



Mission Stories of the Northern Great Lakes Synod & Ministry Financial Review and Plan May 2022

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



“Synod” means “Walking Together”

All the congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod are intertwined in this mission work of Christ. We are grateful for the financial and people resources offered up for the sake of Christ’s mission. We are truly in this work together.



The Church is the people of God created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

In planning for, facilitating, and nurturing the mission of this Church through congregations, the responsibilities of the synod include:

- ♦ Facilitating the call process
- ♦ Developing new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries
- ♦ Leading and encouraging congregations in evangelism efforts
- ♦ Assisting congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world
- ♦ Encouraging congregations to respond to human need
- ♦ Encouraging financial support for the work of the local and global church by individuals and congregations
- ♦ Providing resources and trainings for lifelong faith growth



The ELCA’s 65 synods vary greatly in size, geography, membership, staffing and program. Our smallest synod has 30 congregations – the largest nearly 300. Our Northern Great Lakes Synod has 79 congregations. The synods are grouped into nine regions, which are points of connection for them and the churchwide organization. Synods unite the work of congregations within their areas, serve as regional support, and guide pastoral and other staff candidates. In order to strengthen the relationship between synod leaders and the churchwide office, many churchwide teams relate to and support the work of the synods. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.

Martin Luther describes faith as a “living, busy, active, mighty thing”. As Lutherans, we teach that faith is a gift. And yet, faith is dynamic and moving, less a package and more a relationship, less a possession, more a commitment of trust. We learn about faith and each other when we tell our stories, stories of faith and doubt, of God’s presence felt or absence missed. In these last couple of pandemic years when we have had to work harder to stay connected, I think we understand more clearly the part that we play in building and nurturing our faith community. In other words, we play a part in our own faith life. As we consider Faith, Hope, and Love, I Hope these stories of Faith will nurture your Love for Jesus and the work we do for his sake.

~Bishop Katherine Finegan

Faithful Innovations—Holy Experiments

It all begins with LISTENING...

1. LISTENING TO GOD

- DWELLING IN THE SCRIPTURES
- PRAYER

2. LISTENING TO YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATIONS
- SHARING YOUR FAITH

3. LISTENING TO YOUR “NEIGHBORHOOD”

- WALKING AROUND AND PAYING ATTENTION
- “GOD SIGHTINGS”

Then, based on your listening, try an “experiment”.

What are people saying about Faithful Innovations?



The Faithful Innovations training provided by our NGL Synod, gave our core group, our “Guiding Team”, an opportunity to strengthen our faith together. We gained courage to share our faith more openly with our fellow congregational members and with our community both in action and in words. Through Dwelling in the Word, we focused on what God might be up to in the Keweenaw.

The Faithful Innovations training brought us to a place where we could take our own next steps following “God at Work” planning. We went out into the surrounding towns, bringing new life to our Sunday School, sharing meals, bringing a Christ based activity to a local Christmas celebration (right along with Santa). Our own active Church membership is small, but the world around us is a big place where God still has work to do.

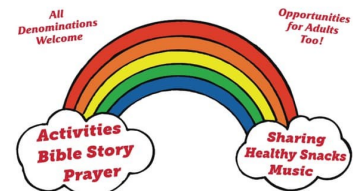
(Toni L. Waara, Bethany Lutheran, Mohawk, Michigan)



Faithful Innovations Training at Fortune Lake



A Fun Filled Faith Formation
for Kids Ages Kindergarten to 6th Grade



Beginning
Sunday, September 22, 2019
From 10:00 am - 10:45 am

**Bethany Lutheran Church
of the Keweenaw**
Mohawk, Michigan

Questions Call 337-2662
Poster Printing Courtesy of Thivent Action Team Project

Next Faithful Innovations Trainings at Fortune Lake:

- Saturday, September 24, 2022
- Saturday, October 29, 2022
- Saturday, January 28, 2023

Contact Pastor Jim Duehring at 906-228-2300



The Faithful Innovations Team from Faith Lutheran, Calumet discerned that God was calling them to listen and pay attention to what draws people to events at the Calumet Colosseum Ice Arena and how God is present. Individuals and groups from the team “walked the neighborhoods” of Calumet to more intentionally see what’s going on in their own community. Who knows what they might learn about their community through this “holy experiment?” God loves it when we listen and pay attention to God and others!

Mission of Hope in Delta County, Michigan

On August 8, 2021 hundreds of local families were served through Mission of Hope in Delta County. Mission of Hope in Delta County has been serving families in need since 2019, distributing kids' shoes, diapers, hygiene kits, groceries, backpacks filled with school supplies, as well as providing services like free haircuts and family pictures. Mission of hope was born out of a need in the area. Delta County has a poverty rate of over 30%.

