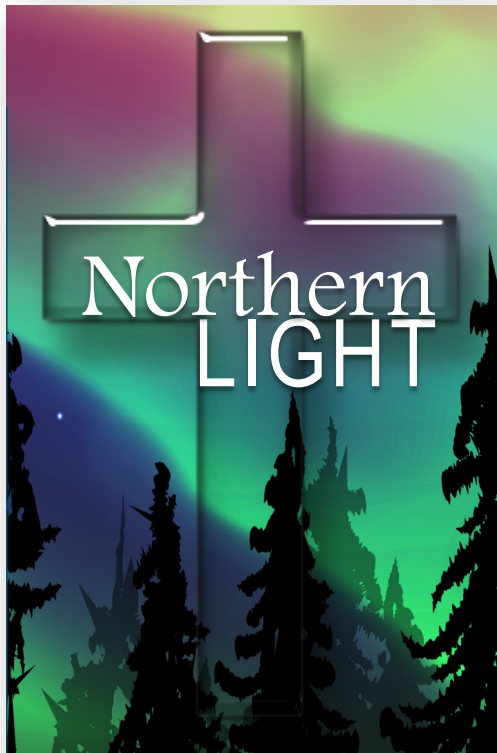


# Shining with the Light of Christ in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Volume 35, Issue 4 | September - October 2023



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Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I have a confession to make...I am a bargain shopper. I very rarely will pay full price for something as I first go to the clearance racks, the St. Vinny's store, or shop at Kohl's only on those days when I have a 30% off coupon on top of the clearance price and the current sale. And then, if I receive Kohl's cash in the bargain, I'm back at the store again, in search of the best deal. My husband laments the effectiveness of their marketing strategy on me as I happily anticipate the next opportunity to save money by spending it.



Whether it's at the gas pump or with grocery store coupons, I am a thrifty shopper. After once again using my Jubilee Pump Perks to save 30 cents a gallon on gas, I wondered how much I might save over a lifetime. Wouldn't it be great, I wondered, if some angel in heaven were tasked with keeping track of the nickels and dimes that I did not spend? How fun it would be to not only enter into the presence of God's glory, but then to be told that over my lifetime I saved \$57,423.46 that could have been wasted but was instead put to good use elsewhere. All those pennies and dollars that were saved with careful attention and prudent spending, I would love to know how it might all add up.

But then, I thought, wouldn't such an angel also keep track of my excesses, the impulse buys, the times I was not careful, or too impatient, or just wanted something that I did not need?

And wouldn't such an accounting include the times I was not generous, when I could have put saved money, or more money, towards someone else's needs? Sure, I might be saving money, but to what end? Just to stretch my own dollar? As people of faith, are we not called, indeed even commanded, to more than that?

It's no secret that many are in need. As we continue to recover from pandemic disruption, as inflation continues to have an impact, the demands on food pantries and feeding programs has increased. We are asked to give to a host of worthy causes: our own congregation, Lutheran Disaster Response, Feeding America, and so much more. I am grateful to the generosity of so many who

continue to give to Lutheran Campus Ministry, our Equipping the Saints Endowment Fund and how many other Synod ministries. Thank you! Thank you!

We are indeed blessed to give – whether it is out of our own abundance, or from the savings carefully and intentionally carved from careful spending and good stewardship of a stretched dollar.

And the good news is that there is no heavenly record-keeping of our failures. Psalm 103 proclaims,

<sup>10</sup> [God] does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

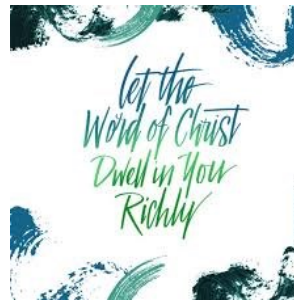
<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

I can live off the joy of a good bargain for some days. But life extends into eternity because of God’s steadfast love and mercy. I am thankful that I can enjoy both bargains in this life and God’s promises for the next life while still responding to God’s call in Christ Jesus to be generous and to put those unspent nickels, dimes, and dollars to good use for needs other than my own. After all, when we all give, nickels and dimes and dollars add up to quite a sum, a sum that can make a difference to the work of Christ in and through our congregations and our partnership as a Synod together.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan



## Dwelling In the Word

You are invited to join the whole Northern Great Lakes Synod in Dwelling in the Word. Starting in September, our whole synod will dwell in the same scripture readings for each month. Please use the resource that has been sent to each congregation (and is available on our website), at each meeting of the congregation, in your home, at the quilters, at your Council meetings. You are also welcome to join a Zoom Dwelling in the Word the first Thursday evening of every month beginning September 7 at 7:30 pm ET/6:30 pm CT. Let us Dwell in the Word together!

## Stewardship Resources

Our NGLS Stewardship Committee has produced 2023 Stewardship Resources for use in congregations this fall. Hard copies were recently sent out in a congregational mailing. The Committee encourages all congregations to engage in Consecration Sunday— suggested as October 22 or choose your own Sunday in the fall. These resources can also be found on our Synod website.

It’s not too early to start planning your fall stewardship program!



## Welcome Courtney!

We are very pleased to welcome **Courtney Wehmeier** as our new Synod Office Administrator! Courtney began her work with us on August 14. May God bless her as she gets to know more of our Synod people and places!

