



# Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

## E-Notes for November 30, 2022



## The Season of Advent

### Word of the Day

"Come now, O God, when our love is forsaken.  
Come, when our bedrock of faith has been shaken.  
Come, when our deepest of hopes are mistaken.  
Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel."  
~All Creation Sings, #902

"Christmas. From the Old English 'Mass of Christ' festival on December 25, celebrating the birth of Christ. This festival was not generally established before the end of the fourth century. The early Christians were far more concerned with the death and resurrection of Jesus, celebrated during Easter, than with his birth....The first evidence of the celebration of Christ's birth on December 25 comes from Rome in the year 336..."

~*Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, pg. 206

# News & Information



## Annual Meetings are Coming Up!

As congregations prepare for annual meetings, keep in mind the following:

- Electing/appointing voting members to Synod Assembly, **May 18-20, 2023** in Marquette, MI.
  - This in-person assembly includes a Bishop's election. Bishop Finegan is available to serve another term.
  - Registration will be online. Materials and information will be available beginning in March.
  - Plan to cover the expense of travel, registration, and lodging for your voting members.
  - The theme is "Love."
- Please return your congregation's estimate of Mission Support to the Synod office by **January 24, 2023**.
- You will receive a letter from Bishop Finegan and Bishop Eaton to be included in your congregation's annual report.



## Televised Christmas Worship

The Northern Great Lakes Synod, along with WLUC TV 6, will broadcast a Christmas Worship Service again this year. More details and information will be shared soon!



## Remember Fortune Lake in the Coming Weeks!

Fortune Lake has been selected as the recipient for the 2022 CoVantage Cares Foundation Inc. Giving Tuesday Campaign! CoVantage will match a portion of the funds raised from Giving Tuesday, **November 29 through December 13**. The more we raise, the more potential for matching funds! The money will be used to update our highest use buildings (duplexes, Emanuel Lodge, and the Dining Hall) making them more energy efficient and accessible and ensuring they'll be usable for many years into the future.

**Gifts will be fully tax deductible and must be given in the following ways:**

- Make a check payable to "CoVantage Cares Foundation" with Fortune Lake in the memo and mail to: Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, 138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd., Crystal Falls, MI 49920
- Visit [fortunelake.org](http://fortunelake.org) - CoVantage Cares Giving Tuesday tab - for more information on electronic giving through PayPal
- Drop off your donation at a REGIONAL EVENT in your area. [Find full details here!](#)

Watch [fortunelake.org](http://fortunelake.org) and our social media for updates on this exciting opportunity as more information becomes available! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. Thank you in advance for your generous, ongoing support of Fortune Lake and for your partnership in ministry!



## Registration Opens in Early December for Lifelong Faith Formation Classes

**The Life of Martin Luther, Innovations in Stewardship, and Meeting Christ in Prayer** are among the topics to be discussed this winter through Lifelong Faith Formation, an ongoing program of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Other studies include **A Spirituality of Death and Dying, Family Systems Thinking/Friedman's Fables, The Big Picture Bible Study, Biblical Hebrew II, and Beyond Policy: Empowering the Faith Community to Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse and Sexual Assault.**

Registration opens in early December on the synod website. To receive e-mail announcements on the class schedule and to ask any questions contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynod.org).



## ELCA Social Message Comment Opportunity— Provide Your Input!

Acting upon requests from multiple sources, the ELCA Church Council authorized the development of an ELCA social message on climate care (social messages are ELCA teaching

documents that address a focused social topic). A “Draft of a Social Message on Earth’s Climate Crisis” now is posted for public comment and feedback. [Read the social message draft here](#) and then use [this survey](#) to share your input by **Friday, December 2, 2022**. Your input helps inform revision of the draft that is sent then for review by the Conference of Bishops and the ELCA Church Council in March. Longer responses can be sent as email to: [draftsocialmessage@elca.org](mailto:draftsocialmessage@elca.org).

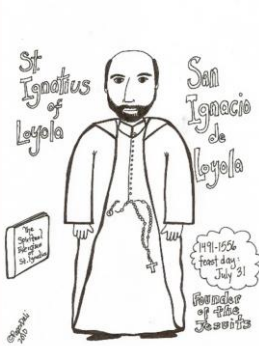
---

## Upcoming Events



### U.P. Wild

Check out upcoming U.P. Wild events like Nature Prayer Services and a Conifer Tree Wild Walk by visiting their [website](#).



### Meeting Christ in Prayer Clergy Group

In **January and February 2023**, we will offer an eight-week group prayer experience via Zoom for clergy. *Meeting Christ in Prayer* is modeled on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, with participants guided through daily prayer based on scripture. Full details are available [here](#) on our website.

Meetings will be facilitated by Pastor Terry Frankenstein who has received certification in spiritual direction from Franciscan University. Registration information and questions may be directed to Terry by phone, (906) 241-3311, or email, [terry.frankenstein@gmail.com](mailto:terry.frankenstein@gmail.com).

