~From the Bishop~

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Ring around the rosy,  
a pocket full of posies -  
Ashes, Ashes,  
we all fall down.

This familiar nursery rhyme actually came out of the time of the Black Plague, when people were dying by the cartload every day. Trivia buffs know that back then people walked around with a flower, or a posy, in their lapel pocket to help ward off the stench of the dead and dying. Bodies and the belongings of the dead were burned to ashes and buried to try and stem the spread of the disease. But still, people collapsed with illness, falling down in the midst of their daily labors. During that time of overwhelming death, children sang and made up games, trying to make light of the death around them and the uncomfortable truth, that we will all one day fall down in death.

On Ash Wednesday, we do not try to make light of death. Rather, we look death full in the face. We remember that we are only dust, and when life leaves us, our bodies will decompose and become once again the dusty soil from which we were made.

Also, with the sign of the cross in ashes on our foreheads, we are reminded that we are not clean or pure. Rather, sin discolors our souls just as the ashen cross discolors our foreheads. It is an awful truth, one that if given the choice, we’d really rather not see. But on Ash Wednesday, we spend more time in silence and confession, we take time to peel back the layers of denial to see our true selves clearly - to see our dusty souls and our own mortality reflected in the ashen faces of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Ashes, made in the sign of the cross on our foreheads also remind us that it is because of our inability to make ourselves clean, that Jesus came. We face the awful truth that we are the reason that Jesus walked through the dust of this earth. We are the reason that Jesus suffered the agony of death as his blood and sweat mingled with the soil beneath the cross. We are the reason that Jesus was buried, just as we all will be buried, someday. This dark cross that we bear reminds us that Jesus bore the cross for us, and that Jesus bore the darkness of all our sins and these sins, our sins, were buried with Jesus in that dark and dusty tomb.

The use of ashes is appropriate, but not only because of the very awful truth they confront us
with, but because throughout history, ashes have also been used as a cleansing agent. People used to make a kind of soap using lye, ashes, and lard so ashes are also associated with being made clean. Ashes are also the byproduct of fire. Ashes are what’s left after fire has cleared away the underbrush clutter. Ashes are what is used to clean and make new. At the beginning of this Lenten season, we enter a time of repentance for our sins, of remembering the suffering and death of Jesus. We enter a time of renewal and cleansing, of clearing away the clutter to make way for new growth.

On Ash Wednesday, as we bear the dusty cross of ashes on our foreheads, we participate in an ancient ritual and practice of our faith that is deep with meaning. As a community of faith, we begin our Lenten journey together. We sing together the hymns that tell the story of this season. We lift up our prayers together in one voice, the voice of the body of Christ. Together, we ask for God’s mercy and seek God’s presence. Practicing our faith together, we rehearse that which is at the core of who we are as believers in Christ. Such practice creates familiar patterns that are observed in life outside the gathered community and in the world. We rehearse what we seek to do well for each other in the congregation so that we may do it well and for others outside the congregation.

Your congregation has scheduled its Ash Wednesday rehearsal of our faith.

See you at practice.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

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**TRANSITIONS**

**Welcome**

- Welcome Pastor Kellan Weyer and his wife, Whitney to our synod! Pastor Weyer began his call to Mission United in Pelkie on January 20th, 2019. His installation will be February 17, 2019 at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Clergy are invited to vest - the color of the day is **red**.

- Welcome Amanda Rasner as the new Camp Director for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp! She will be installed at 3 p.m. CT on May 5, 2019 at FLLC. Everyone is invited to attend! God’s blessings to her and the staff at FLLC as they begin a new chapter in the ministry of the camp!

- Congratulations to Pastor Micheal Laakko on his retirement as of January 1, 2019! He and Denise’s new address is: 1607 Ridge Ave., PO Box194, Mass City, MI 49948.
Pastor Jim Duehring is looking for people who are interested in being a Mission Interpreter!

