



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for July 13, 2022

The Season of Pentecost

Thought of the Day

"The fastest-growing "religious group" in America is the religiously unaffiliated. While many are suspicious of religion, they're open to having spiritual conversations. This is an incredible opportunity to engage people who wouldn't walk into a church."

~Carey Nieuwhof

[Click here to read Nieuwhof's complete article entitled "7 New Ways to Attract and Engage People in 2022."](#)

News & Information



In Remembrance

Former Synod Vice President Pamela Long passed into life eternal on Saturday, July 2 at the Omega House in Houghton, MI. A long-time member of Grace Lutheran Church in South Range, MI, Pam served as Synod VP from 2015-2019. Prior to this she was the Licensed Lay Minister at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Baraga, MI from 2009-2012. Pam was very active in other Synod ministries, including Synod Council, the Lay School Board, and the Leadership Support Committee.

Funeral arrangements will be announced. May God grant comfort to Pam's family and friends as we remember her faith-filled life and ministry among us.



Weekly Prayers for Churchwide Assembly

You are invited to include the Churchwide Assembly in your personal prayers and congregational worship. The Prayers for Assembly can be downloaded [here](#).



Mission Interpreters Needed

This fall we will be sending out dozens of people from our synod to visit congregations and thank them for their mission support to God's work. Mission Interpreters will be trained to give a 5 to 7-minute Temple Talk and a full script will be provided to you to speak from. For more information on how to become a Mission Interpreter, please visit our [website](#).



Mkuza Girls School Fire Donations needed by August 31

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,
A fire did serious damage at one of the dormitories at Mkuza Girls School in our companion synod in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese in Tanzania. While local congregations are attending to the immediate needs of the students who have been impacted, the work of repairs and preventing future fires (from faulty wiring) in other campus buildings is just beginning.

I invite your financial support and your prayers to help the school recover and rebuild. [Please see this letter for more info.](#)

Rev. Katherine Finegan
Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod



From the Land of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

"The echo of children's laughter vibrated through the trees on Assinins hill as families of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community gathered on Father's Day to play kick ball and baaga'adowewin (lacrosse), feast, and dance." Pastor Julie Belew, member of the NGLS Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors Task Force, wrote about the Children's PowWow that took place recently. Check out the article [here on our website!](#)



**Evangelical
Lutheran**
Church in America

Indian Boarding Schools: Truth-Seeking & Truth-Telling in the ELCA

The ELCA is beginning a coordinated effort to research Lutheran involvement in Indian boarding and day schools dating back to the 1820's. We are seeking both clergy and lay people who want to be part of this initiative. All are welcome, with a particular need for people with skills in research, data collection, organizing, and education. The goal is for our church members to know the history of church-sponsored Indian boarding schools and their devastating impacts on Native communities, and to participate in an ongoing truth and healing process. To learn more and to join the work of this initiative, visit the [ELCA website.](#)



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Thank You from LWR

Bishop Katherine and the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Thank you for sharing the love and generosity of your synod with our neighbors in Ukraine and all around the world! You are bringing hope in the form of quilts and kits, food, shelter, cash assistance and medical supplies. I look forward to continuing our partnership into God's promised future.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Tim Krick
Lutheran World Relief Manager for Congregational
Engagement



Lay School Options

Have you been pondering a deeper connection to your faith or have you been called to help lead a congregation through a season of transition? See if Lay School might be a good fit to equip you for Christ's ministry. The Northern Great Lakes Synod has discontinued its Lay School in favor of lifting up the education programs offered by our neighboring synods. Both the East Central Synod of Wisconsin and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin offer opportunities for deeper engagement. Scholarships are available from the NGLS to support your participation.

Check out registration details and deadlines, the list of core classes, continuing ed offerings, and list of faculty for the coming year of Lay School of Ministry at <https://ecswlayschool.org/> and <http://nswwi.org/lay-school-of-ministry>.



Grant Opportunity for Michigan Congregations

The Climate Witness Project of World Renew and the Christian Reformed Church has launched a project called the Sacred Spaces Clean Energy Grant that enables low-income congregations of all faiths in Michigan to become energy efficient and to acquire solar energy. The project will make grants of \$100,000 for energy efficiency to ten low-income congregations and arrange for them to access solar energy.

You can learn more by visiting the [Climate Witness Project website](#) or by downloading the [grant flyer](#). The press release from the Department of the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy of the Michigan government can be found [here](#). Rev. Richard Killmer's op-ed in the *Holland Sentinel*, describing the project, is available [here](#).

Upcoming Events



U.P. Wild Events

There's lots to take part in this summer! Check out upcoming U.P. Wild events by visiting their [website](#).

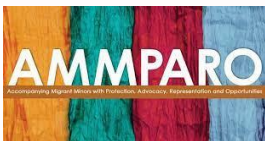


Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Water Walk & Powwow

The water walk begins with ceremony at **7 am ET Wednesday, July 20** at First Sand Beach in Pequaming (directions can be found [here](#)). The 17-mile walk continues around the Bay to Sand Point in Baraga. All ages, genders, and ethnicities are welcome to walk for the water with KBIC. You are not required to walk the entire 17 miles. Vehicles will accompany walkers for reprieve.

