

Shining with the Light of Christ in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Volume 34, Issue 4 | August - September 2022

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¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 and sustain in me a willing spirit.

~Psalm 51:10-12



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

For two and a half years, my husband and I successfully avoided contracting COVID-19. We wore masks, stayed away from gatherings, quarantined after a suspected exposure, and basically did what we were supposed to do to avoid getting the virus. And we were successful...until this month. It started with a tickle in the throat, then came the fever and chills, then the difficult decision of whether to nap on the couch or sit in the chair or just go to bed. As of this writing, we have emerged from our COVID cave and are now back amongst the living...sort of. We are still moving slow. Processing thought or coming up with complete sentences is still a challenge. As many people who have had COVID-19 will tell you, a kind of fog settles in, like a congestion of the brain.

But enough of that. I write to share with you some wonderings about COVID-19 and the Church. It is no secret that people are tired, but until I contracted COVID, I hadn't really considered its physical toll and its impact on ministry. I believe we have all witnessed how COVID-19 has impacted our spirits, our emotions, our sense of community, and a certain heightened anxiety about what all this means. But physically...no wonder volunteerism is at an historic low! When even brushing one's teeth or making supper expends all energy reserves, I can see why there's not much strength left to lead Vacation Bible School, take a turn for the Altar Guild, or sing in the choir. Such extra activity, at least for a time, is truly beyond one's physical capacity.

And yet, this too shall pass. Energy will return. Creativity and strength and the resolve to contribute will slowly but surely gain momentum in my body and spirit. And not just for me, but for us, and our efforts together as congregations and as a synod together. It seems to me that we are collectively in this space of healing, waiting for restoration and renewal. Whether or not you have had

to deal with the physical impact of COVID-19, I think we are all painfully aware of a certain dis-ease. People continue to be polarized concerning social and political issues. Some notice that in-person worship attendance or giving has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and we wonder what that means for the future of our church. We talk about wanting to move forward and yet long to be back where we were, which if we are honest, was still a place of decline and anxiety.



So where does that leave us? In truth, I believe we are still where we have always been, invited to participate in what God is doing in the world. I remind you and myself of what intellectually we already know, but perhaps emotionally and spiritually are challenged to own, that our Church, and your church, belong to God. And the body of Christ that you are a part of lives and breathes because God would have it be so. We rely on God to put in us a new and right spirit. We rely on the Holy Spirit to show us the way, to energize our efforts, and focus our mission to further the work of Christ.

In these days of healing and discernment, as we wait for renewal and even joy, I know that momentum is building. Congregations are considering their next steps, new plans for ministry are being made, people are emerging from isolation hungry for community and meaningful spiritual connection. As the Body of Christ in the world, we have something of value to offer. Whether your congregation provides an opportunity for deeper engagement or simply gives permission to be still and receive a word of hope and healing, the Church, your church, is meant to be a blessing.

May God bless you with the joy of salvation and sustain you with a willing spirit.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Transitions

We thank God for **Rev. Christina Forsythe** and her ministry with **Beaver American, Pound and Porterfield, Porterfield**. Pastor Christina resigned on July 1 and we wish her and her husband **Colin Walker** the very best.

We pray God's blessings on **Pastor Bucky Beach** who has resigned his call at **Good Shepherd, Houghton and Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan Tech** as he retires from active ministry. His last Sunday at GSLC was July 10.

We give thanks for the partnership between **Rev. John Ansell** and **United, L'Anse**. Pastor John accepted a new call in Minnesota and his last Sunday was July 17. May God bless their endings and beginnings.

We welcome **Pastor Tera Kossow** who has been called to serve **Eden, Munising**. Pastor Tera begins her ministry on August 1 and an Installation service will be announced soon. May God bless their ministry together!

Lay School Options

Have you been pondering a deeper connection to your faith or have you been called to help lead a congregation through a season of transition? See if Lay School might be a good fit to equip you for Christ's ministry. The Northern Great Lakes Synod has discontinued its Lay School in favor of lifting up the education programs offered by our neighboring synods. Both the East Central Synod of Wisconsin and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin offer opportunities for deeper engagement. Scholarships are available from the NGLS to support your participation.



