

Northern LIGHT

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

Volume 34, Issue 5 | October - November 2022

*"In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless void and
darkness covered the face of the deep,
while a wind from God
swept over the face of the waters."
~ Genesis 1:1*



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Have you ever ventured down the craft aisle of some do-it-yourself store? I remember being given a make your own sand art, make your own paint by number picture, and cross stitch kits with all the embroidery floss included. Maybe you graduated to the kits that brew your own beer or make your own birdhouse or nail together a raised garden bed.

I ordered a baker's rack once that required assembly. It was very handy to have step by step instructions paired with pictures and arrows, connecting part a to part b. Sure, I put it together wrong a few times before I got it right, but it now stands correctly assembled.

It was easy to begin these projects because I had a guide, instructions, I knew what the finished product was supposed to look like. Beginning was easy because the end was clear.

We know something about beginnings. We begin new jobs, new school years, move into a new house or apartment, welcome a new child, initiate a new ministry. Even without a kit, we know what it is to "start from scratch" when there are no pieces to put together, no foundation already laid, no past to shape the future, no ready-made mix that only needs eggs to make the cake.

Certainly, God didn't have much to work with "in the beginning." God has a knack of how to make something from nothing. Such creative success takes a certain divine skill set. It is a God-only talent.

And yet, God shares God's own creative genius with us. And that is a good thing. Because we as congregations, we as the church, are at the beginning again. We need the creative spirit that only God can give because there are a host of things that are unclear.

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Do we have all the pieces we need? I say yes. I believe God provides the resources, the people, and the way forward for whatever God would have happen in and through your congregation.

Are we starting from scratch? Not really. There is recent and a collective memory of the way things used to be, not only pre-pandemic, but pre-eighties. Whether these expectations, or even hopes, will be a help or a hindrance to new efforts remains to be seen.



Do we have clear instructions? I say no. This is where we need the collective wisdom of the body of Christ listening intently to the Spirit and finding a way forward together. The goal is not to recreate the church of the past but to lean into the future church that is becoming. The Church is being transformed. Our job is to be faithful in this moment of history that will last years. Keeping the witness of Jesus of Nazareth as the lens through which all else is considered, we can't go far wrong.

Are we clear on what the finished product will be? Maybe a little, but not really. The Church, capital C, is timeless. God will always call people to faith in Christ. The Spirit will always gather believers together. The Bible will always be treasured and provide an inspiring word to proclaim Christ. But what the Church looks like, how it sounds, where it gathers, the liturgy, traditions, music, language, rhythms, might all be reshaped and reformed. The wind of God is sweeping over the face of the Church. We may not be a formless void, but our shape is being re-formed, slowly but surely, and yet certainly faster than anyone is comfortable with.

As congregations are investing energy into new or resurrected ministry efforts, we are beginning again in a new set of circumstances. It feels both familiar and foreign. It is both exciting and overwhelming, hopeful and anxious.

I pray God's blessings upon your efforts. You're not creating something from nothing, but I think it can feel like that.

God is with you, inspiring, energizing, and speaking the Word Christ into any darkness, saying, "Let there be...Church!"

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Transitions

We give thanks for the partnership between **Rev. Rich Likeness** and **Ascension, Minocqua**. Pastor Likeness accepted a new call in Illinois and his last Sunday was August 21. **Rev. Philip Johnson** began serving as Interim Pastor at **Ascension, Minocqua** on September 1. May God bless their endings and beginnings.

We pray God's blessing upon the installations of Licensed Lay Ministers in our synod. **Virginia Paulson** was installed at **Community, Palmer** on September 25 and **Larry Molloy** will be installed at **Bethany, Mohawk** on October 23. May God bless these partnerships!

Remember the Synod Assembly in the 2023 Budget



Plans are beginning to form for next year's Synod Assembly! We will gather May 18-20 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI for a Bishop's election. This in-person event will have substantially higher fees than the last two years. As your congregation works on its 2023 budget, be sure to remember Synod Assembly and your congregation's voting members. We look forward to being together again in Marquette!

Grief and Gratitude—Living with Balance

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

Several years ago, I came across this little citation by the author and psychotherapist, Francis Ward Weller. I liked it and saved it for future reference. Like many things I read and save, I don't immediately come back to them. But now, a few years later, I think it's time to reflect on Grief and Gratitude.

