

# NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America

Marquette, Michigan

[npls@nplsynod.org](mailto:npls@nplsynod.org)

E-Notes for July 31, 2015

**SEASON after PENTECOST**

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Whenever a congregation goes looking for a new pastor, the first question on their minds when the committee interviews a new candidate is:

*Will this pastor grow our church?*

I’m going to go ahead and answer that question right now:

*No, she will not.*

No amount of pastoral eloquence, organization, insightfulness, amicability, or charisma will take your congregation back to its glory days.

What then *can* your pastor do?

She can make your board meetings longer with prayer and Bible study.

She can mess with your sense of familiarity by changing the order of worship and the arrangement of the sanctuary....

She can bug you incessantly about more frequent celebration of Communion....

She can ruin your perfectly balanced budget with appeals for more funds to be allocated toward mission and outreach....

She can open your church building to the ugliest and meanest freaks in town, who show up at odd hours, beg for handouts, track muddy snow into the building, leave their cigarette butts in the parking lot, and spill their coffee on carpet during their Junkies Anonymous meetings....

What can she do to grow your church? *Nothing.*  
There's nothing your pastor can do to make your church grow.

She can't save your church. Your church already has a Savior and it's not her.

She can push you. She can open doors. She can present you with opportunities. It's up to you to take advantage of them.

She can plant seeds and water them. It's up to God to make them grow."

**~A Growing Church is a Dying Church, J. Barrett Lee**

## **RISE UP DETROIT!!!**

147 NGLS Youth and Leaders traveled by bus, car, and van to Detroit for the National Gathering of Youth. Some groups left earlier than the July 15 beginning in order to do some service work and some sight-seeing. Many groups visited the Ford Museum, Belle Isle, the Heidelberg Project, the Riverwalk and more as a part of our stay. The Synod website and our Facebook page is full of pictures. Feel free to check them out!!

Our time in Detroit was divided into three days: Proclaim Story, Proclaim Justice, and Proclaim Community.

[if !supportLists]• [endif] **Proclaim Story** was our Synod Day where we learned “Jesus is Good News!!” and celebrated with worship.

[if !supportLists]• [endif] **Proclaim Justice** was the service day in the community. Unfortunately not every group was able to get their hands dirty, but they made the most of their time together, and did not despair at the change of plans. Those who were able to get to their work sites had a very positive experience as local residents often joined them in their efforts.

[if !supportLists]• [endif] **Proclaim Community** took place at the Cobo Center. Youth and adults participated in Locks for Love, zip lining, the Walk for Water, constructing a Habitat for Humanity house, bumper cars and so much more.

Some interesting statistics:

[if !supportLists]• [endif] 1847 mural boards were painted to turn urban blight into art

[if !supportLists]• [endif] 600 neighborhoods were left better

than we found them

• 319 vacant homes were boarded up

• 3200 vacant lots cleared of debris

• 1425 backpacks distributed

• 36 urban gardens installed

• 99 picnic tables built

• 26 dumpsters filled

• 78.8 gallons of blood donated (607 pints)

• One million diapers donated, and 300,000 baby wipes

• 650 people (!) donated at least 8 inches of hair. That is a minimum of 433 feet of hair.

• The Gathering raised \$402,000 for the ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water.

• From a Facebook post: “Thank YOU [ELCA Youth Gathering](#)! You folks donated in person power approximately \$2.4M (30,000 people X \$10.00/hr X 8 hours, yes?) to the NPO's in the Detroit area. What a difference you made in the lives of others! [Lutheran Social Services of Michigan](#) appreciates all you did for us!”

Ask anyone who went, and they will tell you stories. Thank you to all the congregations who supported this extraordinary effort, from donating diapers, to sending youth, to financial gifts, to your offerings of prayer. Special thanks to the people of **Zion, St. Ignace** who graciously served the 99 people in the two Synod Busses lunch before going over the bridge. What a treat! Check out the coming *Notes and Quotes* to hear the testimony of some NGLS youth, or attend the recap offered at the Festival of Congregational Renewal October 23-24 at Ascension, Minocqua. Another slide show will be given this May as part of our pre-assembly events at Messiah, Marquette.

The next Gathering is July of 2018 in Houston, Texas. Start planning now!!!

**Thinking ahead to**

# **MARKED!**

**4:00 – 7:00pm local time.**

**Includes worship, learning, fun and food!!**

**[if !supportLists] ■ [endif] Feb. 28: Immanuel,  
Escanaba**

**[if !supportLists] ■ [endif] March 6: Prince of  
Peace, Eagle River**

**[if !supportLists] ■ [endif] March 13: Holy  
Trinity, Chassell**

Marked! is a Synod sponsored event to gather in NGLS Confirmation students. This year we are collecting school supplies for LWR School Kits and local schools. Many of the below

items are on sale NOW. If your congregation is collecting for the fall, please keep MARKED in mind, and buy extra. 😊

### Items needed for LWR School

Kits:

local schools:

~70-sheet notebooks of wide or College ruled X 4

~30 centimeter ruler X

1  
tissues

~Pencil sharpener X

1  
wipes

~blunt scissor X

1  
oks

~#2 unsharpened pencils X

Items suggested for

~Boxes of

~Clorox

~Notebo



- 5 ~Folders
- ~black/blue ball point pens (no gel pens) X
- 5 ~Pens/pencils
- ~box of 16 or 24 crayons X
- 1 ~erasers
- ~2 inch Pencil eraser X
- 1 ~stickers
- ~Drawstring school bag. Pattern available at
- ~Granola bars
- [www.lwr.org/schoolkits](http://www.lwr.org/schoolkits)

Your congregation received a letter with all the details. If you cannot find that letter, call the Synod Office and we'll send you another one, or find it on our website at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).

