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## Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

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

# E-Notes for March 30, 2021

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## The Season of Lent

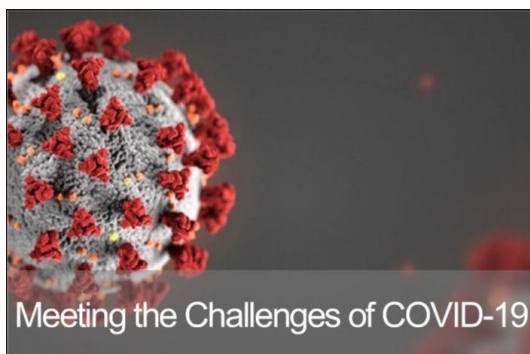
### Word of the Day

“When the crucified Jesus is called the ‘image of the invisible God,’ the meaning is that this is God, and God is like this. God is not greater than he is in this humiliation. God is not more glorious than he is in this self-surrender. God is not more powerful than he is in this helplessness. God is not more divine than he is in this humanity.”

Jürgen Moltmann, *The Crucified God*, p. 205

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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](#)
  -  [April Prayer Calendar](#)
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## 2021 Synod Assembly



### Registration & Payment Now Available Online

Voter registration and payment for Synod Assembly are **online only** this year and the deadline is coming up soon!

- Voter Registration is \$50 and due by April 15 at 5 pm ET
- Late Voter Registration is \$60 after 5 pm ET on April 15
- **Final day to register for Synod Assembly is April 30 at 5 pm ET due to technology requirements!**

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### Voting Members

Online registration and payment for Voting Members is available on our [website](#)! Here are some helpful tips as you register:

1. Our [How to Register Guide](#) has step by step instructions for registration.
2. Each voting member needs to be registered and paid for separately online. Please be sure to pay at the time of registration.
3. Don't have PayPal? No problem! Once you enter the voter's information and get to the PayPal screen, click, "Check Out As Guest" and enter the email address you'd like the receipt to go to. You'll have the option to pay with a debit/credit card from there.

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## 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](#).



[NGLS Website](#)



[NGLS on Facebook](#)



[NGLS on YouTube](#)

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## News & Information



## 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.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## **Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship**

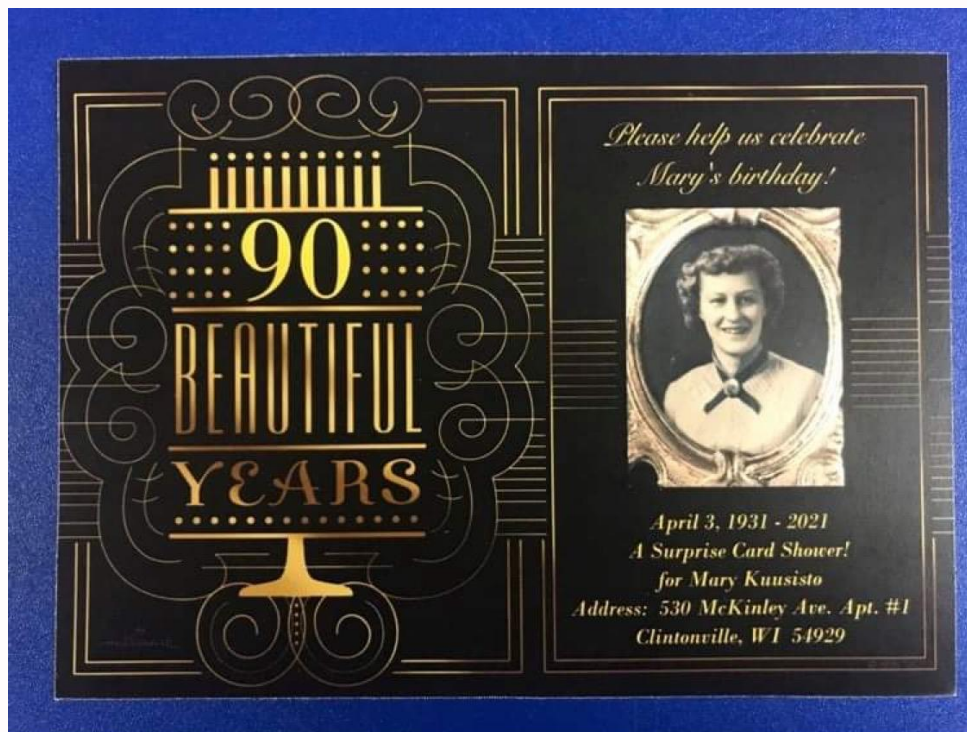
Please use the links below to view Bishop Eaton's guidelines on returning to church, Bishop Finegan's introductory comments and protocols for worship during the COVID-19 pandemic as commended by an ecumenical consultation.