Mission of hope is an ecumenical partnership of churches with different denominational backgrounds coming together to meet the needs of the community. In total, over 20 local churches and more than 400 volunteers have worked on the project over the past few years. Mission of Hope in Delta County adapted to the needs of those they seek to serve during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**DELTA PLAZA
MALL**

Begins at 3pm. Park and come in any mall entrance.

We will be in the wing by the old Shopko.

New shoes, School Supplies, Haircuts, Diapers,
Groceries, Hygiene Products, and more!

In 2019 the pre-pandemic event was hosted at the UP State Fair Grounds.

In August of 2020 a drive through version of Mission of Hope was executed. In 2021, the event was set to take place in Ludington Park until severe weather prompted a last-minute location change.

For months leading up to the event, the participating churches gather donations, supplies, and plan for the distribution. Last year alone Immanuel Lutheran Church gathered 800 packages of diapers and wipes. Some were purchased through Thrivent Action Grants, while others were donated through a drive in the congregation.

Over the past few years, we have seen around 1,500 people served each year through Mission of Hope. Plans are underway for our event in August of 2022, as we seek to continue to partner with other local churches to serve the community of Delta County. Several churches from the Tri-County Conference of the Northern Great Lakes Synod have been involved in the events over the past few years.



Pictures from 2020 distribution

Pastor Mike Markwell
Immanuel Lutheran, Escanaba, Michigan

The Church Prays

“The Lord is near. Let us not be anxious, but in prayer and petition, with thanks-giving we present our requests to God. Grounded in hope, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.”



Prayers for Ukraine will be the focus of a Wednesday Lenten worship service at 6:00 p.m., March 16th, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church

All are encouraged and invited to attend. Please share with those who would like to join in prayer.

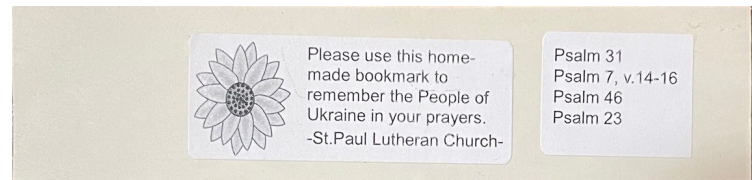
“Sustaining Hope: Looking for Signs”

St. Paul Lutheran of Ironwood, Michigan, had a special prayer service during Lent for Ukraine. They gave out homemade bookmarks for people’s bibles.

These bookmarks had Psalm passages written on them. They were created by David Kauppi and Pastor Nancy Kauppi.

Pastor Doug Norquist preached and led this special service.

This prayer service was advertised by two local radio stations. The service is archived on the St. Paul Lutheran Church Facebook page.



Praying with UP Wild

A collaborative outdoor ministry of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of Marquette attracts people from all backgrounds to outdoor prayer services and contemplation of our care of creation. Lanni Lantto is the mission developer of this innovative ministry.

Go to: www.upwild.org

Prayfaithfully Devotions

Prayfaithfully is the prayer ministry website of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

You can find Breath Prayers and Daily Devotionals written by people in our synod.

Go to: www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully

Breath Prayer: “Great Creator, still creating, show us what we may yet do.” ELW #771

Learning Together, We Are Church Together

We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

Shortly after her election, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton introduced these four phrases to help describe who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Lifelong Faith Formation in the Northern Great Lakes Synod has provided one way to be church together during the uncertainty and restrictions of the past two years, due to the pandemic.

The program was launched on Zoom in 2020 and has continued to grow community through a wide variety of classes which begin every September and January, at no cost to participants. Most recently, more than 120 people took part in the winter offerings, which were:

Anishinaabe Culture; Biblical Hebrew; Introduction to Islam; Ezekiel; The Big Picture Bible Discussion; and The Samuel Series: Prayer and the Spiritual Life. Past classes explored individual books of the Bible; our synod's partnership with the Lutheran Church in Tanzania; "Racism and Bias in Rural Communities;" Holy Communion; Biblical Greek; and discussion of books by Edwin Friedman and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



So how does faith formation help us to be church together? It's one, active way to follow Jesus, who was highly regarded as a teacher during his ministry. Other than "Lord," people called Jesus "Teacher" more often than any other title, according to Marie Noel Keller in the *Journal of Research on Christian Education*. Think of all the ways and places that Jesus taught: in the temple, on the hillside, from a boat, in people's homes, among other locations. Jesus established a model of teaching people wherever he is and wherever they are, as Keller noted. Now, here we are, learning through Zoom.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lifelong Faith Formation helped many of us to feel less isolated. We enjoyed the company of others, sharing time, learning, conversation and prayer with each other. As we grow in knowledge of Scripture, Christian traditions, and contemporary issues, we find we also grow in faith.

