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# **Ministers of Word and Sacrament** **Celebrating Anniversaries of Ordination in 2022**

## **The Reverend Steven C. Anderson—40 years**

- Born:** 1953 in Chicago Illinois (Parents, Elsie and Clarence Anderson)
- Education:** BA in Art from North Park University, Chicago, IL 1974  
MAT National Louis University Winnetka, IL 1979  
MDiv Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago 1982
- Ordained:** November 28, 1982 Bishop Paul Erickson Illinois Synod LCA
- Calls:** St Paul Lutheran Church, Valley Stream, NY (Metro NY Synod LCA) 3 years  
Grace Lutheran Church, Aurora, IL (Illinois Synod/Metro Chicago Synod) 9 years  
Faith Lutheran Church, Ormond Beach, FL (Florida Bahamas Synod) 11 years  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, West Allis, WI (Greater Milwaukee Synod) 11 years
- Retired:** November 1, 2016
- Married:** To Kathy Anderson on November 8, 1980  
Kathy is a retired RN who specialized in pediatric home healthcare for young children with critical needs, is a gourmet chef who is currently composing her own cookbook and is a loving wife and grandmother.
- Children:** Sean Anderson (computer programmer for NW Mutual), Sarah Bourne (Senior VP for Finance and Operations at the Children’s Tumor Foundation)
- Grandchildren:** Jaxon and Kailyn Bourne (6 and 5 years old)
- Misc. highlights:** Long time participation in the Lutheran Episcopal Dialog (beginning in 1981 and continuing until the full communion agreement).  
Initiated Near West Neighbors in Aurora, Illinois as a centerpiece of congregational ministry through Grace Lutheran Church, an inner city congregation.  
Wrote a theologically traditional eucharistic liturgy for use with piano and guitar (also ended up working well with pipe organ), was invited to introduce the new liturgical setting to churches in Sweden and was invited to present two concerts in Swedish parishes.

A strong congregational focus on Liturgical worship, preaching, pastoral care, adult education and ecumenism.

Ongoing interests: Love of family, guitar and 5-string banjo. Kayaking, snowshoeing, fishing, wood carving and working extensively with the county conservationist on lake issues concerning aquatic invasive plant species.

Currently living on the shore of Pike Lake in Mercer, WI.

### **The Reverend Francis J. Strong—40 years**

I was born January 30, 1946, in Stoneham, MA, the youngest son of John and Mary (Woodman) Strong. I was baptized on March 10 of that year at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Lynnfield, MA. I was named Francis Joseph in honor of Francis Joseph Cardinal Spellman of New York City, a friend of the family. I attended Lynnfield schools, graduating in 1964, attended Salem State College, graduating in 1969. I took two graduate degrees and taught English for several years at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. After discerning a call to ministry, I attended the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, graduating in 1982. On June 6, 1982, I was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Church in America by Bishop Robert Wilch at Siebert Chapel on the campus Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. Dave Van Kley and I first met there, ordained together with several others at synod assembly as was then the practice. I began my ministry in two staff positions: Trinity, Fort Atkinson, WI, and Luther Memorial, Madison. I then served First, Dollar Bay, MI, for 5 years before moving to Ironwood. I served Zion, Ironwood, for 19 years, sharing myself with Salem, Saint Paul, and Saint John's, as lead pastor of Christ Lutheran Parish for my last 5 years before retiring on January 30, 2011.

Grace Hendrickson and I met during our years in Lawrence. We married on May 19, 1971. We lost one child, Margaret, to illness in infancy. We have three grown children—Andrew, Philip, and Katherine—and three grandchildren—William, Emma, and Hazel. We have always loved the U.P. and have chosen to spend our retirement years here.

“Don’t die till you’re dead.” ~Mississippi John Hurt

### **The Reverend David A. Van Kley—40 years**

The Rev. David A. Van Kley was born in Hammond, Indiana to Clara Ruth and Edward Van Kley, Jr. Raised in the Christian Reformed Church, he lived in several communities from Michigan to California as a child. Dave married Arlene Post on September 7, 1974 and the couple soon relocated to Marquette County, Michigan.

Dave graduated from Northern Michigan University in Marquette with a B.S. degree in December, 1977 and, in 1982, received his M. Div. from Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He

was ordained into the Lutheran Church in America that same year, during the Wisconsin Upper Michigan Synod Assembly at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He began ordained ministry as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stambaugh, Michigan and Bethany Lutheran Church in Amasa, Michigan, from 1982-1986. He was then called to Bethel Lutheran Church of Ishpeming, Michigan, where he served first as associate pastor and later, as co-pastor with the Rev. Wallace Leno, from 1986-1993. Following that, Pastor Van Kley served All Saints Lutheran Church in Wakefield, Michigan from 1993-1999. He then was called as pastor and later, senior pastor, of Custer Lutheran Fellowship, Custer, SD (1999-2008). He and Arlene returned to their beloved U.P. in 2008, whereupon Dave served as senior pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette until retirement on January 1, 2018.

Arlene and Dave are the parents of three children: Emily Jean Van Kley (Allison) of Olympia, Washington, Nicholas Beguin Van Kley (Tina) of West Lebanon, New Hampshire, and Constance Grace Van Kley (Nathan) of Missoula, Montana. They are overjoyed with their four grandchildren: Rudy, Abraham, Sidney, and Ida. They also are delighted to have Dave's Mom, 90, and Arlene's Dad, 98, as surviving partners in life's journey. The Van Kley's live near Gwinn where they enjoy gardening, hiking, skiing, volunteering in church and community, and visiting family and friends scattered across the country.

### **The Reverend George R. Kaiser—55 years**

George grew up in Chicago, IL and Three Oaks, MI. After high school, he was employed by the C & NW Railway for several years. He received his B.A. from North Park University in 1963 and his M. Div. from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Maywood Campus. He was ordained on May 24, 1967 at Grace Church Cathedral in St. Louis, MO.

George served at Cedarville-Allenville Parish from 1967-1984 and at the Palmer-Suomi Lutheran Parish from 1984-2002, both in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He retired in 2002 and moved to East Lake in the Eastern UP where he still lives today.

George enjoys fishing, camping, hiking and canoeing. He has served on several Synod committees, including the Worship Committee and Synod Assembly Planning Committee.

### **The Reverend Dean C. Marin—55 years**

The Rev. Dean C. Marin was born to Harvey and Myrtle (Rasmussen) Marin on June 22, 1941 in LaCrosse, WI. He was baptized and confirmed at English Lutheran Church. His education began at Emerson School, Washington Junior High School, LaCrosse Central High School, and then graduating from LaCrosse State College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1963.

Dean attended Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, MN. He graduated with a

Master of Divinity Degree in 1967. During his seminary days, he served a year of internship at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, NM. He also worked at Richfield Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity in Minneapolis. During the summer of 1964, Dean served as a counselor at Pine Lake Camp near Waupaca, WI. He was ordained on June 25, 1967 at English Lutheran Church in LaCrosse, WI. Later on, Dean received Church Training to develop a new mission congregation. He also received a Certificate of Graduation in Interim Ministry from the Ecumenical Institute.

During his ministry, Dean served the following congregations, all in Wisconsin: Church of Our Savior, Fond du Lac; Calvary Lutheran, Antigo; Trinity Lutheran, Edgerton; Pastor Developer and then Pastor of St. Luke, Slinger, a mission congregation; Christ Lutheran, Paddock Lake; Ascension Lutheran Church, Minocqua, and Interim Pastor at Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner. He officially retired in June 2021.

Dean married Marie Peterson on June 12, 1965 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Cashton, WI. Dean and Marie are proud of their son Jonathan, daughter Christine (Rob) Ullius and three grandchildren—TJ, Ashley and Callie Ullius. They are thankful and feel blessed to be able to live near their family!

Dean and Marie have enjoyed the opportunity to travel in all 50 states, several provinces of Canada, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Isle of Man and Great Britain. They continue to live in Woodruff, WI. He is a Master Gardener, a collector of stamps and cancellations, and has volunteered at the Northwoods Wildlife Center in Minocqua. Marie gives piano lessons at the Campanile Center for the Arts, and occasionally plays piano/organ for Ascension and Calvary Lutheran congregations in Minocqua.

Dean has been blessed to know, serve, and love so many people throughout his life as he tried to love God and others, and to make a difference.

