

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

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for September 30, 2014

PENTECOST SEASON

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

*“Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.*

*Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!”*

–ELW #526, God is Here, vs. 4

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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

!!! COLLECT YOUR QUARTERS !!!

**Did you know that every year a
Quarter Offering is taken
at Synod Assembly for World
Hunger?**

YES IT'S TRUE!!!!

**This year our goal is 100%
participation.**

Even with not every church giving, we raise upwards of \$10,000 every year. Imagine what we could do if every congregation of the NGLS participates!

Start collecting loose change NOW.

Put a jar out, a basket, a piggy bank, and let the coins pile up. Let's make an intentional effort to let our loose change make a difference.

Synod Assembly will be at Finlandia University in Hancock

May 15-17, 2015

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Coming February 8-9, 2015 at Fortune Lake
Lutheran Camp**

**The Theological Conference for Rostered
Leaders:**

**Featuring our Keynote Speaker, the
Reverend Doctor Craig Satterlee,
former professor at Lutheran School of
Theology, Chicago and
current bishop of the Northwest Lower
Michigan Synod.**

**FROM THE BISHOP---ON STEWARDSHIP
2014-2015**

“When I was a young pastor I was telling a wise old aunt of mine

about a funeral I had done for a faithful man in my parish. After a minute or so she said this. “Just remember Tom, you cannot carry any one on your shoulders into heaven.” I have preached at hundred fifty funerals in my ministry and have often thought of what Aunt Esther told me. She understood the disciples question, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

Who is responsible for your stewardship **work** in the congregation? That answer is clear—we all are. A special responsibility falls upon the leaders of the Congregation Council, the Stewardship Committee, and the pastor. But who is really responsible for the **success** of our stewardship work. You, my friend, are not! It is on God’s shoulders!

Many years ago a neighboring pastor reminded me that in the work of God’s Church we can only “guarantee our commitment and our work. We can never guarantee the outcome. That is God the Holy Spirit’s job. To think we can always demand successful results of our work is sinful.”

I have long said that we in the congregations should think about Stewardship Ministry in the same way we think of Christian Education. It is necessary and important and must be done every year. For us the only question we ever have about Christian

Education is “how” we will do it this year—not “if” we will have it this year. The same with stewardship work—not “if” but “how.” And like Sunday School, some years our Stewardship Ministry accomplishes more than others.

So keep at it, but remember that you cannot save yourself and you are not responsible for the success of the efforts of time, talent and treasure in the congregation. Work hard but the results are up to God. Put the results on God’s shoulders.”

GOALS OF OUR SYNOD STEWARDSHIP WORK— OUR PARTNERSHIP

Our synod goal is to encourage growth in unrestricted mission support from the congregations to the synod and Churchwide ELCA.

- a. Every congregation encouraged to grow to and exceed 15% of income to synod and Churchwide ELCA mission support.**
- b. Develop Planned Giving and grow the Synod Endowment Fund**
- c. Encourage giving to the ELCA Hunger Fund**

Global Ministries

Take a virtual journey to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania this fall!

Come along with six ELCA travelers Sept. 25-Oct. 10 to learn about exciting new Global Ministries that are priorities of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Sign up to receive blog stories and photos through “Stories of the Global Church” at <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/handInHand/>.

BOUNDARIES WORKSHOP FOR ROSTERED LEADERS

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. local time

Call the Synod Office to register today

for one of two events:

Monday, October 27 at Fortune Lake
Lutheran Camp

Wednesday, October 29 at Our
Redeemer, Newberry

FORTUNE LAKE NEWS

FALL FEST: Saturday, October
4th.

Viewing begins at 9:30am CT.

Quilt Auction at 11:00am.

Buffet Brunch 9:30 - 11:00am.

Craft & Bakery Sale.
Kid's Activities.

*All Northern Great Lakes
Synod Women are invited to
attend the Gathering in their
Conference!*

In case you didn't know, every church is in a conference, and every conference is encouraged by the Synod Women's Organization to sponsor a "Cluster Meeting", either once or twice a year. These Cluster Meetings or Gatherings are for church women, the young and young at heart, to gather in fellowship with each other. The sponsoring congregation plans the program and hosts a light luncheon. A brief worship or Bible Study and an offering are also usually a part of the afternoon. Come and partner in ministry with your sisters in Christ, not only in your own congregation, but with your neighboring churches.

