

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

Volume 36, Issue 3 | May—June 2024

*Very truly, I tell you,  
unless a grain of wheat  
falls into the earth and dies,  
it remains just a single grain;  
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

~John 12: 24



Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

The season of gardening is almost upon us. When I was a child, my mother would cajole, plead, and bribe me and my siblings to take a turn weeding in the garden. I always resisted, disliking not only the bending in the hot sun, but the time away from play, even as I had just complained that there was nothing to do.

After my family and I moved to Republic, my husband and I agreed to try gardening. As we planned and planted, I regretted not having paid more attention to all the wisdom that I know my mother had about gardening, but I was too reluctant a student.

It was a surprise to me then, as I weeded the garden, when I unintentionally uprooted a green bean seed that had already sprouted, and what surprised me was how the seed was literally disappearing into the sprout. As I held this disturbed sprout in my dirty hand, I could see that the seed had been split open by the urgent growth of this little tendril shoot that sprung from the mysterious depth of the center of this seed, no bigger than...well...a bean seed. The two halves of the seed that flanked the sprout were pushed to the sides, up and away, and they were getting smaller as the sprout gathered what remained of the seed into itself for upward growth.



I had never seen a seed sprout, not that I could remember, not that I had ever paid attention. And I was newly in awe of the miracle that God provides with seeds and dark earth, water and sun. And then to think that this small sprout would, and indeed did, grow into a bush full of green

beans, despite all the weeds that surrounded it. One small seed was

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transformed into a gallon freezer bag full of long and plump green beans, beans that graced our table at more than a few meals, where my children could count on me to say, just as my mother had, “These beans are from the garden.”

God is in the business of new life and transformation, most particularly, transforming death into life. And we are both privileged and burdened to witness the current and ongoing transformation of the Church. Death is hard. We suffer it. We would rather not die. And yet, there is no Easter without Good Friday.

This Spring, in this Easter season of new life, the congregation of St. James in Marinette, WI will give new life to the Church as their church closes. Its end will also be a beginning as it loses itself in support of other ministries and participation in other communities of faith. And yet, St. James will never be lost. It will be remembered and honored as any beloved whose life we celebrate. As in all things, it had a beginning and it will have an end, that God transforms into beginning again.

Just as Jesus the Christ was transformed. Through the open and empty tomb, we are given the clear message that death is not the final word. The grain that was buried for three days is still bearing fruit – as the faithful gather, as they are equipped, as they are sent to plant seeds of faith – seeds that lose themselves in new growth and yield a harvest to a world hungry for the presence of God in Christ Jesus.

May God bless your seed sowing efforts, both in the dirt of your garden and in the world.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

## “We’ve Been Here Before”

Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

In my previous article for the March/April Northern Light, I noted that there is value in reflecting on the past. There is



value for Christians and the church to reflect on how Christians and the church have lived and spoken in the context of their own time frames. Reading the book of Acts and the challenges and amazing fluidity of the early church, we can find strength and hope in truly understanding that God’s people have been here before—both through the good and the bad. The players may have changed, but the basic patterns of life and humanity are amazingly similar.

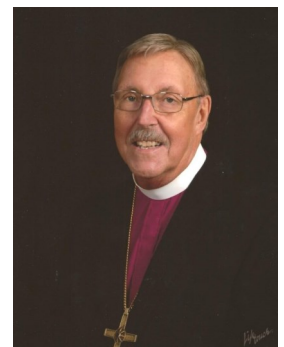
It’s in this spirit of reflecting on the past, that I want to share some perspectives from past synod bishops of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. For this article, I’m sharing some perspectives from the second bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Dale Skogman (bishop 1991-1999).