Lifelong Faith Formation in our synod has been blessed with outstanding teachers, primarily pastors. Surveys about our leaders have been highly complimentary, highlighting their enthusiasm, knowledge, investment in the class, student engagement, and use of humor. For more information about Lifelong Faith Formation, and to receive the next schedule of classes, contact **Deacon Lori Ward** at 615-519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.



I really appreciate the synod providing this opportunity...One of the difficulties was that we are still new at figuring out how to form a community over Zoom. Even though it was sometimes awkward, it was a gift to interact with others from across the synod (and beyond)...I will definitely take another course -- Comment from a Lifelong Faith Formation learner

With the help of a **\$22,700 ELCA Synod Vitality Grant**, we continue to offer training modules/seminars for congregational presidents and lay leaders. Some of these resources are archived on the synod's YouTube channel. We continue to host "Faithful Innovations" cohort trainings. This grant money also allows us to feature various stewardship training events such as the one we had with Grace Pomroy of Luther Seminary. This stewardship training is archived on our synod website: www.nglsynod.org/stewardship

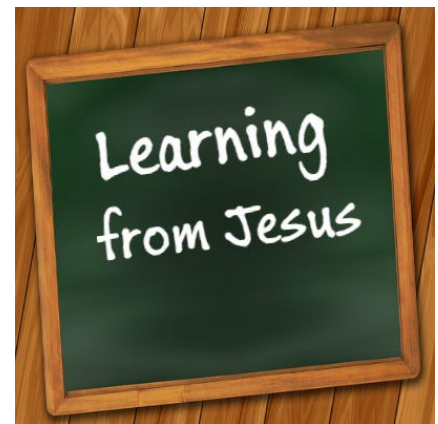
Sunday School Moves Outside!

When COVID-19 restricted indoor gatherings at Bethel Lutheran Church in Menominee, MI, its Sunday School program took a hiatus. Sunday School teacher, Stefanie Ehle, surveyed parents and discovered that families weren't interested in adding more screen time to their week with virtual Sunday School. Not to be discouraged, she just planned everything outside instead!

Kids of all ages now gather at a local park on Sundays for a Bible story, songs, games, snacks, and lots of play time in God's creation. Each gathering is different and depending on the weather, activities include hiking trails, exploring forts, sledding, and playing on the playground equipment. A highlight for everyone in 2021 was gathering at a local donkey farm to read the Christmas story together and experience some of the sights and smells that were present at Jesus' birth. The kids learned about Jerusalem donkeys and got to feed them, too!

The outdoor gatherings have been well received by both kids and parents, and plans for next year will definitely include more outdoor activities, even as pandemic restrictions continue to lift and we transition back inside.

Submitted by Stefanie Ehle
Bethel Lutheran, Menominee, Michigan



The Church Having Fun & Serving the Community

Copper Country Conference Confirmation Curling at Copper Country Curling Club in Calumet (or...CCCCCCCC! Ha!) was such a success! A HUGE thank you to Gary Lassila and the CCCC for the training, facility usage and the fun! Thank you also to Thrivent for helping make this project a success. So many Confirmation Students! So many volunteer parents and church leaders!



So many pizzas eaten 15!!!! Completely gone!

Well...a few pastors were "forced" to eat the remaining few slices. Curling, food, curling, drink, ping pong, curling, frisbee golf...and curling!!

Prayers were said. Safety was followed.

Smiles were everywhere. Bellies were filled.

Comments flowed like: "When can we do this again?", "Perhaps we need to do more of this and perhaps other ages as well", "Can we start a youth curling program?"

Synod Youth Team Promoted
Socks and Underwear Collection Challenge
About 25 congregations participated



Youth and Adults from Trinity, Rhinelander
had a fall clean up around Rhinelander.



The former parsonage of Bethany, Escanaba is now the Women's Recovery Home run by Catholic Social Services of the U.P. It will be a safe environment for women in recovery as they work to improve their well-being. Lutherans and Catholics in partnership for their community!

YOUR CONGREGATION'S MISSION SUPPORT DOLLARS (\$784,220 GIVEN IN FY2021)

ALLOW THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD TO

Offer Ministries locally, domestically, and all over the world.

