



Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

npls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for July 15, 2021

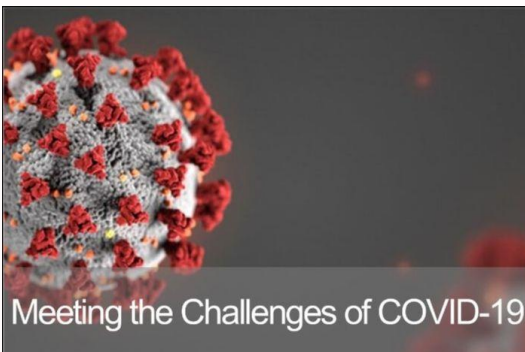
The Season of Pentecost

Word of the Day

“The new authority of the church is now the Holy Spirit. The key question is not what is in the book, but where is the Holy Spirit leading the church? What is God trying to accomplish in this time and in this place? So the authority shifts from a manual to the Holy Spirit – from a rule book to a dynamic presence that is moving and shaping and empowering and enlivening....the nature of the church now becomes more open ended, evolving, ever new; not fixed or rigid in any way. Dynamic and flexible, capable of responding to the needs of its community and beyond.”

~From *Becoming a 21st Century Church* by J. Fred Lehr,
published pre-pandemic





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
-  July 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

New Synod Youth Ministries Coordinator

We welcome **Stefanie Ehle** as our new Synod Youth Ministries Coordinator! Stefanie is a member of Bethel, Menominee and brings her administrative skill and creative energy to the task of Youth Ministry in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Welcome aboard!





Event for Pastors, Deacons, Licensed Lay Ministers & their Families

Registration deadline is tomorrow!

The Northern Great Lakes Synod invites you to join us for "Seeking Shalom: Post-Pandemic Wholeness and Health" **August 18-20** at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp!

We could all use a time and a place of stillness to listen to the voice of the Spirit within one's heart, nature, the world, and one's faith tradition. In partnership with Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center, the NGLS will offer a program to care for and strengthen your spirit. Details and event registration available for download [here on our website](#). **The registration deadline is Friday, July 16.**

Seeking Shalom, Seeking Musicians

We are seeking musicians to help out with the healing service at our Seeking Shalom event for Pastors, Deacons and LLMs at Fortune Lake, **Thursday, August 19, 7 pm CT**. If you are a cantor, play the piano, guitar, flute, or other instrument and are available to share your musical talent with us, please email Pastor Grant Van Lishout at gvanlishout@fspa.org.



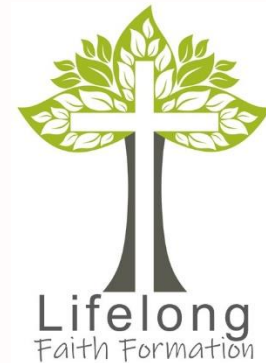
Council Presidents' Seminar Series

The next Zoom meeting with Chuck Thomas and Ray Miller will be **Thursday, July 22 at 7 pm ET/6 pm CT**. More information is available [here](#) and the Zoom link will be emailed

out again early next week. Please contact Heather (hoysti@nglsynod.org) at the Synod Office to be added to the email list.

Fall Semester Coming Soon!

The Northern Great Lakes Synod offers a diverse series of online classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, contemporary Christian issues, and more. Launched in 2020, Lifelong Faith Formation evolved from the synod's Lay School for Mission.



The schedule of classes to be offered this fall will be announced with full details by the end of July. Here's a preview of the upcoming schedule:

- Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why with Bishop Katherine Finegan
- Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania with Luanne and Bishop Emeritus Tom Skrenes
- Biblical Greek or Hebrew with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn
- The Book of Ezekiel with Pastor Tommy Richter
- An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking (one session) with Pastor Jim Duehring. Learn how groups function similar to the emotional dynamics of a family.
- Book study of *Friedman's Fables* with Pastor Jim Duehring
- An ongoing Bible study

Please contact Deacon Lori Ward to receive the class schedule as soon as it is announced or to ask questions: lori.ward@nglsynod.org or (615) 519-1969.