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

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

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

## Upcoming Events



### **A Surprise Birthday Card Shower!**

You might remember Pastor Wayne Kuusisto and his wife Mary, who served at First Lutheran in Wakefield (which later merged into All Saints). Mary's



90th birthday is coming up on April 3 and her family is hoping to shower her with birthday cards! If you'd like to send a greeting, please send to:

Mary Kuusisto

530 McKinley Ave., Apt. #1

Clintonville, WI 54929

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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](https://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants) for all of the details.

- Registration open: March 17, 2021 – May 5, 2021
  - Application open: April 19, 2021 – May 21, 2021
  - Application review: June 2021 – October 2021
  - 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.
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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](http://register.littlebrothers.org).

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## Faithful Innovations

### **There's still time to sign up a team from your congregation!**

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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A promotional poster for a webinar series. On the left is a portrait of Chaplain (COL) Bryan Walker in a dark blue U.S. Army uniform with numerous medals and an American flag in the background. The right side of the poster has a dark background with white and yellow text. At the top, it says 'U.S. ARMY NORTH CENTRAL CHAPLAIN RECRUITING' in small white letters, followed by 'WEBINAR SERIES' in large yellow letters. Below that, it says 'With Special Guest' in white, then 'CHAPLAIN (COL) BRYAN WALKER' in large white letters, and 'Commandant of the US Army Chaplain Center and School' in smaller white letters. The date 'APRIL 6TH, 2021' is in large white letters, with 'FROM 0930-1030 CST' below it. Further down, it says 'JOIN US FOR A LIVE WEBINAR ON ARMY CHAPLAINCY OPPORTUNITIES THE COMMANDANT OF THE CHAPLAIN SCHOOL' in white. At the bottom right are two logos: the U.S. Army star logo and the Army Chaplain Center and School logo. At the bottom left, it says 'Register at NCCRTEAM@gmail.com' in white.

U.S. ARMY NORTH CENTRAL  
CHAPLAIN RECRUITING

# WEBINAR SERIES

With Special Guest  
**CHAPLAIN (COL) BRYAN WALKER**  
Commandant of the  
US Army Chaplain Center and School

**APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**  
FROM 0930-1030 CST

JOIN US FOR A LIVE WEBINAR ON ARMY  
CHAPLAINCY OPPORTUNITIES THE  
COMMANDANT OF THE CHAPLAIN SCHOOL

Register at [NCCRTEAM@gmail.com](mailto:NCCRTEAM@gmail.com)

U.S. Army North Central Chaplain Recruiting will host a webinar on Tuesday, April 6 at 10:30 ET/9:30 CT with special guest Chaplain (COL) Bryan Walker. Chaplain Walker is the commandant of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School where all Army Chaplains are trained. This will be a great opportunity to hear from a senior leader in the Chaplain Corps about what Chaplain training is like and what the Army is looking for in its professional clergy.

Keep up to date by signing up for the event on the [NCCR Team's Facebook page](#). Zoom information is included below:

Topic: Webinar with CH(COL) Bryan Walker

Time: Apr 6, 2021 09:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

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Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82860476611>

Meeting ID: 828 6047 6611

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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.**



[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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## DIGITAL REFORMATION

The Siebert Lutheran Foundation is sponsoring a free one-day event on **Saturday, April 17** called “The Digital Reformation.” The purpose of the conference is to highlight the transformation that has occurred in congregations as we embrace digital technology to create communities of faith. The goal is to weave the story of God through the church and its members into an unfolding narrative for communities to experience online.