**What do Mission Interpreters Do?**

Mission interpreters, volunteers from congregations in each synod of the ELCA, tell the story of how our offerings and gifts are transformed into effective ministries. They remind us of how we make a difference in Christ’s mission and the work of the church, and they thank our people for their faithful giving.

**Can You be a Mission Interpreter?**

Yes!

**Is Training Offered?**

Yes!

There are two training opportunities for people interested in learning more information about being a “Mission Interpreter.”

**Saturday, February 16, 2019**

11 a.m.—1 p.m. ET
at Zion, Manistique

**Saturday, March 2, 2019**

11 a.m.—1 p.m. CT
at Bethany, Norway

For more information about the Mission Interpreter Training, contact Pastor Jim Duehring at jduehring@nglsynod.org or call the Synod Office at 906/228-2300.
“Faithful Innovations”

For Lay Leaders, Pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers

COMING IN 2019 TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU!

The Northern Great Lakes Synod invites congregational lay leaders, pastors, and licensed lay ministers to take a journey with us as we reimagine church in light of today’s changing culture. This is a Spirit-led journey in which we are invited to engage the spiritual practices of listening, discerning, experimenting and reflecting.

- A congregation commits 5 to 7 lay people to attend trainings and become part of that congregation’s “Guiding Team”
- Three Training Events (Saturdays?) with monthly ongoing coaching for laity and pastors

Key Features of “Faithful Innovations”

✦ Dwelling in the Word
✦ Tracing God’s Movement in Our Lives & Neighborhoods
✦ Action Learning Experiments
✦ Intentional Reflection

More details on this renewal effort and dates of training sessions will be available soon!

Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly 2019

Escanaba/Gladstone ELCA Churches & Bay De Noc Community College in Escanaba

May 16—18, 2019

- Experience a Synod Assembly Worship Service!
- More Display Space and Dedicated Time to Visit Displays!
- Help the World Hunger Committee “Take a Bite Out of World Hunger” (see World Hunger insert for ideas)
- Attend Two Workshops!
- Enjoy the Banquet at Terrace Bay Inn as We Recognize Pastors Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries/Retirement and Lay School Graduates!
- Come Ready to be Equipped for Ministry!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!
~From the Assistant to the Bishop~

**Epiphany Reflections:**

“There’s More Going On Here—A Spirit of Wonderment”

*(Read: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; Luke 4:14-21) RCL Texts for Third Sunday after Epiphany*

What do you see when you look up at the evening sky? The ancients imagined constellations and told stories about what they imagined could be going on in the heavens.

Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.”

Yuri Gagarin, the Russian cosmonaut, and first man in space, commented while looking down to earth that it was beautiful, but there was no god up there in space. But, was Yuri seeing all that he could see?

We are always learning more about creation—and not just about the heavens above us. From an anthropocentric perspective, we assume you need ears to hear. But researchers, says Michael Pollan, have played a recording of a caterpillar munching on a leaf to plants — and the plants actually react to that faint sound. The plants begin to secrete defensive chemicals — even though the plant isn't really threatened, Pollan says. "It is somehow hearing what is, to it, a terrifying sound of a caterpillar munching on its leaves."

Some scientists believe that plants have perhaps 20 “senses”. There are amazing things going on in our created world, and we are continually learning more and more about the amazing web of life that we may or may not feel a part of.

**Maybe there’s more going here than at first glance?**

Luke chapter 4 records Jesus appearing in the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth and reading from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.” “He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord’s favor.”
Wow! Those are some prophetically powerful words—almost a mission statement or planks of a political platform.

The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Jesus. The hometown boy had returned. What were the hometown folks perceiving about this situation? Did they really see and hear what Jesus was saying?

What would I have seen and heard in that small synagogue in Nazareth? Would I have gotten it? Would I have grasped Jesus’ point? Would I have made the connections between the prophetic words and Jesus’ embracing of these words?

I’m a believer in God in large part because I have so many questions, and I have to admit I don’t know that much. I don’t understand how creation came into being. I don’t understand the secret lives of plants.