# **Minister of Word and Sacrament Retiring Since Last Synod Assembly**

## **The Reverend Keith Kolstad—Retired**

Keith Kolstad was baptized, confirmed, and married at St. Luke's Lutheran in Waukesha, WI, participating in all the ministries that a typical congregation offered children and youth in that era. He experienced his first whispers to ordained ministry in Jr. High and High School, due in part to the activities offered by the youth ministry of St. Luke's. His wife, Karen (Jamieson), also grew up as a member of St. Luke's. As youth group sweethearts, they eventually graduated from Carthage College – Keith with a degree in music and Karen with a degree in elementary and special education – and were married in 1981. Keith attended seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, graduating in 1985. His internship was spent at St. John's in Rock Island, IL. Both of their children, Jacob and Jacqueline, were born while he attended seminary. Keith's ordination took place at the Synod Assembly for the Wisconsin Upper Michigan Synod of the LCA, at Carthage College on June 7, 1985. His first parish was Emanuel in Skandia, MI and First in Trenary, MI. During this call, Karen began working in the Synod office. In January of 1996 Keith was called to be the associate pastor of Messiah in Marquette, MI. His call to Zion in Marinette, WI, began the fall of 1998. While at Zion, he received a D.Min. degree in 2007 from Luther Seminary in congregational mission and leadership. In 2010, he spent a three-month sabbatical in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, working with an English-speaking congregation that was part of the of Azania Front Lutheran Cathedral. He retired from Zion at the end of April 2022. Keith and Karen are blessed with two grandchildren, Morgan and Reid.

## **The Reverend Lauri O. Maki—Retired**

Pastor Lauri O. Maki Jr., son of Lauri and Jean Maki of Wakefield, was born on June 3, 1955, in Big Rapids, MI, and was baptized on June 25 of that year. He grew up in Wakefield, the oldest of six children, was confirmed at First Lutheran Church in 1970, and graduated from Wakefield High School in 1973.

Upon graduating from high school, Lauri met Lois Struck of Milwaukee, WI. Lauri and Lois were married on June 25, 1977 and had 44 joyous years together until her death in March of 2022.

Lauri and Lois have been blessed with five children and four grandchildren: Lisa (Marc) Hillman and their son Sam; Leah (Ryan) Michaud and their children Jesse and Molly; Lauri (Sara) Maki and their son Ethan; Lana Maki (Kevin Juno); and Lance Maki (Rajani Hyslop).

Lauri received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Religion from Carthage College, Kenosha, WI, in 1977. In 1981, he received a Master of Divinity Degree from Luther-Northwestern Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

Lauri was ordained in Wakefield, at his home church, All Saints Lutheran, on June 28, 1981, after receiving his first call to St. James Lutheran in Rudyard, MI, where he served until August of 1985. The ordaining

minister was the Rev. Bishop Robert S. Wilch of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. Other pastors who participated in the ordination service were the Rev. Roy Gustafson, the Rev. Rudolph Kemppainen, the Rev. Michael Hellier, and the Rev. Michael Laakko.

In 1985, Lauri accepted a call to serve St. Paul Lutheran and St John's Lutheran in Ironwood, MI. He ministered there until the summer of 1993, when he accepted a call from Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming, MI. Lauri retired after 40 years of ordained ministry in August of 2021.

### **The Reverend Dennis Meyette—Retired**

Pastor Dennis Meyette was ordained a pastor in the ELCA on January 10, 2004 and has served as an Intentional Transition Specialist since 2007. An Intentional Transition Specialist helps congregations make healthy pastoral and ministry transitions within the context of congregational ministry.

Pastor Dennis and wife Kathy married on June 21, 1975, have two married daughters and two grandchildren. Pastor Dennis and Kathy grew up in Saginaw, Michigan. They have lived in several areas throughout Michigan during their marriage and most recently in Escanaba where he was the Transition Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Pastor Dennis began his working life in his father's grocery business, working in the family business for 12 years. He also worked for other grocery retailers and a bread company before making a career change. In 1995 he decided to pursue pastoral ministry by attending college at age 38, the first in his family to do this. Kathy worked for 14 years as a pharmacy tech for Wal-Mart and CVS.

Pastor Dennis is a 1999 graduate of Kuyper College in Grand Rapids, Michigan and a 2003 graduate of Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. He has served in ELCA mission congregations as a redeveloper in Port St. John, Florida and Macomb Township, Michigan. Since 2007 he has served congregations as an Intentional Transition Specialist in Shelby Township, Fenton, Clinton Township, Berkley, Royal Oak and Walled Lake, all in the Southeast Michigan Synod. In addition, he has consulted with several congregations throughout the Southeast Michigan Synod and Northern Great Lakes Synod on matters of Transition Ministry.

Pastor Dennis was invited to make a move to the Upper Peninsula to serve at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Escanaba, a move he and his wife weren't overly excited about. He was three years from retirement and really didn't want to move. Ironically, Pastor Dennis was originally assigned to the NGL Synod at graduation in 2003 but chose not to come. Well, God has a sense of humor, and the circle was completed. Bishop Finegan and Pastor Jim Duehring continued to pray, believing Pastor Dennis was the right person to help Immanuel make a pastoral and ministry transition. In August 2018 the Spirit spoke and Pastor Dennis moved to Escanaba to serve at Immanuel.

Pastor Dennis served at Immanuel for nearly 3 years, then retired on May 31, 2021. Serving at Immanuel was the highlight of his pastoral ministry and one of the best transitions he's helped a congregation through. They

were able to heal from previous issues and make necessary change to move forward. Pastor Dennis believes Immanuel is poised to thrive into the future.

Pastor Dennis and Kathy enjoy exploring historical sites, drives in the country, reading, golf, walking, and NASCAR. They winter in Punta Gorda, Florida.

### **The Rev. Lisa Ubbelohde**

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!” Psalm 118:1

I was baptized December 26, 1953 at Dallas (WI) Lutheran Church. My parents were raised Wisconsin Synod Lutheran and EU Brethren (United Methodist), so it was by God’s hand that I was raised and confirmed in what would morph into the American Lutheran Church and later into the ELCA. While attending the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, WI, I was made aware by my Lutheran Campus Pastor of events that approved the ordination of women. When he said, “Lisa, you should consider going to seminary,” my response was, “I know I should, but...” Following a summer of prayer and discernment while a counselor at a Lutheran Bible camp, I applied to Wartburg Theological Seminary and began the January term of 1977. One influencer was a brochure entitled, “Women at Wartburg” prepared by senior women, including April Larson and Andrea Degroot-Nesdahl, who would each become bishops in the ELCA. Having felt called to urban ministry, Detroit (college yr.), Denver (WTS House of Study), Houston (CPE), and Omaha (internship) all played a part in shaping me for pastoral ministry. While awaiting Call in the Eastern District of the ALC, I did additional CPE at Lutheran Medical Center of Brooklyn, NY.

One year after graduation, I received a Call to serve a “mission church” 40 miles north of Pittsburgh, PA, Community Lutheran. I was ordained in my home congregation, Colfax Lutheran, on December 6, and I began my ministry on Christmas Eve 1981. Starting out as a mission developer wasn’t normal, but Community Lutheran was an extraordinary faith community to call the first solo, female, parish pastor in the Eastern District (ALC). I next received a call as assistant pastor at First English Lutheran in downtown Pittsburgh of the Southwest Synod of PA of the ELCA. This was an eight-year immersion in “urban ministry.” I moved on to serve St. Luke’s of West View (Pittsburgh). In 2004, the pull back to Wisconsin brought me to Gillett, WI to serve St. John of the East Central Synod of WI. After that congregation voted to leave the ELCA in 2010, eleven years followed of serving in a variety of sites. First was a call to serve Lutheran Social Services of WI and Upper MI as a developer of Church and Community Relationships. Next, I served as an intentional interim pastor for 10 congregations in 5 faith communities: Trinity-Appleton, Birnamwood Parish, Calvary-Two Rivers, Christ Parish-Ironwood, MI and lastly the Florence, WI Parish. In these last two calls, I was called by the synod council of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. While serving Bethlehem Lutheran, I also was a member of the Presbytery of Mackinac as interim pastor serving First Presbyterian of Florence. After 40 years of ordained ministry, I decided it was time to retire in early 2022.

Looking back over these 40 years, I pay homage to all the people whom God used to shape, teach, and nurture me as a Christian and a pastor. I marvel at the breadth and variety of ministries to which I was called to serve.

“I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7

# **Deceased Ministers of Word and Sacrament Since Last Synod Assembly**

## **The Revered Paul E. Holmstrom**

Paul E. Holmstrom died on January 4, 2022. Pastor Holmstrom was born June 2, 1936 in Joliet, Illinois to Harold and Ruby Holmstrom. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Joliet. In 1954 he graduated with honors from Joliet Township High School. In 1958 he graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Paul served his pastoral internship at Augustana Lutheran Church in Detroit, Michigan. In 1962, he was ordained into the ministry of the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church which eventually became part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Paul served as a Lutheran pastor for over 35 years until his retirement in 1997. He continued his ministry as a visitation pastor after retirement. He served at Bethany Lutheran Church in Negaunee, Michigan and then Zion Lutheran Church in Marinette, Wisconsin. He also served on many boards and committees for the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA as well as for the Northland Lutheran Retirement Community. He served as chaplain for the Marinette Police Department for several years and was active in his community. Paul was known for his calm, patient demeanor and his strong work ethic. He was deeply committed to his God, his wife, his family and his parishioners. He took life and his responsibilities seriously and led by example. He lived life with a song in his heart and loved to sing, hum, or whistle as he went about his day. He could also be seen with a twinkle in his eye and an upturned smirk, which gave window to his sense of humor.

