



# Northern Great Lakes Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Marquette, Michigan  
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## E-Notes for April 1, 2022

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### The Season of Lent

#### Word of the Day

In serious observance of April Fool's Day:

Why do eggs like April Fools' Day?  
*They love practical yolks.*

Why can April jump so high?  
*It's Spring!*

What's the biggest difference between Thanksgiving and April Fools' Day?  
*On one you're thankful but on the other you're prankful.*

Did you hear about the guy who swapped the labels on the pumps at the gas station?  
*It was an April Fuels' joke.*

Which day is the worst day to propose on?  
*April Fools' Day.*

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# 2022 Synod Assembly



## Online Workshops

Live workshops are open to everyone and will be presented online Monday, May 9-Thursday, May 12 in conjunction with the 2022 Synod Assembly. The interactive programs are 50 minutes long, with time for questions and comments. Zoom links will be posted on the Synod Assembly website ([nqlsynod.org/assembly](https://nqlsynod.org/assembly)) prior to each workshop. Promotional videos will also be available soon and advance registration is not required. Confirmed workshops include:

### **All Creation Sings**

with Lucas Wickstrom and Dave Dagenais

An introduction to the newest worship supplement from Augsburg Fortress.

### **My Bias, My Privilege: How Do We Continue The Conversation of Racial Equity?**

with the Rev. Jared Howard, Faith, Calumet

### **Youth Ministry in the Northern Great Lakes Synod**

with Stefanie Ehle, NGLS Youth Ministry Coordinator and Amanda Rasner, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Director

### **Nurturing Hope: Building a Lay Visitation Team**

with Rev. Micah Cavaleri, Grace, South Range

### **Creating, Maintaining and Crossing Bridges**

with Sister Noreen Stevens, Minister of Word and Service

Exploring the ministries of ELCA Deacons

### **One Size Fits Nobody: A Tiered Approach to Stewardship**

with Rev. Mike Markwell, Immanuel, Escanaba

### **Taco, Cat, Goat, Bible, Pizza – Interpreting the Word as a Lutheran Today**

with Rev. Sarah Semmler Smith, Campus Pastor at Finlandia University

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## Online Registration & Payment April Deadlines are Coming Up!

**Visitors:** No registration needed! All links to workshops, worship and the business meeting will be available on the [Synod Assembly website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

**Voting Members:** Registration and payment for Synod Assembly are available **online only** on the [Synod Assembly website](#). Here's a [quick guide on how to register](#). Ballots will be emailed to each voter during Synod Assembly, so **each voting member must have their own unique email address in order to vote**.

Voters need to be registered before 5 pm ET on April 13 in order to take advantage of the regular voter registration rate of \$60. After 5 pm ET on April 13, the late registration fee is \$70. Registration closes permanently at 5 pm ET on **April 29, 2022** and will not open again due to technology requirements.

## News & Information



### Lutheran Disaster Response in Eastern Europe

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an [interfaith call for peace](#) in the region. You can donate online here: [ELCA Eastern Europe Crisis Response](#). This LDR [bulletin insert](#) may also be a helpful resource.

ELCA Missionaries Zach Courter and Rachel Eskesen have shared a brief update on the situation in Central and Eastern Europe. They put together a 2-minute video that [you can watch here](#). There are many strong relationships between the ELCA and Lutheran

companions in the region who are acutely impacted by this conflict, here is a [document that summarizes some of the current responses of our partners and ELCA support](#).

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## Upcoming Events



### **Dynamite Hill Farms**

Need a walk in the woods? A time to reflect and talk to the trees? Come join Pastor Julie Belew, volunteer for Ojibwe food producers Jerry and Katy, every Friday in L'Anse, MI for the next couple of months...or at your convenience. Help is appreciated anytime and coordinating a time that works for you is not a problem. Call Pastor Julie at (906) 370-5301 or email [juliebelew@gmail.com](mailto:juliebelew@gmail.com). Find out more information [here on the Synod website](#).



### **ELCA World Hunger Grants**

Registration for ELCA World Hunger's 2023 Domestic Hunger Grants is open! Organizations applying for an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant for the first time must register by creating an account in ELCA GrantMaker to access the application once the window opens on April 18, 2022.

ELCA World Hunger will host a Zoom webinar **April 6 at 1 pm ET / 12 pm CT** to review granting priorities and cover the basics of applying. To join us for this virtual event, please [register here for a Zoom link](#). For more information, please visit the ELCA World Hunger website: [elca.org/domestichungergrants](http://elca.org/domestichungergrants)

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## The Blanket Exercise at Finlandia University

Join Vance Blackfox, Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations, ELCA for The Blanket Exercise. This event will take place at the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock on **Saturday, April 30, 10 am-12 noon ET**. Registration can be found here: <https://forms.gle/gzuXs6Lz mh4sdsVH8>

The Blanket Exercise is an experiential learning tool that leads a group of participants through 500+ years of Indigenous history, highlighting the relationship between the tribal nations and the European explorers, colonial settlers, and U.S. federal and state governments.

