

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

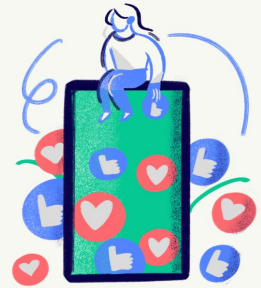
Volume 36, Issue 4 | July—August 2024

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

~Ephesians 4:32

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I’m on Facebook. I do not comment often, unless it is to wish someone a “Happy Birthday”. I see recipes and gardening tips, anniversary announcements and pictures of baptisms. I also see people I know and love posting polarizing memes that demonize those with whom they disagree. And I suspect the post that was shared can trace its origin to those countries most interested in sowing seeds of discord and division in our country.



It is concerning, especially as we journey towards our November elections and all that is at stake in our votes.

I do not write to tell you how to vote. That is not the way of the ELCA Lutheran Christian. I *do* write to encourage you to be mindful of how you engage in conversation and discernment leading up to this year’s election. There are people in your congregation who love you and who disagree with you. Will you demonize them? Will you lump them in with those you deem to be unworthy? Or will you extend grace, be kind, and forgive them for not agreeing with you?

Abraham Lincoln, who shepherded the United States through the Civil War, stated, “America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

I hope and pray that as tensions rise, as political lines are drawn, as alliances are declared, that our communities of faith will remain places of civil discourse, open conversation, and unified in our commitment to

proclaim Christ and work for his mission.

We are first and foremost citizens of the kingdom of God – not Republicans, not Democrats, not Independents. The lens we apply to politics is that of the open tomb, to weigh and assess the policies and positions of candidates based on how well they align with the priorities and example of Jesus. This, of course, is not so easily done. But the task becomes easier if we



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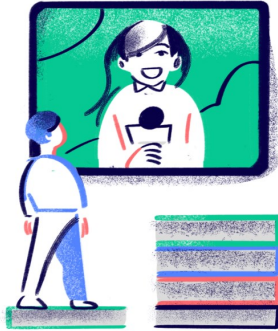
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consider what is important with others, in our community of faith, employing conversation, prayer, and debate that allows for mutual respect in the midst of varying perspectives.

I encourage you to be careful of what you post and find out first:

- Is it true? Check the news source.
- Who generated the post? Do not be an unwitting accomplice to outside influencers.
- Does it further the conversation? Or simply drop an emotional zinger meant to inflame and increase anxiety.



Keep in mind that conversation around such important and complicated subjects is best held in person. Social media provides a distance that reduces meaningful discussion to soundbites and allows people to be their worst selves. Do not be your worst self. It is at

times such as this that the Church and your church can be a place of not just civility, but of safety and hope. Whatever the election results, whatever the reaction to those results, we, the body of Christ, will continue to be united in ministry for the sake of the one who died and rose to save.... even those who nailed him to the cross. By the grace of God, our forgiveness will be just as inclusive and will bear witness to the power of Christ to heal, to reconcile, and to find a way forward...together.

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 two previous articles for the 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.

For this article, I’m sharing some perspectives from the third bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Thomas Skrenes (Bishop 1999-2017). And, I’m sharing some perspectives from our current Bishop, Katherine Finegan (Bishop 2017 to present).

In the February 2007 edition of “Northern Lights-Notes and Quotes”, Bishop Skrenes reflected on anxiety about congregations needing pastors. He wrote the following:

Needing pastors is nothing new for this synod. In my 15 years of working in the synod office, I have seen the turnover of pastors many times.

We are not raising up enough of our own pastors in this synod. When was the last time your congregation sent someone to seminary?

I have always felt that once pastors lived here for five or more years, they become committed to our rural life of small towns, beautiful summers and strong winters.

There is nothing like a warm and embracing congregation that is mission centered, generous in compensation for its clergy, and eager to embrace a pastor.



In the October 2007 edition of “Northern Light-Notes and Quotes”, Bishop Skrenes reflected on prayer:

As I travel around this Synod, I find myself increasingly moved by the prayers during our Sunday worship services. In many places, the pastors and lay assistants carefully prepare and speak wonderful words in these genuine heartfelt petitions.

Thank you for praying for this Church and this Synod. Please pray that God will bless all the congregations in our Synod with a sense of mission and vision for what can be in the future. Pray that we will remain faithful to Christ. Pray that our works may prosper because they are God's works in this world.