- Campus Ministry
- Synod Administrative Staff Support
- Support for ELCA domestic & global ministries (*47.6% passed on to ELCA)
- Support to Wartburg Theological Seminary and Lutheran School of Theology Chicago

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Individual and Congregational "Restricted" Gifts support (\$303,195 IN FY2021)

- Candidacy – the raising up and support of new rostered leaders
- Faithful Innovations Training
- Professional Leaders' Enrichment
- Youth Programming
- UP Wild Mission Development
- Domestic and World Hunger Needs
- Seminarian Scholarships
- Congregational COVID Grants
- Stewardship Efforts
- Campus Ministry
- Lifelong Faith Formation Classes
- Lutheran Social Services
- Various Restricted Endowment Funds
- Tanzanian Companion Synod Relationships and Ministries



NMU
Campus Ministry



Bay College
Campus Ministry



Michigan Tech
Campus Ministry



Dr. Brian and Dr. Danielle Anderson
at Companion Congregation,
Tabatha Schule in Tanzania



Finlandia
Campus Ministry

Endowment Ministry through “Equipping the Saints Fund”



With a Current Balance of some \$416,000, the Undesignated “Equipping the Saints Endowment Fund” allows for 5% minimum distribution for ministries that are not necessarily part of our synod budget. These funding distributions are crucial as the regular budget of the synod has been reduced in past years.

We thank God for those who had the wisdom to create this synod endowment fund. And, we welcome gifts of all kinds—direct monetary gifts or deferred legacy gifts in the form of trusts, property, insurance, etc. These distributions allow creative and ongoing ministries to happen!

Proposed 2022 distributions totaling \$20,614 are:

Pastor’s Debt Relief—In an effort to lighten the load, increase the pastor’s financial acumen, and free the pastor to serve well, we offer an annual grant and financial counseling resources.

Bay College Campus Ministry in Escanaba—A part-time campus pastor serves at Bay and this modest funding helps make a Christian presence on campus possible.

Synod Youth Events—Plans are in the works for youth events throughout the year.

Lifelong Faith Formation Classes—In recent years more than 400 people have participated in adult education via Zoom. Funds support teachers, the administrator, and curriculum help.

Website Development and Maintenance—The synod recently switched to a different website manager to update the site and make it more efficient and user friendly.

WLUC TV6 Christmas Worship—The pandemic created need and opportunity for a quality TV broadcast at Christmas. We plan to continue offering this worship service into the future.

Wisconsin Council of Churches—We partner with other Wisconsin synods to support a consultant who provides support and education around community organizing and justice.

U.P. Wild—Our collaborative and innovative ministry focusing on outdoor worship.

Leadership Support—A Bishop’s Convocation provides local continuing education.

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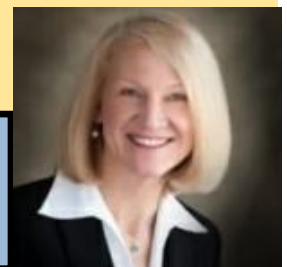
An additional \$97,554* was distributed out of designated restricted endowment funds for:

- Seminarian Scholarships
- Tanzanian Scholarships and Companion Relationship
 - Rural Ministry
 - Pastor’s Debt Relief

These are areas that people have a passion about in their designation of these funds.

*Note: These distributions are not part of our regular synod budget.

Any individual or congregation who wants information about legacy giving or endowment funds is encouraged to contact our ELCA Regional Gift Planner, Cynthia Halverson, at (773) 380-2572



Northern Great Lakes Synod



79 Congregations

1 SAWC (Mission Development) – UP Wild

54 Pastors under Call

9 Active Candidates for Rostered Ministry

1 Deacon under Call

1 Hospital & 1 Care Facility Chaplains

2 Military Chaplains

1 State Police Chaplain

9 Licensed Lay Ministers

21,487 Baptized Members

**\$11.1 Million in Regular Offerings
by Congregations**

ELCA



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

We are Lutheran

We are church together

We are church for the sake of the world

8,900 Congregations

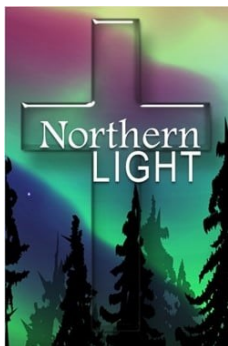
3.1 Million Baptized Members

27 Colleges and Universities

7 Seminaries

**2,000 schools and early childhood education
centers, campus ministries,
outdoor ministries, social service agencies**

**\$1.7 Billion in Regular Offerings
by Congregations to support local and global
ministries**



Your Congregation's Unrestricted Mission Support Dollars

***46% in 2021 sent by Northern Great Lakes Synod**

to the ELCA churchwide to

- Grow and support hundreds of new congregations throughout the U.S.
- Enable congregations to renew their local ministries
- Develop and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship
- Grow the Lutheran church around the world through accompaniment
- Support and develop current leaders and future leaders
- Provide governance, oversight, and leadership through the 65 synods and ELCA ministries
- Invest in technology and communication for the whole church
- Provide research and strategic planning resources
- Address social issues and advocate for justice
- Sustain ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and relationships

(*46% + \$12,263.23 = 47.6% net of Congregational Mission Support)

Where did the Synod spend the monies we received?