ELCA Grant Recipients in the NGLS

We celebrate with four congregations in the NGLS who are recipients of ELCA Open Doors grants! View the [article on our website](#) to learn about each congregation's plans for using the funds.

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
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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



Leadership Coaching in our Synod

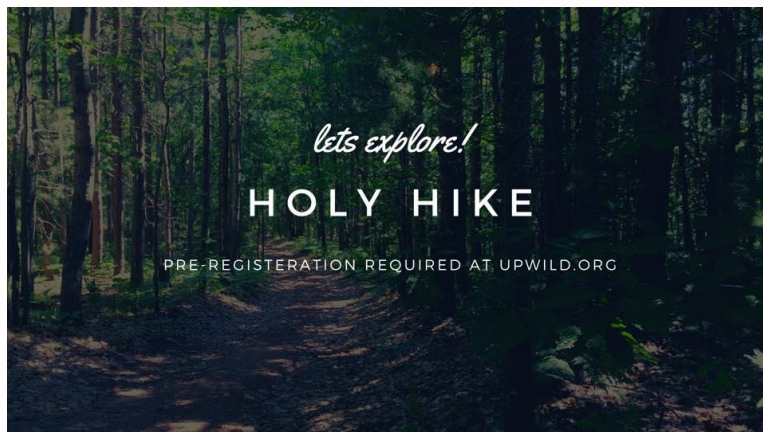
Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring, is an ELCA trained coach through CoachNet. **He is available for free coaching sessions** for interested and motivated individuals within our synod. Whether you are a rostered leader or a lay leader in your congregation, you might benefit from coaching.

- 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

Kids Foraging Adventure | Saturday, July 17 at 10:30 am | In Person at Lakenenland

We will guide our little ones on a mini foraging adventure looking for 3-4 different plants that are native to our area and edible/medicinal. Kids will be given a little adventurer booklet to identify plants and mark which ones they find. We will be guided by a mother of 3 who is excited to share with others her love of and wonder for the plants we often overlook in our own backyard. Donations of \$10 appreciated to cover costs. Email lanni@upwild.org to register.

Prayer Sit In | Thursday, July 22 at 8 pm ET | In Person & Facebook Live

We are organizing groups of people interested in mobile prayer stations that will go out to places in need of prayer or healing. This month's location will be Little Presque Isle and our prayer focus will be protecting the sacredness of water and our Great Lakes Watershed from shoreline industrialization. If you'd like to be included in this monthly group please [contact Lanni](#).

Nature Prayer Service | Sunday, July 25 at 4 pm ET | In Person

Our nature prayer services take place EVERY LAST Sunday of each month beginning in July and are always located at Presque Isle. Easy to access with bathrooms available. We gather for an opening reflection on a revolving topic, a couple poems are read by our members, we offer prayers collectively, allow for solo time to explore nature and end in community discussion/snacks. All are welcome including children.



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:

Water Walk

July 21 in L'Anse, MI

The Walk begins at 7 am at First Sand Beach on Pequaming Road in L'Anse Township. The site is only a few hundred yards past KBIC Natural Resources Dept., (14359 Pequaming Rd., L'Anse, MI). The walk is 17 miles. There are passenger vehicles that follow along to provide reprieve as needed. Bring a light backpack with a sack lunch, snacks and water. Typically, the KBIC van comes along with extra water and food. In addition, you can leave your backpack with the van if you'd prefer not to carry it. We take our time. People walk at their own pace. It is a time of prayer and offering tobacco to the water whenever individuals are led to do so. Women wear long skirts.

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community 43rd Annual Maawanji'idung

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](#).



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](#)



2022 Youth Gathering Updates

Check out the [latest edition of gNews](#) for information about Getting Ready Materials, volunteer applications and more!