Check out registration details and deadlines, the list of core classes, continuing ed offerings, and list of faculty for the coming year of Lay School of Ministry at <https://ecswlayschool.org/> and <http://nswwi.org/lay-school-of-ministry>

Your Justice, My Justice, God's Justice

by Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

All of us have our favorite Bible passages. Many people like John 3:16 and Psalm 23. Lutherans especially like Ephesians 2:8-10. (Note: I am intentionally not writing out the full verses. I encourage you to look them up yourselves!)

All of the verses in the Bible can't possibly hold equal weight when compared to each other. Compare Leviticus 24:14 with John 8:7. All of us have a "canon within the canon." We all have Bible passages that more fully express our Christian faith and our sense of how we see ourselves and the world. Martin Luther especially liked to view scripture through the lens of Christ. "Was Christum treibt," was his saying in German, which basically means, "What conveys Christ."

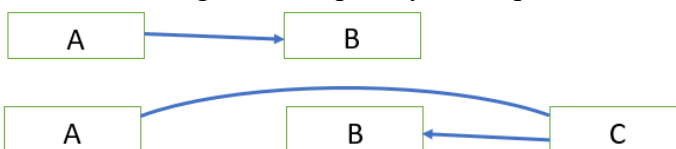
Micah 6:8 is a passage that seems popular today in many religious circles, even among non-Christians. It is an ancient text dating back to the prophet Micah of the 8th century BCE during a time of religious and political unrest. What is new about that? It's pretty amazing to see the resonance of this verse today. I, along with many, would consider Micah 6:8 to be part of my "canon with the canon," one of my seminal verses from the Bible. My *New Oxford Annotated Bible*, 3rd edition from 2001, has the following footnote on this passage: "In this single sentence the prophet sums up a century of brilliant prophesy." Wow, that's some high praise for a single verse of scripture!

I see within the simple structure of this single verse, three foundational pillars:

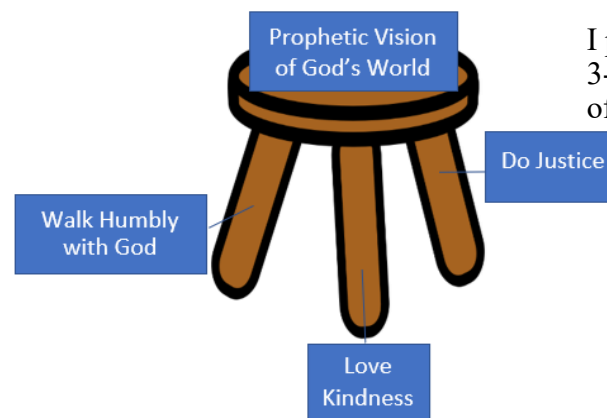
1. Do Justice
2. Love Kindness
3. Walk Humbly with God

Who doesn't want more justice in the world? Well, maybe not everyone, especially when pursuit of justice could affect my own status in what I might perceive as deleterious to me. Whose justice shall we act upon? My sense of justice? Your sense of justice? Or God's sense of justice? What system or course of action can best achieve the most justice for the most people for the longest time? Debating these questions is what causes division and confusion. But it can also move us down the path to God's justice. It seems to me that we have to ask these questions, and we do well to acknowledge the complexity of the paths to justice.

Perhaps, **my sense of justice** in a given situation will go directly from point A to point B. While **your sense of justice** will go from point A to point C, then finally to point B. A state of justice is reached, but a different route is taken to get there.



Perhaps, **my sense of justice** in a given situation will go directly from point A to point B. While **your sense of justice** will go from point A to point C, then finally to point B. A state of justice is reached, but a different route is taken to get there.



I propose we view these 3 pillars as equally integral parts of a 3-legged stool. All are important in maintaining the balance of the stool and for God's justice to be realized.

- If I only pursue justice on my terms without kindness and humility, I risk being "right" and needlessly damaging people in the pursuit of my goal.
- If I only seek to be kind without humbly seeking justice, I can become very irrelevant to real life circumstances.
- If I only seek humility without pursuing justice with kindness, I can give away any sense of my agency to make the world a better place.

Holding these 3 foundational pillars (justice, kindness, humility) are integral in dealing with our real-world challenges. Thanks be to God that it is God's justice that is ultimately at stake. I don't have a perfect sense of God's justice and neither do you. Let's keep this in mind as we deal with not only the challenging issues of our time, but also in dealing in a more humane and godly manner with each other as together we seek God's justice to be done on earth as it is in heaven!

Mark Your Calendars!