*The approximate numbers below represent distributions from both
unrestricted income (money the synod has some discretion of where to spend it) and
restricted income (money the synod received with a specific designation)*

\$464,000 of Congregational Mission Support sent to the Northern Great Lakes Synod and designated gifts was passed on to the ELCA Churchwide organization.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The ELCA uses that money to provide domestic and global ministries in Christ's name. Some of that money is funneled back to our synod through grants for synod personnel and campus ministry. The ELCA proclaims Christ through hunger relief, missionary efforts, disaster relief, training leaders, providing educational resources, and advocacy just to name some of the ELCA's many impacts. Having a national church pool its efforts makes our witness stronger than any single congregation or synod.



\$160,000 was shared with partners in ministry such as seminaries, ELCA church related colleges, campus ministries, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Seminaries train leaders for the church. Campus Ministries in our own synod are active at Michigan Tech in Houghton, Finlandia in Hancock, Bay College in Escanaba, and Northern Michigan in Marquette. Colleges are often critical times for people of all ages to grow in their faith in Christ and create a community that shares the love of Jesus with others.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches was most helpful in providing great resources to pastors and congregations during the pandemic.

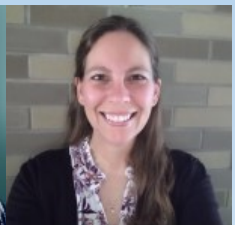
\$80,000 was used within our synod for specific congregational ministries, outreach and hunger ministries. Congregational programming was supported, people heard the Good News of Jesus and people were fed.



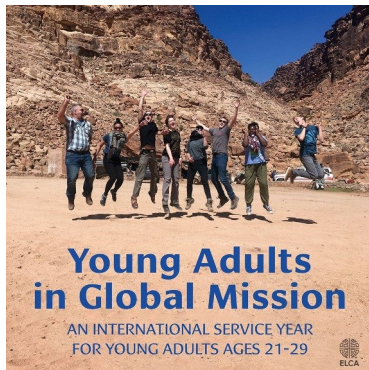
\$395,000 was used for Office Operations, Personnel and Administration.

The synod office has 4 full-time staff: Bishop Katherine Finegan; Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission Jim Duehring; Office Administrator Heather Oysti; and Bookkeeper/Secretary Betsy Koski. Deacon Lori Ward is a part-time Synod Missioner working with our Licensed Lay Ministers and Lifelong Faith Formation. Stefanie Ehle is part-time Synod Youth Ministries Coordinator. We assist congregations and leaders in their ministries both administratively and pastorally. We are just a phone call or email away. We are here to serve you and serve the Lord's work in this synod and beyond.

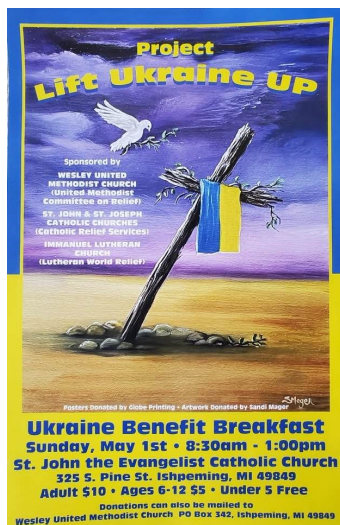
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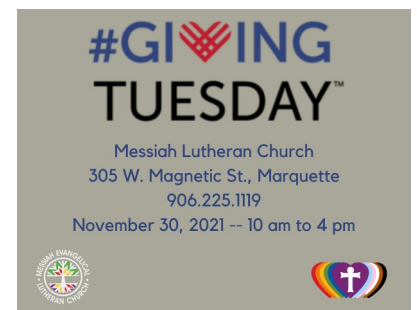
PICS OF NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD AND ELCA PEOPLE AND MINISTRIES



Many of our congregations do work projects for their communities on "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday



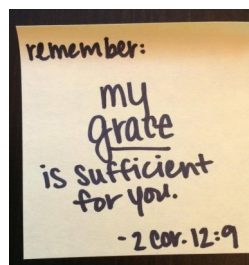
Pastor Sherry Van Lishout leads singing with youth at Ascension, Minocqua



Messiah, Marquette supports and partners with many community outreach ministries



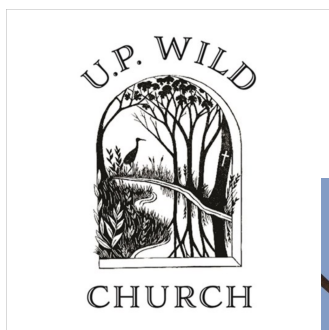
Faith Lutheran, Sault Ste. Marie welcomed their newly ordained Pastor Rita Chirala