In the August 1991 edition of “Northern Lights-Notes and Quotes”, Bishop Skogman reflected on “Long Range Planning”, just as he was beginning as bishop. Bishop Skogman wrote the following:

- *A “realistic” appraisal has been made of the spiritual, human, and material resources that the synod possesses...*
- *A “creative” effort has been made to utilize the resources of the synod for the fullest ministry possible, and that ministry has been “positive” in its focus on the “gifts” of the synod, and not its “lacks”.*
- *One of the richest resources of the synod is its people who have “voluntarily” given of their time, talents, energies, and resources to the collective ministry of the synod.*
- *God’s people are performing God’s ministry out of commitment and delight, without costly and cumbersome bureaucratic structuring!*

In the December 1991 edition of “Northern Light-Notes and Quotes”, Bishop Skogman reflected on “pastoring” vs “bishopsing”:

- *There are more similarities than differences!*
- *Like a parish pastor, I work hard, write sermons, see people in joy and pain, watch attendance and offering statistics with anxiety, sometimes “seek to please,” sometimes need to take a “firm stand”...and I appreciate an often needed word of affirmation.*
- *When asked, “What is your most fervent prayer?”: “That I am faithful!” I assume that as a pastor, and/or leader in Christ’s Church, your hopes, concerns and prayers might be the same? Thanks for the partnership!*

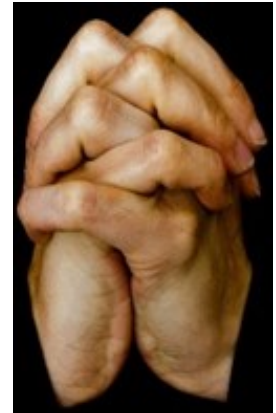


In the January 1999 edition of “Northern Light-Notes and Quotes”, Bishop Skogman reflected on the stress of technology:

- *The sense of urgency facilitated by instant communication options can rob us of the ‘downtime’ needed to stay refreshed and relaxed.*
- *Unplug regularly. The world doesn’t need you to be on call 24 hours a day. Make a special effort to connect with real things—people, animals, nature, music, art, play, laughter and exercise.*

I suspect that those of you who knew Bishop Skogman, can still see and hear him in your minds speaking these words. Are not these reflections from 20+ years ago still powerful and relevant today?

Even more important than recognizing that “we’ve been here before,” is proclaiming in faith, “God has been here before!” Those who have gone before me, and people like Bishop Skogman, remind us to fervently pray for our own faithfulness in response to God’s faithfulness. “To remember” God’s faithfulness in the past is to be encouraged to trust God’s faithfulness for the present moment and for the future. And, it’s yet to seen what new thing our faithful God will be doing in our Northern Great Lakes Synod through people like you!



## DRAFT CIVIC LIFE and FAITH SOCIAL STATEMENT

By: Chuck Thomas, NGLS Vice President

It seems to me, especially in these times of extremism and political divisiveness, it is imperative that we have a good understanding of how Christian faith and our duty as citizens mesh together. Recognizing that blending faith and civic action may be a conundrum for some, the ELCA is developing a social teaching about it. A draft social statement on Civic Life and Faith was recently released for review with all comments about it due by September 30, 2024. The draft social statement can be downloaded at: [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Civic\\_Life\\_and\\_Faith\\_Draft.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Civic_Life_and_Faith_Draft.pdf).

There is an upcoming planned Synod Assembly workshop where you can both learn about how social statements are developed and have discussion about the content of the draft Civic Life and Faith social statement. The workshop is open to everyone and is scheduled to occur via Zoom on Friday, May 17 at 7 PM eastern time. Watch the synod website and E-notes for more information about this and other workshops being offered during the Synod Assembly week.

The draft Civic Life and Faith social statement addresses the complex concepts of God’s strategies for our interactions with others, our means of governance, and our methods to maintain a just society. The draft social statement teaches how we as Lutherans understand God’s strategies and what responses and actions might be appropriate given our understanding of God’s plans. The draft social statement is divided into the following six topic sections;

- 1) God’s Activity Toward Well-being Through Civic Life,
- 2) The Calling to Robust Civic Participation,
- 3) Assessing the U.S. Constitutional Form of Government,
- 4) Religion and the First Amendment,
- 5) Describing the Constructive Relationships of Religious Organizations and Political Authority, and
- 6) Addressing Selected Contemporary Concerns in Civic Life.

I encourage everyone to download and read the draft social statement. The downloaded version is divided into three parts, a short introduction, an abbreviated “small catechism” version of the draft social statement, and the full “long” version of the draft social statement. The May 17 Synod Assembly Workshop will be a great time to ask and discuss your questions on this social teaching.