## “Be the Best Neighbors”

Back during the pandemic year of 2020, I, along with several adults from the Northern Great Lakes Synod, participated in a webinar from the ELCA on “Growing Young”. It featured presenters from the Fuller Youth Institute and their research which led to a book, *Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*, by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin, 2016, Baker Books.



Some people in our synod have already read this book and discussed its implications. I encourage everyone to read this book. The research of this book showed that some of our assumptions about youth ministry are probably wrong. You don't have to be a big church with a young and cool youth leader to have an effective youth ministry. You don't even have to have a lot of money to be on the right path to growing younger.

This book is the result of research from a broad range of denominations and churches of many sizes. Six key strategies emerged from the research by Fuller. One of those strategies was:

### “Be the Best Neighbors: Loving and Shaping Your World Well.”

Young people need to be guided by the example of adults from our churches to be good neighbors. The world is watching how our churches interact with our “neighbors.” Here are some quotes from that chapter of the book about being the best neighbors:

“Christianity is about the restoration of how it is all supposed to be.”

Isaiah, age 20, p. 234

“We’ve always had a heart to get out of the church building and serve the world—but sometimes we also want to bring positive parts of the world into the church.”

A Pastor, p. 243

“Anyone can show up to this church on their worst day and it will turn your life around.”

Alejandro, Young Adult, p. 244

“No matter where churches growing young fall on the theological spectrum, they place emphasis on essential beliefs that can be shared rather than exaggerating various differences.”

A High School Junior, p. 245

“Churches that want to be the best neighbors seem especially aware of their ministry to, and inclusion, of the poor.”

Authors’ observation, p. 251

“My friends and I need more than the cynicism we’re offered by the world and wider culture. Our church offers more.”

A Young Adult from the Northeast, p. 253

“At our church, everybody has something they care about, and the church doesn’t need to rubber-stamp your passion before you can do it.”

Justin, age 23, p. 255P

Pray for your own church to be the best neighbor, not simply to attract more youth, but because that’s what Jesus wants us to be.

Pastor Jim Duehring

Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

## A Rare Opportunity

By: Chuck Thomas, NGLS Vice President

As one of the smaller synods in the ELCA, the people of Northern Great Lakes Synod generally have few opportunities to converse with ELCA Churchwide leadership. A chance to do so is coming on September 14. We will have the rare opportunity to meet with, listen to, and have discussion with Imran Siddiqui, the ELCA Vice President! I hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity and join us for the NGLS Leader's Workshop at 7 PM Eastern/6 PM Central on Thursday, September 14, 2023. Here is the Zoom link for the workshop:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89752983072?pwd=NDZBRHB0YmpETWtRbEYvSTVwdlNYUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 5298 3072.  
Passcode: 695443

Imran was elected as our ELCA Churchwide Vice President at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. He resides in Decatur, Georgia and is employed by the U.S Department of Labor. He, his spouse, and their children attend St. John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta Georgia. Prior to being elected as the Churchwide Vice President, Imran was the Vice President of the Southeast Synod. The SE Synod is a large 4-state area that includes Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

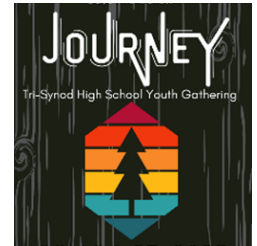


At our workshop Imran plans to speak about various topics, including ideas about equipping local lay leaders, explaining what a Churchwide VP does, and how Churchwide works for and with local congregations and synods. We will have ample opportunity for discussion and questions. So, come prepared to meet Imran, hear what he has to say, and ask questions about anything you want to know.

I strongly urge folks to take advantage of this rare opportunity. Mark your calendars now!



## Tri-Synodical Youth Gathering Update



High school youth and adult leaders from the Northern Great Lakes Synod met with other participants from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and the La Crosse Area Synod of Wisconsin for the second Tri-synodical youth gathering at the end of July. The event featured inspiring speakers, energizing music, service-learning opportunities, engaging workshops, uplifting worship experiences, and new friends. Connections were made, seeds were planted, and the Journey of faith continues!



## UP Wild Church Events

UP Wild is a creative ministry for people to gather outdoors and encounter God in creation. Lanni Lantto, Mission Developer, works in collaboration with the NGLS and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan. New "branches are emerging". UP Wild in the Keweenaw launched in June, with some gathering happening in Rapid River.

UP Coming Wild Church Events:

- Sept. 16 3:00PM CT: Menominee Nature Prayer Service & launch discussion, Hene Park
- Sept. 23 4PM: U.P. Wild Keweenaw Wilderness Walk, Haven Falls Waterfall, Mohawk, MI
- September 24: Nature Prayer Service, Presque Isle Bandshell 4PM
- Sept. 29/30: MYSTC Retreat, Garden Peninsula
- October 29: Nature Prayer Service, w/ guest Pr. Bre Kinnunen @ Presque Isle Bandshell 4PM

To learn more go to: [www.upwild.org](http://www.upwild.org)

