

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

At the beginning of this pandemic, I likened our current times and days to that of the Israelites, wandering in the wilderness. I talked about emerging from this pandemic wilderness differently than we entered it. And here we are, more than a year later, and it feels like we can see the Promised Land.

As restrictions have eased, I have had the pleasure of gathering, maskless, with other faithful people in worship. What a joy! To sing! To eat! To share the Peace of Christ and see a person's whole face! It is such a blessing to gather once again as the Body of Christ and the community of faith. I will say that I am grateful for the vaccine, which makes me less anxious to actually gather with others. Our congregations are pivoting from online to in-person worship, from restrictions to protocols that allow for safe gathering. I sense a feeling of being done with the pandemic, done with masks, done with all the decisions and discernment necessary for safe gathering.

Perhaps we are done. I hope so. But don't throw away your mask just yet. Don't discontinue your online presence just yet.

If we are to learn anything from history and the Influenza epidemic of 1918-1920, and if we are to learn anything from what is happening around the globe, we would be wise to pay attention. For us, this pandemic has lasted just over a year. But the lessons of history would teach us to be prepared for closer to two years. With Covid variants making the news, with new waves of the virus plaguing population pockets across the globe, it makes sense to stay vigilant. I hope we do not have to pull out the masks again and limit the attendance of our gatherings, but mentally, emotionally, we need to be mindful of that possibility. Covid-19 continues to be a reality that lingers and mutates, as viruses do. I encourage congregational leaders to remain aware of Covid and vaccination numbers in your community and respond accordingly.

Currently, we are in a promising and hopeful trajectory. Covid cases are down significantly and the vaccination rate is slowly rising. But if Israel and India are any indication, we need to stay vigilant and be prepared to pivot, once again, if necessary.

I know that's not what people want to hear. I know that we are tired of protocols and masks and worry and we are ready to declare the pandemic over. But it is not over. Perhaps, for now, we can enjoy what low Covid numbers and rising vaccination rates make possible and gather once again for in-person worship, but please continue to make accommodations for those who cannot be vaccinated because of health factors or age.

I give thanks for the presence of Christ that we experience in each other. I am grateful for these past few weeks when I have been fed by corporate worship, fellowship, and hearing the voices of others raised in song and prayer. It feels like a drink in the desert and relief in the shade of an oasis. I hope we can stay here. But more than that, I hope that if we have to venture into desert territory again, that this reprieve from pandemic

challenges will fortify us for the journey ahead. Whether we stay or whether we must go, Christ is with us.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Katherine Finegan
Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Roofing Project Contributors May, June & July

Joanne Nelson
Bill & Donna Mott
Jim & Ellie Russey
Liz Macklem
Karen Klaus
Karin Sjogren
Ruth Jones
Lila Panek
Elsa Couch
Sheila Clark
Frank & Shirley Leitgeb



Thank you for the Fortune Lake Camp scholarship for Aiyonna to attend summer camp. She is very excited for her first sleep away camp. The count down has begun!

Crystal Swisher & Aiyonna Swisher

Dear Members of Zion

On behalf of the Northern Great Lakes Synod Hunger Team, Thank you for your contributions of \$1,808.10 to ELCA World Hunger. Blessings on your congregation for your gift.

In Christ,
Pr. Ellie Russey

Thank You! to everyone who called, made food, or stopped to visit while I was recovering from my recent back surgery. Words can't express how much I appreciate your love and support. You really made recovery so much easier. Also Thank you to all who have inquired about, called or visited Frank while he was recovering at SMH. He would love to visitors at the Medical Care Facility as he continues his rehabilitation.

Shirley

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,013.07 given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in May 2021.

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

In Christ,

Robin Brown Director, Congregational Mission Funding



Congratulations to Pastor Richter and Ann on the birth of their new baby girl. Zephyr Xaris Wimsae Richter was born on July 4th.

Come and join us for Worship!!

Saturdays at 5:00pm in the church parking lot. Worship is broadcast through your radio. Tune your radio to 101.0 FM. Sunday morning worship is in person (**masks are no longer required**) and on ZOOM. You can connect by going to the church's web page. The Fellowship Hour is also being reinstated. Coffee and cookies **only** will be served.



Come and join



us for a church picnic on

August 15th following the 10:30 worship service. We will meet at the Lindsey Frenette (formally the Pines) park where hotdogs and a variety of salads will be served. We need volunteers to make cookies and bars that need to be individually wrapped. Look for an insert in your bulletin to sign up. All donations will be going to support ELCA World Hunger.

If you would like to sponsor flowers for the Altar there is a sign up sheet in Augustana Hall. Be sure to state if they are in honor or memory of someone or special occasion. Please contact the florist of your choice order and pay for them. They will be delivered in time for worship on Saturday. Also we need Lectors and Ushers for Sunday morning worship. If you would like to help, please call the office.

We are in need of volunteers to make bars to be sold at the Delta Conference Water Station at the UP State Fair (Aug. 16-22). Bars should be cut as close as possible in 3x3 squares. Heavily frosted items are not advised as the frosting will melt in the heat. Rice Krispie treats are always a big hit. Please call the church office if you are able to help.

Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of

Daniel Christensen

Coleen Christensen—Memorial

Helen Creighton

Roy & Irene Hinkson—Memorial

Roberta Smith

Myrna Wells—Memorial



On July 2, 2021
Pastor Richter
welcomed three
new members to
Zion through Holy
Baptism. Pictured
above are Blake
Kangas, daughter
of Cody & Robin
Kangas, Riggs

Kangas, son of Garde & Veronica Kangas, and Eldon Kangas, son of Tyler & Zuleiki Kangas.