---



## Winter Theological Conference for Active & Retired Clergy, Deacons & Licensed Lay Ministers

Join us in Escanaba **February 5-6, 2023** to discuss the basics of natural systems theory: how societal, family, and organizational stressors affect our emotional fields, and ways in which the theory's application and influence on ministry provide a new lens for response and relationship. Please [visit our website](#) for registration and details. **The registration deadline is Wednesday, January 4, 2023.**



## Faithful Innovations Cohort #5

Gain training in listening skills and discerning God's movement in your congregation and neighborhood. There are 17 congregations that have participated in the first 4 cohort groups. The next cohort is Zoom only starting in **January 2023 and going through May 2023.** [Visit our website for more details.](#)



## Fall Theological Conference

Active and Retired Clergy, Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers are invited to join us for a Fall Theological Conference **September 17-19, 2023.** More information will be available in the coming months, but be sure to save the dates!

# NGLS Youth Ministry Updates



## NGLS Sends Delegates to ELCA Youth Leadership Summit

The ELCA Youth Leadership Summit is an annual gathering for high school students who have been identified as leaders in their synod to grow in their faith and develop peer ministry

skills. A few weeks ago, Johanna Dellenbach of Immanuel, Rhinelander and Jacob Ulvila of Immanuel, Negaunee, along with youth leader, Stacy McEachern of Immanuel, Negaunee attended the 2022 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in Ashland, Nebraska for 4 days of workshops, speakers, music, worship, and time to connect with other leaders within the ELCA. The 2022 theme of “Beloved! No Matter What” encouraged attendees to share God’s love and grace through daily connections and living out the Samaritan story.

After returning from the conference, NGLS delegate, Johanna Dellenbach said, ***“I think it was a huge learning experience. I learned a lot about my faith and I also learned how so many things are different in different areas of the United States — especially with schools. It was an amazing experience and I just want more youth and adults to know more about the summit and the opportunities it can give you.”*** [Read more about Johanna’s experience here.](#)

If you would like to nominate a high school youth to attend next year’s ELCA Youth Leadership Summit, please email Stefanie Ehle at [youthcoordinator@nnglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nnglsynod.org) with their name and a brief explanation of what makes them an emerging leader in our synod.



## Tri-Synodical Youth Gathering Returning in July

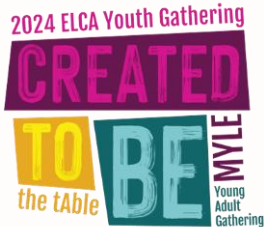
The Northern Great Lakes Synod is once again partnering with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and the LaCrosse Area Synod of Wisconsin to plan a Tri-Synodical Youth Gathering at UW-River Falls this summer. Encourage high schoolers you know to join us **July 24-27** for creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning, and uplifting worship. Stay tuned for additional details and registration information!



## Save the Date Youth in Advocacy Retreat April 14-16, 2023

High School Youth from across the U.P. and Wisconsin are invited to gather in Madison for a weekend in April to learn what it means to be an advocate and how advocacy relates to our Lutheran faith. Contact Stefanie

([youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org)) if you would like to be part of the NGLS delegation. Additional information and details about how to register will be coming soon!



## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Theme Announced!

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering planning team recently announced its theme of "Created to Be" centered on Psalm 139:14: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." The ELCA Youth Gathering will take place in New Orleans **July 16-20, 2024**. If you have high school youth who will be eligible to attend in 2024, now is a great time to plant the seed and invite them to join other ELCA youth from across the country for this faith-forming event. Get a glimpse into what to expect by watching the video below.



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



Facebook



Instagram



Website

---

## Keeping in Prayer

[November Prayfaithfully Calendar](#)

[December Prayfaithfully Calendar](#)

### **Prayfaithfully Devotions**

Check out upcoming [Prayfaithfully](#) on our Synod website!  
**November 27-December 3 by Pastor Terry Frankenstein**  
**December 4-10 by Pastor Kelly Ylitalo**  
**December 11-17 by Pastor Terry Frankenstein**

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 give thanks for the efforts of **Pastor Mark Laatsch** at **Emmanuel, Menominee**. Pastor Laatsch's last Sunday at Emmanuel was November



13. We wish him and his family the very best as he begins a new call in Winchester, Wi.





- We wish **Pastor Kayla Keilholtz** the very best as she begins a new call in Virginia. She has been On Leave from Call since July of 2020. May God bless her efforts in a new partnership.

## Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For those seeking asylum, that they receive the support they need as they wait for the process to move forward.
- For all those suffering from war and violence, we pray for peace and an end to hostilities.
- For spiritual renewal in our Advent waiting even as we anticipate a return of beloved Christmas traditions.
- For our congregations in transition, that they feel a sense of the Spirit at work.
- For congregations engaging in Faithful Innovations work.

---

## 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**

*Copyright © 2022 Northern Great Lakes Synod, All rights reserved.*  
E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

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