From the Bishop:

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~Philippians 4: 4-7

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When I first accepted the call to be the Assistant to the Bishop, it was necessary that we move from the parsonage in Republic. We found a house in Tilden Township up the hill from West Ishpeming. The people who had lived at the residence before us had cleared the plot of rocks, and these had been thrown into the trees and underbrush that bordered the yard. Years of dirt had covered these piles of rocks, offering enough top soil for daisies, ferns, and golden rod to grow, but not enough to pack down the earth and offer stable footing. As I walked through the woods along the edge of our yard, I could feel the rocks shifting under foot, and the growth of weeds and tall grass made me want to tidy things up a bit.

So what began as a desire to straighten and clean became a full-fledged intensive attack on chaos. Armed with crowbar, shovel, saw, and rake, I pulled weeds, cut down saplings, dug out roots and rocks, carved out chunks of matted vegetation, and cleaned out the surprising finds of root beer bottles, barbed wire, abandoned cables and concrete, old mattress springs, and various discarded detritus that had no place in my emerging rock garden.

Hours passed quickly as I was determined to reach packed earth. As I dug, and leveraged, and wrenched up stubborn rocks, I unearthed beautiful specimens of red streaked jasper, sparkly white quartz, and round rose speckled boulders.

Slowly, but surely, dead tree stumps gave way to new flower beds, beautiful rocks were carefully arranged into cairns and circles, a graceful birch emerged from the cleared brush to become a more prominent anchor by the driveway, and bird houses and wind chimes added more color and character.

People started to stop as they walked and drove by. They remarked on the changes. They liked watching the progress of something new emerging from what had been simply woods, weeds, and decaying undergrowth.

So what have I learned from my rather compulsive efforts in landscaping? What has this to do with the work ahead in the Northern Great Lakes Synod?
The beauty of it all is our future is still emerging and the details of the big picture have yet to be clarified. We do not yet know what the finished garden will look like. We only know that what we’re working on now will lead us to something else, and that will lead us to something else. Perhaps we will find things that need to be cleared away. Perhaps we will unearth hidden treasures. Whatever the future of the church is in the Northern Great Lakes Synod, we know that we do not labor in vain. The Spirit is guiding us, and moving us forward into what has always been the big picture and the ultimate vision – that Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again! We pray that others will take notice of our progress, that telling this story will emerge so clearly from our efforts that people will remark on the changes. That what they see in you and me and in us together will prompt them to take a closer look….and in looking, they will see Christ in what we do and who we are, and be drawn to His light.

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. ~ Ephesians 4:8-9

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan
Dear people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

The following is a letter that I sent to your conference officers to be considered at your Fall conference gatherings. But in the interest of everyone being informed, I reprint it here so you also can be a part of the conversation.

Grace and peace to you on this day!

This summer, I spent some time traveling to visit with the pastors of each conference. In our conversations, we considered the challenges of our Synod and of our work together.

One sentiment that was often repeated in these conversations was the challenge of feeling connected to Synod leadership and who we are as congregations partnered together for the work of Christ. One idea to address this feeling of disconnection was to restructure the Fall Conference meetings in two ways:

1. To schedule the meetings in such a way that both the Assistant and the Bishop are able to attend all conference meetings and,

2. To make our time together more meaningful by having the Synod Staff lead congregational conversation, idea generation, and leadership training in order to spark and build energy that would inspire and sustain ministry efforts, both together as a Synod and individually as congregations. The meeting would end with a very short business portion, led by the Conference President, to fulfill any constitutional requirements.

To that end, I propose that each conference add a discussion to this year’s 2017 agenda in order to choose a date during the week given in 2018 (see page 4) for next year’s conference meeting. This allows every conference the possibility of a Sunday afternoon, a Saturday morning, or a weeknight evening, and prevents scheduling conflicts with any other conference. If none of the suggested dates will work, please call the Synod office this November to check the availability of dates that were not chosen by other conferences.

