



*10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. ~Psalm*

*51:10-12*

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

For two and a half years, my husband and I successfully avoided contracting COVID-19. We wore masks, stayed away from gatherings, quarantined after a suspected exposure, and basically did what we were supposed to do to avoid getting the virus. And we were successful...until this month. It started with a tickle in the throat, then came the fever and chills, then the difficult decision of whether to nap on the couch or sit in the chair or just go to bed. As of this writing, we have emerged from our COVID cave and are now back amongst the living...sort of. We are still moving slow. Processing thought or coming up with complete sentences is still a challenge. As many people who have had COVID-19 will tell you, a kind of fog settles in, like a congestion of the brain. But enough of that. I write to share with you some wonderings about COVID-19 and the Church. It is no secret that people are tired, but until I contracted COVID, I hadn't really considered its physical toll and its impact on ministry. I believe we have all witnessed how COVID-19 has impacted our spirits, our emotions, our sense of community, and a certain heightened anxiety about what all this means. But physically...no wonder volunteerism is at an historic low! When even brushing one's teeth or making supper expends all energy reserves, I can see why there's not much strength left to lead Vacation Bible School, take a turn for the Altar Guild, or sing in the choir. Such extra activity, at least for a time, is truly beyond one's physical capacity. And yet, this too shall pass. Energy will return. Creativity and strength and the resolve to contribute will slowly but surely gain momentum in my body and spirit. And not just for me, but for us, and our efforts together as congregations and as a synod together. It seems to me that we are collectively in this space of healing, waiting for restoration and renewal. Whether or not you have had to deal with the physical impact of COVID-19, I think we are all painfully aware of a certain disease. People continue to be polarized concerning social and political issues. Some notice that in-person worship attendance or giving has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and we wonder what that means for the future of our church. We talk about wanting to move forward and yet long to be back where we were, which if we are honest, was still a place of decline and anxiety. So where does that leave us? In truth, I believe we are still where we have always been, invited to participate in what God is doing in the world. I remind you and myself of what intellectually we already know, but perhaps emotionally and spiritually are challenged to own, that our Church, and your church, belong to God. And the body

of Christ that you are a part of lives and breathes because God would have it be so. We rely on God to put in us a new and right spirit. We rely on the Holy Spirit to show us the way, to energize our efforts, and focus our mission to further the work of Christ. In these days of healing and discernment, as we wait for renewal and even joy, I know that momentum is building. Congregations are considering their next steps, new plans for ministry are being made, people are emerging from isolation hungry for community and meaningful spiritual connection. As the Body of Christ in the world, we have something of value to offer. Whether your congregation provides an opportunity for deeper engagement or simply gives permission to be still and receive a word of hope and healing, the Church, your church, is meant to be a blessing. May God bless you with the joy of salvation and sustain you with a willing spirit.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan



Dear Zion Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your gift of \$1,127.60 given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in May 2022.

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,  
The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, Mission Funding, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

Dear People of Zion Lutheran in Manistique,  
Thank you so much for your financial support of the work of Christ that we do together. While our Lutheran accent is that we are saved by grace through faith, the words from James also ring true. Faith inspires action which in turn nurtures faith.

I am grateful that the work we do, we do together, putting our faith into action for the sake of the church, our communities, and meeting the needs of our neighbors-locally and globally. Thank you for your special gifts received by the Synod through June 2022.

1/30/22 World Hunger-\$905.12  
3/29/22 World Hunger-\$440.02 LWR Blankets-\$52.00  
5/29/22 World Hunger-\$1,127.60  
Answer the Call-\$72.39

Thank you for your partnership!

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan



Vacation Bible School will be August 8-12 with First Baptist Church at First Baptist from 9:00am-12:00pm. All children are invited.



Come and join us for a church picnic on August 14th 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 and Back Pack Buddies.



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.

*Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of*

**Karin Sjogren**

Elizebeth Dennesson—Roof

Anna & Elsa—Roof

Marlene & Cyndee Miski—Roof

Bruce & Rita Rossier—Roof

Tom Graham—Roof

Elizabeth Macklem—Roof

Jean Selling—Roof

JoNell Berger—Roof

Suzette & Arthur Messer—Roof

Dorothy Masters—Roof

Mari Ann Pietz—Roof

Will & Kathy Barker—Roof

**Arliss Larson**

Tom & Carla Flodin—Quilters

**Harry Kreuzweiser**

Lila Panek—Memorial

Lois Bentley—Roof

Cindy Nelson—Memorial

Doris Ribblet—Memorial

Dorothy Brandstrom—Roof

Betty DeSautel—Quilters

Linda Levin—Endowment Fund

Dennis Boyd—Memorial

Nancy Kreuzwieser—Memorial

Virginia Scherer—Memorial

Tom & Carla Flodin—Memorial

Earl & Dorothy Johnson—Memorial

Harry & Nancy Whaling—Memorial

Bill & Donna Mott—Roof



The families of Arliss Larson, Karin Sjogren and Harry Kreuzwieser.

## Upcoming Scripture Readings

**August 7**—Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33:12-22, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

**August 14**—Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29—12:2, Luke 12:49-56

**August 21**—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

**August 23**— Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25:6-7, Psalm 112, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

**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.

## Those Who Serve In August

Lectors: 8/7 Kaye Jarski

8/14 Ken Groh

8/21 Harry Mageski

8/28 Bonnie Moody

Ushers: Ruth Jones & Linda Levin

Altar Flowers: 8/7

8/14

8/21

8/28

Bulletin, Bread and Wine: 8/7

8/14

8/21

8/28 Dorothy Brandstrom

## Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
May 28/29	13	35	12
June 4/5	16	36	7
June 11/12	8	30	4
June 18/19	20	32	7
June 25/26	15	28	7
July 2/3	14	40	6
July 9/10		31	5
July 16/17	10	34	5
July 23/24	18	29	11
July 30/31			

**August Noisy Offering** will be taken on August 21st and will be sent to **Helping Hotspot** at the high school/middle school Thank you for your generosity.

*Christ in Our Home*, a devotional booklet published by the ELCA, is available in the turnstile in Augustana Hall. Large print copies are available. Please help yourself!

The quarterly statements are ready and available to be picked up. You will find them in the Narthex.

If you would like to help with school kits now is the time to buy sale. You will need a back pack (14"x17") cloth with shoulder straps, 4) 70 sheet wide or college ruled paper, please no loose leaf, 1) ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, 1) pencil sharpener, 1) pair of blunt scissors, 5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secured together with a rubber band, 5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink) secured with a rubber band, 1) box of 16 or 24 crayons, 1) 2 ½ eraser. For more information there is an instruction sheet on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall for you to take.



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## Your Justice, My Justice, God's Justice by Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 (NRSV) All of us have our favorite Bible passages. Many people like John 3:16 and Psalm 23. Lutherans especially like Ephesians 2:8-10.*

(Note: I am intentionally not writing out the full verses. I encourage you to look them up yourselves!)

All of the verses in the Bible can't possibly hold equal weight when compared to each other. Compare Leviticus 24:14 with John 8:7. All of us have a "canon within the canon." We all have Bible passages that more fully express our Christian faith and our sense of how we see ourselves and the world. Martin Luther especially liked to view scripture through the lens of Christ. "Was Christum treibt," was his saying in German, which basically means, "What conveys Christ."

Micah 6:8 is a passage that seems popular today in many religious circles, even among non-Christians. It is an ancient text dating back to the prophet Micah of the 8th century BCE during a time of religious and political unrest. What is new about that? It's pretty amazing to see the resonance of this verse today. I, along with many, would consider Micah 6:8 to be part of my "canon with the canon," one of my seminal verses from the Bible. My New Oxford Annotated Bible, 3rd edition from 2001, has the following footnote on this passage: "In this single sentence the prophet sums up a century of brilliant prophesy." Wow, that's some high praise for a single verse of scripture! I see within the simple structure of this single verse, three foundational pillars:

1. Do Justice
2. Love Kindness
3. Walk Humbly with God

Who doesn't want more justice in the world?

