



# Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

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

## E-Notes for August 31, 2021

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### The Season of Pentecost








#### Word of the Day

“There is a cartoon that depicts a pastor at the church door motioning to someone passing by and saying, ‘Come on in.’ The bystander replies, ‘Come on out!’ For too long the church has been preoccupied with trying to find ways to get unchurched people in the front door of the church. The new paradigm shift is to go where the people are. It is to send out legions of disciples from our communities of faith to serve as front line missionaries and share the good news of Jesus.”

~*Go Make Disciples: An invitation to Baptismal Living*, p. 50

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## Quick Links

-  [Check out resources on the NGLS website](#)
  -  [COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Tool](#)
  -  [Prayfaithfully Daily Devotions](#)
  -  [September Prayer Calendar](#)
  -  [Articles for Congregational Newsletters](#)
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## Spotlight Information



## **Fall Walking Together & Stewardship Events Cancelled**

### **Synod Council will Meet via Zoom**

Bishop Finegan wrote last week about the cancellation of our fall Walking Together events saying, in part, "While I was looking forward to gathering in person for fellowship, learning, and worship, I support the decision of the Executive Committee of our Synod. With the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19, the lag in vaccinations, and the possibility of breakthrough cases increasing, this is the best course of action."

Stewardship's Flip Side event has also been cancelled. Synod Council will meet via Zoom Friday, September 10 and Saturday, September 11.

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## **News & Information**



**S A F E**  
GATHERINGS

## **Boundaries & Implicit Bias Training**

### **for All Rostered Leaders, LLMs and Pulpit Supply Leaders**

All NGLS leaders (mentioned above) are expected to complete an online boundaries training module through Safe Gatherings at least once every three years. Also, considering the importance of better self-awareness around issues of bias and prejudice, active rostered leaders and licensed lay ministers are strongly encouraged to take an online implicit bias course. Read the full training details [here on our website](#).

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## **A Message from Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Regarding Refugee Resettlement**

So much has unfolded in the past several days regarding the resettlement of refugees from Afghanistan and it is a very fluid, evolving situation. We sincerely appreciate all your prayers and the many efforts to help. Here is the latest information and ways people can help in these efforts. In order of urgency:

- The [Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan website](#) has been updated with the most current needs and information. The greatest need is for monetary donations.
- There are many other ways for congregations to support the urgent needs of refugees. Those within 100 miles of Milwaukee will be able to support directly with in-kind and volunteer service in a variety of ways. Those further away can still help with various in-kind donations and volunteer services, but in different ways:
  - Weekly Zoom calls will be set up to share updates and answer questions. Our goal: a key contact person from each congregation willing to help will attend and both share the updates with their congregations and raise questions as we go along. The focus of these meetings will be coordinating the volunteer and in-kind needs, and more will be shared on the financial need as well.
- LSS needs congregations who are willing to “sponsor” a refugee family. They would work closely with LSS Refugee Resettlement staff. They can be a local connection to a caring community that helps the family feel welcome by checking in with the family almost daily to see how they are doing and to inquire about their needs. A congregation may be able to assist in finding permanent housing, furnishings for their new home, etc. As you know, each congregation is equipped with people blessed with different talents and connections to resources. Working closely with the LSS staff, this would mean so much to the refugees and be a huge blessing!

Thank you so much for caring so much about these new neighbors who are arriving in the US. We all want to help and LSS is both humbled and overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support we've received.

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## Seeking Shalom Resources

The following resources were used at the Seeking Shalom event in August are now available for download on our website:

- [How to Write Your Psalm of Lament](#)
- [Five Things to Know about Lament](#)
- [Litany of Consolation](#)
- [Prayer in Pandemic Time](#)

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## Computer Discounts for ELCA Congregations

The ELCA continues to be in partnership with Dell Computers and their Corporate Affiliate Purchase Program, which is also extended to our synods and congregations. Dell's Member Purchase Program offers a 12% discount on selected Dell electronics & accessories. Labor Day Early Access special offer runs through September

9. Visit [www.dell.com/mpp/ELCA](http://www.dell.com/mpp/ELCA) for details.



## Year of Discovery Task Force Update

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. Read a quick summary of some of those local efforts [here](#) and even more details about activities of engagement [here on our website](#).

