From the Bishop:

I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
O (insert your name, your congregation’s name here) wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy;

~Psalm 130: 4-6

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I remember as a child, waiting for Christmas felt almost unbearable. In this time of immediate gratification, my ability to wait has only gotten worse. When we text someone, we expect an almost immediate response. People want to know that you received their email. Snail mail is so-called because it takes so long, much longer than a Facebook message or tweet. Instagram pictures are instantaneous. We no longer have any concept of how information traveled 500 years ago, when a letter could take months, and a reply just as long. A conversation by letter could take years. Even this relatively short column will take longer to read than most electronic messages. Many folks will have given up by now. We are ill equipped today to wait.

Yet, that is what Advent is all about - making the most of the waiting. There is blessing in waiting, sweet anticipation. There is preparation in waiting.

There is the dawning realization that some things simply cannot be rushed.

Consider pregnancy and the growing of a child, rising bread and the leavening of a loaf, savoring a good novel as you read every word and fight the urge to skip to the end. Such things take time. They must be given their due.

So must the time we take to wait upon the LORD. As faithful people, we observe Advent every year. Every year we are reminded of the value of waiting upon the LORD.

This year however, the waiting feels more poignant somehow, more necessary. As I talk with members of our congregations about their hopes and fears, so much of it has to do with concern for the future and finances of their community of faith. For many, fear is outpacing the hope. We wonder when the tipping point will come, when sustainability will be questionable, and we feel forced to choose from a short list of undesirable options.
What then, is the answer? The church and two millennia of tradition suggests that Advent be a time of prayer and preparation as we wait for the LORD. Scripture proclaims that we are not the first, nor will we be the last to wait for the LORD.

Of course, this is counter-intuitive. We feel we ought to be doing something, working for a fix, actively making something happen. However, it may just be that we cannot make something happen any more than the world could make Jesus be born. The birth of Jesus depended upon God’s timing, upon God’s action, and even then, the world hardly took notice. The birth of Jesus was a non-event. This small baby, born to impoverished parents in a world that had no room for them, was the smallest of pebbles in a pond. Yet, in him our hope is born.

Consider then that the action we take is to breathe in the Spirit together, to pray for a direction to become clear, to discern together as communities of faith what God is calling you to do and be, and sit with the questions for a while before clamoring after answers. The enemy of creativity is fear and anxiety. Let the Spirit work on you and in you.

During Advent take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary -

Yet is wondrously present.

Even as a child, waiting for Christmas, there was sweet anticipation as I scoured the Sears catalog toy section and folded the corners of the pages in hope that the hint to Santa would somehow be heard. I never noticed that what I saw in the catalog never appeared beneath the tree. I suppose in the frenzied joy of gift opening my previous hopes no longer mattered. My attention was on the gift before me, in my hands, not on anything that I didn’t even notice was missing.

God will bless you and your community of faith with what you didn’t even know you needed. I don’t know what that is. It may be something you didn’t expect or even ask for, but as we wait for the LORD, as we watch more than watchmen for the morning and scan the horizon straining to see the first gray glow of dawn, we commend what we love to God and God’s timing. Wait then, and watch, and pray, and the light of Christ will show you what you are to do next.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan
TRANSITIONS

Congratulations to:

Pastor Joe and Brianna Iverson on the birth of their daughter, Nora Evalee Iverson, who was born on November 13, 2017. May God bless this happy family!

Pastor Ken and Deb Ranos on the baptism of their infant son, Jordan, on Sunday, November 12, 2017. We welcome Jordan as a little brother in the family of Christ!

Pastor David Van Kley, of Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, Michigan, has announced his retirement. His last day will be December 31, 2017. We give thanks for his many years of service in God’s ministry! Our prayers and well-wishes are with Pastor Dave and Arlene as he begins retirement.

COMING EVENTS

2017

Dec. 11-15—Synod Office Open House
9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET Refreshments will be provided!

2018

February 11-12—Winter Theological Event
(see pg. 4 for more info.)

