the King.

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For those engaging in a Lenten discipline of prayer, fasting, good works, and learning.
- For Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege who grieves the loss of her husband Marv.
- For all those working diligently to distribute vaccines.
- For those without adequate food or housing.

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.

Rev. Jim Duehring

Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

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E-Notes from Northern Great lakes Synod

Our mailing address is:

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