



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

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for November 30, 2016

The Season of Advent

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“You know what time it is” (Romans 13: 11)

The cycle of the church year orders our time in Christian community around the central mystery of our faith: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our experience of this mystery, however, is not linear – a simple narrative path from beginning to end. Our lives are full of endings and beginnings happening all at once, interspersed with waiting, lament, and hope.

~Sundays and Seasons, Preaching Year A 2017

Task Force on an Inclusive and Welcoming Church

The newly created Task Force on an Inclusive and Welcoming Church met for the first time in November at the NGLS office. The group of clergy and lay people from throughout the synod are working together to provide resources that facilitate conversations about how we welcome and include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people in our faith communities.

The Task Force is still formulating specific goals, but has drafted an initial purpose statement. “The purpose of the Task Force is to create or identify resources, including people, that will be made available to congregations, synodical bodies, or individuals who are engaged in conversations about being an inclusive and welcoming church, specifically to LGBTQ people. The consistent end goal of all these resources is to strengthen the unity of Christ’s Church.”

Coming to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp...

January 13-16: Winter Wonderland Retreat
February 17-19: Jr and Sr High Retreat with Agape!
February 28-29: Congregational Leadership Intensive
March 3-4: Financial Peace Retreat
March 17-18: Upper Elementary Retreat
April 28-30: Adoptive Family Retreat

For more information about any of these great opportunities, go to www.fortunelake.org



BISHOP’S OFFICE TRANSITION TEAM NAMED

The Synod Council has formed a Transition Team that will work over the next year as our synod elects a new bishop. Their responsibility will be to make recommendations to the synod council on the election process for the new bishop, help the synod appropriately recognize the ministry of Bishop Skrenes, work with the Bishop-elect on the transition and to help

plan the installation service for the new bishop.

Members of the Transition Team are:

Pastor Doug Johnson, Chair
Pam Long, Synod Vice President
Larry Pagel, Synod Treasurer
Rick Pink, Synod Council
Barb Maines, Synod Council
Bill Weis, Synod Council
Pastor Mike Laakko, Synod Council
Pauline Kiltinen, former Synod Vice President
Pastor Ellie Russey, Retired Pastor
Pastor Peter Vorhes, former Synod Council
Bishop Thomas Skrenes, non-voting adviser

By the end of November, more information will be sent to the congregations of the synod concerning the Task Force and their ministry. In the meantime, please pray that God's Holy Spirit will inform and encourage all of us.



The Campaign for the ELCA.

The Always Being Made New Campaign
in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

A letter has been sent to Pastors, Council Presidents,

and has been included in the most recent Congregational mailing.
If your church has not already done so, consider making an offering towards next year's grant cycle to benefit congregational efforts to address hunger and poverty in their communities.

Your donation must be received in the Synod office by February 28, 2017.

Even if your congregation doesn't have a pantry, a backpack program, a clothes closet, a community meal, or some other ministry to address hunger, you have the opportunity to make a difference to a sister congregation that does.

Congratulations to the following congregations

who received Barrier Free Grants:

Bethany, Ishpeming for automatic doors

First, Trenary for handicapped accessible pavement

Siloa, Ontonagon for a Superglide chair and widening the staircase

Holy Trinity, Chassell for improvements to their outdoor worship space

Please be generous! Funds raised in 2016 will be split evenly between ELCA World Hunger and grants made available to support local NGLS efforts to address hunger and poverty.

Let us join together to do God's work on a scale and scope that we could never do within our individual congregations.

MARKED!

Sunday, February 26, 2017 at Eden, Munising

Sunday, March 5, 2017 at First, Iron River

Please note the date changes!

Make plans now to attend

31st Annual Congregational Meeting

with your Confirmation Youth,
and to collect Health Kit and Love Bundle
supplies in your congregation.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+For our nation as we transition to new leadership, for President Barack Obama and President-elect Donald Trump.

+For those preparing children to lead worship and proclaim the wonder of Christmas to their congregations.

+For those for whom the Christmas season adds to their burden of grief and sadness. May they be comforted.

+We give thanks for the presence of Christ among us and in us. May we bear that presence to neighbors and friends and invite others into a relationship with Jesus and be blessed by the community of faith.

LOOKING AHEAD

Congregational Leaders Intensive

February 24-25, 2017

at Fortune Lake Camp



Crystal Falls, MI

**Effective leadership is important!
Be equipped, learn new skills, deepen
your understanding of what effective
congregational leadership looks like.**

**Featuring Mike Rehak with tools to
enrich your ability to lead.**

**Request a Thrivent Action Grant to
help with expenses.**

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org
for weekly **"Breath Prayer"**
and **Daily Devotions**.
The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

**News for Pastors
and Congregational Leaders**

REGISTER TODAY

LSS SUNDAY | March 5, 2017



Register online today at
www.lsswis.org/LSS-Sunday-registration.

CELEBRATE THE MISSION THAT CHANGES PEOPLE'S LIVES!

Join with congregations all across Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to share how your congregation's ministry through LSS is changing lives each and every day.

Our work is rewarding and humbling, and in that humility we ask that you:

- Designate the first Sunday in March as LSS Sunday at your congregation (or another date of your choice).
- Request an LSS staff speaker (as available).
- Confirm your participation and let us know how many offering envelopes we should mail to you.

Thank you for being a partner in our ministry.
If you have questions, please contact Pastor
Jim Holmberg at 414.325.3069 or
james.holmberg@lsswis.org.



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