Now let's look at some reflections from Bishop Finegan. In the October/November 2017 edition of "Northern Light-Notes and Quotes", she reflected on the ministry of the synod as she began her tenure as bishop:

Calling "the Synod" for help is to avail yourself of all the resources that best practices, collective wisdom, past experience, and current policy has to offer.

We attend to what is immediately within our reach...but still we keep an eye to the future and the big picture, having a clear enough idea of where we want to be headed together...

We do not yet know what the finished garden will look like. We only know that what we're working on now will lead us to something else, and that will lead us to something else.

2020 brought on a global pandemic. On March 15, 2020, I recall visiting with Pastor Ingmar Levin at Zion, Manistique, who speculated with me as to whether this would be as serious as the Spanish Flu from the early 1900s. Pastor Levin remembered stories from that time. So, yes, even in all the newness of COVID, there were elements of history upon which to reflect.

Bishop Finegan offered perspective and comfort at the beginning of the pandemic. She wrote in the April/May 2020 issue of the "Northern Light":

It may be that by the time you read this, many congregations will have suspended having worship and cancelled all events where people gather. We have been forced into a fast... a Lenten fast...of Christian fellowship, community worship and prayers, and the joy of being together with Christ in our midst. (Isaiah 58:6—"Is not this the fast that I choose...to let the oppressed go free.")

Perhaps in the absence of what we have taken for granted...we will value more deeply the gift that God gives us in each other. There is blessing in the absence of God, for it is then that we seek God more fiercely. It is when darkness feels heavy that we pray with greater desperation.

Please hear again what the angels say throughout scripture, because they know us all too well...Do not be afraid.



I suspect that those of you who know Bishop Emerita Skrenes and Bishop Finegan, can still see and hear them in your minds speaking these words. Are not these reflections 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 Skrenes and Bishop Finegan, 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!

Let us pray: Lord God, we have this treasure in clay jars to prove that the power belongs to you. You have called your servants in the Northern Great Lakes Synod to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EARTH'S CLIMATE CRISIS: An ELCA Social Message

**By: Chuck Thomas,
NGLS Vice President**

At its April 2023 meeting the ELCA Church Council adopted a social message about climate care entitled: *Earth's Climate Crisis*.

While this social message draws its framework from several ELCA social statements, it particularly relies on the 1993 social statement *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*. Below are ELCA website links to both the newer social message and the 30-year-old social statement.



- **2023 Social Message:** https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Earths_Climate_Crisis_Social_Message.pdf.
- **1993 Social Statement:** <https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/EnvironmentSS.pdf>.

Climate change appears to be impacting global weather patterns and the world's ice packs. What is our response? The introduction to the climate crisis social message states: "In the Holy Scriptures, God assigns a sacred responsibility to human beings: we are to care for and keep God's creation for future generations.... With this social message the ELCA provides facts, raises questions, draws on its own social teaching, and identifies convictions that address caretaking for Earth's climate."

As Christians, how are we called to care for creation? How are changes in the earth's atmosphere affecting our climate and life on earth? Are we facing a critical moment in time regarding the Earth's climate? What insights from ELCA social teachings are helpful? These questions and related topics are thoughtfully considered by the Earth's Climate Crisis social message.

Within the social message there are scriptural contexts, scientific data, questions and positions about climate change and our call to care for creation. There is a lot to unpack, and a short article cannot do this important topic the justice it deserves. Instead, if you are like me and want to explore this social message in depth, the NGLS is offering a Lifelong Faith Formation (LLFF) class this fall. The class will follow lessons found in an ELCA publication entitled *Our Kairos Moment: A Study Guide on Earth's Climate Crisis*. Watch for the fall LLFF class listings and join me as we explore scripture, view videos, read, discuss, and work on at-home activities to better understand what this social message means for us and our place in God's creation.



ELCA Youth Gathering In-Kind Offering

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering participants are encouraged to bring hurricane relief supplies to be given as an in-kind offering to the host city of New Orleans. The Northern Great Lakes Synod has been challenged to bring **COOLING TOWELS** to add to the kits. If you would like to help with these efforts, you may collect cooling towels to send with any of the NGLS participants traveling to the Gathering or you may order supplies from Amazon and have them shipped directly to our partners in New Orleans by following this link <https://www.elca.church/gathering/about/offering>.