In addition, I ask that Congregation Councils make this Conference Gathering a priority, that all congregational leaders be encouraged to attend, and each pastor/LLM/interim strive to bring at least 10 congregation members with them, not including themselves.

As for food, I defer to your conference to decide how this might be handled. Hopefully, we will have the problem of more people to feed, whether for a meal or light refreshments. You know best what will work in your setting.

Please consider a block of time no less than 90 minutes and no more than three hours. The Assistant and I will make the arrangements to be there, no matter how late or early the meeting is scheduled.

In this first attempt at something new, I appreciate your willingness to try a different approach. Synod means “Walking Together” hence the footprints. I hope this change will help facilitate our forward motion.

I look forward to seeing what we can do together for the sake of Christ and His church!

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan
BISHOP FINEGAN (CONTINUED)

Suggested Conference Gathering dates for each conference in 2018.

Conference 1  September 16-22
Conference 2  November 11-17
Conference 3  October 21 – 27
Conference 4  November 4-10
Conference 5  October 14-20
Conference 6  October 7-13
Conference 7  September 23-25, October 4-6
Conference 8  October 28 – November 3

P.S.  I understand that for some of the conferences, these suggested dates are either much sooner than you would prefer, or much later. I tried to schedule the shortest distance of travel later in the season, and the farthest distances sooner, and I tried to schedule near the date where some of you have meetings scheduled for this year. Again, if these suggested dates simply will not work, please call the Synod Office in November after the other conferences will have reported their dates, and see what possibilities remain.

Questions and Answers About Licensed Lay Ministers

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

In the few short weeks that I have been in office, I have been asked more than a few times about the role of Licensed Lay Ministers and other questions having to do with worship leadership, preaching, and presiding at the table in our congregations.

While I know that these same questions have been asked, and answered, in the past, it seems that some clarification and repetition is warranted. So at the risk of stating what you may already know, I will offer what I hope is clarification regarding these issues.

What is a Licensed Lay Minister?

Also known as a Synodically Authorized Minister, or SAM in some other synods, a Licensed Lay Minister in our synod is a person who has not graduated from seminary with a theological degree, nor is an ordained minister, but is authorized by the Bishop of this Synod to provide leadership and care to a given congregation. This would include presiding at the table, funeral ministry, baptisms, financial leadership, stewardship education, and everything needed for the congregation to be encouraged and equipped in its mission to proclaim Christ.

How does a person become a Licensed Lay Minister?

A person is invited to apply by the Bishop and then interviewed by the Lay School Dean and members of the board. There must be a need in the synod, and that need must be of a certain circumstance and situation that the Bishop deems that a LLM is the most appropriate kind of leadership for that congregation.

It is not unusual for an LLM to also be a seminary student who serves a congregation while pursuing a seminary degree, or a nursing home chaplain.

If I am a Lay School Graduate, can I become a Licensed Lay Minister?

Maybe. While it is preferable that a LLM be a Lay School graduate, it is not necessarily a requirement. It depends upon the situation. Conversely, being a Lay School graduate does not automatically make that person qualified to preach, preside, or become a LLM.

So why go to Lay School?

Lay School is a ministry of this synod that is meant to deepen the faith and expand the theological knowledge of anyone and everyone who would participate. Students are challenged to learn something new and often are appreciative of insights gained.
Sometimes Lay School students discern a call to ordained ministry. Sometimes gifts for preaching and worship leadership are identified and these strengths are further utilized by more congregations, meeting the needs for pulpit supply.

Being a Lay School graduate, however, does not mean that the graduate is now qualified to preach or preside. The graduation is not accreditation. Rather it is a celebration of having attended all the classes that Lay School has to offer.

**So can I preach if I’m not a Lay School graduate?**

The privilege of preaching, and who fills the pulpit in a pastor’s absence, is the responsibility of the pastor called to that congregation, or that of the interim if the congregation is pastorally vacant. If a gift for preaching is evident in you, the pastor may invite/encourage you to preach. Best practices would mean that the pastor would work with you ahead of time, preview your sermon, offer ideas for improvement, and then along with the congregation, would hear you preach in order to give you feedback on your delivery style, content, volume etc.