We can do so much more together than we can on our own...and
it's just more fun!

Also, a big Thank You for all the offerings already collected that will benefit the Mkuza Girls' School. Your generosity will be deeply appreciated as funds raised will go to outfit their science laboratory, and hopefully we will raise enough to purchase book shelves for the library. If your conference has yet to take an offering for the Mkuza Girls' School, please consider doing so. For more info, contact Pastor Katherine Finegan at the Synod Office.

Conference Meetings

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is divided into 8 Conferences. Every autumn, pastors and congregational representatives meet to have necessary elections, discuss joint ministry efforts, and address concerns unique to their geographic area.

A representative from the Synod also attends to keep each conference aware of Synod concerns, updates, and Synod-wide ministry efforts. Each congregation makes arrangements to send their pastor and at least two congregation members. Please review the following

Conference Meetings. If you are interested in attending, let your pastor know.

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|--|---------|
| Conference 1 – IGO | October |
| 19 3:00pm CT at St. Paul, Ironwood | |
| Conference 2 – Copper Country | October |
| 5 2:30pm ET at Finlandia Chapel, Hancock | |
| Conference 3 – Headwaters | October |
| 26 2:00pm CT at Pioneer Lake, Conover | |
| Conference 4 – Four Rivers | October |
| 12 3:00pm CT at First, Iron River | |
| Conference 5 – Menominee Valley | October |
| 23 5:00pm CT at Northland Village | |
| Conference 6 – Delta | October |
| 12 4:00pm ET at Calvary, Rapid River | |
| Conference 7 – Three Lakes | October |
| 5 4:00pm ET at St. James, Rudyard | |
| Conference 8 – Superior Central | October |
| 19 3:00pm ET at Immanuel, Negaunee | |

Every pastor is expected to attend, along with at least two congregation members.

Festival of Congregational Renewal

Coming October 10 – 11, 2014
at Messiah, Marquette

REGISTER BY FRIDAY OCT. 3

Only \$10 a person or \$50 per congregation.

Bring a team of folks and attend as many workshops as possible.

Confirmed Workshops to be offered:

- ~**Release Time:** Pastor Kevin Kaiser and Pastor Mike Laakko
Students are “released” from school for a time of Christian Education, snacks, music, and more.
Come hear how these youth programs are working in Republic and Crystal Falls.
- ~**Mid-Week Sunday School:** Featuring Mary Hansen (Kid’s Club from Ironwood) and Rev. Bonny Kinnunen (CREW from Iron River.)
Different than Release Time, some churches have chosen to move their Sunday school to a mid-week time.
Come learn what this change means for programming possibilities and community outreach.
- ~**CORE:** Rev. Chris Johnson and Rev. Dave Johnson
This organization seeks to be a positive reforming influence in the ELCA.
Come hear about their efforts.
- ~**World Hunger:** the Synod Hunger Committee
For Congregational Hunger Representatives and all those interested in

beginning

or building their church's World Hunger involvement.

~**Prison Ministries:** Pastor Jim Duehring and Dave Blomquist.

Come learn what the possibilities are for ministry in our prisons.

~**Banner Making:** Rev. Chrys Levesque Hendrick

Learn one process for the visioning and creating of banners that enrich your worship space.

~**Bible Study:** Pastor Allan Johnson

We will soon begin the Year of Mark. Come get an overview of this unique and fascinating gospel.

~**Without Vision the People Perish:** Lutheran Campus Minister Lisa Johnson.

What vision does your congregation have for its purpose? Its mission?

How is such a thing discerned and clarified?

Come learn about tools and steps you can take to discover your congregation's mission.

~**Constitutional Review:** Rev. Doug Johnson

How out of date is your Constitution? What is the process for amending it? Where is a church to begin?

Come have all your constitution questions answered, and learn why this document is so important.

~**The Great Commission Agenda for Councils:** Rev. Matt Lamb

The Church Council has an important role for leadership in the church, and congregational renewal is a part of that.

Come hear one method for equipping and training councils to effectively lead their congregations with purpose.

~**Advocacy:** Rev. Cindy Crane of Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin.

Public policy can have a profound impact on people struggling with poverty and housing insecurity.