Grant Money Available for Youth Ministry Collaborative Events



The NGLS Youth Ministry Team invites you to find ways to collaborate with congregations to provide faith

building programs and events for youth in our synod. Funds may be used for Conference-Wide Youth Events or other programs that meet the grant requirements.

Each Conference may apply for \$500 through the end of 2024 from an Equipping the Saints Endowment distribution. Proposals will be considered by the NGLS Youth Ministry Team.

Visit <https://nglsynod.org/youth/> to download proposal requirements.



We have been informed once again that a number of our **Synod members have received phishing emails** from scammers **pretending to be Bishop Finegan**.

We take cyber security very seriously and ask that you also be vigilant in order to prevent fraud and to help protect everyone. Here are a few precautions to take:

- **Confirm the sender's identity** before replying to email requests and before opening attachments or clicking on links, even if they appear to come from a legitimate source.
- Know that the **synod staff would never suddenly ask you to buy gift cards** or make any kind of financial transaction over email.
- **Call the Synod office to validate** communications originating from the Synod.
- **If it sounds off or fake, it likely is** - call or report the email to the Synod Office

Synod Calendar

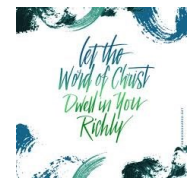


- 3—Synod Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. ET
- 4—Synod Office Closed—Independence Day
- 11—Dwelling in the Word via Zoom 7:30 p.m. ET
- 11—Retired Clergy, Spouses & Widow Luncheon at Immanuel, Escanaba 11:00 a.m. ET
- 16-20—ELCA Youth Gathering
- 23—Synod Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. ET
- 31—Lay Preaching Seminar at Bethany, Ishpeming 10:00 a.m. ET—3:00 p.m. ET



- 1—Dwelling in the Word via Zoom 7:30 p.m. ET
- 1—Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors Meeting 11 a.m. ET hybrid
- 6—Synod Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. ET
- 7—Fall Theo. Retreat Registration Deadline
- 12-13—U.P. Wild Convocation

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.

Missionary Sponsorship

Mission United, Pelkie

Equipping the Saints

Pastor Elisabeth
& Wes Daniels

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Lynn E. Deroche
Larry G. Pagel
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Prince of Peace, Marquette

NGLS Mission Outreach

Immanuel, Escanaba

Synod Ministry Fund

Larry G. Pagel

Companion Synod Projects

James S Hayward

Lifelong Faith Formation

Ascension, Minocqua
Calvary, Minocqua
Chuck Thomas
John C Kuziej
First, Ewen

TV 6 Christmas Service

Larry G. Pagel

Youth Ministries

Rev. Peggy Rose
Larry G. Pagel



Transitions

- We hold in prayer Vicar Dan Moschea as he begins a course of study at Wartburg Seminary while also serving Porterfield and Beaver congregations. May God bless his formation as a pastoral leader and this new partnership.
- We give thanks for the leadership of Rev. Jim Duehring who served as Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northern Great Lakes Synod. May God bless his retirement and grant him refreshment as he enjoys a more relaxed pace (and more time with his grandchildren).
- We also give thanks for Courtney Wehmeier who served the Synod as Office Administrator. We pray for guidance as she travels abroad for the exciting new beginnings of graduate school at the University of Leeds.

If you know of anyone who would be a good fit for our office administrator role, please share this with them! Visit nglsynod.org for the full job description. For all questions and applications, email ngls@nglsynod.org



Synod Ministry Funds available!

The Synod Ministry Fund was created to provide financial support for innovative and creative ministry efforts.

The Northern Great Lakes Synod invites you to dream something new, and our new Synod Ministry Fund will help make it a reality!