## Synod Calendar



- 4—Synod Office Closed
- 6—Finance Co., 11:00 ET vis Zoom
- 7—NGLS Staff Meeting, 10:00 ET
- 7—Dwelling in the Word, 7:30 ET via Zoom
- 8-9—Synod Council, Faith, Ishpeming
- 10—Installation of Pastor David Murphy at Our Savior's, Marinette, 3:00 CT
- 10—Three Lakes Fall Conference Mtg., 3:00 ET First, Grand Marais
- 12—Leader Check-in, 2:00 ET via Zoom
- 12—Financial Wellness Workshop, 7:30 ET via Zoom
- 13—World Hunger Co., 2:00ET via Zoom
- 14—Congregational Leader's Workshop with Imran Siddiqui, 7:00 ET, Zoom
- 17—Leadership Support Co, 2:00 CT at Fortune Lake Camp
- 17-19—Fall Theological Conference at Fortune Lake Camp
- 20—NGLS Staff Meeting, 10:00 ET
- 21—Worship Co., 10:00 ET—hybrid
- 21—Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors Co., 10:00 ET via Zoom
- 23—Faithful Innovations, 9:00 CT at Fortune Lake Camp
- 24—Installation of Pastor Bre Kinnunen at Immanuel, Negaunee, 3:00 ET
- 26-30—Bishop Finegan to Conference of Bishops



- 4—NGLS Staff Meeting, 10:00 ET
- 5—Dwelling in the Word, 7:30 ET via Zoom
- 8—Installation of Pastor Elise Hynek at St. James, Rudyard—3:00 ET
- 10—Darkness to Light training 5:30 ET at Negaunee, MI
- 11-26—Pastor Jim Duehring to the Eastern & Coastal Diocese in Tanzania
- 13—SWO Convention at Fortune Lake
- 13-15—SWO Fall Retreat at Fortune Lake
- 14—Darkness to Light training 9:30 a.m. ET at Chassell, MI
- 18—NGLS Staff Meeting, 10:00 ET
- 20-21—Men's Retreat at Fortune Lake
- 21—Darkness to Light training 9:30 a.m. CT at Crystal Falls, MI
- 22—Installation of Pastor Tim Johnston at Bethel, Ishpeming, 3:00 ET
- 23—Darkness to Light training 10:00 a.m. CT at Eagle River, WI
- 25-27—Bishop Finegan to the Region 5 Staff Gathering
- 31—NGLS Staff Meeting, 10:00 ET

## Retreat Opportunity for Pastors

Holy Wisdom Monastery, located in Middleton, WI (near Madison) offers pastors in any stage of their call a peaceful setting for rest and relaxation. These retreats are free of charge for up to six days a year through the Deep Breath program which merges personal retreat with resources and support from the Center for Clergy Renewal. Visit their website for more information or call 608-836-1631 ext 100.



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

**Answer the Call**

William & Etta Hartman  
Alan Johnson  
Lee & Verna Johnson  
Holy Trinity, Chassell  
Immanuel, Negaunee

**ELCA Disaster Funds/  
Lutheran World Relief**

Messiah, Marquette  
Mission United, Pelkie  
Grace, Pembine  
Salem, Ironwood  
Prince of Peace, Marquette  
Calvary, Rapid River  
Zion, Marinette  
Gloria Dei, Hancock  
First, Ewen  
Trinity, Ishpeming

**Equipping the Saints**

Pastor Elisabeth & Wes Daniels  
Salem, Ironwood

**Lutheran Campus Ministry**

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

**Lutheran Immigration and  
Refugee Service**

Messiah, Marquette  
St. Paul, Ironwood

**Feeding America: UP Mobiles**

Susy Swanson  
Jim & Gisele Duehring  
Doris Oss  
Annette Westrich

**Lutheran Social Services**

First, Ewen  
Emanuel, Skandia

**Skogman Scholarship Fund**

Christ the King, Escanaba

**Clergy Debt Relief Fund**

James Koldos  
Trinity, Ishpeming

**Synod Ministry Fund**

Zion, Marinette  
Revs. Steve & Evelyn Weston

**Synod Youth Ministries**

Zion, Marinette

**World Missionary Support**

Messiah, Marquette  
Mission United, Pelkie

**Companion Synod Projects**

St. Paul, Mass City



## Transitions

We celebrate with **Jennifer Elsenbroek** who was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Service on June 18. Deacon Jen has received a Synod Council call to serve as chaplain at the Great Lakes Recovery Center in Marquette.

God's blessings to **Elise Hynek** who was ordained on July 8 and began her ministry with St. James, Rudyard on July 24.

We welcome **Pastor Peggy Rose** back to the Synod! She began her interim work with Pioneer Lake, Conover on July 30.

**Pastor Bruce Thorsen** has completed his interim ministry with Bethany, Ishpeming. **Pastor Steve and Pastor Evelyn Weston** have completed their interim ministry with Bethel, Faith and Trinity, Ishpeming. Thank you all for your ministry among us and God's blessings as you continue to serve the Lord.

We thank God for the ministry of **Pastor Jay and Diana Welshonse** with the Northern Lights Lutheran Parish. As they leave our Synod, may God bless their future endeavors.

Deepest appreciation and best wishes to Synod Office Administrator **Heather Oysti** as she begins a new career path. You have been a blessing to our Synod!