Preaching in your own congregation, under the guidance of your pastor, would be a beginning. If there is interest in preaching in other congregations, your pastor could recommend you to the Bishop in order for you to be included on the pulpit supply list.

The Synod keeps a “Pulpit Supply List” which is posted online. This list gives interim pastors and Congregational Councils some idea of who might be available should the need arise to call someone, lay or clergy, to fill the pulpit on a given Sunday or mid-week worship service.

**What if I’m not clergy, but the congregation wants communion? Can I preside at the table?**

Permission to preside at the table for a Lay person must be asked for by the called pastor or the interim, and granted from the Bishop for any given Sunday in any given congregation. Permission is granted only for a particular person on a particular day in a particular place. If the same person leads worship in the same place a week later, permission must again be asked for and granted for that day.

Again, it is the responsibility of the called pastor in place, or the interim pastor, to be sure that the person for whom they are asking permission will preside in a manner worthy of the sacrament and the trust placed in them to proclaim the promise of Christ’s presence. Best practices would include a rehearsal of how to bless the elements, when and how to lift the bread and wine, where to place the hands in welcome or blessing, how to project the voice, what preface to use, how to bless children, the use of hand sanitizer, how to put things back, and any other point of leadership that would enrich and not detract from worship.

While the finer points of worship leadership need to be attended to, it is helpful to remember that it is Christ’s own promise that makes Holy Communion all that it is, and not the worthiness of the one who presides, Lay or Clergy.

It is also worth remembering that God is still worshiped, and Christ is still present, even when Holy Communion is not a part of worship for whatever reason. Our hymnals, and our Lutheran tradition, also include a Service of the Word and other orders of service. However, I prefer to still include the sharing of the peace in every worship service, as this is a welcome point of contact in the worshipping community even if it is liturgically connected to Holy Communion. We can still greet each other in peace.

The work we do in the name of Christ is a partnership between clergy and lay, Synod leadership and Congregational leadership. We are charged to equip the saints for ministry, and this means recognizing and encouraging gifts for preaching, leadership, ministry, teaching, singing, and so much more. We are blessed the more we all use the gifts that God has given us to build up the kingdom of God. However, there is still a need for accountability and oversight, for teaching and encouraging, for learning and improving. May we all do this work to the best of our ability.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan
Bishop Finegan (continued)

**Baby News!**

Pastor Cori Johnson and her husband, Todd Parsons, are awaiting the birth of their baby! May they feel God’s presence and support surrounding them during this time.

Pastor Ken and Deb Ranos were blessed with a baby boy, Jordan, who was born on July 23rd. We ask for God’s blessings on this family.

We welcome Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde to the Synod. She has accepted a call as the Interim Pastor for Christ Lutheran Parish in Ironwood, Michigan. May this call be a blessing to the congregations and the pastor.

Pastor Jim Duehring has accepted the call to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod! Sunday, September 24th marks Pastor Jim’s last Sunday at Prince of Peace, Harvey where he has served for the past nine years.

We give thanks to God for his efforts there, and we look forward to his leadership throughout the Synod as he begins his efforts among us October 1st.

We keep Pastor Jim, his wife, Gisele, and the people of Prince of Peace in our prayers during this time of transition.

**We Bid Farewell:**

Pastor Tamra Harder, who was serving Bethany, Negaunee and Emanuel, Skandia, has accepted a call to Faith Lutheran Church in Cameron, WI.

Pastor Kenneth Lahners, who was serving Trinity Lutheran Church in Ishpeming, has accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Glidden, WI.

May God bless them in their new calls!