Email ngls@nglsynod.org or visit <https://nglsynod.org/synod-ministry-fund/>

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—Vicar Dan Moschea

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

*“We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts
but what you most would treasure—our humble, thankful hearts.” ELW #680*

As we walk together and work together to further Christ's mission in our Synod and beyond, we are most grateful for the blessings of God shown in all aspects of life as the author of the hymn above proclaims. As congregations of the Synod, we support each other and build each other up for God's important work. Thank you for your mission support gifts which allow this work to continue and thrive.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 5/31	2023	2024	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	759,513	729,507	-30,006	-4%
Amount Received	312,292	306,694	-5,598	-1.8%



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NGLS Daily Devotions Schedule July & August 2024

July 1—7	Pastor Scott Ehle
July 8—14	Pastor Christine Olson
July 15—21	
July 22—28	Marcie Kaven
July 29—August 4	Hayley Smith
August 5—11	Michael Holman
August 12—18	Virginia Paulson
August 19—25	Chuck Thomas
August 26—September 1	Fortune Lake Camp Staff



A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

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www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully

Prayer Calendar - July 2024

1	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Bob Patrick (7/1), D.J. Rasner (7/2), Jared Howard (7/7), Elise Hynek (7/8), Tammy Barthels (7/11), Brenda Greenwald (7/14), and Gerald Anderson (7/20)
2	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Micah Cavaleri (7/2), Peggy Rose (7/5), Dean Peterson (7/6), and Alex LaChapelle (7/6).
3	Pray for Grace Lutheran - Hockessin, DE, Grave Keymar - Woodsboro MD, Grace Lutheran - Westminster MD, Harmony Lutheran - Myersville, MD, Haven Lutheran - Hagerstown, MD, Holy Comforter – Govans - Baltimore, MD, Holy Communion Lutheran - Fallston, MD, Holy Spirit Lutheran - Eldersburg, MD and Hold Trinity Lutheran - Laurel, MD.
4	Pray for our nation as we celebrate our independence. May God guide our hearts and minds to be open to all who seek freedom. Pray we cherish the gift of freedom and use it as an opportunity to do what is right for all people.
5	Pray we embrace our differences. Encourage us to celebrate all abilities and unlock each other's potential. Through our diversity we shall come together as one.
6	Pray for all people struggling with worry about finances, illness, relationships, and/or work challenges. Remind them God is their refuge and strength. He is an ever-present help in times of trouble.
7	Pray for those who struggle with forgiveness; for those who have the power to forgive and for those seeking absolution. Ease the pain and burden of this heaviness. Remind us turning the other cheek frees all of us.
8	Pray for farmers who seek the rain and sun to nurture their crops which feed a grateful nation.
9	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Ken Michaelis (7/9), Norm Peterson (7/9), Steven Anderson (7/9), Keith Kolstad (7/9), Nicole Hanson-Lynn (7/9), and D.J. Rasner (7/10).
10	Pray that we are good stewards of our beautiful beaches, forests, trails, and waterways. May God teach us to respect these gifts and preserve them for future generations.
11	Pray we are grateful for each new day and the clean slate of starting fresh. May God teach us to live in the present and not hurry through these precious hours.
12	Pray hard working individuals will be recognized by their employers for the sacrifices they make to arrive on time, do their job and ask for so little in return.
13	Pray for members of Yombo Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their partner congregation Immanuel Lutheran Church, Negaunee, MI.
14	Pray we will continue to follow God while we lead in truth and action. We pray for courage and strength as we accept the challenge of being good and doing good.
15	Pray for pastors who celebrate birthdays this month: Ron McCallum (7/16), Gerald Anderson (7/17), Lloyd Luedeman (7/17), Lily Brondyke (7/23), Devon Barrix (7/24), Tim Johnston (7/24), and Raymond Korry (7/27).