**Tuesdays from 7–8 pm ET/6–7 pm CT
beginning September 13 through November 1**

This fall, members of the Synod Youth Ministry Team will lead a Lifelong Faith Formation class on the book, *Growing Young* by Powell, Mulder and Griffin. We will explore what it means to Grow Younger and why it matters. Based on research conducted at over 250 thriving congregations, *Growing Young* provides ideas and strategies any church can use to involve and retain young people (specifically those who are 30 years or younger). Please mark your calendars, invite a friend, and plan to join us via Zoom starting September 13. Visit nglsynod.org for details on how to register.



Plan Ahead for Synod Assembly 2023!



Next year's Synod Assembly will take place May 18-20 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI. It will be a Bishop's election year and, because we'll return to an in-person event at NMU, fees will be substantially higher than the last two years. Start planning now to be ready for a wonderful Assembly. We look forward to being together again in Marquette!



Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Musical

The original musical, "One Wonderful Day" is finally happening at the historic Crystal Theatre in downtown Crystal Falls on **Saturday, August 6 at 3 pm CT!** A meal will follow beginning at 5:30 pm CT at Fortune Lake. Tickets are still available at fortunelake.org. Please share the news with your congregation and enjoy this exciting event!

Leadership Learnings: NGLS Resources

written by Synod Vice President Chuck Thomas

Are you a leader in your congregation? Are you a council member or a congregation officer? Did you know that there are helpful resources for leaders at the Northern Great Lakes Synod website? And, are you aware that your synod leadership has been offering short workshops every three months with helpful topics for congregation leaders? The next workshop will be Thursday, September 8 at 7 pm ET/6 pm CT via Zoom and will focus on congregation budget and finance issues. The Zoom link will be sent to each congregation's office a few days before the workshop. If you want to attend, ask your church office staff to email you the Zoom meeting link.



The topics for the five workshops for leaders that have been presented so far are listed below in the order of occurrence.

- Leading a Council Meeting: How to be an Effective Leader of Meetings
- Our Corner of the Church: How the Three Church Expressions Fit Together
- How Portico is Beneficial to Congregations and Staff
- The Value of a Vibrant Mutual Ministry
- Why Have Congregation Policies and What Topics Should They Cover

Each 90-minute workshop has a short update from synod leadership followed by a *Dwelling in the Word* devotion. The topic of the workshop is then introduced and a 15 to 20-minute recorded PowerPoint presentation is shown followed by a time for questions and discussion. While the first part of the discussion period focuses on the workshop topic, the second part provides time to discuss any issue that an attendee wants to bring up.

Except for the Portico workshop, all the recorded PowerPoint presentations are posted on the Synod YouTube channel and website at:

<https://nglsynod.org/congregation-council-resources/>. In order to encourage free and open discussion, only the formal presentation is recorded. The rest of the workshop is not recorded.



In addition to the workshop presentation recordings, the Synod website contains other helpful resources for congregation councils. Take time to explore the available resources, such as the updated Pulpit Supply List, the current

Synod Constitution, the 2023 Compensation Guidelines, the 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations, and the Synod Map. There are also links to helpful information such as: How to Handle Cash Funds, Preventing Sexual Misconduct, Audit Committees, and the Faithful Innovations brochure.

I encourage everyone to explore all the available resources and information on the Northern Great Lakes Synod website, <https://nglsynod.org>. Please email your questions about the workshops or other leadership learnings to me at: nglsynodVP@nglsynod.org.

Prayers of Remembrance

Former Synod Vice President **Pamela Long** passed into life eternal on Saturday, July 2 at the Omega House in Houghton, MI. A long-time member of Grace Lutheran Church in South Range, MI, Pam served as Synod VP from 2015-2019. Prior to this she was the Licensed Lay

Minister at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Baraga, MI from 2009-2012. Pam was very active in other Synod ministries, including Synod Council, the Lay School Board, and the Leadership Support Committee.

Funeral arrangements will be announced. May God grant comfort to Pam's family and friends as we remember her faith-filled life and ministry among us.

Fire at the Mkuza Girls School in Tanzania: Monetary Donations Needed!

A tragic fire recently caused considerable damage to a dormitory at the Mkuza Girls School in Tanzania. We give thanks to God that there were no injuries. Repairs will need to be made so that the girls can once again utilize that dormitory. The whole electrical installation system in all buildings must also be improved as it has been established by authorities that faulty wiring was the cause of the fire.