Thank you for your support of this embodiment of walking together as a Synod!

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# BISHOP ON SABBATICAL

“The Synod Council has granted me a three month sabbatical in 2015 which I will take in two segments. The first part is scheduled from July 22 to August 30. I return to work for the months of September and October and then have Sabbatical—Part II from November 1 until December 9<sup>th</sup>.

So you ask, ‘What will I be doing in my sabbatical?’ Plenty. I have decided to read the Gospel of John as my daily companion. Not sure what I will do with this daily reading—maybe the Spirit will speak to me! I have an arm load of books to read, many of which I will review and publish those reviews in 2016 on line. I have a couple of articles I have a desire to write; and a few synod policies to re-write with the Gospel of John as my companion. There will be no lack of things to accomplish. I also intend to walk, pray and sleep. We are also taking a ten day family trip in the middle of it all.

Your prayers are requested.

In my absence, the office staff here in Marquette will know where I am and Pastor Katherine Finegan will be available to you.”

# Faithful Finances

A Workshop for All Those Entrusted  
With Congregational Finances

**Saturday, August 29**

**9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon ET**

First Lutheran Church

1212 Minneapolis Avenue - Gladstone, MI

Topics covered will include:

[if !supportLists]✓ [endif]Best Practices for Handling  
Cash Funds

[if !supportLists]✓ [endif]Required Synod and IRS Forms

[if !supportLists]✓ [endif]Records Retention

[if !supportLists]✓ [endif]And more!

There is no fee, but please contact the Synod  
Office to register (228-2300).

The workshop will be presented by Betsy  
Koski, Synod Bookkeeper

**Pastors:**

**Rostered leaders in first 3  
years of call:**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

# NOW!

“The 2015 FCTE (First Call Theological Education) Fall Conference will be held **November 8-11** 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.

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](mailto:rozumalskili@gmail.com)

See you in November!”

Sheri Jackson, First Call Planning Committee

## Luther Land Tour

**Coming September 19-28, 2016!!!**

**Pastor Katherine Finegan and her husband, Dave, will be leading a Ten Day Fall Tour in the steps of Martin Luther.**

**Sponsored through “Faith Journeys”, hotel, breakfasts and dinners, program and guide, bus and airfare will all be included in the cost.**

**Save the dates in your calendar today!!**

**The itinerary and more details are available online at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).**

**Your congregation also received material in the last Synod mailing. Contact Rev. Katherine Finegan at [kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org) with any questions.**

**Join the Tour! Walk in the steps of Martin Luther.**

## **Sneaky Visitor Initiative**

Similar to a Mystery Shopper or an Undercover Boss, you are invited to visit another congregation, preferably where no one knows you (including the distant cousin and the aunt four times removed), and evaluate that congregation on their welcome, their

worship, their witness, and their building.  
Evaluation forms are available at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).  
Simply go to any NGLS congregation, and after your  
visit (please do not fill out the form during the visit),  
send the completed forms in to the Synod Office  
(either electronically or through the mail).  
The form with your feedback will be sent on to the  
congregation,  
and the fact that you sent it (that is, your identity)  
will remain in confidence at the Synod Office.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee 😊

# CLERGY—Registration

# Open

# Mackinac Island

# Retreat



# September 27-29, 2015

For twenty years (every other year), our synod has sponsored a retreat for clergy (and if married their spouses) on Mackinac Island. We spend time on this beautiful island the last week the resorts are open in the fall. We received a great price from the Mission Point Resort as we spend a Sunday evening, Monday and Tuesday, September 27-29, 2015 in one of the premier vacation areas of the country.

Our clergy and spouses hear lectures, have great discussions and enjoy time in worship and learning as well as have free time on the island. This has been a very popular continuing education opportunity. Our main speaker this year is one of the senior bishops of the ELCA, Bishop Gary Wollersheim of the Northern Illinois Synod. Bishop Wollersheim is known in the Conference of Bishops as having a passion for evangelism and outreach. We look forward to his presentations.

Registration brochures are available soon on the

synod website!

**Deadline for registering is August 7, 2015, which is next Friday!!!**

# **ATTENTION MUSIC** **LOVERS ALL**

**For Organists, Choir Directors, Choirs,  
Musicians and assorted Music lovers**

**~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.

# Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Summer Camp is now in full swing!!!

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

+ **Pastor Tammy Barthels** has been called as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rhinelander. She was ordained on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and has begun her ministry at Immanuel. Her installation will be August 16<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at Immanuel, Rhinelander. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red.

+May God bless **Pastor Barry Levine and his wife Bobbi** as he leaves Faith, Sault St. Marie to accept another call.

LIFTING UP TO GOD  
IN PRAYER

- + All the youth and leaders who attended the Gathering. May they impact their congregations and this synod with their witness, their renewed spirit, and their deepened faith.**
- + For Sunday School teachers and Confirmation leaders, for all those gearing up for Fall programs, setting schedules, and considering future ministry events and efforts. May God give them wisdom, energy, creativity, and an understanding of how their efforts further the mission of Christ.**
- + For Bishop Tom Skrenes as he is renewed during his sabbatical time and enjoys time to study and read, and use his time in new ways.**

+ + +

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

+Rev. Katherine Finegan



# Assistant to the Bishop