Upcoming Installations:

- **Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith**, Good Shepherd, Houghton and MTU Lutheran Campus Ministry—Aug. 27
- **Pastor David Murphy**, Our Savior's, Marinette—Sept. 10
- **Pastor Bre Kinnunen**, Immanuel, Negaunee—Sept. 24
- **Pastor Elise Hynek**, St. James, Rudyard—Oct. 8
- **Pastor Tim Johnston**, Bethel, Ishpeming—Oct. 22

Clergy and LLM's are invited to vest and color of the day is red.

## Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

All Saints, Wakefield & Sharon, Bessemer—Rev. Lauri Maki

First, Iron River—Vicar Lance Crevier, Student

Bethany, Ishpeming—Rev. Dave Echelbarger and Rev. Christine

Thomas Echelbarger

Faith & Trinity, Ishpeming—Rev. Thomas Skrenes

Zion, Marinette—Rev. Doug Schoen

Immanuel, Rhinelander—Rev. John Kuziej

Porterfield, Porterfield & Beaver American, Pound—Rev. Ken Michaelis

United, L'Anse—Rev. Julie Belew

Ascension, Minocqua—Rev. Philip Johnson

Pioneer Lake, Conover—Rev. Peggy Rose

Emmanuel, Menominee—Rev. Christine Olson

Bethany, Perkins & Trinity, Stonington—Lisa Bouche

Grace, South Range—Rev. Bucky Beach

Northern Lights Parish—Rev. Micheal Laakko

*“Oh yes! God gives Goodness and Beauty;  
Our land responds with Bounty and Blessing.” Psalm 85:12 (The Message)*

As we begin to harvest all that the summer sun and rains have helped to grow, we remember that it is God who gives the bounty and blessing, just as God works through our congregations and us to bring blessings to others. Congregational gifts to mission support through July are up by 3% over 2022 for which we are truly grateful. Designated gifts were higher in 2022 because of the outpouring of support for Ukraine.

Your gifts make a real difference for the ministry to which the Synod is called. We are blessed to be in partnership together!

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 7/31	2022	2023	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	779,995	759,513	-20,482	-2.6%
Amount Received	414,987	427,392	+12,405	+3%



## Northern Great Lakes Synod

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# Prayfaithfully

## NGLS Daily Devotions Schedule September & October 2023

September 3-9	Pastor Elisabeth Daniels
September 10-16	Kathy Bero
September 17-23	Dave Mason
September 24-30	Roland Jacobson
October 1-7	Melissa Salminen
October 8-14	Chris Ebert
October 15-21	Pastor Catie Ford
October 22-28	Pastor Julie Belew
October 29-November 4	Pauline Kiltinen





A Year of Prayer  
A Lifetime of Praying!

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[www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully](http://www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully)

## Prayer Calendar - September 2023

<b>1</b>	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) and Sherry Van Lishout (9/12)
<b>2</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: David Murphy (9/6), Gene Wickman (9/6), Bishop Emeritus Thomas Skrenes (9/8) Judy Kirchoff (9/9) Rell Spickerman (9/10) George Olson (9/12) Steven Solberg (9/14) and Deacons Arlene Rajala (9/13) Karen Anne Hanson (9/19) and Jon Babbitt (9/19)
<b>3</b>	Pray for our community food pantries. Bless the donors, volunteers, and recipients. Bless the generosity of their shared treasure, their gift of time and give those receiving the comfort of knowing God will provide.
<b>4</b>	On this Labor Day, we pray for all workers in our country who provide skills and services. May they live their faith while making a living and know that God is with them. May they be compensated fairly and respected as the valuable resources they are.
<b>5</b>	Pray for the Finance Committee as they meet to determine the most impactful ways to use our financial resources. Grant them wisdom and humility as they provide oversight of the plentiful blessings God has given us.
<b>6</b>	Pray we find joy in helping others. May we have generous hearts and be cheerful givers. Let us give without expecting praise or reward.
<b>7</b>	Pray for the Synod Council/Synod Dwelling in the Word Bible Study. Bless their time together, focus their minds and open their hearts.
<b>8</b>	Pray for the Synod Council as they meet in Ishpeming through September 9 <sup>th</sup> . Pray for each person who brings their ideas, their vision, and their voice. Pray they trust in God to guide them from inspiration to the implementation of their recommendations.
<b>9</b>	Pray for Temeke Lutheran Church in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS partner congregation Gloria Dei Lutheran in Hancock.
<b>10</b>	Pray for Pastor David Murphy as he is installed at Our Savior's in Marinette. Bless his ministry, his leadership, and his ability to bring hope and peace to his congregation. Pray for those attending the Conference 7 Fall meeting. Refocus their hearts, strengthen their intentions and assure them that where two or more gather in God's name, God is there.
<b>11</b>	Pray for those grieving the loss of a beloved pet. We give thanks for their unconditional love, the happiness they brought us and their faithful loyalty.
<b>12</b>	Pray for the congregations of St. Peter, Keedysville, MD; St. Peter, Ocean City, MD; St. Phillip, Baltimore, MD; St. Phillip, Wilmington, DE; St. Stephen Arbutus, Baltimore, MD; St. Stephen, Wilmington, DE; The State Project (Charles Waverly Mission) Wilmington, DE; Tree of Life, Middleton, Odessa DE; and Trinity, Boonsboro, MD,
<b>13</b>	Pray for the World Hunger Committee as they meet to identify the most impactful strategies for bringing nourishment to the world's impoverished. We pray for an end to hunger and food insecurity.
<b>14</b>	Pray for those participating in the Congregational Leader's Workshop via Zoom. Instill in them the power to accomplish good deeds and lead by example in their enthusiasm for God's word.