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**TRANSITIONS**

2017

Oct. 7—FLLC Quilt Auction
- Installation Choir Practice
  10 a.m. ET at Bethany, Ishpeming

Oct. 10—Planning Ahead—Leave a Legacy
- Pastors & LLM’s Lunch with Tim
  Noon at Tula’s in Rhinelander
(Call the Synod Office by Oct. 5th to reserve your lunch.)
- Congregations—Supper with Tim
  6-8 p.m. at Pioneer Lake, Conover

Oct. 12—Planning Ahead—Leave a Legacy
- Pastors & LLM’s Lunch with Tim
  Noon at Family Inn in Escanaba
(Call the Synod Office by Oct. 5th to reserve your lunch.)
- Congregations—Supper with Tim
  6-8 p.m. at Calvary, Rapid River

Oct. 14—Installation Choir Practice
  10 a.m. ET at Messiah, Marquette

Oct. 21—Installation Choir Practice
  10 a.m. ET at St. Peter Cathedral

Oct. 21—Bishop Finegan’s Installation
  1:30 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette

Nov. 5-8—First Call Theological Event
  in Marathon, WI

2018

February 11-12—Winter Theological Event

February 18—Marked! Event at Gloria Dei, Hancock

February 25—Marked! Event at First, Gladstone

May 17-19—Synod Assembly in Marquette
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

Full-time

First, Iron River; Trinity, Stambaugh—Pastor Mike Laakko
Faith, Ishpeming—Pastor Doug Norquist
Mission United, Pelkie—Pastor Bucky Beach
Faith, Calumet—Pastor Timothy Johnston
Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood—Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde
St. Stephens, Stephenson/Gethsemane, Wallace—Pastor Gene Wickman
Messiah, Marquette (Associate Pastor)
Bethany, Negaunee/Emanuel, Skandia—Pastor Warren Geier
Trinity, Ishpeming—Pastor Lauri Maki

Part-time

Grace, South Range; First, Dollar Bay—Rev. Julie Belew
Lutheran Campus Ministry (NMU), Marquette
St. James, Marinette—Pastor Keith Kolstad

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

As the long summer days slide into the splendor of autumn colors, we give thanks to God for the beauty of creation and the bounty of harvests. God provides abundantly for our physical and spiritual needs, and we joyfully use those blessings to further God’s kingdom and help our neighbor. 2017 has seen a challenge to the Synod financially as we remain more than 5% behind in mission support gifts from our congregations. Yet we trust that God will provide for all our needs as we walk together answering God’s call to ministry in the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

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<th></th>
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# PRAYFAITHFULLY

## DEVOTION SCHEDULE

**FOR October & November**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Devotional Leader</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1–7</td>
<td>Jake Putala</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8–14</td>
<td>Pastor John Kuziej</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15–21</td>
<td>Pastor Bill Jacobson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22–28</td>
<td>Pastor Dave Christenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29–November 4</td>
<td>Pastor Dave Christenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5–11</td>
<td>Pastor Terry Frankenstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12–18</td>
<td>Pastor Ken Ranos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19–25</td>
<td>Pastor Christina Forsythe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26–December 2</td>
<td>Pam Durbin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advertizing Campaign
Faith, Rock

Answer the Call/Fund for Leaders
Immanuel, Negaunee
Rev. Dean & Marie Marin
Barbara Hammerberg
Zion, Manistique
Bethany, Ishpeming
Matthew & Allison Johnson
Rev. Kevin & Steffany Kaiser

NGLS General Endowment Fund
David Veldhuizen
Karen Carter
Erin & Carol Sparapani
Barb & Will Maines
Rev. Tammy Barthels
Robert & Jean Sovey
Ralph & Jean Peterson
Rev. Melinda Shriner
Gale Holm
Rev. Amanda Kossow
Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood
Dave & Mary Lou Blomquist
Rev. Breanne Kinnunen
Ann Christiansen
Matthew & Allison Johnson

Companion Synod Projects
St. Paul, Mass City – Malaria Netting
Porterfield, Porterfield – Girls Schools
First, Gladstone – Fees for Miriam Msamuli
Faith, Rock

