

## In This Issue

<b>Bishop Finegan</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Assistant to the Bishop</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Synod Vice President</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Synod Youth Ministry &amp; Synod Assembly</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Synod Thank You &amp; Calendar</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Vacancies/Synod Finance</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Prayfaithfully Devotions</b>	<b>8</b>



**Northern Great Lakes Synod**  
**1029 N. Third St., Ste. A**  
**Marquette, MI 49855**

Office: (906) 228-2300 | Fax: (906) 228-2527  
[www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)

Bishop Finegan | [kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org)  
 Pastor Duehring | [jduehring@nglsynod.org](mailto:jduehring@nglsynod.org)

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

Volume 35, Issue 1 | February - March 2023

*"You do well  
 if you really fulfill the royal law  
 according to the scripture,  
 'You shall love your neighbor  
 as yourself.'"*  
 ~James 2:8



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Have you heard the phrase, "Birds of a feather flock together?" This little saying acknowledges what we all know; we gravitate towards the familiar and the comfortable. We like to be with people who think like us, behave like us, believe the same things as us, maybe even look like us. It's natural. I suppose some anthropologist could give a long treatise on herd mentality or the role such affinity plays in survival.

Other observers of societal norms would offer that social media has intensified this phenomenon. Online algorithms supply us with posts that affirm our foregone conclusions. Worse, there are more than a few memes out there that characterize anyone with an opposing view as being fair game for mockery or dismissed as unworthy. Beware of viewpoints being portrayed in the extreme, with no room for nuance or grey area.

It is becoming more and more rare that people gather with birds of another feather, where their world view or assumptions or convictions are challenged. People talk about echo chambers, where we proclaim what we believe to be true only to hear it echo back to us as proof.

The thing is, if we only surround ourselves with people who agree with us, if we never encounter a contrary opinion and explore it for its valid points, if we avoid conversations that invite deeper thinking, broader understanding, or a push back against what we consciously or unconsciously believe to be true then we have stopped learning and our lack of engagement contributes to the

polarization of our society and the underlying anger that results from feeling misunderstood.

A remedy for this is intentional engagement and deep listening, not to argue a point or change someone's mind, but to understand the reasons that support another perspective. To that end, our Synod will be offering a Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge. Our NGLS Kaleidoscope in Christ task force seeks to provide more opportunities for our synod to see others through the eyes of Jesus so that we can better, as James and elsewhere in scripture urges, "love your neighbor as yourself."

Because it is more than a little difficult to love what we do not understand or stay present with topics or people that make us uncomfortable.



So during Lent, you are invited to engage the resources on our website under The Kaleidoscope Challenge. Short videos, articles, movies, and books are linked there for you to watch, read, and study. I encourage you to consciously lower your defenses, raise your awareness, and learn something new about racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community. And you are invited to join a small group of people every week via zoom to process and discuss the resources for that week. What do you have questions about? What surprised you? What challenged you? What pricked your compassion? Your curiosity? Your emotions?

On our synod website, [nclsynod.org/christ-kaleidoscope-challenge](https://nclsynod.org/christ-kaleidoscope-challenge), you can register for the cohort of your choosing. A variety of leaders, dates, and times are available.

At a time when people are quick to anger and disagree, I hope that our Church and your church can lead the way toward mutual respect and understanding. As Martin Luther once said, "God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does." For the sake of community, for the sake of the command of Jesus to love, for the sake of our neighbor, let us do the homework that will lead to authentic witness and put the love we have for Jesus into action.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

## Transitions

We wish **Pastor Kayla Keilholtz** the very best in her new call in Virginia. She had been On Leave from Call since July of 2020 and has now transferred to the Virginia Synod. May God bless her efforts in a new partnership.

We celebrate the partnership of **Pastor Diane Srutowski, Bethany in Perkins and Trinity in Stonington** as Pastor Diane retired from active ministry on January 1, 2023. God bless the new rhythms of life that Pastor Diane will enjoy. Our thanks go to **Pastor Terry Frankenstein** for serving as Administrative Interim to **Bethany, Perkins and Trinity Stonington**.

