



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for April 27, 2023

The Season of Easter

Word of the Day

"As Alan Roxburgh, a leader in thinking about the mission of the church in today's world, writes, 'Transformation and innovation come not from programs presented by leaders but from the myriad ways ordinary people come to gather in dialogue.'

As we open the blinds to let the light shine into our congregations, we can come to appreciate in new ways where we have been and get a glimpse of where we might be going. As we look out the windows, we can see the world with new eyes. Instead of seeing a hostile environment that challenges our faith and threatens our existence as a congregation, we begin to perceive a world filled with people who, like us, are yearning for light to illuminate the darkness of their lives, and who seek the very light that we know in and through Jesus Christ."

~From page 184 in *Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past: A Conversation about Loss, Grief, and Nostalgia in Congregational Life*
by Michael K. Girlinghouse

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 utilize the [Synod Assembly website](#) as we continually share updates. Sign up for Synod emails, browse workshops, view FAQ's and more.



Registration Has Closed

Voter and visitor registration will not be available at Synod Assembly. If a voter from your congregation is no longer able to attend, please call or email Heather at the Synod Office (906) 228-2300 or hoysti@nglsynod.org.



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.



Pre-Assembly Report Available Online

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 Available Online

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.



Compensation Guidelines Available Online

The 2024 Proposed Compensation Guidelines and Leadership Support Resource Material are available [here on our website](#).



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!



Synod Assembly Choir

Sign-up deadline is May 1

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

RSVP deadline is May 1

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

Sign-up deadline is May 1

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

Nominations deadline is May 1

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!

News & Information



Service of Commendation for Finlandia University Sunday, May 7 at 6 pm ET

All Finlandia students, staff and faculty – along with alumni, neighbors, and friends of the University are invited to a service of reflection and celebration. We will take time to hear stories of those who have been impacted by the 126 years of Finlandia, and share stories of our own – as we sing, offer blessings, and ultimately commend the University community and its gifts to their next purpose in the world. All are welcome and invited. The service will take place at the Hirvonen Auditorium on Finlandia's campus in Hancock. A coffee hour reception will follow the gathering.

To share gritudes, remembrances or thanksgivings for Finlandia University's 125 years, follow this link: <https://forms.gle/PdfDzCg3cEw5CGveA>.



Volunteers Needed to Help Prep Fortune Lake for Summer

We're seeking volunteers to deep clean, move mattresses, split firewood, and help with other preparations for the coming summer. We would love to host you at a time that works best for you! All skill levels welcome! Please email or call Amanda at campdirector@fortunelake.org or 906-214-2267 to make arrangements.



Thrivent Action Teams Wanted

Are you a Thrivent member who has access to Thrivent Action Teams, including the \$250 seed money for volunteer efforts? Fortune Lake has many upcoming projects that we would love your help with! Some options include resources for child protection education, paint for treehouse floors, and changing tents for cabins and treehouses. If you're interested

in hearing more, please contact Amanda at campdirector@fortunelake.org or 906-214-2267.



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



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. [Click here to learn more about Reconciling](#)

[Works](#). The registration and payment deadline is **April 28, 2023 8 pm CT**. Visit [Fortune Lake's website](#) to learn more and to register.

A virtual component has been added to this retreat! Those who are unable to join us in-person can participate in six one-hour Zoom sessions including the keynote sessions with Aubrey Thonvold, Bible studies, and the panel discussion. Cost is \$40, and registration is open through May 4 at the link above.



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](#). The Welcome Statement Draft can be found on page 12.



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.

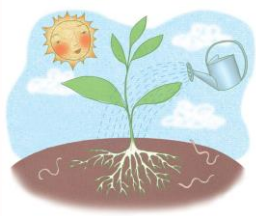


Event for First Call Pastors

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.



Senior Day at Fortune Lake

Join us on **Monday, May 8 from 10 am-2 pm CT** for morning devotions and coffee, a hands-on planting activity and gardening tips, and lunch. Those who would like can stay for an afternoon viewing of "One Wonderful Day," an original musical about Fortune Lake that was performed and recorded last summer. A suggested \$10 donation covers the cost of food. Please **RSVP by Friday, May 5** to hospitality@fortunelake.org or 906-214-2267.