ELCA Disaster Relief
Bethany, Amasa
Salem, Ironwood
Trinity, Rhinelander – Walk for Water, Flint
Bethany, Norway
Bethel, Cedarville – Hurricane Harvey
Good Shepherd, Houghton – Hurr. Harvey
Emanuel, Skandia – Hurricane Harvey
Prince of Peace, Eagle River – Walk for Water, Flint
Frederic & Kathryn Gaabo – Hurricane Irma

Lutheran Campus Ministry
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Grace, Gwinn

Lutheran Social Services
Emanuel, Skandia

Lutheran World Relief
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Calvary, Minocqua
Salem, Ironwood

Missionary Sponsorship
Trinity, Rhinelander
Mission United, Pelkie

Mission Outreach Fund
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo

Seminarian Support
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
All Saint’s WELCA, Wakefield
Christ the King, Escanaba

Skogman Scholarship Fund
Rev. James & Laura Wendt
Our Savior’s, Marinette
Dirk and Sue Manson
SYNOD CALENDAR

1-3 Conference of Bishops in Chicago – Bishop Finegan

1-11 Assistants to the Bishop training and DEM training in Chicago – Rev. Jim Duehring

7 Fall Festival & Quilt Auction at FLLC

8 Conference 3 Fall Meeting at Calvary, Minocqua 1 p.m. CT

Conference 6 Fall Meeting at Faith, Rock, 4 p.m. ET

10 Leaving a Legacy with Tim Knutson – Pastors Lunch noon at Tula’s in Rhinelander; Congregational dinner and meeting 6-8 p.m. at Pioneer Lake, Conover.

11 Tanzanian Guest at Synod Office

12 Leaving a Legacy with Tim Knutson – Pastors Lunch noon at Family Inn in Escanaba; Congregational dinner and meeting 6-8 p.m. at Calvary, Rapid River.

14 NGLS Youth Committee Meeting at FLLC, 9 a.m. CT

Installation Choir Practice at Messiah, Marquette 10 a.m. ET

15 Conference 1 Fall Meeting at First, Ewen, 3 p.m. CT

Conference 4 Fall Meeting at Grace, Pembine, 2:30 p.m CT

Conference 8 Fall Meeting at Bethany, Republic, 3 p.m. ET

16 Synod Assembly Planning Committee, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office

19 Synod Staff meets with Jennifer Prince from Portico Benefits, 2 p.m. ET

Conference 5 Fall Meeting at Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, Marinette, 5 p.m. CT

21 Installation Choir Practice at St. Peter Cathedral, 10 a.m. ET

Bishop Finegan’s Installation at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette, 1:30 p.m. ET

Reception at Holiday Inn 3 – 5:30 p.m. All are invited.

22 Conference 7 Fall Meeting at Our Redeemer, Newberry, 4 p.m. ET

25 Communication Task Force Meeting at the Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET

2 Constitution Committee meeting at the Synod Office 10 a.m. ET

5-8 First Call Theological Event at Marathon, WI.

9 World Hunger Committee meeting at the Synod Office, Noon

11 NGLS Endowment Fund Board meeting at the Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET

12 Conference 2 Fall Meeting at Finlandia’s Chapel in Hancock, 4 p.m.

13-15 Reg. 5 Asst. to Bishops & DEM Gathering at Wartburg Seminary-Rev. Duehring

16 NGLS Finance Committee meeting at the Synod Office, 12:30 – 2 p.m. ET

23-24 Synod Office Closed for Thanksgiving

28 NGLS Worship Committee meeting at Bethany, Republic, 10:30 a.m. ET

30 NGLS Stewardship Committee meeting at the Synod Office, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. ET
Put out to Deep Water and let down your nets for a CATCH…

By the Grace of God
The Rev. Katherine A. Volz Finegan is called to serve as Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

You are invited to a Festive Installation Service with Holy Communion on Saturday October 21, 2017 at 1:30pm

Doors open at 12 noon. Prelude begins at 1:00pm

The Worship Celebration will take place at St. Peter Cathedral
311 West Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI. 49855

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will preach.