Francis Weller wrote: "The work of a mature person is to carry grief in one hand and gratitude in the other and to be stretched large by them. How much sorrow can I hold? That's how much gratitude I can give. If I carry only grief, I'll bend toward cynicism and despair. If I only have gratitude, I'll become saccharine and won't develop much compassion for people's suffering. Grief keeps the heart fluid and soft, which makes compassion possible."

These words strike me as being very realistic and theologically sound. We've all experienced a whole lot of grief during the past couple of years because of the pandemic. Some of you may have lost a job. Some of you may have lost a loved one to COVID-19. Grief can intensify our sense of differences. We compare losses and judge others. "My loss is greater than your loss."

But grief doesn't have to lead to cynicism and distrust of others. Grief can be seen as part of our common humanity. No one escapes this life without some pain and loss. Theologians speak of the theology of the cross. The cross shows us that Jesus intimately knew pain and loss. Jesus wept when his friend Lazarus died. Jesus experienced betrayal by his best friends. Jesus felt the sting of the whip and the crown of thorns thrust down upon his head. The writer of Hebrews says of Jesus, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses." (Hebrews 4:15a NRSV)



The theology of the cross speaks honestly of the realities of sin and brokenness in our world. This sin and brokenness are not only experienced on the individual level but also on the systemic level. "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now." (Romans 8:22 RSV)

The Hebrews speak of the pathos of God. God is moved by human suffering. God is with the children of Israel when they go down into slavery in Egypt. The Psalmist says, "You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?" (Psalm 56:8 NRSV)

The suffering of the Hebrews as slaves in Egypt was not meant to be interpreted only as a painful memory. Because of the experience of slavery and the experience of God's pathos and redemption, the Hebrews were charged to show compassion to the foreigner in their land. "You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice...remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this." (Deuteronomy 24:17 NRSV)

Grief rightfully dealt with can lead to compassion rather than the lethargy of bitterness and despair. Gratitude rightfully expressed can bear us up during times of grief and empower us to show compassion to others. Being thankful for discovering that new patch of blackberries doesn't have to mean you don't care about what's going on in Ukraine. Enjoying a good hearty meal doesn't have to mean that you are neglectful of those hungry in Afghanistan.

Eat, drink, be merry. Be grateful. Remember the source of all good things. The Lord God has given you blessings so that you might bless others. And yes, God can even redeem the things in life that you grieve and use you to be a blessing to others. Thomas Merton wrote of a Christian's capacity to be a "wounded healer." May that be said of us all in the days ahead as we balance genuine grief with compassionate gratitude!

Churchwide Assembly Synopsis

written by Synod Vice President Chuck Thomas



In this the 35th year of the ELCA, the triennial Churchwide Assembly (CWA) was held in Columbus, Ohio. Columbus is the city that hosted the original convening convention for the merging of the three predecessor denominations into our new one church in Christ, the ELCA. I was blessed to be one of seven voting members from the NGLS at the Assembly. The week-long Assembly was inspirational, exhilarating, and exhausting. We experienced wonderful worship services each day. We accomplished the business of the church during 7 plenary sessions. We enjoyed time together getting to know some of our peers from other synods.

YouTube videos of the plenary sessions, the worship services, and other associated actions of the 2022 CWA can be found and viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNDmVwhz-M36cUMtUudiwX5SCpoRYGA41>

With a lot of debate, the gathered voting members from the 65 synods of the ELCA made decisions on budgets, memorials, and constitution amendments. Many, but not all of the decisions are bulleted below.

- Elected Mr. Imran Siddiqui, Vice President of the Southeastern Synod as the new Vice President of the ELCA.
- Directed the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the statements of purpose for each expression of this church, the principles or organizational structure, and our shared commitment to dismantle racism, with findings to be reported to the 2025 CWA.
- Authorized revisions to the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*.

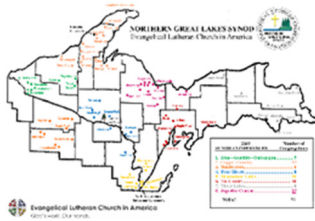
- Mandated a review process of the roster manual and policies related to specialized ministries, On Leave from Call status, and protocols for removal from rosters.
- Affirmed limits on use of non-disclosure agreements by the churchwide organization and urged synods, congregations, and other ministries to apply the same limits.
- Approved the triennium budget proposal, including spending authorizations for 2023 of \$68,814,000 for the current fund and \$22,930,000 for ELCA World Hunger.
- Reaffirmed the commitment of this church to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and directed the churchwide organization to set specific reduction goals.
- Called for a review of the nomination and elections processes used by synods and churchwide organizations.
- Approved or ratified amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*. The approval means that each synod and every congregation will need to update their respective constitutions.
- Responded to multiple memorials on a diverse variety of topics.
- Referred a proposed study on pay gaps for rostered ministers to the Church Council.

