Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

...behold, I make all things NEW...

Imagine, if you will, a huge stadium filled with excited, pumped up, energetic teen-agers who are just waiting for things to get started.

There’s a warm-up band playing some good music. Some kids are standing, dancing, some are sitting, chatting with heads close in order to be heard above the drums and guitar. As the waiting continues, they get a little bored and rise up to play. They notice phone lights from across the stadium moving in time to the music, up and down together, now alternating. They join in on the other side of the stadium, a message of dancing lights and patterns of motion being sent across the expanse.

Then, somehow, in some stadium row, a pocket of youth starts “The Wave.” They stand up, with phone lights blazing, voices screaming, arms up and waving and sit down again in seconds, creating an undulating wave that moves around the stadium, gaining strength and volume with each passing. The motion builds momentum, more kids join in. The whole bottom and upper rows are quick to join the synchronized motion.

At the very same time, in the very same moment, a single vocalist at the keyboard begins to sing a meditative “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Her voice is soulful, the words are drawn out and slow, the tempo and gospel feel to this familiar melody, in any congregational setting, would invite a mood of reflection, of meditation, of soul-searching quiet.

But not today.

As the singer’s voice continues to invite quiet worship, the youth continue to stand up and sit down with loud and enthusiastic joy, reveling in the community of faith and this substantial body of Christ in motion.

As the kids stand up and sit down with their lights and their voices yelling loudly and their arms and phone waving in rhythm, they notice a singular spotlight.
A boy has entered the stadium, carrying a cross. At first, the volume of the crowd wave increases, as if to welcome and acknowledge the cross and crucifer in their midst. But as the young man makes his way to the stage, and a more visible presence in the stadium, the wave slowly dissipates. The youth remain standing as their voices now join in singing with the vocalist, “Jesus loves me, this I know.”

As this was all happening, I was pretty sure that the wave was not what the organizers had thought would happen at this moment. I would guess they imagined, and maybe even hoped for, a quiet and meditative beginning for this worship experience, where the darkness would be weighted with expectation, and the singular spotlight would pierce the darkness and shine on the cross with more than a little theatrical umph.

But there was no controlling how the Spirit moved these young people. Their enthusiasm, their unfettered joy in being together and joining in a movement that made all 30,000 of them partners was not to be tamped down by mine or anyone else’s expectations of what should be meditative or reverent or when the congregation should be quiet.

I realized, with both excitement and yes, a certain lament, that these young people and so many more like them, they will lead the Church, they will lead you and me and all of us who are used to things being a certain way, they will lead us into something new.

They are leading us into something new.

Our youth, our children, are not only the future of the church, they are who we are now. As we listen to them, learn from them, hear their faith stories, hear their ideas for worship, for service, for putting faith into action, our transition into the next era of church will find solid footing.

That solid footing may be a leaping up and down in synchronized motion, with voices raised and phone lights blazing to cheer the presence of Christ in our midst, when we used to stand in reverent silence and meditate on the mysteries of God.

In Christ, we are a new creation.

May it be so.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan
Pastor–elect Avery Carr began his call at First Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Iron River, MI on July 1st. His ordination/installation will take place at 3 p.m. CT on Sunday, July 29, 2018 at First, Iron River.

Pastor Stacy Pethke will be installed on September 9th at 3 p.m. ET at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ishpeming, MI. She is serving Faith and Trinity Lutheran Churches in Ishpeming, MI.

Pastor Linda Forray will be installed on August 12th at 3 p.m. CT as pastor at St. James Lutheran Church in Marinette, WI. She will continue to serve part-time at Peace United Church of Christ in Marinette, WI.

Pastor Jared Howard was ordained on July 7, 2018 in Gahanna, Ohio. Pastor Howard has accepted a call to Faith Lutheran Church in Calumet, MI. He will start his call on August 15th.

May the Holy Spirit guide and bless these congregations and pastors!

Pastor Melinda Quivik retired as of June 1, 2018! She was serving Portage Lake United Church in Houghton. May God bless her and Fred as they transition into this new phase of life together!

In Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Wenona Lund and family on the death of Pastor Norman Lund on Tuesday, June 25th. Funeral services were held on Sunday, July 8th, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hancock, MI. Expressions of sympathy and support can be sent to Wenona at 1000 Bluff Drive, #313, Houghton, MI 49931.

Peace be to his memory and comfort to all who mourn.

Help is Still Needed and Appreciated in Copper Country Area

The Father’s Day flooding has drastically changed the lives of many people and the recovery is very slow. Financial donations are needed to help cover unmet needs such as utilities assistance, furnishing and clothing, well restoration, driveways, vehicle damage, and food.

Donations can be sent to the Synod Office and should be earmarked “Copper Country Flooding”.

2018

July 31-August 17—Bishop Finegan visits Tanzania. Please keep her in your prayers.

Sept. 14-16—SWO Fall Convention/Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Nov. 11-14—First Call Theological Event in Marathon, WI

Nov. 18-27—Lutheran World Federation Leadership Training in Geneva, Switzerland (Bishop Finegan)
Did you know that the synod website offers daily devotions?

These Prayfaithfully devotions are written by individuals across our synod, both clergy and lay. We welcome volunteers to offer their time and talents in this way!

Devotions are scheduled on a weekly basis and can be completed by an individual, couple, or congregational men’s, women’s or youth group. Each devotion includes a Bible passage or theme of your choice, a short meditation related to the reading, and a concluding prayer.

If you are interested in volunteering to write one week of devotions for our Prayfaithfully website, please contact Betsy Koski at bakoski@nglsynod.org to schedule a time (or simply call the synod office at 906/228-2300).

Be sure to visit the Prayfaithfully website and make these daily meditations a part of your devotional life!
This Changes Everything?

I remember going to a basketball game at Wartburg College and the referee made a particularly bad call. I wasn’t one to usually boo, but even I found myself on the verge of admonishing the referee for what was obvious to us Wartburg Knight fans as a horrible call. Then I heard a spontaneous chant emerging from the bleachers. “It just doesn’t matter. It just doesn’t matter.” It was repeated over and over again with mocking smiles on the faces of the Wartburg fan base. I kind of smiled at the chant—not sure exactly what was meant by such a chant. My interpretation was that these fans felt that no matter the officiating competency of that basketball referee, the Wartburg Knights were the superior team that day, and they would win the game despite the poor refereeing.

Now this is a more positive example of overcoming the “odds” and still achieving the victory. There was in that chant a positive kind of destiny or fate being expressed. But how often in life do we feel as if the cards are stacked against us and destiny will inevitably take us to a harsh outcome. How often do we feel: “It just doesn’t matter!” “It just doesn’t matter what I do, bad things are going to happen.”

“It just doesn’t matter what I do for my church, I’m not appreciated.” Taken to an extreme, this kind of perspective leads to fatalistic, deterministic, nihilism. It truly can be a Catch 22—the harder I try, the more I sense that my efforts are in vain.

As Christians, we have this earth shattering treasure of the good news of God’s work through Jesus Christ. The key Bible passage at the recent ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston was from Ephesians 2:8. “For by grace you have been saved; this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.” Over and over again, throughout the ELCA Youth Gathering, the 31,000 youth and adult leaders were challenged and encouraged by this key scriptural insight. I heard one youth comment that they really learned a lot about “grace” at the youth gathering.

That grace changes everything is core New Testament teaching. Grace means that I don’t have to be good enough, or pretty enough, or strong enough, or rich enough, or smart enough, or funny enough, or theologically astute enough, or popular enough, for God to love me. So much of our lives are lived around the concept of merit. Now I’m not denying...
the value of merit-based processes in our world. For example, I want the best surgeon working on me, not a person who gets passed on through medical school without demonstrating their actual skills.

But Ephesians 2:8 tells us that being saved is purely a gift from God. When we are grasped by that grace, this changes everything. Grace leads to hope and a sense that I do have a call and a role in this world. God’s grace says that I can use you, “warts”, “worries”, and all. Your life does matter to God. When there is an opportunity to serve others in the name of Christ, we do so not to earn God’s favor, but because God’s favor and love rests upon us. It’s not, “I have to,” but rather, “I get to.” I get to respond to my enemy in love. I get to advocate for justice. I get to lead the youth group. I get to make food for the funeral. I get to pray with my kids and grandchildren. I get to love my spouse. I get to dig deeper into the Holy Scriptures. I get to care about the person in person. I get to forgive my relative who harmed me.