In my opinion, the draft social statement aptly closes with this statement: “*Your will be done, on earth as in heaven*” is both our prayer as a church and our calling into civic life for the well-being of all. May we, as forgiven people in Christ’s church, respond boldly and join all others of goodwill to work toward the aspiration and responsibility of “we the people” through wise civic participation.”



A joint event between the **Northern Great Lakes Synod and U.P. Wild** happening in conjunction with Synod Assembly Workshops. Hikes will take place between May 11th – 19th. See below for details on how to join your conference's hike.

**Have questions?** Check below for your conference's hike contact. Happy Hiking and don't forget your water bottle!

#### **Conference 1: Iron-Gogebic-Ontonagon**

Contact: Loraine Musatti,

[Lorainemussatti@gmail.com](mailto:Lorainemussatti@gmail.com)

Date: Saturday, May 11

Start Time: 10:00 a.m. Central

Location: All Saints Lutheran Church  
1202 Putnam St, Wakefield, MI

#### **Conference 2: Copper Country**

Contact: Rob Bishop,

[rmbishop@mtu.edu](mailto:rmbishop@mtu.edu)

Date: Sunday, May 19

Start Time: 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Meeting Location: Porvoo Park (waterfront across from the intersection of Tezcuco and Navy Streets), Hancock, MI

#### **Conference 3: Headwaters**

Contact: Grant Van Lishout,

[grantvanlishout@gmail.com](mailto:grantvanlishout@gmail.com)

Date: Saturday, May 18

Start Time: 3:30 p.m. Central  
(following Synod Assembly)

Meeting Location: Ascension Lutheran Church  
7937 US-51, Minocqua, WI

#### **Conference 4: Four Rivers**

Contact: Amanda Rasner,

[campdirector@fortunelake.org](mailto:campdirector@fortunelake.org)

Date: Wednesday, May 15

Start Time: 7:00 a.m. Central

Meeting Location: Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp  
138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd, Crystal Falls, MI

#### **Conference 5: Menominee Valley**

Contact: Karen Anne Hanson,

[hansk@northlandlutheran.org](mailto:hansk@northlandlutheran.org)

Date: Sunday, May 19

Start Time: 3:00 p.m. Central

Meeting Location: Wickman Family Farm  
W4410 Panske Rd, Porterfield, WI

#### **Conference 6: Delta**

Contact: Mike Markwell

[mike.j.markwell@gmail.com](mailto:mike.j.markwell@gmail.com)

Date: Sunday, May 19

Start Time: 2:00 p.m. Eastern

Meeting Location: Rapid River Ski Trails  
8181 US Hwy 2, Rapid River, MI

#### **Conference 7: Three Lakes**

Contact: Sharon Babbitt

[beachgal260@hotmail.com](mailto:beachgal260@hotmail.com)

Date: Saturday, May 11

Start Time: 12:00 p.m. Eastern

Meeting Location: Upper Tahquamenon Falls  
41382 W M-123, Paradise, MI

#### **Conference 8: Superior Central**

Contact: Lanni Lantto

[lanni@upwild.org](mailto:lanni@upwild.org)

Date: Saturday, May 11

Start Time: 11:00 a.m. Eastern

Meeting Location: Eagles Nest Community Forest Trail, Marquette, MI (The first intersection of Eagles Nest Rd. & Hwy 550 towards Big Bay. Meeting in parking lot on right side of road look for UP WILD signs.)



## Synod Assembly Virtual Workshops



Open to all! No Registration needed. For Zoom links, visit [nglsynod.org/synod-assembly/](http://nglsynod.org/synod-assembly/) OR scan the QR code above!