To be honest I often don’t understand my own thoughts and actions. My own sins. “Who can detect one’s own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret thoughts. Keep me from presumptuous sins.” (Ps. 19:12)

Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin presumed that if there was a god, that “god” would have to be camped out in space for him to obviously observe. That courageous explorer of space had put his understanding of God into a box.

We too certainly can be guilty of boxing in God. God, if you love me, you will answer my prayers according to my will. This list of our trying to “box in” God is endless.

The New Testament book of Hebrews says, “God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.” (Hebrews 1:1-2)

For us as Christians, the illuminating light of Christ can help us to see and hear things that bring us peace, joy, and purpose for living. Perhaps things that we don’t catch at first glance. I’m ultimately drawn to these declarations of faith:

- God is the creator. God’s handiwork is everywhere. There is wonderment all around us.
- God is the loving God who wishes to forgive us and have a healthy relationship with us.
- Jesus is the one who can bring good news especially to the poor. Jesus, likewise, calls us to direct our gaze and our purposeful actions to those on the margins, who are easily forgotten or not seen.
- There is much for us to learn about our world and ourselves. There are more “discoveries” awaiting us. We humbly admit that there is more to learn no matter what our chronological age.

This Epiphany season, let us be reminded, that in Christ, light has come for all of the world. May we humbly, like the people who heard the Word of God being read to them in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, bow our heads and worship the Lord with our faces to the ground in the wonder of it all. Amen

Pastor Jim Duehring
We end 2018 with $26,951 less in mission support receipts than in 2017, and $11,529 less than pledged by our congregations. Sixty (60) congregations remitted 100% or more of their commitment, with an additional 10 congregations remitting 90-99% of their pledge. While we are challenged by this deficit giving, we lift up with joy the generosity displayed throughout the year in all areas of giving. We are deeply grateful to all the congregations of our Synod as we partner together to further the work of Christ in our midst. In 2019, may we view these mission support gifts not as a “bill” to be paid, but as an opportunity to minister beyond ourselves and our walls and continue to give generously and joyfully to bring Christ’s love to the world.

Please Note This Date:

February 11, 2019  Last day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that January 2019 giving can be credited to the synod fiscal year.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

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## Devotion Schedule

**February 3-9**
- Christine Ebert

**February 10-16**
- Pastor Diane Srutowski

**February 17-23**
- Ihoby Rakotomala

**February 24-March 2**
- Pastor Norm Peterson

**March 3-9**
- Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde

**March 10-16**
- Linda Carrick

**March 17-23**
- Hayley Smith

**March 24-30**
- Dave Mason

**March 31-April 6**
- Grant Soltswich
**SYNOD CALENDAR**

**February**

- **1-3** Clergy Spouse Retreat in Iron Mountain, MI
- **5-12** Bishop Finegan in Finland to represent Bishop Eaton & ELCA at Installation for the Bishop of Espoo
- **10-11** Theological Event for Clergy & LLM’s at Ramada Inn, Marquette
- **12** Conference 8 Text Study, 10:30 a.m. at the Synod Office
- **14** NGLS Staff Meeting, 10:30 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
- **16** Mission Interpreter Training, 11 a.m. ET at Zion, Manistique
- **17** Installation of Rev. Kellan Weyer, 3 p.m. at Mission United, Pelkie
- **22-23** Synod Youth Committee Overnight at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
- **24** NGLS Companion Synod Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. ET at Bethel, Ishpeming
- **25** NGLS Endowment Fund Board Meeting, 5 p.m. ET at the Synod Office
- **26** NGLS Staff Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
- **27-28** Conference of Bishops in Chicago