On June 18, 1960, he married Carol P. Anderson at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Joliet, Illinois. They shared 59 married years together until Carol preceded him in death on October 15, 2019. The joy of his life was his wife and his daughters and their families. Paul's hobbies included photography and old cars. He enjoyed spending time at the cabin in the UP and always had a project to accomplish there.

## **Bishop Emeritus Dale R. Skogman**

Dale R. Skogman, age 81, died on June 16, 2021 following a long illness at home surrounded by his family and prayer. He was born on October 21, 1939 in Iron Mountain, MI and was the son of Arthur Alfred Skogman and Esther Sophia (Skog) Skogman.

Rev. Skogman was raised in Felch, MI and was a 1957 graduate of Felch High School. He was the class valedictorian and received the Alpha Beta award from the faculty in recognition of his contributions to the student body. In high school he received varsity letters in basketball and debate and was also editor of the school newsletter, the "Felch Flash."

He worked his way through college and seminary pursuing a number of part-time and summer jobs. He worked as a laborer and expediter at the Iron Fireman Manufacturing Plant in Portland, OR. In Rock Island,

IL he served as an assistant to the seminary archivist and night custodian at Missman, Stanley and Farmer drafting firm. He also worked for the Groveland Mining Company, Dickinson County Road Commission and as a pulpwood piece cutter.

He attended Lewis and Clark college, Portland, OR and received his bachelor's degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL in 1961. In 1965 he earned his Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago on the Rock Island campus. In 2000 Finlandia University, Hancock, MI bestowed on him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Rev. Skogman was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Church in America on May 30, 1965 at Zion Lutheran Church in Metropolitan, MI where his great-grandparents, Erik and Brita Skog, were founding and charter members in 1895.

Rev. Skogman served as the pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Toivola, MI; Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Atlantic Mine and Grace Lutheran Church, South Range, MI from 1965-71. 1971-76 he served as the pastor of First Lutheran Church, Gladstone, MI. He was the pastor of Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Racine, WI from 1976-85 when he accepted the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, WI where he served from 1985-1991.

In 1991 he was elected Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He served in the office of bishop for eight years. In 1999, he and his wife moved to Gladstone, MI. In 2002 the Northern Great Lakes Synod bestowed on him the title of Bishop Emeritus.

During his active ministry, Rev. Skogman served on a vast number of boards and committees both in the church and community. His service included terms on the board of directors of Carthage College, Kenosha, WI; The Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL; and Finlandia University, Hancock, MI. He was presented a Leadership Award in 1997 from Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan in appreciation for his services. In 2007 Finlandia University bestowed on him the title of Board Member Emeritus in recognition of his service to the university from 1993-2007. He also served nine years on the board of the Augustana Heritage Association dedicated to perpetuating the life and legacy of the former Augustana Lutheran Church in America rooted in the Swedish tradition. He was a past president of the Gladstone Rotary Club. He was an RSVP volunteer for several agencies, the U.P. State Fair and a Reading Buddy at Cameron School. He was a past president of the Gladstone Swedish Club.

During Rev. Skogman's tenure as bishop, the Northern Great Lakes Synod developed a companion synod relationship with the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The two synods exchanged visits of the bishops, choirs and several work and witness groups. A special project of the

Northern Great Lakes Synod was the construction of a three-story library at Kisarawe secondary school where underprivileged youth could complete high school and go on to college. In 2009, Kisarawe, which means "Hill of Hope," named the reading room in the complex the "Bishop Dale Skogman Library" in his honor.

Rev. Skogman married Josephine A. Larson on December 19, 1964 at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo, IL. Jo was Dale's faithful companion in life and ministry and they are the proud parents of three children and nine grandchildren. In addition to his wife, Rev. Skogman is survived by his children, Laura (James) Wendt, Beaver Dam, WI; Bradley (Sherry) Skogman, Waukesha, WI; Leah Skogman, Milwaukee, WI. Especially dear to Rev. Skogman were his grandchildren, Jamie, Jordan, Jeremy, Cora and Emma Wendt; Addison (Kyle), David, Peter and Ella Skogman.

In 2008, at the age of 68, he enrolled in the Children's Literature Institute, West Reading, CT, graduating in 2009 and was successfully published in children's magazines.

Rev. Skogman pursued a number of hobbies during his retirement including extensive travel at home and abroad and hosting family and friends in his retirement home. He was also adept at handwork and was recognized by the Sewing Circle at First Lutheran Church for crocheting in excess of 4,000 sweaters for distribution to needy children through Lutheran World Relief. His greatest joy was to be among his grandchildren, family and friends and to participate in the life of his church.

# Northern Great Lakes Synod

## Synod Staff

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**Deacon Lori Ward**

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**Lifelong Faith Formation Administrator**

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# Northern Great Lakes Synod Executive Committee

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**Rev. Katherine Finegan**..... Bishop  
**Chuck Thomas** ..... Vice President  
**Nancy Heykes** ..... Secretary  
**Larry Pagel**..... Treasurer  
**Matthew Johnson** ..... Member, Synod Council  
**Rev. Diane Srutowski** ..... Member, Synod Council

The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:  
(S10.03.)

- Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the Synod.
- Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and the roster of associates in ministry and make appropriate recommendations to the Synod regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of appointment to associates in ministry, consecrated deacons and deaconesses, commissioned teachers, and certified or commissioned lay professionals as authorized by Chapter 10 of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of the Synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of the Synod.
- Reports its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of the Synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.

# Northern Great Lakes Synod Synod Council

*Year = Year Term Ends (3 year terms)*

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**Rev. Katherine Finegan (Dave) 2023**

**Conference 8**

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**Chuck Thomas (Lynn) 2023**

**Vice President**

**Conference 6**

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**Nancy Heykes (Paul) 2022**

**Secretary**

**Conference 3**

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**Larry Pagel 2022**

**Treasurer**

**Conference 8**

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**Rev. Molly Eversoll 2023**

**Conference 8**

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**Rev. Bill Jacobson (Melzee) 2022**

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**Carl Johnson (Gail) 2022**

**Conference 6**

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**Matthew Johnson (Allie) 2024**

**Conference 3**

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**Rev. Mark Laatsch (Amy) 2022**

**Conference 5**

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**Curt Poulos 2024**

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# Northern Great Lakes Synod Synod Council

*Year = Year Term Ends (3 year terms)*

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*Synod Council continued*

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**Northern Great Lakes Synod**  
**2022 Synod Assembly Planning Committee**

*Year = Year Term Ends (1 year terms)*

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**Chair**

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## Report of the Candidacy Committee

This past year the Northern Great Lakes Synod Candidacy Committee held three meetings. All of them were Bi-Synodical meetings held with the Candidacy Committee of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Two of the three meetings were held via Zoom. Our first meeting of the year took place on Friday, April 23. This was a meeting conducted through Zoom. The second meeting took place on August 11. It was held in person at Grace Lutheran Church in Tomahawk, WI. The final meeting of 2021 was held on Friday, December 3 and was conducted via Zoom. Joan Johanson, from the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, was the chair of the Bi-Synodical Candidacy Committee. The December meeting was her final meeting on the committee. I was appointed to replace her as the Bi-Synodical chair for future meetings.

At these meetings, the primary job of the Committee is to conduct panel interviews with candidates from either synod who are at various points in the candidacy process. These panels are either Entrance panels for candidates starting the educational process for rostered leadership or Approval panels for those who are completing the process. Occasionally there are special panels for candidates who may need them. We also receive reports of Endorsement panels that are usually held at the seminary the candidate is attending. This year, for obvious reasons, all the Endorsement panels were held remotely.

At the April 23 meeting, Lance and Wade Crevier, members of Good Shepherd, Peshtigo, were entered into candidacy. Melissa Salminen, a member of Trinity, Ishpeming, and Patrick Kempf, a member of Christ the King, Escanaba, were endorsed to advance on to internship. Micah Cavaleri, a member of Good Shepherd, Houghton, and Carolyn Lawrence, a member of United, Crystal Falls were approved for ordination. At the August 11 meeting, Jennifer Elsenbroek, a member of Messiah, Marquette, was entered into candidacy. At the December 3 meeting, Lon Hider, a member of Eden, Munising, was endorsed to advance to internship. His internship is taking place at Christ the King, Escanaba. We have one other candidate within our Synod who is advancing in the candidacy process. She is Krystle Moraska, a member of Grace, Pembine.

