

# **NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America**

**Marquette, Michigan**

[nngls@nnglsynod.org](mailto:nngls@nnglsynod.org)

**E-Notes for March 31, 2015**

**HOLY WEEK**

**“QUOTE OF THE DAY”**

“Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;  
Remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.  
These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never  
move;

For all who die believing die safely in thy love.”  
-“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” ELW stanza 4

# CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA—AND OUR SYNOD RESPONSE!

## **This word from Chicago:**

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's first comprehensive campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, is celebrating the completion of its first year with nearly \$45 million raised, representing 23 percent of the five-year, \$198 million Jan. 31, 2019, goal. In addition, the campaign has received another \$3.4 million in current gift commitments and \$10.8 million in planned gifts commitments to the priorities of the campaign.” “In the first year of our first-ever comprehensive campaign, we achieved more than 23 percent of our goal. We are actually slightly ahead of our goal,” said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop. “This points to the abundance of God, the generosity of our people and the hard work of our campaign staff.

I am excited and encouraged.”

## **And Our Synod Response:**

At our synod assembly a resolution will be presented that will, if adopted, establish a synod campaign for the whole church. The resolution has been developed by Pastor David VanKley and the Mission Outreach Committee of the synod. Approved by the synod council in March—we will be seeking your enthusiastic endorsement in May. This project will encourage individual giving to a 50-50 split for various churchwide and synod projects. Please consult your Pre-Assembly Report which will be published on line in mid-April for details. This is very good work! We are encouraged!

# **SPEAKING OF SYNOD**

## **ASSEMBLY:**

## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

The 2015 Synod Assembly meets in Hancock, Michigan on Friday evening, May 15, to Sunday noon, May 17.

\*Offerings will be received at worship this year at assembly to benefit the “Lay School for Mission” and “Youth Ministries of the Synod.” Please encourage your congregations to be generous as they support these ministries as well as the Hunger “Quarter” offerings.

\*In early April, I will be sending every congregation a copy of a sermon that can be read during worship in your congregation on May 17<sup>th</sup> in the absence of the pastor. Pastors will be at the Synod Assembly and the sermon could be delivered by a lay person. Accompanying the e-mail and hard copy sermon will be a bulletin insert for the weekend worship services.

**If you are interested in hosting a display,  
for Assembly**

**email Louise at the Synod Office**

**[louise@nglsynod.org](mailto:louise@nglsynod.org).**

**Include what the display is for, how much  
space you will need,  
and a question that can only be answered**

by checking out your display.

Also plan on being present at your display  
on

Saturday, May 16 during the dedicated  
display time, 2-5:30 p.m.

**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 can be elected from any single congregation.

Nomination forms available at

[www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org) on the bottom of the

Synod Assembly page.

**ONLY HALF WAY THERE---27**

**done; 27 to go!**

**THIS IS THE LAST MONTH---**

**ONLY 30 days to go!!**

**Take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment!**

Portico Benefit Services is again offering us the opportunity to earn a

2% discount on ELCA health contributions this year.

Each congregation and organization in our synod will receive a 2% discount on all of this year's health contributions if 65% of our eligible ELCA-Primary health plan members and eligible spouses complete the confidential Mayo Clinic Health Assessment

January 1 – April 30.

**This year, we could collectively save approximately \$15,000!**

**If you have ELCA-Primary health benefits, we need your help.**

Take this year's Mayo Clinic Health Assessment January 1 – April 30. You'll earn a \$150 credit to your wellness account to offset out-of-pocket medical costs,

and will help us earn a 2% discount on the cost of your health coverage.

If your spouse has ELCA-Primary health benefits and completes the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment, too,

you'll receive another \$150 wellness dollars into your wellness account, and will help us earn our synod-wide 2% discount on health contributions.

New this year: To take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment, access Mayo Clinic's Healthy Living online directly through myPortico — no separate Mayo Clinic ID and password necessary.

Go to [PorticoBenefits.org/HealthyLiving](https://PorticoBenefits.org/HealthyLiving) for details.

## **A Volunteer Opportunity**

To be a member of the Good News Awards Committee:

Every year, awards are given to the authors/presenters of news stories that are particularly uplifting, positive, and well done. Committee members are responsible for reviewing articles etc. and deciding which are worthy of a "Good News Award". Duties also include the planning of the Good News Award luncheon where the awards are given.

This year's luncheon is Tuesday, June 9, at Grace United Methodist Church.

The new member would be invited to observe and learn this year, in order to participate fully next year.

More information is available from Pastor



Chrys Levesque-Hendrick and from Rev.  
Katherine Finegan at the Synod Office.  
[levesquec@charter.net](mailto:levesquec@charter.net) and  
[kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org).