We celebrate with **Christ the King, Escanaba and Faith, Rock** as they have called a new pastor. **Pastor Lon Hider** was ordained and installed at Christ the King, Escanaba on January 15. Pastor Hider was installed at Faith, Rock on January 29. May God bless this new partnership!

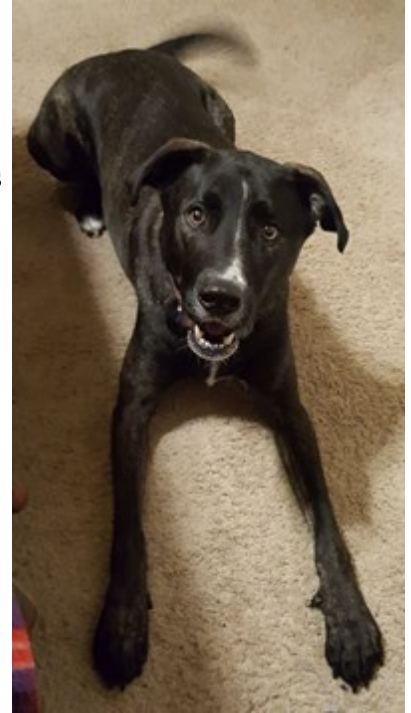


## You Can Learn a Lot from a Dog

A daily practice of mine is to walk my dog, Juergen. Juergen is always eager to go for a walk. No surprise there! My wife describes him as “4-Legged Joy with a Tail.” I named Juergen after one of my favorite theologians, Juergen Moltmann.

Recently we took a walk in a large pasture area on public land. Fresh snows and ice left the snow deep but very crusty on the top. Juergen was so excited for his walk, but this time he sensed early on that there would be problems. He ran out ahead of me, but he was very much slowed down by the crusty snow breaking way and his legs sinking into the deep snow. It was very difficult for him to “blaze” a new trail on his own.

I felt sorry for Juergen for not having the typical freedom to merely bounce on ahead of me. Eventually, Juergen slowed down. I could tell he was becoming fatigued, and this walking experience was not pleasant at all. I, too, was having difficulty blazing my own trail. I really should have been wearing snowshoes, but with my winter boots I was able to stomp down and create size 13 divots in the deep snow.



What happened next caught my attention. My dog slowed down. He then started following me so that his paws could easily follow in my footprints without him having to break through snow. Even though it slowed him down, Juergen was having a much more enjoyable time following in my clear footprints in the snow.

Sometimes when the snow was not so deep, Juergen would leap out ahead of me and make his own trail. Then, when the snow got deep again, Juergen slowed down and started following my footprints.

You can see the obvious spiritual lesson here! Jesus calls us to follow him. Sometimes we bounce out ahead of Jesus with bold confidence that we can handle whatever life has to throw at us. Then we encounter the inevitable deep snow with an icy crust. We fall in. We have to slow down. For a moment we keep trying to blaze our own trail. Finally, if we are humble enough to slow down, we can wait for the Master to pass. We can more efficiently continue our journey following in the big and confident footsteps of the Master, Jesus.

Jesus has gone before us to show us the way. Jesus said, “I am the Way.” Thanks be to God that Jesus has the patience to wait upon us when we foolishly bolt out ahead and get hip deep in trouble.

That day my dog taught me a lot about my Lord’s loving patience with me and the confident path of Jesus.

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



## Copyright: It's Origins & Upcoming Workshop Notice

written by Synod Vice President Chuck Thomas

A 15<sup>th</sup> century English brewer travels to Germany, copies a beer maker's brewing procedure and brings the recipe back to his hometown. A 17th century choirmaster buys a copy of sacred sheet music for his choir to perform. A teacher in the 1980s plays a recorded video of Star Trek for her students. What do all of these have in common? They are all possible violations of the rights of the creators of the original works. Issues like these resulted in the evolution of our current copyright laws.

At the next NGLS Leader's Workshop, Mr. Michael Moore from Augsburg Press will provide valuable information on why understanding copyright law matters in our church lives. He will teach what we should and should not do with intellectual property for our service bulletins, musical performances and livestreamed worship services. The workshop is February 9, 2023 at 7 pm ET/6 pm CT and will be presented online via Zoom. To attend, contact your congregation's office. An announcement of the workshop with an included link to the Zoom event was emailed to all NGLS congregation offices.



