



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for March 16, 2023

The Season of Lent

Word of the Day

As the winter days grow longer, drawing short the hours of night;
As our eager expectation waits for Easter's dawning light –
Yearning people, here we gather, turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime, shine within our world anew!

Hymn # 924, All Creation Sings

Synod Assembly News

May 18-20, 2023
Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Synod Assembly website for information on hotels, voting members, food options and more!

Frequently Asked Questions



Stay Informed

As Synod Assembly approaches, please post the [Synod Assembly flyer](#) on your fridge or at church and utilize the [Synod Assembly website](#) as we continually share updates. Sign up for Synod emails, browse workshops, view FAQ's and more. The Pre-Assembly Report will be available to download and print on **April 12, 2023**.



Sign Up for a Display Table

Synod ministries, organizations and committees are invited to have a ministry display table at Assembly. Displays can be set up in the Northern Center at NMU anytime from 2-6:30 pm on Thursday, May 18 and must be removed following the banquet on Friday, May 19. If you would like to reserve a display table, please use the [sign-up form on our website](#) by **May 1, 2023**.



Big Bear & Bread Basket Awards

The NGLS World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry! The Big Bear Award is given to a group (committee, task force, team, etc.) of a Northern Great Lakes Synod congregation and the Bread Basket Award is given to an individual of the NGLS. For complete details, please [download the forms on our website](#). Nominations must be submitted by **May 1, 2023**. No effort is too small or too big to be nominated!



Synod Assembly Registration & Payment Available Online

Registration and payment for Synod Assembly are now available online only on the [Synod Assembly website](#). Here's a [quick guide on how to register](#). Voters need to be registered before 5 pm ET on April 12 in order to take advantage of the registration rate of \$125. After 5 pm ET on April 12, the late registration fee is \$150. The registration rate for visitors is \$25. Registration for voters and visitors closes permanently at 5 pm ET on **April 26, 2023** and will not open again due to technology requirements.



Information for Voting Members

In order to vote at Synod Assembly, all voting members must be present in the ballroom at NMU. We will not have remote voting this year. **Voting members are required to bring their own device (a smartphone, tablet or laptop) with wifi capability and a web browser and charger for elections.** For more information, please visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) of the Synod Assembly website.



Food Options at Synod Assembly

There are 3 optional, prepaid-only meals to choose from when registering for Synod Assembly:

1. Friday Morning Breakfast (\$10)
2. Friday Evening Banquet (\$25)
3. Saturday Morning Breakfast (\$10)

For more information, including menu details, please visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) of the Synod Assembly website.

[News & Information](#)



Congregational Leadership Information

If your congregation has not done so already, please be sure to fill out this [leadership information form](#) and send to the Synod Office (1029 N. Third St., Suite A, Marquette, MI 49855 or hoysti@nglsynod.org).



U.P. Wild in Living Lutheran

U.P. Wild is featured in the March/April edition of the ELCA's *Living Lutheran Magazine*. [Check out the story with pictures.](#)



Free Congregational Vitality Survey

Want to have a tool to gauge what people in your congregation are thinking about your congregation? This [Congregational Vitality Survey](#) will be a helpful tool. The ELCA Congregational Vitality Survey is a simple 36 question survey tool to gain input from both leaders and participants on how they see key areas for both vitality and sustainability.

Upcoming Events



Speaker Coming to Baraga

Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College invites you to "Seven Grandfather Teachings" with James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw on **Friday, March 31 from 5:30-7:30 pm** (doors open at 5 pm) at Niiwin Akeaa Center (111 Beartown Rd., Baraga, MI, next to the casino). James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw, a descendent of Turtle Mountain, is an international speaker, author and the creator of Ojibwe Word of the Day. Admission for this event is free. For more information, please [visit the KBOCC website](#) or the [speaker's website](#).



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](#).



Fall Theological Conference

an event for Active & Retired Clergy, Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers

Mark your calendars and join us **September 17-19, 2023** at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for our Fall Theological Conference. Rev. Libby Howe will join us for a program on resilience. Stay tuned for more details!