<b>15</b>	Pray students at all levels have the courage to ask for assistance and support if they encounter academic, emotional, or social challenges. Give their instructors, coaches and guidance counselors calm and patient hearts to effectively uplift those who struggle.
<b>16</b>	Pray we learn to slow down and worry less. Remind us of these words, "Be not afraid I go before you always. Come, follow me and I will give you rest."
<b>17</b>	Pray for those participating in the Leadership Support Committee meeting. May their discussions be guided by God and their strategies be strengthened by their faith. Pray for those attending the Fall Theological Conference at Fortune Lake. May it bring opportunities for rest, study, and reflection.
<b>18</b>	Pray for those who struggle through sleepless nights. May their restlessness be calmed, their minds relaxed and their hearts at peace.
<b>19</b>	Pray we welcome the spirit of fall and the majesty of God's creation. Bless us as we transition from the glory of summer to the crispness of fall. As the seasons change, "The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest."
<b>20</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Julie Belew (9/22) Kay Richter (9/23) Greg Mileski (9/24) Tim Vadis (9/27) Kari Vadis (9/28) and Deacon Noreen Stevens (9/20)
<b>21</b>	Pray for the Worship Committee as they meet to coordinate and integrate the blessings of God's word, the gifts of our music and the fellowship of faith that strengthens our souls.
<b>22</b>	Pray for pastors celebrating birthdays this month: Mary Weinkauff (9/22) Paul Heykes (9/26) Dave Christenson (9/27) Dave Tielbar (9/28) Peter Vorhes (9/28) and Lee Goodwin (9/29).
<b>23</b>	Pray for those attending Faithful Innovations at Fortune Lake. May they recognize their talents, their shared objectives, and their ongoing commitment to inspiring their congregations and ministries.
<b>24</b>	Pray for Pastor Bre Kinnunen as she is installed at Immanuel Lutheran in Negaunee. Bless her as she becomes their spiritual leader through her thoughts, words, and deeds.
<b>25</b>	Pray for women entrepreneurs who bring their unique vision, their compassion and creativity to products and services. Bless their endeavors, their advocacy and mentoring of future business leaders.
<b>26</b>	On this National Voter Registration Day, pray all citizens exercise their privilege of voting to facilitate representation across a wide variety of Americans.
<b>27</b>	Pray we find ways to care for and support others. May we find a way to welcome them when others have turned them away. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow, and peace is understood.
<b>28</b>	Pray for Bishop Finegan as she attends the Conference of Bishops through September 30 <sup>th</sup> . Bless the opportunities for learning, for laughing and for shared problem solving.
<b>29</b>	Pray that in times of trouble, we know we can turn to God in all things, and God will find a way to ease our burdens and reveal our options. Bless us with patience and optimism.
<b>30</b>	Pray all political leaders embrace compassion, understanding and peace as their true legacy.

*"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!

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[www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully](http://www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully)

## Prayer Calendar – October 2023

<b>1</b>	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 as we support their changing needs.
<b>2</b>	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.
<b>3</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Don Ludemann (10/04), Tom Wickstrom (10/05), Ken Carlson (10/5), George Candea-Kromm (10/7), Christine Olson (10/9) and Jack Busche (10/9).
<b>4</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Timothy Vadis (10/05), David Echelbarger (10/08), Cathleen Morris (10/10), Ken Carlson (10/13), Maxine Gray (10/16) and Deacon Jennifer Elsenbroek (10/13).
<b>5</b>	Pray for those participating in the Dwelling in the Word Synod via Zoom. May they be inspired to take God’s Word and transform it into meaningful ministry.
<b>6</b>	Pray we seek and embrace opportunities to be kind in our thoughts and deeds. May these acts of kindness become a catalyst for others to foster greater community connectedness.
<b>7</b>	Bless all Occupational Therapists as they celebrate National OT month. Bless their programming and their strategies as they facilitate independence in activities of daily living within a variety of clinical settings including schools, hospitals, extended care, and home health.
<b>8</b>	Pray for Pastor Elise Hynek as she is installed as the pastor at St. James in Rudyard. Bless her ability to guide, lead and minister to her congregation. Pray for all clergy on this day as we acknowledge and celebrate their ongoing commitment to guiding us through times of celebration and challenge.
<b>9</b>	Pray for Trinity Lutheran, Hagerstown, MD; Trinity- Reiserstown, MD; Trinity-Smithsburg, MD; Trinity-Taneytown, MD; Trinity-Westminster, MD; Zion Lutheran– City Hall Plaza, Baltimore, MD; Zion-Middleton, MD; Zion-Williamsport, MD; and Zion Wilmington, DE.
<b>10</b>	On this 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. Guide them through the darkest of times so they may find light in God’s love and hope for their future.
<b>11</b>	Pray for Seminarian Lance Crevier and the people he serves as student pastor at First Lutheran, Iron River. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide him.
<b>12</b>	Pray for those who fear growing older. Grant them clarity and perspective as they adjust and adapt to the changes associated with aging. Instill in them the confidence to seek assistance and find ways to remain engaged in all that goes on around them.
<b>13</b>	Pray for those transitioning to hospice and palliative care. As they begin their walk home, may God bring them peace. Comfort their loved ones who may only see despair. Bless hospice workers. May they too be blessed through their compassion and support.
<b>14</b>	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) Lily Brondyke (10/29) and Judy Kirchoff (10/31).

