



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for February 16, 2023



The Season of Epiphany

Word of the Day

"Suddenly they saw him
the way he was,
the way he really was
all the time,
although they had never seen it before,
the glory which blinds the everyday eye
and so becomes invisible.
This is how
he was, radiant, brilliant,
carrying joy
like a flaming sun

in his hands.
This is the way he was-is-
from the beginning,
and we cannot bear it.
So he manned himself,
came manifest to us;
and there on the mountain
they saw him, really saw him,
saw his light.
We all know that if we really
see him we die.
But isn't that what is
required of us?
Then, perhaps, we will see
each other, too."

~Madeleine L'Engle

News & Information



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 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!](#)



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@nclsynod.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](#)

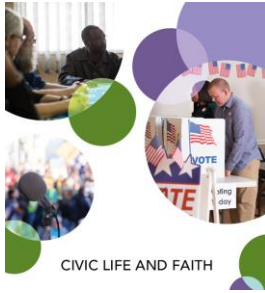
[Retired](#)

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



Help for Earthquake Survivors

Right now, your congregation can rush aid to our neighbors devastated by the earthquake in Turkey. Lutheran World Relief teams are already coordinating a response, and it is your congregations' compassion and generosity that will rush emergency care. Gifts to LWR's emergency response fund will deliver critically needed care for families like water, medical care, shelter and essential supplies. Congregations and their members can give online at lwr.org/quake or mail a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write QUAKE in the memo.



ELCA Study Curriculum on Civic Life & Faith

The ELCA Task Force on Studies for Civic Life and Faith has released a study curriculum for use throughout our church. The curriculum has six sessions. The first is a core introduction, and the following sessions can be done in any order according to the interests of the group. Each session comes ready to use, with a teaching video, prayers, hymn suggestions, Scriptures, group discussion questions, suggested resources, and case studies taken from everyday life.

For more information, please see [this flyer](#) or visit elca.org/civicsandfaith. If you have questions, please reach out to civicsandfaith@elca.org.



Workshop Recording Available for Viewing

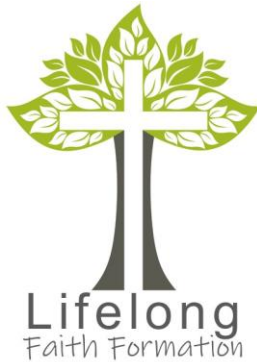
At last week's Quarterly Workshop for Congregational Leaders, Michael Moore from Augsburg Press presented on the topic "Copyright Do's and Don'ts for Congregations." A recording of that presentation can be viewed [here on our YouTube channel](#) for anyone interested.

Upcoming Events



Take the Kaleidoscope Challenge this Lent!

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 [available on our website!](#)



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 March and April.

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.

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



A New Cohort of Faithful Innovations

Registration deadline is June 1, 2023

Gain training in listening skills and discerning God's movement in your congregation and neighborhood. Gather a team of 4 to 7 lay people to join your rostered leader or licensed minister and experience the process of Faithful Innovations. The next cohort takes place **June through November**. For more information on Faithful Innovations and to download the flyer for Cohort #5, please [visit our website](#).

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@nclsynod.org if you are interested in attending this event.

In addition to Rachel Kurtz, we are excited to announce Pastor Alex LaChapelle with Prince of Peace, Harvey and Charlotte Strom, FLLC's Hospitality Coordinator as guest leaders at this event. Let's show our support by sending youth from our synod to this retreat!

Registration for this event is available at [loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy](https://www.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!](#)

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



Facebook Instagram Website

Keeping in Prayer



February Prayfaithfully Calendar

Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

February 12-18 by Virginia Paulson

February 19-25 by Christine Ebert

February 26-March 4 TBA

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** at the installation of their new pastor, **Rev. Lily Brondyke** on Sunday, February 12. God bless their new partnership!
- We welcome **Pastor Christine Olson** as a full-time Interim at **Emmanuel, Menominee**. Pastor Christine begins her efforts on February 20. Many thanks to **Pastor Keith Kolstad** for serving as Administrative Interim. May God bless Pastor Christine and the people of Emmanuel during this transitional time.
- We celebrate with **Prince of Peace, Eagle River** as a call has been extended to and received by **Pastor Grant Van Lishout**. An Installation date has been set for April 23, 2023 at 3 pm CT. God bless their new partnership!

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- We pray for comfort and healing, strength and compassion for all those impacted by devastating earthquakes. We pray for relief agencies, such as Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and all those rushing to provide aid.
- We pray for all of our NGLS congregations in transition and discernment of next steps.
- We pray for those participating in the Kaleidoscope Challenge, that this effort bears fruit of new learnings and deeper understanding.
- We pray for teachers and learners in our Lifelong Faith Formation classes.

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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