



# Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Marquette, Michigan  
[npls@nplsynod.org](mailto:npls@nplsynod.org)

## E-Notes for February 28, 2022

### The Season of Epiphany

#### Word of the Day

##### **Burning of the Palms**

Kay N. Sanders, Lay Ministry Coordinator  
First Congregational Church in Oshkosh, WI

*Did you hear the wind of the Spirit that night?  
Did you see the tongues of flame?*

Gathered 'round the hearth, this body  
of Christ, we come, from old to young,  
bringing our brittle palms of praise,  
stored away since last year's parade  
like a stack of good intentions.

All our hosannas and old hopes  
flung into the fire,  
gone up in smoke,  
reduced to ash,

the mark of the cross

on our heads, our hands.

We leave in somber mood,  
for we know the old, old story,  
how we bless Him who comes  
in the name of the Lord one day  
and by week's end  
crucify.

But still (*Did you hear  
the wind of the Spirit, did you see the tongues of flame?*)  
we also know how the end  
of the story is its beginning  
how God breathes

Into the ashes of old, dead hopes,  
sends the wind of the Spirit  
speaking in tongues  
of flame  
and we rise, creatures  
made new.

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## Annual 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](mailto: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](#)

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## **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!

## CM CARES Scholarships

The Church Mutual Insurance Company Foundation, CM CARES<sup>®</sup>, 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



## 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](#).



## Indian 101 Webinar with Vance Blackfox

The general population knows very little about the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island -- even the most basic topics are often grand mysteries. This, of course, is by design, as the colonial project has prioritized the complete erasure of Native people for centuries. Indian 101 is a time to learn some of these basics and to cultivate a foundation for standing in solidarity with Indian people across the U.S., as we all work together to dismantle longstanding systems of oppression. [Zoom information for both sessions is available here.](#)

**Session 1: March 10 from 2-4 pm ET / 1-3 pm CT**

**Session 2: March 16 from 3-5 pm ET / 2-4 pm CT**



## What Am I Going to Say?

As preachers begin their sermon prep and open the text, the first question they often ask is "What am I going to say?" It's a question fueled by anxiety that they won't find something worthwhile to say—or worse, won't have anything to say—especially when they've seen the text a thousand times before. This free one-hour workshop on **Thursday, March 10 from 3:30-4:30 pm ET / 2:30-3:30 pm CT** will guide lay and ordained preachers through the simple process that lets them see the text with fresh eyes, allows the message to reveal itself, and draw them closer to God at the same time. This session is offered by the Rev. Dr. Lisa Cressman, founding steward of [Backstory Preaching](#). [Register here for the Zoom link.](#)



## Pastor's Kayak Paddle Retreat

COVID, chaos and complaints have all taken a toll on our lives. Pastors, we would like to invite you on a kayaking retreat **June 25, 2022** at Marywood Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae, WI. This is more than a time to get away to relax. It is a time to reconnect with self, nature and a time to process things that have been buried beneath the surface of your life. [More event information is available here.](#)

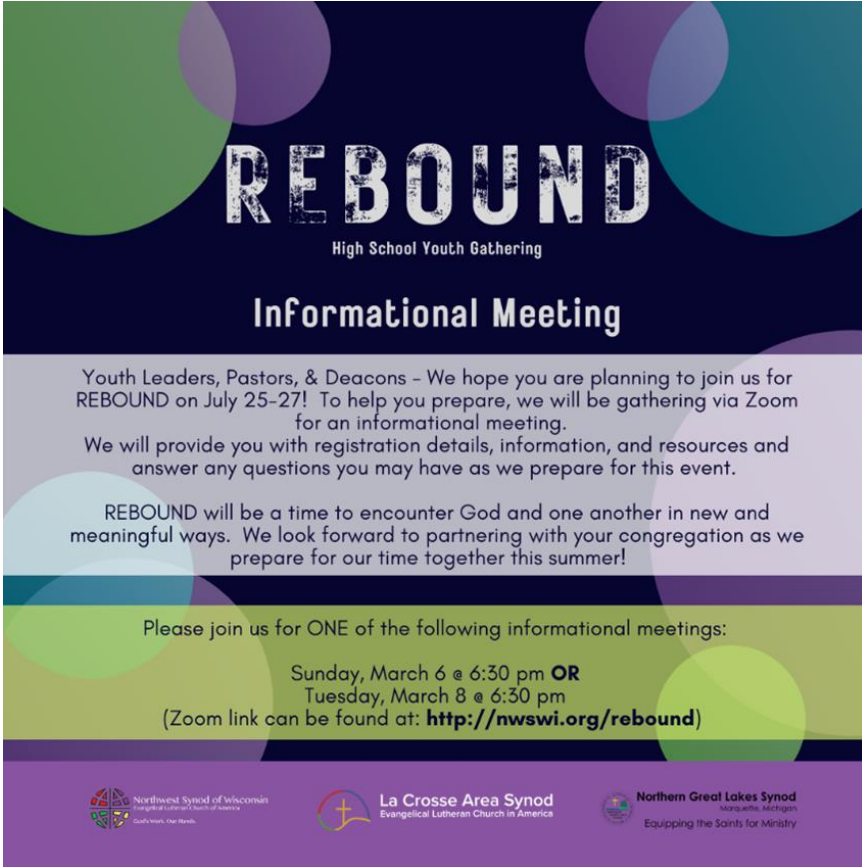
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## NGLS Youth Ministry Updates



With the recent cancellation of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, some people are feeling a void and sense of loss brought about yet again by the Covid19 pandemic. Whether or not you were preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer, you still might be looking for events and opportunities for high schoolers to explore and deepen their faith. While not exhaustive, here are a few options NGLS youth to participate in.