I strongly urge parish pastors and lay leaders to be a voice of encouragement to individuals in your congregation that you believe have the gifts for rostered ministry. We all need to be regularly reminded that each of us has a critical role in the call that people experience to rostered ministry; that vital first step in the candidacy process. Who is it within your congregation that you think has the gifts for ordained/rostered ministry? Please talk with her/him about it. Your encouragement is very important.

The following are the NGLS members who serve with me on the Candidacy Committee: Andy Hill, Marcie Kaven, Rev. David Murphy, and Bishop Katherine Finegan. It is indeed a privilege to serve with these talented and insightful individuals, along with the members of the Candidacy Committee of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. I have just completed my tenth year as chair of the NGLS Candidacy Committee. I work closely with Bishop Finegan and I'm grateful for all that she does as a contact person and advocate for the candidates in our Synod.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Keith A. Kolstad, Candidacy Committee Chair

## **Report of the Companion Synod Committee**

The Companion Synod Committee has continued to devote their time, energy and prayers to the people of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of Tanzania. Our focus has not changed due to COVID-19. We remain dedicated to nurturing the relationship that has been going on for over 25 years. Unfortunately, our plans did have to change. It was with heavy hearts all trips to Tanzania have been postponed. In times of uncertainty we rely on the guidance of God, who will let us know when we will return. When that time comes, we will be ready to do God's work, with God's people.

As we reflect on the past year and the limitations COVID-19 has presented, we can see how it has strengthened our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The bonds that have formed between so many of members of the ELCA and the NGLS cannot be broken by a pandemic, but rather have given us more reasons to love and pray together. Tanzania has not had an easy time with COVID-19. Many are unsure exactly what is happening in Tanzania. There are reports of Tanzania denying COVID-19, not participating with the World Health Organization, and refusing to mandate basic social distancing measures. Even with everything the Tanzanians are going through they continue to worry about us, care for us, and pray for us.

It is our hope, when God's time and Tanzanian time collide, we will return with opportunities to expand our relationship. To offer more companion congregation partnerships. To do God's work together. Several trips are tentatively being planned for 2023 and 2024 and we would love all those interested to reach out.

Danielle and Brian Anderson, Committee Co-chairs



## **ELCA Fund for Leaders**

### **Northern Great Lakes Synod Fund for Leaders (5G)**

### **2022 Annual Report**

Thank you to the people of Northern Great Lakes Synod for making an investment in the future of the church through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. We are grateful for your partnership!

In the 2021-22 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than \$3.2 million in support of 317 future pastors and deacons. Thank you for your role in ensuring that these future leaders will be freed from the burden of student debt so that they can go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

#### **Students supported in 2021-2022**

We are grateful that the Northern Great Lakes Synod Fund for Leaders (5G) has provided a total of \$355,515.02 in scholarship awards since its inception. During the 2021-2022 academic year, you provided a total of \$35,500 in scholarship support to:

- |                    |          |  |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| • Lance Crevier    | \$10,000 | Wartburg Theological Seminary          |
| • Wade Crevier     | \$10,000 | Wartburg Theological Seminary          |
| • Lon Hider        | \$2,500  | Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago |
| • Krystle Moraska  | \$8,000  | Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago |
| • Melissa Salminen | \$5,000  | Wartburg Theological Seminary          |

#### **Additional information about your fund**

NGLS-First Ev Lutheran Church, Iron Mountain-FLIM  
 Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$35,680.77**  
 New gifts given to your fund in 2021: **\$0**

Northern Great Lakes Synod Skogman Family - FLIM  
 Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$19,2852.40**  
 New gifts given to your fund in 2021: **\$4,201.04**

Northern Great Lakes Synod Kemppainen Family-FLIM  
 Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$93,627.67**  
 New gifts given to your fund in 2021: **\$0**

Northern Great Lakes Synod Fund for Leaders in Mission  
 Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$431,195.83**  
 New gifts given to your fund in 2021: **\$2,492.23**

Northern Great Lakes Synod-United Luth Ch of Crystal Falls  
Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$7,128.16**  
New gifts given to your fund in 2021: **\$0**

NGLS-Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Menominee, MI - FLIM  
Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$71,260.34**  
New gifts given to your fund in 2021: **\$0**

Northern Great Lakes Synod-Bethel Lutheran Church-FLIM  
Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$98,390.95**  
New gifts given to your fund in 2021: **\$0**

NGLS-David V and Patricia A Hollis FLIM Endowment  
Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$106,542**  
New gifts given to your fund in 2021: **\$0**

Total Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$1,036,678.12**

**Total Amount available for you to Award for 2022-2023: \$44,400**

This number is calculated with a 10% holdback to ensure that all promised scholarships can be paid during both semesters, even if the market fluctuates. Please issue your awards in whole dollar amounts.

For more information, please visit [ELCA.org/fundforleaders](https://www.elca.org/fundforleaders) or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2936. Again, thank you to the people of Northern Great Lakes Synod for your generous support – we thank God for you!

# Report of the Endowment Fund Committee



Congregations all across the Synod have proven to be formidable warriors in this battle with the COVID-19 virus. The virus has been no match for your continued faithful and generous support for the work of the Endowment Ministry. Your hands and hearts have been opened to do God's work and have made it possible to fund many important ministries at the Synod level.



Your financial support made it possible to significantly increase the distribution of a total of \$115,054 to 13 different ministries. This total is the sum of \$97,554 to six ministries from restricted funds and \$17,500 to seven from unrestricted assets. The details about the sources of this funding are attached to this report and are available for review at the Synod Office.

The 2021 year end balance was 2,785,542 compared to the 2020 balance of \$2,526,128.

Other important work of the committee included:

- Revising the Endowment Ministry (EM) policies to move the board to Committee status and to clarify our role.
- Discussing various ways to better educate everyone on the work of the EM and enhancing support for that work. How we can do a better job communicating with congregations.
- Encouraging support for Equipping the Saints Fund (unrestricted funds) and for the Answering the Call campaign for Seminarian Support and Clergy Debt Relief.
- Promoting more consistent participation of EM committee members.

Thanks be to God! It's a blessing to do God's work!

Dirk Manson, Chair

## **Report of the Justice Advocacy Committee**

This year was a year of refocus and rebuilding. There was a change in the membership over the past few years and as the committee reorganizes and defines the focus for the future the meetings have not been numerous.

The committee, on the suggestion of Bishop Katherine, started meeting with the Racial Equity Follow Up group from the 2021 challenge. Ideas have stemmed from the meeting and we plan to meet with this group in the future.

The committee needs to refocus and add additional members. The history of the committee has been in numerous areas and could have a great impact during this time of heightened awareness in our contexts. If you would like to be involved, please reach out and a meeting will be set up in early June.

Goals in 2022-2023 are to connect with prison ministry, the local advocacy groups in the UP and NE WI, work with the Racial Equity Follow Up group, and determine the best use of the times and talents of the members.

Blessings,

Melissa Salminen

Vicar (Intern), First-Gladstone

Wartburg Theological Seminary

# Report of Lifelong Faith Formation



**“Our instructor was both prepared and deeply invested in our continued learning, discussing the text with humor, insight and reflection.”**

**That’s just one of the dozens of positive comments received from participants who evaluated the Lifelong Faith Formation classes of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.**

Launched in 2020, Lifelong Faith Formation serves adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, world religions, and more. In these challenging and uncertain times, the Synod continues to offer classes online via Zoom. Learners and teachers from across the Synod discovered that Lifelong Faith Formation is a meaningful, interesting and fun way to be church together in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**More than 150 people took part in the classes offered in January and September 2021. The September line-up was:**

- **Bibliomania! Reading Through Some of the 66 Books of Food for the Soul** with Susan Anderson, Jeff Henquinet and Pastor Christina Forsythe
- **Ezekiel Bible Study** with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique
- **Intermediate Biblical Greek** with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Zion and Salem, Ironwood
- **Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** with Luanne and Bishop Emeritus Thomas Skrenes
- **An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking** with Assistant to the Bishop Jim Duehring, who also led a Book Study of *Friedman’s Fables* by Rabbi Ed Friedman
- **Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why** with Bishop Katherine Finegan

**In January 2022, Lifelong Faith Formation program surpassed a significant milestone, with more than 100 people registering for these class offerings:**

- **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew** with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Salem/Zion, Ironwood
- **The Samuel Series: Prayer and the Spiritual Life** facilitated by retired Pastors Lee Goodwin and Jon Magnuson and Barb Ojibway, Prince of Peace, Harvey
- **The Big Picture Bible Discussion** coordinated by Susan Anderson of Immanuel, Rhinelander, and Jeff Henquinet of Good Shepherd, Houghton
- **Ezekiel Bible Study II** with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique
- **Anishinaabe Culture** led by Denise Cadeau, Dean of Anishinaabe Studies at Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
- **Dialogue with the Islamic Resource Group** based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Members of the Lifelong Faith Formation Committee**, representing conferences across the Synod, and their congregations are:

- Matthew Johnson (Chairperson), Immanuel, Rhinelander
- Karen Carter (Secretary), Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
- Rev. Christina Forsythe, Porterfield/Beaver (Pound) Wisconsin
- Chaplain Karen Anne Hanson, Northland Retirement Community, Marinette
- Rev. Stephen Gauger, Calvary, Rapid River
- Rev. Warren Geier, Bethany, Ishpeming
- Pauline Kiltinen, Messiah, Marquette
- Judith Quirk, Messiah, Marquette
- Rev. Soren Schmidt; Holy Trinity, Chassell
- Rev. David Tielbar, Zion, St. Ignace and Trinity, Brevort
- Rev. Diane Srutowski, Trinity, Stonington, and Bethany, Gladstone.