Interestingly, one of the earliest copyright disputes involved the Church. It occurred around 560 AD in Ireland when Saint Columba, an Irish abbot, hand-copied a Psalter written by Saint Finnian while they were together at Movilla Abbey. Columba kept the copy and intended to bring it to his own parish, but Finnian argued that he had no right to the copy. The argument made it all the way to King Diarmait mac Cerbaill. The king judged in favor of

Finnian, stating "To every cow belongs her calf, therefore to every book belongs its copy."

Copyright disputes became more prevalent when the printing press came into widespread use in the 1500's. Initially the author of a printed work had no profit from the sale of that work. Introduction of the Statute of Anne in England and Scotland in 1710 was the first legislation protecting copyright.

In the United States, copyright protection is written into the U.S. Constitution. According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, "the Congress shall have power...to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." Subsequently, the first U.S. copyright law was enacted by congress in 1790.

Copyright protection eventually spread to protect the rights of composers and artists and has been adapted as new technologies emerged. All of these were created to protect the rights of creators to limit the copying of their work.

### References:

Bulgrien, A. (2020, December 18). *Copyright timeline: A history of copyright in the United States*, Association of Research Libraries.

Ruth Suehle. *The story of St. Columba: A Modern Copyright Battle in Sixth Century Ireland*. Opensource.com.



## Fiscal Year End Reminders

As the Synod fiscal year comes to a close, please note the important date below and documents that need to be sent to the Synod Office from each congregation:

- **Congregation Statement of Intent**
- **February 10, 2023**  
Last day for checks to arrive in the Synod office so that January 2023 giving can be credited to the Synod fiscal year. Please do NOT combine January/February giving on your benevolence form.
- **Congregation Annual Report**





# JOURNEY

Tri-Synod High School Youth Gathering

## Journey Youth 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 (those who have completed 8th-12th grades) will encounter God and one another in new ways through creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning, and uplifting worship. Additional details and a link to register are available at <https://nswi.org/journey>.

## Youth in Advocacy Retreat April 14-16, 2023

High School Youth from across the U.P. and Wisconsin are invited to gather in Madison for a weekend in April to learn what it means to be an advocate and how advocacy relates to our Lutheran

faith. If you would like to be part of the NGLS delegation, please contact Stefanie Ehle at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org). Registration for this event is available at:

[loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy](http://loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy)

## 2023 Synod Assembly

We will gather May 18-20 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI for a Bishop's election. Bishop Finegan is available to serve another term. This in-person event will include a Friday night banquet with entertainment by Whitewater, ministry display tables, worship, time for long-overdue fellowship and so much more! Our ELCA Churchwide Representative will be Lori Fedyk, Treasurer of the ELCA. In addition to in-person activities, we will also enjoy pre-Assembly workshops via Zoom. Details will be announced as they become available.



### Registration Information

Online registration will be available on our website ([nglsynod.org/assembly](http://nglsynod.org/assembly)) in February, so keep an eye on E-Notes for the announcement and link. Please be aware of the fee structure this year:

- Voter registration is \$125 until April 12 at 5 pm ET
- Late voter registration is \$150 after 5 pm on April 12
- Visitor registration is \$25
- All registration closes permanently on April 26 at 5 pm ET.

We are looking forward to being together again in Marquette!