I have no doubt that many young people’s lives were changed by their presence at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. But whether you ever get to attend a youth gathering or not, remember that God’s grace is powerfully available to you too. Be alert to those “Grace moments”. God’s grace really does matter!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim Duehring
Assistant to the Bishop &
Director for Evangelical Missio

Save the date!

“God’s work. Our hands.”
Sunday
Sunday, September 9, 2018

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2018.

For resources to promote this day, type this link -
http://www.elca.org/Resources/GWOH-Sunday
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

**Full-time**
- Mission United, Pelkie—Pastor Bucky Beach
- Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood—Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde
- St. Stephens, Stephenson/Gethsemane, Wallace—Pastor Scott Ehle
- Messiah, Marquette (Associate Pastor)
- Bethany, Negaunee/Emanuel, Skandia—Pastor Warren Geier
- Prince of Peace, Marquette—Pastor Ann Gonyea
- Grace, Pembine—Pastor Doug Johnson
- Messiah, Marquette (Senior Pastor)—Pastor Don Ludemann
- Immanuel, Escanaba—Pastor Stephen Gauger
- Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp—Sara Jonasen
- Holy Trinity, Chassell—Rev. Soren Schmidt

**Part-time**
- Lutheran Campus Ministry (NMU), Marquette—Pastor Andrew Plocher

Dr. William Avery writes, “Christian stewardship is rooted in God’s gift of Jesus Christ to us, and we are entrusted with sharing this gift.” As partners walking together in the NGLS, the mission support dollars your congregation sends to the Synod enables all of us to share the gift of Jesus Christ in many ways. Through June, more than $351,579 in benevolence dollars have been given to God’s work by NGLS congregations, with an additional $109,650 in designated gifts. What a blessing these gifts are as together we share the gift of Jesus with the world.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of 6/30</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledged Amount</td>
<td>832,873</td>
<td>813,739</td>
<td>-19,134</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount Received</td>
<td>355,631</td>
<td>351,579</td>
<td>-4,052</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Gifts</td>
<td>114,683</td>
<td>109,659</td>
<td>-5,024</td>
<td>-4.49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PrayFaithfully

**Devotion Schedule for August & September**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 5-11</td>
<td>Pastor Ken Ranos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 12-18</td>
<td>Micah Cavaleri, LLM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 19-25</td>
<td>Pam Durbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 26-September 1</td>
<td>Pastor Andrea Fluegel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2-8</td>
<td>Pastor Michele Laakko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 9-15</td>
<td>Pastor Melinda Shriner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 16-22</td>
<td>Pastor David Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 23-29</td>
<td>Pastor Jay Welshonse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30-October 6</td>
<td>Pastor Jennifer Johnson Wrege</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SYNOD CALENDAR

AUGUST

1-17 Bishop Finegan visits Eastern and Coastal Diocese of Tanzania
10 Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (FLLC) Staff Appreciation Day
12 Installation of Pastor Linda Forray at St. James, Marinette, 3 p.m.
14-17 Pastor Duehring at Luther Seminary
15 Bi-Synodical Candidacy Meeting in Tomahawk, WI
18 Synod Youth Committee Meeting at FLLC
18 FLLC Board Meeting (Pastor Duehring)
19 Companion Synod Committee Meeting at Trinity, Ishpeming, 3 p.m. ET
23 Worship Committee Meeting at the Synod Office, 10:30 a.m. ET
28 NGLS Staff Meeting at the Synod Office, 10 a.m.
28 Bishop Finegan and Hector Colon (President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan) meet at 12:30 ET
30 Endowment Board Meeting at the Synod Office, 5 p.m. ET with supper