February 18—Marked! Event at Gloria Dei, Hancock

February 25—Marked! Event at First, Gladstone

April 22—Healthy Congregations Workshop
at All Saints, Wakefield (see insert for more info.)

April 23—Healthy Congregations Workshop
at Bethany, Ishpeming (see insert for more info.)

April 24—Boundaries Workshop for Clergy/LLMs
at Prince of Peace, Marquette (see insert for more info.)

April 25—Healthy Congregations Workshop
at Immanuel, Escanaba (see insert for more info.)

April 26—Boundaries Workshop for Clergy/LLMs
at Porterfield, Porterfield (see insert for more info.)

May 17-19—Synod Assembly in Marquette

June 27-July 1—National Youth Gathering in Houston

September 14-16—SWO Fall Convention/Retreat
Bishop Finegan (continued)

We are looking for someone willing to prepare the prayer calendars for Notes and Quotes. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Pam Long, who has been doing this job for many years. She is willing to teach you what needs to be done! If you are interested, please call the Synod Office at 906/228-2300.

What Have You Done With Your Little Red Bag?

Last Synod Assembly, every congregation received a bag that looks like this. It was meant as a reminder for you to either take offerings for your local school backpack student feeding program, or perhaps to use as a way to generate offerings for World Hunger. So what are you doing with your bag? We will be receiving items for backpack programs at this year’s Confirmation MARKED! events. Students will receive their own bag at MARKED! Don’t miss it!!!
An Introduction by the new Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring

Hello Brothers and Sisters of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

This is my first article for the synod’s “Notes & Quotes” newsletter as the new Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission. Let me introduce myself and share a little about my ministry perspective.

I was born and raised in a small farming community of Ripon, Wisconsin. Being nurtured in a strong community of faith, I sensed the call to pastoral ministry. I literally grew up on the corner of Mt. Zion Dr. and Pleasant St. in Ripon! I have the street sign in my office to prove it! I graduated from Wartburg College with a Religion major and went on to serve as a youth worker and lay assistant in Minnesota. I graduated from Wartburg Seminary in 1987 and pastored for five years at First Lutheran Church, Williston, ND.

Circumstances surrounding my first wife’s health and eventual death led me to transition to teaching, which I did for 13 years. As a teacher, I taught in both private and public schools. I taught one year on an Indian reservation in Poplar, Montana.

I met my wife, Gisele, in Amarillo, Texas, through a Lutheran online dating site. Ironically, this is the same dating site that brought together former Assistant to the Bishop, Jennie Johnson Wrege and her husband, Marv! God works in mysterious ways!

I met my wife, Gisele, in Amarillo, Texas, through a Lutheran online dating site. Ironically, this is the same dating site that brought together former Assistant to the Bishop, Jennie Johnson Wrege and her husband, Marv! God works in mysterious ways!

Gisele and I moved to the Marquette area in March 2008 when I became pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran, Harvey. Gisele works as an engineer with Northern Michigan University as manager of their steam heating plant. Her passions are flowers and volunteering. Gisele’s grown children live in the warm environs of Louisiana and Texas: Ellie in Lafayette and Jason in Corpus Christi. Winter is a good time to visit the kids!

After 9.5 years as pastor at Prince of Peace in Harvey, I started my new ministry on October 1, 2017 as Assistant to the Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. It was not easy to leave the good people of Prince of Peace, but I hope that I can take with me a passion for the local congregation into my work as a synod leader. Ultimately, whether we are two or three gathered in prayer at a local coffee shop, sitting in a church committee, serving on the local school board, worshiping in our home congregation, or attending a national youth gathering with 30,000 kids, we are the church of Jesus Christ. We are God’s people called to serve a broken and hurting world. We have this awesome treasure of God’s love through Christ the Lord that the world is so desperately needing. We have much to do together, but we launch into the future of “kingdom work” knowing that the ultimate power belongs to God.

In my last sermon at Prince of Peace, I referred to 2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.” This powerful biblical passage reminds me that when
I’m feeling lazy, I have a great treasure that needs to be shared. Secondly, this passage reminds me that when I’m feeling overwhelmed about the tasks before me, I’m only a fallible earthen vessel and the real power is God’s. That perspective doesn’t take me off the hook, but it puts everything in perspective.