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

#### **Companion Synod Support**

Jonelle Collins  
Rev. Jim & Gisele Duehring  
Gloria Dei, Hancock  
James & Martha Hayward  
Zion, Ironwood  
Bethel, Ishpeming  
Bruce & Michelle Johnson  
LaVerne Locke  
St. Paul's, Mass City

#### **ELCA Disaster Funds/ Lutheran World Relief**

United, Crystal Falls  
Salem, Ironwood  
Women of Bethany, Ishpeming  
LeRoy & Verna Johnson  
Zion, Marinette  
Messiah, Marquette  
Prince of Peace, Marquette  
Bethel, Menominee  
Emmanuel, Menominee  
Bethany, Norway  
Calvary, Rapid River

#### **Lifelong Faith Formation**

Deacon Karen Nurmi

#### **Lutheran Campus Ministry**

Aimee Dettloff  
Grace, Gwinn  
Bethel, Ishpeming  
Trinity, Ishpeming  
Rev. Bre & Tom Kinnunen  
Prince of Peace, Marquette  
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo  
Calvary, Rapid River

#### **Lutheran Social Services**

Bethany, Amasa  
Emanuel, Skandia

#### **Lutheran World Relief**

Messiah, Marquette

#### **NGLS Endowment Fund**

Rev. Elisabeth & Wes Daniels  
Zion, Ironwood  
The Estate of Pearl Schnorr

#### **Mission Outreach**

Rev. Elisabeth & Wes Daniels

#### **NGLS Seminarian Support**

Bethel, Ishpeming

#### **Prison Ministries**

Bethel, Ishpeming

#### **Skogman Scholarship Fund**

Jim & Laura Wendt in honor of  
Lil Larson and the Brad  
Skogman family

#### **Skrenes Fund for Ministry**

Rev. Tom & Luanne Skrenes  
Mike & Sandie Strahan

#### **Synod Restricted Fund**

Rev. Doug & Marilyn Schoen  
Rev. Dave & Arlene Van Kley  
Rev. Steve & Rev. Evelyn  
Weston

#### **Synod Christmas Worship**

Rev. Tera Kossow  
Marilyn Meyer  
Rev. Tom & Luanne Skrenes  
Larry & Chris Warren

#### **Synod Youth Ministries**

Ruth Warmanen

#### **Tanzania Dental Mission**

Church Women of Immanuel,  
Negaunee

#### **World Missionary Support**

Bethel, Ishpeming  
Grace, Pembine

## **Synod Calendar**



- 5-6 Winter Theological Conference in Escanaba
- 7 NGLS Staff meeting, 10 am ET
- 9 Workshop for Congregational Leaders, 7 pm ET via Zoom
- 12 Installation of Rev. Lily Brondyke at Bethany, Escanaba
- 14 NGLS Leader Check-In, 2 pm ET via Zoom
- 16 Leadership Support Committee meeting, 10:30 am ET via Zoom
- 21 NGLS Staff meeting, 10 am ET via Zoom
- 27 Pre-Assembly Reports deadline
- 27-4 Bishop Finegan at the Conference of Bishops in Chicago



- 1 Deadline for A&C Reports
- 5 Companion Synod Committee meeting, 4 pm ET via Zoom
- 7 NGLS Staff meeting, 10 am ET
- 7 Endowment Committee meeting, 6 pm ET via Zoom
- 14 NGLS Leader Check-In, 2 pm ET via Zoom
- 16 Christ's Kaleidoscope meeting, 1 pm ET via Zoom
- 17-18 Candidacy meeting in Marinette
- 20-23 Rev. Duehring at the Assistants to the Bishop Gathering in Minneapolis
- 29 NGLS Staff meeting, 10 am ET
- 30 Synod Assembly Planning Committee, 10 am ET via Zoom

## 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  
 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  
 Good Shepherd, Houghton—Rev. Soren Schmidt  
 Porterfield, Porterfield & Beaver American, Pound—Rev. Ken Michaelis  
 United, L'Anse—Rev. Julie Belew  
 Ascension, Minocqua—Rev. Philip Johnson  
 Pioneer Lake, Conover—Rev. Kari Vadis  
 Emmanuel, Menominee—Rev. Keith Kolstad  
 Bethany, Perkins & Trinity, Stonington—Rev. Terry Frankenstein

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2b)

Throughout history, our world has occasionally seemed dark—dark with violence, prejudice, poverty. Our own lives have known the darkness of grief, illness, anxiety and fear. The prophet Isaiah's words are as important for us today as when first spoken. We have the promise of a Light—Jesus, our Lord and Savior—a Light that fills us with hope and brings peace and joy. We need only place our trust in our God who is faithful.