SEPTEMBER

3 Synod Office closed for Labor Day
5 Stewardship Committee Meeting at the Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET
5-7 Region 5 Bishops Gathering in Dubuque, IA
7-8 Synod Council Meeting at All Saints, Wakefield
9 Installation of Pastor Stacy Pethke (Faith and Trinity) at Trinity, Ishpeming, 3 p.m. ET
10 Leadership Committee Meeting at FLLC, 11 a.m. CT
10 Hunger Committee Meeting at Bethlehem, Florence, 1:30 p.m. CT
11 NGLS Staff Meeting at the Synod Office, 1:30 p.m.
13 Lutheran Social Services Meeting in West Allis, WI (Bishop Finegan)
14-16 SWO Retreat at FLLC
15 Lutheran Campus Ministry Meeting at the Synod Office, 1 p.m. ET
19 Yombo Companion Congregation to Immanuel, Negaunee visits Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET
20 LSM//LLM Board Meeting at the Synod Office, 11 – 1 p.m. ET
20 Temek Companion Congregation to Gloria Dei, Hancock visits Synod Office, 4:30 p.m.
22 Walking Together Conference 1 Meeting at St. Paul, Ironwood, 9 a.m. – Noon
23 Walking Together Conference 7 Meeting at St. James, Rudyard, 4 p.m. ET
26- Oct. 2 Conference of Bishops Gathering
Always Being Made New
Christ Lutheran Parish
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Jean Johns
Ray Leverton
Trinity, Brevort
Elizabeth Hakola
John and Doreen Meeker
Darrell Smith and Penny Zobel
Jeanne Sandstrom
David and Linda Vallier
Rev. Warren & Kathy Geier
Bob and Peggy Clark

Answer the Call/Fund for Leaders
All Saints, Wakefield
Zion, Marinette
First, Gladstone
Trinity, Ishpeming
Duane and Kathleen Koski
Ed Gagnon
Bethany, Perkins
Bill and Karen Franke
Bill and Gert Franti
Immanuel, Rhinelander
Darlene Machtan
Rev. Tammy Barthels
Sharon, Bessemer
Dale and Maureen Berg

Companion Synod Projects
St. Paul, Mass City
Gloria Dei, Hancock

Copper Country Flooding
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Immanuel, Escanaba
Trinity, Stonington
Bethany, Ishpeming
St. Matthew Luth. Church, Herron, MI
Rev. Thomas and Luanne Skrenes
Julie Gardiner
John and Sheila Meier
Pat Harvala
Emanuel, Skandia

ELCA Disaster Relief
Mission United, Pelkie
Grace, South Range
Emanuel, Skandia

Lutheran Social Services
Trinity, Ishpeming
Emanuel, Skandia

Lutheran Campus Ministry
Faith, Rock – NMU
Grace, Gwinn – NMU
Prince of Peace, Marquette – NMU
Calvary, Rapid River - NMU

Lutheran World Relief
Zion, Marinette
Immanuel, Negaunee
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Calvary, Rapid River
Salem, Ironwood

Missionary Sponsorship
Mission United, Pelkie
Trinity, Rhinelander

NGLS Endowment Fund
Ken and Carole Simila
Rev. John Ansell
Gale Holm
Karen and Jim Carter
Rev. Tammy Barthels
Rev. Lisa Ubbelohde
Estate of Beatrice Tamminen
Rev. Keith and Karen Kolstad
Thomas and Rev. Bre Kinnunen
Peter and Cathy Seblonka
Rev. Warren and Kathy Geier

NGLS Mission Outreach
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Immanuel, Escanaba

