



Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come. When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple. By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the sunrise and the sunset shout for joy! -Psalm 65:1-8

Grace and Peace to you, from God our Parent, and Jesus our savior, Amen. As we enter into this Lent-thinning and lengthening of days, it is good to sit with this Psalm of praise. Usually we think of Lent as a somber time, as we put away our most joyous word, the Ha----jah that we will not say again until Easter. But this does not mean that Lent is a time completely devoid of praise and sunsets that shout for joy. In fact, the whole point of the somberness of Lent is to signal to us the coming praise and joy that is on the horizon. Often it is the case that at the bottom of the most somber time, is paradoxically the place where the most joy can be found. That's what this Psalmist is showing us, because there are now indeed great deeds of iniquity that overwhelm us. One does not have to look far to see how divided and burdened we are as a nation by this very thing. Our world is broken, the tumult of our people is dire, and our transgressions are in need of forgiveness. But it is precisely there, in the somberness of our brokenness that God answers with awesome deeds of deliverance, strength for the journey, and joy—quite literally on the horizon where the sun rises and sets. So too, Lent is a somber time, but it is at the same time, a time that points in hope and praise toward those shouts of joy that are currently muffled and far off. It is when we remember that we are dust, and to dust that we shall return, that God will meet us in the dark valleys of death to drag us through to new life. So this week, I have as well, a mixture of somber and joyous news. I'll start with the somber news. The first act of our newly elected council for this year, was to vote on returning to in-person in-building worship. We have, with much deliberation, set a date at the earliest possible time of April 11th, the Sunday after Easter as the day that we will aim for. Easter will be a parking lot worship much in the same way as we did for Christmas Eve. The sheer crowd size associated with Easter Worship compels us to do it this way. So, starting on Doubting Thomas Sunday, April 11th, we will then open, for the 10:30am Sunday service only, for the possibility of in-person in-building worship, which will be simulcast over Zoom. No one is required to attend in person, and if you do not feel safe attending, or if you are at-risk or sick or have other reasons that would keep you, we encourage you to join us over Zoom or in the Parking Lot on Saturdays as these remain our safest forms of worship. If you do attend in-person in-building at that time, you will do so at your own risk, and you agree to following the (now amended again!) guidelines we have posted in our plan for returning to in-person in-building worship. I know that this plan is not as fast nor as glorious as some of us may want it to be. At the same time, for some of us, it is too soon. But it is with the utmost seriousness and somberness of Lent that we have come to this decision, and I hope you will continue to support us as we work to implement it. We will be available for questions. Now for the news that is truly a reason for the sunrise to shout for joy on the horizon. I simply cannot hold it in any longer. It is with great joy, that my wife Ann and I are able to share with you that we are expecting a child! Our family will be growing this year, and we are excited for this new family member to meet all of you when they get here sometime around July. As the Psalm says

above: “O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come!” This is good news indeed, and we hope you will celebrate with us the new life that has begun in this somber and broken time. - Pastor Tommy.



The church office will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm until further notice. All other days, if you have questions, concerns or are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Richter at 286-4383.

To join the Zoom Worship go to our Website and click on Covid Info. There is a big blue button that says "Join our Zoom worship" click on it. Click **Open** on the dialog shown by your browser. If you don't see a dialog, click **Launch Meeting**. You can also join by phone by calling 929-205-6099 and entering the following ID # 9063415427, Passcode 49854.

Midweek Lenten Services this year will be on **Wednesday** evenings, 6:00pm via Zoom. Worship for Palm Sunday will be Saturday night with our regular parking lot worship and Sunday via Zoom. Palms will be available for pick up. Easter Vigil will be celebrated in the parking lot on Saturday night, April 3rd during the regular worship time. Easter Sunday, April 4th will be celebrated in the parking lot at 10:30am with Holy Communion.



Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday March 14th. Be sure to set your clocks **ahead** one hour on Saturday night !

Girl Scout Week begins on *Girl Scout Sunday*, Girl Scouts around the country are in their faith communities. We are proud to congregation and that they have made a their community.



March 14th. This is the day recognized as Girl Scouts have Girl Scouts in our commitment to service in

Our Annual Meeting was held on February 14th via Zoom. Ruth Jones, Janet Kruger, Peter Mathson, and Rebecca Peterson were elected to the Church Council for a three-year term. Our outgoing council members are Donna Mott, Jim Russey, Linda Levin, and John Barry. We would like to thank them for their dedication and service to our congregation. Shirley Leitgeb & Karen Klaus will be our delegates at the Synod Assembly in May and Larry & Rebecca Peterson and Linda Levin and Kay MacGregor will be the delegates to the Delta Conference in October.

Circle News

The Circles are able to start their monthly meetings. If you are not a member of a circle and would be interested in joining one, please contact any one of the following ladies for more information:

- Sarah Circle—Liz Macklem
- Joy Circle—
- Ruth Circle—
- Hope Circle—Sheila Clark

The **Sarah Circle** meets on Mondays at 1:00pm

The **Joy Circle** meeting Thursday, March 11th at 10:00am in Augustana Hall.

The **Ruth Circle** meets on the third Wednesday at 11:30am.

The **Hope Circle** meets on the third Thursday at 6:00pm.

Be sure to check with your Circle Leader to find out if and where your circle will be meeting.

Join us for Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study group will be



meeting at 6:30, every 2nd

and 4th Mondays starting January 11th . Pr. Richter will be leading our study on the Gospel of John. We will meet in person in Augustana Hall. Be sure to wear your mask and social distance. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.

Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of

Jeff Larson

Randy & Cindy Olli—Memorial

Kaye & Mike Jarski—Quilters

Upcoming Scripture Readings

March 7—Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

March 14—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10,
John 3:14-21

March 21—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

March 28—Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1—15:47



Dear People of Zion Lutheran in Manistique,

Hope is a powerful force. It pulls us forward and nudges us from behind. It lifts, inspires, motivates, and lightens. It helps us to bear what is painful and turns our attention to future possibility. As people of faith in Christ, we are people of hope.

Your faithful generosity to the work of Christ that we do together has created hope. Despite all the uncertainties and changes of the past year, and in light of all the challenges to come, I am grateful for the future possibilities you have created with your Mission Support to the greater, wider and deeper work of the Church

Thank you for the following special gifts made in 2020:

Undated	World Hunger--\$	460.15
9/30/20	World Hunger--\$	490.22
11/28/20	World Hunger--\$	1,320.03
12/31/20	World Hunger--\$	150.00

Thank You! I Pray our partnership as a synod together will continue to bless others with an abundance of hope by the power of the Holy Spirit of Christ, at work in the world, in your congregation, and in each of you.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

News From the Northern Great Lakes Synod

2021 Synod Assembly

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for Synod Assembly this year via Zoom May 10-15, 2021. Stay tuned for more detailed information.

LSS Petition

Lutheran Social Services of Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula is in need of your support. The generous bequest of a faithful Lutheran man is being contested. This bequest is sizable and promises to significantly impact the breadth and depth of LSS services. Please use the links below and read the information about this case. And then add your signature if you wish to vouch for LSS as a worthy recipient of this bequest.

change.org/support/lss
[PDF of Willms letter](#)

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:

February 14-20 by Christine Ebert

February 21-27 by Pastor Nick Johannes

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.

Lifting Up to God in Prayer:

- For those who are weary, for those awaiting a vaccination.
- For those seeking asylum, for those applying for citizenship, for those fleeing violence.
- For all those experiencing health concerns: We lift up especially Pastor Matt Lamb, Pastor Gerald Anderson, Pastor Jennie Johnson-Wrege.

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,



The other day, right in the middle of a phone conversation, my office phone suddenly stopped working. I was incredibly irritated, and I yelled into my empty office how I felt about that phone. Several days later, I was snowshoeing, and my extendable walking pole contracted unexpectedly to about 14 inches, making it useless. Again, I found myself hurling verbal insults at an inanimate object. The

snowy and peaceful silence of the wooded trail was shattered as I called my pole “stupid” and tried to forcibly manipulate it back to its appropriate length. But no matter how much I pulled and twisted and complained, it wouldn’t budge. Stupid thing.

With a vaccine being slowly rolled out, it feels like we should be in the homestretch of the pandemic. But the finish line seems to recede the closer we get. If you feel weary and irritable, with no patience for even the smallest inconvenience, you are not alone. We brace ourselves for the big things – loss and death, ongoing challenges to returning to what we miss, the need to be supportive to loved ones, but the little things...they can send us over the edge. Perhaps you too have experienced an adult temper tantrum over something that, pre-pandemic, would have been more manageable. These days, our skin is thinner and our emotions nearer the surface.

Criticism that would have bounced off the armor of personal confidence now cuts deep. We have no reserve, no wherewithal, no room in a psyche already full to overflowing to cope rationally with one more thing.

In a presentation about what it takes to be resilient, I learned the number one thing was being realistic. So, let’s be realistic. This is hard. We want to be done. We want to hug and sing and gather around the family table with loved ones we haven’t had supper with in over a year. All in good time. The day will come. We just need to wait a ...little...bit...longer. Some months at least.

So, we wait. We wait for our well to be filled, our strength to be renewed, our spirits to be refreshed. I have found that laughter helps...and play. But most of all, I have found that acknowledging the feelings of weariness, naming that I am tired of waiting, and then extending grace to myself and others, goes a long way to getting past it.

The prophet Isaiah has something to say about waiting.

*But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
~Isaiah 40:31*

Wait with me. Wait for the Lord. Wait for new life, for forward movement, for a fainting spirit to rise up on wings. God is with you, and God is at work; creating vaccines, supporting health care workers, helping leaders think through the details, and offering all of us the promise that with God’s help, our weariness will give way to new strength.

And in the meantime, find joy, in even the little things. It took two pliers, my husband, and a jar opener to get my pole back to its proper length. I’m ready for another snowshoe. If you hear someone yelling “stupid” in the woods, just ignore it.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan



"We are simply asked to make gentle our bruised world to tame its savageness to be compassionate of all (including ourselves) then in the time left over to repeat the Ancient Tale and go the way of God's foolish ones." ~Peter Byrne, S.J.

This poem seems so very appropriate for a time like this. In this poem, I hear powerful truths. And those truths are echoed in Holy Scripture. Consider them during these challenging days. Meditate on their truthful power.

"We are simply asked to make gentle our bruised world" Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." -Matthew 5:9

"To tame its savageness"

Paul wrote, "They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice." -Romans 1:29

"To be compassionate of all (including ourselves)"

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." -John 13:34

"To repeat the Ancient Tale"

"Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise." -Deuteronomy 6:7

"To go the way of God's foolish ones" Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "We are fools for the sake of Christ."

-I Corinthians 4:10

God's peace abide with you now and always, Pastor Jim Duehring Assistant to the Bishop, DEM

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