



**NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Marquette, Michigan

[ngls@nglsynod.org](mailto:ngls@nglsynod.org)

**E-Notes for January 15,  
2016**

## The Season of Epiphany

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"The words of the sermon will invite the hearers to come, to be carried, to be bathed, to be fed, to eat, to drink, to enter, to see, to trust, to be healed, to be raised, to follow--all of which are rich biblical metaphors for faith." -Gordon Lathrop "The Pastor"*



### **Have You Ever Thought about Being a Pastor?**

The harvest needs workers! As dedicated and faithful lay leaders and pastors -- you are the right person to be asking excellent young members of your congregation this question, "Have you ever thought about being a pastor?" Or perhaps your questions could be, "Is God calling you to a life of service as a pastor in the Church?"

Our synod has 82 congregations and in these places God has appointed people of faith and excellence to serve as our pastors. Who will God call to be our pastors in the years ahead? Look around you on Sunday morning. Who seems to have the gifts and skills to be an effective pastoral leader? Pray for that person and ask them to consider ministry. As bishop of our Synod, I would love to talk to this young person about being a pastor. Pastor Katherine Finegan and I

are available to you to assist identifying these people of promise in our congregations. Call us and let's talk about God's work!

## **The I.R.S. Has Lowered the Mileage Reimbursement for 2016**

**In 2016, the reimbursement rate allowed by the I.R.S. is 54 cents per mile, down from 57.5 cents per mile in 2015.**

**Please share this information with your congregational financial leadership!**

## **PROFESSIONAL LEADERS EVENT**

**Synod Sponsored Theological Conference**

**Sunday, February 21st & Monday, February 22nd**

at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp  
138 Fortune Lake Camp Road  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

**Starts on Sunday with Registration at 5:00 p.m.  
Ends on Monday after Sending Prayer at 2:00 p.m.**

**Our presenter will be Dr. Hank Langknecht, Homiletics Professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.**

**For more information and to download the register form, go to [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).**



## **CLERGY SPOUSE CONFERENCE**

**February 5-7, 2016**

The Annual Clergy Spouse Conference is scheduled for February 5-7, 2016 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin. Rachel Kurta and Pastor Tracy Delzin will lead the

Rachel Kurtz and Pastor Tracy Polzin will lead the program. More information is available at [nglsynod.org](http://nglsynod.org).



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.....

## An Adventure for Youth to Travel to Tanzania.

+ A youth trip (16+ years old) is being planned to visit Tanzania in the summer of 2017. See the Synod's website for more information. This could be a very exciting experience!

### **Congregational Parochial Reports (Forms A & C)**

Congregations should have received their Form A & C from the ELCA by now. They are also available on the ELCA's website at this link: <https://webapps.elca.org/FormAAndC/Login.aspx>. You will need to contact the Synod Office for your password and

will need to contact the Synod Office for your password and congregation's ELCA number. Reports can be submitted directly to the ELCA by filling them out online and the Synod can download them from their. Or you mail fill it out by hand and mail it into the Synod Office to be submitted.

**The deadline is February 20, 2016!!**

## **TANZANIA PRESENTATION FOR OUR CONGREGATIONS**

Luanne Skrenes is willing to visit your congregation or conference/cluster area in 2016 to do 45-90 minute programs on the Companion Synod work of our synod in Tanzania. Her presentation can be tailored to your specific needs. She is available to speak on the Dental Clinic, Mkuza Girls School, Kisarawe School and the whole companion relationship that has enriched our synod work for nearly the past 25 years. Our congregations need to hear of the good ministries that are being done by the people of our congregations and the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The only honorarium needed is an offering for our work together in Tanzania and some mileage.

Please contact Luanne at **906.485.5121 or 906.869.6796.**

## **ROSTERED LEADERS REPORT TO THE BISHOP**

Every rostered leader is expected to submit a report to the Synodical Bishop every year. The reports can be found on the ELCA website or by clicking the following links:

### **Clergy Under Call from a Congregation:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Ordained\\_Minister\\_Under\\_Call\\_Fom\\_A\\_Congregation.pdf?](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_Under_Call_Fom_A_Congregation.pdf?)

[\\_ga=1.147968880.675730411.1361995271](#)

### **Clergy On Leave or Disability:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Ordained\\_Minister\\_Not\\_Under\\_Call.pdf?\\_ga=1.190152172.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_Not_Under_Call.pdf?_ga=1.190152172.675730411.1361995271)

### **Clergy Retired:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Ordained\\_Minister\\_Retired.pdf?\\_ga=1.186257902.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_Retired.pdf?_ga=1.186257902.675730411.1361995271)

### **Clergy Under Call Synod Council:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Ordained\\_Minister\\_From\\_Synod\\_Council\\_Church\\_Council\\_Under\\_Call.pdf?\\_ga=1.146551667.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_From_Synod_Council_Church_Council_Under_Call.pdf?_ga=1.146551667.675730411.1361995271)

### **A.I.M.s & Licensed Lay Ministers Under Call from a Congregation:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Lay\\_Under\\_Call\\_From\\_A\\_Congregation.pdf?\\_ga=1.176873314.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Lay_Under_Call_From_A_Congregation.pdf?_ga=1.176873314.675730411.1361995271)

### **A.I.M.s Retired:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Lay\\_Retired.pdf?\\_ga=1.184277601.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Lay_Retired.pdf?_ga=1.184277601.675730411.1361995271)

You should be able to fill in the form online, save it to your computer, then attach it to an email to the Synod Bishop ([tskrenes@nglsynod.org](mailto:tskrenes@nglsynod.org)) or Synod Office ([ngls@nglsynod.org](mailto:ngls@nglsynod.org)). If you are not able to fill it out online, please print it out and fill it in by hand, then mail it to the Synod Office.