16	Pray for all youth, pastors and chaperones traveling to and attending the ELCA Youth Gathering through July 20 th in New Orleans. Bless this time of faith building and fellowship. Pray the Spirit burns brightly in our youth through their words and their actions.
17	Pray for all who are missing someone or something. Pray for those who miss the life they have known and the comfort and peace that comes with belonging. Lead us to be what they need when they need it.
18	Pray for courage to admit when we are wrong and humility when we are held accountable.
19	Pray for all people who are struggling with their health. Bring healing to those who are bound by the chains of physical ailment, mental health issues and emotional challenges.
20	Pray we are reminded that God never closes a door. He opens the door of compassion, healing, hope and forgiveness. Help us to knock and enter in.
21	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Scott Ehle (7/21), Peggy Rose (7/21), Allan Johnson (7/25), David Tielbar (7/25), Jim Duehring (7/26), and Katherine Finegan (7/28)
22	On this day when we remember St. Mary Magdalene, pray for all those who boldly tell their stories of encountering our living Lord, Jesus Christ. May God bless them with the words they need so that those who listen, hear the Good News of new life in Jesus.
23	Pray our faith endures by pressing on when the future feels uncertain. When we fear what tomorrow holds, keep us steadfast in the certainty and continuity of God's love.
24	Pray for the working poor who are trying to earn enough for clothing, food, shelter, and utilities. Pray our community supports them in making ends meet.
25	Pray for those who care for creatures great and small. Give them the knowledge to treat and the compassion to care for injured, ill, and suffering animals.
26	Pray for those who are incarcerated, awaiting bail, court dates, and for those being considered for parole. Fill them with the Holy Spirit and open their eyes to you and your love.
27	Pray for all who participate in county fairs, music festivals, and community events. Those who work the booths and concession stands, those who judge entries, those who care for the animals and those who perform. May God bless them all along the way.
28	Pray for all clergy in transition as they move to new calls, transition to new communities, and assume the responsibilities of leading their congregations.
29	Pray the vulnerable and weak are not taken advantage of by those who seek to do harm.
30	Pray all people find the strength to refuse evil and choose good. May the Holy Spirit keep them focused and resistant to tempting detours. When they fall off track, guide them back to the truth of God's word.
31	Pray for the LLMs and those who provide lay pulpit supply as they attend the preaching seminar at Bethany Lutheran in Ishpeming. May the Holy Spirit fuel their passion in this supportive ministry.

"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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Prayer Calendar - August 2024

1	Pray for pastors celebrating birthdays this month: Jared Howard (8/1), Paul Raappana (8/6), Diane Srutowski (8/6), Bucky Beach (8/11), Brahm Semmler Smith (8/11) and Cori Johnson (8/13).
2	Pray for rain and the transformation of our fields and pastures. Restore balance between the warmth of the sun and the life-giving waters in time of drought. Pray for those fleeing from and fighting wildfires.
3	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: Molly Hunter (8/3), Kelly Ylitalo (8/9), Rell Spickerman (8/16), Lloyd Luedemann (8/16), Diane Srutowski (8/17), and Bill Jacobson (8/19).
4	On this International Day of Friendship, we pray friendship becomes the bridge that connects people, countries, communities, and cultures. Pray these friendships foster peace, respect and understanding.
5	Pray for those who struggle with gender orientation and identity. May God bless them with peace and confidence in who God has created them to be. May God fill their lives with people who understand and support them in all they do.
6	Pray for educational administrators at elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, and seminaries as they make plans for the fall.
7	Pray for all people who are tempted by fame, fortune, and power. Lead them, Lord, to a path paved with humility, generosity, and collaboration.
8	Pray for youth and families who struggle with hunger during the summer when schools are not providing meals. May God show them where resources are available. May God help us to be generous in our support and advocacy.
9	Pray for Bishop Finegan, the NGLS staff and all those who serve and sustain our synod. Continue to foster connections throughout our congregations as we equip saints for ministry.
10	Pray for the congregations of Hope Lutheran – Middleborough, Baltimore, MD, Hope Lutheran – New Castle, DE, Immanuel Lutheran – Westminster, MD, Israel's Creek Parish – Woodsboro, MD, Jerusalem Lutheran – Baltimore, MD, Jerusalem Lutheran – Westminster, MD, and Jerusalem Lutheran – Whiteford, MD.
11	Pray for all seminary professors as they teach, form, and nurture women and men for public ministry in a context that is Christ-centered, faithfully Lutheran, and ecumenically committed. Bless the seminarians as they study and prepare to become called and ordained ministers.
12	Pray for those with difficulty paying for school supplies. Bless the community advocates who seek to support these needs.
13	Pray for those participating in the Wild Convocation at Fortune Lake. May those who seek find a deeper connection with God through this outdoor ministry.