- **Sowing Seeds Through Story**  
Lead by Nick Kiger and Karen Kretschmann  
Monday May 13th - 6:00 pm CT / 7:00 pm ET
- **Land Acknowledgments: A Spiritual Practicality and Plan for Congregations**  
Lead by Pastor Bucky Beach, Pastor Julie Belew, and Nancy Heykes  
Monday May 13th - 5:00 pm CT / 6:00 pm ET
- **Stewardship**  
Lead by Pastor Mike Markwell  
Tuesday, May 14th at 1:00 pm CT/ 2:00 pm ET  
Wednesday, May 15th at 6:00 pm CT/ 7:00 pm ET
- **Faithful Innovations: What it is and how it can help your congregation in an adaptive, communal, learning process**  
Lead by Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission  
Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 pm CT/ 7:00 pm ET
- **It's All Greek to Me!**  
Lead by Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn  
Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30 pm CT/ 7:30 pm ET  
Thursday, May 16th at 2:00 pm CT/ 3:00 pm ET
- **Northern Great Lakes Synod Budget**  
Lead by Synod Treasurer Pastor Terry Frankenstein  
Thursday, May 16th at 6:00 pm CT/ 7:00 pm ET
- **Discussion on Civic Life and Faith draft Social Statement**  
Lead by Synod Vice President Chuck Thomas  
Friday, May 16th at 6:00 pm CT/ 7:00 pm ET

## Synod Calendar



- 2—Dwelling in the Word Zoom 7:30 p.m. ET  
13-18—Virtual workshops and Synod-Wide Conference Hikes. Please visit [www.nglysond.org/synod-assembly/](http://www.nglysond.org/synod-assembly/) for more information.  
16—Synod Staff Meeting 10 a.m.  
18—Synod assembly

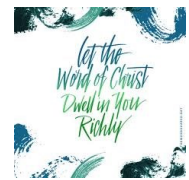


- 6—Dwelling in the Word via Zoom 7:30 p.m. ET  
7-8 —Synod Council Retreat  
11—Synod Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m.  
12—World Hunger Zoom Meeting

## Dwelling

In the

## Word



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

Zoom Link available on the Northern Great Lakes Synod Facebook page.



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

**ELCA Disaster Funds/  
Lutheran World Relief**  
Zion, Marinette

**Equipping the Saints**  
Pastor Elisabeth  
& Wes Daniels  
First, Gladstone  
Chrism Mass Offering

**Lutheran Campus Ministry**  
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo  
Prince of Peace, Marquette  
Gary & Chris Ebert

**NGLS Mission Outreach**  
Pastor Elisabeth  
& Wes Daniels

**Bishop's Discretionary**  
Rev. Thomas &  
Luanne Skrenes  
Jonelle R. Collins  
Revs. Grant & Sherry Van  
Lishout

**Synod Ministry Fund**  
Rev. James &  
Gisele Duehring

**Companion Synod Projects**  
First, Gladstone  
Salem, Ironwood  
Zion, Ironwood  
Rev. Thomas & Luanne  
Skrenes  
Thrivent Charitable  
Impact & Investing

**Synod Leadership**  
Trinity, Rapid River

**Clergy Debt Relief**  
First, Gladstone

**Seminarian Support**  
Jonathan & Jean Schmidt

**ELCA Water Projects**  
Conference 6—Delta

**Youth Ministry Support**  
First, Gladstone

**Mission Outreach**  
Immanuel, Escanaba

**Net Project**  
St. Paul's, Mass City

**Lutheran Social Services**  
Emanuel, Skandia

**Skogman Scholarship**  
Christ the King, Escanaba

**Skrenes Fund for Ministry**  
Thrivent Charitable  
Impact & Investing

## Transitions

- We give thanks for the leadership of Michael Holman who served as Licensed Lay Minister of Bethany, Negaunee, and Emanuel, Skandia. May God bless his retirement from active ministry and grant him refreshment as he enjoys a more relaxed pace. Rev. Dave Van Kley will serve as Administrative Interim Pastor.
- We pray God's blessings upon Pastor Tera Kossow who has accepted the call to serve as Director of Evangelical Mission in the Western North Dakota Synod. Pastor Kossow's last Sunday at Eden, Munising will be Easter, March 31. We wish her the very best as she serves the work of Christ in this new way. Rev. Lon Hider will serve as Administrative Interim Pastor.