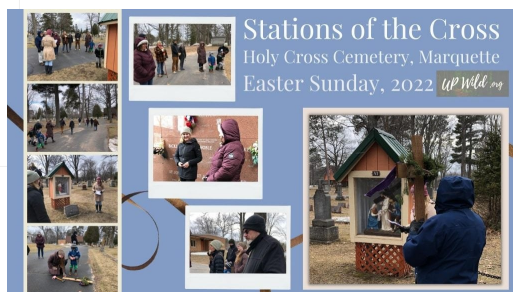
Confirmation Class at Emmanuel, Menominee



Pastor Alex Ross celebrates two baptisms on Easter Sunday at Bethany, Republic



A Collaborative Ministry of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan



U.P. Wild Church is a means of encountering the actively Living God, based on shared values of faith, connection, and nature. Deep within the Christian tradition there hides a wealth of wisdom on how to cultivate a culture of compassion.

U.P. Wild Church is for everyone. You are welcome whether you are a part of a Christian faith community already, questioning your faith, in recovery from wounds inflicted by religious trauma, simultaneously receiving nourishment from other faith traditions, or simply seeking to go deeper.

We offer monthly Nature Prayer Services in a public car, monthly wilderness walks at a revolving location, mobile prayer stations, online wilderness walks and events, and are in development of family programming from those within our community. From regularly scheduled prayer gatherings, to moonlight snowshoe hikes or silent strolls across deer trails to special Kids Gatherings, the programs for children are hugely popular for parents as well. Parents both assist with the planning and carrying out of the service, but they often find these a source of parental support as well. Most every gathering has some on-line coverage, again reaching an even larger audience.

What people are saying about U.P. Wild:

"As we were walking in our "alone time" I felt a drop of water fall on my forehead and I felt like I was anointed".

"This space that is created through your service has allowed me to tap into the calmness before and during the storm and let me know with a calm heart and deep breaths that I am where I need to be. Thank you all - much love and appreciation."

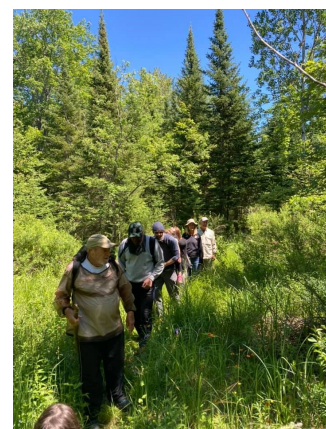
"U.P. Wild created a sacred space very well."

"This is utterly life giving".

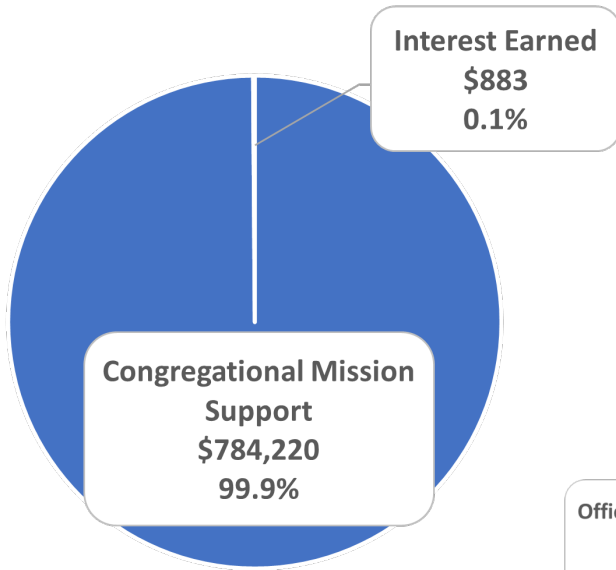
"I won't step a foot back in a regular church, but I absolutely love this."

Lanni Lantto is the Mission Developer for UP Wild. We thank Lanni for her creative and faithful leadership with this unique ministry that is expanding.