You’ll notice at the beginning of this article, my new title includes: “Director for Evangelical Mission” or “DEM”. Our ELCA has many amazing ministries and connections throughout the world. Our reach as a national church is both deep and wide. I hope I can be a helpful bridge in lifting up how the church operates on many levels and has many faces. For example, did you know that this year our ELCA is launching a new mission church to serve Sudanese people living in Glendale, Arizona? Throughout the coming months and years, I will lift up examples of how the church is engaged in ministries beyond the boundaries of our own Northern Great Lakes Synod. There are many great people resources both within and outside of our own synod!

So it is that I approach this new ministry role with a sense of honor, expectation, humility, and anxiety. I look forward to working collaboratively with Bishop Katherine Finegan and the many good folks of the 80 congregations and other ministries in Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I look forward to meeting many new people and strengthening relationships with people I already know.

The bishop and I serve the Lord, but we certainly serve you. Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. You can email me at: jduehring@nglsynod.org. You can call the Synod Office at 906-228-2300. My direct cell number is 906-251-0247. May God bless us and empower us to be faithful to the mission before us.

Pastor Jim Duehring
Assistant to the Bishop
and Director for Evangelical Mission,
Northern Great Lakes Synod
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
- Prince of Peace, Marquette—Pastor Ann Gonyea
- Grace, Pembine—Pastor Doug Johnson

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

“May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first-fruits give.”

(Hymn #686, verse 2—ELW)

Congregation mission support gifts remain substantially behind last year. Congregations are strongly encouraged to prayerfully consider their pledge to the Synod and make every effort to meet or exceed it. Designated gifts are higher, due primarily to an outpouring of gifts for disaster relief. As we enter the season of giving and thanksgiving, we give thanks for the partnership we share. May we hold in our hearts the knowledge that God walks with us always, abundantly blessing us. May we trust the Holy Spirit to guide our giving to the glory of God.

**Please Note These Dates**

**January 10, 2018**  Last Day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that 2017 benevolence gifts can be credited to 2017 giving.

**February 9, 2018**  Last Day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that January, 2018 giving can be credited to the Synod fiscal year.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

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### PRAYFAITHFULLY

#### DEVOTION SCHEDULE

**FOR December & January**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>December</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-9</td>
<td>Synodical Women’s Organization Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>Chuck Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-23</td>
<td>Karen Carter</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-30</td>
<td>Rick Pink</td>
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<td>31-January 6</td>
<td>Pastor Kuziej’s Lay School Class</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7-13</td>
<td>Pastor Doug Norquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-20</td>
<td>Pastor Scott Ehle</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-27</td>
<td>Pastor John Ansell</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-February 3</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
SYNOD CALENDAR

2017

5 Conference 8 Text Study at Synod Office, 10:30 a.m. ET

6 Always Being Made New Committee Meeting, at Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET

7 Synod Office Staff Meeting, at the Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET

8-9 Bi-Synodical Candidacy Meeting in Appleton, WI

11-15 Synod Office Open House, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

20 Synod Office Staff Christmas Gathering, Synod Office is closed for the day.

25 Synod Office closed on Christmas Day

2018

1 Synod Office closed on New Year’s Day

3-8 Bishops Academy in Vancouver (Bishop Finegan)

8-10 Systems Academy in Chicago (Assistant to the Bishop Duehring)

10 Lutheran Campus Ministry Meeting at the Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET

10 Last Day for checks to arrive in Synod Office so that 2017 benevolence can be credited to 2017 giving.

11 Synod Office Staff Meeting, at the Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET

14 Companion Synod Committee Meeting at Prince of Peace, Marquette, 3 p.m. ET

18 Synod Assembly Planning Committee Meeting at the Synod Office, 11 a.m.

19-20 Synod Council Meeting at First, Gladstone, 4 p.m. – Noon ET

27 NGLS Youth Committee Meeting at the Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET
Scrabble, Banana-gram, Skipbo, Cribbage, Pinochle, Yahtzee... games anyone?