## 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, Rhineland—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

Grace, South Range—Rev. Bucky Beach

Northern Lights Parish—Rev. Bill Jacobson

Calvary, Rapid River & First, Trenary—Rev. Terry Frankenstein

Christ the King, Escanaba—Rev. David Johnson and Sarah Sleeter

Faith, Rock—Rev. Jack Busche

*“For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.” (ELW #679)*

As spring makes its arrival and we continue our Easter celebration, we give thanks to God for the gifts that allow us to bring the knowledge of God’s presence and hope to a world that needs to hear of God’s love. While 2024 pledges are down from last year, actual gifts through February are somewhat higher. Thank you to all our congregations who give generously and consistently to support the mission and ministry of our Northern Great Lakes Synod! Together we can make a difference as we allow our Lord to guide and strengthen us for the journey.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 2/28	2023	2024	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	759,513	729,507	-30,006	-3.9%
Amount Received	119,009	123,005	+3,996	+3.3%



## Northern Great Lakes Synod

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# Prayfaithfully

## NGLS Daily Devotions Schedule May & June 2024

<b>April 29—May 5</b>	<b>Pastor Steve Solberg</b>
<b>May 6—12</b>	<b>Pastor Nick Johannes</b>
<b>May 13—19</b>	<b>Synod Assembly Week Writers</b>
<b>May 20—26</b>	<b>Melzee Jacobson</b>
<b>May 27—June 2</b>	<b>Pastor Alex Ross</b>
<b>June 3—9</b>	<b>Pastor Kelly Ylitalo</b>
<b>June 10—16</b>	<b>Pastor Jack Busche</b>
<b>June 17—23</b>	
<b>June 24—30</b>	<b>Pam Durbin</b>





## **NGLS Child Protection Policy Letter to Congregations**

Dear NGLS Congregations,

When we welcome newly baptized members into the body of Christ, we promise to support them and help them grow in the Christian faith. In order to do this, The Northern Great Lakes Synod wants to empower adults to intentionally protect children so they may experience the sacred in a safe space surrounded by safe adults. Churches are by nature, trusting institutions that have traditionally accepted the services of anyone expressing an interest in volunteering. We now know that this leaves our congregations susceptible to children being abused in what should be the safest place in the life of a child.

The NGLS wants to reduce/eliminate abuse in church settings and therefore strongly recommends each congregation adopt and implement their own Child Protection Policy accompanied by regular trainings for staff, volunteers, and congregational leadership. The adoption and implementation of a Child Protection Policy is the responsibility of each church council. It is important to remember that having a Child Protection Policy is only part of the process. Keeping the policy updated and following it are also necessary to better protect our children.

I have attached a Child Protection Policy that was created for the NGLS and can be edited and adapted to your own congregational setting. Having a Child Protection Policy as a living document is an important step in prioritizing child protection. Not only will this be a guide for leaders, but it can also deter potential offenders. We may not always know who they are, but studies tell us that we have both offenders and victims present in our congregations and effective policies and procedures will greatly reduce the risk of abuse.

**TO ACCESS THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY as approved by Synod Council, go to:**

**<https://nglsynod.org/youth/>**

As you put together your own policies and best practices, feel free to reach out to Stefanie Ehle, NGLS Youth Ministry Coordinator ([youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org)) or myself with any questions or circumstances you want to talk through.

In Ministry Together,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

## Frequently Asked Questions

### About Implementing a Child Protection Policy in your Congregation

**Q:** Why does my congregation need a Child Protection Policy?

**A:** While talking about child abuse can feel uncomfortable, we believe that the safety and protection of children is more important than our own discomfort. By putting a policy in place, it shows potential predators that your church is alert and willing to protect vulnerable populations.

**Q:** We don't have many (or any) youth in our congregation. Why should we adopt a policy now?

**A:** Implementing a Child Protection Policy in your congregation will show that it cares about children and young families and values a safe and welcoming worship space. Doing the work now will prepare your congregation for these difficult situations and prove your commitment to protecting children.

**Q:** What if my congregation already has a Child Protection Policy?

**A:** That's great! Child Protection Policies are meant to be living documents that are continually reviewed and updated. If you haven't done so recently, look at your current policy and compare it to the policy that the NGLS has adopted. If there are items that need to be updated or addressed, now is a great time to do that.