**FREE COMMUNITY**  
**MEDICATION DROP-OFF**  
**KEEPING DRUGS OUT OF**  
**OUR WATERS**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2015**  
**10:00 AM – 2:00 P.M.**

The Lake Superior Watershed Partnership wants you to “drop off” prescription and over-the counter medications that are out of date or no longer useful to you. Inhalers,

products containing microbeads and sharps and needles too! Contact the website for more details:

[www.SUPERIORWATERSHEDS.ORG/POLLUTION-PREVENTION](http://www.SUPERIORWATERSHEDS.ORG/POLLUTION-PREVENTION)

## SAVE THE DATE!

Up and coming opportunities for Organists, Choir Directors, Choirs, Musicians and Music lovers

~Heritage Hymn Festival: 7pm on July 25 at the Keweenaw Heritage Center, Calumet. Cost - \$10. Includes lunch. Featuring international choir director and organist Michael Burkhart. For more info, call Kathleen at 906-337-2567. Register by emailing [swell2pedal@yahoo.com](mailto:swell2pedal@yahoo.com).

~Organist Workshop and

Hymnfest/Concert: At Messiah Lutheran, Marquette.

Featuring Daniel Schwandt, Organist and Cantor for the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago

~Hymnfest and Concert : Friday,

October 2 at 7pm, Cost is

\$5.00 (Choirs invited to rehearse

Thursday evening)

On Saturday, October 3 at 8:30am

registration – 2:30pm: Workshop,

beginner to advanced. Lunch

included. Cost: \$30.00

(complimentary ticket to Friday

Concert with pre

registration). Register by calling the

**Synod Office at 906-228-2300.**

## **Festival 2015**

**The Festival of Congregational  
Renewal is**

**coming October 23-24, 2015 (note  
date change)**

**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.**

If you would like to present at a workshop or host a display, call the Synod Office at 228-2300 or email Pastor Katherine Finegan at [kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org).

## Awards for Efforts to Fight Hunger

The Hunger Committee is now accepting nominations for

### The Big Bear Award:

For a congregation that has made an exceptional effort in

raising funds and awareness for  
World Hunger,

And the Bread Basket Award:

For an individual that has made an  
exceptional effort in  
raising funds and awareness for  
World Hunger.

Please direct nominations to Mary  
Lou Blomquist at

[dmlb1530@gmail.com](mailto:dmlb1530@gmail.com)

or Pastor Katherine Finegan at

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

You can find the forms online at  
[www.nglsynod.org/assembly](http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly) at the  
bottom of the page.

# **WITNESS, WORSHIP, WELCOME**

The WWW task force is writing a series of newsletter articles that you are free to reprint for church newsletters.

These articles are available at the Synod Website, [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).

Click on “Resources”.  
More will be added soon.

## **Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**

**April 17-18 Church Staff Renewal Retreat**

**April 24-25 Upper elementary Retreat: “Great Big God”**

**May 1-3 Adoptive Family Retreat**

**May 11 Senior Adult Day: program by Pr. Robert Langseth, camp historian**

**June 5-7 All Staff Alumni Reunion**

**June 7 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration featuring Fortune Lake 500 parade, worship with dedication of new pavilion; picnic dinner tickets available \$12 adults; kids 5-12 years \$5.**

**To register, visit [fortunelake.org](http://fortunelake.org) or phone 906-875-3697**

# **Synod Women's Organization**

**Upcoming events**

**~Friday September 18: Convention**

**At Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.**

**Come to learn what the Women of the ELCA in the NGLS are doing to partner in ministry.**

**Board elections will also be held, and we will hear from our Churchwide representative.**

**• Come for the Convention – Stay for the RETREAT!**

**~Friday, September 18 – Sunday,**

**September 20, 2015**

**The theme verse this year is I Corinthians 3:16: Do you not**



know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

It is being planned by the "Bethany Babes" of Norway, Michigan and they are very excited to offer participants a program that is filled with meaning, worship, fun, and more.

Accommodations are assigned first come, first served, so register early.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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)

**On FACEBOOK???** Go to "The Northern Great Lakes Synod" page and "like" us. 😊

## TRANSITIONS

+We give thanks for the life of **Mary Ann Williams**,

widow of Pastor Bob Williams. Mrs. Williams died March 20 with her family at her side. The family writes, "Mary's sweet demeanor was matched with a strength and fortitude that helped her overcome multiple challenges in life. She struggled with bipolar disorder for many years and was a survivor of breast cancer." Burial for Mary Williams will take place at Lakeside Cemetery in Wakefield, MI in the spring. "O God our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come."

+**Pastor Don Wandersee** (Retired, Menominee) is returning home in April as he continues to make progress after a stroke. God bless his recovery.

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

+For peace in the Mideast. For the peace of Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Syria, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, and Iran. Teach us all to make war no more.

+For all those preparing for the Youth Gathering in Detroit

and any other summer youth trips and service events.  
+For those who mourn. May Easter bring hope as we live in  
the Resurrection power of God in Christ Jesus.

+ + +

*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**