The Powwow takes place **July 22-24** at the Ojibwa Campground about a mile and a half from the main blinker light in Baraga on Hwy 41 heading north. It is advised to bring your own chair as bleacher seats are limited. Vendors are available for food, drink and Native American arts and crafts. Pastor Julie Belew recommends attending the Grand Entries. The most popular are Friday or Saturday evenings at 7 pm ET.

For more details on both events, please check out the information on our [website](#).



Asylum-Seeker Sponsorship Training

With the increased numbers of migrant families coming to our southern border from all over the world, it has become crucial once again for AMMPARO to offer congregational asylum-seeker sponsorship training to help interested congregations prepare to welcome families into their communities. This virtual three-hour long training will be held on **Saturday, August 27** and is open to any congregation inside or outside of the

ELCA with an interest in participating! [More information on how to register can be found here.](#)



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!



Faithful Innovations New Cohort Begins this Fall

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!](#)

[NGLS Youth Ministry Updates](#)



Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesdays from 7-8 pm ET / 6-7 pm CT beginning
September 13 through November 1

This fall, members of the Synod Youth Ministry Team will lead a Lifelong Faith Formation class on the book, *Growing Young* by Powell, Mulder and Griffin. We will explore what it means to Grow Younger and why it matters. Based on research conducted at over 250 thriving congregations, *Growing Young* provides ideas and strategies any church can use to involve and retain young people (specifically those who are 30 years or younger). Please mark your calendars, invite a friend, and plan to join us via Zoom starting September 13.

Registration for this class, and all of the fall Lifelong Faith Formation classes, will be available soon.

Be sure to connect with NGLS Youth Ministry online to receive the latest updates!



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Website](#)

Portico Updates

PORTICO
Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

Parenting Kids with Anxiety

A new course on Being for the ELCA-Primary members. In these lessons, Renee Jain will teach you how to help your kid transform their anxiety into courage, confidence, resilience, and self-love. Log into your myPortico account and go to [Being](#).



Living with Anxiety and Depression

This new Being learning experience helps you understand what's happening in your brain and body when you're stuck in the negativity loop — a vicious cycle of negative thoughts, emotions, sensations, and behaviors. Learn strategies for recognizing the bad habits that perpetuate it and provides science-based strategies for replacing negative habits with healthier ones to boost overall wellbeing. Log into your myPortico account and go to [Being](#).



Annual Enrollment for 2023

Each summer, Portico reaches out to help you get a jump on Portico's Annual Enrollment. Why? Health benefits are critically important to the ELCA's rostered ministers and church staff. Portico's 2023 Annual Enrollment will be required again this October. Before then, you'll need to review Portico's health benefit options and costs, and select one option to offer next year. Look for helpful resources right available on EmployerLink.



Employee Assistance Program

Struggling with problems related to grief, marriage, parenting, work-related challenges, finances, or substance abuse? EAP is a great first step. It can connect you with a master's-level professional counselor who can provide up to six covered sessions per issue per year at no added cost to you. First Step: Call 800.432.5155; available 24/7. A benefit through Beacon Health.



Portico Questions?

Reach out to the Customer Care Center at 800-352-2876. Portico Regional Representative, Jennifer Prinz, will return to the office at the beginning of August and her contact information is jprinz@porticobenefit.org or 563-650-4122.

Keeping in Prayer

July Prayfaithfully Calendar



Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

July 10-16 by Karen Carter

July 17-23 by Michael Holman, LLM

July 24-30 by Hayley Smith

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




Transitions

- We pray God's blessings on **Pastor Bucky Beach** who has resigned his call at Good **Shepherd, Houghton and Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan Tech** as he retires from active ministry. His last Sunday at GSLC was July 10.
- We pray God's blessings on **Pastor John Ansell** who has accepted a call to serve in northeastern Minnesota. Pastor Ansell served **United, L'Anse** for the past 6 years. His last Sunday will be July 17. May God bless their good-byes and future possibilities.
- We welcome **Pastor Tera Kossow** who has been called to serve **Eden, Munising**. Pastor Tera begins her ministry on August 1 and an Installation service will be announced soon. May God bless their ministry together!

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- We pray for peace and justice; in Ukraine, in Sri Lanka, in our country, in our communities, in our homes.
- We pray for those experiencing food insecurity and hunger.
- For those working to address health issues, we pray for healing and a renewal of strength.
- We give thanks for glorious summer days, the blossoming of the natural world, for gardens that grow, for rain and sun.
- We hold in prayer the preparations for our Churchwide Assembly and our voting members: Chuck Thomas, Nancy Heykes, Pastor Kelly Ylitalo, Pastor Soren Schmidt, Sean Korpela, Sandy Feleppa, Matthew Johnson, and Bishop Finegan.

Quick Links

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