NGLS Stewardship
Estate of Beatrice Tamminen

Skrenes Fund for Ministry
Rev Devon and Joanne Barrix
(in memory of Tim Vocke)
### Prayer Calendar – August 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Pray for <strong>Bishop Finegan</strong> as she visits with our partners in ministry in Tanzania.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month:</strong> Joe Daiker (8/14), Rell Spickerman (8/16), Diane Srutowski (8/17), Bill Jacobson (8/19), and John Ansell (8/21).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate birthdays this month:</strong> Paul Raappana (8/06), Diane Srutowski (8/06), John Ansell (8/10), Bucky Beach (8/11), Cori Johnson (8/13), and Christopher Johnson (8/16).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all people</strong> as they take time to enjoy the sunshine and all of the flowers, fruits, and vegetables flourishing around us this summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for a <strong>solution to the rampant gun violence</strong> in our country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>women who give children up for adoption and families who adopt children into their homes.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>United States of America and the State of Michigan</strong> as we vote in primary elections today. May all elected officials serve with justice and integrity, working for the best for all people in our nation and state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Licensed Lay Ministers who celebrate their birthdays this month:</strong> Sharon Babbitt (8/25).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Faith Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Faith Lutheran Church, Salisbury, MD; Feagaville Parish, Frederick, MD;</strong> and <strong>First English Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp and the Summer Staff</strong> as they close the summer camping season. May their travels be safe and their homecomings happy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>men and women in the armed forces and their families</strong> who miss them and sometimes struggle in everyday life without those they love.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>St. James Lutheran Church, Marinette, MI, and Pastor Linda Forray</strong> as she is installed today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month:</strong> Gene Wickman (8/23), Joseph Iverson (8/23), Kevin Kaiser (8/24), Craig Mansur (8/28), Devon Barrix (8/28), Dave Christenson (8/29), and Doug Norquist (8/30).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate birthdays this month:</strong> Jim Duehring (8/18), Jesse Brown (8/21), Matt Lamb (8/23), Andrea Fluegel (8/24), and Eleanor Russey (8/27).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Bi-synodical Candidacy Committee</strong> as they meet in Tomahawk, WI, today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Jim Duehring and Pastor Ann Gonyea</strong> as they participate in the <strong>Faithful Innovations Training at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Kinondoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong>, and their <strong>NGLS Partner Congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church, Ishpeming (Pastor Lauri Maki)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Synod Youth Committee</strong> as they meet at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Synod Companion Synod Committee</strong> as they meet at Trinity Lutheran, Ishpeming, today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>High School Students</strong> as they begin practices for fall sports – may they be safe and healthy as they compete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>parents and students</strong> as they prepare for a new school year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>teachers, bus drivers, administrators and staff</strong> as they prepare their rooms, offices and vehicles for the new school year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Synod Worship Committee</strong> as they meet at the Synod Office, Marquette, today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for all <strong>seminary students and instructors</strong> as they prepare for the fall semester, especially those from our Synod: <strong>Pat Kempf, Micah Cavaleri, Carolyn Lawrence, Kelly Ylitalo, Katelin Binger, and Kate Drefke</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Education and Youth Committees</strong> as they gear up for fall programs and reconnect with students who have been away for the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>First Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, MD; Foxville-Greensburg Parish, Smithsburg, MD; Glen Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, MD; and Global Peace Lutheran Fellowship, Frederick, MD</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>families who are taking “children” to college for the first time</strong> and missing them already. May these young adults be safe and industrious in their studies and find a faith community in their new homes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all of our ELCA Seminaries</strong> and for <strong>all ELCA congregations to encourage members to consider a career as Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors) or Ministers of Word and Service (Deacons)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Synod Executive Committee</strong> as they meet in Florence, WI, today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Synod Endowment Board</strong> as they meet at the Synod Office, Marquette, today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>God’s Work, Our Hands planning teams</strong> as they put the final touches on plans for ministry projects around their communities and 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 – September 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prayer Requests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month:</strong> Cori Johnson (9/7), Nancy Kauppi (9/10), Mark Bangert (9/12), and Julie Belew (9/22).