**Q:** How will a Child Protection Policy affect other parts of ministry within my congregation?

**A:** When creating and adopting a Child Protection Policy for your congregation, you will need to communicate with other ministries that are sponsored by your congregation or that take place in your church building. Share the Child Protection Policy with them and look at any other policies and documents (such as a building use policy) that may need to be updated in this process.

**Q:** Our congregation already struggles with getting enough volunteers. Do we really need to have volunteers fill out an application before working with youth?

**A:** Having an application process for volunteers can deter potential abusers from working with youth. Even if your congregation does not run a full background check on every volunteer, the application process gives church leadership the opportunity to call references and screen for potential red flags.



A Year of Prayer  
A Lifetime of Praying!

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

## Prayer Calendar – May 2024

<b>1</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Philip Johnson (5/1), Catie Ford (5/3), Grant Van Lishout (5/12), Tammy Barthels (5/13), and Rita Chirala (5/15).
<b>2</b>	On this National Day of Prayer, we pray for those participating in Dwelling in the Word via Zoom. May they love God's Word so much they cannot keep the good news to themselves.
<b>3</b>	May is Mental Health Month. Pray that through associated events and activities we raise awareness of trauma and the impact it may have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children, families, and communities.
<b>4</b>	Pray we resist compromising our integrity for money, power, or fame.
<b>5</b>	Pray for Licensed Lay Minister Virginia Paulson who celebrates her birthday today.
<b>6</b>	Today begins National Nursing Week through the 12 <sup>th</sup> . Pray for all nurses everywhere as they welcome the newborn, care for the ill and comfort the dying. Bless this spectrum and continuum of care unique to nurses.
<b>7</b>	May is Better Speech and Hearing Month. Pray for all Speech Pathologists and Audiologists as they evaluate and treat the young and old who present with developmental, neurologic, and age-related cognitive and communication impairments.
<b>8</b>	Pray for all teachers, students, and staff at all levels of education as the school year winds down. Ease the anxiety associated with final exams, celebrate the achievement of each milestone, and bless the next steps of their academic journey.
<b>9</b>	Pray for our clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordinations this month: Nick Johannes (5/10), Douglas Buck (5/18), Tom Otis (5/21), Norman Peterson (5/23), and George Kaiser (5/24).
<b>10</b>	Pray for all workers who are scheduled for the overnight shift. Keep us mindful as we sleep, they are caring for the sick, protecting the vulnerable, stocking the shelves, staffing the assembly lines and in countless capacities keeping our economy moving forward.
<b>11</b>	We pray for Fair Trade as we bring issues before God, asking that God's love and justice will transform the rules and practices of trade. May we remain committed to building healthy and sustainable communities world-wide.
<b>12</b>	Pray for mothers everywhere on Mother's Day. Pray for the women who long to be mothers or grieve infertility, miscarriage, and other losses of their children; and for all who grieve the loss of their mother. We also pray for all those young adults who are confirmed this spring. May they continue to grow in faith towards Jesus Christ, our Savior.
<b>13</b>	Pray for our Northern Great Lakes Synod Staff as they finalize plans for our Synod Assembly and continue to lead ministries in our Synod and around the ELCA.
<b>14</b>	Pray for those impacted by suicide and for the families and friends who are devastated. Pray the darkness of today gives way to the light and promise of tomorrow. Pray that those who make and receive the calls for help are guided by your comfort and strength.
<b>15</b>	We pray we open our hearts and minds to make room for diverse expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge us and bring us together in God's name.

