

[View this email in your browser](#)



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for February 15, 2022

The Season of Epiphany

Thought of the Day

“There was a time when the church was very powerful—in the time when the early Christians rejoiced at being deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society.”

~“Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” April 16, 1963 by Martin Luther King Jr.

Spotlight Information



Stewardship's Flip Side Event

This event requires masks per Messiah, Marquette's COVID-19 protocols

Join us on **Sunday, February 27 from 3-5 pm ET** at Messiah, Marquette for "Stewardship's Flip Side: Recognizing and Removing Obstacles to Generosity." This workshop will be presented by Rev. Richard Wehrs, ELCA Regional Manager for Mission Investment Fund and will focus on the 12 "donor confidence" factors, which can either bolster or undermine your congregation's stewardship efforts. Learn what you can do throughout the year to reduce the gap between your contributors' financial capacity and their financial will by learning from the non-profit fundraising industry. For more details and to register, please see the [flyer on our website](#).

Annual Reports



Annual Congregational A & C Reports

Due today, February 15, 2022

Let's get an item checked off of your to-do list! Your congregation should have received your annual A&C Reports from the ELCA in the mail. [This is what they look like.](#)

Your ELCA Church ID# and this year's password are printed on the report in the upper right hand section of the "A" side of the report. You will need these numbers if you want to fill out the forms online. Please click the [green](#) button below to access the A & C forms online.

If you cannot find your paper copy of the report, please contact Heather or Betsy at the Synod Office (906) 228-2300 for your congregation's ID and password.

[Link to A & C Reports](#)

Rostered Leader Reports to the Bishop

Due March 15, 2022

Below you will find links for filling out your Report to the Bishop online. Please use the following instructions:

1. Click the appropriate button below to access your report. Please note that LLM's should use the link for Minister of Word and Sacrament--Under Call from a Congregation.
2. Save the report to your computer.
3. Fill out the report and save it again.
4. Attach the report file to an email to Heather (hoysti@nglsynod.org) OR print out your report and mail to the Synod Office.

The reports can also be filled out by hand and mailed to the Synod Office if you prefer to do that. Please note: the deadline for getting your report to the Bishop is **Monday, March 15, 2022!**

[Ministers of Word and Sacrament](#)

[Under Call from a Congregation](#)

[On Leave or Disability](#)

[Retired](#)

[Under Call from Synod Council or ELCA Church Council](#)

Ministers of Word and Service

[Under Call from a Congregation](#)

[On Leave or Disability](#)

[Retired](#)

[Under Call from Synod Council or ELCA Church Council](#)

News & Information



Award Nominations Are Open

The NGLS World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry! The Big Bear Award is given to a group (committee, task force, team, etc.) of a Northern Great Lakes Synod congregation and the Bread Basket Award is given to an individual of the NGLS. For complete details, [please download the forms on our website](#). Nominations must be submitted by **March 1, 2022**. No effort is too small or too big to be nominated!



Coaching for ELCA Leaders

Courageous Leadership Series with ELCA Coaching

Weekly on Wednesdays, 2 pm ET / 1 pm CT

When Jesus began His ministry, He immediately formed a small group. Following in the footsteps of Jesus, the ELCA is continuing to offer opportunities to gather in small groups for discussion and empowerment around the prominent topics swirling in the crucible of change for us as faith leaders. The login information can be found [here](#) and on the [ELCA Coaching website](#).



Downloadable Vanco Resources

Vanco provides online payment processing solutions, as well as software that enables educational and nonprofit organizations to operate more efficiently. Check out their resources, tips and guides for virtual ministry [here](#).

CM CARES Scholarships

The Church Mutual Insurance Company Foundation, CM CARES®, is offering 25 scholarships of \$2,500 each to religious scholars. The CM CARES Religious Scholars program supports full and part-time graduate and doctoral students who are committed to ministry as a career. Scholars of all faiths are encouraged to apply. A program flier is available to download, and [complete details and materials are available online](#).



Upcoming Events

Northland Annual Meeting

Northland Lutheran Retirement Community will hold its annual corporation meeting on **Tuesday, February 22 at 5:30 pm ET / 4:30 pm CT.**



Due to current circumstances with the pandemic, Northland will again conduct this meeting virtually via Go-To-Meeting. Please remember that each member congregation can be represented by two delegates and the Pastor of the congregation. A complete packet of materials will be sent in early February.



YOU'RE INVITED!
Interfaith Peace Working Group

Monthly Evensong Service

Please join the [Wisconsin Council of Churches](#), [First Congregational UCC Madison](#) and the [Interfaith Peace Working Group](#) for a monthly Evensong service. For the month of February, we are also working closely with [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#). In response to the needs of the world, we are hosting evenings of prayer, song, learning, and discussion. We hope that these services inspire faithful spiritual, social and political engagement. We welcome people of all faiths or of no faith. Join us on **Tuesday, February 22nd at 8 pm ET / 7 pm CT** with Mx. Jan Passion leading the presentation. For more information and to register, please [click here](#).



