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Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

npls@nplsynod.org

E-Notes for June 15, 2021

The Season of Pentecost

Thought of the Day

"Christians live not in themselves, but in Christ and in their neighbor. Otherwise they are not Christians. They live in Christ through faith, in their neighbor through love."

~Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian" (Luther's Works, vol. 31, p.371)

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](#)
- [Subscribe to the NGLS YouTube Channel](#)
- [June Prayer Calendar](#)

News & Information



Synod Office Hours

Our office has slightly different hours on Fridays this summer.

Monday-Thursday: 9 am-5 pm ET

Friday: 8 am-4 pm ET

Books Available for Borrowing!



The NGLS Synodical Women's Organization board have accumulated some books that are available to

read! SWO Board member Dawn Holmgren would be able to send any of the following titles to anyone interested. For more information or to request a book, please email Dawn at dmholmgren10@gmail.com.

- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
- *And Don't Call Me a Racist!* by Ella Mazel
- *Dismantling Racism: The Continuing Challenge to White America* by Joseph Barndt
- *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* by Beverly Daniel Tatum
- *Battered Women: From a Theology of Suffering to an Ethic of Empowerment* by Joy M.K. Bussert
- *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult
- *Walk Tall: Affirmations for People of Color* by Carleen Brice
- *Crying Wind* by Linda Stafford
- *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving



Save the Dates for Walking Together Events this Fall!

You are invited! Our Walking Together events will include idea generating conversation, encourage creative solutions, and offer the blessing of being church together with other congregations in your area. You are welcome to attend an event in a neighboring Conference, and next year, Conferences 1,2,4, and 6 will host. A flyer is available [here](#) on our website.

Conference 8 Superior Central

Thursday, September 16 at 5:30 pm ET

Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, MI

Conference 3 Headwaters

Sunday, September 19 at 12:30 pm CT

at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rhinelander, WI

Conference 5 Menominee Valley

Saturday, September 18 at 9:30 am CT

Porterfield Lutheran Church in Porterfield, WI

Conference 7 Three Lakes

Sunday, September 26 at 3:30 pm ET

Faith Lutheran Church in Sault Ste. Marie, MI



Communion Rail Available

Bethlehem, Florence is looking to give away the communion rail pictured here. If your church could use it and would like to pick it up or if you'd like more information, please give the Bethlehem, Florence Parish office a call at (715) 528-4851.



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.

Upcoming Events



Upcoming UP Wild Events

Tyoga Trail Wild Walk | Saturday, June 19 at 2 pm ET | In Person

The Tyoga Historical Pathway located in Deerton, MI takes you around the remains of an old logging town, where workers from the Tyoga Lumber Company lived between 1905 and 1907. Three million board feet of timber had been cut and sawmill and town were set up to process the lumber. We will reflect on our stewardship of trees, how they communicate, and our relationship with our bioregion. Mosquito net suits are highly recommended.

RSVP for directions/info email lanni@upwild.org.

Saving Seeds-How To | Saturday, June 26 at 11 am | Zoom

Seed saving helps gardeners have access to the seeds they want to plant and grow – and this practice is an opportunity to delve deeper into the world of plants. In this virtual session, learn how to “read” your garden for seed saving, decide which kinds of seeds you’d like to save, and practice processing seeds for storage with a hands-on activity kit. We’ll also have time for Q&A on gardening and seed saving with seed savers from Queen City Seed Library. Abbey Palmer, Community Food Systems Educator from MSU Extension will

facilitate. Spots are limited to 20 people and going fast!

Reserve your spot by emailing lanni@upwild.org.

\$10 donation required. Activity packets need to be mailed by June 21.



**European
Descent
Lutheran
Association
for Racial
Justice**
presents



How to Build a
Congregational
(or Campus)
Anti-Racism
Team

Tuesday,
June 22
7-8:30 (EST)
6-7:30 (CST)
5-6:30 (MDT)
4-5:30 (PST)

A presentation by
Brenda Blackhawk,
Congregational
Organizer for Racial
Justice for the
Minneapolis Synod,
of a resource she
compiled to help
congregations get
started on doing racial
justice work.