2022 Portico Annual Enrollment

Summer is here, yet of course, our ministries don't stop. And fall will be even busier. Our Annual Enrollment suggestion: Take a few easy steps this summer. That way, you and your other decision-makers will be ready, come fall, to make the health benefit selection that best supports those you sponsor. Bring benefits top of mind for your team. Share the link to this newly released 9-min, [Why A Church Plan Makes Sense](#), between an ELCA pastor from North Dakota and Portico's president. As this pastor discovered, Portico's approach to pricing uniquely supports the ELCA's community of congregations – financially and biblically. Know what's changing for 2022. Later in July, we'll email you information about an upcoming change to the Annual Enrollment process. In late August, we'll email you

a link to your Decision Guide and custom pricing information.

Two ELCA-Recommended Health Plan Options Continues for 2022

At the 2019 Churchwide Assembly passed a resolution asking the ELCA Church Council and Portico to review the ELCA health plan recommendation in the context of a changing church and look for ways to increase flexibility. Following significant analysis, the Church Council's recommendation in 2021 included not one, but two health benefit options. If you're looking for a presentation on the differences between Gold+ and Silver+, please reach out to Jennifer Prinz, Portico's Regional Representative. She can be reached at (563) 650-4122 or JPrinz@porticobenefits.org.

Easy Access for Primary Physician Care

Summer is the prime time to get outdoors and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Don't let a minor health concern put a damper on your summer – even if you're traveling. You can get answers to your health questions on-demand with the 98point6 app. 98point6 makes it easy to start a convenient, text-based visit 24/7 from anywhere. Need even more peace of mind? Portico provides this service to you and your family members ages 1+ with a \$0 copay as part of your ELCA-Primary health benefits, so you can address health concerns early and often, without having to wait or weigh the costs. 98point6 physicians are board-certified and treat more than 400 conditions.

[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:

July 11-17 by Pastor Maxine Gray

July 18-24 by Michael Holman, LLM

July 25-31 by Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith

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 give thanks for the partnership between **Pastor Stacy Pethke** and the people of **Faith and Trinity, Ishpeming**. Pastor Stacy has accepted a new call in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Her last Sunday will be July 18, 2021.
 - We give thanks for the 28 year partnership between **Pastor Lauri Maki** and the people of **Bethel, Ishpeming**. Pastor Maki's last Sunday will be July 25 as he retires after 40 years as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. God bless Pastor Maki and his wife, Lois as they begin the new rhythm and joy of retirement.
 - We give thanks for the 18 year partnership between **Pastor Warren Geier** and the people of **Bethany, Ishpeming**. Pastor Geier's last Sunday was June 27. We pray God's blessings on him and his wife, Kathy, as Pastor Warren retires from 25 years of ordained ministry.
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- We welcome interim pastors the **Rev. Bruce Thorsen**, the **Rev. Steve Weston**, and the **Rev. Evelyn Weston** who will begin their work in our Ishpeming congregations this summer.
- We celebrate with the following congregations as they gather to install their new pastor:
 - **Immanuel, Escanaba** gathers to install **Pastor Mike Markwell** on Sunday August 15 at 2pm ET. The color of the day is red. Clergy are invited to vest and process.
 - **Faith, Sault Ste. Marie** as they finally get to install **Pastor Rita Chirala** on Sunday August 29 at 3pm. The color of the day is red. Clergy are invited to vest and process.
 - **Bethel, Cedarville and Zion, Allenville** as they finally get to install **Pastor Renee MacLeod** on Sunday September 12. The color of the day is red. Clergy are invited to vest and process.

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- Evan Sutherland, the son of Pastor Dwaine Sutherland, interim at Grace, Pembine. 24 year old Evan was riding his bicycle when he was hit by a car. Prayers for healing and restored strength.
- All of our congregations who are entering a time of transition. May God grant them patience, comfort, and creativity as they meet the challenge of new opportunities.
- Our Companion Synod, the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of Tanzania. May they receive abundant opportunities to be vaccinated. God grant health and healing until we can visit each other again.

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