

# **NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America**

**Marquette, Michigan**

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**E-Notes for April 30, 2015**

**EASTER SEASON**

**“QUOTE OF THE DAY”**

“The elect receive grace, not to allow them to be idle  
but to enable them to work well...”

--Peter Brown quoting St. Augustine in “Augustine of  
Hippo”

# “WORSHIP”



[endif]So what will worship look like in our future? We are a people with many different ideas on what constitutes “good worship.” Some of us like piano and organ, others guitar; many are into 17<sup>th</sup> century organ music, others like Country Western, others 20<sup>th</sup> century Gospel music, or



contemporary praise songs. Whatever the style, and indeed one [endif]service may have “all of the above,” in music the essence of worship must remain. The center still holds. God is to be glorified in all of our worship services. The truth must always be proclaimed. We are one in Christ Jesus and we should pray to be one as God is one. The Gospel of John reminds us that our worship services must always center on this Jesus. In the words of the Book of Hebrews, “Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever!”

# “WHAT WE ARE ABOUT”

Going through some files, I came upon something that now deceased, Pastor Earnest Ness wrote twenty years ago. I recommend it to you:

“I have been called by God’s Spirit to proclaim the Word and be a witness in whatever situation I find myself. To this end God has provided me with varied gifts from worship and interpretation to mechanical and physical skills...The mission of the church is to proclaim the Good News of salvation in Word and deed...We wish to bring people to a saving relationship with Christ through Word and Sacrament...Evangelism is reaching the unreached, winning the unwon, renewing the worn out, restoring the lapsed, encouraging the active.”

# 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."

## **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 Van Kley 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 can be found at [www.nglsynod.org/assembly](http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly) 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 Sunday's 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.

*Have you read your Assembly Reports:*

**The Pre-Assembly Report**

**(5 parts, 156 pages total)**

**is now online at**

[www.nglsynod.org/assembly.](http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly)

**Part 1 has been mailed out to all clergy and synod assembly voters currently registered.**

**“ANSWER THE CALL”**

**SUNDAY---May 10, 2015**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its predecessor church bodies have a long history of theological education for pastors and other rostered persons who serve this church in ministries of Word and Sacrament. Your synod is asking you to share a financial gift with our synod seminarians.

Seminary education costs continue to increase with tuition,

books, room and board expenses now totaling about \$35,000 per year for the three-year Masters of Divinity program in our seminaries. The average debt load of a new pastor graduating with debt from our seminaries (70% of all graduates) and beginning her or his ministry will exceed \$45000.

**You are asked to support our synod scholarships on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>!** It is **“Answer The Call” Sunday**. Our synod is committed to providing at least \$8,000 per year to a full-time seminarian. Your offering will help! Write a check—support our work together.

## **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

Friday, October 2 at 7pm, Cost is \$5.00 (Choirs invited to rehearse Thursday evening)

On Saturday, October 3      8:30am  
registration - 2:30pm: Workshop, beginner to advanced. Lunch included.

Cost: \$30.00 (complimentary ticket to Friday Concert with pre-registration). Register by going to [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).



# Festival 2015

**The Festival of Congregational  
Renewal is  
coming October 23-24, 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.**

**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).

This event is in partnership with the East Central Synod of Wisconsin.

Come learn with our neighbors in Christ.

## **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

**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 Harlin Walters, husband of former synod vice-president Orice Walters. Harlin's Memorial Service is Friday, May 1 at Bethany in Norway. "In life in death O Lord abide with me."

+We celebrate with First Lutheran in Gladstone on the installation of Pastor Tom Otis. Welcome to synod!

# LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+For the Synod Staff and Voting members who are preparing for the Synod Assembly in May.

+For the people of Baltimore and for police officers everywhere that together as a community we may "protect and serve."

+For all those preparing for the Youth Gathering in Detroit and any other summer youth trips and service events.

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