Call the office at 906/228-2300 if you have any questions.

## **Would you like to be in a commercial?**

The Worship, Witness, Welcome Task Force is in the process of developing an advertising





developing an advertising campaign that celebrates the blessings of the community of faith, and more specifically, ELCA Lutheran congregations. We are looking for “actors” of every age group who are willing to speak to a camera and say one line (that is scripted J).



If you are interested, please contact Pastor Katherine Finegan at [kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org).

Also, if you would like to financially support this new and ground breaking effort, your gifts would be appreciated. So far Immanuel, Negaunee and First, Gladstone have dedicated a portion of their 2016 Endowment disbursements to this effort. Gifts from congregations and individuals are welcome!



### **Nurturing Faith that Sticks**

**Two are scheduled so far:**

**~Saturday, January 16  
at Bethany, Escanaba  
8:30 a.m. - Noon**

**~Saturday, February 13  
at Bethel, Ishpeming  
8:30 a.m. - Noon**

- A workshop event to equip Adult Volunteers and Staff who work with Youth, Parents, Pastors, Grandparents, Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation, Small Group Leaders, and more.
- We all want to pass on the faith to the next generation.
- Come learn some skills, attitudes, and practices to help that happen more effectively.

Please register by sending \$5.00 along with your name, church, email and phone to the Synod Office.

If you would like this event to come to your conference, please contact Pastor Katherine Finegan at [kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org).

*Sponsored by the Synod Youth Task Force*





## **Luther Land Tour** **Coming September 19-28, 2016!!!**

**Pastor Katherine Finegan and her husband, Dave, will be leading a Ten Day Fall Tour in the steps of Martin Luther.**

**Sponsored through “Faith Journeys”, hotel, breakfasts and dinners, program and guide, bus and airfare will all be included in the cost.**

**Save the dates in your calendar today!  
The itinerary and more details are available  
online at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org). Your congregation  
also received material in the last Synod mailing.  
Contact Rev. Katherine Finegan at [kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org) with  
any questions.**

**Join the Tour! Walk in the steps of Martin Luther.**

**Registrations received until May of 2016.**

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**Check out [www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org)  
for weekly “**Breath Prayer**”  
and **Daily Devotions**.  
The synod website is [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)**

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Thinking ahead to

## **MARKED!**

4:00 – 7:00pm local time.

Includes worship, learning, fun and food!!

**Feb. 28:** Holy Trinity, Chassell

**March 6:** Prince of Peace, Eagle River

**March 13:** Immanuel, Escanaba

Marked! is a Synod sponsored event to gather in NGLS Confirmation students. This year, we are collecting school supplies for LWR School Kits and local schools. Many of the below items are on sale NOW. If your congregation is collecting for the fall, please keep MARKED in mind, and buy extra.

### **Items needed for LWR School Kits:**

70-sheet notebooks of wide or College ruled X 4

30 centimeter ruler X 1

Pencil sharpener X 1

Blunt scissor X 1

#2 unsharpened pencils X 5

Black/blue ball point pens (no gel pens) X 5

Box of 16 or 24 crayons X 1

2 inch Pencil eraser X 1

Drawstring school bag Pattern available



Drawing school bag. Pattern available  
at [www.lwr.org/schoolkits](http://www.lwr.org/schoolkits)

### **Items suggested for local schools:**

Hand sanitizer  
Boxes of tissues  
Clorox wipes  
Folders  
Pens/pencils  
Erasers  
Stickers  
Granola bars

Your congregation received a letter with all the details. If you cannot find that letter, call the Synod Office and we'll send you another one, or find it on our website at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).

Thank you for your support of this embodiment of walking together as a Synod!

## **Sneaky Visitor Initiative**

**Similar to a Mystery Shopper or an Undercover Boss,  
you are invited to visit another congregation,  
preferably where no one knows you  
(including the distant cousin and the aunt four times removed),  
and evaluate that congregation on their welcome,  
their worship, their witness, and their building.**

**Evaluation forms are available at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).  
Simply go to anyNGLS congregation, and after your visit  
(*please do not fill out the form during the visit*),  
send the completed forms in to the Synod Office  
(*either electronically or through the mail*).**

**The form with your feedback  
will be sent on to the congregation,  
and the fact that you sent it (that is, your identity)  
will remain in confidence at the Synod Office.**

**Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee**



Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA



Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA

## **LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER**

+For refugees, immigrants and those who are persecuted for their politics, religion or race.

+For the men and women of the United States Armed Services in harm's way. "Bless the peacemakers and teach us to make war no more."

+For our congregations and their annual meetings soon to be held in most of our churches. May they be full of ministry and mission discovery!

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*E-Notes* is a twice monthly electronic newsletter from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- **Thomas A. Skrenes**

**Bishop**