After his retirement, Pastor Warren resigned in January when he moved to Maine.

**Special thanks to:** Bishop Katherine Finegan for her ongoing leadership and support during the growth of the program; all of the teachers from throughout the Synod; committee members, including the leadership and service of Matthew Johnson, Chair, and Karen Carter, Secretary; Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, for coordinating Zoom links needed for online classes; Heather Oysti in the Synod Office for her coordination of website resources and communications; and Betsy Koski in the Synod Office for her contributions to program operations.

**Our primary goal for 2022** is to build on the breadth, depth, and diversity of classes which were offered in the first year of the Lifelong FaithFormation program in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The committee seeks to schedule a blend of class offerings which include Bible Study, church history, spiritual growth, and contemporary issues, among other areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Johnson, Chairperson, Lifelong Faith Formation Committee, and

Deacon Lori Ward, Synod Missioner, Lifelong Faith Formation Coordinator

**“Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.”**

**Psalm 25:4-5**

# **Report of the Leadership Support Committee**

The Synod Leadership Support Committee is responsible for supporting Rostered Leaders, Licensed Lay Ministers, and their families as they engage in their specific ministries. We plan and provide opportunities and resources for wholeness of life and continuing education. We hope to encourage and enhance spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical health among our Synod's ministry leaders and their families.

The pandemic has continued to bring challenges and innovations in ministry. We have welcomed some new pastors and deacons to our Synod in the last year. We have said goodbye to a few others and wish them God's continued blessings. We have grieved with the families of faithful leaders as we have said goodbye and entrusted our colleagues into the eternal arms of God. Interim Pastors have been diligent in working with congregations in transition between called rostered leaders, and we are deeply grateful for their continued service. All our rostered leaders have been creative, persistent, and devoted to their ministries. Online, outdoor, physically distanced ministry opportunities have been refined and updated. Safety and ministry concerns have been balanced and negotiated.

Our Committee has encouraged mentoring relationships among rostered leaders, especially those in the first three years of rostered ministry. We are continuing to develop and refine new avenues for communication and support among these leaders. Pastor Jay Welshonse serves as our liaison to the First Call Theological Education (FCTE) planning team who work with rostered leaders in our Synod and the six synods that cover the remainder of Wisconsin. We support Bishop Katherine Finegan as she works with mobility and matching ministry leaders with congregations in need, as well as supporting the efforts to aid in debt relief for Rostered Leaders within our Synod. Pastor Welshonse prepared a draft of the 2023 Compensation Guidelines, which our committee reviewed before passing it along to our Synod Council. We are very grateful to Pastor Welshonse as he took on this task and this aspect of our Committee's work and to Betsy Koski who reviewed the document and provided detailed information for us. Pastor John Ansell continues to work with our Synod staff in developing and revising policy statements and guidelines documents as we respond to the changing needs of rostered leaders in our Synod. Deacon Lori Ward guides Licensed Lay Ministers and their supervisors, coordinates the Lifelong Faith Formation classes, and supports our Synod Staff in a variety of other activities.

Events for continuing education and spiritual growth have been a mix of online and in-person gatherings. Some events were planned, only to be cancelled due to local circumstances and situations related to the on-going pandemic (Walking Together events and Stewardship workshops, for example). The events included:

- Weekly ZOOM Check-in gatherings with Bishop Finegan and rostered leaders
- Online Gathering for Retired Rostered Leaders
- Online Boundaries Training which can be completed at the convenience of the leader's own schedule

- Faithful Innovations Trainings continue
- Rostered Leader Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in August 2021
- Hybrid online/in-person First Call Theological Education Event in November 2021
- Professional Leaders' Event in Marquette in February 2022

As we look ahead to the next year, our Synod Staff members continue to work with congregations for renewal and spiritual growth. We are excited to be promoting online opportunities for Boundaries Workshops for lay leaders, as well as Licensed Lay Ministers and ordained Rostered Leaders. As we continue to follow pandemic protocols, other upcoming opportunities are being planned as online events or tentatively in-person events. They include: Faithful Innovations trainings for laity and rostered leaders, a First Call Theological Education Event in November 2022, the annual Rostered Leaders Retreat in February 2023, a gathering for Retired Rostered Leaders, the annual Clergy Spouses' Retreat and more frequent online recharge discussions, and further events for retired rostered leaders.

Many thanks to current committee members for their work: Pastor John Ansell, Bishop Katherine Finegan, Pastor Bill Jacobson (Secretary), Pastor Kay Richter (Chair), Pastor Jay Welshonse (liaison to FCTE, Compensation Subcommittee Chair), and Deacon Lori Ward (Synod Missioner).

Respectfully Submitted by  
Pastor Kay Richter, Chair

# Report of Prayfaithfully

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

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12*

The Apostle Paul’s advice to the Romans is well-taken for us today as we maneuver through the ups and downs, and twists and turns of life during a pandemic. During 2021, we were blessed to have the dedication of 46 individuals and three groups of writers provide our website devotions, which reminded us of God’s steadfast love and faithfulness in all circumstances. I cannot thank these writers enough for their willingness to write, to share their faith, to provide inspiration and hope to our Synod and beyond. Prayfaithfully devotions continue to be the most accessed page on our website, a testament to their quality and importance.

We welcome you to write! You can do so as an individual, a couple, with a friend, or as part of a men’s, women’s, or youth group or confirmation class. Needed are seven devotions based on a Scripture passage(s) or topic of your choice, followed by a short devotion and closing prayer. Detailed guidelines can be found on the Synod website or by contacting me.

Little used but always available is the Prayer Request feature on the website. All requests remain anonymous as they are passed on to a group of volunteers who will lift up your concern in their prayers. Thank you to our volunteer “pray-ers”! You are very much appreciated!

Deepest thanks to Pastor Kay Richter for coordinating the monthly Prayfaithfully calendars. Pastor Kay does a wonderful job of expanding our awareness of Synod committees, pastors, and ministries, and emphasizing relevant issues in our world. Thank you, Pastor Kay, for sharing your gifts in this way!

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to write a week of devotions in 2022. Volunteers make my week! I try to schedule volunteers at least two months in advance of the date of publication to help alleviate any time stress. Past writers or new to this ministry – your devotions are a true blessing!

Please contact me at the Synod Office (906) 228-2300 or [bakoski@nglsynod.org](mailto:bakoski@nglsynod.org) if you have any questions or would like to schedule a week to write.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Koski

## **Report of the Synod Campus Ministry Committee**

The Synod Campus Ministry Committee meets quarterly to discuss the ongoing work of the individual campus ministry sites, to share programming ideas, and to address the vital work of Lutheran Campus Ministry throughout the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

The Northern Great Lakes Synod has active campus ministry programs at Michigan Technological University, Houghton (Pastor Bucky Beach, Campus Pastor); Northern Michigan University, Marquette (Pastor Breanne Kinnunen, Campus Pastor); Bay College, Escanaba and Iron Mountain (Pastor Tony Morrison, Campus Pastor); and Finlandia University, Hancock (Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith, Campus Pastor). The activities at each site vary but include the following: worship, Bible study, community service, hospitality, meals, work with other campus ministries, and outreach to others. The Synod Campus Ministry Committee greatly appreciates the work of our individual campus ministry sites in making campus ministry happen within our Synod.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the campus ministry sites were greatly affected by COVID-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, they persevered in providing welcome, comfort, counseling, and opportunities to serve for the students, staff, and faculty at their respective campuses. During the weekend of February 11-13, students from the campus ministries gathered at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for a retreat, which was an opportunity to gather together again and meet students from the other universities. The success of this event provides hope and encouragement to plan for another joint retreat in February 2023. As each entity within the church experiences a “new normal,” we are reminded that our call is to be the Body of Christ in the world and proclaim it within our communities.

The Synod Campus Ministry Committee encourages congregations to identify students from their congregations who attend any of our institutions with active Lutheran Campus Ministry programs and provide those ministries with the names and contact information of those students. We are always looking for ways to involve our students in campus ministry programs.

Lutheran Campus Ministry changes students’ lives as they proclaim the Gospel on our campuses and encourages students to be faithful in their ministry to others. We give thanks to God for our campus pastors and for the support of individuals and congregations within our Synod for the work of Lutheran Campus Ministry! Thanks be to God.