**March**

- **1-5** Conference of Bishops in Chicago
- **2** Mission Interpreter Training, 11 a.m. at Bethany, Norway
- **7** Dry Bones/Building Vitality Planning Meeting, 11 a.m. CT at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
- **8** Executive Committee Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
- **9** ELCA Stewardship Webcast, 11:30 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
- **10** MARKED! Event, 4 p.m. CT at Our Savior, Marinette
- **13** NGLS Staff Meeting, 11 a.m. at the Synod Office
- **15-16** Dry Bones/Building Vitality Retreat, 6 p.m. ET at Holy Trinity, Chassell
- **17** MARKED! Event, 4 p.m. at Our Redeemer, Newberry
- **21** Synod Assembly Planning Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
- **22-23** Synod Council Meeting, 4 p.m. CT at Bethlehem, Florence
- **25-27** All Staff Meeting in Chicago (Rev. Duehring)
- **28** NGLS Staff Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
- **31** MARKED! Event, 4 p.m. at Faith, Calumet
Always Being Made New
Holy Cross, Baraga
Mission United, Pelkie
Immanuel, Rhinelander
Calvary, Rapid River
Zion, Allenville
Zion, St. Ignace
Immanuel, Negaunee
Messiah, Marquette
Mike and Emely Gaunt
Joshua Gaunt
Calvary, Minocqua

ELCA Disaster Relief cont.
Pioneer Lake, Conover
Prince of Peace, Eagle River
Ascension, Minocqua
Immanuel, Rhinelander
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Bethany, Amasa
Zion, Marinette
First, Gladstone
Zion, Manistique
St. James, Rudyard
Bethany, Ishpeming
Emanuel, Skandia
Messiah, Marquette
Rev. Norman Peterson

ELCA Good Gifts
Mission United, Pelkie
Immanuel, Rhinelander

Kemppainen Scholarship

Lutheran Social Services
Immanuel, Negaunee
Emanuel, Skandia
WELCA of Faith, Rock

Lutheran Campus Ministry
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Calvary, Rapid River
Faith, Rock - NMU
Zion, Allenville
Bethel, Ishpeming – NMU
Prince of Peace, MQT – NMU
Grace, Gwinn - NMU

Lutheran World Relief
Calvary Ev., Minocqua
Bethany, Escanaba
Calvary, Rapid River
Faith, Rock
Messiah, Marquette
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Missionary Sponsorship
Mission United, Pelkie
Trinity, Rhinelander
Immanuel, Negaunee
Bethany, Ishpeming
Messiah, Marquette
Trinity, Ishpeming
Bethel, Ishpeming

NGLS Endowment Fund
Jim and Martha Hayward
Ruth Warmanen
Ann Christiansen
Rev. Jim and Gisele Duehring

NGLS Leadership Support

NGLS Mission Outreach
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Bethany, Ishpeming
Anonymous Donation

NGLS Seminarian Support
Zion, Ironwood
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
United, Crystal Falls
Bethel, Ishpeming

NGLS Stewardship

Pastors Debt Reduction
Anonymous Donation

Skogman Scholarship
Dirk and Sue Manson
Richard and Evelyn Bjorklund
(in honor of Bishop Skoglund and Bishop Skrenes)
Rev. Jim and Laura Wendt

Skrenes Fund for Ministry
Larry Pagel
Rev. Thomas & Luanne Skrene
Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly 2019

Escanaba/Gladstone ELCA Churches and Bay Community College in Escanaba

Thursday, May 16 – Saturday, May 18, 2019

Come and check it out!!

• Experience a Synod Assembly Opening Worship Service!
  
  Opening Worship begins at 7 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church, Escanaba and is open to everyone so you need not be registered for assembly to attend worship. If you are interested in participating in the vocal choir, please contact Dave Dagenais at runeditor@gmail.com. If you are interested in participating in the bell choir, please contact Lucas Wickstrom at lucas@lucas.net.

  **Vocal Choir Rehearsals:**  
  Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. ET at Bethany, Ishpeming  
  Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. ET at Bethany, Escanaba

  **Bell Choir Rehearsal:**  
  Saturday, May 11, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bethany, Escanaba.

  All are also welcome to attend the **Holden Evening Prayer Service** at First, Gladstone on Friday, May 17, at 8:30 p.m.