Please consider making a monetary gift by August 31, 2022 in one of the following ways:

- Online at www.nglsynod.org/donations. Please designate your gift to "Mkuza Girls School."
- By check with "Mkuza Girls School" in the memo and mailed to the Synod Office:
Northern Great Lakes Synod
1029 N. Third St., Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855

One hundred percent of the proceeds will go directly to assist our friends at Mkuza Girls School! To learn more about the Mkuza Girls School visit: <https://www.kkktdmp.or.tz/en/mkuza-girls-secondary-school>



Thank you to the following donors for their generous support of the work of Christ in and through our Synod.

Answer the Call

Rev. John Ansell
Holy Trinity, Chassell
Barbara Frane
Roy & Shirley Hivala
Bethany, Ishpeming
Katherine Johnson
Bethany, Mohawk
Gloria Moore
Community, Palmer
Immanuel, Rhineland
Jane Sims
Emanuel, Skandia
Robert & Jean Sovey
Darlene Van Lishout

Clergy Debt Relief

First, Gladstone
Rev. Doug & Marilyn
Schoen

ELCA Disaster Funds/ Lutheran World Relief

United, Crystal Falls
Prince of Peace, Eagle River
Bethany, Escanaba
Salem, Ironwood
Trinity, Ishpeming
Zion, Marinette
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Immanuel, Negaunee
Mission United, Pelkie
Calvary, Rapid River
St. James, Rudyard
Zion, St. Ignace

Lifelong Faith Formation

Deacon Karen Nurmi

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Grace, Gwinn
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Calvary, Rapid River

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

St. Paul, Ironwood

Lutheran Social Services

Bethany, Amasa

NGLS Website

Rev. Steve & Rev. Evelyn
Weston

Skogman Scholarship Fund

Dirk & Sue Manson

Tanzania Projects

Marion Anderson
Dave & Mary Lou
Blomquist
Rev. Jim & Gisele Duehring
Bethel WELCA, Ishpeming
St. Paul, Mass City
Ascension, Minocqua
Daniel & Karen Stroede

World Missionary Support

Mission United, Pelkie
Grace, Pembine

Synod Calendar



- 3 NGLS Staff Meeting, 10 am ET
- 8-12 ELCA Churchwide
Assembly in Columbus
- 16 Lutheran Campus Ministry
Committee, 11 am ET
- 16 Active Leader's Check-In,
2 pm ET
- 16 NGLS Staff Meeting, 3 pm ET
- 18 Retired Clergy, Spouses &
Clergy Widows Gathering
at Fortune Lake, 11 am CT
- 25 Judicatory Lunch at the Synod
Office, 12 pm ET



- 6 NGLS Staff Meeting, 10 am ET
- 8 Congregational Leader's
Workshop, 7 pm ET
- 9-10 Synod Council at Messiah,
Marquette
- 13 Active Leader's Check-In,
2 pm ET
- 15 Worship Committee, 10 am ET
- 16-17 Synodical Women's
Organization Retreat at Fortune
Lake Lutheran Camp
- 21 Leadership Support Committee,
11 am ET
- 22 Synod Assembly Planning
Committee, 10 am ET
- 22 NGLS Staff Meeting, 3 pm ET
- 24 Faithful Innovations at Fortune
Lake Lutheran Camp
- 27-30 Bishop Finegan at the
Conference of Bishops in
Chicago

Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

Our Savior's, Marinette—Katy Tomlanovich, Student
 Community, Palmer & Suomi—Virginia Paulson, LLM
 Bethany, Mohawk—Larry Molloy, LLM
 All Saints, Wakefield & Sharon, Bessemer—Rev. Lauri Maki
 St. James, Rudyard—Rev. Melinda VanderSys
 First, Iron River—Lance Crevier, Student
 Christ the King, Escanaba—Lon Hider, Student
 Faith, Rock & First, Trenary—Rev. Steve Gauger
 Bethany, Ishpeming—Rev. Bruce Thorsen
 Bethel, Ishpeming—Rev. Steve & Rev. Evelyn Weston
 Faith & Trinity, Ishpeming—Rev. Steve & Rev. Evelyn Weston
 Prince of Peace, Eagle River—Rev. Paul Heykes
 Zion, Marinette—Rev. Doug Schoen
 Immanuel, Rhineland—Rev. John Kuziej
 Immanuel, Negaunee—Rev. Bre Kinnunen
 Bethany, Escanaba—Rev. Mike Markwell
 Good Shepherd, Houghton—Rev. Micah Cavaleri
 Porterfield, Porterfield & Beaver American, Pound—Rev. Ken Michaelis
 United, L'Anse—Rev. Julie Belew

"...all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me." (ELW #733)

While mission support pledges for 2022 increased, actual giving through the first half of the year has decreased by just over 6%. Designated gifts, primarily for Ukraine relief, have increased by 6.7%.