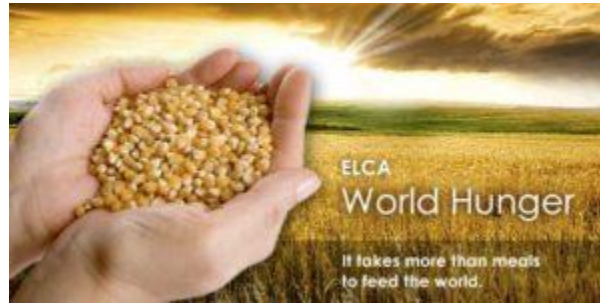
Register for
a Zoom Link:
bit.ly/2SnNteu



How to Build a Congregational (or Campus) Anti-Racism Team Workshop

The European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice (EDLARJ) is offering a free online workshop on **Tuesday, June 22** to help congregations or other ministries start a racial justice or anti-racism team. The workshop is presented by Brenda Blackhawk, Congregational Organizer for Racial Justice

in the Minneapolis Area Synod. EDLARJ will be facilitating follow-up to the workshop and support/accountability groups for those who are interested in continuing the conversation. Click [here](#) to register and receive the Zoom link.



Webinar on Hunger and Climate Change

Join the North/West Lower Michigan Synod and ELCA World Hunger on **June 24** at 6:30 pm ET for a conversation about climate change, poverty, hunger and the many ways God is at work around the world and here in the United States. The presenter will be Ryan Cumming, Ph.D., Program Director for Hunger Education, ELCA World Hunger. For more information, including registration, please visit the [Mitten Synod website](#).



Upcoming Events Sponsored by Local Indigenous Communities

As part of our synod's resolution to foster relationships between the NGLS and Indigenous communities; and to further understand appreciate the history, heritage, culture and spirituality of our Indigenous neighbors, you are invited to consider these upcoming events:

Healing Around the Lakes

Saturday, June 26 in Rapid River, MI

Find more [event information here](#) or on the [Native Justice Coalition website](#).

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

43rd Annual Maawanji'iding

July 23-25 in Baraga, MI

More event information can be found [here](#).

3rd Annual Anishinaabe Racial Justice Conference

September 30-October 3 in Baraga, MI

Find more [event information here](#).

Council Presidents' Seminar Series

Please mark your calendar for the next Zoom meeting with Chuck Thomas and Ray Miller on **Thursday, July 22 at 7 pm ET/6 pm CT**. More information to come! In the meantime, check out the [Resource Library for Council Presidents](#) on our website.



Stewardship Workshop with Rev. Richard Wehrs

Join us this fall at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for a special FREE stewardship event!

On **Saturday, September 11 from 12-3:30 pm CT**, ELCA Regional Manager for Mission Investment Fund Rev. Richard Wehrs will host a workshop focusing on the 12 donor confidence factors which can either bolster or undermine your congregations stewardship efforts. We'll begin with lunch in the dining hall at 12 pm CT and the workshop will take place from 1-3:30 pm CT. Please **RSVP no later than Tuesday, August 31** so we can properly plan for lunch and meeting space. RSVP to Pastor Jim Duehring at jduehring@nglsynod.org or (906) 228-2300. For all the details, please see the [event flyer](#) on our website.



Event for First Call Leaders

The 2021 First Call Fall Conference will be held **November 7-9 (5 pm CT on Sunday-4 pm CT on Tuesday)** at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, Wisconsin. We hope this will be an in-person event. The registration fee will be announced later. Please mark your calendar and watch for more details in September.

[ELCA Resources](#)



Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life in a Lingering Pandemic

Since the early days of the pandemic, the ELCA has been a partner in the Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacraments, publishing general and seasonal guidance for safe worship practices. Over the past two months, the consultation met once again to approve a comprehensive update to the guidance originally published in the summer of 2020, incorporating the latest CDC guidance and other interim guidance previously issued by the consultation. The consultation included an ecumenical group of theologians, scientists, physicians, pastors, bishops, and practitioners from at least seven church bodies. The Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life in a Lingering Pandemic document can be viewed [here](#). Additional resources can be found on the [ecumenical consultation website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

On **Wednesday, June 16 at 7:30 pm ET**, the consultation will host a webinar titled “Leading the Church in a Lingering Pandemic,” a roundtable discussion with public health experts and pastors in a time of progress and uncertainty

concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. How will congregations minister to those who are vaccinated and those who are not vaccinated in multigenerational settings? What church activities should we continue to adapt or avoid, such as congregational singing or shaking hands? Visit the [direct registration link](#) or view the [Facebook event invitation](#).

