



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for March 31, 2023

The Season of Lent

Word of the Day

"Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land."

ELW #338

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**.



Synod Assembly Registration & Payment Available Online

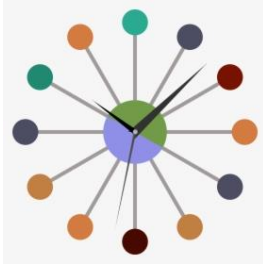
The cost of registration goes up after 5 pm on April 12!

Voter and visitor registration will not be available at Synod Assembly. Registration and payment for Synod Assembly are available online 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.



Accommodations in Marquette

We do not have a designated hotel for Synod Assembly. Check out [area accommodations on the Travel Marquette website](#) and choose what works best for your congregation.



Schedule at a Glance

Please refer to the Pre-Assembly Report in mid-April for a detailed schedule (all times below are Eastern):

Thursday, May 18, 2023

2-6:30 pm Check-In open at the Northern Center
7 pm Opening Worship

Friday, May 19, 2023

7-8:30 am Optional breakfast
9 am Business meeting
12-1:30 pm Lunch on your own
3:30 pm Conference meetings
6 pm Optional banquet

Saturday, May 20, 2023

7-8:30 am Optional breakfast
9 am Business meeting
12 pm Closing of Assembly



Workshops

Join people from across the Synod for a fun and interesting series of short programs from **Monday, May 15 – Wednesday, May 17**. Enjoy time together as you explore different aspects of life in the church. Please [visit our website](#) for all the topics, promotional videos and details. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us online in May!



Seed Sowers Luncheon

If you have made a planned gift or are interested in including an ELCA ministry in your estate plan or will, you are invited to the very first Seed Sowers luncheon. A Seed Sower is one who has planted seeds of financial support for future ministry growth. Join us for lunch and stories of generosity and thanks on **Friday, May 19 at 12 noon**. Lunch will take place at the Northern Center at NMU in Marquette, MI during Synod Assembly and your **RSVP is required by May 1**. Please call the Synod Office at (906) 228-2300 to RSVP. This event is sponsored by the NGLS Endowment Committee in partnership with our Region 5 Gift Planner, Cindy Halverson.



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!



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. Check out the [Downtown Marquette Dining Guide](#) for a list of local restaurants.

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

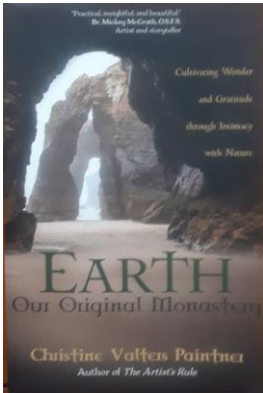
Want to have a tool to gauge what people in your congregation are thinking about your congregation? This [Congregational Vitality Survey](#) will be a helpful tool. The ELCA Congregational Vitality Survey is a simple 36 question survey tool to gain input from both leaders and participants on how they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



Earth, Our Original Monastery

Rev. Tammy Barthels will present a retreat on **April 1, 2023** at Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center from 9 am–3 pm CT. This retreat is based on Christine Valters Paintner book *Earth Our Original Monastery*. Listening to and using the elements of the Earth we will experience Earth as our original cathedral, our original spiritual director, our original scripture, our original sacraments. An [event flyer can be downloaded here](#) and the cost is \$45. For more information call (715) 385-3750 or email marywood.center@gmail.com or visit www.marywoodsc.org.



Blessing Bundle Ritual

Rev. Tammy Barthels will present a retreat on **May 1, 2023** at Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center from 10 am–12 pm CT or 6–8 pm CT. With openness, intention and prayer you will be creating your own Blessing Bundle with herbs and natural elements from the earth, and then participating in a ritual. An [event flyer can be downloaded here](#) and the cost is \$35. For more information Call (715) 385-3750 or email marywood.center@gmail.com or visit www.marywoodsc.org.



Event for First Call Pastors

Mark your calendars for a virtual First Call event on **May 2 at 2 pm ET / 1 pm CT** via Zoom!

Our topic will focus on your congregation's constitution. Our presenter, Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Secretary of the ELCA, comes to us with years of experience working with the ELCA Churchwide Organization in Chicago, serving for several years in the area of higher education, youth, young adults, and campus ministry, and then moving to the Office of the Secretary as the Executive for Administration until her election as Secretary of the ELCA at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, WI. She is well steeped in the knowledge of the Model Constitution for Congregations and plans to speak to the parts of the constitution that are most helpful and important for you to know in your roles as first call rostered ministers, as well as to the importance of updating your congregation's constitution and how best to do that. Our time with Sue will be informative and enlightening as she always brings a joyful spirit to her work and ministry on our behalf at churchwide and beyond.