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto:alcmnocqua@gmail.com) or

(715) 356-4426

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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](#). If you have any questions, please contact the LOPPW: [cindyc@loppw.org](mailto:cindyc@loppw.org)

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## 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](#).

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## 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](#).

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## Upcoming Events



### Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake

After a wonderful summer where we served nearly 400 campers, we aren't slowing our pace, but we are mindful of the continued risk of Covid, and we remain committed to providing meaningful faith experiences while working to keep people safe. Thus, we will continue to adhere to best practices as indicated by the CDC, and we have adjusted our calendar in the following ways. Please share this information with your congregations and communities:

- **September 13, November 15, January 10, March 14, and May 9: Senior Days, 10am to 2pm CT.** Presentations and topics vary. Follow us on Facebook for updates and details.

- **October 2: Fall Fest at Fortune Lake.** This year we will have a hybrid model including the following:
  - In-Person event including continental breakfast, draffle (drawing-raffle), country store and bake sale all begin at 9:30 am CT. Live auction of 30 quilts begins promptly at 11 am CT. Masking will be expected while indoors.
  - Virtual auction including 60+ beautiful hand-crafted quilts beginning Wednesday, September 22 and running through October 2.
  - Visit the [Fall Fest website](#) for more information on both the in-person event and the virtual auction. The virtual auction link will go live by September 22. Printed flyers will be sent to congregations by the end of this week.
- **October 8-10: Deeply Rooted Wellness Retreat** for all people ages 21+. More details and registration information available [here](#) (open now through September 24).
- **October 15-16: Fall Fun Weekend for youth grades 3-6 POSTPONED** until Covid vaccination is available to this age group, see below.
- **January 14-16: Winter Wonderland Retreat** to all ages
- **February 4-5: Jr./Sr. High Retreat** for grades 7-12
- **February 18-20: Young Adult Retreat** with an emphasis on self care for people ages 18-26
- **February 25-26: Youth Retreat** for grades 3-6 (rescheduled from October)

As these dates approach, additional information will be shared, and appropriate Covid mitigation steps will be taken.

Please note that we remain open and available for rent by individuals and small groups. Perhaps 2021-22 is the year when you finally host that confirmation event, take a private retreat, and gather as a family for a reunion? We are happy to partner with you to support your ministry and sabbath time in any way we can. Our new Guest Services Coordinator, Charlotte Strom, is ready to talk with you about creative ways to safely gather in this place of grace. She can be reached at [hospitality@fortunelake.org](mailto:hospitality@fortunelake.org) or (906) 214-2267.

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## Upcoming UP Wild Events

### Earth Healing: Tree Plant | Saturday, September 4 at 9 am ET

Meet at Messiah Lutheran Church Parking Lot at 8:45 am (305 W. Magnetic St., Marquette, MI) for car pooling. Gathering at the Presbyterian Community Church in Big Bay for orientation and preparation for planting 500 northern white cedar trees in the Yellow Dog Community Forest. Arriving back in Marquette by 1 pm. Please visit [upwild.org](http://upwild.org) for complete details.

### Monarch Blessing | Wednesday, September 8 at 5 pm ET

Every year, the monarch butterflies make their long pilgrimage south and the Garden Peninsula is one of their sites. We will gather at Stonington Peninsula to offer them a safe passage with blessings and prayers. We will also have a water ceremony to honor the water as a life giving, spiritual force. Check [upwild.org](http://upwild.org) for weather cancellations and email [lanni@upwild.org](mailto:lanni@upwild.org) for more information.





