



# Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

## E-Notes for January 31, 2023



## The Season of Epiphany

### Word of the Day

"I have become more and more convinced that while yearning for the past can be a barrier to growth in mission and ministry, nostalgic reminiscing can be a tool for adaptive and creative thinking about where God is calling a congregation to go. However, until a congregation comes to terms with its perceived losses from the past through a process of grief, it will continue to be paralyzed in the present and unable to think creatively about the future. Acknowledging and expressing grief will give the congregation the courage to redefine its relationship with the past and draw strength and encouragement from their memories as they step into the future."

*~from Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past: A Conversation about Loss, Grief, and Nostalgia in Congregational Life by Michael Girlinghouse, p. xvii*

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## News & Information



## Important Date and Information

As our fiscal year ends in January, please note the important date below and documents that need to be sent to the Synod Office:

**February 10, 2023**

Last day for checks to arrive in the Synod office so that January 2023 giving can be credited to the Synod fiscal year.

**Please do NOT combine December/January or January/February giving on your benevolence form.**

**Congregation Statement of Intent**

Please send to the Synod Office as soon as possible.

**Congregation Annual Report**

Please send to the Synod Office as soon as possible.



## Rostered Leader Reports to the Bishop Due March 15, 2023

Below you will find links for filling out your annual Report to the Bishop online. Please use the following instructions:

1. Click the appropriate button below to access your report. Please note that LLM's should use the link for Minister of Word and Sacrament--Under Call from a Congregation.
2. Save the report to your computer.
3. Fill out the report and save it again.
4. Attach the report file to an email to Heather ([hoysti@nglsynod.org](mailto:hoysti@nglsynod.org)) OR print out your report and mail to the Synod Office.

The reports can also be filled out by hand and mailed to the Synod Office if you prefer. Please note: the deadline for getting your report to the Bishop is **Wednesday, March 15, 2023**.

### **Ministers of Word and Sacrament**

[Under Call from a Congregation](#)

[On Leave or Disability](#)

[Retired](#)

[Under Call from Synod Council or ELCA Church Council](#)

### **Ministers of Word and Service**

[Under Call from a Congregation](#)

[On Leave or Disability](#)

[Retired](#)

[Under Call from Synod Council or ELCA Church Council](#)



## Take the Kaleidoscope Challenge this Lent!

Christ's Kaleidoscope is a new group of Northern Great Lakes Synod people who are passionate about leading our Synod's efforts to see others through the eyes of Jesus. The [Kaleidoscope Challenge for Lent 2023](#) focuses on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community. For the Challenge, each week participants listen, read, and watch various resources to engage the subject matter. Then, you are invited to a weekly discussion to process your experience of these resources with a zoom cohort of your choosing. Cohort registration is now [available on our website!](#)

The Year 2023 begins a year when we focus on Love. This Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge puts love into action as we make the effort to see others more clearly. The goal is greater awareness and deeper understanding.



## A & C Reports Deadline is March 1

Each year the ELCA asks congregations to provide information about their people and activities in an annual congregation report. The report is filled out on Form A and Form C, which should have arrived in your church's mailbox earlier in January. You can [access electronic versions of the forms and instructions here](#) and [complete your A & C report online here!](#)

## Upcoming Events



## Grow in Spirit, Faith and Understanding

There's still time to register for Lifelong Faith Formation classes this winter. Sign up now for the online courses which begin in February, March and April.

*An opportunity for important discussions:*

**Beyond Policy: Empowering the Faith Community to Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse and Sexual Assault** with Pastor Kari Vadis of Trinity, Rhinelander  
Every Thursday, 12 noon ET/11 am CT **February 9-March 2** (4 sessions), register by February 7.

*Increasing awareness of God's presence in your life:*

**Meeting Christ in Prayer** with Pastor Terry Frankenstein  
Every Thursday, 10:30 am–noon ET/9:30–11 am CT **March 2-**

**April 20** (8 sessions), register by February 16.

*Great reading and lively conversation:*

**Introduction to Family Systems Thinking & Book Study of Friedman's Fables—"Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking,"** with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop Every Saturday, 11 am CT/10 am ET **April 1-May 6** (5 sessions), register by March 11.

More than 30 people are now taking part in classes which had January registration deadlines. Enjoy the conversations by signing up for the next set of classes.

For details and to register, [visit our website](#). If you have any questions, contact Deacon Lori Ward at [lori.ward@nqlsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nqlsynod.org) or 615-519-1969.

## NGLS Youth Ministry Updates

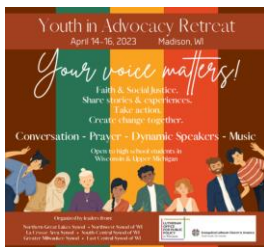


### Youth Protection Survey

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is in the process of developing resources to share with congregations regarding child protection, safety, and best practices for working with youth. Please help us by answering this two-question survey:

[Youth Protection Survey](#)

## Registration is Open for these Upcoming NGLS Youth Opportunities



### 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. Throughout the weekend, participants will explore topics that affect us both globally and locally such as racism, environmental justice, LGBTQIA+ advocacy and world hunger. There will be designated time for meaningful conversations, engaging workshops, prayer, interactive music, personal reflection and fellowship with peers. Contact Stefanie

Ehle at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) if you would like to be part of the NGLS delegation.

