



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for September 13, 2022

The Season of Pentecost

Word of the Day

"You're not creating something from nothing, but I think it can feel like that. God is with you, inspiring, energizing, and speaking the Word Christ into any darkness, saying, 'Let there be...Church!'"

~Bishop Katherine Finegan in *Northern Light*, October/November 2022 edition

News & Information



Register for the 2022 Bishop's Convocation

Registration Deadline is September 23, 2022

Clergy, Retired Clergy, Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers will gather for the Bishop's Convocation **October 9-10, 2022** at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, MI. We will welcome new pastors to the Synod and Bishop Finegan will

present the latest Synod news and a 2022 Churchwide Assembly report. For all the details and to register, please [visit our website!](#)



Mission Interpreters Needed for Fall Visits!

This fall, Mission Interpreters will visit our synod's congregations to thank people for their support of God's work in our synod and beyond. Please welcome them into your congregations. They will give a Temple Talk thanking you and telling how we are church together. After worship they will stick around for fellowship and conversation. Congregations are asked to include a Mission Interpreter Bulletin Insert ([available here](#)) the day that the Mission Interpreter visits.

A limited number of copies of Mission Stories of the Northern Great Lakes Synod will also be made available. A digital copy of this colorful and informational booklet is available at: www.nglsynod.org/stewardship

We still could use some more Mission Interpreters. Please contact Pastor Jim Duehring at the synod office (906) 228-2300 to learn more about this ministry of generosity!



Fall Conference Meetings

When is your fall Conference meeting? If you know the date, time and place, please contact us so we can line up a Council or Staff member to attend the meeting. Email Heather at hoysti@nglsynod.org or call (906) 228-2300.



**Evangelical
Lutheran**
Church in America

Evangelism Resources

Check out the [ELCA's home page for evangelism!](#) This is a central place for you to get started exploring the practice of sharing your faith with others. Here you will find helpful resources to make you feel equipped for and excited about telling the world about the good and gracious God we meet in Jesus and the love that Christ offers to all people.

Upcoming Events



U.P. Wild

There's lots to take part in this fall! Check out upcoming U.P. Wild events by visiting their [website](https://www.upwild.org).

Upcoming Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Events



Anishinaabe Racial Justice Conference

The 3rd annual Anishinaabe Racial Justice Conference will be held **Friday, September 30-Sunday, October 2, 2022** at the Niiwin Akeaa Community Center (111 Beartown Road, Baraga, MI 49908). Registration is free and can be found on the conference website: [nativejustice.org/conference2022](https://www.nativejustice.org/conference2022). Feel free to direct questions to conferenceintern@nativejustice.org.



KBIC Harvest Feast

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community will host Harvest Feast on **Saturday, October 1, 2022**. Food will be provided by Native Justice Coalition and the event begins with Sunrise Ceremony at 7 am ET at Zeba Hall (16141 Zeba Rd, L'Anse, MI). Dinner will take place at 1 pm and the PowWow is at 5:30 pm.



Domestic Violence Awareness Walk

On **Saturday, October 1, 2022** the KBIC Niimigimiwang Transitional Home will host the annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk. Chelsey LaFernier was a KBIC Tribal member who lost the battle against domestic violence at the hands of her domestic partner in January of 2009. The walk is

in memory of Chelsey and all victims who continue to struggle in the cycle of violence. More details of the event are forthcoming. Please contact Melissa LaFernier at (906) 353-4593 or (906) 201-0525 for information.



People of the Heart Water Walk

The 3rd annual People of the Heart Water Walk will take place **October 8-10, 2022**. The walk is 90 miles long from Baraga, MI to Copper Harbor, MI (30 miles per day). Please visit the [People of the Heart Water Walkers Facebook page](#) for details.



Join the Justice Advocacy Committee

The synod's Justice Advocacy Committee is envisioning the role it plays in our ever changing world and community. As the committee is reforming, prayerfully consider joining this group via Zoom on **October 3 at 6 pm ET** to explore the role the NGLS and our local congregations can make in this world. If you have any questions, contact Vicar Melissa Salminen at vicar.msalminen@gmail.com.

Topic: Justice Adv Meeting

Time: Oct 3, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wartburgseminary.zoom.us/j/9321822053?pwd=RFN3NThRaGQxOFE2YXlZVXJZNUJlQT09>

Meeting ID: 932 182 2053

Passcode: VicarMS

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,9321822053# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,9321822053# US (New York)



Disability Learning Day

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod's Disability Ministry Task Force is hosting a Disability Learning Day this fall. The event will be held on **Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 9:30 am-3:30 pm ET** at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage, MI. It will feature a keynote address from Victoria White, Church Services Director of All Belong, and an opportunity for participants to engage in workshops. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch and a book. The event information, registration form, and pdf flyer are available on the [North/West Lower Michigan Synod's website](#).



Lutheran World Relief Fall Ingathering

Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, MI will have a semi-truck in the parking lot on Monday, **October 24 from 9 am-1 pm ET** for loading boxes. This truck will then transport all boxes (quilts/kits) to the LWR distribution center in St. Paul. Please see the [LWR website](#) for more information or email office@messiahlutheranmq.org if you have questions regarding this local Ingathering.



