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Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for April 14, 2023

The Season of Easter

Word of the Day

"Now the green blade rises from the buried grain...love lives again."
-ELW hymn #379, "Now the Green Blade Rises"

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**.



Registration Closes Permanently on Wednesday, April 26 at 5 pm ET

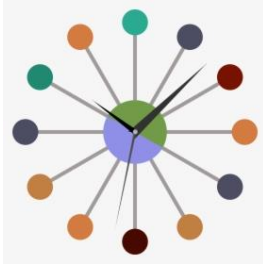
Voter and visitor registration will not be available at Synod Assembly. Registration and payment for Synod Assembly are available online on the [Synod Assembly website](#). Here's a [quick guide on how to register](#). The late voter registration fee is now \$150. The registration rate for visitors is \$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.



Pre-Assembly Report Now Available

The Pre-Assembly Report can be downloaded and printed from the Resources section of the [Synod Assembly website](#). Please note the contents of each part of the report:

- [Part 1](#): Reports of Synod Officers and Staff, Budget, Nominations and Resolutions
- [Part 2](#): Pastoral Transitions, Committees and Conferences
- [Part 3](#): Synod Ministry Partners



Agenda Now Available

The Synod Assembly agenda is now available [here on our website](#) (and at the beginning of Part 1 of the Pre-Assembly Report). Please refer to the agenda for important details regarding the schedule of our time together.



Synod Assembly Choir

You are invited to join the Synod Choir for Opening Worship on Thursday, May 18! The choir will sing Hal Hopson's 2018 arrangement of "The Gift of Love." For all the details, including rehearsal days and times, please [visit the Synod Assembly website](#). Sign up by **contacting Heather at the Synod Office by May 1** at (906) 228-2300 or hoysti@nglsynod.org.



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 Assembly on Saturday, May 20. 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!



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!



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.



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.



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



2023 Mission Stories Booklet

The new 2023 Mission Stories of the Northern Great Lakes Synod booklet is now available in digital format [here on our Synod website](#). Read stories of God at work. See the scope of your generosity of Mission Support and financial contributions. Hard copies will be available for all attending the May Synod Assembly with extra copies for each congregation. Thanks to all who contributed stories this year. God is at work in your congregation, in our Synod, in the ELCA and beyond, spreading the Love of Christ Jesus our Lord!



Free Congregational Vitality Survey

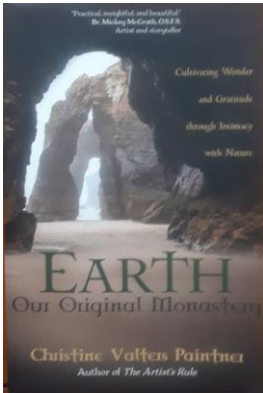
Want to have a tool to gauge what people in your congregation are thinking about your congregation? This [Congregational Vitality Survey](#) will be a helpful tool. The ELCA Congregational Vitality Survey is a simple 36 question survey tool to gain input from both leaders and participants on how they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

Upcoming Events



FLLC Conversation About Reconciling in Christ Process

Join Fortune Lake's Total Inclusion Task Force members on **Thursday, April 20, 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT** via Zoom to learn about the Reconciling in Christ process that the camp is engaged in. The task force's work has focused on LGBTQIA+ full inclusion in our outdoor ministry. Come prepared with your celebrations, questions, and concerns. Visit <http://fortunelake.org/about/growing-in-grace/> to learn more. Please email campdirector@fortunelake.org or call 906-214-2267 to receive the Zoom link.



Earth, Our Original Monastery

Rev. Tammy Barthels will present a retreat on **April 22, 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.



Fortune Lake Annual Association Business Meeting

Each Fortune Lake Association Congregation is encouraged to have three delegates (two lay and one clergy) attend our annual meeting, which will be held in the chapel on **Sunday, April 30 at 2 pm CT**. Light refreshments will be served, and stay afterwards for a conversation on Draft of Fortune Lake's Welcome Statement. Annual reports have been mailed to congregations or are available for download here:

<http://fortunelake.org/files/2023-AnnualMtgPacket-final-draft.pdf>. The Welcome Statement Draft can be found on page 12.



Growing in Grace Retreat for Adults

Fortune Lake's Growing in Grace Retreat is an opportunity for folks who are interested in LGBTQIA+ inclusion work in Christian spaces. The retreat will feature sessions from within the Northern Great Lakes Synod as well as a representative from Reconciling Works. There will be presentations, time to process in small groups, opportunities for spiritual counsel, and worship. To learn more about Reconciling Works, follow this link: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>.

Registration and payment deadline: **April 28, 2023 8 pm CT**. Visit <http://fortunelake.org/event/growing-in-grace-retreat/> to learn more and to register.



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 you 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.



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](#)



Summer Camp at Fortune Lake June 11 - August 9 for All Ages

Fortune Lake's flagship program – Summer Camp – is taking registrations for all programs! There are overnight Youth Camps for kids in grades 1-12, Intergenerational Camps for families of all types, Victory Camp for adults with disabilities, and Congregational Day Visits for church groups. Some programs are filling quickly, so don't wait! Many congregations help to defray the cost through camp scholarships. Learn more and register at <http://fortunelake.org/summer-camp/>. Fortune Lake is offering a \$25 discount for new campers! Simply use promo code NEW2023 at registration.



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



FLLC Youth Retreat for Grades 7-12

Friday, April 21 - Saturday, April 22

This one-night retreat is perfect for first time campers or seasoned veterans. It is fun, high-energy, and faith-filled. This year's theme is "I Love to Tell the Story," and encourages young people to leave with a greater sense of how God's story intersects with their own. Activities include songs, games, campfire, saunas, Bible study, worship, and more. Adult leaders are encouraged to register and attend with their youth. A separate session will be offered for adults on Saturday morning. Visit <http://fortunelake.org/event/jr-sr-high-retreat/> to learn more and to **register by April 14**.



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

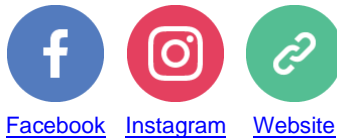
As people of faith, we are called to care for “the least of these” and “the smallest of these.” Faith leaders (pastors, council members, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, parents) and all who are interested in creating a safer community for our children are invited to a Stewards of Children® training 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!

April 9-15 by Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith

April 16-22 by Judy Quirk

April 23-29 by Pastor Brenda Greenwald

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 give thanks to God for the life and ministry of **Pastor John Shallow** who died April 4, 2023. A Celebration of Life for will be held Saturday, April 22, 2023, at Zion Lutheran Church in Marinette. Clergy are invited to vest and process and the color of the day is white. More information and Pastor John's obituary can be found on the [Hanson - Onion - Martell website](#).
- The Installation of **Pastor Grant Van Lishout** will take place April 23 at 3 pm CT at **Prince of Peace, Eagle River**. Clergy are invited to vest and process and the color of the day is red.

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For the power of the Resurrection of our Lord to inspire love and hope.
- For faculty, students, and staff at Finlandia University.
- For those who have no safe home.
- For those caring for the vulnerable.
- For farmers and gardeners preparing to plant seeds.

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

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