<b>15</b>	Pray for those who have the courage to live a life guided by the Lord. May their faith, forgiveness, honesty, joy, love, and patience uplift and inspire others.
<b>16</b>	Pray we become change makers. May God guide us to opportunities where our time, talent and treasure can be most impactful in service to God and others.
<b>17</b>	Pray for those who fall victim to online bullying, extortion, and sexual abuse. Pray they find acceptance and security with those whose intentions are to keep them safe and loved.
<b>18</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Stephen Gauger (10/28), Kari Vadis (10/28), Alex Ross (10/29) and LLM Larry Molloy (10/28).
<b>19</b>	Pray we learn to withhold our judgment until all facts are known. Keep our minds open to current ideas and other's opinions and guide us to and through respectful exchanges.
<b>20</b>	Pray for those participating in the Men's Retreat at Fortune Lake through October 21 <sup>st</sup> . May they be fearless in their faith building and find friendship through fellowship.
<b>21</b>	Pray for the members of Azania Front Cathedral, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their partner congregation, Messiah Lutheran Church, Marquette.
<b>22</b>	Pray for those seeking affordable housing and for those who fear rent increases or eviction. Remind our community leaders, a safe place to dwell is essential to our physical and emotional longevity.
<b>23</b>	Pray that when we need it most, we will quiet our hearts and minds and turn our thoughts to God only to imagine God's loving arms embracing us in the most comforting and all-encompassing hug.
<b>24</b>	Pray through our collective voices in church or our soulful solos that we lift the Lord's name on high and continue to sing God's praises. Let us shout, 'I'm so glad You're in our lives!'
<b>25</b>	Pray for students, faculty, and staff in all schools. Keep everyone motivated and excited about learning, teaching, and supporting each other.
<b>26</b>	Pray we find comfort knowing if we give God our problem, he will instill in us the ability to find a solution and if we struggle, he will guide us to others who will help and support us.
<b>27</b>	Pray for our school bus drivers. Grant them the patience to take their time and to keep their focus on their responsibility to the students they are transporting to academic, athletic, and recreational activities.
<b>28</b>	Pray for first responders including police, fire and EMT personnel. Keep them safe as they encounter people during difficult and dangerous times. Bless their ability to save and protect.
<b>29</b>	Pray for trick or treaters. Be with each child, parent. and guardian. Help them to feel safe and secure in their community.
<b>30</b>	Pray for those participating in athletic events including the athletes, coaches, and spectators. Keep them ever mindful of teamwork and the goal of healthy competition. May we all be graceful in both winning and losing.
<b>31</b>	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."*



# Fall Classes Now Open for Registration

Learn from the Bible.

Explore topics important to the church, your community, and the world.

Registration is quick and easy for the interesting variety of classes offered by the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Beginning in September and October, Lifelong Faith Formation offerings will meet online via Zoom. Two classes are also meeting in-person.

Go to <https://nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation> to sign-up for one of more of these classes by September 15.

## Christ's Kaleidoscope

**A focus on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community.**

with Samuel Brink, Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp intern and Pastor Bruce J. Thorsen, Faith, Okemos, Michigan  
Sundays for five weeks, September 24-October 22 from 4-5 p.m. Eastern Time, 3-4 Central Time

## Who are the Evangelicals?

**A former evangelical pastor turns whistleblower (without being mean).**

with Dr. Lon Hider, Christ the King, Escanaba  
Mondays for 10 weeks, September 25-November 27 from 6:30-8 p.m. Eastern Time, 5:30-7 p.m. Central  
Meeting in-person at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 1230 N 18th Street, Escanaba, with Zoom option

## Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past:

**A Conversation about Loss, Grief, and Nostalgia in Congregational Life** by Michael Girlinghouse

a book study with Bishop Katherine Finegan, Northern Great Lakes Synod

Mondays for four weeks, October 2-October 23  
6-7 p.m. Eastern Time, 5-6 p.m. Central / 7-8 p.m. Eastern Time, 6-7 p.m. Central

## Stewards of Children:

**The movement to make your faith community a safe space**

with Pastor Kari Vadis, Trinity, Rhinelander

Thursday, October 19, from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Eastern; 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Central **OR**  
Thursday, October 19, from 6 – 8:30 p.m. Eastern; 5 – 7:30 p.m. Central

## Stewardship of Animals

with Cindy Sjoquist, First, Gladstone

Tuesdays for three weeks, October 3-17 - 6:30 – 8 p.m. Eastern Time, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Central  
Meeting in-person at First Lutheran, 1212 Minneapolis Ave., Gladstone, with Zoom option

## The Gospel of Mark: It's Story and Meaning

with Pastor Phil Johnson, Ascension, Minocqua

Tuesdays for six weeks, September 19-October 24 from 7-8 p.m. Eastern Time, 6-7 p.m. Central