The exercise is interactive and requires participants, as they are able, to stand and move throughout the first hour of the experience. The second hour allows for participants to process the experience and share what they may have learned and what they will take away.

The Blanket Exercise was first created in Canada and has been used to educate general populations there, in the United States, and in many other parts of the world. The exercise does engage participants both intellectually and emotionally and can in some instances affect individuals deeply. Due to the honest nature of the information included in the narration of the exercise, all participants are expected to be 15 years of age or older.



## 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.](#)



## Women's Fall Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Be renewed at the "Celebration of Women" retreat **September 16-18, 2022**. There will be opportunities to have fun, connect with other women and a chance to disconnect from everyday life. Reflect on your faith with Bible studies, nature walks, and spirit-filled worship services. Rejoice with song, laughter and merriment of all kinds! [Check out the flyer for more details!](#)



## Stewardship Kaleidoscope

Stewardship Kaleidoscope is an annual conference being held online and in-person **September 26-28, 2022**. The conference will offer excellent plenary speakers, informative workshop leaders, provocative worship experiences, and incredible networking opportunities for all who are passionate about stewardship and generosity. Find out more information here: [Stewardship Kaleidoscope – Real Tools for Real Ministry](#).

## NGLS Youth Ministry Updates



## Thank You!

Thank you to the following congregations who have accepted the challenge of collecting at least 40 pairs of new socks and underwear for those in need. If you don't see your congregation's name listed, email [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) to join the challenge or [view the flyer](#) for details.

Ascension, Minoqua  
Beaver American, Pound  
Bethany, Ishpeming  
Bethany, Keweenaw  
Bethany, Perkins  
Bethel, Menominee



Calvary, Rapid River  
Emmanuel, Menominee  
First Lutheran, Gladstone  
First Lutheran, Iron River  
FLLC, Crystal Falls  
Gethsemane, Wallace

Gloria Dei, Hancock  
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo  
Grace, Gwinn  
Holy Trinity, Chassell  
Immanuel, Rhinelander  
Porterfield Lutheran, Porterfield  
St. Paul, Ironwood  
St. Stephen's, Stephenson  
Trinity, Stonington  
United, L'Anse  
Zion, Manistique



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. [Please share this link](#) with high schoolers who have a passion for social justice and encourage them to fill out the survey, even if they can't attend the first session in April. A follow up virtual Advocacy Gathering will take place on May 1. Additional details can be found by viewing this [letter](#) and [invitation](#).



## Opportunities for Young Adults

ELCA Young Adult Ministry is proud to announce that they are starting quarterly Young Adult Synod Network meetings in May! They group is super excited to gather everyone for updates, feedback, brainstorming, networking, and general fellowship with each other. The first meeting will take place on **May 25 at 2 pm ET / 1 pm CT**. The [Zoom registration link is available here](#). Check out their [website](#) for more information.



## REBOUND

The Tri-Synodical Youth Gathering **July 25-27, 2022** at UW-River Falls and is for youth who have completed grades 8-12. Participants from the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Northwest Synod of WI, and La Crosse Area Synod will have the opportunity to connect with each other

through worship, workshops, music, service learning, and Christian fellowship. Visit <http://nswi.org/rebound> for the most up-to-date information and printable resource materials to share with youth and adult leaders.

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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. Additional details can be found in this [flyer](#) and on the [Living Water Ministry website](#).



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Website](#)

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## Keeping in Prayer

[April Prayfaithfully Calendar](#)

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## Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

**March 27-April 2 by Christine Ebert**

**April 3-9 by Melzee Jacobson**

**April 10-16 by Pastor Lee Goodwin**

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 pray for Pastor Bruce Thorsen as he prepares to celebrate the life of his husband, John Williams, during a memorial service at Bethany, Ishpeming on Saturday, April 2 at 1 pm ET.
- We hold in prayer all refugees seeking safety from violence, we lift up especially those fleeing from danger in Columbia, Guatemala, Haiti, Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- We pray for all those struggling to meet the challenges of diminished health. We pray for blessing upon all health care workers, doctors, nurses, technicians and all who provide compassionate care.
- We pray for those weary of winter and anxious for spring. Give us patience.

[Quick Links](#)

 [Check out resources on the NGLS website](#)

 [COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Tool](#)

 [Stewardship Toolkit](#)

 [UP Wild Events](#)

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*E-Notes* is a twice monthly electronic newsletter  
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**+ Bishop Katherine Finegan**

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