• Meet Our ELCA Representative and our Keynote Speakers!

  **Victoria Flood**, Director - Mission Support at ELCA is our ELCA Representative and **Rev. Dwight Zscheile**, Vice President of Innovation and Associate Professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership at Luther Seminary, will be our Keynote speaker. Both will be offering workshop opportunities on Saturday.

• More Display Space and Time to Visit Displays!

  As you enter the Bessie Center of Bay College, you will have multiple opportunities to visit the displays along the wide entryway on your way to the Synod Assembly meeting in the Theater. Time has also been set aside for breaks to visit displays, enjoy refreshments, and use restrooms.

  **PLEASE NOTE:** We are only allowed to bring bottled water into the theater where the Synod Assembly meeting will be held (no other beverages or food). Coffee and Refreshments will be set up in several locations out in the hall.

• Enjoy the Banquet at Terrace Bay Inn!

  On Friday evening, we will be honoring our Clergy celebrating Ordination Anniversaries and/or Retirement and recognizing our Lay School Graduates at a banquet at the Terrace Bay Inn in Escanaba. When you register and pay for assembly, you will also have an opportunity to select your entrée for the banquet. Tickets can be purchased for the banquet by those who are not registered for assembly. Instructions for buying tickets will be available once the payment process for assembly is set up on the website.
• **Big Bear and Bread Basket Awards!** The World Hunger Committee presents the Big Bear Award to a Northern Great Lakes Synod *congregation* that has made an exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry. The Committee also presents the Bread Basket Award to an *individual* of a Northern Great Lakes Synod congregation that has made an exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry. Nomination forms for these awards are included in Notes and Quotes and are available on the website under Synod Assembly.

• **World Hunger Offering – Until All Have a Piece of the Pie**
The World Hunger Committee will be collecting an offering on Friday morning during the first Plenary. Check the flyer in the Notes and Quotes or go on the Synod’s website home page under Current Resources for ideas on events your congregation can do to raise money for this offering. Together, let’s **TAKE A BITE OUT OF HUNGER** and make a real impact with our **World Hunger Offering!**

• **Attend Workshops on Saturday Afternoon!**
*Something new this year...you do not need to be registered for assembly to attend workshops!* For a $5 fee, those who are not registered for assembly can attend the following workshops being offered on Saturday, May 18th following Synod Assembly. (The $5 workshop fee is included in the registration fee for assembly attendees.) **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL WORKSHOPS!**

Instructions will be available once the registration process is set up on the website.

- **The Blessings of Generosity – Victoria Flood, ELCA Rep**
  1:15-2:15 p.m. ET
  Learn where our Synod Mission Support money goes and how our partnership makes a difference.

- **Difficult Conversations – Rev. Tom Otis**
  1:15-2:15 p.m. ET
  In a polarized and anxious time, how do we as people of faith have productive and meaningful conversations about things that matter?

- **Updating Your Church’s Constitution – Rev. Doug Johnson**
  1:15-2:15 p.m. ET
  How to do it and why you should.

- **Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service**
  1:15-2:15 p.m. ET
  Learn what we do together to minister to immigrants and refugees.

- **Faithful Innovations – Rev. Dwight Zsheile**
  1:15-2:15 or 2:30-3:30 p.m. ET
  Reimagine church in light of today’s changing culture. Take this Spirit-led journey in which we are invited to engage the spiritual practices of listening, discerning, experimenting and reflecting.

- **Congregation Vitality – Rev. Jim Duehring**
  2:30-3:30 p.m. ET
  What is it, what it looks like, how to build it, why it matters.

- **Lutheran Theology 101 – Rev. Steve Gauger**
  2:30-3:30 p.m. ET
  What makes Lutheran Theology distinctive? What do we have to add to the conversation?