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**REBOUND**  
High School Youth Gathering

**Informational Meeting**




Youth Leaders, Pastors, & Deacons - We hope you are planning to join us for REBOUND on July 25-27! To help you prepare, we will be gathering via Zoom for an informational meeting.

We will provide you with registration details, information, and resources and answer any questions you may have as we prepare for this event.

REBOUND will be a time to encounter God and one another in new and meaningful ways. We look forward to partnering with your congregation as we prepare for our time together this summer!

Please join us for ONE of the following informational meetings:

Sunday, March 6 @ 6:30 pm **OR**  
Tuesday, March 8 @ 6:30 pm  
(Zoom link can be found at: <http://nswi.org/rebound>)

 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
 La Crosse Area Synod  
 Northern Great Lakes Synod

## REBOUND

The Tri-Synodical Youth Gathering will be a smaller, spin-off of the ELCA Youth Gathering and will allow participants from the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Northwest Synod of WI, and LaCrosse Area Synod to connect with each other in Christian community. Join us for an informational meeting on **Sunday, March 6 or Tuesday, March 8**. Visit <http://nswi.org/rebound> for additional information.



**Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp** is a tremendous resource in our synod that provides meaningful faith formation for campers of all ages. This summer, High School Week is scheduled for June 26 – July 1 and the Leaders in Training (LIT) Program begins June 19-24. The LIT program is for campers who are interested in learning what it is like to serve on staff and includes one week of training and up to two additional weeks implementing skills and getting experience alongside summer staff members. Musical Theatre Week is another option available to high schoolers, as well as campers of all ages, and will take place July 31 – August 6. Details about all of the

summer programs at FLLC and registration options can be found at [fortunelake.org](http://fortunelake.org).



The **Multicultural Youth Leadership Academy** (MYLA) at Living Water Ministries in New Era, MI is a unique opportunity for campers ages 13-16 to be part of an innovative leadership program that offers culturally immersive experiences for a diverse community of youth. This summer, the MYLA program will take place **July 31 – August 5**. Thanks to a generous grant, *one adult leader and up to four youth from the Northern Great Lakes Synod can attend the MYLA program at no charge!* Please contact Stefanie Ehle ([youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org)) for an application if you would like to be part of this opportunity.



The Northern Great Lakes Synod is co-hosting a **Youth Advocacy Listening Session** for high school students on Sunday, April 3 at 2 pm ET / 1 pm CT to share their voice and learn how to respond in faith to injustice in the world. Participants can register using the link below by March 25 to ensure delivery of some swag items in the mail. [Faith Advocacy Survey and Registration](#)

Additional details can be found by viewing this [letter](#) and [invitation](#).



## Lenten Socks and Underwear Challenge

### WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

The NGLS Youth Ministry Team is looking to challenge a minimum of **40 congregations** to collect at least **40 pairs of socks and underwear** this Lenten season.

### WHY SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR?

This challenge is inspired by The Drawer, a nonprofit located in Minneapolis, MN, that collects new socks and underwear to distribute to people in need. Socks are the #1 requested clothing item in homeless shelters. The #2 requested item is underwear. 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering attendees were encouraged to collect socks and



underwear for The Drawer and bring them to this summer's Gathering. With the recent cancellation of the 2022 Gathering, we recognize that there is still a need and want to help fill that void.

#### HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

[Click here for more details!](#)



## 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!



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Website](#)

## Portico Updates

PORTICO®

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](#).

## Portico Questions?

Reach out to the Customer Care Center at 800-352-2876 or yourPortico Regional Representative, Jennifer Prinz, at [jprinz@porticobenefit.org](mailto:jprinz@porticobenefit.org) or 563-650-4122.

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# Keeping in Prayer

[March Prayfaithfully Calendar](#)



## Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

**February 27-March 5 by Pastor Mike Markwell**

**March 6-12 by Pauline Kiltinen**

**March 13-19 by Pastor Julie Belew**

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).

### Lifting Up to God in Prayer

We hold in prayer...

- Pastor Renee MacLeod at the unexpected death of her sister-in-law.
- The people of the Ukraine and all avenues for peace.
- Those who serve in our military and reserves.
- For the safety of snow plowers and road commission workers.

## 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  
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**+ Bishop Katherine Finegan**

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E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

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