



# Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

[npls@nplsynod.org](mailto:npls@nplsynod.org)

## E-Notes for March 15, 2021

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### The Season of Lent

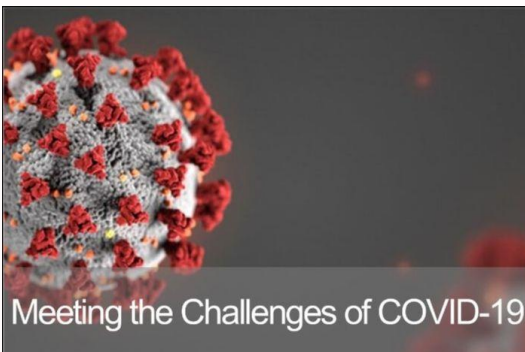
#### Word of the Day

"But can dead people actually rise? We've never seen anything like that. Jesus' resurrection was no mere hallucination of the disciples. After all, they gave their lives for that conviction, based not on their imaginations but their association with the Risen Jesus. It's not the disciples' faith that invented the resurrection but the resurrection that gave birth to the disciples' faith."

From the article *Is Jesus the Only Way? Yes and No* by Dr. Mark Mattes.

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# On the Web & Quick Links



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

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

[!\[\]\(de95854c7ee024cfadc48187bbb781b2\_img.jpg\) Check out more resources on the NGLS website](#)

-  [Like us on Facebook](#)
-  [Link to Prayfaithfully Daily Devotions](#)
-  [NGLS YouTube Channel](#)
-  [March Prayer Calendar](#)

## Annual Reports & Reminders

### 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](mailto: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

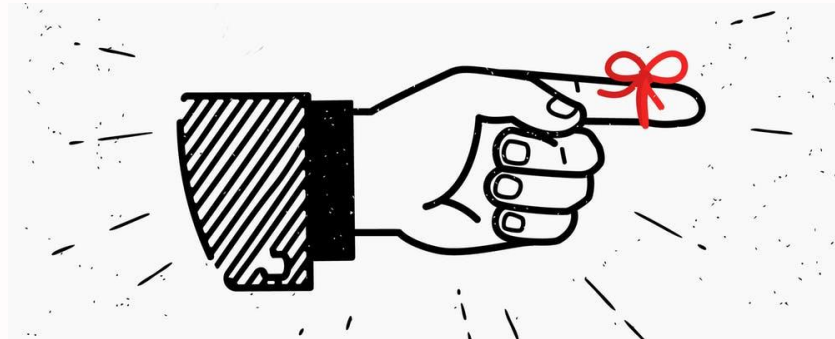
## **Ministers of Word and Service**

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:

### **Congregation Annual Reports**

Feel free to email these items to [ngls@nglsynod.org](mailto:ngls@nglsynod.org) or mail to 1029 N. Third St., Suite A, Marquette, MI 49855.

# News & Information

## MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

A Financial Ministry of the ELCA

### **Is your congregation eligible for a Paycheck Protection Program loan?**

Don't miss the opportunity for financial relief. Apply by March 22.

Another round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans is now available for small businesses and organizations, including congregations, to help protect staff members' pay and other operating expenses during the pandemic. Even if your congregation already received a loan, it may be eligible for a second draw if it can demonstrate a 25% reduction in recurring revenue during any quarter of 2020. Borrowers will be able to apply for loan forgiveness following the term of the loan. Review the criteria for first and second draws [here](#).

The [Mission Investment Fund](#) is cooperating with our financial partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union (FCU), to offer these loans to eligible congregations and ministries. The FCU can help your congregation navigate its first or second draw, even if you received your first PPP loan through a different lender. For more information about the ELCA Federal Credit Union and eligibility for a PPP loan, please visit our [website](#).

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## Domestic Hunger Grant Application Essentials

Applications for the 2021 cycle of ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants will open soon! Here is a brief overview of the timeline. Please visit the [ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants website](#) for all of the details.

- Registration open: March 17, 2021 – May 5, 2021
  - *NOTE: Applicants must be registered in ELCA GrantMaker to access the application. Allow up to two weeks for registration approval. If you have not registered by May 20, you will not be able to start a new application. If you have already registered in ELCA GrantMaker, you do not need to register again. Starting April 1, 2020, you can log in directly at [elca.fluxx.io](https://elca.fluxx.io) using the Google Chrome browser to start your application.*
- Application open: April 19, 2021 – May 21, 2021
- Application review: June 2021 – October 2021
- Awards announced: Details on the grant decision timeline will be provided at a later date.
- Visit <https://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants> for the Domestic Hunger Grant Application Essentials.
  - Awards will be for a three-year cycle, with a maximum award of \$10,000 per year, contingent upon fund availability and the completion of annual evaluations.
  - New applications are accepted annually. The application period typically opens in spring.



## Good Friday Worship in the Home

We have a new resource available in the Current Resources section of our website. Please download the [Service of Tenebrae here](#) as you prepare for Good Friday.

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## 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.



## **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.

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## Synod Assembly Registration & Payment Available Online

Registration and payment for Synod Assembly are **online only** this year!

Here's a [quick guide on how to register](#).

### Visitors

No registration needed! All links to workshops, worship and the business meeting will be available on the [Synod website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

### Voting Members

Online registration and payment for Voting Members is now available on our [website](#)! **Each voting member must be registered and paid for separately online.** Please be sure to have payment (debit/credit card or PayPal) ready before registering.