Christine L. Ebert, Chair  
Synod Campus Ministry Committee

# **Report of the Synod Stewardship Committee**

**“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) NRSV**

Stewardship, no matter how broadly or narrowly you define it, is ultimately a matter of faith. Do we really believe that God is the creator? Do we really believe that God loves us and is still creating life through us? Do we really believe that we are entrusted with many gifts? Do we really believe that God blesses even in the midst of a pandemic, social and environmental upheaval? If the answer is “yes,” then how will we respond to this amazing entrustment?

Even during a pandemic, the people of our Northern Great Lakes Synod have been amazingly generous. You have supported needs in your local communities, needs in your congregations and beyond! We celebrate the fact that 78 of our 79 Synod congregations gave some mission support during 2021. As a matter of fact, 63 congregations gave 99.3% or more of their pledged commitment for mission support. Overall, the Northern Great Lakes Synod received 103% of congregational pledged commitments for the work of Christ in our Synod and beyond! Thank you for your generosity! Praise the Lord!

We have noted the growth of online giving in our congregations. Most of our congregations now utilize such giving platforms as VANCO or Tithe.ly. Research shows that younger generations are especially apt to utilize online giving options. These online giving trends will likely continue.

This Synod has a strong legacy of stewardship education. We have a variety of archived stewardship resources on our synod website at [www.nglsynod.org/stewardship](http://www.nglsynod.org/stewardship). The ELCA also has a panoply of resources at [www.elca.org/stewardship](http://www.elca.org/stewardship). Consider utilizing an updated, “Mission Stories” booklet that our Synod has produced. In February we hosted a stewardship workshop with Rev. Richard Wehrs of the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

Our ELCA Regional Gift Planner, Cynthia Halverson, is contracted by the Synod to work with congregations and individuals about legacy gifts. She can be reached at: [cynthia.halverson@elca.org](mailto:cynthia.halverson@elca.org) [www.elca.org/give/ELCA-Foundation](http://www.elca.org/give/ELCA-Foundation) or at (773) 380-2572. People are often generous when they are encouraged to consider ministries of the church in their estate planning.

The pandemic curtailed the typical Synod Mission Interpreters and Temple Talks in our congregations, but the Synod Stewardship Committee hopes to resume this ministry in the Fall of 2022. We have stories to tell! Here is a short list of best practices related to stewardship:

- Tell success stories that show the direct impact of financial generosity.
- It’s helpful to talk about stewardship when not asking for money.
- It’s helpful to have a congregational stewardship committee that works with the pastor.

- People who make a pledged commitment tend to keep their commitment.

The Synod Stewardship committee meets periodically to discuss matters of stewardship within our Synod. We welcome additional members to this committee. Contact Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop if interested. As Assistant to the Bishop, I am available to assist congregations with their stewardship programs. Please feel free to contact me with any of your questions at the Synod Office.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop/DEM



## **Report of the Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors Task Force**

“Gichimanidoominaan, gaye miizhishinaam i’iw nibwaakaawin ji-gwayakochigeyaange ji-wiidoowangidwaa nijanishinaabeminaanig.”  
Great Spirit, give us wisdom in order to do right to help our fellow people.

After the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery from last May’s Synod Assembly, The Year of Discovery Task Force evolved into Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors Task Force. The new name gave us a new direction prompted with the question, “Just how do we walk with our indigenous neighbors?” We found a simple answer. We build sustainable relationships wherever our churches are located near tribal communities. We have identified the following key people as Native allies and Synod liaisons from NGLS congregations: Don and Flo Cutter – Rapid River, Rev. Scott Ehle – Menominee, Rev. Melinda VanderSys – Newberry and Sault Ste. Marie, Rev. Bucky Beach and Jeff Henquinet – Copper Country, Rev. Julie Belew – Baraga and L’Anse, Rev. Dave Van Kley and Mike Coyne – Marquette.

“Relationships are complex, and connected to other relationships and commitments, and require much attention over time to sustain [thus,] we recognize that any given relationship will require an intentional commitment of attention and time to build up all those who are involved. Sustainability means embedding the project or work in the community as a whole, so that the project doesn’t depend only on one or two people, and can continue over time.” (“Accompaniment” document from 2013 ELCA Global Mission Gathering)

To date we are building relationships through the following projects that have been brought to our attention by local Native leaders and tribal members. Projects that include:

- Monetary and labor assistance with the development of Camp Ogichidaa (Warrior Camp). A camp that will be located on the reservation of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to provide events and activities for the purpose of revitalizing Anishinaabe culture for Native American Veterans and tribal members.
- Advocating with the Center of Native American Studies at NMU to influence the Marquette Public Schools Board of Education to change the name of MHS sports teams from Redmen and Redettes to something that is not offensive to many native people.
- Monetary and labor assistance with Dynamite Hill Farms located on the reservation of KBIC. A farm invested in traditional harvesting and production of local indigenous foods such maple syrup, wild rice, berries, apples and wild leeks.

Relationship building continues with attendance and involvement across the Synod in tribal activities and events: various walks for water, boarding school victims, domestic violence, and missing and murdered Indigenous people. Lutheran Campus Ministry connecting with members of both MTU and NMU Native

American Student's Association through events and lectures. Local ceremonies, advocacy for treaty rights, pow wows and tribal council meetings are some of the other ways people across the synod are getting involved.

As a task force, we also recognize the importance of cultural learning experiences for ourselves and others in appreciation and understanding of Native peoples and their heritage. Thus, a worship liturgy was created for Native American Sunday held in November designated as National Native American Heritage Month. This liturgy was distributed to all our congregations to use in the hopes of understanding that many traditional Native spiritual practices are not unlike our own in praise and thanksgiving of God our Creator. Teachings that are not unlike our own found in the scriptures. Teachings that embody grace, humility and love.

Cultural learning was further experienced in the Lifelong Faith Formation Classes offered by our Synod in the month of February. From the faculty and staff of the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College we were grateful to learn about the sacred use of tobacco, Midewiwin practices, Twin Spirits, Boarding Schools and some basics of Anishinaabe philosophy. Resources for learning and upcoming events continue to be posted on the NGLS website.

As we walk along this path of the good red road, we do not know what the future holds. Much of what comes before us will organically evolve from relationship building. By the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit we are committed to follow through with the remaining objectives put forth in the resolution last May. To offer a statement of repentance and conciliation to the native nations present within Upper Michigan and Northern Wisconsin for the damage done to the Native Peoples in the name of Christianity and that the Bishop, along with this task force, and representatives of the Native community, plan a ceremony of repentance and conciliation.

There is no shortage of ways to stand in solidarity with our Indigenous neighbors. We can all be advocates for treaty rights, protectors of Mother Earth, and promoters of justice, peace and healing. Thank you for the many ways you are already doing that! Please continue to share your stories with the Synod.

Nimiigwechiwendaamin – we are grateful.

Submitted by the Walking With Our Indigenous Neighbors Task Force

## **Report of the World Hunger Committee**

We continued to meet as a group throughout 2021, although it was all done online, using Zoom to our advantage. It was my first year as chairperson for this committee and while there has been some bit of learning curve, it's been fun leading this group.

In 2020 we did a small World Hunger drive just before the virtual Synod Assembly. A total of \$22,464.65 was given toward ELCA World Hunger during this drive. Overall, the Synod raised \$83,732.49 for ELCA World Hunger by the end of the year, marking an increase of almost \$20,000 from the previous year.

We continued to hear from several of our congregations in the Northern Great Lakes Synod that continue to help their local food banks, backpack programs, congregation pantries, homeless shelters, and other ways to address hunger needs in their areas.

We also learned that Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan — which applied for a Domestic Hunger Grant through the ELCA — was awarded a grant for three years. They do great work in the U.P. and throughout Wisconsin!

Thank you to all the members of the synod hunger team and to Bishop Katherine Finegan, who faithfully attends each meeting and has helped me along greatly in my first year as chairperson.

We will continue to find new and safe ways to encourage our congregations to work to feed hungry people in our Synod, nation and world. I also invite each of you to let us know what you are doing in your community to help feed the hungry!

Blessings,

Cory Dellenbach, Chair NGLS Hunger Team

## **Report of the Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee meets quarterly to assist in planning worship for Synod Assembly and other Synod events as well as providing opportunities such as workshops and events that equip, educate and deepen worship and worship leaders in the Synod.

The 2021 Synod Assembly worships were fully online. One was put together with pre-recorded video pieces and one was livestreamed from Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette.

We thank all the volunteers who served as musicians, lectors, videographers and video editors. We are especially grateful to Kyra Beck and Alex Fluegel for their work to edit and splice digital video clips together for our opening worship.

We assisted in planning the Synod's online Christmas worship service.