Celebrating Black Joy: 2022 Black History Month Month at LSTC

Lead by LSTC faculty, staff and students of color, alongside the Pero Multicultural Center, the 2022 Black History Month events center around the theme "The Black Family." Events include: a panel discussion with LSTC students and alumni who share their stories of the Black immigrant experience in the U.S.; a "musical extravaganza" presented by LSTC Cantor Dr. Keith Hampton and the Keith Hampton Singers; and a panel presentation and discussion on the impact of mass incarceration on the Black family. More info, including registration, [here](#).

The Black Church Experience Closing Worship
Wednesday, February 23 at 12:15 pm ET / 11:15 am CT
Guest Preacher: Bishop Yehiel Curry
In-person in Augustana Chapel or via Zoom (register [here](#))



Quarterly Workshop for Congregation Leaders

The quarterly workshops are now being offered to all elected leaders of the 79 congregations of the NGLS. The next workshop is set for **Thursday, February 24 at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT** with guest presenter and Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring. The topic is "The Value of a Vibrant Mutual Ministry." An invitation and Zoom link has

been sent to each congregation and pastor. If you do not receive the forwarded email, please contact Heather at the Synod Office hoysti@nglsynod.org.

NGLS Youth Ministry Updates



An update Regarding the 2022 Gathering

Please read the following statement from the ELCA Youth Gathering Planning Team regarding the cancellation of the 2022 Gathering.

After much prayer, conversation and tears, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2022 Gathering, MYLE and the tAble due to the ongoing pandemic, the recent COVID-19 surge and safety considerations.

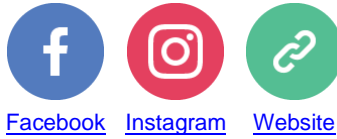
We know there are thousands of young people who will not get to experience the Gathering, and our hearts break for them. This was not an easy decision, and we ask for your prayers and your grace. We understand the impact this decision will have on our youth, volunteers and planning teams, and we hope to return to Minneapolis for a future Gathering.

Registered congregations can visit their registration accounts starting Monday, February 7, to select their desired refund option. For more information and FAQs, please visit elca.org/gathering.

With God's power at work in and through us, we can do far more than we dare ask or imagine! The ELCA is fully committed to supporting the young people of our church and to seeing that the ministry of the Gathering, MYLE and the tAble continue for years to come. With that assurance, we are turning our attention toward 2024 for the next Gathering. Stay tuned to Gathering communications for a location announcement this summer.

[Check out this flyer](#) for alternative events and upcoming faith formation opportunities for High Schoolers.

Stay Connected with NGLS Youth Happenings and Updates on Facebook and Instagram.



Free College Readiness Webinar Series in February

Dedicated to providing students with the best education possible, ELCA colleges and universities are kicking off 2022 with a **free College Readiness Webinar Series**, which answers questions students may have about applying to or preparing for college. The series, to be offered throughout February, consists of four different webinars focusing on important topics to help prepare for college, plus an overview offered in Spanish. Each session will be led by representatives from the ELCA Network of Colleges and Universities. [Click here to register.](#)



Opportunities for Young Adults

The ELCA Young Adult Ministry has a [new website](#). Check it out for more information about:

- Young Adult Coaching
- #NoPlasticsForLent
- Joining the Steering Committee
- Digital Ministry Opportunities
- Young Adult Synod Network Meetings (next meeting will be May 25)
- and more!

[Portico Updates](#)



Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA



COVID-19 At-Home Tests Coverage

As of January 15, health plans are required to cover the cost of certain at-home test kits. Find details on this [regularly updated page on myPortico](#).

Download and Share Hammar Tax Guides

Because congregations and clergy have unique reporting requirements, we offer complimentary access to two annually updated guides: [Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches PDF](#) and [Clergy Tax Return Preparation Guide PDF](#)

Retirement Readiness Series: On-Demand

Retirement may feel like (or even be) a long way off. Having a plan for retirement can increase confidence and peace of mind about the future. For those that missed the live Retirement Readiness Series workshops hosted by Fidelity, access to condensed video presentations is [available here on myPortico](#).

Fitness Challenge with Burnalong

ELCA-Primary health benefit members, join the [Burnalong Refill Your Cup challenge](#) to reinvigorate your body with online health and fitness classes. Set a goal to complete 100 minutes of classes during the month of February (that's 25 minutes a week!) to complete the challenge and contribute toward the ELCA community goal of 5,000 minutes.

Portico Questions?

Reach out to the Customer Care Center at 800-352-2876 or your Portico Regional Representative, Jennifer Prinz, at jprinz@porticobenefit.org or 563-650-4122.

Keeping in Prayer

February Prayfaithfully Calendar



Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

February 13-19 by Pastor Elisabeth Daniels

February 20-26 by various synod writers

February 27-March 5 by Pastor Mike Markwell

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

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

We pray for...

- peace in our world, especially in the Ukraine.
- scientists studying solutions for a better planet.
- newly elected church councils.
- healing of strained relationships.

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.

Pastor Jim Duehring

Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

*Copyright © 2022 Northern Great Lakes Synod, All rights reserved.
E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod*

Our mailing address is:

Northern Great Lakes Synod
1029 N. Third St., Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to hoysti@nglsynod.org
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Northern Great Lakes Synod · 1029 N. Third Street, Suite A · Marquette, MI 49855 · USA