The Assembly acted on many more items not specifically listed above. You are encouraged to visit the YouTube link above to see and hear what transpired in the business plenaries and to experience the inspirational worship services.

Adult Leader Opportunity at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Adult Youth Leaders and Pastors are invited and encouraged to attend the upcoming **Fall Youth Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp October 14-15** along with third through sixth graders. In addition to the fun youth activities, youth leaders will have the opportunity to connect and share best practices with each other during a designated time for adults. Register at fortunelake.org.





Upcoming Conference-Wide Youth Events

The first two Conference-Wide Youth Events held in September at Finlandia University in Hancock (**Copper Country Conference**) and Zion Lutheran in Marinette (**Menominee Valley Conference**) were a success and we are excited to keep the momentum going! All events are open to 7th – 12th graders, youth leaders, and pastors. Pre-registration is encouraged by contacting the event leaders below to help ensure enough supplies.

Sunday, October 16 – Tri-County Conference

Join us for an Escape Room experience and evening of fun. At no charge to participants, youth grades 7-12 are invited to Sherlock and Key Escape Rooms and then to Bethany Lutheran Church for pizza, ice cream, games, and discussion about what could be next. Please RSVP to First Lutheran Church, Gladstone at (906) 428-4565.

Location: Escanaba, MI (Sherlock and Key Escape Rooms and Bethany Lutheran Church)
Time: 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Contact: First Lutheran Church
 (906) 428-4565

Sunday, November 13 – Superior Central Conference

Youth event with games, worship, service, food, fellowship, and time to brainstorm future events. Those attending will be assembling Lutheran World Relief School Kits and are asked to collect items ahead of time and bring them to the event on November 13. Details on items to be collected can be found at <https://lwr.org/kits/school-kits/instructions>

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran
 555 Riverside Rd. Harvey, MI
Time: 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Contact: Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring jduehring@nglsynod.org

If you don't see your conference represented, please consider leading an event to get the ball rolling in your area. With such a geographically

large synod, we are looking for additional adult leaders to help plan and execute these gatherings. Please email Stefanie Ehle at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org with questions or for more details.

A Workshop for Church Musicians

Join fellow musicians on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at Messiah, Marquette for a workshop presented by Dr. Wayne Wold, Professor Emeritus of Music and College Organist at Hood College in Frederick, MD.



Topics for the day include:

- Looking at new anthems for 1, 2, 3 and 4 part choirs
- Pastoral care for choirs and directors
- Leading congregational song from the keyboard
- What's new in hymns and songs

The cost (including lunch) is \$25 per person, \$10 for students. Churches sending more than 2 participants can include additional registrations for a discounted rate of \$10 each. Registration is available on Messiah's website:

messiahlutheranmqt.org

Mark Your Calendar

The Winter Theological Conference for Pastors, Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers will take



place Sunday, February 5-Monday, February 6, 2023 at the Quality Inn & Suites in Escanaba, MI. Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, ELCA Executive for Synod Relations, will present on natural systems thinking. We'll discuss the basics of natural systems theory, how societal, family and organizational stressors

affect our emotional fields, and ways in which the theory's application and influence on ministry provide a new lens for response and relationship. Registration will be available in early November, so mark your calendar and plan to join us in February!



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

Answer the Call

Rev. Terry & John
Frankenstein
Elizabeth Hakola
Matthew & Allie Johnson
Rev. Keith & Karen Kolstad
Bethany, Mohawk
Immanuel, Negaunee
Wayne & Eileen Stordahl

ELCA Disaster Funds/ Lutheran World Relief

United, Crystal Falls
Salem, Ironwood
Messiah, Marquette
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Bethel, Menominee
Ascension, Minocqua
Zion, St. Ignace

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Gary & Chris Ebert
Grace, Gwinn
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo

Lutheran Social Services

Bethany, Amasa
Emanuel, Skandia

Lutheran World Relief

Messiah, Marquette

NGLS Endowment Fund

Salem, Ironwood
St. Paul, Ironwood

NGLS Mission Outreach

Immanuel, Escanaba

Synod-Wide Christmas Worship

Larry Pagel

Tanzania Projects

Kris Carlson
Jonelle Collins
Lynn DeRoche
Rev. Terry & John
Frankenstein
St. Paul, Ironwood
Trinity, Ishpeming
Rene Johnson
Laurel Kniskern
Zion, Manistique
Mark Paulsen
Prince of Peace, Marquette
St. Paul's, Mass City
Larry Pagel
Trinity, Rhineland
Sandi Ruotsi
Jo Skogman
Dale Weingartner

Website

Zion, Marinette
Larry Pagel

World Missionary Support

Grace, Pembine

Synod Calendar



- 2 Conference 6 meeting at 4 pm ET at Zion, Manistique
- 3-5 Bishop Finegan at Systems Academy in Chicago
- 6 NGLS Staff meeting, 10 am ET
- 8 Conference 4 meeting at 10 am CT via Zoom
- 9-10 Bishop's Convocation at FLLC
- 10-14 Assistant to the Bishop Duehring at the DEM Gathering in Chicago
- 11 Active Leader's Check-In, 2 pm ET
- 13 Lifelong Faith Formation Committee, 11 am ET via Zoom
- 14-15 Bishop Finegan at Adult Diversity & Inclusion Training in Milwaukee
- 15 Musicians Workshop, 9:30 am-4 pm at Messiah, Marquette
- 16 Tri-County Conference Youth Event, 4-8 pm ET
- 19 NGLS Staff meeting, 10 am ET
- 20 Endowment Committee, 5 pm via Zoom
- 23 Installation of LLM Larry Molloy, 3 pm ET at Bethany, Mohawk
- 28-29 Men's Retreat at FLLC
- 29 Faithful Innovations, 9-3 CT at FLLC



- 2 NGLS Staff meeting, 10 am ET
- 8 Active Leader's Check-In, 2 pm ET
- 9-11 Bishop Finegan & Assistant to the Bishop Duehring at the Bishop & Staff Retreat in Iowa
- 13 Conference 8 Youth Event, 4-7 pm ET at Prince of Peace, Marquette
- 13-15 First Call Theological Event
- 17 NGLS Staff meeting, 10 am ET
- 24-25 NGLS Office closed

Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

Our Savior's, Marinette—Katy Tomlanovich, Student
 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, Rhinelander—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
 Ascension, Minocqua—Rev. Philip Johnson

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."
 ~ELW #597

Congregational mission support (benevolence) through August is \$32,000 less than at this time last year, despite an increase in pledges. Our concern is real and we encourage congregations to support God's work in our Synod and the wider Church by prioritizing your pledge to the Synod in the next few months. Your timely and generous giving allows the ministry we share to touch others with the love of Christ, who is our "hope and stay" through every "stormy gale."

— Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 8/31	2021	2022	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	774,999	779,835	+4,836	+0.6%
Amount Received	496,346	464,346	-32,000	-6.4%
Designated Gifts	103,294	120,647	+17,353	+16.8%



Northern Great Lakes Synod

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Prayfaithfully

NGLS Daily Devotions Schedule October & November 2022

October 2-8	Pastor Scott Ehle
October 9-15	Christine Ebert
October 16-22	Pastor Allan Johnson
October 23-29	Pastor Alex Ross
October 30-November 5	Pastor Catie Ford
November 6-12	Pastor Molly Eversoll
November 13-19	JoAnne Barrix
November 20-26	Pastor Jack Busche
November 27-December 3	Pastor Diane Srutowski