## 2022 Youth Gathering Webinar

The ELCA Youth Gathering team will host a webinar on Wednesday, September 8 at 8 pm ET / 7 pm CT to discuss plans for next summer regarding safety in Minneapolis and COVID-19. [You can sign up for the webinar here.](#) It is too early to know exactly what will be required to ensure all participants are safe. All measures will be communicated through Gathering social media, website and gNews. More information and FAQs can be found on the [Youth Gathering website.](#)

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## Online Stewardship Conference

Stewardship Kaleidoscope is an annual conference offering excellent plenary speakers, informative workshop leaders, provocative worship experiences, and incredible networking opportunities for all who are passionate about stewardship and generosity. The conference is **September 13-15**, but the registration deadline for online participation is Tuesday, September 7. Find more details [here](#) on our website.

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## Northern Great Lakes Synod Classes Begin Online in September-October 2021

Lifelong Faith Formation classes provide fun and interesting opportunities for people from across the synod to connect with each other online, via Zoom, during these uncertain times. Registration closes Monday, September 13 at 5 pm ET, so be sure to check out this semester's class offerings soon:

- Biblemania! Reading Through Some of the 66 Books of Food for the Soul
- Ezekiel Bible Study
- Intermediate Biblical Greek
- Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
- An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking - Book Study of Friedman's Fables (by Rabbi Ed Friedman): "Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking"
- Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why

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

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## 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](mailto: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).

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### Congregation Council Presidents

The next quarterly workshop will be on **Thursday, October 21** with guest presenter Jennifer Prinz of Portico Benefit



Services. Please mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details.

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## 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. More details coming soon.

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## 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!

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[ELCA Resources](#)





Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA



## Updates from Jennifer Prinz, Portico's Regional Representative

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

- **2022: Lowest rate increase in eight years!**
- **Annual Enrollment**
- **New Vision Care Services**

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

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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 (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.

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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:

**August 29-September 4 by Pastor Bre Kinnunen**

**September 5-11 by Pastor Ann Gonyea**

**September 12-18 by Christine Harkness**

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).

## Transitions

- We give thanks to God for the interim ministry of **Pastor Matt Deames** and pray God's blessings on Pastor Matt as he retires from ordained ministry.
- Thanks be to God for the interim ministry of **Pastor Sue Johnson** and **Pastor Dwaine Sutherland**. We pray for God's blessings on them as they both transfer out of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.
- We celebrate with **Bethel, Cedarville and Zion, Allenville** as they finally get to install Pastor Renee MacLeod on Sunday, September 12 at 3 pm ET. Everyone is encouraged to mask. The color of the day is red. Clergy are invited to vest and process.
- Thanks be to God for new ministry partnerships! We welcome the following pastors and their families to the Northern Great Lakes Synod (installation details to come):

- **Pastor Elisabeth Daniels and her husband Wesley** who started ministry at **First, Gladstone** on August 30.
- **Pastor Jack Busche and his wife Sydney** who started ministry at **Grace, Gwinn** on August 30.
- **Pastor Lloyd Leo Luedeman and his wife Amy** who will begin ministry at **Grace, Pembine** on September 1.
- Our prayers are with **Pastor Peter and Liz Vorhes, Pastor Warren and Kathy Geier** and **Pastor Steve Solberg** and their families as they each mourn the loss of their mothers. We also pray for **Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege** as she mourns the loss of her father. May God's peace and comfort surround all those who mourn.

## Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- We pray for all those effected by fire, flood, quake, and storm, especially the people of Haiti and those in the path of Ida.
- We pray for those fleeing violence, especially refugees and those seeking asylum from Afghanistan. May we help to provide safety and welcome.
- We pray for our congregations in transition, that they prepare for their next pastor and that God raise up faithful leaders for a blessed partnership.
- We pray for all who are weary, frightened, impatient, and irritable. Give respite and comfort, peace and calm.



*E-Notes* is a twice monthly electronic newsletter  
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**+ Bishop Katherine Finegan**

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