



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

E-Notes for June 30, 2023

The Season of Pentecost

Word of the Day

“For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”
~Galatians 5:1, NRSV

News & Information



Office Administrator Position

With the resignation of our stellar Office Administrator, Heather Oysti, we begin the hunt of finding someone to fill the position. Please find the job description at [this link](#) and include the job posting in your congregational communications. While we do not expect that someone from the far reaches of our synod will apply, people may still know someone more local to Marquette County who might be qualified and interested. We give thanks for the efforts of Heather and wish her the very best.



Matching Challenge Appeal for Feeding America in the U.P.

Feed the hungry and join the efforts of:

- The Northern Great Lakes Synod (ELCA)
- The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan
- The Roman Catholic Diocese of Marquette
- Northern Skies District of the United Methodist Church
- Temple Beth Shalom Synagogue

You can make a difference to address the ever-present issue of food insecurity in the Upper Peninsula. The M.E. Davenport Foundation has pledged \$10,000 to establish a matching gift. Any amount will help us reach our goal of \$100,000. To contribute, use the Feeding America West Michigan give button at: [U.P. Mobile Pantry Fundraiser – Feeding America West Michigan \(feedwm.org\)](https://www.feedwm.org)

As you donate online, there is a box for you to indicate that you are part of a Northern Great Lakes Synod faith community. If by check, please write, "UP Mobiles" in the memo line. Mail your check to: Northern Great Lakes Synod 1029 N. Third St. Suite A Marquette, MI 49855. Please make your donation by **September 1, 2023** to be eligible for the matching challenge.

For more information and to download the flyer, please [visit our website](#).

Curation of Resources for Small Town and Rural Ministry



Luther Seminary is lifting up resources that could be helpful to congregational leaders and ministers work through Faith+Lead. The latest edition of their e-newsletter entitled, "Planting Seeds Daily," is available [here on our website](#).



Gluten-Free Artisan Bread Recipe

Pastor Dave Van Kley made all of the gluten-free bread that was served at Communion during Synod Assembly in May. If you enjoyed the bread or would like to try it out, Pastor Dave has shared the recipe and his notes so you can make it, too! [Download the recipe here.](#)



Exciting Recognition for Fortune Lake

Fortune Lake is thrilled to share that we have been included in Newsweek's list of best summer camps in America! Help us to spread the word that Fortune Lake is being recognized as one of the best places to get your summer camp experience. According to the article, "Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group have partnered to determine the 500 best summer camps in the U.S. 'America's Best Summer Camps 2023' recognizes the top summer camps in the United States, categorized by state, based on social media reviews and a comprehensive survey of 15,000 parents." [Visit the Newsweek website](#) to read the article and see the full list of camps.

Upcoming Events



A place of grace...
**Fortune Lake
Lutheran Camp**

Congregational Day Visits

Fortune Lake is offering Congregational Day Visits to congregations who are interested in having a one-day experience at Fortune Lake. These Day Visits can happen in conjunction with an existing Day Camp or can be a stand-alone event. This is a great opportunity to expose people to camp and what it might look like for them, gain interest in building a campership from your congregation, build community amongst congregation members, and offer something fun to youth during the summer months. Book your Day Visit now! Dates available for congregational day visits are:

- **Tuesday, July 25**

- Thursday, July 27



UP Wild in the Keweenaw

[UP Wild](#) in the Keweenaw will be sponsoring monthly wilderness walks:

- July 26, 2023, 7 pm ET at [Bear Lake Trail](#)
- August 30, 2023, 7 pm ET at [Chassell Fitness Trail](#)

UP Wild Church is a spiritual home for the seekers of beauty, wonder, & awe; where the "church goers" supplement their journey and the "misfits" finally feel connected within the congregation of paper birch trees and squawking geese via the Mystery which creates all things. All are welcome whether you are a part of a Christian faith community already, questioning your faith, in recovery from wounds inflicted by religious trauma, simultaneously receiving nourishment from other faith traditions, or simply seeking to go deeper. For more information please contact Rob Bishop at (906) 369-4499.



Nature Inspired Fall Fall Wellness Retreat

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 the nature surrounding Fortune Lake. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)



Fortune Lake Youth Retreat

Open to current grades 3-6, this one-night retreat **October 20-21, 2023** is a great opportunity for kids to come to camp and experience all their camp favorites, spend time with peers, and connect with God's Word. There will also be an opportunity for youth leaders to connect as well as a Darkness to Light training offered by Pastor Kari Vadis. The training will be held from 9:30 am-12 pm CT and is open to everyone, even those who are not attending the youth retreat.



Women Clergy Retreat

Join other women clergy from across the Northern Great Lakes Synod for a retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp **January 7-9, 2024**. More information to come, but in the meantime, please save the dates!