The hymn above speaks of all that God provides each day of our lives. Abundant blessings! In these challenging times, God remains faithful and we, as congregations and individuals, can trust that we will have all we need to live, to serve, and to share God's love with those around us. In the next few months, may we all work together to carry forth the ministry to which we are called.

— Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 6/30	2021	2022	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	774,999	779,835	+4,836	+0.6%
Amount Received	371,721	348,574	-23,147	-6.2%
Designated Gifts	83,749	104,776	+21,027	+6.7%



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Prayfaithfully

NGLS Daily Devotions Schedule August & September 2022

July 31—August 6	Pastor Tom Otis
August 7—13	Pastor Tommy Richter
August 14—20	Sarah Sleeter
August 21—27	Fortune Lake Camp Staff
Aug. 28—Sept. 3	Pastor Evelyn Weston
September 4—10	Vicar Melissa Salminen
September 11—17	Synodical Women's Organization
September 18—24	Christine Ebert
Sept. 25—October 1	Ken Raisanen



A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

prayfaithfully@nglsynod.org
www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully

Prayer Calendar – August 2022

1	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month : Jared Howard (8/1), Paul Raappana (8/6), Diane Srutowski (8/6), Bucky Beach (8/11), Brahm Semmler Smith (8/11), Cori Johnson (8/13), and Jim Duehring (8/18).
2	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month : Molly Eversoll (8/3), Kelly Ylitalo (8/9), Steve Weston (8/15), Rell Spickerman (8/16), Lloyd Luedemann (8/16), Diane Srutowski (8/17), and Bill Jacobson (8/19)
3	Pray for our NGLS Staff as they meet today and coordinate ministries within our Synod.
4	Pray for members of Journey of Faith Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Joy Reigns Lutheran Church, Edgewater, MD; Keysville Lutheran Church, Keymar, MD; Lazarus Lutheran Church, Lineboro, MD.
5	Pray for high school students as they begin practices for fall sports. May they be safe and healthy as they compete.
6	Pray for all who will be in attendance for the Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp musical “One Wonderful Day” and the celebratory dinner that follows.
7	Pray for Licensed Lay Ministers who celebrate their birthdays this month : Sharon Babbitt (8/25).
8	Pray for all who are attending our ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio today through August 12. May the Holy Spirit guide them as they make decisions and plans for the future.
9	Pray for men and women in the armed forces and their families who miss them and sometimes struggle in everyday life without those they love.
10	Pray for farmers, ranchers, and migrant workers as they harvest crops and care for animals that provide food and raw materials for clothing and other resources. May the harvest be plentiful and may their work be safe and rewarding.
11	Pray for those who are training to become Mission Interpreters today. May the stories and good news they share about what God is doing bring excitement across the synod this fall.
12	Pray for school administrators, teachers, coaches, and staff as they enter this school year. May they make wise decisions that keep all staff and students safe and healthy and enable learning in wonderful and creative ways.
13	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month : Jesse Brown (8/21), Matt Lamb (8/23), Bruce Thorsen (8/25), and Eleanor Russey (8/27).
14	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month : Joe Daiker (8/21), Gene Wickman (8/23), Craig Mansur (8/28), Devon Barrix (8/28), Dave Christenson (8/29), and Doug Norquist (8/30).