The Evangelism Team at Grace Lutheran Church in South Range was thinking of ways that we could open our doors to the surrounding community to do things that might be beneficial to them in some way. We have a nice, bright space that's barrier free and has lots of coffee available. We found a few things like hosting the local “Let's Eat” free community meals program once a month; Knit, Pray, Crochet, once a week; and Gentle Exercise weekly as well, but we still had one day free for community activities…. Thursday afternoon we were empty!

We started thinking about who would have the time to attend activities in the daytime when the building is open and started reminiscing about how much our parents used to enjoy going to the local Senior Centers when they were still available in our area. They used to visit with their friends, play cards and make new friends. "We could do that," we thought!

Never satisfied to do things half-way, we decided we would at least start out providing a mid-day meal for game players, as well, so it was chili and then beef stew and then one of the guests brought some brownies and then some ripe tomatoes from their garden and pretty soon we had Thursday afternoons off to a rip-roaring start with not only a lot of folks from Grace, but many from the local (and not-so-local) area as well.

We thought maybe the lunches weren't necessary, but it didn't seem to be too much trouble to whip up a one-dish meal in a big crock pot at home and bring it in. But, buying the groceries was falling on the same few people so the Thrivent Action Team Grants came to mind. They seemed to be just right for this purpose, so one of our team who is a Thrivent member applied. The grant was approved and now we can afford the ingredients for a nutritious hot meal (and the coffee, of course!) for all of our "gamers."

Now on Thursday afternoons, we have a room full of people and friendly voices, enticing aromas, smiles and laughter, and just real, genuine, fellowship!
REGISTRATION FORM for
Healthy Congregations Workshop & Boundaries Training for Clergy and LLM’s

Name: _______________________________ Email: _____________________ Phone: ____________
Home Congregation (Name/Town) ___________________________________________________________________

I plan to attend: ___ Healthy Congregations Workshop on Sun., April 22 at All Saints, Wakefield
 ___ Healthy Congregations Workshop on Mon., April 23 at Bethany, Ishpeming
 ___ Healthy Congregations Workshop on Wed., April 25 at Immanuel, Escanaba
 or
 ___ Boundaries Workshop + Lunch for Clergy & LLM’s, Tues., April 24 at Prince of Peace, Harvey
 ___ Boundaries Workshop + Lunch for Clergy & LLM’s, Thurs., April 26 at Porterfield, Porterfield
 ___ Enclosed is $5.00 for lunch during Boundaries Workshop.

Please mail registration form and lunch fee (if applicable) to: Northern Great Lake Synod - 1029 N. Third St., Ste. A - Marquette, MI 49855
Lutheran Social Services
Operation Christmas Wish List 2017

Please call either Kerry Wiese (906) 236-0560 or Paula Upp at (920) 730-1339 for information regarding drop-off sites.

LSS programs in the Upper Peninsula with Christmas Request Ideas
(Wrapping paper and ribbon are always welcome, but please leave gifts unwrapped)

Golden Horizon Apartments, Calumet, MI
This is a 16-unit apartment complex for seniors and disabled individuals
Christmas requests: Gift cards for tenants for Walmart, Burger King, Jim’s Restaurant, Subway, Shopko. Kitchen utensils, toothpastes, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, deodorant, lotions, towels, washcloths, blankets, pillows, gloves, hats, scarves, Kleenex. Snacks (popcorn, pudding, granola bars, etc.), Movie Passes.

Pineview Community Apartments, Houghton, MI
This is an 11-unit apartment complex for the Certified Mentally Impaired
Christmas requests: Gift cards for tenants for Pat’s Foods, Festival Foods, Walmart, Econo Foods, Hardee’s, McDonald’s, Pizza Hut, Dominoes, Burger King, Little Caesar’s, Taco Bell. Kitchen utensils, city bus tickets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, deodorant, lotions, towels, washcloths, blankets, pillows, gloves, hats, scarves, Kleenex. Snacks (popcorn, pudding, granola bars, etc.), Movie Passes.