Hors D’oeuvres Reception to follow from 3:00 – 5:30pm at the Holiday Inn
1951 U.S. Highway 41
Marquette, MI.

Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, Bishops, and Judicatory leaders are invited to vest and process. The liturgical color of the day is red. Please be ready and vested by 1:15pm.
# NGLS Fall 2017 Conference Meeting Schedule

(All times are local)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Synod Rep</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conf. 1 - IGO</td>
<td>Bishop Finegan</td>
<td>Sunday, October 15</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>First, Ewen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conf. 2 - Copper Country</td>
<td>Bishop Finegan</td>
<td>Sunday, November 12</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Finlandia Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conf. 3 – Headwaters</td>
<td>Bishop Finegan</td>
<td>Sunday, October 8</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Calvary, Minocqua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conf. 4 - Four Rivers</td>
<td>Rick Pink</td>
<td>Sunday, October 15</td>
<td>2:30-Registration</td>
<td>Grace, Pembine</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>3:00-Worship</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>3:30-Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conf. 5 - Menominee Valley</td>
<td>Pam Durbin</td>
<td>Thursday, October 19</td>
<td>5:00-Dinner</td>
<td>Northland Lutheran Retirement Community</td>
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<td>6:00-Worship</td>
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<td>7:00-Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conf. 6 - Delta</td>
<td>Chuck Thomas</td>
<td>Sunday, October 8</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Faith, Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conf. 7 - Three Lakes</td>
<td>Rick Pink</td>
<td>Sunday, October 22</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Our Redeemer, Newberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conf. 8 - Superior Central</td>
<td>Rev. Jim Duehring</td>
<td>Sunday, October 15</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bethany, Republic</td>
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PLANNING AHEAD

What to do with it since you can’t take it with you.

Don’t miss this great opportunity to meet with our Regional Endowment Planner, Tim Knutson.

Come learn something about Estate Planning, getting your financial affairs in order, and creating a legacy that will benefit your family, your church, and the work of Christ long after you are gone.

This event is FREE, however, registration is required. Please reserve your spot by calling the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 by the end of the day on Thursday October 5.

(Pastors/LLM’s are invited to join Tim for lunch on:
Tuesday October 10 at 12noon at Tula’s in Rhinelander or Thursday October 12 at 12noon at Family Inn in Escanaba.
Please call the Synod Office by October 5 to reserve your lunch.)
MEDIA RELEASE
For more information:
James Holmberg
414-246-2369
james.holmberg@lsswis.org

Residential Treatment Program for Victims of Human Trafficking Discontinued

On September 15, 2017, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS), in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), announced a joint decision to close Transitions, the LSS residential treatment center for victims of human trafficking. LSS launched Transitions in Neillsville early this year in partnership with DCF and with great support from our congregations.

“While we built a model with DCF that would provide girls who were victims of sex trafficking with the best chance to heal, we learned together that a small program like this was very hard to sustain,” said Héctor Colón, president and CEO of LSS. The girls who were in Transitions are all in good programs today designed to meet their needs. One young woman who successfully transitioned from the program is now attending technical college where she is taking steps today to reclaim her life.

“Please know how valuable your encouragement, prayers and financial support has been,” added Colón. “Our work to change the world, one grace-filled life at a time made it possible for us to provide compassion and care for these girls during an important time in their lives.”

As LSS continues to build and refine its life-changing programs, strong partnerships like yours are invaluable. If you have questions about the closure of Transitions, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Jim Holmberg, director of church relations, at 414-246-2369 or Cindy Halverson, president of the LSS Foundation, at 414-246-2701.

