



# Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Marquette, Michigan  
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## E-Notes for November 15, 2021

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### The Season of Pentecost

#### Word of the Day

"O Great Spirit,  
our Father from above,  
we honor your name as sacred and holy.  
Bring your good road to us,  
where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above  
is reflected in the earth below.  
Provide for us day by day—  
the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.  
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.  
All the things we need for each day.  
Release us from the things we have done wrong,  
in the same way we release others  
for the things done wrong to us.  
Guide us away from the things that tempt us  
to stray from your good road,  
and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.  
Aho! May it be so!"

The Lord's Prayer from *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* by Terry M. Wildman

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# Christ the King Sunday

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As we approach Christ the King Sunday this coming November 21, I share with you a portion of what I will be preaching at First, Iron River. Whether or not your congregation will be participating in the special liturgy provided for Native American Sunday, the readings for the day, whatever their liturgical context, proclaim that we welcome Jesus the Christ to rule over us.

The year was 1925. The Great War is seven years over. This is the year that dogsleds reached Nome with emergency diphtheria serum after a 1000-kilometer run and the World's Fair opened in Chicago. It's the year that the Presidential monument on Mount Rushmore was first proposed, and when John T. Scopes was indicted, tried, and convicted for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution. The American Association for Advancement of Atheism formed in this year. Adolph Hitler wrote Mein Kampf, Benito Mussolini dissolved the Italian parliament and announced himself dictator over Italy, and the League of Nations held a conference on arms control and poison gas usage. This is the year that the KKK marched 40,000 strong on Washington, the year that the Italian liberal-national party joined the fascist movement and the German SS was formed. In the year 1925, dictators were on the rise as were the political ideologies of fascism, communism, socialism, and hate.

People were looking for something, someone to believe in. They were questioning not only the authority of God, but the very existence of God. They were being swept up into movements that seduced them with power, and a false sense of superiority over other human beings. And into the midst of this, Pope Pius the 11<sup>th</sup> declared a day to celebrate and proclaim to the world anew that of all of the world's authorities and leaders and movements and politics, only Christ is King. Only Christ is the one to trust, the one to follow, the one with ultimate authority so complete that he reigns both in and beyond this world.

As we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, we affirm that whatever is going on in our world, Christ is King. Christ still carries ultimate authority in our lives. And in the midst of the world's authorities and leaders and movements and politics, we proclaim to the world anew, even as we ourselves are reminded, that only Christ is the one to trust, the one to follow, the one in which we place our hopes and commend our fears. He is the one that we invite to reign over us, over our will, our thoughts, our minds, our bodies, and our hearts to bring in the Kingdom of God.

May you find meaning and joy as you worship Christ the King this weekend.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan



## Spotlight Information



### Native American Sunday

- Native American Sunday will take place on **November 21** and a synod task force (Walking with our Indigenous Neighbors) has created a wonderful worship resource to use. This resource is customizable and available on the [homepage of our synod website](#) under "Year of Discovery." We hope that by utilizing this resource our congregations will have some sense of the deep spiritual traditions of our indigenous neighbors who honor the Creator.

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## News & Information



## Join us this Winter for Lifelong Faith Formation Classes!

The synod offers a Lifelong Faith Formation program for adults who want to grow in faith and spirit as they learn together. Meeting online via Zoom, classes range in duration from two sessions to ten weekly meetings. Here's a preview of the 2022 winter schedule:

- **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew** - Sunday evenings with Pastor Nicole Hanson Lynn
- **The Samuel Series: Prayer and the Spiritual Life** - Monday mornings, facilitated by Barb Ojibway, Pastor Lee Goodwin, and Pastor Jon Magnuson
- **The Big Picture Bible Discussion** - Tuesday evenings, coordinated by Susan Anderson and Jeff Henquinet
- **Anishinaabe Culture** - Up to three evening sessions beginning on Thursday, January 27, coordinated by Denise Cadeau, Dean of Anishinaabe Studies at Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
- **Ezekiel Bible Study** - Wednesday evenings with Pastor Tommy Richter (this second class in the series will cover chapters 25-48)
- **Dialogue with the Islamic Resource Group** - Coordinated by Pastor Christina Forsythe, on two evenings, Thursday, January 20 and Friday, January 21



## Reminder to Clergy!

Applications for the Clergy Debt Relief Fund to help reduce debt from your first theological degree are due in the Synod Office by **November 30, 2021**. A letter and application form were sent out in mid-October. Please call the Synod Office if you have any questions.

## Annual Report Cover Now Available

The 2021 ELCA Annual Report cover is ready and available for download! The file is available for use [here on our website](#).



### Free Bible Study Resource

[Enter the Bible](#) is an expansive, fascinating, helpful and free resource for those who want to study the Bible and grow in their faith. Luther Seminary's nationally recognized professors have contributed podcasts, blog posts, essays and video clips to enrich your experience.

