



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for September 27, 2022

The Season of Pentecost

Word of the Day

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, be assured I will help you; I will certainly take hold of you with My righteous right hand [a hand of justice, of power, of victory, of salvation.]"

~Isaiah 41:10

"Starting a new effort is exciting, and successfully finishing is even more exciting. The real challenge is getting through the middle. When the thrill of starting out has faded, you can be in danger of losing interest. When the goal is still a long way off, it's all too easy to give up. If you wish to achieve, you must prepare yourself for the long, dreary, demanding middle. That's where the achievement gains its value and substance. Keep that in mind as you work tirelessly through the middle. As tedious as it may seem, the work you're doing is adding up, step by step by step. Get through the middle, and you'll see the achievement taking shape. Get through the middle, and your goal will grow ever closer and brighter on the horizon. Before you begin, make the commitment to get through the middle. That commitment will take you all the way to the achievement you desire.

Father in heaven, the beginning and end of a race are always exciting, the middle however, not so much. The middle is tough and tedious, but with Your strength we can push through and finish the race You have set before us. How sad it would have been if Joshua and the people of Israel stopped marching around Jericho on lap

#6. Help us to persevere and push through whatever middle we are in. In Jesus name, AMEN!"

~Author unknown

News & Information



Resourceful Servants COVID Grants

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many leaders used up savings they had built or had difficulty making payments on their homes and utilities, their transportation, or their healthcare needs. These struggles were felt particularly strongly by leaders serving in under-resourced communities.

To accompany leaders facing these situations, Resourceful Servants, an initiative of the ELCA churchwide organization and its ministry partners, is launching the Grants for COVID Emergencies program. Through a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., this program provides up to 200 ELCA leaders with one-time grants of \$1,000 and membership in the ELCA Federal Credit Union.

This program is open to ELCA rostered ministers as well as those who lead congregations but are not ordained (for example, synod-authorized ministers, non-ordained mission developers, and leaders of communities in the Vulnerable and Vital Network or Homeless and Justice Network).

Leaders can [learn more and apply](#) through the Resourceful Servants 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. Congregations are asked to include a Mission Interpreter Bulletin Insert ([available here](#)) the day that the Mission Interpreter visits. 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!

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](#).

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. 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 check out the [press release](#) or visit the [People of the Heart Water Walkers Facebook page](#) for details.



the Justice Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee is envisioning the role it plays in our ever changing community. As the committee is reforming, prayerfully consider joining via Zoom on **October 3 at 6 pm ET** to explore the role the NGLS and our community organizations 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)



Lutheran World Relief Fall Ingathering Southern UP and Northern WI

The 2022 LWF Ingathering will occur on **Saturday, October 22, 2022**. You can find the Boxcar at the Escanaba/Lake Superior Railroad - a large, parking lot located at 335 4th Avenue, Menominee, MI 49858, just behind/west of the Menominee Railroad Depot.

Iron Mountain Loading

Saturday, October 22 from 8-9 am at Our Saviour's Lutheran
1210 S. Kimberly Avenue
Contact Terri Showquist at (906) 774-2733 with questions.
(This truck should try to arrive in Menominee by 10:30 am CST.)

Gladstone Loading

Saturday, October 22 from 9-10:30 am at First Lutheran
1212 Minneapolis Avenue
Contact Nora Smith at (906) 786-5321 with questions.
(This truck should try to arrive in Menominee by 11 am CST.)

Questions? Contact Pastor Brenda Greenwald at (720) 989.8218 or Pastor@gsslutheran.org



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@messiahlutheranmqt.org if you have questions regarding this local Ingathering.

It would be helpful to the Messiah staff and volunteers to know in advance what time you are planning to be at Messiah to load your boxes on the semi-truck. Please email that information to office@messiahlutheranmqt.org if you know in advance. Thank you!



Falling Upward Men's Retreat

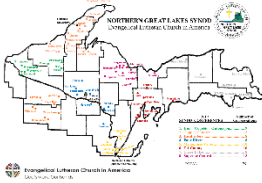
The Men's Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp will take place **Friday, October 28-Saturday, October 29**. Based on the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr's insights, a fascinating and helpful look at the peculiar gifts and challenges in the second half of life as we navigate with courage and hope the 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](#).

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

The first two Conference-Wide Youth Events held in September at Finlandia University in Hancock (**Copper Country Conference**) and Zion Lutheran in Marinette (**Menominee Valley Conference**) were a success and we are excited to keep the momentum going!

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. Elisabeth Daniels (773) 419-2892

Saturday, October 22 – Menominee Valley Conference



You are invited to help load quilts onto the boxcar for Lutheran World Relief and then join us for pizza, a corn maze, and fall fun at Hofer's Pumpkin Patch in Wallace.

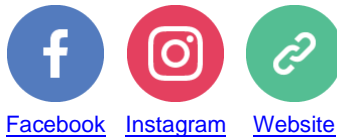
- Location: Train Depot in Menominee, MI and Hofer's Pumpkin Patch in Wallace
- Time: 10 am CT
- Contact: Stefanie Ehle youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org

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)

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



Portico Updates

PORTICO®

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

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

October Prayfaithfully Calendar



Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

September 24-October 1 by Ken Raisanen

October 2-8 by Pastor Scott Ehle

October 9-15 by Christine Ebert

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 celebrate with **Bethany, Escanaba** who has called **Lily Brondyke** to be their pastor. Pastor-elect Brondyke will be ordained by Bishop Finegan at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Dubuque, Iowa on Saturday, October 29 and begin her call at Bethany on November 1. May God bless their new partnership!
- We pray God's blessings upon **Virginia Paulson**, installed at **Community, Suomi** on September 25 as Licensed Lay Minister. May God bless their efforts in ministry together!
- We welcome back to the Northern Great Lakes Synod **Pastor Tera Kossow** who was installed at **Eden, Munising** on September





18. Welcome home Pastor Kossow and may God bless you and the people of Eden in your new partnership!

- Congratulations to **Pastor John Kuziej** as he retires from ministry. His last Sunday at **Pioneer Lake, Conover** was September 25. May God bless new rhythms!
- We pray God's blessing upon the installation of **Larry Molloy** as Licensed Lay Minister at **Bethany, Mohawk and Shepherd of the Sea Chapel**. The Installation will take place Sunday, October 23 at 3 pm ET. Clergy, deacons and licensed lay ministers are invited to process and the color of the day is red. May God bless their partnership!

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- We pray for all those impacted by hurricanes and storms; especially Puerto Rico, Florida, the Caribbean islands and all those recovering from natural disasters.
- We hold in prayer Pastor Kay Richter at the death of her mother, Sandy Richter. Sandy most recently served on our NGLS Council and on the Constitution Committee. God's comfort to Pastor Kay and all who loved Sandy, and peace to her memory.
- We pray for all those fleeing violence. May they find welcome and safety.
- We give thanks to God for a fruitful harvest and for the splendor of Autumn.

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.

+Bishop Katherine Finegan

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

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