We are working to plan worship services for the 2022 Synod Assembly and evolving our planning to fit the format of Assembly.

Thank you to all of the worship committee members for their hard work. They are: Bishop Katherine Finegan, SuAnn Ambuehl, Dave Dagenais, Pauline Kiltinen, Shirley Norquist, Barb Rice, Rev. Soren Schmidt, Rev. Bruce Thorsen, and Lucas Wickstrom.

Rev. George Kaiser and Rev. Melinda VanderSys stepped down from the Worship Committee and we thank them for their work with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucas C. Wickstrom, Committee Chair

# **Report of the Youth Ministries Support Team**

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Youth Ministries Support Team has been active in recent months, dealing with a variety of issues. During the pandemic, it was difficult to gather and make progress. However, we tried to provide support for camp activities at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp and set up and then cancelled plans for transportation to the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. In the middle of the year Dave Nelson missed a meeting...and was promptly elected chair (and willingly accepted at the next meeting). There were some notable accomplishments for the year:

- The Synod hired Stefanie Ehle as the Synod Youth Coordinator.
- A regular meeting schedule was restarted.
- We sent three youth and an adult leader to the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in November.
- We increased the youth committee social media presence with weekly posts on Facebook and Instagram (thank you Stefanie!).
- A process was started for the youth committee chair to meet with the pastors from each Conference.

Goals for the coming year:

- Increase engagement from Synod youth in committee planning and activities.
- Continue to grow the Synod youth presence on social media platforms.
- Send an adult leader and four youth to the Multicultural Youth Leadership Academy.
- Pilot and facilitate regional/conference youth gatherings focusing on pooling groups of congregations for a time of fellowship, service, fun, and faith inspiration.
- Improve communications with youth leaders and pastors across the Synod.
- Increase awareness of connecting faith to social justice issues through participation in the Lutheran Office of Public Policy events.
- Find a way to engage our younger members with some kind of event for the elementary school youth.
- Explore options for providing Growing Younger training and support.

Thank you to committee members Cassidy Crabb, Lance Crevier, Pastor Brenda Greenwald, Naomi Kauppi, Sean Korpela, Stacy and Katie McEachern, Amanda Rasner, Charlotte Strom and a special thank you to Bishop Katherine Finegan and Assistant to the Bishop Jim Duehring for their support, guidance and leadership for our team and Synod youth. Also a special thanks to Stefanie Ehle, who tries to keep me in line and moving forward! You can reach out to our team through Stefanie at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) or contact me directly at [dannelso@mtu.edu](mailto:dannelso@mtu.edu)

Respectfully Submitted,

David Nelson, Chair

# **Report of Conference 1—Iron-Gogebic-Ontonagon**

Conference 1 is named “IGO Conference” for the three counties (Iron County, WI; Gogebic County, MI; and Ontonagon County, MI) in which most of our members live. Our 2021 gathering took place on October 17, 2021 at Salem, Ironwood. Members were present from most of our congregations. Some highlights follow.

Perhaps the first and greatest highlight was the fact that we were in fact gathered together again, in person. One feels how this is not something to take for granted. Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn led us in worship. Pastor Nancy Kauppi, finishing out her term as president, chaired the meeting. After receiving a treasurer’s report indicating a checkbook balance of \$575, mostly from congregation dues, the gathering voted to disburse \$100 for conference youth (at that time supposing it would be to help with transportation to the ELCA Youth Gathering), \$175 to Synod Endowment (clergy debt relief), and \$200 to Lutheran Disaster Response, leaving a \$100 balance. Isn’t it an honor to be part of a group which gathers funds and then does nothing with them except to give them away?

The following were elected by unanimous ballot to offices: Pastor Doug Norquist (St. Paul, Ironwood), President; Marcia Nelson (Zion, Ironwood), Secretary; Gabriel Lannet (Our Savior, Paynesville), Synod Council member; Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn (Salem/Zion, Ironwood), Anna Hill (Sharon, Bessemer) and Ralph Wirtanen (St. Paul, Ironwood), conference nominating committee.

Pastor Bill Jacobson brought a report on behalf of the Synod Council. Among the things he mentioned were Faithful Innovations Training, facilitating best practices to grow healthier congregations from within; stewardship resources to help in thinking “beyond the money;” Lifelong Faith Formation as the successor to the Synod Lay School; Endowment Ministry; and the NGL Synod website, a good source of information.

Members shared about creative and innovative things happening from their congregations. These included a yoga class (All Saints, Wakefield), Little Free Library sites (St. Paul, Ironwood), Wednesday church school (Salem and Zion, Ironwood); free coat and school supply share, community garden project, and summer Saturday campfire service (Zion, Ironwood). Conference youth Sean Korpela was mentioned for his involvement in the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit team.

Servers from Salem provided us with snacks and coffee. This is another thing we can never take for granted again.

Pastor Doug Norquist, Conference President

## **Report of Conference 2—Copper Country**

Grace and peace be unto you in Christ Jesus. Amen. Copper Country Conference has had a fairly straight forward year as we continued to meet via Zoom and kept activities and gatherings a bit smaller still for the overall safety and well-being of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Once again, our Conference was going to be hosting the Synod Assembly this year, yet circumstances and a prayerful duty to the well-being of others has changed the format of this Assembly – placing us all in our own conferences. Similarly, Copper Country Conference has continued to adapt our various events while we cautiously continue to step forward in gatherings, youth activities, and community involvement.

Our conference text studies (pericopes) have continued to be all via Zoom. I am thankful for such a strong ecumenical text study group that can both laugh together heartily as well as get down to the thick theology of study and preparations.

Our Conference remains strong and well with our pastors. We were excited to have the official ordination and installation of Rev. Micah Cavaleri at Grace Lutheran in South Range in June of 2021. We also thank God for the wisdom and guidance of our retired pastors who continue to fill pulpits and impart their wisdom in our meetings. This also allowed our October Conference meeting (via Zoom) to work so well – that we are gifted with prayer, words of wisdom, and time together with our entire Conference leaders, volunteers and the Synod Office.

While our congregations and community have begun to slowly come together more for in-person meetings and activities, we have also continued to utilize various ways of gathering safely and via distance. Many have multiple formats for worship via: in-person, live streaming, prerecording messages, FM radio transmitters, outdoor/parking lot worships. Contact tracing, extra cleaning, and offering masks and sanitizer remain a norm.

This year has continued to allow for many congregations to assess and develop upgrades to their properties (be it small and large updates). In many ways we are also thankful that this has given some congregations a welcome back into their sanctuaries after a long stint of patience and developments. The “Let’s Eat” program has continued to be successful throughout our Conference and utilizes many of our church buildings to serve a warm and healthy meal to any in need. That program adapted well and continues to joyfully serve many via “grab and go” options. We are looking in the coming year (’22-’23) toward future youth activities again as well as seeing our congregations becoming growingly excited to march forth and carry on the flame of the Spirit in this soon to be post-pandemic life.

As always: May God’s blessings continue to you all. Be guided by the Holy Spirit as you gather, welcome and witness through your calling in community life and through that of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I love you, all! Be blessed. Be a blessing.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,

Rev. Soren S. Schmidt, President, Copper Country Conference (Conference 2)

## **Report of Conference 3—Headwaters**

Through 2021, the Headwaters Conference pastors met monthly through Zoom. The goal was to hold each other in prayer and support as we continue to help our congregations navigate through the waters of being a church together through COVID-19. Those who felt comfortable met in person for text study, while others chose to remain online for text study. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with other colleagues throughout the Synod through our monthly pastors Zoom gathering led through the Synod Office. A few of our congregations also participated in the Lenten 40 day Racial Equity challenge.

Over the past few years, our conference personnel has evolved quite a bit and a huge goal (challenge) is to nurture and support our relationships from first call pastors to retired ministers to those in specialized ministries. Over the next year, we look forward to tightening our colleague bonds by meeting in person rotating through parishes in our conference. Our time will include worship with Holy Communion, eating and fellowshiping, having fun together. As our future unfolds we look forward to exploring the possibilities of collaborative ministry such as youth events and fundraisers for a cause.

Submitted by

Grant Van Lishout, Headwaters Conference President

## **Report of Conference 4—Four Rivers**

A Zoom meeting for the Four Rivers Conference was held on November 9, 2021. Attendees included Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Jim Duehring, Pastor D.J. Rasner of United, Crystal Falls and Bethany, Amasa, Synod Vice President Chuck Thomas, Joan Jouppi, Sarah Sleeter and Pastor Dave Johnson of Calvary, Quinnesec and Bethany, Norway, Bill Rice of Bethany, Norway, Pastor Lloyd Luedeman of Grace, Pembine, and Barb Marden and Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde of Bethlehem, Florence.

