



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Northern Great Lakes Synod

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Companion Relationships:

**Eastern & Coastal Diocese**

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Delaware-Maryland Synod**

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Dear Congregation Council Presidents,

I pray for God's blessings on each of you and thank you for your diligent leadership. Your strong leadership is important and needed in the congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS), especially during these troublesome times.

Your Synod leadership is continuing the effort to build training programs and opportunities to network with each other. Both because COVID-19 is still severely impacting areas of the NGLS and with the large distances from one end of the territory to the other, our quarterly training and networking workshops are presented virtually via Zoom. Our next 90-minute workshop is Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7 pm ET/6 pm CT. Shortly before that date the Zoom meeting link will be sent to the latest email address we have for each congregation's president. If you think we do not have your correct email address please contact the Synod Office Administrator, Heather at [hoysti@nglsynod.org](mailto:hoysti@nglsynod.org) with an updated address.

As usual, the workshop will contain a Synod update from Bishop Finegan, a "Dwelling in the Word" devotion, the training topic presentation, and a discussion and question period on the topic after the presentation. The workshop will then finish with an "open mic" period where you can bring forward concerns or questions you have on any issue.

Our training topic this quarter is "Why Portico - How does its programs benefit pastors and congregations?" With most congregations soon entering budget preparation time for next year, we believe the topic is not only informative, but also very timely. The presentation by our guest speaker, Jennifer Prinz, Region 5 Portico Representative is extremely informative, and we believe you will come away with a much better understanding about how the ministries of the ELCA and Portico are tied together.

To view or hear this presentation, you must attend the October 21 workshop. Due to Portico's legal policies, we will not be able to record the presentation, nor will we be able to post it on the synod website for later viewing. We hope every president of the 79 congregations of the NGLS can participate. If you are unable to participate, please forward the Zoom link invite to your congregation's Vice President or other leader.

Faithfully Yours,

Chuck Thomas, NGLS Vice President