We end 2022 far below expectations for mission support giving and this will surely impact our ministry in 2023. We are so very grateful to all our congregations for their support of the work of Christ that we do together. May the new year bring a renewed trust that God will provide for all our needs.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 12/31	2021	2022	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	774,999	779,835	+4,836	+0.6%
Amount Received	803,131	763,974	-39,157	-4.9%
Designated Gifts	148,729	174,894	+26,165	+17.6%





## Northern Great Lakes Synod

1029 N. Third Street, Suite A  
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: (906) 228-2300  
Fax: (906) 228-2527  
Email: [ngls@nglsynod.org](mailto:ngls@nglsynod.org)

Synod Website:  
[www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)

Find us on Facebook & YouTube



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Marquette, MI 49855  
Permit No. 22

Mail Label

# Prayfaithfully

## NGLS Daily Devotions Schedule February & March 2023

January 29-February 4	Chuck Thomas
February 5-11	Karen Carter
February 12-18	Virginia Paulson, LLM
February 19-25	Christine Ebert
February 26-March 4	How about you?
March 5-11	Deacon Lori Ward
March 12-18	Pastor Maxine Gray
March 19-25	Pastor Melinda VanderSys
March 26-April 1	Pam Durbin



A Year of Prayer  
A Lifetime of Praying!

[prayfaithfully@nclsynod.org](mailto:prayfaithfully@nclsynod.org)  
[www.nclsynod.org/prayfaithfully](http://www.nclsynod.org/prayfaithfully)

## Prayer Calendar – February 2023

<b>1</b>	Pray for all our African American brothers and sisters as they celebrate their heritage, culture and impactful contributions to our world during Black History Month.
<b>2</b>	Pray for our youth leaders as they mentor and guide our young people through their faith, academics, passions and their challenges.
<b>3</b>	Pray for pastors and licensed lay ministers who celebrate birthdays this month: Bob Langseth (2/03), Doug Norquist (2/10), Craig Mansur (2/12), Doug Schoen (2/14), Don Ludemann (2/14), Steve Weston (2/14), & Michael Holman (2/14).
<b>4</b>	Pray for the poor in our communities who too often suffer in silence. Open our eyes, ears and hearts to their daily misery. Pray we stifle ignorance and arrogance in our response to their needs.
<b>5</b>	Pray for our ministry leadership as they attend the Winter Theological Conference today and tomorrow. May they be enriched by God's word and uplifted in their personal faith journeys. May they take what they learn and apply it in ways which enhance their ministerial responses and relationships.
<b>6</b>	Pray for deacons and pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Lori Ward (2/7), Steven Solberg (2/12), Chrys Hendrick (2/14) and Cathy Morris (2/23).
<b>7</b>	Pray for our Synod Staff as they meet today at the Synod Office in Marquette. May they be blessed by God in all they do and lead us as we spread God's blessings throughout our Synod, nation and world.
<b>8</b>	Pray for God's love to be shared between and among our neighbors in our communities, states, country and world.
<b>9</b>	Pray for Congregational Leaders as they participate in today's quarterly workshop. May the information they receive become an integral part of their ministry and strengthen their congregations.
<b>10</b>	Pray for those struggling to be a good friend, an empathetic listener, and a vital link in someone's circle of support. The gift of friendship can be fragile. Pray that we may extend our hand in friendship to others.
<b>11</b>	Pray for those battling eating disorders. Pray for healing of their mind and body. May they find comfort in your word, and through trust in you and themselves, a restored body and spirit.
<b>12</b>	Pray for Reverend Lily Brondyke as she is Installed as the pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Escanaba. Trusting in God's care, may she love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by her own example in faithful service and holy living.
<b>13</b>	Pray for married couples and open their hearts to the message: "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you." ~1 Thessalonians 3:13a

