

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

npls@nplsynod.org

E-Notes for December 2, 2014

The Season of Advent

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

Question: “What is the key to church revitalization?”

Answer: “No one has the key.”

Why such an evasive answer? Because no one, universal key opens church revitalization for each and every

church. Doing church revitalization is more like putting together a good recipe.

One must bring together the correct ingredients, mix them carefully and well, and allow the warmth of God's Spirit, love, and grace to bake it.

Much like human beings, churches are all the same, and are all unique.

We can bring some basics to the table that will help revitalize any church.

But it is a recipe for disaster to fail to understand that your church is unique and must be dealt with while taking into consideration its unique characteristics.

~Renew Your Congregation: Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead by William T McConnell

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

Festival 2015

The Festival of Congregational
Renewal is
coming October 16 – 17, 2015 at
Ascension Lutheran,
Minocqua, Wi.

Plan on meaningful worship,
interesting workshops, riveting
discussion,
and a boatload of ideas to bring

**back to your congregations.
Mark your calendars now to avoid
future conflicts.**

PASSION FOR SOCIAL MINISTRY— RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Lutherans have had a passion for social ministry. This month is a great time to remember the least of our brothers and sisters in our communities. What is your congregation doing this month to respond to human need in your town?

Today Lutherans in the United States have a huge system of social ministry networks. Counseling services, adoption, nursing homes, ministry with developmentally disabled, substance abuse, medical and psychiatric hospitals, and advocacy for those on society's margins are the work of hundreds of Lutheran based organizations across the United States. In our synod, our congregations participate in food banks, make quilts for domestic and world wide relief, provide ministry in nursing homes and hospitals. God continues to bless the stewardship of our people and

housands of hours of volunteer work and thousands of dollars of offerings are used to serve the people living in the Upper Peninsula and northeastern Wisconsin.

What is happening to serve God's people in your community? How can we build on our work to serve the least and the lonely?

Bwana Asifewe from Tanzania

Bwana Asifewe from the 32nd Convention of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. At Kisarawe Lutheran Junior Seminary on Sunday Pastor David Hueter preached the opening sermon and I gave the Keynote address. It is a joy to be with our sisters and brothers. Pastor Chris Johnson, Pastor DJ Rasner, Pastor David Hueter, are also with their companion congregations. Warm regards from Bishop Alex Malasusa to all his friends in our synod.

Nominations wanted
for voting members
to attend the
Churchwide Assembly in 2016
August 8-13, 2016 in New Orleans,
Louisiana

Nominees will be considered and elected at the May 15-17, 2015 NGLS Assembly at Finlandia University.
Call the Synod Office for application information.
We will elect 2 clergy and 4 laity. No more than one
from any congregation.

Justice for Women and Children

The ELCA is currently considering a social
statement on this topic.

If you are interested in being a part of this process,

Contact Pastor Katherine Finegan at

kfinegan@nglsynod.org.

Matthew 28 in Action Retreat

Coming January 30 – 31, 2015, Friday –
Saturday

at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

Cost will be **\$50 per team** for lodging, meals,
and program.

Come to this retreat with a team of 4-6
congregation members and your pastor.

Register by calling the Synod Office at 906-
228-2300 by Monday, January 26, 2015.

Sponsored by the Transformational Ministry Team, this
retreat will give church teams a taste of the

possibilities for transformation and renewal available through a variety of resources, activities, Bible Study prayer, discernment, ministry efforts and more.

Come and find out what can happen in your church and begin the journey of discovery of what God is up to in and through your congregation.

GOD'S WORK---OUR HANDS 2015 SUMMER DENTAL MISSION

Are you a dentist, dental assistant, dental hygienist? Do you feel God calling you to serve him by helping the poor of Tanzania receive dental care? This just may be the opportunity for which you have been waiting!

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is organizing

Another dental mission trip to our companion synod, The Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. This mission trip will take place sometime in June or July of 2015 and will include a safari to see the Ngorongoro Crater Animal Preserve.

If this is something that interests you, please call or email Luanne Skrenes at 906-485-5121 or LSkrenes@aol.com

**!!! WHAT IS WITH
QUARTERS !!!**

Every year a Quarter Offering is taken

at Synod Assembly for World Hunger.

HOW ARE YOU HELPING?

This year our goal is 100% participation.

Even with not every church giving, we raise more than \$10,000 every year.

**Imagine what we could do if every congregation of the synod 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, Bishop
Craig Satterlee,
former professor at Lutheran School of
Theology, Chicago and
current bishop of the Northwest Lower
Michigan Synod.**

**CONFIRMATION YOUTH:
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

Youth are invited to bring a baby picture of themselves.

MARKED! is a Synod sponsored event for all WGLS Confirmation Students. Every congregation is asked to attend a MARKED! event at least once every two years, every year as 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 DWR 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=285350866539>.

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

nd 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 our 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 in 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.

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

Support is Needed for these

ELCA Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission

if !supportLists] • [endif] **Krystle Moraska-Madrussan**, who is from our synod, coordinates the work of the Young Adults in Global Mission in Argentina and Uruguay. 2015 goal: \$5,000 in additional annual support.

if !supportLists] • [endif] **David Zastrow**, a Young Adult in Global Mission from your region, is serving in Southern Africa. Goal: \$7,000 in support.

For more information on how to create a covenant with these missionaries of prayer, communication and financial support, contact globalchurch@elca.org or visit www.ELCA.org/globalchurch.

Go to “The Northern Great Lakes Synod” page

and “like” us. 😊

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

‘For all those endeavoring to meet the challenges of immigration and reform in our country.

‘For those who travel. Especially watch over Bishop Skrenes and pastors Rasner, Johnson and Hueter as they visit our friends in Tanzania.

‘For all those undergoing treatment for cancer. We remember especially Pastor Marcia Solberg, Peggy Gauger, and Jeannette Kuziej.

‘We give thanks that we are partners in ministry, embraced by grace, fed through the church, and warmed by Christian

fellowship. May God continue to bless our efforts and sustain us with the Spirit of the Living Christ.

+Rev. Katherine Finegan+
Assistant to the Bishop