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Portico's New Podcast

Being Here is a podcast that explores real world issues and topics important to professionals in the faith community. Hosted by the Rev. Melissa Pohlman, Being Here invites us to learn together, listen to each other, grow together, and move forward together — stronger, more resilient as a unique community. Check it out [here](#).

Lead Well Employer Webinars

Our Learn to Live mental health benefit partner has created these quick half-hour sessions for employers. Learn to recognize the signs of mental distress in

others, and how to talk about mental health, create a culture of well-being, and lift the stigma about mental health in the workplace.

- [Register](#) and attend together as a leadership group:
 - *Supporting Your Team’s Behavioral Health* webinar: 6/14 and 6/23
 - *Recognizing Potential Behavioral Health Challenges on our Teams* webinar: 6/16 and 6/24
 - Access code: **PORTICO**

NEW Retirement Readiness Series Debuts June 21

Fidelity has partnered with Portico to offer a **virtual** webinar series – exclusively for ELCA Retirement Plan members – that addresses the question “What does it take to be retirement ready?” These workshops, hosted by a Fidelity Virtual Education Consultant, will be attended by a Portico Financial Planner who can answer member questions related to clergy housing allowance exclusion, the ELCA Participating Annuity, and other ELCA Retirement Plan benefit-specific topics. Based on member feedback, these workshops are kept to an hour long and will be available for viewing (or re-viewing) on myPortico following each live virtual event.

Turn Your Savings into Retirement Income: Learn the benefits of a retirement income plan, factors to consider when transitioning your savings into income, and ways to develop a retirement plan that suits your goals and lifestyle.	Monday, June 21 st	12-1 pm ET	Register Now
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Retirement Income Planning for Her: Designed for women, this workshop will help you learn more about your retirement savings and plan for future income.	Wednesday, June 23 rd	12-1 pm ET	Register Now
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Learn the Basics of When and How to Claim Social Security: If you anticipate Social Security will be a significant income source in retirement, learn when and how to claim your benefit.	Monday, June 28 th	12-1 pm ET	Register Now
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Maximize Social Security in Your Retirement Strategy: Learn about strategies for claiming your Social Security benefit and how it will fit with other income sources in creating your retirement paycheck.	Monday, June 28 th	2-3 pm ET	Register Now
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Prepare for the Reality of Health Care in Retirement: Learn about health care costs in retirement and how you can prepare for them.	Monday, July 12 th	12-1 pm ET	Register Now
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Preserving Your Savings for Future Generations: Learn about the components of an estate plan, including information on wills and probate, powers of attorney, healthcare proxies, and the importance of gifting and insurance replacement strategies.	Monday, July 19 th	12-1 pm ET	Register Now
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2022 Annual Enrollment

With summer blooming and the country beginning to open up, we understand that benefits may not be top of mind. To help you and other decision-makers get oriented and then prepare to make your benefit selection this fall, we're offering a few shareable resources this summer – with a focus on the Silver+ A health benefit option. Reminder: Starting last year, the ELCA recommends both the **Silver+ A** and **Gold+** health benefit options.

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.

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:

June 13-19 by Pastor Dave Johnson

June 20-26 by Pastor Matt Deames

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 Mike Markwell and his wife Rachel** to our synod. Pastor Mike graduated in May from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and was ordained by Bishop Finegan on June 5 in Joliet, Illinois. Pastor Mike began his ministry at **Immanuel, Escanaba** on June 14. We give thanks to God for the interim ministry of **Pastor Dennis Meyette** who retired on May 31 and is moving to Florida. Thanks be to God!
- We celebrate the June 12 ordination and installation of **Pastor Micah Cavaleri** who has been called to serve at **Grace, South Range**. Pastor Micah recently graduated from Luther Seminary. Thanks be to God!
- **First, Trenary and Faith, Rock** welcome Wartburg Seminary student, **Vicar Melissa Salminen**, who will be serving those two congregations in a part-time capacity as part of her work as a Collaborative Learning student. She begins her duties on July 1. We thank **Pastor Rell Spickerman** for his interim ministry for several years in Trenary and Rock. Thanks be to God!

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- Continued prayers for Bishop Emeritus Dale Skogman and former Synod Vice President Pamela Long, both diagnosed with terminal

cancer. God grant comfort, the support of family and friends, and that peace that only God in Christ Jesus can give.

- For dry places needing rain.
- For our siblings in Christ in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of Tanzania.
- For renewal and respite for all taking vacations.
- For civility and respect for all even when we disagree.

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
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Pastor Jim Duehring

Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

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E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

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