Guest speakers include:

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- Joe Liles, pastor-developer of The Neighborhood Church - TOPICS: “The Way to Why,” Google, Innovation & Disruption
- Jenny Sung, pastor of The Depot Church in Mahtomedi, MN - TOPIC: Digital Evangelism
- Tyra Dennis, worship leader & social influencer - TOPIC: Worship for 1 to 30,000
- Matt Bethune, children’s ministry content creator - TOPIC: Sunday School & Sesame Street
- Heidi Dennis, VP of the Neighborhood Church & counselor at The Joshua Center in Bentonville, AR - TOPIC: Mental Health and Coping with COVID

Find more information and register [here](#). Download the event flyer [here](#). Registrants will not receive a confirmation email at this time (they are working to fix this problem). Any Gmail users should keep an eye on their "promotions" folder for future emails.

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## Congregation Council Presidents

Join the conversation that will further equip you for this important leadership role. This Zoom event will be led by Ray Miller and Synod Vice President,

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Chuck Thomas. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 22** at 7 pm ET/6 pm CT. Details coming soon!

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## 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.

### Earth Day 2020-2021: Have We Changed? Thursday, April 22 | 7:30 pm ET | Zoom

A discussion for those wanting to share if they have made changes in their lives this past year, what those look like, and get support to make more. We encourage everyone to:

1. Re-watch the [2020 Earth Day Service](#).
2. Come prepared to share & listen - be uplifted and encouraged

We will gather on Zoom for a discussion and if you are able, find an outdoor spot or walk and talk outside. Email [lanni@upwild.org](mailto:lanni@upwild.org) for link.

### Celebrating our Common Home: Plant & Poem Swap Saturday, April 24 | 3 pm ET | Presque Isle Park, Marquette

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Continue the celebration of Earth Day into the weekend with a gathering at Presque Isle next to Lake Superior! All are welcome!

- Bring a plant (either a bulb or a full grown) and/or come ready to adopt a plant! By caring for one seed of the Earth we begin the process of caring for our common home.
- Bring a poem, song lyric, favorite verse or short reflection to share in circle. We ask everyone to consider participating open mic style.
- Bring your own mug as we will have hot tea available.
- Celebrate and meet new people.
- Invite friends and bring family.
- Donations are received in gratitude.

Self exploration and hiking around the Island is encouraged afterwards. We will meet at the Gazebo near the break wall. If you do plan to attend, kindly send an email to [lanni@upwild.org](mailto:lanni@upwild.org) for planning purposes.



[UP Wild Website](#)



[UP Wild on Facebook](#)



[UP Wild on YouTube](#)

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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

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## ELCA Coaching Sessions

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

- March 31 - Women in Ministry - The Rev. CeCee Mills, Associate DEM for the North Carolina Synod
- April 7 - TBA - Craig Nesson, Dwight Dubois
- April 14 - [The Eisenhower Matrix \(Urgent-Important Matrix\)](#) - The Rev. Dana Peterson, DEM for the Rocky Mountain Synod
- April 21 - **Growing Young: Prioritize Young People (and Families) Everywhere** - Rachel Alley and others

Topics and presenters will be added as they are confirmed and updated as necessary. We strive to remain nimble and responsive, so topics and presenters may change. We do our best to have final confirmations by each Monday prior. Join in with [this Zoom link](#) and passcode: 648160. Visit the [ELCA Coaching website](#) for more details.

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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](#).

## 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.



**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:

- April – Creative Expressions of Church
- May - BONUS WEBINAR: Thriving Beyond Covid
- October - BONUS WEBINAR: Topic TBD

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



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.

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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 April is: [Stewardship of Our Natural World](#).**



## Online Giving Tools

Check out [Tithe.ly](#) and [Vanco](#) for your congregation's online giving needs and more!

## 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 28-April 3 by Pastor Norm Peterson**

**April 4-10 by Ken Raisanen**

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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## **Transitions**

We thank God for **Pastor Bre Kinnunen** who takes over as Administrative Interim at Grace, Gwinn beginning April 1.

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## **Lifting Up to God in Prayer**

- For the full blessing of the Passion story to renew all people and creation.
- For all preparing for Synod Assembly in May.
- For the ongoing decisions of many during these pandemic times.
- For those without a voice in our society.

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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/>



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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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