



Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Marquette, Michigan
npls@nplsynod.org

E-Notes for August 17, 2021

The Season of Pentecost

Thought of the Day


"I was coming up with a definition of wisdom,
that it was one's accumulated response to adversity."
~Rabbi Ed Friedman

Quick Links

- [Check out resources on the NGLS website](#)
- [COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Tool](#)
- [Prayfaithfully Daily Devotions](#)

 [August Prayer Calendar](#)

 [Newsletter Articles for Congregational Newsletters](#)

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Spotlight Event



Synod Offers Bible Studies and More in Fall Class Schedule

Breaking News! A unique Bible Study has been added to the fall 2021 schedule of online classes. Seven Lifelong Faith Formation offerings are now open for registration on our [website](#). They are:

- **Biblemania! Reading through some of the 66 books of food for the soul**, directed by Susan Anderson, Jeff Henquinet, and Pastor Christina Forsythe, meeting twice a month.
- **Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why**, a two-week series with Bishop Katherine Finegan.

- **Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania**, led by Luanne and Bishop Emeritus Thomas Skrenes.
- **A Book Study of *Friedman's Fables: "Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking,"*** with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop (who is also leading a one-session introduction to this approach).
- **Ezekiel Bible Study** with Pastor Tommy Richter.
- **Intermediate Biblical Greek** with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn for people who have previously studied Greek.

Follow [this link](#) for more information and to register. Please share the news with others in your congregational announcements and publications. Contact Deacon Lori Ward, Synod Missioner, if you have questions or concerns at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.

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



Year of Discovery Task Force Update

At our May 2021 Synod Assembly, our Northern Great Lakes Synod strongly passed a "Resolution on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery." The Doctrine of Discovery

was one of the foundations to justify colonization and mistreatment of Indigenous people in the name of the Christian church. As part of the Synod Assembly week, we hosted a listening panel as five tribal members were able to share their personal stories. For many members of our synod, this might have been their first exposure to the issues facing our Native Americans siblings.

Many people are now asking the question, “Now what?”

The Task Force on the Year of Discovery continues to meet and discuss intentional ways to engage with our Indigenous siblings in our area. We are discerning that relationships with the various tribes in our synod are best done on the local tribal level. Each tribe has their own unique opportunities and challenges. So, we are encouraging those local relationships and understandings rather than one “synod-wide” strategy.

Here’s a quick summary of some of those local efforts:

- Pastor Dave Van Kley, Pastor Bre Kinnunen, and Dr. Mike Coyne have met with leaders at the Center for Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University. They listened to what is going on at NMU and in the Marquette community and some important priorities.
- Assistant to the Bishop, Jim Duehring attended a Native Justice Coalition event in Rapid River, Michigan. He heard about the realities of “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples.”
- Bishop Katherine Finegan, Pastor Bucky Beach and Pastor Julie Belew attended a Boarding School Remembrance Walk in Baraga sponsored by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.
- Pastor Melinda VanderSys is working to establish a network in the Eastern U.P.
- Pastor Grant Van Lishout from the Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin reports that Marywood is already engaging in dialogue with the Lac du Flambeau tribe in Northern Wisconsin.
- Pastor Scott Ehle is building relationships with the Native community in Menominee, Michigan.
- Pastor Bucky Beach, Pastor Julie Belew and Jeff Henquinet continue to work in the Copper Country (U.P.) and with KBIC.
- And, we are beginning to develop contacts in the Rapid River, Michigan area.

To learn more details about these activities of engagement, see this [article on our website](#).

We also know of pastors and lay people from our synod who have engaged in developing relationships with tribal people for many years. We all have so more to learn from each other. God’s Spirit of love and hope is going before us.



Loan Forgiveness for Religious Workers

Under new regulations effective July 1, 2021, clergy and religious workers may now qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). Visit the [Clergy Financial Resources website](#) for more information.

Free Copier Available

The copier pictured here is no longer needed at Ascension, Minocqua and they will give it away to whoever comes to pick it up. Please contact Janese Passow with inquiries or questions at:

alcmnocqua@gmail.com or

(715) 356-4426

- 2014 Kyocera Taskalfa 6501i
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Help Neighbors Missing Out on the 2021 Child Tax Credit

The 2021 Child Tax Credit expansion is predicted to reduce child poverty by 30 - 50% in the United States! The credit expands full benefits to families who were previously left out or only received partial benefits. This includes children who have social security numbers but who have a caregiver with only an ITIN.

However, people who have not filed for taxes because of their income level and have not filed for a stimulus check using the non-filer portal will not automatically receive their credit/s. The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin has created posters/handouts with information to assist. Please consider using their resources for a food pantry, homeless shelter, or other locations you think would be helpful. Find posters/handouts [here](https://www.loppw.org). If you have any questions, please contact the LOPP: cindyc@loppw.org



Remembering the Children

Many of you have read sad news reports about unmarked gravesites of indigenous children in Canadian boarding schools. Unfortunately, we in the U.S. also have a tragic history of our own. We recently heard of reports from the Rosebud Sioux tribe that bodies of tribal children had been returned to their familial homeland. Members of the **American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association** recently penned a letter about these matters. You can find the full text of that letter [here](#).