A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

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

Prayer Calendar – October 2022

1	Pray for all Older People on this International Day of Older Persons. Remind us of their countless contributions to our world through their words and deeds. Keep us ever mindful to be respectful and appreciative of their wisdom.
2	Pray for all victims of violence throughout the world and those who are committed to assisting them. Unlock their fear and give them the courage to seek safety and stability.
3	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Don Ludemann (10/04), Tom Wickstrom (10/05), Ken Carlson (10/05), George Candea-Kromm (10/7), and Jack Busche (10/9).
4	Pray for all creatures great and small. May we care for them and treat them with kindness and compassion.
5	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Timothy Vadis (10/05), David Echelbarger (10/08), Cathleen Morris (10/10), Ken Carlson (10/13), and Maxine Gray (10/16).
6	Pray for our Synod Staff as they meet today to plan and coordinate events and activities throughout our Synod.
7	Pray that all of us learn to listen with our eyes as well as our ears. Keep us mindful of what we see and not just what we hear. Teach us to observe, watch and listen to better communicate with others.
8	October 10 is World Mental Health Day. Pray for all those suffering from mental illness whether it is acute or chronic, their circle of support and for those providing therapy and care.
9	Pray for those attending the Bishop's Convocation at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp today and tomorrow. We thank God for His presence, His guidance and His unending love.
10	Pray for Pastor Jim Duehring as he travels to and from the DEM Gathering in Chicago through October 14. Bless his time, his participation and his contributions to the discussions. May the Holy Spirit fill all those in attendance as they work collaboratively to fulfill God's mission.
11	Pray for Vicar Lance Crevier who is a seminarian at Wartburg Seminary. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide him.
12	Pray for the members of Mt. Zion-Boonsboro, Rohresville, MD, Mt. Zion- Feagaville, Frederick, MD, Mt. Zion-Haugh's, Keymar, MD, Myersville Parish, Myersville, MD and New Hope Lutheran Church, Columbia, MD.
13	Pray for those participating in the Lifelong Faith Formation Committee meeting. Bless their individual and collective faith journeys as they plan for future learning opportunities.
14	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Doug Johnson (10/15), Catie Ford (10/23), Duane Priebe (10/24), Melinda VanderSys (10/29) and Judy Kirchoff (10/31).
15	Pray for the musicians attending the Musician's Workshop at Messiah in Marquette. We offer thanks for the countless ways they uplift and inspire.

16	Pray for those who suffer from hunger and food insecurity. May they find resources within their church, their schools and their community.
17	Pray for those experiencing trauma in any form including bullying, domestic violence, medical setbacks and verbal abuse.
18	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Stephen Gauger (10/28), Kari Vadis (10/28), and Alex Ross (10/29).
19	Pray for our Synod Staff as they meet today to plan and coordinate events and activities throughout our Synod.
20	Pray for those participating in the Endowment Fund Committee meeting. Bless them as they share their time and talent to protect and preserve God's treasure.
21	Pray for the members of Azania Front Cathedral, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their partner congregation, Messiah Lutheran Church, Marquette.
22	Pray for the members of New Light Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, MD, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD, Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Severna Park, MD and Peace Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, MD.
23	Pray for Larry Molloy's installation as Licensed Lay Minister at Bethany in Mohawk. Bless this congregation and his ministry as he brings God's words to life.
24	Pray for the members of the United Nations. May they strengthen common bonds to work on behalf of the world and its people.
25	Pray for students, faculty and staff of all schools. Keep everyone motivated and excited about learning, teaching and supporting our schools.
26	Pray for all those whose have suffered a stroke and those supporting them as they work through the challenges of the physical, communication and emotional changes.
27	Pray for Licensed Lay Ministers who celebrate their birthdays this month: Larry Molloy (10/28).
28	Pray for the men of our synod who are gathering at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for a Men's Retreat today and tomorrow. May they find renewal, reflect on their faith and enjoy fellowship time together.
29	Pray for those attending Faithful Innovations training at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Open all those participating to the power of listening and participating in "holy experiments."
30	Pray for those participating in athletic events including the spectators. Keep them ever mindful of teamwork and the goal of healthy competition.
31	 Pray that Martin Luther's motto, "The word of the Lord remains forever" will inspire us to continue God's work with the courage and conviction that inspired the reformation.