Well, maybe not everyone, especially when pursuit of justice could affect my own status in what I might perceive as deleterious to me. Whose justice shall we act upon? My sense of justice? Your sense of justice? Or God's sense of justice? What system or course of action can best achieve the most justice for the most people for the longest time? Debating these questions is what causes division and confusion. But it can also move us down the path to God's justice. It seems to me that we have to ask these questions, and we do well to acknowledge the complexity of the paths to justice.

Perhaps, **my sense of justice** in a given situation will go directly from point A to point B. **While your sense of justice** will go from point A to point C, then finally to point B. A state of justice is reached, but a different route is taken to get there.

I propose we view these 3 pillars as equally integral parts of a 3-legged stool. All are

important in maintaining the balance of the stool and for God's justice to be realized. • If I only pursue justice on my terms without kindness and humility, I risk being "right" and needlessly damaging people in the pursuit of my goal.

- If I only seek to be kind without humbly seeking justice, I can become very irrelevant to real life circumstances.

- If I only seek humility without pursuing justice with kindness, I can give away any sense of my agency to make the world a better place.

Holding these 3 foundational pillars (justice, kindness, humility) are integral in dealing with our real-world challenges. Thanks be to God that it is God's justice that is ultimately at stake. I don't have a perfect sense of God's justice and neither do you. Let's keep this in mind as we deal with not only the challenging issues of our time, but also in dealing in a more humane and godly manner with each other as together we seek God's justice to be done on earth as it is in heaven!

**Northern Light Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Musical The original musical, "One Wonderful Day"** is finally happening at the historic Crystal Theatre in downtown Crystal Falls on Saturday, August 6 at 3 pm CT! A meal will follow beginning at 5:30 pm CT at Fortune Lake. Tickets are still available at [fortunelake.org](http://fortunelake.org). Please share the news with your congregation and enjoy this exciting event!

**Mark Your Calendars!** Tuesdays from 7–8 pm ET/6–7 pm CT beginning September 13 through November 1 This fall, members of the Synod Youth Ministry Team will lead a Lifelong Faith Formation class on the book, *Growing Young* by Powell, Mulder and Griffin. We will explore what it means to Grow Younger and why it matters. Based on research conducted at over 250 thriving congregations, *Growing Young* provides ideas and strategies any church can use to involve and retain young people (specifically those who are 30 years or younger). Please mark your calendars, invite a friend, and plan to join us via Zoom starting September 13. Visit [nglsynod.org](http://nglsynod.org) for details on how to register.



## **Hooray for VBS!**

For many churches, vacation Bible school is a summer highlight. The event leads to lasting memories and changed hearts. It also sparks laughter. Maybe you've seen VBS humor online, such as the quote,

"I'm tired, I mean like ... vacation Bible school kind of tired!" Another post reads, "You know you're obsessed with VBS when ... you're excited about cardboard on the side of the road." And anyone with an earworm at week's end can relate to this meme: "My parents hid my VBS CD. It's for the best."

For hungry young learners, snacks make an especially big impression. One excited preschooler shared that she enjoyed "juice and Billy Graham crackers" at VBS. Another boy raved about the first day, saying, "We heard stories and drew pictures. Then we went to play, and when we came inside, God had juice and cookies waiting for us!"

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**Musician:** Linda Levin

**Custodian:** Pat Toennesen

**Treasurer:** Naomi Fletcher

**Financial Secretary:** Cyndee Miske

**Choir Director:** Rebecca Peterson

**Congregation Council:**

Linda Levin, President

Donna Mott, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Jo-Nell Berger

Ruth Jones

Cathy Knudson

Janet Krueger

Peter Mathson

Teddy Nelson



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