- **Prayer Beads - Rev. Terry Frankenstein**
  2:30-3:30 p.m. ET
  Another way to pray: Make a prayer bead necklace and learn a new discipline to enrich your prayer life. **For all attendees to this workshop,** there is an additional $22 fee to cover supplies.

• **Come be Equipped for Ministry!**
2019 Marked! Events

Confirmation Students and Leaders
celebrate your identity as baptized children of God
in our Lutheran expression!

Attend any event:

IT’S FREE!!

- **Sunday – March 10, 2019 at Our Savior’s, Marinette 4-7pm CT**
- **Sunday – March 17, 2019 at Our Redeemer, Newberry 4-7pm ET**
- **Sunday – March 31, 2019 at Faith, Calumet 4-7pm ET**
- **Sunday – April 7, 2019 at Ascension, Minocqua 4-7pm CT**

These events include music, worship, learning, food, fun and two service projects:

1) **Collect financial donations for Lutheran Disaster Response.** Join a friendly competition to see which church can raise the most financial donations (prorated by average worship attendance).

2) **Collect items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits.** Bring donated items along to your MARKED! Event and we’ll assemble the kits together.

CHALLENGE: Let’s make over 500 kits together!

Each kit needs:
- 1 light-weight bath-size towel (between 20” x 40” and 52” x 27”), dark color recommended
- 2 or 3 Bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapper (please, NO mini soap bars from hotels)
- 1 Adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 Sturdy comb
- 1 Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!
Together, let’s TAKE A BITE OUT OF HUNGER and make a real impact with our World Hunger Offerings!!

Some ideas to raise Hunger dollars in your congregation:

~Have a Pie Social
~Sell Pizza Pie
~Encourage folks to “Buy a piece of the pie”
~Have a Pie Eating Contest
~Sponsor a Pie Auction/Bake Sale for World Hunger
~Have a Bake-Off, Best Pie Wins
~Sponsor a Pie-Filling Drive
~Challenge everyone to donate at least $3.14
~Use Pie Tins for a Noisy Offering during Lent
~If challenges are met, give your pastor a Pie in the Face 😊
2019 Big Bear Award

The World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for the 2019 Big Bear Award which will be presented at the 2019 Synod Assembly. Please use the following guidelines to submit your nomination:

❖ Nominees must be a group (committee, task force, team, etc.) of a Northern Great Lakes Synod congregation that has made an exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry.

❖ Complete the information and return to the Northern Great Lakes Synod by March 25th.

Thank You!

Nomination Form

Name ____________________________________________

Committee, Task Force, Team, or other Group or Organization)

Congregation____________________________________

City/Town_______________________________________

Contact Person___________________________________

Phone___________________________________________

Email___________________________________________

Brief Description of Project or Accomplishment:

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Submitted by____________________________________

Congregation___________________________________

Phone___________________________________________

Email___________________________________________

Return to: Northern Great Lakes Synod
1029 North Third Street, Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855

Or, email the above information to kfinegan@nglsynod.org
The World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for the 2019 Bread Basket Award which will be presented at the 2019 Synod Assembly. Please use the following guidelines to submit your nomination:

- Nominees must be an individual of a Northern Great Lakes Synod congregation that has made an exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry.

- Complete the information and return to the Northern Great Lakes Synod by March 25th.