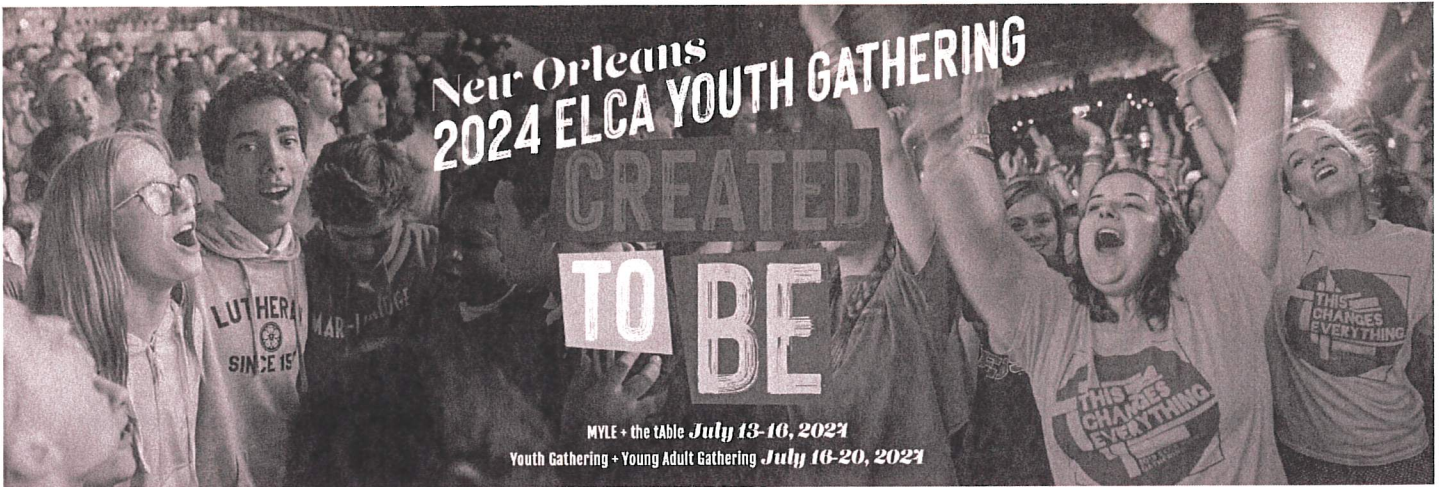
## That's Not in MY Bible: a survey of the Apocrypha

with Pastor Tommy Richter, Zion, Manistique

Wednesdays for 10 weeks, September 20 – November 22 from 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 6:00 Central

Contact Deacon Lori Ward at 615-519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynd.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynd.org) if you have any questions.

# Youth Ministry Updates



The next ELCA Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans, LA. Youth who will be completing 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades in the 2023-2024 school year are eligible to participate in the Youth Gathering and a new Young Adult Gathering is an option for young people who missed out on the last two Gathering cycles because of the pandemic. **Priority registration takes place from September 15 – November 1** so now is the time to start promoting, recruiting, and considering how your congregation can support this faith-forming event.

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



Pastor Kari Vadis, of Trinity Rhinelander, is an authorized facilitator with Darkness to Light: a leader in child sexual abuse prevention, education, research, and advocacy. Faith leaders (pastors, council members, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, parents) and all who are interested in creating a safer community for our children are invited to participate in an upcoming training in our synod.

Tuesday, October 10	5:30 – 8:30 p.m. EST	Negaunee, MI
Saturday, October 14	9:30 a.m. – noon EST	Chassell, MI
Saturday, October 21	9:30 a.m. – noon CST	Crystal Falls, MI
Monday, October 23	10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST	Eagle River, WI

Additional information and online registration can be found at <https://nglsynod.org/youth/#darknessToLight>.

If you would like to coordinate a Darkness to Light training in your conference, please email [youthcoordinator@nglsynd.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynd.org) to start the scheduling process.

# **Improve your Congregational Financial Wellness**

**Online Webinar Presentation by Steve Oelschlager**

**Tuesday, September 12**

**6:30pm CT/ 7:30pm ET**



Northern Great Lakes Synod is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
Improving Congregational Financial Wellness w/ Steve Oelschlager

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85444216834?pwd=eVQwOUNZcXpJbXRGTzJSMkdCNEI3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 854 4421 6834      Passcode: 799209

All rostered leaders, council members, stewardship committee members, finance committee members, treasurers, and any congregation leader would benefit from this presentation.

Steve Oelschlager has vast practical financial experience with congregational life and a depth of theological convictions that inform his work. He is the Director of National Campus Ministry Inc. and Congregational Assessment Research Coordinator for the ELCA.

[www.resourcefuleservants.org/congregations](http://www.resourcefuleservants.org/congregations)

**You will benefit from attending this online workshop.**

**Please mark your calendars!**

**(See back side of this flyer for detailed information)**

# IMPROVE CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL WELLNESS

It is common for congregations to wrestle with financial issues (e.g. budgets, resource allocation, sustained growth, etc.). **As a leader in an ELCA congregation, you have access to resources to help your congregation pursue healthy financial behaviors. Visit [resourcefulservants.org/congregations](https://resourcefulservants.org/congregations).**

## WHY PEOPLE GIVE

According to research cited by author J. Clif Christopher in *Rich Church, Poor Church: Keys to Effective Financial Ministry*, people give for three main reasons: belief in the institution's mission, regard for staff leadership, and the fiscal responsibility of the institution. A congregation's ability to make a difference, including through financial best practices, is critical to donors' continued financial support.