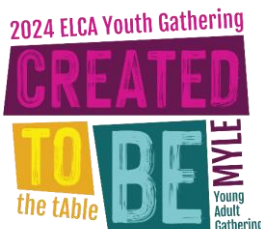
NGLS Youth Ministry Updates



Youth Leadership Summit Nominations Being Accepted

Each fall the ELCA hosts a Youth Leadership Summit to help high school youth grow in their faith and practice leadership skills. This year's event will take place **November 2-5** at Camp Lutherhaven in picturesque Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The NGLS is again committed to sending two youth and one adult leader to this formative program, but due to increasing airline fees, we are also looking for congregational support to help offset travel expenses.

If this sounds like an opportunity you or a high schooler you know would be interested in, please email youthcoordinator@nnglsynod.org with the name of the high schooler you are nominating and a few words about why they are an emerging leader in our synod.



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

The next [ELCA Youth Gathering](#) will take place **July 16-20, 2024** in New Orleans, LA. Youth who will be completing 8th-12th grades in the 2023-2024 school year are eligible to participate in the Youth Gathering. A new Young Adult Gathering is also an option for young people who missed out on the last two Gathering cycles because of the pandemic. Priority registration takes place from September 15 – November 15 so now is the time to start promoting, recruiting, and considering how your congregation can support this faith-forming event.

Email youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org with questions or to get connected with other congregations from the NGLS who will be participating in the 2024 Gathering.



Upcoming Darkness to Light Child Protection Trainings

Pastor Kari Vadis, of Trinity Rhinelander, is an authorized facilitator with Darkness to Light: a leader in child sexual abuse prevention, education, research, and advocacy. 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 participate in an upcoming training in our synod.

Additional information and online registration can be found at <https://nglsynod.org/youth/#darknessToLight>. If you would like to coordinate a Darkness to Light training in your conference, please [contact Stefanie](#) to start the scheduling process.

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|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Tuesday, October 10 | 5:30–8:30 pm ET | Negaunee, MI |
| Saturday, October 14 | 9:30 am–noon ET | Chassell, MI |
| Saturday, October 21 | 9:30 am–noon CT | Crystal Falls, MI |
| Monday, October 23 | 10:00 am–12:30 pm CT | Eagle River, WI |

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



Facebook



Instagram



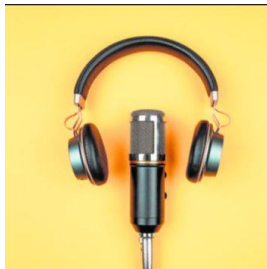
Website

[Portico Updates](#)



EmployerLink Security Enhancements Coming Soon

Portico's [EmployerLink](#) sign-in process will be changing as part of our ongoing commitment to data security and privacy protection. If you're a registered EmployerLink user, later this summer we'll walk you through setting up a new way to access your account that includes two-step phone verification every time you sign in. Remember: it's important for each EmployerLink user to create their own sign-in credentials to protect your organization from people signing in who should no longer have access — for example, when someone completes their term as treasurer or leaves the organization.



Understanding and Supporting Gender-Expansive Christians

In the latest episode of Portico's Being Here Podcast – [Gender Identity and the Church](#) – host Pastor Melissa Pohlman and guest Austen Hartke discuss ways we can seek to honor the image of God found in all of us and help our church embody a spirit of welcome and acceptance. Hartke brings his perspective as a Biblical scholar and founder of the Transmission Ministry Collective to offer practical resources and theological framework for starting these important conversations.



Growing Closer to God in Grief

Grief touches everyone at different times and in different ways — through the loss of a loved one, the end of a job, or even at the close of a certain chapter of life, such as a move or becoming an empty-nester. In another new episode of the Being Here podcast, "[Growing Closer to God in Grief](#)," Pastor Collette Broady Grund joins host Pastor Melissa Pohlman for an exploration of the human experience of grief. Tune in to hear their tips for managing losses both big and small. This episode also explores the unique needs of faith leaders when caring for themselves and their congregations while grieving, based on Pastor Broady Grund's personal experience engaging with grief as a divorcee, a widow, and a faith leader.

Keeping in Prayer



July Prayfaithfully Calendar

Prayfaithfully Devotions

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

June 25-July 1 by the Bible Study Group of First, Gladstone

July 2-8 by Melzee Jacobson





July 9-15 by Dave & Mary Lou Blomquist

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

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For those fighting fires and all impacted by fires and intense heat.
- For our nation as we seek to uphold the values of freedom and justice for all.
- For those who are weary and feeling alone.
- We give you thanks, Almighty God, for the gift of Heather Oysti as our Synod Office Administrator. As she leaves the Synod Office for new opportunities, bless her even as we give thanks for the blessing that she has been to our work together.

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.

Pastor Jim Duehring

Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

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E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod*

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