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 here.](#)

Fortune Lake is offering a \$25 discount for new campers! Simply use promo code NEW2023 at registration.



Fall Wellness Retreat for Adults

Fortune Lake is excited to welcome people back **September 15-17 (with optional September 14 add-on)** for our fifth wellness retreat in collaboration with Pam Roose of Inspiring Roots LLC, Nutrition and Yoga! This year we will revisit the theme of "Nature Inspired" to further appreciate the beauty of nature at Fortune Lake. Participants will enjoy nature hikes, yoga and Tai Chi sessions, cooking demos, mindfulness sessions, time on the waterfront, saunas, and more. The registration deadline is September 7, we hope to see you there! [Click here for more information.](#)



A Formation Experience for ELCA Word and Service Candidates

October 5-8, 2023 at Lutherdale in Eikhorn, 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



Youth Advocacy Retreat

Between April 14 and 16 a group of 9 youth, 3 adult leaders, and 3 guest presenters from the Northern Great Lakes Synod traveled to Madison, WI to be part of the first ever Youth Advocacy Retreat, coordinated collaboratively with the Lutheran Office of Public Policy and all 6 synods from Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. The weekend was filled with guest speakers, musicians, scripture, challenging conversation, and people with a heart for social justice. The congregations of Advent Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran in Madison opened their spaces up for us throughout the weekend and we ended our time at the Wisconsin State Capitol for a personal tour and conversation with Representative Francesca Hong.

You can see some of the weekend's highlights in the video below put together by one of the youth representatives, Elsa Vadis.





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.

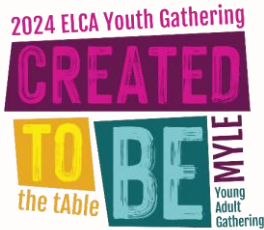
This program is sponsored and supported by the Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Ministry Team. Pre-registration is required by emailing Stefanie Ehle at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org to ensure enough workbooks are available. **If you would like to coordinate a Darkness to Light training in your conference,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



It's Almost Here! 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.



ELCA Youth Gathering Planning Meeting for NGLS

Anyone interested in learning more about the upcoming [ELCA Youth Gathering](#) taking place July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans, LA is invited to participate in a Zoom Informational Planning Meeting on **Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT**. Youth who will be completing 8th-12th grades in the 2023-2024 school year are eligible to participate in the Youth Gathering and a new Young Adult Gathering is an option for young people who missed out on the last two Gathering cycles because of the pandemic. Registration opens September 15 so now is the time to start promoting, recruiting, and considering how your congregation can support this faith-forming event. **Please email youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org to request a link for the Zoom meeting.**



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://nswwi.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



April Prayfaithfully Calendar

May Prayfaithfully Calendar

Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

April 23-29 by Pastor Brenda Greenwald

April 30-May 6 by Pastor Norm Peterson

May 7-13 by Pastor Linda Forray

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 **Prince of Peace, Eagle River** at the installation of **Pastor Grant Van Lishout** on April 23. God bless their new partnership!
- We give thanks with **Bethel, Ishpeming** as they have called **Pastor Tim Johnston** and he has accepted. As Pastor Tim and his family move back to the Northern Great Lakes Synod from Florida, the congregation prepares to welcome him and his family. Pastor Tim will begin in June.
- We hold in prayer **Pastor Micah Cavaleri**, who resigned from **Grace, South Range** as of April 16, 2023 due to health issues. Thanks to retired **Pastor Bucky Beach**, who will serve as administrative interim.

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- We pray for Pastor Micah and the people of Grace, South Range.
- We pray for all voting members, pastoral leaders, and volunteers who will be attending Synod Assembly.
- We pray for the Synod Staff as they strive to attend to all the details.
- We pray for the students, faculty, and staff of Finlandia University and the Hancock community as they suffer the loss of a beloved institution.

Quick Links

- [🔗 Check out resources on the NGLS website](#)
 - [🔗 COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Tool](#)
 - [🔗 Stewardship Toolkit](#)
 - [🔗 UP Wild Events](#)
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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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