Thank You!
| 1 | Pray for **all clergy spouses, especially those attending the Clergy Spouse Retreat** in Iron Mountain today through February 3. |
| 2 | Pray for **pastors who celebrate birthdays this month**: Bob Langseth (2/03), Doug Norquist (2/10), Craig Mansur (2/12), Doug Schoen (2/14), and Don Ludemann (2/14). |
| 3 | As so many feast on this **Super Bowl Sunday**, pray that we will all be generous in our giving for Souper Bowl offerings and our support of local, national, and global hunger programs. |
| 4 | Pray for all our African American brothers and sisters as they celebrate their heritage during **African American History Month**. |
| 5 | On this **Chinese New Year’s Day**, we pray for the Christian Church in China and all Christians throughout the world. |
| 6 | Pray for the members of **Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Rohrersville, MD; Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD; Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Keymar, MD; and Myersville Parish, Myersville, MD.** |
| 7 | Pray for **pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month**: Kenneth Ranos (2/9), Steven Solberg (2/12), and Chrys Hendrick (2/14). |
| 8 | Pray for **church musicians, choirs, worship committees, and leaders** as they make plans for the Season of Lent and prepare for Holy Week and Easter. |
| 9 | Pray for **the poor in our neighborhoods and communities** – those who shiver in the cold outside because they are homeless or inside because they cannot afford to heat their homes, those who have to choose between food and medication, those who make terrible choices between necessities because they cannot afford all that they need. |
| 10 | Pray for **all the Rostered Leaders in our Synod**, especially those attending the Theological Leaders Event in Marquette today and tomorrow, and for the Rev. Dr. Craig Nessan as he travels to be with these leaders. |
| 11 | Pray for **homeless shelters and food pantries** as they care for those in need. |
| 12 | Pray for **all who participate in text studies** as they preach the Good News in congregations, schools, care facilities, and other settings around our Synod. |
| 13 | Pray for **pastors who celebrate birthdays this month**: Jim Wendt (2/15), Andrew Plocher (2/17), Les Niemi (2/25), and Wally Leno (2/27). |
| 14 | On this Valentine’s Day, **pray for all couples that their love will grow, pray also for those who are lonely, alone, and/or missing loved ones that they will find comfort and companionship.** |
| 15 | Pray for all those **families and individuals dealing with any of the various types of mental illness**. Pray also that all levels of government **will provide resources to keep patients safe and provide effective treatment for them**. |
| 16 | Pray for **Mission Interpreters** throughout our Synod and those who are being trained today at Zion Lutheran, Manistique. |
| 17 | For all those **families and children who are not getting enough to eat**. Raise up congregations and local programs to help them understand proper nutrition and provide them with nutritious meals. |
| 18 | On this President’s Day, **pray for our current president Donald Trump** – that he will lead our nation with compassion for all and work for equity and justice in our nation and in our world. |
| 19 | Pray for all our **ELCA Seminaries** and for all the seminary students. This month we lift up in prayer **Bill Wendorf** from our synod. |
| 20 | On this **World Day for Social Justice**, pray for all who have suffered injustice and oppression due to their identity, pray also for all who are advocates for those who have suffered at the hands of others and for those who work to change our social systems and government programs. |
| 21 | Pray for the members of **New Hope Lutheran Church, Columbia, MD; New Light Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, MD; and Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD.** |
| 22 | Pray for the members of **Mtoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their NGLS mission partner Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Marquette.** |
| 23 | Pray for **all those enjoying the outdoor winter activities** that make our Synod such a beautiful and special place to be even when it’s cold outside. |
| 24 | Pray for **our Companion Synod Committee** as they meet today at Bethel Lutheran, Ispeming – that we may strengthen our ties to our partners in ministry across the sea. |
| 25 | Pray for **our Synod Endowment Board** as they meet today at our Synod Office in Marquette – that they may see the needs in our communities and respond with wisdom and compassion. |
| 26 | Pray for **our Synod Staff** as they meet today at our Synod Office in Marquette – that they may be blessed by God in all they do and lead us as we spread God’s blessings throughout our Synod, Nation, and World. |
| 27 | Pray for **Bishop Katherine Finegan and all our ELCA bishops** as they meet at the Conference of Bishops today through March 5. May they feel God’s peace and presence as they work together across our church and our nation. |
| 28 | Pray for **artists who share their wonders with the world** – that we may all see God’s creative ways reflected in their gifts shared with us. |