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate birthdays this month:</strong> David Murphy (9/6), Gene Wickman (9/8), Thomas Skrenes (9/8), Judith Kirchoff (9/9), and Rell Spickerman (9/10).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for all <strong>workers in this country</strong>, past and present on this <strong>Labor Day</strong>, and for advocates who ensure that workers are treated with fairness and integrity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>September 10 is <strong>World Suicide Prevention Day</strong>. Pray for all who suffer with depression and other mental illnesses. Pray also for doctors, nurses, and counselors who treat patients with these illnesses. Pray for our healthcare systems as they find ways to provide comprehensive care for those in need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Stewardship Committee</strong> as they meet at the Synod Office today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month:</strong> Kay Richter (9/23), Greg Mileski, II, (9/24), Timothy Vadis (9/27), and Kari Vadis (9/28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Council</strong> as they meet at All Saints Lutheran Church, Wakefield, today and tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for all those workers for Christ who celebrate this weekend by doing <strong>God’s Work, Our Hands</strong> ministry in their communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Trinity Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, and Pastor Stacy Pethke</strong> as she is installed as their pastor today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Leadership Support Committee</strong> as they meet at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp and <strong>our Synod World Hunger Committee</strong> as they meet at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Florence, today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Staff</strong> as they meet together today to plan and coordinate events and activities throughout our Synod.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate birthdays this month:</strong> George Olson (9/12), Steven Solberg (9/14), and Mary Weinkauf (9/22).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Women of the ELCA</strong> as they enjoy their synodical retreat <strong>September 14-16 at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>the women of our Synod</strong> as they gather at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for their annual SWO Convention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Lutheran Campus Ministry Committee</strong> as they meet at the Synod Office today. May they find wonderful ways to bring God’s blessings into the lives of students throughout our Synod.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Licensed Lay Ministers who celebrate their birthdays this month:</strong> Jon Babbitt (9/19).</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>For <strong>farmers who are harvesting their crops</strong>; we pray for <em>good weather and sufficient help.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all seminary students</strong>, especially <strong>Carolyn Lawrence</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Sunday School teachers</strong> and leaders who put in countless hours of preparation and organization <strong>to shape our children’s Christian foundations</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Lay School Board</strong> as they gather at the Synod Office today.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for the member of <strong>Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church, Arnold, MD; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bel Air, MD; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD; and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wilmington, DE.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>members of Conference 1</strong> as they gather for their <strong>Walking Together Event at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ironwood.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>members of Conference 7</strong> as they gather for their <strong>Walking Together Event at St. James Lutheran Church, Rudyard.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>those in prison</strong>. May they know the power of God’s transformative love and grace so that they are able to return to productive lives when they are released.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for those <strong>who give freely of their time to serve</strong> on committees, task forces, and councils of our congregations, our synod, and our churchwide organization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate birthdays this month:</strong> David Christenson (9/27), Peter Vorhes (9/28), David Tielbar (9/28), and Lee Goodwin (9/29).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Bishop Finegan and all our ELCA bishops</strong> as they gather for the Conference of Bishops in Chicago, September 27-October 2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Grace English Lutheran Church, Lutherville, MD; Grace of God Lutheran Church, Millsboro, DE; Grace Lutheran Church, Easton, MD; and Grace Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>police officers and fire fighters</strong> who risk their lives to keep us safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Temeke Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong>, and their <strong>NGLS partner congregation, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hancock (Pastor Donald Rasner).</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
Grace and peace be unto you from God, our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One of my favorite Bible verses is Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path”. It has come to me in many and mysterious ways throughout my life and I felt that it was one I was called to cling to.