Learn what it means to be an advocate and what are the hunger issues facing people in the U.P. and Northern Wisconsin,

~**Poverty Simulation:** Rev. Mary Beth Kovanen and the Hunger Committee

What does chronic poverty and hunger feel like? How would you cope with powerlessness?

What if you had been born in a system that works against your efforts to improve?

Come get a small taste of what so many people experience every day.

~**Reconciled in Christ:** Ruth Almen

What does it mean to be a “Reconciled in Christ” congregation? What is the process?

Hear from two congregations in our synod which are offering intentional and public welcome to people who consider themselves LGTB.

~**Rise Up Detroit:** Rev. Katherine Finegan

Explore the possibilities, Learn about the event, Partner with other churches.

~**Leading Worship BECAUSE It Matters:** Come hear from our own Rev. Melinda Quivik who has so much to offer and teach when it comes to the importance of meaningful liturgy, the involvement of the laity in worship leadership and planning, and practical steps to enrich worship and reach for excellence in the worship experience.

~**Screen Time:** Rev. Keith Kolstad and Rev. Jim Duehring. Come hear from congregations in our synod

which are using screens to enrich worship and not distract from it. Find out how screens can be tastefully

added to the worship space and provide yet another dimension to the worship service.

~**Social Media:** Rev. Erik Heskin. Does our church really need to be online? (YES!)

What is the best way to do this? Webpage? Facebook “Group”? Facebook “Page”? What about photos? Privacy concerns? What are the best practices? Come hear all about it.

~**Newsletters and Bulletins:** Rev. Katherine Finegan

What makes for a user-friendly bulletin?

How do we look at things from a visitor’s perspective? What makes for a readable and engaging newsletter?

Come learn some tips and share your own best practices.

~**Matthew 28 in Action:** LLM Linda Forray, Rev. Marcia Solberg, and Ray Miller

We know we’re supposed to be “making disciples,” but what exactly does that look like? What can people do, as a congregation and individuals, to put the Great Commission into action?

What is missional ministry and how can it renew the congregation?

~**Choir Mechanics – Singing and Directing:** Dave Dagenais

Come learn some tips for how to get the most out of your voice, fine tune directing skills, share music resources, and learn an anthem for our closing worship.

Start recruiting your congregational team now! To register, BY FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, go to www.nglsynod.org, scroll down to Worship, Witness, Welcome: Festival of Congregational Renewal, and click on the link. You will be asked to choose four workshops so we have some idea of what workshops need more space. Final workshop registration will be at the Festival.

Friday October 10

on	6:30pm	Registrati
	7:00pm	Festival
Opening Worship	8:00pm	Welcome
	8:30pm	Receptio
n		

Saturday October 11, 2014

Registration	8:30am	Coffee &
ps	9:00am	Worksho

ps	12 noon	Lunch
	1:00pm	Worksho
prayer	3:00pm	Closing

Register by October 3rd

at www.nglsynod.org and be prepared to use paypal or download the registration form and send it along with a check to the Synod Office.

Hotel accommodations on your own.

If you are a World Hunger congregational representative, please fill out and return the registration form which you received in the mail to the Synod Office.

If you are interested in hosting a workshop or a display table, please call the Synod Office.

**Mark your calendars for
2015**

MARKED!

4:00 – 7:00pm local time.

Sunday March

1: Prince of Peace,
Harvey

Sunday March

8: Zion, Ironwood

Sunday March

15: Northland Village,
Marinette

MARKED! is a Synod sponsored event for all NGLS Confirmation Students. Every congregation is asked to attend a MARKED! event at least once every two years, every year

if distance allows. Pastors and leaders bring their Confirmation youth for an afternoon of service, learning, music, and fun. Supper is included in this FREE event.

Like last year, every NGLS congregation will be asked to participate by collecting items. This year it will be all about BABIES! Baby kits for LWR and Baby Bundles for shelters and food shelves will be assembled. Your congregation will receive a letter soon detailing how many of each item we need from your church. Any questions, please call the Synod Office.

Rise Up Together: Detroit 2015

Plans are well underway for the Youth
Gathering in Detroit
July 15-19, 2015.

Your church should have received a poster and a DVD. Please use these materials to generate enthusiasm and commitment among your leaders and young people.

Some dates to remember:

TODAY: Registration soft opening. Leaders may enter data.

October 15: Website goes live. Primary leaders can submit registrations.