15	Pray for all of our ELCA Seminaries and for all ELCA congregations to encourage members to consider a career as Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors) or Ministers of Word and Service (Deacons).
16	Pray for the Lutheran Campus Ministry leaders as they meet and continue to find ways to care for students. Pray also for our NGLS Staff as they meet today and coordinate ministries within our Synod.
17	Pray for the Bi-Synodical Candidacy Team as they meet in Tomahawk, WI today. May they feel the Spirit moving in their midst.
18	Pray for all retired clergy and spouses and clergy widows who will gather for lunch and fellowship at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. May they be blessed and renewed by the opportunity to gather together again.
19	Pray for animal shelters and their staff members as they heal and comfort God's creatures and find them permanent and loving homes.
20	Pray for families who are taking "children" to college for the first time and missing them already. May these young adults be safe and industrious in their studies and find a faith community in their new homes.
21	Pray for parents and students as they prepare for a new school year. May they enter with positive attitudes and cooperative spirits.
22	Pray for congregations making plans for the fall , adapting to current circumstances in their communities and around the world.
23	Pray for teachers, bus drivers, administrators and staff as they prepare their rooms, offices, and vehicles for the new school year.
24	Pray for the members of Kinondoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania , and their NGLS Partner Congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church, Ishpeming .
25	Pray for God's Work. Our Hands. planning teams as they put the final touches on plans for ministry projects around their communities and the world.
26	Pray for doctors, nurses, medical teams, and scientists as they continue their research and their work in caring for the most vulnerable among us.
27	Pray for members of Light of Christ Lutheran Church, New Market, MD; Living Grace Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD; Living Water Lutheran Church, Stevensville, MD; Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD .
28	Pray for all our ELCA seminary students , especially those affiliated with Synod: Lance Crevier, Wade Crevier, Jen Elsenbroek, Lon Hider, Pat Kempf, Krystle Moraska, Melissa Salminen, and Katy Tomlanovich.
29	Pray for Education and Youth Committees as they gear up for fall programs and reconnect with students who have been away for the summer.
30	Pray for all who will travel this weekend to celebrate "the end of summer" for one last vacation or gathering with family and friends.
31	Pray for congregations in transition , especially Bethel Lutheran Church, Ishpeming; Faith Lutheran Church, Ishpeming; and Trinity Lutheran Church, Ishpeming and their Interim Pastors Steve and Evelyn Weston.

**"We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod
as part of our domestic partner synod relationship."**



A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

prayfaithfully@nclsynod.org
www.nclsynod.org/prayfaithfully

Prayer Calendar – September 2022

1	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month : Cori Johnson (9/7), Grant Van Lishout (9/8), Nancy Kauppi (9/10), Sherry Van Lishout (9/12), and Renee MacLeod (9/18).
2	Pray for Licensed Lay Ministers who celebrate their birthdays this month : Karen Anne Hanson (9/19), and Jon Babbitt (9/19).
3	Pray for the members of Luther Chapel Lutheran Church, Jefferson, MD; Messiah Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Messiah Lutheran Church, Sykesville, MD; Mt. Joy Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, PA.
4	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month : David Murphy (9/6), Gene Wickman (9/8), Thomas Skrenes (9/8), Judith Kirchoff (9/9), and Rell Spickerman (9/10).
5	Pray for all workers in this country , past and present on this Labor Day , and for advocates who ensure that workers are treated with fairness and integrity. Pray also for our Synod Staff as they close the office today and relax with family and friends.
6	Pray for our Synod Staff as they meet together today to plan and coordinate events and activities throughout our Synod.
7	Pray for Sunday School teachers and leaders who put in countless hours of preparation and organization to shape our children's Christian foundations.
8	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month : George Olson (9/12), Steve Solberg (9/14), and Mary Weinkauff (9/22).
9	Pray for our Synod Council members as they meet today and tomorrow at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. May God guide them and inspire them as they make decisions on behalf of our Synod ministries.
10	Today is World Suicide Prevention Day . Pray for all who suffer with depression and other mental illnesses . Pray also for doctors, nurses, and counselors who treat patients with these illnesses . Pray for our healthcare systems as they find ways to provide comprehensive care for those in need.
11	Pray for all those workers of Christ who celebrate this weekend by doing God's Work. Our Hands. ministry in their communities.
12	Pray for deacons who celebrate birthdays this month : Arlene Rajala (9/13)
13	Pray for all our ELCA seminaries and our seminary students.
14	Pray for first responders as they work to keep our communities safe and to help those in need.
15	Pray for congregations in transition , especially: Prince of Peace (Eagle River) and their Interim Pastor Paul Heykes; and Zion (Marinette) and their Interim Pastor Doug Schoen.