14	Pray for student athletes who are training for fall sports. Instill in them the spirit of competition and good sportsmanship. Pray for coaches, fans, and officials that they keep these events in perspective and treat each other with dignity and respect.
15	Pray for all students, faculty and staff preparing to return to school later this month. Pray for safe schools and supportive environments as students engage in new learning experiences, new teachers, and the opportunity to make new friends.
16	Pray for those participating in biking, running, and walking competitions. Keep them safe as they face course obstacles, weather challenges and the rigors of sustained endurance. May they participate in the spirit of competition and accept the outcome with dignity and humility.
17	Pray for those frustrated at and by their work. Give them the patience and perseverance to find a solution or to move on to other opportunities. Give them the confidence to self-advocate for more responsibility, increased recognition, and fair compensation.
18	Pray for pastors celebrating their birthday this month; Jim Duehring (8/18), Melissa Salminen (8/19), Jesse Brown (8/21), Matt Lamb (8/23), and Eleanor Russey (8/27).
19	On this World Humanitarian Day, pray for humanitarian personnel and recognize their efforts as aid workers during world crises. Pray also for the families of those who have lost their lives in humanitarian missions. Pray all countries come together in times of need
20	Pray for an end to racism and bigotry. Remind us of the Sunday School song from our youth; “Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.”
21	Pray for pastors celebrating the anniversary of their ordination: Gene Wickman (8/23), Craig Mansur (8/28), Devon Barrix (8/28), Dave Christenson (8/29), and Doug Norquist (8/30).
22	Pray for those entering their first year of college. Calm their fears and uncertainty as they enter this new phase of life. Give them the confidence to try new things, embrace new challenges and discover new interests.
23	Pray for those who care for a loved one. Guide them and equip them with wisdom, courage, strength, and patience. Grant them the support they need to allow for their own respite and well-being.
24	Pray for members of Kinondoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their partner congregation Bethel Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, MI.
25	Pray for LLM Sharon Babbitt as she celebrates her birthday today.
26	On this Women’s Equality Day, we pray for all women as we celebrate and commemorate the passage of the 19 th amendment giving women the right to vote.
27	Pray we are never willing to compromise the truth in exchange for self-interests.
28	Pray for the volunteers who support their church and congregation by serving on choirs, councils, and committees. Bless those who sign up to be assistant ministers, readers, and ushers.
29	As we enter the college and professional football season, we pray for the players, coaches, staff, and fans. Pray for families impacted by sports gambling.
30	Pray for families who have children with special needs or disabilities. Connect them with resources and support as they navigate the appointments, procedures, and therapy. Give them the courage to ask for assistance from their community, family, and friends.
31	Prayers of thanksgiving for our wonderful summer. For freshly cut grass, for trips to the lake, for fireworks and fireflies. We give you thanks dear Lord for all this and more.



Young Advocates' Retreat “Called to be Advocates”

Date:
October 4-6, 2024

Location:
Pine Lake Camp
@ Crossways Camps
W 5631 Akron Ave.
Waupaca, WI 54981

Who:
High School Youth
& Young Adults



Participating Synods:

East Central Synod of WI
Greater Milwaukee Synod
La Crosse Area Synod
Northern Great Lakes Synod
Northwest Synod of WI
South-Central Synod of WI

Registration:

- \$100 per participant
- Includes housing & meals
- Registration
 - Opens 5/1/24
 - Deadline: 9/15/24

Topics:

- Environmental Justice
- Gun Violence
- Women's Rights
- LGBTQIA+ Advocacy

PREACHING SEMINAR

For Licensed Lay Ministers and
Lay Pulpit Supply Preachers



Wednesday July 31, 2024

At Bethany Lutheran Church

715 Mather St.

Ishpeming, MI

10am – 3pm ET

Lunch and instruction provided through a generous grant from the **NGLS Equipping the Saints** Endowment



Come be further equipped for the work you are already doing – Support ministry at your congregation and help cover the preaching needs in your area.

Call the NGLS Office at 906-228-2300 to register by July 26.

Email confirmation will include more information.

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE FAIR

Pick from **TWO** options

Saturday October 12

Emmanuel Lutheran, Menominee
2901 13th St
906-863-3431

Saturday October 19

Bethel Lutheran, Ishpeming
333 East Ridge St.
906-485-5533

SCHEDULE – All Times Local

9:30am	Coffee and Registration
10am	<i>All Creation Sings</i> Faithful Finances Lay Preaching Workshops
11:30am	Festival Worship
12noon	Lunch
1pm – 3pm	Resource Fair & more Workshops

COST: \$25
Includes Lunch,
All Workshops,
and a copy of
All Creation Sings

Register at
www.nglsynod.org or
send your check payable
to the NGLS to
1029 N. 3rd St. Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855



This event made possible by a generous grant from
the NGLS *Equipping the Saints* Endowment Fund.