Through the Resourceful Servants initiative, the ELCA seeks to encourage habits that strengthen and sustain individual and congregational financial wellness and growth. So take advantage of the full range of financial wellness resources available at [resourcefulservants.org](https://resourcefulservants.org).

**Help your congregation engender trust in leadership, inspire generosity, direct gifts to where they can make the most difference, and participate in vital ministry inside and outside your walls.**

Through the Resourceful Servants Congregational Financial Assessment program, congregations have the opportunity to follow a road map to increased financial stability, using healthy financial practices that focus on five key areas:



**In summary, what is the value of the Congregational Financial Assessment in healthy financial practices?**

- Increased giving from donors and supporters who want their gifts stewarded to maximize impact.
- Deepened focus on faith formation, with healthy financial practices in place.
- Facilitated knowledge transfer when new leaders come into office, through clear, consistent expectations around financial management.
- Enhanced appeal in call processes. Participating in the assessment indicates financial health is valued.
- Improved congregational processes, leading to better interest rates from lending institutions.
- Synodical recognition of this commitment to your congregation's financial health.



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



## WALKING WITH OUR INDIGENOUS NEIGHBORS

*“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” --2 Corinthians 5:17-18*

On July 21, approximately 75 orange-clad people, Ojibwe and non-native alike, gathered at the Assinins boarding school and orphanage sites north of Baraga, Michigan, to remember indigenous children who attended that boarding school and others across North America. We heard the stories of three survivors of Michigan boarding schools. These stories highlighted the abuse they and their classmates suffered at the hands of teachers and the systematic effort to strip them of anything which identified them as “Indian”: their clothes, their language, their hair, their traditions. They spoke of trauma and the long journey back to celebrating who they are as Ojibwe people. We listened, prayed, pondered. And then we walked along Highway 41 down to the Tribal powwow grounds, a visible reminder of a tragic period in our history which continues to cause painful consequences for Indian people in the U.S. and Canada.



In 2021, the Northern Great Lakes Synod repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery in assembly, expressing repentance for our part as Christians in the taking of native lives and land, and the systematic effort to eliminate all vestiges of native culture—often justifying our actions as a means of spreading the gospel. We also committed ourselves to seek new relationships with native communities in the quest for healing. To that end, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton recently announced the beginning of the Truth and Healing Movement in the ELCA. As we move toward late summer and fall, the Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors Task Force would like to make you aware of some upcoming opportunities!

This fall, our congregations are encouraged to mark National Boarding School Remembrance Day, September 30, and Indigenous People’s Day, October 9. Perhaps the best way to do that would be to use a Native American Day special worship liturgy, include appropriate information related to Boarding Schools in your worship bulletin and newsletter, and invite worshippers to wear orange in remembrance of those who died in Indian Boarding Schools. We are suggesting you and your congregation designate a Sunday in October for this purpose—perhaps the 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month. To that end, watch for a new version of the Native American worship service, to be sent out in September. We will also be sending out information on developing a Land Acknowledgments for that service and for use in other settings.

In addition, the ELCA will be offering various classes online during August-October. Some will be specific to the boarding school movement, but already, you can find registration for two classes: an Introduction to the Truth and Healing Movement (August 29 at 10 CT/11 ET or September 26 at 7 CT/8 ET) and Indian 101—Indigenous Thought and Theology (August 31 at 10 CT/11 ET or September 28 at 7 CT/8 ET). Check the ELCA website for more information on classes as they become available.

To learn more about native life and culture, we encourage you to visit a powwow this summer! Although many across our synod have already been held, the Bad River Powwow near Odanah, Wisconsin just west of Ironwood, MI, is scheduled to take place August 18-20 and the Forest County Potawatomi Powwow near Crandon, WI is set for August 25-27. The ELCA website has information on Powwows and Powwow Etiquette if you are unfamiliar—in general, you will find the atmosphere celebratory and welcoming.



Do you have some time to read a few books as the summer days blend into early fall? Why not pick up a book that will help you become acquainted with the story of our indigenous neighbors? Among the many good reads out there, pick up **Firekeeper's Daughter** (a young adult thriller set in the Sault Ste Marie area) by Angeline Boulley. Or **Native**, a memoir by Kaitlin Curtice, a Potawatomi woman wrestling with her identity as both a Christian and native person. For a comprehensive overview of the story of colonization and the native experience, read **Rediscovery of America** by Ned Blackhawk or **Indigenous Continent** by Pekka Hamalainen. For an in-depth look at the clash of cultures and the loss of Ojibwe land and sovereignty over several generations in northern Wisconsin, **The Murder of Joe White** by Erik Redix is excellent.

A wealth of information on the Church and Native American concerns can be found at [www.elca.org/indigenous](http://www.elca.org/indigenous) and on the Northern Great Lakes Synod website at [www.ngls.synod.org/anti-racism-resources](http://www.ngls.synod.org/anti-racism-resources). Christ's Kaleidoscope Challenge featured two weeks of daily videos and print resources which still can be accessed at [www.ngls.synod.org/christ-kaleidoscope-challenge/](http://www.ngls.synod.org/christ-kaleidoscope-challenge/).

*By Rev. Dave Van Kley, Retired Pastor and Member of the Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors Task Force*