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Tomorrow is Read Across America Day. Pray for <strong>all students who are learning to read and the teachers and librarians who work diligently to promote reading skills</strong>, and perhaps take a moment to write a prayer and read it with a young person in your life.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Mission Interpreters</strong> throughout our Synod and those who are being trained today at Bethany Lutheran, Norway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our pastors who celebrate birthdays this month</strong>: Julie Belew (3/03), and Tom Otis (3/09).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>police, firefighters, rescue workers, and EMTs</strong> who often have to risk their lives to keep the rest of us safe – may they have all of the support and equipment they need for their safety and their work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Severna Park, MD; Peace Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, MD; People's Community Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Rosedale, MD.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray a prayer of repentance for yourself and lift up all Christians as we reflect on our <strong>journey to the cross</strong> – may this Lenten pilgrimage help us to grow in our faith and our ability to live out God’s abiding love in our lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pray-ers</strong> ... all those who participate in prayer chains and prayer circles, who write devotions and read devotions, and to lift up others with their prayers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all our ELCA Seminaries and for all the seminary students</strong>. This month we especially lift up in prayer <strong>Pat Kempf</strong> from our synod.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all those in nursing homes, long-term care facilities, or who are home bound</strong> and for <strong>those who offer them care and assistance</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>youth throughout our Synod</strong>, especially those who are participating in the <strong>Marked! Event</strong> at Our Savior’s Lutheran, Marinette, today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>unemployed and underemployed</strong> – that they find resources to keep themselves and their families warm and well-fed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all who lead or participate in mid-week Lenten worships and other activities</strong> – that this journey leads them to greater faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Staff</strong> as they meet today at our Synod Office in Marquette – that they may be blessed by God in all they do and lead us as we spread God’s blessings throughout our Synod, Nation, and World.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>victims of bullying and violence</strong>, whether that is physical, emotional, or verbal in nature. Pray for <strong>enlightenment of the bullies</strong> that they may truly see and understand the harm they are inflicting and change their ways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Reformation Lutheran Church, Milford, DE; Saints Stephen and James Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Salem Lutheran Church (Battery Ave), Baltimore, MD; and Salem Lutheran Church (Catonsville), Baltimore, MD.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>For all who are tired of winter and long for green, growing things and the smells of springtime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>youth throughout our Synod</strong>, especially those who are participating in the <strong>Marked! Event</strong> at Our Redeemer Lutheran, Newberry, today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all individuals and congregations who are searching for ways to bring Jesus into the lives of the unchurched</strong> in their communities – that the Holy Spirit will enlighten and empower them in all that they do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month</strong>: Christina Forsythe (3/19).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our pastors who celebrate their birthdays this month</strong>: Doug Buck (3/24), Allan Johnson (3/25) and Scott Ehle (3/25).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Council members</strong> as they travel for the Council meeting that takes place at Bethlehem Lutheran, Florence, on March 22-23.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>On this <strong>World Water Day</strong>, pray for <strong>sustainable sources of clean drinking water</strong> for all people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all who are addicted to drugs or alcohol</strong>; may they find hope and help to overcome their dependency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for Kijichi Lutheran Church, <strong>Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong>, and their NGLS <strong>mission partner First Lutheran Church, Gladstone</strong> (Pastor Tom Otis).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Jim Duehring and all who are gathering in Chicago</strong> for an All Staff meeting today through March 27 – may they have safe travels and productive discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all women, men, and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse.</strong> May they receive the help they need to leave their abusive relationships and break the pattern of violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for all the <strong>Christian men and women</strong> across our synod who <strong>give their time, energy, and resources</strong> to their congregations, the NGLS, and charitable organizations everywhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Staff</strong> as they meet today at our Synod Office in Marquette – that they may be led by the Holy Spirit and know God’s power and presence as they plan and coordinate the many ministries that happen through God’s people here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all who participate in Building Vitality Retreats</strong> throughout our Synod.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>those with macular degeneration and visual impairments</strong>, keep them safe and provide them with treatments and caregivers to help them navigate in the midst of a sight-biased world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>youth throughout our Synod</strong>, especially those who are participating in the <strong>Marked! Event</strong> at Faith Lutheran, Calumet, today.</td>
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