<b>14</b>	On this Valentine's Day, pray for all couples that their love will grow. Pray also for those who are lonely, alone, and/or missing loved ones, that they will find comfort and companionship.
<b>15</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Brenda Greenwald (2/16), Andrew Plocher (2/17), Christine Thomas-Echelbarger (2/22), Les Niemi (2/25), and Wally Leno (2/27).
<b>16</b>	Pray for the Leadership Support Committee as they meet today to plan opportunities and events for pastoral leadership. Pray this continuous self-improvement will cultivate fresh ideas and perspectives they can put to practical use in their own ministries.
<b>17</b>	Pray for worship leaders, musicians and ministry techs as they continue to adapt to the needs of congregation members and adapt worship to the changing times around us.
<b>18</b>	Pray for the pastoral leadership and members of St. John's, Hagerstown, MD, St John's, Hartford Rd, Baltimore MD, St. John's, Linthicum Heights, MD, St. John's, Myersville, MD, St. John's (SweetAir) Phoenix, MD. St. John's, Thurmont, MD, and St. John's, Westminster, MD.
<b>19</b>	Pray for all our ELCA seminaries and for all the seminary students. This month we lift in prayer Jen Elsenbroek from our synod.
<b>20</b>	On this World Day for Social Justice, pray for fair and just relations between all individuals in our society as they are confronted with poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, human rights violations and social media attacks. Pray for advocates of those who have suffered at the hands of others, and for those who work to change our social systems and government programs.
<b>21</b>	Pray for our Synod Staff as they meet today at the Synod Office in Marquette – that they may be blessed by God in all they do and lead us as we spread God's blessings throughout our Synod, nation, and world.
<b>22</b>	On this Ash Wednesday, pray a prayer of repentance for yourself and lift up all Christians as we reflect on our journey to the cross. May this Lenten pilgrimage help us to grow in our faith and our ability to live out God's abiding love in our lives.
<b>23</b>	Pray for all those enjoying the outdoor winter activities that make our northern communities such a beautiful and special place to be.
<b>24</b>	Pray for those who lead us within our communities, state, country and the world. May they work cooperatively and creatively for the greater good. Pray for patience as they work through disagreements and opportunities for compromise.
<b>25</b>	Pray for all women and girls who pursue study in math and science. Individual motivation, a passion for learning and a goal of using their skill to better humankind should be encouraged, empowered, and enthusiastically supported.
<b>26</b>	Pray for all those families and individuals dealing with mental illness. Help them to see the promise of each new day. Pray that all levels of government will provide resources to keep patients safe and provide effective treatment for them.
<b>27</b>	Pray for Bishop Finegan as she attends the Conference of Bishops through March 4 in Chicago. Pray for faith filled energy and inspiration during this time of reflection, study, and fellowship.
<b>28</b>	Pray for the members of Mtoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their NGLS mission partner Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Marquette.





A Year of Prayer

[prayfaithfully@nclsynod.org](mailto:prayfaithfully@nclsynod.org)

A Lifetime of Praying! [www.nclsynod.org/prayfaithfully](http://www.nclsynod.org/prayfaithfully)

## Prayer Calendar – March 2023

<b>1</b>	Pray for all who lead or participate in mid-week Lenten worship and other activities. May this journey lead them to greater faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
<b>2</b>	Pray for the gift of literacy. When we read, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow light to enter our lives. Pray that through reading, we light a spark for change where it is most needed.
<b>3</b>	Pray for our pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Julie Belew (3/03), Tom Otis (3/09), Sarah Semmler Smith (3/12), and Dennis Meyette (3/15).
<b>4</b>	Pray for those waiting for medical test results. Give them peace of heart and mind during these challenging times.
<b>5</b>	Pray for those participating in the Companion Synod Committee meeting as they nurture connections to the Lutheran Church in Tanzania with our congregations and the Synod.
<b>6</b>	Pray for victims of gun violence. We ask that you touch our hearts with your love, heal our brokenness, and turn us away from violence toward peace. Help us to transform our own hearts and to seek peaceful ways of resolving our differences.
<b>7</b>	Pray for our synod staff as they meet today in Marquette. May they be blessed by God in all they do and lead us as we spread God's blessings throughout our Synod, nation and world. Pray also for those participating in the Synod Endowment committee meeting.
<b>8</b>	Pray for all our ELCA seminaries and for all the seminary students. This month we especially lift up in prayer Katy Tomlanovich.
<b>9</b>	Pray for those dealing with compulsive gambling and the financial and psychological challenges this compulsion brings to them and their families.
<b>10</b>	Pray for all individuals and congregations who are searching for ways to bring Jesus into the lives of the unchurched in their communities. Pray the unchurched recognize the intentional invitation is non-judgmental and genuine in its offering.
<b>11</b>	Pray for all those participating in Faithful Innovations. Open their hearts and minds to the infinite ways in which we can proclaim and share God's word.
<b>12</b>	Pray that Jesus, the Light of the world will shine upon us, set us free by the truth he brings us and set our hearts on fire. ("Shine Jesus Shine" - Graham Kendrick)
<b>13</b>	Pray for our pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Brahm Semmler Smith (3/13) Sarah Semmler Smith (3/13) Christina Forsythe (3/19) Soren Schmidt (3/20), and Rita Chirala (3/21).
<b>14</b>	Pray for all who have been displaced from their homes due to conflict, disaster, famine, or war; and for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service as they assist those who are seeking a new home.
<b>15</b>	Pray for patience as we grow tired of winter and long for an early spring. Open our eyes to the wonder of seasonal changes as nature awakens from its slumber. Pray that the Holy Spirit keeps us awake to God's presence.