16	Pray for the women of our synod gathering at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for the Fall Retreat today through Sunday. May they find renewal, reflect on their faith and rejoice with song and laughter in their time together.
17	Pray for pastors and deacons who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Noreen Stevens (commissioned 9/20), Julie Belew (9/22), Kay Richter (9/23), Greg Mileski (9/24), Timothy Vadis (9/27), Kari Vadis (9/28) and Evelyn Weston (9/29).
18	Pray for farmers who are harvesting their crops. We pray for good weather and sufficient help.
19	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Paul Heykes (9/26), David Christenson (9/27), Peter Vorhes (9/28), David Tielbar (9/28), and Lee Goodwin (9/29).
20	Pray for the members of Temeke Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their NGLS partner congregation, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hancock.
21	Pray for Confirmation students and their teachers as they learn what it means to be disciples of Jesus and grow in their lives of faith.
22	Pray for our Synod Assembly Planning Committee as they meet today to begin plans for the 2023 Assembly at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI.
23	Pray for Lutheran Disaster Response teams and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service workers as they work to bring safe and abundant lives to people in need around the world.
24	Pray for those in prison. May they know the power of God's transformative love and grace so that they are able to return to productive lives when they are released.
25	Pray for quilters and quilting ministries, those who transport quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and those who receive quilts. May their lives be enriched and touched by those whom they cannot see.
26	Pray for school bus drivers and all the student athletes they are transporting to sporting events around our communities.
27	Pray for Bishop Finegan, Bishop Eaton, and all of our ELCA Bishops as they gather for the Conference of Bishops today through October 1. May they be filled with the Holy Spirit, empowered in their ministries, and guided into the future God has provided for the Church throughout the world.
28	Pray for the members of Mt. Joy Lutheran Church (Harney Parish), Gettysburg, PA; Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Smithsburg, MD; Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church (Clear Spring), Clear Spring, MD; Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church (Rocky Ridge), Rocky Ridge, MD.
29	Pray for those who give freely of their time to serve on committees, task forces, and councils of our congregations, our synod, and our churchwide organization.
30	Pray for road repair workers as they fix our roadways. May they be safe as they work to improve our travels.

**We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod
as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.**

Mission Interpreters Needed!

Do you enjoy telling positive stories and thanking people? Do you like meeting new people from other congregations? Are you comfortable speaking in front of a group and sharing good news about what God is doing in our synod? Maybe God is calling you to be a Mission Interpreter for our synod. This fall we will be sending out dozens of people from our synod to visit our congregations and thank them for their mission support to God's work.



You will be trained (options listed below) to give a 5 to 7-minute Temple Talk in a congregation on behalf of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. A full script will be provided to you to speak from. Our Mission Interpreters will also distribute hard copies of the resource booklet, "Mission Stories of the Northern Great Lakes Synod." The booklet is already available on the homepage of our website under Current Resources: nglsynod.org

If you are curious about and interested in being a Mission Interpreter, please contact Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, at (906) 228-2300.

There are 2 options for online training:

Training Option #1: Thursday, August 11 at 2 pm ET/1 pm CT

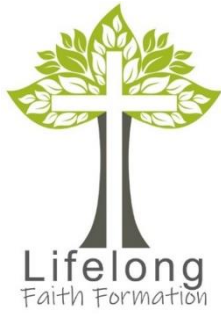
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82206354517?pwd=cHViSGhGOXoxd1ExYXRvTmZkVDMxZz09>

Training Option #2: Thursday, August 11 at 7 pm ET/6 pm CT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84668935692?pwd=Ym1PMUpnSGVmVjhYVQxQmlGM1ZZQT09>



Northern Great Lakes Synod

Lifelong Faith Formation

Fall 2022 Class Schedule Preview

Details and registration will be posted on the synod website soon!

To add your e-mail address to the Lifelong Faith Formation list, contact Deacon Lori Ward at lori.ward@nglsynod.org.

Adults from across the synod will explore aspects of our life together as a church including our understanding of the Bible, Lutheran traditions, and youth ministry. Launching in September, the diverse schedule of free classes will be open for registration on the synod website in early August. Classes are free of charge but may require purchase of a book. Here's a preview of the upcoming opportunities for learning, fellowship, and growth in faith (some details are still under development).