Cherry Creek Village, Marquette MI
This is a housing complex for seniors and disabled individuals
Christmas requests: Gift cards for Walmart and McDonald’s, puzzles, magazines/magazine subscriptions, MARQ-TRAN tickets.

Residents would love to have choirs come to their facility and sing for them.

Oakwood Village, Marquette MI
This is a housing complex for seniors age 62 and over
Christmas requests: Gift cards for Walmart and McDonald’s, puzzles, magazines/magazine subscriptions, MARQ-TRAN tickets.

Residents would love to have choirs come to their facility and sing for them.

Welcome Home, Marquette, MI
Welcome Home is a transitional homeless program for families and adults 18 years of age and older. The program provides case management and short-term rental assistance. Case management includes job search assistance, educational assistance, transportation assistance, stress management training, organizational skills training, budgeting assistance, housing location assistance and landlord/tenant negotiation.

Christmas requests: Household items--bath towels & washcloths, bedding: blankets, sheets, pillows, day planners, dishes & silverware, dishcloths & towels, household utensils, pots & pans, glasses & cups, curtains, paper towels, toilet paper & Kleenex, dish soap, bath mat, buckets for cleaning, brooms, dishpans, bakeware, dish strainers, mops, light bulbs, wall & alarm clocks, bleach, cleaning supplies, tools of all kinds, tall trash bags, laundry detergent, pot holders, can openers.
Personal items - (male & female) toothpaste & toothbrushes, soap & shampoo, mouthwash & dental floss, deodorant, hairbrushes & combs, Q-tips & cotton balls, feminine hygiene products. Infants & Toddlers - diapers (disposable), bottles, pacifiers, baby diaper wipes, baby powder, lotion, shampoo & soap, baby towels & washcloths, bedding (blankets, sheets, quilts). Miscellaneous - MARQ-TRAN Tickets for transportation to & from work and appointments, grocery store gift certificates.

Thank you for considering giving to these area programs!
Advertizing Campaign
Gloria Dei, Hancock

Answer the Call/Fund for Leaders
Calvary, Quinnesec
Rev. Kevin & Steffany Kaiser
Roger and Kay Knuth
Barbara J. Hammerberg

NGLS General Endowment Fund
Rev. Robert and Deloris Langseth
Rev. Rell and Louise Spickerman
Rev. LaVonne Stephenson

Companion Synod Projects
St. Paul, Mass City – Malaria Netting
Siloa WELCA, Ontonagon – Mkuza Girls School

ELCA Disaster Relief
Sharon, Bessemer
First, Ewen
Salem, Ironwood
Trinity, Trout Creek
All Saints, Wakefield
IGO Conference
Good Shepherd, Houghton
Mission United, Pelkie
Janice Mikkola
Prince of Peace, Eagle River – Walk for Water
Ascension, Minocqua
Immanuel, Rhinelander
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Bethany, Amasa
United, Crystal Falls
First, Iron River
Zion, Marinette
Immanuel, Escanaba

ELCA Disaster Relief continued
First, Gladstone
Bethany, Gladstone
Zion, Manistique
Our Redeemer, Newberry
St. James, Rudyard
Zion, St. Ignace
Bethany, Ishpeming
Bethel, Ishpeming
Trinity, Ishpeming
Messiah, Marquette
Immanuel, Negaunee

Kemppainen Scholarship Fund
Jonathan and Grace Bradford

Lutheran Campus Ministry
Calvary, Rapid River
Faith, Rock
Zion, Manistique
Zion, St. Ignace
Grace, Gwinn
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Lutheran Social Services
Emanuel, Skandia

Lutheran World Relief
Bethel, Menominee – in memory of Leonne Edquist
Calvary Ev., Minocqua
Zion, Marinette
Calvary, Rapid River
Zion, Manistique
Bethany, Ishpeming
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Missionary Sponsorship
Trinity, Rhinelander
Bethel, Ishpeming

Mission Outreach Fund
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Immanuel, Escanaba