Falling Upward Men's Retreat

The Men's Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp will take place **Friday, October 28-Saturday, October 29**. Based on the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr's insights, a fascinating and helpful look at the peculiar gifts and challenges in the second half of life as we navigate with courage and hope the shifting sands of identity, utility, and meaning. The cost is \$75 and space is limited. For more information, including registration, please see the [event flyer](#).



Winter Theological Conference

for Clergy, Retired Clergy, Deacons & Licensed Lay Ministers

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for the Winter Theological Conference **February 5-6, 2023** in Escanaba, MI. More information will be released this fall, so stay tuned!

NGLS Youth Ministry Updates



Adult Leader Opportunity at FLLC

Adult Youth Leaders and Pastors are invited and encouraged to attend the upcoming **Fall Youth Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp October 14-15** along with third through sixth graders. In addition to the fun youth activities, youth leaders will have the opportunity to connect and share best practices with each other during a designated time for adults. Register at fortunelake.org.



Conference-Wide Youth Events Kick-Off in September

All events are free and open to 7th – 12th graders, youth leaders, and pastors. Pre-registration is encouraged by contacting the event leaders below to help ensure enough supplies.

Saturday, September 24 – Copper Country Conference

This Youth Event will include a photo scavenger hunt, worship, a service project, food, fellowship, and time to brainstorm future events.

- Location: Finlandia University, 601 Quincy St. Hancock, MI
- Time: 2-6 pm ET
- Contact: David Nelson (dannelso@mtu.edu)

Sunday, September 25 – Menominee Valley Conference

Join us for a Campfire with Ultimate S'Mores. There will be games, a devotion, new friends, and time to brainstorm future events.

- Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 2714 James St. Marinette, WI
- Time: 6-7:30 pm CT
- Contact: Stefanie Ehle (youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org)

Sunday, October 16 – Tri-County Conference



Join us for an Escape Room experience and evening of fun. At no charge to participants, youth in grades 7-12 are invited to Sherlock and Key Escape Rooms and then to Bethany Lutheran Church for pizza, ice cream, games, and discussion about what could be next. Please RSVP to First Lutheran Church, Gladstone at (906) 428-4565.

- Location: Escanaba, MI (Sherlock and Key Escape Rooms and Bethany Lutheran Church)
- Time: 4-8 pm ET
- Contact: First Lutheran Church (906) 428-4565; Pr. Elizabeth Daniels (773) 419-2892

Sunday, November 13 – Superior Central Conference

Youth event with games, worship, service, food, fellowship, and time to brainstorm future events. Those attending will be assembling Lutheran World Relief School Kits and are asked to collect items ahead of time and bring them to the event on November 13. Details on items to be collected can be found at <https://lwr.org/kits/school-kits/instructions>

- Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran, 555 Riverside Rd. Harvey, MI
- Time: 4-7 pm ET
- Contact: Assistant to the Bishop, Jim Duehring (jduehring@nglsynod.org)

If you don't see your conference represented, please consider leading an event to get the ball rolling in your area. With such a geographically large synod, we are looking for additional adult leaders to help plan and execute these gatherings. Please email Stefanie Ehle (youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) with questions or for more details.

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



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Website](#)

Portico Updates

2023 Update on Health Rates and Plan Changes



What's changing for 2023:

- ELCA-Primary health contribution baseline rate will increase 3%¹, the same rate increase as last year, which was the lowest in eight years. The 3% increase also applies to sponsored members receiving the ELCA Medicare-Primary health benefit Standard option.
- ELCA-Primary Gold+ option deductibles will increase to \$1,500 for member only, \$2,250 for member and child(ren) and \$3,000 for member and spouse or member, spouse, and child(ren). Coinsurance, out-of-pocket limits, and prescription drug cost-share will not change.



With 2023 Annual Enrollment beginning soon, a few reminders:

- The ELCA recommends two ELCA-Primary health benefit options: (1) Gold+ or (2) Silver+ with a monthly employer contribution to the member's health savings account (HSA). If your employer offers Silver+, you'll have the choice to stay with Silver+ or choose the Gold+ option.
- You will receive more information about 2023 Annual Enrollment and your specific benefits in the next few months.
- Sponsoring employers can estimate their 2023 costs using their Custom Comparison Report on EmployerLink.



2023 Annual Enrollment

- Retirees select Oct. 3 – 12
 - Congregations/Organizations select Oct. 3 – 14
 - Plan members select Oct. 20 – 27
-



Contact

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Prinz, Regional Representative from Portico. She can be reached at JPrinz@porticobenefits.org.

Keeping in Prayer

September Prayfaithfully Calendar



Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

September 11-17 by members of the Synodical Women's Organization

September 18-24 by Christine Ebert

September 24-October 1 by Ken Raisanen

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 blessing upon **Rev. Tera Kossow** as she is installed as the new pastor of **Eden, Munising** on Sunday, September 18 at 3 pm ET.
- We pray God's blessing upon the installation of **Virginia Paulson** as Licensed Lay Minister at **Community, Palmer**. The Installation will take place Sunday, September 25 at 3 pm ET (Suomi Location: 3167 St. Hwy. M-35).
- Clergy, deacons and licensed lay ministers are invited to process and the color of the day is red. May God bless their new partnership!

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For congregations participating in Faithful Innovations beginning September 24.
- For places of warfare.
- For UP Wild, a creative and collaborative ministry to be church outdoors.
- For those choosing to run and serve as elected officials.
- For young people struggling with their mental health.

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

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E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

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