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 – November 2022

1	 On this All Saints' Day remember with thanksgiving those family, friends, pastors, and teachers who have gone before us. Pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Pray for all the “new saints” among us who have been baptized in recent months.
2	Pray for our NGLS Synod staff as they meet today to plan and complete the work of our ministries, our Synod and throughout the ELCA.
3	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Katherine Finegan (11/03), LaVonne Stephenson (11/09), George Candea-Kromm (11/11), Micheal Laakko (11/13), and Christina Forsythe (11/14).
4	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Jennie Johnson Wrege (11/09), Thomas Skrenes (11/16), Paul Heykes (11/22) and Steven Anderson (11/28).
5	Pray for those impacted by extreme weather. Bless the communities struggling to recover from weather related tragedies including loss of loved ones, homes, and livelihoods.
6	 November is National Adoption Month. Pray for families touched by adoption. Those who have adopted a child or have given a child to others through adoption. Pray too children in foster care that they are placed in loving homes.
7	Pray for all job seekers and marginalized workers who deserve a fair wage for honest work. Pray all employers treat employees with respect and recognize them as the valuable resource they are.
8	On this election day, pray for voters, volunteers and candidates.
9	Pray for Bishop Finegan and Assistant to the Bishop Duehring as they attend the Bishop and Staff Gathering in Iowa through November 11. Bless their travel, their participation, and their shared ministry.
10	Pray for our leaders at all levels of government. Pray they have the courage to do what is right and resist the easy or popular path.
11	On this Veterans Day, we pray for all the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces. We thank them for defending our nation, its people, and standing up for oppressed people everywhere. We ask God to heal those who are facing PTSD and other physical and psychological injuries.
12	Pray for those attending the First Call Theological Event. Open their hearts and minds to the gift of God's word.
13	Pray for participants in the Conference Youth event at Prince of Peace in Marquette. May they be engaged, educated, and energized!
14	Pray for congregations seeking worship assistants. Encourage congregants to embrace opportunities to become more active in their church services.
15	Pray for all hunters to have a safe and successful season. Bless those who share their bounty with the hungry in their communities.

16	Pray for Licensed Lay Ministers who celebrate birthdays this month: Andy Hill (11/28). Pray also for Deacons who celebrate a birthday this month: Lori Ward (11/28).
17	Pray for our NGLS Synod staff as they meet today to plan and complete the work of our ministries, our Synod and throughout the ELCA.
18	Pray for lonely people across all ages. Give them comfort knowing they are all children of God. Support the families, individuals and communities who reach out in friendship.
19	We pray for pastors celebrating birthdays this month: Earl Bergh (11/20), Tom Wickstrom (11/22), David Van Kley (11/25) and Molly Eversoll (11/29).
20	On this Christ the King Sunday, we pray that we may follow our Lord and King faithfully and fully and give our whole lives to carrying out his mission in our world.
21	Pray all people share the power of a smile and a friendly hello especially with a stranger.
22	Pray for the members of Mbezi Beach Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS partner congregation Eden, Munising.
23	In these days of emphasis on stewardship, we pray that we may become better stewards of all that God has given us: our planet and its resources, ourselves, our time, our talents, and our possessions; all signs of God's gracious love.
24	Pray for those traveling to be with family, friends and loved ones. Pray for those who may have anxiety in anticipation of large gatherings. For those encountering delays and detours, grant them patience in reaching their destinations.
25	 <p>We give thanks this day for the blessings God has bestowed upon us. The blessings we see around us in our daily lives: our health, families, and friends; the blessings that we overlook; and most of all the blessings of hope which we have in our Lord, Jesus Christ.</p>
26	Pray for the members of Peace Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, MD People's Community Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD Reformation-Milford, Milford DE, Saints Stephen and James Lutheran, Baltimore, MD and Salem-Battery Ave. Baltimore, MD.
27	Pray for all those worshiping this First Sunday of Advent. Light a candle and pray for our Lord's presence to come more fully into your life and the lives of all people.
28	Pray for bell ringers and other charitable groups who give their time to raising money for those in our communities with the most need. Keep us ever mindful that it is indeed better to give than receive.
29	Pray for Vicar Melissa Salminen who is a seminarian at Wartburg Seminary. Enrich her faith journey as she answers God's call.
30	Pray for all who will burden themselves with the upcoming distractions and expectations of December. Re-direct their focus to the true meaning of Christmas and give them clarity and perspective in the coming weeks.

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

FALLING UPWARD

Exploring Aging and Spirituality in the Second Half of Life

A Men's Retreat

Sponsored by The Cedar Tree Institute in partnership
with the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA



**Friday, October 28, 2022 at 5 P.M. CST –
Saturday, October 29 at 2 P.M.
Fortune Lake Camp, Crystal Falls, Michigan**

Facilitators: Rev. Lee Goodwin, Rev. Jon Magnuson, and Rev. Scott Ehle
with Herb Grenke, Dave Blomquist, and Rev. Bob Langseth

***Lodging (single rooms)
Dinner, Breakfast, and Lunch**

Cost \$75

***(SINGLE Rooms or DOUBLE Rooms available—state option when registering.
Space is limited)**

Register by October 10 by contacting: Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop
906-228-2300 or by email at: jduehring@nglsynod.org
Registration is being handled by the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Based on the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr's insights, a fascinating and helpful look
at the peculiar gifts and challenges in the second half of life
as we navigate with courage and hope the shifting sands of identity,
utility, and meaning.