About LSS
For more than 100 years, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan has supported individuals, families and communities with services and programs designed to change the world – one grace-filled life at a time. We help people all along the lifespan with services as essential as shelter and clothing, and as life-changing as trauma-informed counseling and adoption. Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, LSS welcomes and serves people of all faiths and backgrounds. For more information, go to lsswis.org.
Prayer Calendar – October 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Prayers of thanks and welcome <strong>to Rev. Jim Duehring as he begins his first day as the Assistant to Bishop</strong> Katherine Finegan in the NGLS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Bishop Finegan who attends the Conference of Bishops</strong> at Churchwide in Chicago through Oct 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>For all those <strong>who lost loved ones and homes</strong> in the hurricanes in the Caribbean, Texas, and Florida and in the earthquake in Mexico. And prayers of thanks to all who gave to <strong>Lutheran Disaster Response and the Red Cross</strong> to help them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>For <strong>Ass’t to the Bishop, Jim Duehring</strong>, as he attends a week-long DEM (Directors of Evangelical Mission) Orientation Oct 1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for those <strong>pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: Timothy Vadis 10/05, Kenneth Carlson 10/13, and Maxine Gray 10/16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for all those across the synod attending <strong>fall conference meetings</strong> all this month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for all attending the <strong>Fortune Lake Fall Fest</strong>: quilt and fine arts auction, country market, country store and more activities <strong>today</strong> at FLLC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>For all those in conferences 3 &amp; 6, as they hold the Fall Conference meetings this afternoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>pastors</strong> on <strong>Clergy Appreciation Day</strong>. We thank God for their presence among us – preaching the Word and celebrating the Sacraments – for being there care for us, to guide and teach, to listen, to challenge us and take us in new directions, and to be examples of God’s love.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for all those <strong>suffering from mental illness</strong> and for their families who also struggle for understanding and relief today, <strong>World Mental Health Day</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Planning Ahead</strong> meetings with <strong>Tim Knutson</strong> meetings on Oct 10 &amp; 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Severna Park MD (Rev Earl Janssen)</strong>, <strong>St. Paul Lutheran Church, Upperco MD (Rev R. Myers)</strong>, and <strong>Grace Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev Kevin Clementson)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>For those <strong>addicted to alcohol or drugs</strong> that they are able to break the chains of <strong>addiction</strong>. Provide counselors and programs to help them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Synod Youth Committee meeting at 9:00 C.T.</strong> at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>For all those in conferences 1, 4, and 8, as they hold the Fall Conference meetings this afternoon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16 Pray for those attending the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office.

17 We pray for Sunday School teachers and leaders everywhere as they continue to give our children Christian foundations.

18 Pray for Pastors Doug Johnson, Marcia Solberg, Duane Priebe, Judy Kincaid, and Judy Kirchoff as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.

19 For the Synod Staff who meet with Jennifer Prince from Portico Benefits, 2 p.m. ET and for those attending the Conference 5 Fall Meeting at Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, Marinette, 5 p. CT.

20 Pray for Pastors Tom Wickstrom, Kenneth Carlson, Richard Likeness, and George Candea-Kromm, as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.

21 Pray for Bishop Finegan at her Installation at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette, MI, 1:30 p.m. ET Reception at Holiday Inn 3 – 5:30 p.m. ET. All are invited.

22 Pray that peace may prevail throughout the world and that leaders will find ways to solve conflicts that don’t involve the destruction of property and killing of innocent people. Also pray for all those in conference 7 as they hold the Fall Conference meeting this afternoon.


24 Pray for the members of St James in Marinette and their interim pastor, Rev. Keith Kolstad as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy.

25 Pray for the members of St. John Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev Kristin Dubsky), Trinity Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev Charles Drenning), St. Mary Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev H. Brumback II.)


27 Pray that people of all races, backgrounds, and economic situations may try to see each other as individuals with problems we may never have experienced ourselves, but nevertheless try to really understand.

28 Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – Darley Kemppainen and Margaret Laursen.

29 Also pray for all of our seminary students, especially Carolyn Lawrence as she begins her seminary journey at LSTC this fall.

30 Pray for the members of Magogoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregations, Christ the King and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Escanaba (Revs Christopher Johnson & Judy Kincaid, pastors.)