Biblical Hebrew II

Sundays, from 6-7 pm ET / 7-8 pm CT

Instructor: Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Salem and Zion, Ironwood

The Big Picture Bible Study: Discussion and reflection on entire books of Scripture

Alternating Mondays at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT, dates to be announced

Coordinator: Jeff Henquinet of Good Shepherd, Houghton with different discussion leaders each class

Growing Younger: Sharing Ideas and Strategies to Engage Young People in our Congregations

Tuesdays, 7-8 pm ET / 6-7 pm CT, September 13-November 1 (8 weeks)

Instructors: Stefanie Ehle, Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Coordinator; Vicar Melissa Salminen, First, Gladstone; Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop; Amanda Rasner, Director at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp; Rev. Brenda Greenwald, Gethsemane, Wallace, and St. Stephen's, Stephenson; David Nelson, Good Shepherd, Houghton

Romans: The Gospel According to Lutherans

Wednesdays, from 7-8 pm ET / 6-7 pm CT, September 21 – November 23 (10 weeks)

Instructor: Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique

Why Do We Do That? A Background on Liturgical Practices of Feast Days and Seasons

Alternating Thursdays, 7-8 pm ET / 6-7 pm CT, September 22 – November 10 (5 weeks)

Instructor: Pastor Mike Markwell, Immanuel, Escanaba

Taco, Cat, Goat, Bible, Pizza: Interpreting the Word as a Lutheran Today

Thursday evenings, time to be determined, October 6-20 (3 weeks)

Instructor: Rev. Sarah Semmler Smith, Campus Pastor at Finlandia University

Living Together as Church: Lutheran Structure and Function

Saturdays, 10-11:15 am ET / 9-10:15 am CT October 22-November 19 (5 weeks)

This class will meet both in person at Immanuel, Negaunee (520 US Hwy. 41 E, Negaunee, MI) and on Zoom, giving participants a choice between the two options.

Instructor: Rev. Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop Emeritus of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY

Friends in Christ,

Greetings from Finlandia University! Wherever this summer has taken you, I pray the Spirit has been present, providing renewal or sabbath, whatever that looks like for you.



As this newsletter goes to press, campus will be gearing up to welcome students back to Hancock. Coaches will be preparing practice schedules, RA's will be trained in, professors will get out those syllabi and see if they will work for another semester, and our new President, Timothy Pinnow will be just over a month into his time at Finlandia, as he both learns the ropes and takes the reigns.

Thinking back on this last academic year there is much to celebrate from my view from the Chapel of St. Matthew. Campus Ministry at Finlandia has become about feeding students these past years: feeding their need for connection to one another, their need for a compassionate judgment-free listening space, and their physical need for food and other necessities. Just check out the statistics on our community meal and student needs pantry on the next page – over 800 meals served, over 120 unique student visits. There is a need, and in Christ's love, Campus Ministry is seeking to fill it!

You'll notice on the bottom of the next page that all of this ministry does come with a cost. Through donations and resources of the Food Bank, Campus Ministry is able to keep costs to a minimum – but much of our feeding ministry depends on the generosity of friends, neighbors, and church members. I invite you to consider a donation to Finlandia Campus Ministry -- \$150 provides fresh produce for a week; \$100 gives us basic supplies for a Community meal; \$50 means the ability to provide feminine products and other necessities weekly. Any amount you contribute goes a long way, with these young adults who are doing their best to make ends meet and get their education.

This year I look forward to a great year in the classroom and in the kitchen, on the sidelines and in the sanctuary with young adults who are blessed to be receiving a degree from an ELCA institution of higher learning. We are forming leaders who are called and empowered to serve the neighbor so that all might flourish. What an amazing mission!



Thank you for your support – whether that be in prayer or financial resources – of all that we seek to do in campus ministry at Finlandia University.

God's blessings & care,

Pr. Sarah Semmler Smith

Campus Pastor, Finlandia University

FEEDING MINISTRY

2021-2022

631

Total Pantry Visits this Academic Year

121

Unique Student Pantry Visits

FREE MEALS PROVIDED

848

At Monday night
Community Meals
33 people/week average across 26 weeks.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

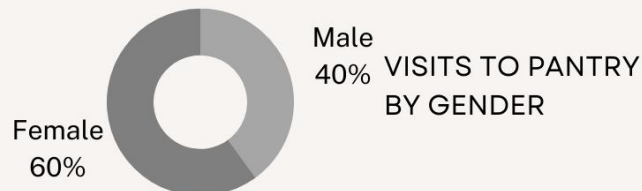
300 +

Including students, faculty, staff, and members
of the Hancock community



**1 OUT
OF 4**

Finlandia Students used the Pantry during the
'21-'22 Academic Year



7,882

Operational Cost to sustain
Feeding Ministry 2021-2022