<b>16</b>	Pray for those participating in the Christ's Kaleidoscope meeting as they commit to seeing others through the eyes of Jesus. Open their hearts and minds as they focus on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our Indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQA+ community.
<b>17</b>	Pray for Bishop Finegan as she attends the Candidacy meeting in Marinette today and tomorrow to support and mentor our future pastoral leaders.
<b>18</b>	Pray for all volunteers who share their time and talent within our churches, hospitals, nursing homes, civic organizations and within our general community. Bless this ministry of outreach as thy offer loving service to one another in your name.
<b>19</b>	Pray for Reverend Jim Deuhring as participates in the Assistants to the Bishop Gathering in Minneapolis March 20-23.
<b>20</b>	Pray for the sunlight and the rain that come with Spring. May they be reminders that you are at work renewing the earth and you are ever present in our lives as we transition from the dark days of winter to the promise of Spring.
<b>21</b>	Pray for Kijichi Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their NGLS mission partner First Lutheran Church, Gladstone.
<b>22</b>	On this World Water Day, pray for sustainable sources of clean drinking water for all people.
<b>23</b>	Pray for all people at a crossroads in their lives. Pray they take the path you are showing them even if it seems long. Lord, slow them down and teach them how to make decisions calmly.
<b>24</b>	Pray for our pastors who celebrate their birthdays this month: Doug Buck (3/24), Allan Johnson (3/25) and Scott Ehle (3/25).
<b>25</b>	Pray more people are inspired to pursue careers in health care. Bless those struggling with keeping up despite staffing shortages to stay the course knowing their skills are invaluable.
<b>26</b>	Pray for all women, men, and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse. May they receive the help they need to leave their abusive relationships and break the pattern of violence.
<b>27</b>	Pray for all those who have suffered losses from natural disasters and disasters brought on by human hands, and for Lutheran Disaster Response teams as they respond to those in need.
<b>28</b>	Pray for our synod staff as they meet today in Marquette. May they be blessed by God in all they do and lead us as we spread God's blessings throughout our Synod, nation and world.
<b>29</b>	Pray for the members of St. Luke- Cumberland, MD, St. Luke-Baltimore, MD, St. Luke-Frederick, MD, St. Luke (Hampden) Baltimore, MD, St. Luke-New Windsor, MD, and St. Luke (Parkville) Baltimore, MD.
<b>30</b>	Pray for all dreamers who look to the future with promise and optimism even though they face insurmountable odds and barriers. Give them patience and persistence as they follow their hearts and trust their instincts.
<b>31</b>	Pray for all the men and women across our synod who give their time, energy, and resources to their congregations, the NGLS and charitable organizations.