January 15, 2015: Registration fee increases \$50, from \$325 to \$375.

Places to find more information:

www.gatheringleaks.com

www.elca.org/gathering

Facebook page ELCA Youth Gathering

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=285650866539>.

If your church is interested in riding a Synod Bus to the Gathering (leave on Tuesday July 14, return Sunday July 19, 2015) please call the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 or email Rev. Katherine Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org. She is the NGLS Gathering Synod Coordinator and Synod Day Director. If she doesn't know the answer to your question, she'll direct you to someone who will. The cost of the bus will be split between those who ride it. The Synod will provide T-shirts for all NGLS participants for our Synod Day. It's all very exciting!!! Don't miss this incredible opportunity for a faith-deepening, group building, justice proclaiming, fellowship gushing and love overflowing event!

Start saving for your congregation's trip to the 2015 Youth Gathering

Have you started saving for your congregation's youth to attend the ELCA's Youth Gathering next summer in Detroit? Consider registration fees, transportation, lodging

and meals.

The Mission Investment Fund, the financial ministry of the ELCA, offers a special **Demand Investment Youth Ministry account**. With this account, you earn interest on your fundraising dollars—and have the flexibility and convenience of writing checks as expenses occur. Your congregation can open an MIF Demand Investment Youth Ministry account for as little as \$100, and your funds will be available to you when you need them.

The Mission Investment Fund will also host an onsite Service Center at the Gathering, July 15-19, 2015. Authorized account holders will be able to conveniently cash checks on their MIF Demand accounts at this Service Center at the youth event.

July 2015 is closer than you think. Visit <http://www.mif.elca.org/youthministry> for more information and to download a Demand Investment Youth Ministry account application. For information on MIF investments and ministry loans, contact MIF Customer Service at 877-886-3522 or your MIF Regional Manager LuAnn Ferguson, at (651-900-3575), luann.ferguson@elca.org.

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**Mark your calendars
for Youth Ministry Events at
Fortune Lake!
October 17-
19 Junior High**

Retreat

October 31 - November

2 Senior High Gathering

Go to www.fortunelake.org for more info
and registration.

The easiest Youth Ministry event you'll
never have to plan.

Just come!....and bring your youth!!!

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org for weekly
“Breath Prayer” and Daily Devotions.

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

Rostered Leaders in first

Three Years of Call: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2014 FCTE (First Call Theological Education) Fall Event will be held November 9-12 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon Wisconsin.

Please reserve these dates now, and watch for detailed information to arrive during the early part of September.

First Call Theological Education cares about your transition to rostered leadership. The ELCA is committed to providing a three-year structured program of theological education and involvement in colleague groups, all designed to assist you as newly rostered leaders in the transition to public (rostered) ministry. As a whole church we want to surround you with resources, while still giving you the freedom to determine your unique situation.

This year, part of the time spent together will be adding your personal input to be used by the ELCA's Theological Education Advisory Council. This council plans to address in a holistic way issues on theological education, leadership development, candidacy, call, and rostered leaders.

Please note: if you would like to assist with any of our worship opportunities, please contact Linda Rozumalski at 715-472-4895 or rozumalskili@gmail.com

See you in November!

Sheri Jackson, First Call Planning Committee

**Go to “The Northern Great Lakes
Synod” page
and “like” us. 😊**

TRANSITIONS

+Blessings to Pastor Kevin Kaiser of Bethany, Republic, and his bride, Steffany Martii as they were united in marriage on September 27.

LIFTING UP TO GOD I

N PRAYER

* We keep in our prayers Eunice Keljo widow of Pastor Karlo Keljo who used to serve at Bethel, Ishpeming. Eunice fell and broke her hip. May God grant her healing and restore her health.

*We pray for all congregations in the call process. May God raise up and call effective leaders to partner in ministry with our congregations.

*We lift up all places of violence and warfare. For those who live, and serve in harm's way. Bless the peacemakers!

*All those suffering from the Ebola virus and all those struggling to tend to the needs of the sick. We pray for effective treatment and a stem to the spread of the illness.

*For our congregations who are planning on an emphasis on life-giving Stewardship this fall. May we be blessed by generous giving.

+Rev. Katherine Finegan

Assistant to the Bishop

Rev. Katherine Finegan

Assistant to the Bishop

Northern Great Lakes Synod

906-228-2300