Jennifer Sitkowski and William (Bill) Smith who were married on June 26, 2021. God's Blessings on a long and happy life.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

August 1—Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15, Psalm 78:23-29, Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

August 8—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:4-8, Psalm 34:1-8, Ephesians 4:25—5:2,

John 6:35, 41-51

August 15—Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Isaiah 62:7-11, Psalm 34:1-9, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 1:46-55

August 22—Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18, Psalm 34:15-22, Ephesians 6:10-20,

John 6:56-69

August 29—Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9, Psalm 15, James 1:17-27,

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

From the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Books Available for Borrowing The NGLS Synodical Women's Organization board have accumulated some books that are available to read! SWO Board member Dawn Holmgren would be able to send any of the following titles to anyone interested. For more information or to request a book, please email Dawn at: dmholmgren10@gmail.com.

- The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander • And Don't Call Me a Racist! by Ella Mazel
- Dismantling Racism: The Continuing Challenge to White America by Joseph Barndt
- Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum
- Battered Women: From a Theology of Suffering to an Ethic of Empowerment by Joy M.K. Bussert
- Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich
- Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult
- Walk Tall: Affirmations for People of Color by Carleen Brice
- Crying Wind by Linda Stafford
- Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving

Seeking Shalom, Seeking Musicians

We are seeking musicians to help out with the healing service at our Seeking Shalom event for Pastors, Deacons and LLMs at Fortune Lake, **Thursday, August 19, 7 pm CT**. If you are a cantor, play the piano, guitar, flute, or other instrument and are available to share your musical talent with us, please email Pastor Grant Van Lishout at gvanlishout@fspa.org.

Fall Semester Coming Soon!

The Northern Great Lakes Synod offers a diverse series of online classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, contemporary Christian issues, and more. Launched in 2020, Lifelong Faith Formation evolved from the synod's Lay School for Mission.

The schedule of classes to be offered this fall will be announced with full details by the end of July. Here's a preview of the upcoming schedule:

- Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why with Bishop Katherine Finegan
- Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania with Luanne and Bishop Emeritus Tom Skrenes
- Biblical Greek or Hebrew with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn
- The Book of Ezekiel with Pastor Tommy Richter
- An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking (one session) with Pastor Jim Duehring. Learn how groups function similar to the emotional dynamics of a family.
- Book study of *Friedman's Fables* with Pastor Jim Duehring
- An ongoing Bible study

Please contact Deacon Lori Ward to receive the class schedule as soon as it is announced or to ask questions: lori.ward@nglsynod.org or (615) 519-1969.

2022 Youth Gathering Updates

Check out the [latest edition of gNews](#) for information about Getting Ready Materials, volunteer applications and more!

Prayfaithfully Devotions

Check out [Prayfaithfully](#) on our Synod website!

People from the Northern Great Lakes Synod write weekly devotionals.

Make daily devotions a part of your routine, you'll be blessed by this inspiring discipline.

Check out our upcoming devotions:

July 11-17 by Pastor Maxine Gray

July 18-24 by Michael Holman, LLM

July 25-31 by Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith

Maybe God is inspiring you to write for this synod devotional resource.

If interested, contact Betsy Koski in the Synod Office, (906) 228-2300 or bakoski@nglsynod.org.

Transitions

- We give thanks for the partnership between **Pastor Stacy Pethke** and the people of **Faith and Trinity, Ishpeming**. Pastor Stacy has accepted a new call in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Her last Sunday will be July 18, 2021.
- We give thanks for the 28 year partnership between **Pastor Lauri Maki** and the people of **Bethel, Ishpeming**. Pastor Maki's last Sunday will be July 25 as he retires after 40 years as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. God bless Pastor Maki and his wife, Lois as they begin the new rhythm and joy of retirement.
- We give thanks for the 18 year partnership between **Pastor Warren Geier** and the people of **Bethany, Ishpeming**. Pastor Geier's last Sunday was June 27. We pray God's blessings on him and his wife, Kathy, as Pastor Warren retires from 25 years of ordained ministry.
- We welcome interim pastors the **Rev. Bruce Thorsen**, the **Rev. Steve Weston**, and the **Rev. Evelyn Weston** who will begin their work in our Ishpeming congregations this summer.
- We celebrate with the following congregations as they gather to install their new pastor:
 - **Immanuel, Escanaba** gathers to install **Pastor Mike Markwell** on Sunday August 15 at 2pm ET. The color of the day is red. Clergy are invited to vest and process.
 - **Faith, Sault Ste. Marie** as they finally get to install **Pastor Rita Chirala** on Sunday August 29 at 3pm. The color of the day is red. Clergy are invited to vest and process.
 - **Bethel, Cedarville and Zion, Allenville** as they finally get to install **Pastor Renee MacLeod** on Sunday September 12. The color of the day is red. Clergy are invited to vest and process.

CONTACT US:

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www.zionlutheran-manistique.org or find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor

Office: 906- 341-5427

Secretary: Shirley Leitgeb

shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org

Musician: Linda Levin

Choir Director: Rebecca Peterson

Sunday School Coordinator: Sheila Clark

Custodian: Pat Toennesen

Congregation Council:

Rick Pink, President

Cathy Knudson, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Marie Bellville, Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

John Barry

Jo-Nell Berger

Naomi Fletcher

Linda Levin

Kathy McDonough

Donna Mott

Teddy Nelson

Cindy Olli

Jim Russey



A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America