Voter Registration is \$50 and 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](https://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](#)

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## **Upcoming Events**

THE LUTHERAN OFFICE  
FOR PUBLIC POLICY IN  
WISCONSIN

LOPPW.org

**Faith Advocacy for Climate Justice**

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The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, and Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light invite you to a free online event on **Thursday, March 18, 2021** from 11 am-1 pm ET/10 am-12 pm CT. The Keynote Speaker will be Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes. The event flyer can be downloaded [here](#). Learn more and register for the event [here](#).

Bill Mattson, a retired ecologist, member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rhinelander, LOPPW council member and part of the planning team for this event has spoken out for climate justice! See his video [here](#).



## 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.

### Outdoor Adventure

#### Saturday, March 20 | 1:00 PM ET | In Person

Let's celebrate Spring with a short hike to visit Gitche Gumee (Lake Superior)! We will meet at Wetmore Landing trailhead and walk in through the Hemlocks to give thanks for the dormancy of the winter and offer our excitement/hope for the new season. Please register by shooting an email to [lanni@upwild.org](mailto:lanni@upwild.org). You will get more detailed directions and parking instructions. Donations are appreciated to keep our ministry going.

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## "Pine" Sunday Sunday, March 28 | 3-5 PM ET | In Person

Gathering tucked between the Huron Mountains and Lake Superior, we will share in "pine Sunday" around a bonfire. Our community members will offer a reflection & we will have the opportunity to give thanks and to pray together. Families are welcome. Hot tea and pre-wrapped granola bars will be provided for a donation. Please bring your own mug and folding chair as service will be outdoors. Email [lanni@upwild.org](mailto:lanni@upwild.org) to RSVP and receive detailed directions.



[UP Wild Website](#)



[UP Wild on Facebook](#)



[UP Wild on YouTube](#)



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

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information on how to reserve a meal or donate call (906) 273-2575. If you would like to volunteer go to [register.littlebrothers.org](https://register.littlebrothers.org).

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## **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**.

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## **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, April 7, 2021**.

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[LOPPW on Facebook](#)

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## 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](#).

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# 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.](#)

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## 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 17 - **Growing Young: Jesus' Message** - Rachel Alley and others
- March 24 - TBA - Giovana Oaxaca, Program Director for Migration Policy with ELCA Advocacy
- March 31 - TBA - The Rev. CeCee Mills, Associate DEM for the North Carolina Synod
- April 7 - TBA
- April 14 - [The Eisenhower Matrix \(Urgent-Important Matrix\)](#) - The Rev. Dana Peterson, DEM for the Rocky Mountain Synod
- April 21 - **Growing Young: Priority Everywhere** - Rachel Alley and others

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

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The logo for PORTICO, with the word "PORTICO" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is stylized as a yellow circle with a white outline.

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA



## Stress is a Pain in the Neck

If you're literally feeling the effects of too many hours staring at a computer screen, sitting in a not-so-ergonomically-correct chair, or carrying a year's worth of pandemic worries in your shoulders, Members with ELCA-primary health benefits now have access to SWORD, a virtual therapy program for joint pain available at no out-of-pocket cost. Watch [this short video](#) for an introduction, and [learn more about SWORD on myPortico](#).

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## Get the Best Rest

Good sleep is as much a factor of whole-person well-being as diet, exercise, and prayer. Check out the small steps you can take to set yourself up for healthy sleep on [2021 Live Well](#). Focusing on sleep for part of your Lent journey? ELCA-Primary members, both [Being](#) and [Learn to Live](#) offer more in-depth coaching and tracking that can help you make meaningful, lasting change.

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**Ignite The Church**  
CONFERENCE

## 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](https://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.

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[Stewardship Resources](#)

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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](#).**



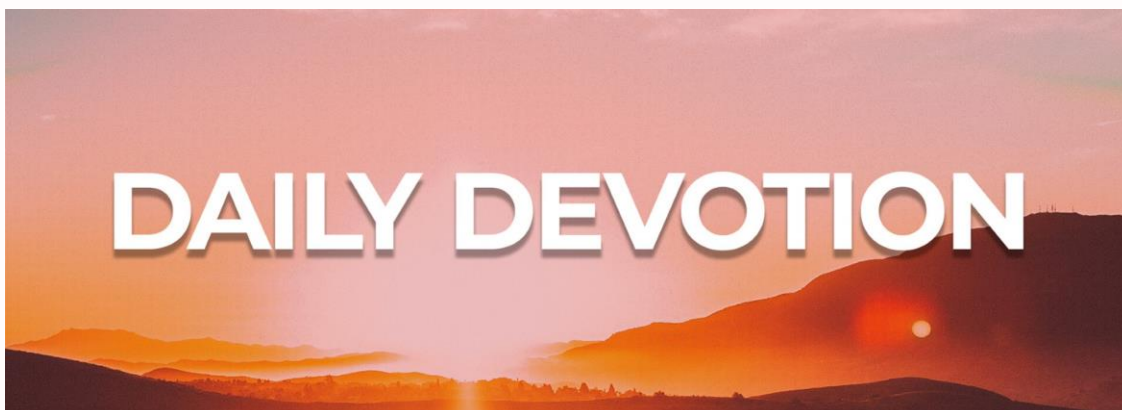
## Online Giving Tools

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.

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## 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:

**March 14-20 by Chuck Thomas**

**March 21-27 by Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde**

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).

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## Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For unaccompanied immigrant children fleeing violence and hardship, looking for welcome and safety.
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- For those waiting anxiously for a vaccine.
- For those facing health challenges.
- For call committees and pastoral candidates in discernment.
- For our online Synod Assembly preparations.

Check out [www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org) for a 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/>



*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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E-Notes from Northern Great lakes Synod

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