



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for September 15, 2021

The Season of Pentecost

Thought of the Day

When you are a passenger in a plane and there is an emergency, you are advised to first put on your own oxygen mask so that then you can help others.

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

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!

News & Information



Have you ever wanted to dive in deeper to theology, Biblical questions, and scriptural interpretation? You are invited to be a student in Lay School in one of our neighboring synods. This fall, the [East Central Synod of Wisconsin](#) is offering classes for free. Also the [Northeastern Minnesota Synod](#) offers a Lay School program. The NGLS has scholarships to help defray that cost. If you have any questions, please call the Synod Office at (906) 228-2300.



Thoughts on Joy

Here are some helpful thoughts from Rev. Phil Hirsch, Executive Director of ELCA Christian Community and Leadership for the ELCA.

"It may seem crazy what I'm about to say...

One of the things that 9/11 survivors have reminded us about is, strangely enough, the way joy helps us to push back despair. Hang on with me for a moment. Over the weekend I heard some of them say that joy was not something they could outright seek but when it came to them, they learned to embrace it. My experience is akin to this when in very difficult times and circumstances. In the poorest places I've ever been, people would break out in song and dance almost in spite of the problems that were always present. Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten with rods, thrown in jail and their feet locked to stocks (Acts 16:22), yet they sang hymns as a way of pushing back the fear and anxiety of that moment. The same is true with you, here and now. I pray that joy may find you and that when it does, you will embrace it. This is the ultimate hope of the Resurrection and I hope it will find you today. If you need something to stir you try this [video by Pharrell Williams](#)."



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](#).



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.



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](#)



First Call Event Update

After much deliberation, the Planning Committee of FCTE has decided not to have an in-person gathering of the six partner synods for the First Call Event held in November. In its place, each synod will gather their First Call leaders together – in person or virtually – with an agenda that is best suited to that synod. This will hopefully be followed up with a virtual gathering of all the bishops in the six synods with all those in the First Call. More information will follow.

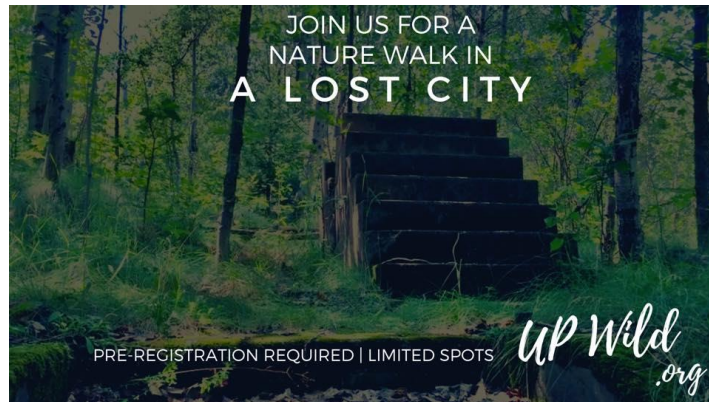
For the NGLS, First Call Pastors in their first three years of call will gather in-person at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp **November 7-9, 2021**. We will observe safety protocols. More details about agenda and registration will be coming soon.

Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who and Why

with Bishop Katherine Finegan

You can still sign up for Bishop Finegan's Lifelong Faith Formation class! The class takes place **Mondays, October 11 and 18 (2 weeks) from 7-8:30 pm ET / 6-7:30 pm CT** and all the details, plus registration can be found on [our website](#).





Upcoming UP Wild Events

Lost City Walk | Saturday, September 18 at 10:30 am ET

We will learn some Negaunee mining history, pray by the mouth of the cave where the miners descended, allow time for collective prayer and reflection, and see how nature has reclaimed this now public space. Spots usually fill quickly for this walk so register ASAP. Meeting at Jackson Miners Park (west end of Main St.). View last year's walk online [here](#).

Nature Prayer Service | Sunday, September 26 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 can be found at upwild.org or contact lanni@upwild.org.



Book Study of Friedman's Fables: "Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking"

with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop/DEM
Join Pastor Jim's Lifelong Faith Formation class on **Saturdays, October 2, October 9, October 23 and November 6 (4 sessions) at 11 am ET / 10 am CT**. A full class description and registration can be found on [our 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:

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](#).

Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

with Luanne and Rev. Thomas Skrenes

There's still time to sign up for this Lifelong Faith Formation class, which takes place **Every Thursday, September 30—November 4 (6 weeks) from 5-6 pm ET / 4-5 pm CT!** For full details and registration, please visit [our website](#).





A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed

You're invited to an online benefit for [ELCA World Hunger](#) featuring [Rick Steves](#) and more on **Thursday, October 14 at 8:30 pm ET / 7:30 pm CT**. As a church, we remain focused on supporting our neighbors near and far as the pandemic continues disrupting and impacting lives. No one is better positioned and more experienced than the church in addressing hunger — both immediate needs and root solutions. We are ready, able, effective and efficient. [Register now](#).



Congregation Council Presidents

The next quarterly workshop will be on **Thursday, October 21 at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT** with guest presenter Jennifer Prinz of Portico Benefit Services. Please mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details.



An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking

with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop/DEM
This Lifelong Faith Formation class takes place **Thursday, September 23 (1 session) from 7-8:30 pm ET / 6-7:30 pm CT** and there's still time to sign up! Head over to [our website](#) for complete details and to register.

ELCA Resources

PORTICO[®]

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.



2022 ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

Synod Youth Ministries Coordinator, Stefanie Ehle, has provided some updates for the 2022 Youth Gathering, which will take place July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN. You can read the full details [here on our website](#). Please make a special note of the following:

Important Dates Regarding the ELCA Youth Gathering:

- September 22, 2021: Early Bird Registration begins
- **October 7, 2021 at 8 pm ET / 7 pm CT: Safety and Security Webinar. Pre-register for the live event [here](#) or watch a recording at your convenience.**
- November 22, 2021: Regular Registration begins
- January 22, 2022: Hotel Assignments
- February 22, 2022: Late Registration begins
- May 22, 2022: Registration closes
- July 24-28, 2022: ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

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:

September 12-18 by Christine Harkness
September 19-25 by Christine Ebert
September 26-October 1 by Pastor Micah Cavaleri

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

- **Pastor-Elect Jack Busche** will be ordained and installed as pastor of **Grace, Gwinn** on Saturday, October 9 at 11 am ET. Clergy are invited to vest with color of the day being red.
- **Pastor Lloyd Luedeman** will be installed at **Grace, Pembine** on Sunday, October 10. Time to be announced. Clergy are invited to vest with color of the day being RED.
- **Pastor Elisabeth Daniels** began her ministry at **First, Gladstone** on August 30. Her installation will be Sunday, October 17 at 3 pm ET. Clergy are invited to vest with color of the day being red.

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For those beginning seminary education.
- For students, parents, and teachers as they begin a new school year.
- For those seeking refuge and a better future.
- For those bearing many sorrows.
- For the people of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese in Tanzania—our companion synod.



E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Rev. Jim Duehring

Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

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E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

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