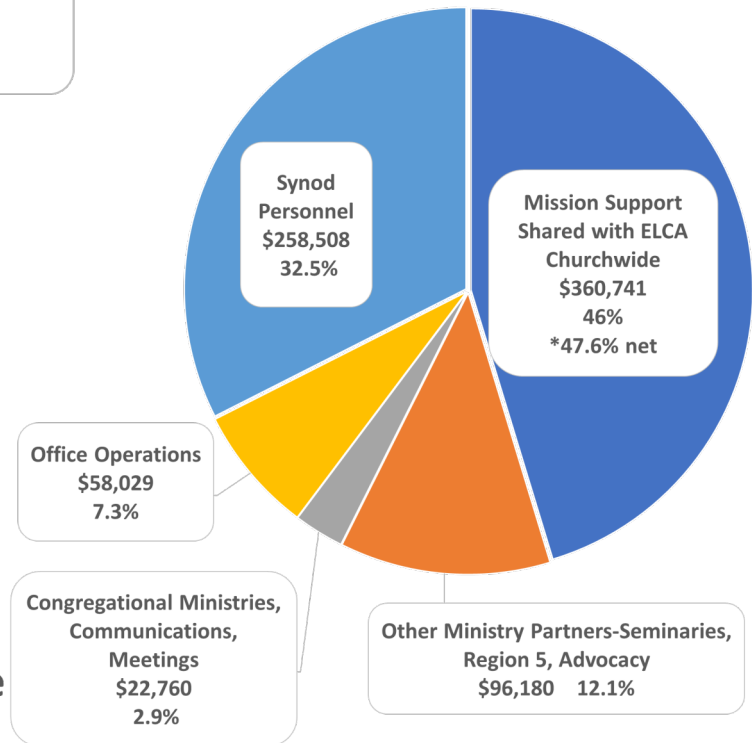
www.upwild.org



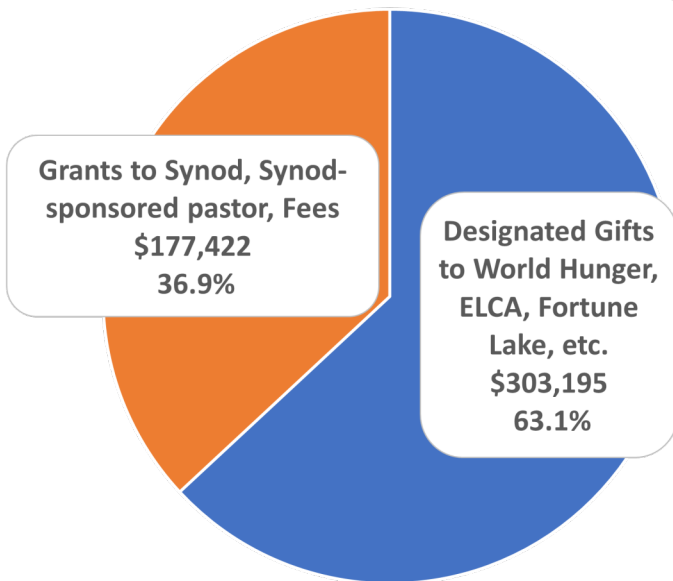
FY 2021 Unrestricted Income



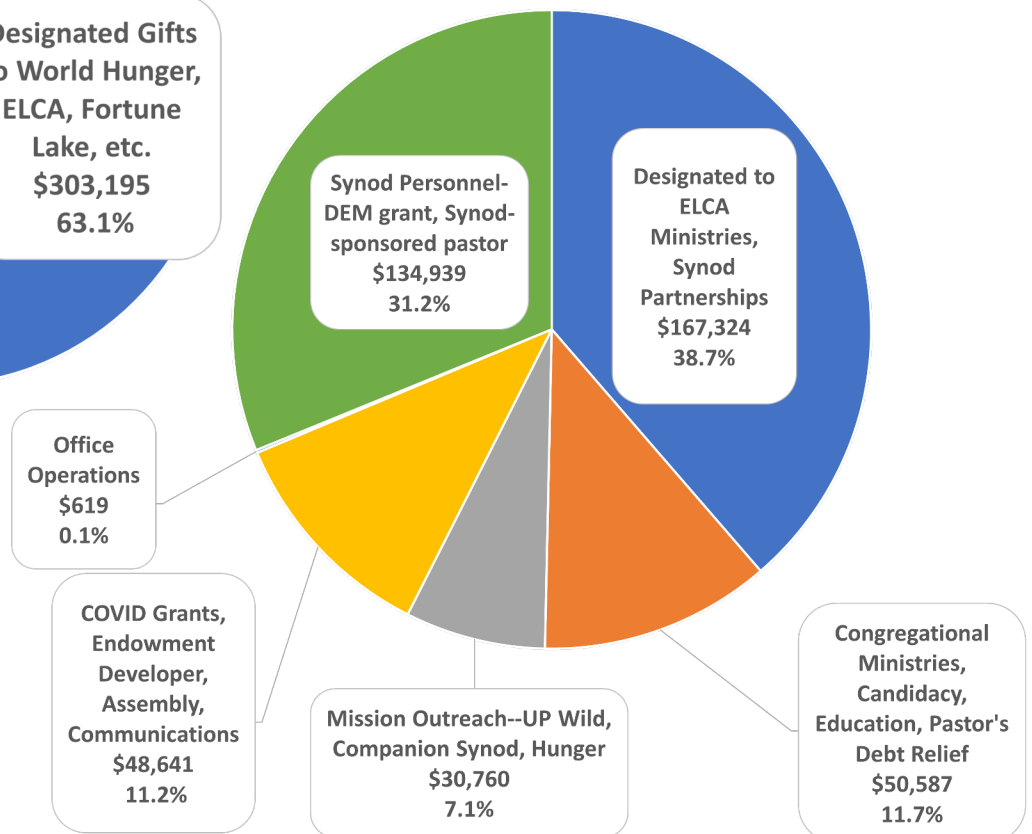
FY 2021 Unrestricted Expenses



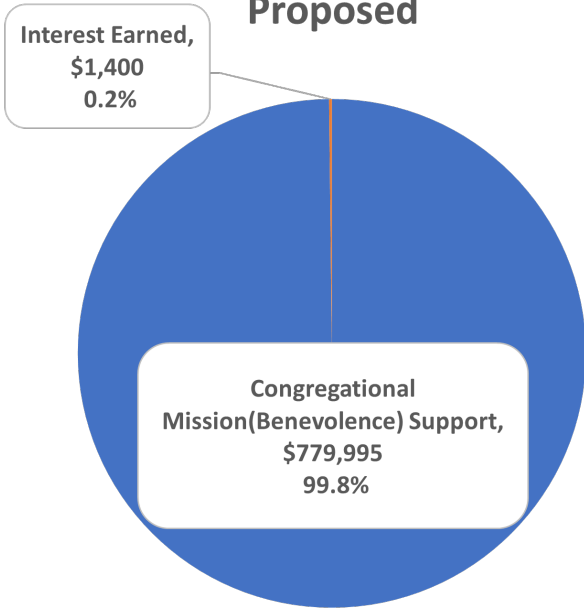
FY 2021 Restricted Income