### Books Available for Borrowing!

The NGLS Synodical Women's Organization board has accumulated books that are available for reading ([view the list here](#))! SWO Board member Dawn Holmgren would be able to send any of the titles listed here to anyone interested. For more information or to request a book, please email Dawn at [dmholmgren10@gmail.com](mailto:dmholmgren10@gmail.com) or call at (906) 280-2615.



### Boundaries & Implicit Bias Training

All NGLS rostered leaders, LLMs and pulpit supply leaders are expected to complete an online boundaries training module through Safe Gatherings at least once every three years. Read the full training details [here on our website](#).

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# Upcoming Events

[Click Here for Upcoming UP Wild Events](#)

## Finlandia's Anniversary Celebration

Check out a weekend of activities **December 3-5** in celebration of Finlandia's 125th Anniversary. Come for a Jonathan Rundman concert, special lectures, and a celebration worship service at Gloria Dei. Check out their [website](#) for more details!



## 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**. Check out [this flyer](#) for all the details!



**Ignite The Church**  
CONFERENCE

**2022 Ignite the Church Conference**

A new Hybrid version of the grassroots Ignite the Church Conference will gather **February 8-10** in-person and online to reflect on the theme, "Seismic Shifts: Where Do We Go From Here?" For all the details and registration, please visit the [Ignite the Church website](#).

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## 2022 Professional Leader's Retreat

**an event for Pastors, Deacons & LLMs**

Join us at the Ramada Inn in Marquette, MI **February 27-28, 2022!** We will welcome the Rev. Dr. Leah Schade from Lexington Theological Seminary as she presents, "Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide: Preaching and Teaching in the 'Purple Zone.'" For complete details, please see the [event flyer](#). Registration is now available [here on our website](#).

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## NGLS Youth Ministry Updates



## Our Synod Youth Ministries Coordinator is Here to Help!

If you have questions or would like to be on the email list for Youth Leaders, please contact Stefanie Ehle at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org).

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2022 ELCA  
YOUTH GATHERING

**boundless**  
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

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[Click Here for 2022 Youth Gathering Updates](#)

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## Youth Leadership Summit

Three youth from the Northern Great Lakes Synod attended the ELCA's Youth Leadership Summit in Minneapolis, MN November 4-7, 2021. The Youth Leadership Summit is an annual gathering for high school youth identified as leaders in the church. Through workshops, speakers, and other hands-on activities, youth leaders are equipped and encouraged to inspire their own synods, congregations, and communities to take action and spread God's love. We give thanks to God for Jack Bachand, Cassidy Crabb, and Sean Korpela for taking on this leadership role and representing the NGLS in Minnesota!

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## Synod Youth Ministry Team

The Synod Youth Ministry Team has been meeting regularly to talk about ways to share resources in youth and family ministry with congregations in our synod and plan activities for youth to develop their faith and strengthen their relationship with God. David Nelson, of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Houghton, serves as the new committee chair. If you have suggestions for youth events you would like to see in our synod or ideas of how to connect with Youth Leaders, contact David [dannelso@mtu.edu](mailto:dannelso@mtu.edu) or Stefanie [youthcoordinator@nclsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nclsynod.org).

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## [Keeping in Prayer](#)

[November Prayfaithfully Calendar](#)

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## Prayfaithfully Devotions

Check out upcoming [Prayfaithfully](#) on our Synod website!

**November 14-20 by Pastor Tammy Barthels**

**November 21-27 by Nancy Stank**

**November 27-December 4 by Ruth Warmanen**

If you are interested in writing a week's worth of devotions, contact Betsy Koski at (906) 228-2300 or [bakoski@nglsynod.org](mailto:bakoski@nglsynod.org).

## Transitions





- We pray God's blessings upon **Pastor Catherine Ford** who has been called to serve the work of Christ with the people of **Faith, Three Lakes**. Pastor Catie was ordained at First Lutheran in Geneseo, IL by Bishop Finegan on October 23 and she began her partnership at Faith in November. Pastor Catie will be installed on December 5 (time TBA). We welcome Pastor Catie and her husband, **Dillon**, to the Northern Great Lakes Synod!

## Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- We pray for refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and all who seek safety, meaningful employment, and new beginnings.
- We hold in prayer all those impacted by the pandemic. Grant doctors and scientists, nurses and caregivers resilience and patience, and the knowledge needed to combat the effects of this illness.
- We pray for all those seeking a diagnosis and undergoing treatment for health issues.

- We pray for those forging new relationships and deeper understanding with indigenous neighbors.

## Quick Links

-  [Check out resources on the NGLS website](#)
-  [COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Tool](#)
-  [Stewardship Toolkit](#)
-  [UP Wild Events](#)



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

**+Bishop Katherine Finegan**

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E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod*

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