



# Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

## E-Notes for May 17, 2022

### The Season of Easter

#### Word of the Day

“Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith.”

– Martin Luther, [\*Commentary on Romans\*](#),  
Trans. J. Theodore Mueller (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1954), xvii

## Synod Assembly Thank You

Thank you for a wonderful Synod Assembly!

Thank you to all who provided snacks, participated in worship, musicians and hosts,

check-in people and elections counters, ushers and tech people. Here is a brief overview of Synod Assembly 2022:

- A great week of Prayfaithfully devotions that leaned into our theme of Faith.
- A wonderful slate of pre-assembly workshops. Thank you, presenters! Keep an eye on the [website](#) as workshop recordings are posted.
- Our Opening Worship Friday night featured participants from across the Synod. It is still available for viewing on our [YouTube channel](#).
- Saturday's business included the following:
  - An engaging Bible Study by Luther Seminary's Dr. David Fredrickson on the Christ hymn in Philippians. Still available for viewing [here](#).
  - Reports from the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring, Synod Council VP Chuck Thomas, Synod Missioner Deacon Lori Ward, and Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator Stefanie Ehle.
  - We heard from our ministry partner Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Watch their "You're Invited" video [here](#).
  - We received the report from our ELCA representative, Mr. Vance Blackfox.
  - We elected a new Synod Secretary, Nancy Heykes.
  - We thanked Dr. Larry Pagel for his 12 years as Synod Treasurer.
  - We appointed a new Synod Treasurer, Rev. Terry Frankenstein.
  - We affirmed the election of new Synod Council members
  - We watched video greetings from LIRS, LOPPW, ELCA, and Portico
  - We celebrated ordination anniversaries and received greetings from Rev. David Van Kley (40 years) and Rev. Dean Marin (55 years).
  - We acknowledged pastors who retired this past year and received greetings from Rev. Keith Kolstad and Rev. Lisa Ubbelohde.
  - We celebrated the ministry anniversaries of Good Shepherd, Peshtigo; United, L'Anse; Trinity, Trout Creek; and Our Savior's, Marinette.
  - World Hunger chair, Cory Dellenbach gave his report and awarded Big Bears to Calvary, Minocqua and United, L'Anse, and a Bread Basket award to Sarah Kimball of Emanuel, Skandia.
  - We passed a resolution to constitutionally ensure the balance of at least 60% lay voting membership at future Synod Assemblies.
  - We passed a resolution to continue financial support for the work of our Regional Gift Planner, Cynthia Halverson.

I hope you enjoyed meeting with your conferences in person. I look forward to all of us being together at next year's Assembly. Save the dates May 18 – 20, 2023 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

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**Spotlight Event**



## 6 Weeks Left to Register for REBOUND!

The Tri-Synodical Youth Gathering will take place **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.

Connect with other NGLS Rebound attendees by joining our [NGLS Rebound Participants Facebook page](#).

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## News & Information



### Faithful Innovations—Holy Experiments

We invite you to dig even deeper and consider how an intentional adaptive communal learning process could help your congregation. Gather a team of 4 to 7 lay people to join your rostered leader or licensed lay minister and experience the process of Faithful Innovations. The cost is only \$50 per congregation thanks to a generous grant from the ELCA. [Learn more here!](#)

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## Lutheran Men in Mission

The latest edition of the LMM Ambassador-Gram is now available. [Click here to read and enjoy!](#)



## ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants

A round of Daily Bread Matching Grants will take place this summer and ELCA congregations with feeding ministries are eligible to participate, regardless of whether or not they have received a Daily Bread Matching Grant in the past. Registration and applications for the 2023 Daily Bread Matching Grant are now open. Visit [ELCA.org/dailybread](https://www.elca.org/dailybread) to learn more.



## Loan Debt Forgiveness

Public Service Loan Forgiveness is a program designed to forgive remaining balance of student debt after 120 payments have been made. Rostered Ministers and employees of non-profits may qualify for this program. However, this is only available through October 31, 2022. [Click here](#) to read more about this federal program.

Through its partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, Portico is offering Financial Counselors to assist those who qualify. These counselors are familiar with concerns unique to the church and able to help us navigate the process. [Click here](#) to read information from Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota or call 800-528-2926 to schedule an appointment with an LSS of Minnesota representative to help you.

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# Upcoming Events



## U.P. Wild Thrift Store Tour & Hike

On Saturday, **June 11 at 10:30 am ET**, U.P. Wild is collaborating with Silver Creek Church & Thrift Store to see how people's donations of unwanted items become another person's treasures! We will get a tour of the backroom and also see how clothes & items are sorted while learning how to REUSE as a part of our faith life. We will meet at 219 Silver Creek Rd. in Marquette.