**\*\*\* Special Note – We just confirmed Rachel Kurtz as our guest musician! \*\*\***

Registration for this event is available at [loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy](http://loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy). The cost is only \$75 per person and includes all programming, lodging and meals. Scholarships are available for anyone who needs financial assistance. Read an invitation to pastors, parents, and youth leaders [here](#).



## Journey: Tri-Synod High School Gathering July 24-27, 2023

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is excited to be partnering again with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and the LaCrosse Area Synod for another regional youth gathering where high schoolers will encounter God and one another in new ways through creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning and uplifting worship. Additional details and a link to register are available at <https://nswi.org/journey>. [Read an invitation letter to pastors, youth leaders, and parents here!](#)

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## Upcoming NGLS Conference-Wide Youth Events

*Youth from anywhere in the synod are welcome to travel to upcoming Conference-Wide Events!*



### Menominee Valley Conference Youth Lock-In

**Date:** Friday, February 10

**Time:** 6 pm CT

**Location:** Zion Lutheran Church (2714 James Street  
Marinette, WI)

**Contact:** Stefanie Ehle, [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org)

Menominee Valley Conference Youth between 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Zion Lutheran Church in Marinette for a Lock-In on Friday, February 10. Registration will start at 6 pm and there will be plenty of games, crafts, a service project, food, worship, friends and a Swap & Donate Party. To participate in the Swap & Donate Party, bring items such as clothes, games, or electronics that you no longer want or need for the chance to exchange them for something new to you! Pick-up will be at 9 am on Saturday morning. For more information or to RSVP, contact [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org).



### Superior Central Conference Youth Lock-In

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**Date:** Friday, February 10

**Time:** 7 pm ET

**Location:** Immanuel Lutheran Church (520 US Highway 41 E, Negaunee, MI)

**Contact:** Pastor Alex LaChapelle [lachappy@gmail.com](mailto:lachappy@gmail.com) or Stacy McEachern [stacymc6@gmail.com](mailto:stacymc6@gmail.com)

Superior Central Conference Youth between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Negaunee for a Lock-In on Friday, February 10. We will begin at 7 pm. The night will be filled with pizza, snacks, games and worship! Pick-up will be after breakfast from 8-9 am on Saturday morning. Hope you can come! For more information, contact Pastor Alex, [lachappy@gmail.com](mailto:lachappy@gmail.com) or Stacy McEachern, [stacymc6@gmail.com](mailto:stacymc6@gmail.com). Please RSVP by February 6.

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



Facebook



Instagram



Website

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## Portico Updates

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### Utilize Text Support

It's brave and smart to seek help if you're living with stress, depression, anxiety, or mental health struggles – but accessing an in-person counselor isn't always easy or even possible. That's one reason the ELCA-Primary health plan EAP benefit has expanded to include Talkspace, digital confidential online counseling with licensed therapists via text, video, or audio. [Read more on myPortico.](#)



## Retirement on the Horizon?

Increase your confidence and peace of mind by learning more about developing a withdrawal strategy, utilize Social Security, plan for health care costs, and more. Participate in live virtual workshops later in January, or watch the recordings whenever it works for you. [Learn more, or sign up to participate, on myPortico.](#)



## Getting Started on Your Taxes Early?

The Richard R. Hammar Clergy Tax Guide and the Federal Reporting Guide for Churches are both [available on myPortico](#) at no cost to you.



## Develop an 'I Can Do This' Mindset

Deep breaths, time with loved ones, a good night's sleep ... what are your best practices for keeping yourself centered and healthy? If you're looking to expand your toolbox, and you have ELCA-Primary health benefits, check out [Learn to Live's](#) new course focusing on building resilience. Take the initial assessment and then enroll in the self-guided program at no out-of-pocket cost to you.



## Contact

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Prinz, Portico Regional Representative. She can be reached at [JPrinz@porticobenefits.org](mailto:JPrinz@porticobenefits.org).

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[Keeping in Prayer](#)

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## February Prayfaithfully Calendar

### Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

**January 29-February 4 by Chuck Thomas**

**February 5-11 by Karen Carter**

**February 12-18 by Virginia Paulson**

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 celebrate with **Bethany, Escanaba** as they celebrate the Installation of **Pastor Lily Brondyke** on Sunday, February 12 at 3 pm ET. Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red. May God bless this new partnership!

### Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- We pray for our pastoral leaders who have had recent health challenges.
- For those recovering from surgery.
- For those struggling for lack of energy and joy.
- We pray for those impacted by tragedy and loss: multiple mass shootings, snowmobile accidents, fatalities on the road. May God comfort all who mourn.
- We pray for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, that their efforts for justice will see the breaking in of God's reign.

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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  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**+Bishop Katherine Finegan**

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E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

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