31 Pray that the God who reformed the church through Martin Luther five centuries ago may continue to reform – and transform – the church today.

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Prayer Requests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>On this All Saints’ Day remember with thanksgiving those extended family, friends, pastors and teachers who have gone before us – their care and support, their love and strength, their guidance and their faithful example – all of their gifts to us of God’s grace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the Constitution Committee Meeting today at the synod office at 11:00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for members of Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev Lisa Alford), St. Benjamin Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev David Schafer), and Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Whiteford MD (Rev Hugo Schroeder.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>For all those attending the First Call Theological Event in Marathon WI, Nov 5-8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: Katherine Finegan 11/03, LaVonne Stephenson 11/09, and George Candea-Kromm 11/11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>November is National Adoption Month. Pray for those children who are now part of a family and have a sense of belonging. Pray for those children who continue to be a part of God’s family, while they wait for parents. Pray for all those who open their hearts and their lives to a child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – Betty Linna and Oradell Lindblad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>For those attending the World Hunger Committee meeting at noon at the Synod Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the Synod Endowment Fund Board meeting at the synod office tomorrow, Nov 11 at 11:00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>On this Veterans Day, we pray for all of the brave men and women who served in our armed forces whether dead, retired from the military, or still serving our country. We thank them for defending our nation, its people, and standing up for oppressed people everywhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the Conference 2 Meeting today at 4:00 at Finlandia University’s chapel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>In these days of emphasis on stewardship, we pray that we may become better stewards of all that God has given us, our planet and its resources, ourselves, our time, our talents, and our possessions; all signs of His gracious love.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>For Ass’t to the Bishop, Rev Jim Duehring as he travels to Iowa to attend the Region 5 Assistant to Bishops and DEM Gathering at Wartburg Seminary Nov 13-15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Synod Finance Committee</strong> meeting today at the Synod Office 12:30 -2:00.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>children who are victims of bullying</strong> by others; that their teachers, counselors, and especially other children will help to support them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for Pastors Jennifer Johnson-Wrege, Tom Skrenes, and Jim Wendt as they celebrate <strong>anniversaries of ordination this month.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for the members of the <strong>Christ Lutheran Parish</strong> in Ironwood and their interim pastor, <strong>Rev Lisa Ubblelohde</strong> as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Yombo Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong> and their <strong>NGLS Companion Congregation, Immanuel in Negaunee (Rev Steven Solberg, pastor.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: <strong>Earl Bergh 11/20, Tom Wickstrom 11/22, and David Van Kley 11/25.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>prayer ministries</strong> across our synod – prayer services, prayer chains, prayer shawls, prayer beads, whatever ways we offer prayer to God for those in need and those who rejoice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>We <strong>give thanks this day for the blessings God has bestowed upon us</strong> – the blessings we see around us in our daily lives; our health, families, and friends; the blessings that we overlook; and most of all the blessings of hope which we have in our Lord, Jesus Christ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Zion Lutheran Church- City Hall Plaza, Baltimore MD (Rev Eric Deibler), Ascension Lutheran Church, Towson MD (Rev Nancy Kraft), and St. Benjamin Lutheran Church, Baltimore MD (Rev Michael Guy.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Also pray for <strong>all of our seminary students</strong>, this month we especially pray for <strong>Bill Wendorf.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>🎉 <strong>Rejoice! Christ the King</strong> is here, on his throne, on the cross, and here in our midst. Give thanks to God this day for Christ our King.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>church choirs</strong> everywhere, <strong>and their musicians and directors.</strong> Thank them for the hours spent practicing to send joyful praises to our Lord.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>NGLS Worship Committee</strong> meeting today at Bethany, Republic, at 10:30 E.T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our government leaders</strong> at every level <strong>that they will work to protect and strengthen those who live on the margins of our society.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Synod Stewardship Committee Meeting</strong> today at the Synod office 10:00 – 1:00.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”