<b>16</b>	Pray for the congregations of Faith Lutheran -North Ave (Baltimore MD), Faith Lutheran (Salisbury MD), Feagaville Parish (Frederick MD) First English Lutheran (Baltimore MD) First Lutheran (Ellicott City, MD) Foxville-Greensburg Parish (Smithsburg, MD) Glen Lutheran (Glen Burnie, MD) and Global Peace Lutheran Fellowship (Frederick, MD)
<b>17</b>	Pray for all those planning, leading, and attending Baccalaureate Services – that faith will continue to be supported in our communities and students will grow in their faith.
<b>18</b>	Pray for all those who are participating in our Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly today. May our Synod continue to grow in faith and wisdom as we spread the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord to all the world and equip the saints for ministry.
<b>19</b>	Pray that when we are worried, we know we can give our troubles to God, for God is always listening.
<b>20</b>	Pray that no matter how many times we lose our way, get turned around or simply stuck that we know God will always guide us and welcome us back home.
<b>21</b>	Pray for camping ministries at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, as they gear up for summer. May the Holy Spirit empower and guide them as they watch over all who are in their care.
<b>22</b>	Pray for farmers and gardeners as they prepare and plant their crops and gardens. God has given us what we need to grow our food and feed our families. We thank God for the rain and sun as seeds take root and our bounty is brought forth.
<b>23</b>	Pray for wildlife emerging from hibernation and giving birth to their young that they will find the food they need and be strong as they nurture a new generation.
<b>24</b>	Pray for members of Magomeni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their partner congregation Zion Lutheran Church, Manistique.
<b>25</b>	Pray for our clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordinations this month: Dean Peterson (5/26), Doug Schoen (5/27), Tommy Richter (5/30), Mary Weinkauff (5/30), and Christine Thomas-Echelbarger (5/31).
<b>26</b>	Pray for all the faithful around the world as we celebrate the mysteries of God in three persons on this Holy Trinity Sunday. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty. Our song shall rise to thee.
<b>27</b>	On this Memorial Day, we remember all US military personnel who have died serving our country. We grieve with their families and pray that the day will come when no more wars are fought, and no more soldiers die.
<b>28</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Jack Busche (5/28).
<b>29</b>	Pray for all who are grieving, ill, in pain or in despair. Strengthen them in their weakness and give them confidence in God's loving care.
<b>30</b>	Pray all people find the courage and confidence to take that first step toward a new job, a new relationship, returning to church, welcoming a stranger, exploring ways to give back and becoming healthier. Remind them the quality of their life is enhanced by the quality of the people in their life.
<b>31</b>	"The road is long, with many a winding turn, that leads us to who knows where," we pray God will accompany and guide us as our life's journey continues. Open us up to the wonder of God's creation and the endless gifts and opportunities God bestows upon us.





A Year of Prayer  
A Lifetime of Praying!

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## Prayer Calendar - June 2024

<b>1</b>	Pray for all people to see the power in kindness. On this “Say Something Nice Day,” warm our hearts to overflowing so that we may share a kind word, a helpful hand, or a comforting touch.
<b>2</b>	Pray for pastors and LLM who celebrate birthdays this month: Lauri Maki (6/3), Nick Johannes (6/6), Elaine Hendrickson (6/12), Terry Frankenstein (6/14), Mike Markwell (6/17), and Melinda VanderSys (6/18).
<b>3</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Fran Strong (6/4), David Van Kley (6/4), Ken Michaelis (6/5), Mike Markwell (6/5), Peter Vorhes (6/6), Keith Kolstad (6/7), Ron McCallum (6/8), David Echelbarger (6/10), Micah Cavaleri (6/12), and Lee Goodwin (6/14).
<b>4</b>	Pray for neighborhood connections as we pursue more outdoor opportunities. Pray we see the power of a smile, a casual wave, or a simple conversation as we venture outside for yardwork, walks and longer days.
<b>5</b>	Pray on this “World Environment Day” that we recognize the Earth is one thing we all share. Help us to cherish our resources and preserve clean air, clean water, and tillable land for today and all our tomorrows.
<b>6</b>	Pray for those who are enriching their faith through Dwelling in the Word via Zoom. May the power of scripture equip them to live fully for God.
<b>7</b>	Pray for members of the Synod Council as they gather for a retreat through June 8 <sup>th</sup> . Be with them, Lord, during this mindful break as they set aside specifically to withdraw from life’s daily challenges to rest, reinvigorate and transform.
<b>8</b>	On this Best Friends Day, we pray each of us has that special someone who understands our past, believes in our future, and accepts us just the way we are.
<b>9</b>	Pray we are not deterred on our path to Jesus as we encounter barriers, detours, and obstacles. Keep us steadfast on our journey.
<b>10</b>	Pray for those participating in the Lifelong Faith Formation meeting via Zoom as they gather to share their own faith journey while identifying innovative strategies to encourage others to practice their faith and continue to connect to something greater than ourselves.
<b>11</b>	On this “World Day Against Child Labor,” pray for children subjected to the abuse, exploitation and neglect associated with this atrocity. Bring those who traffic our children to justice.
<b>12</b>	Pray for the World Hunger committee as they meet via Zoom to discuss, develop, and implement effective and sustainable solutions to addressing our world’s hunger needs.
<b>13</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Michael Laakko (6/15), David Jensen (6/17), Maxine Gray (6/17), Earl Bergh (6/19) George Olson (6/19), Jon Magnuson (6/19) Matt Lamb (6/21), and Alex Ross (6/21)
<b>14</b>	Pray that when our plates are full and we’re being pulled in many different directions, that we remember to make room in our hearts for God and for others. When we are not listening, don’t give up on us. Whisper in the quiet or shout in the chaos. We want and need to hear our Lord.