Growing in Grace Retreat

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is hosting a Growing in Grace Retreat, and you are invited! This overnight retreat is intended for people looking to more deeply explore full inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Here are the details:

- **When:** **Friday, May 5 - Saturday, May 6, 2023**
- **Where:** Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, with hotel-style lodging in Grace & Emanuel Lodges
- **What:** Presentations from a Reconciling Works representative and Total Inclusion Task Force members, small group conversation, panel discussions, Bible study, and worship. All programming, meals, activities, and lodging included.
- **Who:** YOU! This retreat is intended for adults interested in increasing their capacity for authentic welcome of LGBTQIA+ people. Consider who else you might invite from your community

Registration for this retreat is open now through **April 28**.

Visit <http://fortunelake.org/event/growing-in-grace-retreat/> for more information and to register.



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](#).

Check out the brand new Faithful Innovations Testimonials on our YouTube channel!

[Pastor Lloyd Luedeman from Grace, Pembine](#)

[Steve Strom from Grace, Pembine](#)



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



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/>.



Synod-Wide Family Hike May 13, 2023

The Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Ministry Team and U.P. Wild Church invite you to participate in a Synod-Wide Family Hike on Saturday, May 13. There will be multiple hikes taking place in different locations throughout the synod and you are invited to join one of them! Each hike will showcase the beauty of God's creation and include an outdoor prayer service.

Visit the [NGLS Youth webpage](#) for a complete list of hike locations and start times or [download the poster](#). Check your Conference communications (church bulletins and newsletters) for additional details about the hike closest to you.



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!](#)



Soul Shop™ for Youth Leaders

Soul Shop™ for Youth Leaders is a one-day workshop being held **Friday, April 21 from 8:30 am-4 pm ET** at Common Grounds Coffeehouse (927 W. Fair Ave, Marquette, MI) to equip youth pastors, youth leaders, camp directors, camp counselors and anyone else who works with young people. The goal is to learn how to minister to those impacted by suicide. The workshop includes training in suicide awareness, in suicide as a community health crisis, and in upstream suicide prevention. [Download the flyer](#) for additional information or visit SoulShopMarquette.eventbrite.com to register.



Darkness to Light Child Protection Training

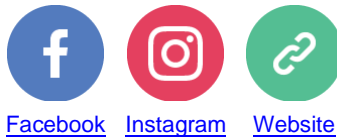
As people of faith, we are called to care for “the least of these” and “the smallest of these.” Faith leaders (pastors, council members, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, parents) and all who are interested in creating a safer community for our children are invited to a Stewards of Children® training on **Monday, May 8 at 5 pm CT at Emmanuel Lutheran** (2901 13th St, Menominee). This 2.5 hour program is offered by Pastor Kari Vadis (Trinity, Rhinelander), an Authorized Facilitator, and is approved for 2.5 contact hours of continuing education (2.5 CEUs).

Darkness to Light is a national not-for-profit leader in the prevention of child sexual abuse. Guided by the vision of a world where children can grow up happy, healthy, and safe, Darkness to Light is committed to empowering people to prevent child sexual abuse. They believe that protecting children is an adult’s responsibility, and that through education and training, adults will be empowered to act. Stewards of Children® is an evidence-informed, award-winning, two-hour training that teaches adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Through interviews with child sexual abuse survivors, experts, and treatment providers, Stewards of Children® teaches adults practical actions they can

take to reduce instances of child sexual abuse in their organizations, families, and communities.

This program is sponsored and supported by the Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Ministry Team. Pre-registration is required by emailing Stefanie Ehle at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org to ensure enough workbooks are available. **If you would like to coordinate a Darkness to Light training in your conference, please [contact Stefanie](#) to start the scheduling process.**

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



Keeping in Prayer



[April Prayfaithfully Calendar](#)

Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

March 26-April 1 by Pam Durbin

April 2-8 by Pastor John Kuziej

April 9-15 by Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith

If you are interested in writing a week's worth of devotions, contact Betsy Koski at (906) 228-2300 or bakoski@nglsynod.org.





Transitions

- **Pastor Grant Van Lishout** is now serving at **Prince of Peace, Eagle River**. His installation service is April 23 at 3 pm CT.

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For the power of the Passion of our Lord to inspire gratefulness and love.
- For those who struggle to forgive.
- For our nation's leaders.
- For those impacted by violence of any kind.

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.

Rev. Jim Duehring

Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

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E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

Our mailing address is:

Northern Great Lakes Synod
1029 N. Third St., Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855