Synod Youth Ministries Coordinator

We welcome Stefanie Ehle as our part-time Synod Youth Ministries Coordinator. Stefanie will work with our Synod Youth Team to help coordinate conference-wide and synod-wide youth ministries. She will also be the Synod Coordinator for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Stefanie can be reached at: youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org



Youth Ministries Coordinator
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Free Ministry Resource

Thriving Beyond COVID is a 3 or 4 session scripture based study resource designed to help churches release the burdens of the pandemic, promote deeper faith in the Spirit's power at work in their midst, and empower their mission going forward. Check out www.thrivingbeyondcovid.org for details.



Leadership Coaching in our Synod

Assistant to the Bishop, [Pastor Jim Duehring](#), is an ELCA trained coach through CoachNet and **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. More detailed information is available [here](#).

[Upcoming Events](#)



Upcoming UP Wild Events

Lake LeVasseur Hike | Saturday, August 21 at 1:30 pm ET

We will traverse into a place that is sought out for its seclusion and wildlife. Our wilderness reflection will be on the importance of refuges and sanctuaries. Join us for our wilderness walk- all are welcome! For directions on where to meet please email lanni@upwild.org.

Nature Prayer Service | Sunday, August 29 at 4 pm ET

We gather every last Sunday of the month at Presque Isle in Marquette for an opening reflection, poems read by our members, prayer, solo time for directed exploration in nature and community discussion. All are welcome, including children. More information for August's mini potluck can be found at upwild.org or contact lanni@upwild.org.



faith+lead
LUTHER SEMINARY

Hybrid Ministry in a Post-Pandemic Church

Luther Seminary's Faith + Lead Team will host a live webcast **August 19, 26 and September 2 from 10 am-12 pm ET / 9-11 am CT** called "Hybrid Ministry in a Post-Pandemic Church." Whether you're adapting how you worship, give, lead, or all of the above—or you need a plan for getting your entire congregation on-board—this course will give you a framework for success. Visit the [event website](#) for details and registration.



Enfleshing Witness Event

Church Anew – a ministry of St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, MN – is hosting a virtual theological conference on **Thursday, August 26 at 12 pm ET/11 am CT**. In this intentionally crafted gathering, you will encounter distinct voices, speaking from their own communities, enfleshing witness for this moment of challenge and creativity in the church and in the world. Find all of the event details and free registration [here](#).



Stewardship Workshop at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

On **Saturday, September 11 from 12-3:30 pm CT**, ELCA Regional Manager for Mission Investment Fund Rev. Richard Wehrs will host a **FREE** workshop focusing on the 12 donor confidence factors which can either bolster or undermine your congregations stewardship efforts. Lunch will be provided 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](#).



Join us for Walking Together

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. A detailed flyer is available [here](#) on our website.

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
8 Superior Central	9/16	5:30 pm ET	Messiah, Marquette
5 Menominee Valley	9/18	9:30 am CT	Porterfield, Porterfield
3 Headwaters	9/19	12:30 pm CT	Immanuel, Rhinelander
7 Three Lakes	9/26	3:30 pm ET	Faith, Sault Ste. Marie

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:

Harvest Festival with KBIC

Saturday, September 25 in Baraga, MI (Assinins Hill)

Helpers needed. More details coming. Contact Pastor Julie Belew for more information, juliebelew@gmail.com



3rd Annual Anishinaabe Racial Justice Conference

September 30-October 3 in Baraga, MI

This conference will offer workshops, presentations, panel discussions, and coalition building on racial justice. For more information, visit the Native Justice Coalition [website](http://www.nativejustice.org).



First Call Leaders Event

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. Please mark your calendar; more details coming in September.



New Faithful Innovations Cohort

These learning communities of Jesus are designed for For Laity, Pastors, Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The next cohort begins in January 2022 and your leadership team is invited to join online or in-person. Check out [this flyer](#) for all the details!

ELCA Resources

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Updates from Jennifer Prinz, Portico's Regional Representative

Read all about Portico's recent communications and updates [here](#). The following topics are included:

- 2022 Portico Annual Enrollment
- Two ELCA-Recommended Health Plan Options Continues for 2022
- Easy Access for Primary Physician Care.

As always, Jennifer Prinz can be reached at (563)650-4122 or JPrinz@porticobenefits.org.

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 (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:

August 15-21 by Pastor Diane Srutowski
August 22-28 by Fortune Lake Staff
August 29-September 4 by Pastor Bre Kinnunen

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 celebrate with the following congregations as they gather to install their new pastor:
 - **Faith, Sault Ste. Marie** as they finally get to install **Pastor Rita Chirala** on Sunday, August 29 at 3 pm ET. 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 at 3 pm ET. The color of the day is red. Clergy are invited to vest and process.
- **Pastor Lloyd Leo Luedeman** has accepted a call to serve at **Grace, Pembine**. He will begin his pastoral duties there on September 1. Thanks be to God!
- **Pastors Steve and Evelyn Weston** began their intentional interim pastoral duties at **Bethel, Ishpeming** on August 16. They will also serve as administrative interim pastors for **Trinity and Faith, Ishpeming**. We welcome the Westons to our synod!

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For Rev. George Kaiser as he recovers from knee replacement surgery in Sault Ste. Marie.
- For those on the frontlines of caring for those with COVID.
- For the people of Afghanistan.
- For leaders to put the interests of others ahead of their own selfishness.
- For God's Spirit to inspire hope and kindness.
- For congregational leaders and pastors making ongoing decisions in light of the pandemic.



E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the 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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