Seminarian Support
Bethel, Ishpeming

Skogman Scholarship Fund
Dirk and Sue Manson
Skrenes Fund for Ministry
Bonny Kinnunen
Gale and Barbara Eilola
Revs. Jon and Jean Schmidt
Rev. Kenneth and Naomi Lahners
Rev. David and Sandy Hueter
Roger and Kay Knuth
Bishop John and Kristina Roth
Gary and Mary Saunders
Bishop Gerald and Anita Mansholt
David Skrenes
Karen Merckx
Marilyn Andersen
Larry and Rev. Ann Gonyea-Alexander
Ken and Carole Simila
Faith Lutheran, Ishpeming
Rev. Kevin and Steffany Kaiser
Rev. Terry Frankenstein – Ordination Offering
Rev. Cynthia Crane
Jim and Karen Carter
Andy and Rev. Linda Forray
Darley Kemppainen
Ronald and Paula Skrenes
Bishop Dale and Jo Skogman
Robert and Karen Wortingter
James and Rev. Margaret Johnson
David Veldhuizen
Tom and Rev. Breanne Kinnunen
Mark Matosian
Rev. Norman and Mary Peterson
Rev. Keith and Karen Kolstad
Rev. Dean and Marie Marin
Brian and Danielle Anderson
Rev. Paul and Carol Holmstrom
Rev. Ken and Joanne Michaelis
Rev. Douglas and Shirley Norquist
Bishop Steven and Ruth Ullestad
John and Pauline Kiltinen
Linda Kinnunen
Dennis and Judy Karvakko
James and Barbara Kinnunen
Jacob Heikkinen
Robert and Jean Sovey
Jennifer Prinz