This verse speaks so much to how God walks with us in our many paths of life and how we encounter Christ along these paths...as our light. There may be times when we have doubts or when we struggle with illness, house/car problems, job losses, family matters, divorce, natural disasters and other stressors in life – Yet, we are given such a strong message of continued faith by our Lord and Savior. It is okay to question “why” things may happen, and it is okay to be angry or confused or feel unsatisfied with current life situations – because God is with us. God continues to light our way and be present in our lives, assuring us that God’s promise in life, forgiveness, renewal and in the ‘not yet’ is assured and blankets the way with God’s light of love and salvation.

Seek to breathe in the Holy Spirit, pray out your needs and concerns, and continue to step forth on the path God has given us all in community, fellowship, outreach, service, and continued love to and for neighbor. As bothered as we may be about some of our life situations, we can always rely on God’s active and loving embrace. So, how are we to share this with our neighbor who may not yet know how loved and “walked with” they are with God? We become too scared of our own situations and seemingly cower back in sharing with others because we can’t see around our own concerns. Yes, self-care is important, yet we are called out to also step further on the path and into others-care. You see, God lights our path and we are called to give thanks in all things...and this should lead to us caring and aiding others in seeking and finding their own lit path that God has illumined for them.

My prayer is that we notice and rejoice over our Lamp and Light and remember to give thanks by reaching out to others in our communities in a similar fashion. Spend time in prayer and also self-reflection and ponder: Do I have a neighbor that is uncertain or that does not know God’s love for them? How can I help them in some simple way such as offering a prayer to them, or inviting them to church? How can I help further? If God finds a way for me to welcome and work along side my neighbor in a project, how might I give thanks to God through some kind of faith sharing with my neighbor?

God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good. Let us seek to respond in kind to our God through our life with our neighbor. Be blessed. Be a blessing.

Peace,

+ Pr. Soren
1. **First Call Theological Education Conference**

   **Who:** All Rostered Leaders in the FIRST THREE YEARS of call

   **When:** November 11 – 14, 2018

   **Where:** Spirituality Center in Marathon, Wisconsin

   **Cost:** $300 which includes all meals and lodging

   More detailed information will be mailed to each “first call” rostered leader to arrive during the end of September.

2. **Professional Leaders Event**

   **Who:** All Rostered Leaders and Licensed Lay Ministers

   **When:** February 10 - 11, 2019

   **Where & Cost:** To be determined

   **Speaker:** Rev. Dr. Craig L. Nessan

   Academic Dean & Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics
   The William D. Streng Professor for the Education and Renewal of the Church

   Dr. Craig L. Nessan is Academic Dean and Professor of Contextual Theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He teaches courses in the areas of contextual theology, pastoral theology, and theological ethics. He has oversight of the seminary’s internship program.
All Musicians (organists, pianists, instrumentalists, choir members and directors) in the Synod are invited to attend this gathering for prayer, worship and discussion.

The day will begin with morning prayer at 9:30 a.m. and then coffee, goodies and conversation at 10 a.m. This is an opportunity to get to know one another and become a connected community to share ideas, tips, and resources.

For Questions or to Register
contact Lucas Wickstrom
at lucas@lucas.net or 906-204-6800
“These Kids Are Changing Everything”

This month’s column comes to y’all from Houston, Texas, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Youth Gathering, where I’m visiting this week with two other adults and eight youth from Munising – it’s just us and about 31,000 other, mostly high school-aged friends from all over the United States and its territories.

It’s a chaotic and powerful thing to witness. I can assure you, there have been some moments chasing just our eight youth through these hot Houston days when I’ve wondered if I’ve just lost my ability to reason in bringing us all here. I cannot even tell you how many times a day we adults find we are counting to 11 to make sure we’ve still got everyone. We’ve had our share of drama and travel glitches. We’ve ascended and planted our flags atop a host of learning curves – youth and adults alike.

One morning one of the kids saw my breakfast choices did not include donuts and syrupy waffles and said, “Pastor, you’re on vacation.” I chuckled. This is not vacation for me. It is hard work that pushes me to my limits.

It is hard, indeed, but it is holy work and it is a main part of my work as pastor that gives me hope for the world. Here’s why: At the end of each of these days of relentless attempts to push at the rules and boundaries that come with everything in this life, these young citizens of the Kingdom of God make observations about our experiences here that just blow me away.

They’ll talk about how they were moved by the story of a Hindu woman who went to church in college with a friend because they were literally hungry for dinner. She was sure she and her Hindu identify would not be welcomed, only to find out God was at the table with her and was calling her to be a Christian pastor. Or they’ll examine the testimony of a lawyer who advocates for mostly black and brown kids who end up in the adult criminal justice system. They’ll wrestle with the fact that although this happens to far too many of kids of color, it would probably never happen to them as white children and they’ll be inspired by what an advocate is and does for these children.
They will realize that when they were nine and consumed with thoughts of Pokémon cards and summer days on Lake Superior beaches, elsewhere in the ELCA there is another nine year old struggling with an eating disorder and fighting to survive. They’ll listen to a man talk about how he knew he wanted to be a daddy more than anything else from a young age but had to trust and hold on God’s love for eight years of infertility issues that brought him to his knees. And then they will be brought to their knees when he brings his beautiful daughter out on the stage with him to tell her how much she is loved by him and by the God who created her so beautifully and miraculously.

They will willingly donate their hair, pitch in for a tip after dinner, and speak words of gratitude and graciousness to all the people who are caring for us here in Houston.