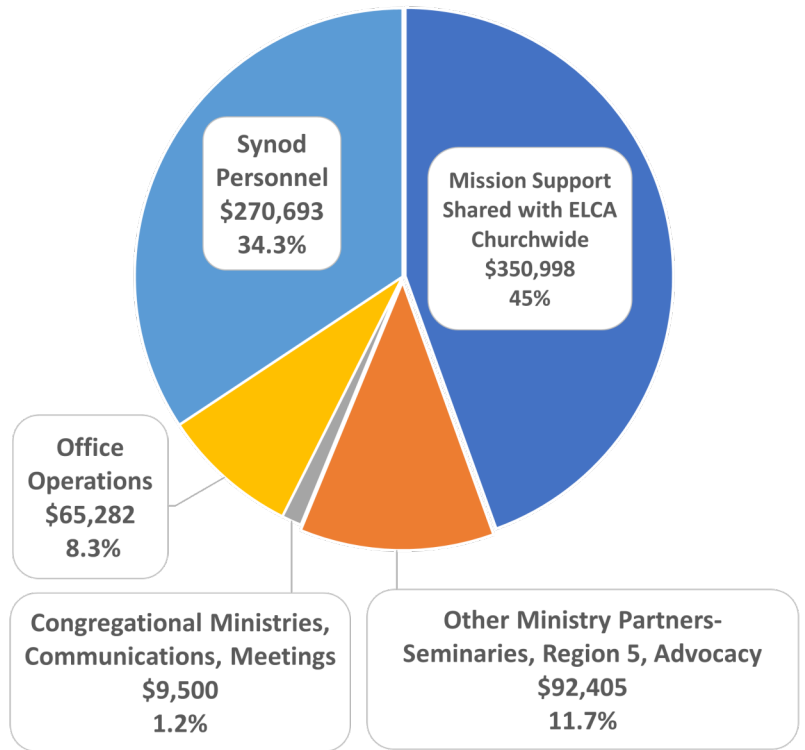
FY 2021 Restricted Expenses



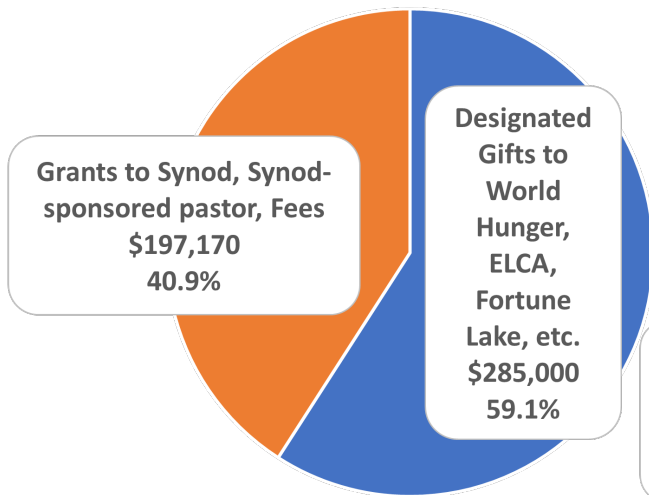
FY 2022 Unrestricted Income-Proposed



FY 2022 Unrestricted Expenses-Proposed



FY 2022 Restricted Income-Proposed



FY 2022 Restricted Expenses-Proposed