Arlene Skrenes
Gary Nelson and Audrey Pettersen
William and Deborah Weis
Jerry and Jill Flickinger
Dirk and Susan Manson
Rev. Gerald and Susan Anderson
Ken Seaton
Janice Vollmert
Bethany Lutheran, Norway
Lloyd and Rev. Maxine Gray
Clergy Spouses of the NGLS
Orice Walters
Elaine Weiland
Kaaren Ness
William and Annette Hultman
Everett and Rev. Tamra Harder
David and Lisa Blondeau
Rev. Douglas and Marilyn Schoen
Larry Pagel
Revs. Steven and Marcia Solberg
Rev. Peter Vorhes and Liz Siivola
Gary Saunders
Michael and Sandra Strahan
Bishop Thomas and Luanne Skrenes
Douglas and Betsy Tarkowski
Rev. Wallace and Alice Leno
Rev. Devon and JoAnne Barrix
Rev. Robert and Deloris Langseth
Norman and Marilyn Andrew
Pamela Long
Virginia Paulson
Our Saviour’s Lutheran, Atlantic Mine
Diana Herington
Robert and Paula Zulinski
Bethel Lutheran, Ishpeming
Trinity Lutheran, Ishpeming
Christ the King Lutheran, Escanaba
Rev. James Holmberg
Ken and Bonnie Groh
David and Bishop Katherine Finegan
Thrivent Financial
Patrick Braatz
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
<table>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>church choirs and musicians</strong> who share their gifts of music as they welcome the Christ Child this season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>For all <strong>those who have lost loved ones and miss them</strong> especially during the holiday season.</td>
</tr>
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| 3   | **On this First Sunday of Advent**  
**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection waken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day.** |
<p>| 4   | Pray for our <strong>retired pastors and their spouses</strong> – Rev. John and Sue Shallow and Rev. Dale and Jo Skogman. |
| 5   | Pray for members of <strong>Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Baltimore MD (Rev Gary Dittman)</strong>, <strong>Jerusalem Lutheran Church Baltimore MD (Rev Arwyn Gohl)</strong>, and <strong>St. Luke Lutheran Church, Hampden, Baltimore MD (Rev Margaret Zipp.)</strong> |
| 6   | For those attending the <strong>Always Being Made New (Mission Outreach) Committee</strong> meeting today at 11:00 at the Synod Office and for the <strong>Synod Staff</strong> as they meet today at 3:00. |
| 7   | Pray for Bishop Katherine Finegan, as she attends <strong>Bi-Synodical Candidacy meeting in Appleton</strong> December 7-9. |
| 8   | Pray for the <strong>members of Temeke Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hancock (Rev DJ Rasner, pastor.)</strong> |
| 9   | Pray for <strong>pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: David Johnson 12/18, and John Kuziej 12/21. |
| 10  | <strong>Advent II – Walk in hope, as you move toward the manger, keeping your eyes on the child, the child who will fulfill that hope for all humanity on the cross of Good Friday.</strong> |
| 11  | Pray for those attending the <strong>World Hunger Committee</strong> meeting in the Synod office today at noon and for the office staff and all those visitors to the <strong>Synod Office Open House</strong> today through Dec 15. |
| 12  | Pray for <strong>Pastors LaVonne Stephenson, Lisa Ubbelohde, Andrew Plocher, and Bucky Beach</strong> as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month. |
| 13  | For our <strong>Sunday School children</strong> who learn about God’s word each week and who anticipate the birth of baby Jesus in these next days. |
| 14  | Pray for all those with <strong>Alzheimer’s Disease, for their families, and for their caregivers.</strong> Pray also for <strong>more research</strong> and possibly a cure for this devastating disease. |
| 15  | For <strong>those addicted to drugs, alcohol and other substances</strong> who may find this season of family celebration particularly troublesome. We pray that <strong>the light of Christ Jesus may shine into their darkness.</strong> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16</th>
<th>Pray for the <strong>spouses of our deceased pastors</strong> – Karen Merckx and Jane Magnuson.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Advent III</strong> – As you come closer to the manger at Bethlehem get ready to come face to face with the ultimate gift of love – the presence of &quot;God with us,&quot; Immanuel!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Judicatory Heads Lunch</strong> today at noon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>For all of those celebrating the holidays with their co-workers, friends and relatives at Christmas parties in our synod this month. May they all have loads of fun, drink responsibly, and drive safely so they can take time to celebrate the coming of the Christ child together on Christmas Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>Synod Staff as attend their Christmas Gathering.</strong> The Synod Office is closed today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>For <strong>single parents</strong> who struggle to provide for their children at this time of the year and to insure appropriate child care is in place when the children are on school vacation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Grace Lutheran Church, Harford Rd, Baltimore MD (Rev Rita Niewerth)</strong>, <strong>St. John Lutheran Church, Pimlico, Baltimore MD (Rev Patricia Payne)</strong>, and <strong>Augsburg Lutheran Church, Baltimore MD (Rev Eric Campbell.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>For <strong>those in prisons</strong>. Keep them from harm and help them to see the light of Christ in their lives during this season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>Advent IV</strong> – As you take the final steps in your journey to the manger again this year joyfully lift up prayers of thanks for the fulfillment of all God’s promises in the Christ child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray this day that the <strong>Prince of Peace may stir the hearts of men and women</strong> the world over, so that love and care for each other may rule. May we treat all we encounter as brothers and sisters every day of the year and <strong>May Peace on Earth become a reality.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for all the <strong>children on school vacation</strong>, may they have a chance to renew, recreate, and enjoy their family, friends, and toys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>For blessings on all those <strong>men and women in the armed forces</strong> defending our country who are away from their families this holiday season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Trinity Lutheran Church in Ishpeming and their interim pastor, Rev Lauri Maki</strong>, as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>For all those <strong>who are lonely and long for someone to talk to and help them celebrate</strong> during this otherwise festive season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for all of our <strong>seminary students</strong>, especially <strong>Micah Cavaleri</strong> who is just beginning this journey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Offer a <strong>prayer of thanks</strong> for the opportunities and gifts of the past year – and a <strong>prayer of hope</strong> that the coming year will put an end to the brutal acts of violence perpetrated upon innocent people here in the United States and across the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
### Prayer Calendar – January 2018