When I see them gathered, all 31,000 of them, each night for speakers and worship and music, I am blown away by the difference this kids can and are already making in the world. The future is in good hands, friends, if one just looks beyond the traits typically associated with many of our teens. Their constant questioning of why we have to do it this way, their persistence in testing and trying each and every boundary we put in front of them is Good News for the rest of us. Because we need their new eyes and their young hearts to take us into the future where God is already preparing a way for them – and for us.

Thanks be to God.

Ann Gonyea is pastor of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church in Munising, MI, and an ordained pastor of the ELCA. This article was previously published in the Marquette Mining Journal. The pictures were added for this publication in Notes and Quotes.
Our little white church in the wildwoods just finished hosting Vacation Bible School. As we review the week that brought six area churches together on our beautiful Stonington Peninsula, we give thanks to God for the opportunity to share the good news with over 62 exuberant young people!

Our day started at 9am with Castaway Sing and Play – a time of worship, singing, dancing and a goofy character named Jim that the kids adored! We then moved on to Bible Adventures where the kids got to not only hear the word of God but EXPERIENCE it! We created crafts, had Tropical Treats, played Shipwrecked games, went to the Castaway Cinema, had lunch, and ended each day with more worship and singing. We built a raft to help us off the island, but the sail on our mast had holes in it!

We were “Shipwrecked” on a desert island for the week. A large bus picked up kids and helpers from Christ the King Lutheran and Bethany Lutheran in Escanaba, Bethany Lutheran in Perkins, First Lutheran in Gladstone, and Calvary Lutheran in Rapid River, and transported them down County Road 513 to Trinity Lutheran Church in Stonington.
Luckily the kids patched the holes each day with God Sightings that they came up with themselves. Eventually, our sail was fully repaired and we were rescued by Jesus!

Big, raucous, noisy, chaotic – pick an adjective that would describe 62 kids in a very small church and you would probably be correct. But here are a few more: joyful, wondering, grateful, passion-filled and Holy-Spirit inspired! What a privilege it was to witness and participate in this project. We are already planning next year’s VBS – what will we be doing? Here’s a hint – elephant, giraffes and lions will be present!

Respectfully submitted by Susan Sundstrom-Young

There was an amazing group of volunteers from each church who made this dream a reality. Trinity itself doesn’t have many young people on its rolls, but we do possess a core group of members who believe that the future of our church lies with the young. This multi-congregational endeavor attempts to engage and encourage the young people in our churches to get excited about attending worship, and also seeks to reach those in our communities who are unchurched. As one of our youngest participants was overheard saying “I’m gonna have to tell my mom that we gotta go to church from now on, this is FUN!”
Walking Together

Coming the Fall of 2018!!!

You are invited to a mini-Festival of Congregational Renewal. This event in each conference will include leadership training, address current concerns, equip you for the future, and offer the blessing of being church with other congregations in your area.

Ask your pastor or interim pastor how to sign up!

| Conference 1 | Sat. | Sept. 22 | St. Paul’s, Ironwood | 9am – 12noon | Meal-Noon |
| Conference 2 | Sun. | Nov. 4 | Mission United, Pelkie | 3 – 5:30pm | Potluck-5pm? |
| Conference 3 | Sat. | Oct. 27 | Ascension, Minocqua | 9 – 11am | Morning Snacks |
| Conference 4 | Sat. | Nov. 10 | Bethlehem, Florence | 10am – 1pm | Meal-Noon |
| Conference 5 | Thur. | Oct. 18 | Good Shepherd, Peshtigo | 6 – 8pm | Snacks or Meal? |
| Conference 6 | Thur. | Oct. 11 | Immanuel, Escanaba | 5:30pm – 8pm | Meal-5:30pm |
| Conference 7 | Sun. | Sept. 23 | St. James, Rudyard | 4 – 6pm | Potluck-6pm? |
| Conference 8 | Sat. | Nov. 3 | Immanuel, Negaunee | 9 – 11:30am | Potluck Brunch? |

The Synod Staff and Conference leadership are planning a positive and energizing event.

DONT’ MISS IT!

Come and see what it’s all about!

(?) – to be determined