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



## 2023 Synod Assembly Opening Worship Service

# SYNOD CHOIR



**Please join us!**

Dave Dagenais, Choir Director

Lucas Wickstrom, Accompanist and Bell Choir Director

### Rehearsals

Please sign up by May 1 (info below) and attend rehearsals, if possible:

- Wednesday, May 10, 7:15 p.m. ET at Bethany Lutheran, Ishpeming
- Wednesday, May 17, 5:30 p.m. ET at Messiah Lutheran Church, Marquette

### Synod Assembly Opening Worship

Northern Center Ballroom on the NMU Campus

Thursday, May 18, 6:00 p.m. ET Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m. ET Service

The color of the day for this service is red!

We will sing Hal Hopson's "The Gift of Love," 2018 Arrangement, key of G Major, accompanied by the Superior Handbells of the Marquette Area (the 1972 arrangement that so many of us know and love has been updated nicely, and it's very important that you sing from the 2018 arrangement).

A pdf of "The Gift of Love" is available from the Synod Office for your personal use. Please shred/recycle any reference copies you make. Printed original copies will be available at the rehearsals and the day of the service.

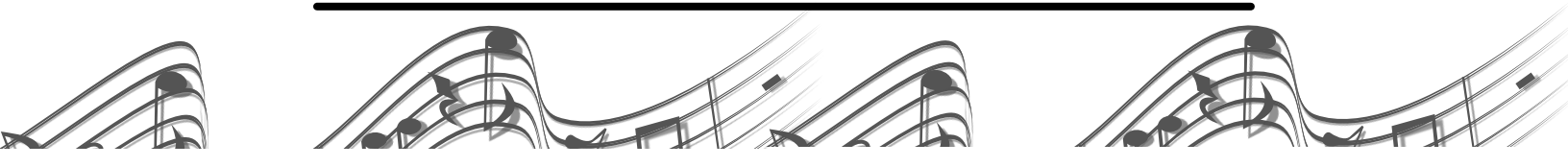
A recording of The Gift of Love with Handbell Accompaniment may be found at:

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&productID=10906881E&type=audio>

---

**Sign up by contacting Heather Oysti at the Synod Office by May 1  
(906) 228-2300 or [hoysti@nglsynod.org](mailto:hoysti@nglsynod.org)**

---





Dear Friends of Finlandia,

The clouds may be hanging low over the Keweenaw today, but the mood among students is bright as we return to a Spring semester full of new opportunities. As this second half of the year kicks off, I'm reminded of the success and bright spots from this academic year already. Our Women's Soccer team qualified for the Coast-To-Coast Conference Championship tournament, held in Virginia this year. Our

## ROOTED & OPEN

Finlandia University, along with the 26 other ELCA colleges and universities, share a common calling, which is deeply rooted in the Lutheran intellectual tradition and boldly open to insights from other religions and secular traditions. We are seeking to equip graduates who are:

Called and empowered  
To serve the neighbor  
So that all may flourish

To learn more about this shared mission among ELCA institutions of higher learning, see:

<https://www.elca.org/resources/colleges-and-universities>

Esports team enters its third season, after having won a National NECC Championship in one of their games last year. A truly unique opportunity on campus! This winter, we opened up the parameters of the Rise Together scholarship – available to Pell grant-eligible Michigan residents – making a college degree more possible than ever for eligible students.

In the World Religion class I teach, we have students from as far away as California or Miami and from as near as just down the street in Hancock. They are not only diverse in their geography but also in their faith backgrounds. In class, we spend time thinking together about why religion matters in the world today, what it means to study it academically, and then what it looks like to integrate their learning into personal reflection and growth. Our posture in our religion classrooms echoes the wider posture of our Lutheran campus as a whole: *rooted in open*. We learn that it expands our capacity for relationship and vocation when we take time to educate ourselves in diverse ways of thinking and believing. Each time I teach this course, my heart gladdens at what the students walk away with – some answers, but often many, many more questions. Fostering the growth of curious and humble citizens is truly a privilege!

Here in these cloudy and (we hope more) snowy months, the warmth of education will burn brightly in Hancock. Thank you for all the way you partner and lift up the educational mission of Finlandia. If you are curious about ways you might show care to Finlandia students or want to know more about Campus Ministry, I welcome you to reach out.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith*

Campus Pastor  
sarah.semmlersmith@finlandia.edu