## 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.](#)



## Nature Prayer Service with U.P. Wild

The next Nature Prayer service will be on **June 26 at 4 pm ET** at the Presque Isle Gazebo in Marquette. Some of what to expect: welcome to our bioregion, wilderness reflection, shared instrument song, and more! Full details are available on the [U.P. Wild website.](#)



## Jonathan Rundman in Concert

Jonathan Rundman (and the Rundman family band!) will perform at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming on **Saturday, July 30 at 7 pm ET**. This hometown concert is in support of his new book *Lost Songs of the Suomi Synod*. A freewill donation will be taken and all ages are welcome. For more information, visit the [Facebook event](#) and [Jonathan Rundman's website.](#)



## Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Musical Coming this Summer!

The original musical, "One Wonderful Day" is finally happening at the historic Crystal Theatre in downtown Crystal Falls on **Saturday, August 6 at 3 pm CT!** A meal will follow beginning at 5:30 pm CT at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Tickets are now available on the [Fortune Lake website](#). Please share [this flyer](#) with your congregation and get ready for this exciting event!



## 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](#)



## Remembering Our Children Pow Wow

Assinins is located 2.5 miles north of Baraga. It was the site of the Old St. Joseph Orphanage and School, one of the earliest Catholic missions in the Upper Peninsula. The Walking with our Indigenous Neighbors Task Force of the NGLS is seeking volunteers to help prepare for this event during the month of May through June 18. Pastor Julie Belew of Holy Cross, Baraga is coordinating service work groups for this cultural experience. A variety of projects are available. All age levels and skill sets are welcome! If members of your congregation, youth groups, or college students are interested please contact Pastor Julie at (906) 370-5301 or [juliebelew@gmail.com](mailto:juliebelew@gmail.com).



## Multicultural Youth Leadership Academy

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](#).



## Opportunities for Young Adults

**Attention ELCA Young Adults!** Did you know there is a ministry just for you? Check out the [ELCA Young Adult website](#) for ways to get involved. Upcoming opportunities include:

- Young Adult Synod Network Meeting on May 25
- Young Adult Backpacking Trips
- Young Adult Community Resource Grants
- Lutheran Volunteer Corps
- ELCA Coaching Young Adult Cohorts
- And more!



[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Website](#)

## Portico Updates

**PORTICO**  
Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

### Becoming Healthy in an Unhealthy World

A new course on Being for the ELCA-Primary members. From eating to exercise and mental health, being healthy is easier said than done. In this course, Pilar Gerasimo helps us learn how to create healthier habits in a society full of unhealthy choices. Log into your myPortico account and go to [Being](#).



### Physician Primary Care with 98point6 is Free

Congress voted to extend the waived telehealth copay opportunity through the end of the year. Therefore, all health plans in the [ELCA-Primary](#) plans including Silver+ and Bronze+ can use 98point6 for free through the end of the year.





## Humana Pharmacy will now CenterWell

ELCA Medicare-Primary members note this change beginning 6/10/2022. You will not have a have a different experience utilizing mail-order services or Specialty Pharmacy. You'll now have:

- simplified ordering experience with online help when needed
- Live chat with pharmacists or technicians throughout their 15-hour business day
- 24/7 access to pharmacists for urgent questions about medications



## Portico Questions?

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

# Keeping in Prayer

May Prayfaithfully Calendar

# MAY

The word "MAY" is written in large, bold, pink letters. The letters are decorated with a floral pattern and are surrounded by several pink flowers at the base.

## Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

**May 15-21 by members of the Synodical Women's Organization**

**May 21-28 by Pastor David Murphy**

**May 29-June 4 by Jill Flickinger**

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 Tammy Barthels and her husband, Randy, as Pastor Barthels enters retirement. Her last Sunday at Immanuel, Rhinelander was May 15.
- And we pray God's blessings upon Pastor Terry Frankenstein and her husband, John, as Pastor Frankenstein also retires. Her last Sunday at Bethany, Escanaba will be May 29.
- We also pray God's blessings upon Pastor Steve Solberg who will retire in June. His last preaching weekend will be June 12-13 with a celebration in his honor on June 11.

### Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- We hold in prayer the people of Ukraine and all those fleeing violence.
- All those challenged by the realities and uncertainties of COVID-19.
- Those who have lost loved ones to gun violence and racial hatred.
- Congregations that are in transition.
- We pray for patience and peace and that love is stronger than evil.

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## 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  
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**+ Bishop Katherine Finegan**

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E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

**Our mailing address is:**  
Northern Great Lakes Synod  
1029 N. Third St., Suite A  
Marquette, MI 49855