A Formation Experience for ELCA Word and Service Candidates

October 5-8, 2023 at Lutherdale in Elkhorn, WI
(a digital option will be available for those unable to travel)
Be immersed in community as you explore the historical and theological foundations of Word and Service Ministry and deepen your understanding of service as a called and ordained deacon in the ELCA. Registration opens in early August and more information will be available at that time. In the meantime, [check out the flyer](#) and save the dates!

NGLS Youth Ministry Updates

Registration is Open for these Upcoming NGLS Youth Opportunities

Youth Advocacy Retreat
April 14-16, 2023 Madison, WI



Featured Guest
Rev. Alex LaChapelle

Growing up, Pastor Alex was a child of color in an all-white family, and a mostly white church and school. Reflecting on his life, he will dig deep in the scriptures to the places where he finds comfort and hope for himself as a person of color. Alex has spent time as a missionary for the ELCA in Southern and Eastern Africa and currently serves Prince of Peace Lutheran in Marquette, MI.

Workshop:
Minority in the Middle

<https://www.loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy/>

Youth Advocacy Retreat
April 14-16, 2023 Madison, WI



Featured Guest
Charlotte Strom

Charlotte (She/They) is currently based in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and spends their time working at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, exploring God's Creation, making music with other camp folks, and learning more about the world around her. Charlotte is excited to share new songs as well as familiar favorites with updated lyrics all with the goal of making a more inclusive space around the campfire.

Workshop:
Campfire with Compassion

<https://www.loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy/>

Youth in Advocacy Retreat April 14-16, 2023 Registration Deadline is Monday, March 27

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. **On Sunday morning we will join the congregation of Trinity Lutheran for worship and then meet with a legislator at the Wisconsin State Capitol.** Contact Stefanie Ehle at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org if you are interested in attending this event.

Pastor Alex LaChapelle of Prince of Peace, Harvey and Charlotte Strom, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp's Hospitality Coordinator will serve 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. The cost is only \$75 per person and includes all programming, lodging, and meals. Scholarships are available for anyone who needs financial assistance. The deadline to register for this event is Monday, March 27.

Contact Stefanie (youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) if you are interested in attending this event. Read an invitation to pastors, parents, and youth leaders [here](#).



I Love to Tell the Story: FLLC Jr/Sr High Retreat April 21-22, 2023

Join us at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for the Jr/Sr High (7-12 grades) retreat. This year's theme is "I Love to Tell the Story" and campers are invited to experience a weekend of favorites like games, songs, campfire, saunas, and more. Adult Leaders are encouraged to register and participate in the Adult Leaders Track on Saturday morning. Additional details and registration are available at <http://fortunelake.org/event/jr-sr-high-retreat/>.



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!](#)



Save the Date! Synod-Wide Family Hike May 13, 2023

The Northern Great Lakes Synod and U.P. Wild are co-sponsoring a Synod-Wide Family Hike this spring. There will be multiple hiking locations throughout the synod. Locations and start times will be posted on the synod website at <https://nglsynod.org/youth/>. We hope you can join us!

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



Facebook



Instagram



Website

Keeping in Prayer



March Prayfaithfully Calendar

Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

March 12-18 by Pastor Maxine Gray

March 19-25 by Pastor Melinda VanderSys

March 26-April 1 by Pam Durbin

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 welcome **Pastor Christine Olson** as a full-time Interim at **Emmanuel, Menominee**. 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.

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- We pray God's blessings on all who gather for worship during Lent: for soup suppers and discipline added, for things given up and things taken on.
- We pray for the community of Finlandia University and Hancock. We hold in prayer those who grieve, those who hope for new life, those who are suffering this loss; board members, students, faculty, staff and the community whose lives will be forever changed. God be with you and give you comfort and hope.
- We pray for the unhoused. May they find places of shelter, warmth, and welcome.
- We hold in prayer all those involved with Synod Assembly; for voting members as they prepare, for those considering attending workshops, for Synod staff, for the staff of NMU, for safe travel, for a meaningful assembly, for smooth technology 😊.

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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