<b>15</b>	Pray for all older Americans. Pray we respect and honor our elders accepting their wisdom and guidance on our own life journey. Protect them from those who intentionally inflict physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual abuse. Save them from neglect, abandonment, financial exploitation, and those who commit healthcare fraud or abuse.
<b>16</b>	Pray for all fathers and those like a father to someone. May these men lead by example in their guidance, their love and mentorship. Pray for those who long to be a father and those who grieve the loss of a child.
<b>17</b>	Pray for the congregations of Gloria Dei Lutheran (Arnold, MD), Good Shepherd (Bel Air, MD), Good Shepherd (Frederick, MD), Good Shepherd (Wilmington, DE), Grace English (Lutherville, MD), Grace of God (Millsboro, DE), Grace Lutheran (Easton, MD), Grace Hartford Rd (Baltimore, MD).
<b>18</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Dean Marin (6/22), Breanne Kinnunen (6/22), Kay Richter (6/22), Jon Magnuson (6/25), Bill Jacobson (6/25), and Duane Priebe (6/29).
<b>19</b>	On this Juneteenth Day, pray we never forget the significance of ending slavery in this country. Freedom is a fundamental right for all of God's people.
<b>20</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Raymond Korry (6/22) Tim Johnston (6/22) Stephen Gauger (6/25), John Kuziej (6/25), Eleanor Russey (6/25), Wally Leno (6/26), Dean Marin (6/26), Philip Johnson (6/26) and David Johnson (6/26).
<b>21</b>	Pray for those considering ministry and a God-given desire to do something significant. Be with them as they discover who they are and who they are meant to be. Guide them, Lord, toward their destiny.
<b>22</b>	Pray for all who are preparing for marriage or celebrating their anniversary. May God bless their relationship with love, courage, forgiveness, and peace. May they learn to give a little more each day to the growth and longevity of their union.
<b>23</b>	Pray for all those who are travelling. Keep them safe and may they seek opportunities for worship and remember in God there is a welcome and our churches have room enough for everyone inside.
<b>24</b>	Pray for members of Magogoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their partner congregation Christ the King Lutheran Church, Escanaba, MI.
<b>25</b>	Pray for those with a broken heart and spirit. While they may get lost, help them to keep moving forward where they will find comfort, peace, and wholeness in our Loving Creator's arms.
<b>26</b>	Pray for those who are living with the effects of PTSD. Nurture them, engage them and guide them toward a healing of their hearts and minds. Strengthen them in body and spirit that they may find reason to take on each new day.
<b>27</b>	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Lauri Maki (6/28), David Murphy (6/28), Paul Raappana (6/29), and Alex LaChapelle (6/29).
<b>28</b>	Pray for those participating in the Youth Team retreat. Bless this time of fellowship and focus as they find clarity, peace, and spiritual renewal.
<b>29</b>	Pray that at the end of the day, we can truthfully look back and say, "I made someone's life better, healthier, safer or warmer."
<b>30</b>	We pray that we will love people more than things, the truth more than lies and good more than evil.