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>🎁</td>
<td>Pray that this <strong>New Year</strong> may find you to be a faithful disciple of Jesus in all that you do. Listen for the Spirit to guide you to provide help in just the right places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Tandika Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong> and their <strong>NGLS Companion Congregation, Faith in Sault Ste. Marie (Rev Bre Kinnunen, pastor.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>For Bishop Finegan as she attends the Bishop’s Academy in Vancouver Jan 3-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>For the <strong>Lay School campuses and all of the busy pastors</strong> who give their time and efforts to teach folks eager to learn more about our theology and scripture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: Greg Mileski 1/05, Doug Johnson 1/13, and David Jensen 1/16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>🎁</td>
<td>Pray that as the Magi brought gifts of great value to the newborn king, you too would be willing to give not what’s left over, but your <strong>First Fruits</strong> and your time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>We celebrate the <strong>Baptism of our Lord!</strong> Remember that in your baptism you are claimed as a child of God, held, nurtured and blessed by a loving God who sends you into the world to witness the love of Jesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>All Saints Lutheran Church, Baltimore MD (Rev Sharon Kelly)</strong> First English Lutheran Church, Baltimore MD (Rev Sandra Alexis) and Saint Mark, St Paul St, Baltimore MD (Rev Dale Dusman.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Send a pray of <strong>thankfulness for all the teachers</strong> who help to enlighten and shape our children's lives with patience and kindness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Lutheran Campus Ministry</strong> meeting today in the Synod Office at 11:00.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>For your tireless <strong>Synod Staff</strong> as they meet today at 11:00.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>For those enjoying the <strong>Winter Wonderland weekend at FLLC</strong> Jan 12-14. Play hard, warm up, and sleep soundly!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>retired pastors and their spouses</strong> – <strong>Rev Rell and Louise Spickerman</strong> and <strong>Rev La Vonne Stephenson.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Companion Synod Meeting</strong> today at 3:00 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Marquette today</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>As we observe <strong>Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday today</strong>, pray for our nation – and our world – that <strong>divisions of race, culture, and faith that still exist in this day may be overcome</strong>, not by power and violence, but by love for all of God’s children!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Also pray for <strong>all of our seminary students</strong>, this month we pray especially for <em>Bill Wendorf</em>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>those who are struggling with gender orientation and identity issues</strong>. Show them your love and acceptance so they can live safely in our communities and congregations.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>The <strong>Confession of St. Peter</strong> – this day begins the <strong>week of prayer for Christian unity</strong>. Pray that all who confess that which Peter confessed, that Jesus is the Messiah may come together as partners in the work of the gospel! May Christians throughout the world be truly on their way to unity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for those traveling for all corners of our synod to attend the <strong>Synod Council Meeting</strong> today and tomorrow at <em>First Lutheran Church in Gladstone</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>unemployed and underemployed</strong> keep them and their families warm and well-fed this winter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Bethany Lutheran Church, Negaunee and their interim pastor, Rev. Warren Geier</strong>, as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>For <strong>those addicted to alcohol and drugs</strong>. May we keep looking for ways to help them break the cycle of addiction and live lives free of their demons.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray for those in Africa and the rest of the world <strong>suffering water-borne diseases</strong>. May we do our best to help them obtain clean water every day for the rest of their lives.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: Margaret Johnson 1/24, Soren Schmidt 1/27 and Fran Strong 1/30.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>Keep us safe and warm</strong> as ice and snow envelope all places in our synod.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>For pastors <em>Margaret Johnson, and Jesse Brown</em> as they celebrate <strong>anniversaries of ordination this month</strong>.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Youth Committee Meeting</strong> today at 11:00 at the Synod Office.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>For those women, men, and children who are <strong>victims of domestic violence</strong>. Keep them safe and heal their physical and emotional wounds.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>St. John, Edgemere, Baltimore MD (Rev Richard Rutkauskas), Hope Lutheran Church, Middleborough, Baltimore MD (Rev Donald Burggraf), and St. John, Lutheran Church, Franklin Ave, Baltimore MD (Rev Charlene Barnes)</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>men’s ministries</strong> in our synod – that they may take root in prayer and bible study and grow.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of our deceased pastors</strong> – Kaaren Ness and Valdora Otto.</td>
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“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”