Meeting called to order by President Rice at 12:02 pm. Pastor Duehring presented the theme “Walking Together” highlighting the intertwining mission of the Conference and Synod. He emphasized Faithful Innovations, Stewardship (“everything we do after we say ‘I believe’”), Mission Stories, Lifelong Faith Formation classes, Answer the Call (pastoral debt assistance), plus updates on Restricted Endowment Funds, Equipping the Saints Fund, and Synod committees, all places to pitch in and to check on resources, for growth and enlightenment. He also raised up our new Youth Coordinator for the Synod, Stefanie Ehle from Bethel, Menominee.

Our Synod Vice President Chuck Thomas from Gladstone, updated us on the development of new meetings to support church council presidents and other elected leaders in our congregations. Pastor Duehring reminded all of us that the Synod has a website and Facebook page, and they are actively working to foster and improve communications across the Synod with available resources and ways to connect us all.

The business portion of the Conference followed, led by President Rice. The agenda was adopted as submitted by letter from the Synod, the rules were submitted by the same method, and the president did a visual count without having to appoint tellers.

Minutes from last year’s conference were emailed and a motion was made and approved that, pending any corrections identified later, they will be accepted as written. Any changes subsequently identified will be noted amended minutes will be emailed to the president and the churches in the Conference.

The Nominating Committee (Barb Marden, Sarah Sleeter, and Erv Sparapani (not present)) will continue for the next year and seek candidates for Treasurer and Vice President for election at the next gathering, in 2023.

Floor nominations of Bill Rice for president and Sarah Sleeter as secretary were noted; they are both willing to serve second terms each; elected after no other nominations came up.

Closing prayer was offered by Pastor Duehring. Thanks to all for attending.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Rice, Four Rivers Conference President, Feb 22, 2022.

## **Report of Conference 5—Menominee Valley**

The Menominee Valley Conference, consisting of congregations in both Michigan and Wisconsin, strives daily to serve God and our varied communities. Our rostered leaders serve in parish ministry and well as chaplain ministry in care facilities.

In this time of global pandemic, MVC rostered leaders adapted quickly to the ever-changing landscape. Our clergy gatherings became Zoom meetings as a way to offer mutual support and share ideas for how to navigate ministry in this unknown environment. Many normal events of the conference congregations were again postponed or canceled for 2021, but several were adapted in unique ways. All of our congregations offered worship in various forms including livestream, radio, and video broadcasts. Some were able to regather in-person with mitigation or by meeting outside. Many MVC hunger ministries continued with their local food pantry, and other food drives. Our Savior's, Marinette hosted a drive-thru Thanksgiving Dinner and Good Shepherd, Peshtigo resumed their Chicken Booyah Community Meal via drive-thru service. Some still found ways to participate in the LWR Quilt, Health, and School Kit ministries in October and the 'Loading the Boxcar.' Again this past year a number of congregations participated in "God's work. Our hands." projects throughout our communities. The conference Walking Together event in December occurred via Zoom and was well attended from all of the MVC congregations.

In 2022, the MVC looks to continue and strengthen the ministries already present in the conference, resume past events, and look for innovative new ways to proclaim the gospel through word and deed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor David Murphy,  
Conference President

## **Report of Conference 6—Tri-County**

The Tri-County Conference consists of 10 congregations in Delta, Schoolcraft, and Alger counties. Over the past year, several of the congregations have seen changes in pastoral leadership. We as a conference continue to be active in working together amongst clergy and lay membership. The highlight of our 2021 year was having a booth at the U.P. State Fair which raised \$3219.00 that was donated to the ELCA Good Gifts Water Operations.

The past year has been a year of change for some of the congregations in the conference. Pastor Dennis Meyette retired at the end of May 2021. Pastor Meyette served as Interim Pastor at Immanuel in Escanaba, and as Administrative Interim at First in Gladstone. The conference welcomed Lon Hider who began serving Christ the King in Escanaba in January 2021. Pastor Mike Markwell began serving Immanuel in Escanaba in June 2021. Pastor Elisabeth Daniels returned to the Northern Great Lakes Synod and began her call at First in Gladstone in August of last year. Through the collaborative learning experience at Wartburg Seminary, Vicar Melissa Salminen has been serving in the conference since July of last year. She served the first 6 months of her education at First in Trenary and Faith in Rock. She is continuing her field education placement at First in Gladstone. The conference is grateful for the continued leadership of the other pastors that faithfully serve their congregations.

The conference was able to return to the 2021 U.P. State Fair, with a booth that sells water and baked goods to raise funds for ELCA Good Gifts. Each of our congregations took turns staffing the booth and supplying baked goods. After the cost of ice and water, the conference was able to donate \$3219.00 to the ELCA Good Gifts program. We are planning to be at the fair again in 2022 so stop by our booth!

Several congregations in the conference participate in various ecumenical efforts in our community as well. On August 8, 2021, congregations from the conference helped with Mission of Hope Delta County, an ecumenical effort by community churches that were able to serve 1600 individuals with food, shoes, backpacks, diapers, haircuts, and family pictures. Many of the congregations in the conference work with Hope at the Inn, a revolving shelter for people experiencing homelessness. The shelter rotates through different churches during the winter months. Some of our congregations serve as host sites, others offer volunteers and financial contributions.

Throughout the year the clergy of the conference gather for a weekly text study. We had two conference assemblies in the past year on March 7 and October 3. At the fall meeting we reelected Pastor Terry Frankenstein (Bethany, Escanaba) as secretary and elected Pastor Mike Markwell (Immanuel, Escanaba) as president. The next assembly is scheduled for March 6, 2022. Goals we have for the upcoming year include exploring the possibility of a joint outdoor worship. We hope to continue to build on the success of the U.P. State Fair booth.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Mike Markwell  
President of the Tri-County Conference 6

## **Report of Conference 7—Three Lakes**

The Three Lakes Conference of the Northern Great Lakes Synod is comprised of the following congregations:

Zion Lutheran Church in Allenville – Pastor Renee MacLeod

Trinity Lutheran Church in Brevort – Pastor David Tielbar

Bethel Lutheran Church in Cedarville – Pastor Renee MacLeod

First Lutheran Church in Grand Marais – Jon and Sharon Babbitt, LLM's

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Newberry – Pastor Melinda VanderSys

St. James Lutheran Church in Rudyard – Pastor Matthew Lamb, Administrative Interim

Zion Lutheran Church in St. Ignace – Pastor David Tielbar

Faith Lutheran Church in Sault Ste. Marie – Pastor Rita Chirala

The officers of the Conference are:

President – Pastor David Tielbar

Secretary – Pastor Renee MacLeod

The driving distance between the farthest congregations is 67 miles east-to-west and 110 miles north-to-south.

The Conference Annual Convention was held via Zoom on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Representatives from every congregation participated along with Synod Staff. Pastor David Tielbar was elected Conference 7 President replacing former Conference President Pastor Melinda VanderSys. Pastor Renee MacLeod was elected Conference 7 Secretary replacing former Conference Secretary Sharon Kabat. The date of the 2022 Conference was not set; it will depend on the Synod's schedule.

The Conference pastors continue to share in an ecumenical text study, including three Presbyterian pastors, one United Methodist pastor, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) pastor, an Episcopal priest, and three retired ELCA pastors. They meet weekly from September through May/June. They meet at a coffee shop in Sault Ste. Marie, MI, to share in text study, collegiality, and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David J. Tielbar

Conference 7 President

## **Report of Conference 8—Superior Central**

The last year we have seen many transitions in the lives of our pastors and churches. As a conference, Superior Central continues to pray for the many congregations that are seeing changes in their leadership. We also continue to pray for the Synod which continues to see God driving us in a new way of being and doing church in our communities and across the Synod.

In light of the pandemic, our Walking Together Event was canceled, and we have held no in-person conference gatherings. The conference did meet for a necessary business meeting, via Zoom, on November 7, 2021 and looks forward to the time we can all be together again.

Our regular business meeting included standard duties required of the Synod Constitution.

Our newly elected, and re-elected officers include:

- President: Pastor Andrew Plocher of Messiah, Marquette
- Secretary: vacant, with a candidate to be elected at the next conference meeting
- Treasurer: Pastor Steve Solberg of Immanuel, Negaunee (to a 1-year term)

We also elected Robert Lake (Faith, Ishpeming) to Synod Council (Lay Male, 3-year Term)

Our conference continues to assist in leading Faith Formation classes for the synod. We continue to welcome an ecumenical group of lay and rostered leaders in our conference to weekly Bible (Pericope) study which has been hybrid (Zoom/in-person), and to encourage colleague gatherings and cooperation (including a colleague group specifically of full-time pastors/LLMs).

Our conference continues to collaborate on missionary support and looks forward to discerning new partnerships and ministries. We also look forward to meeting in person and to rekindling the relationships between our congregations.

As we navigate these ever-changing times, we continue to pray for partners in ministry and our conferences, our Synod, and our ELCA Churchwide.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Andrew Plocher  
Conference 8 President