



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for October 15, 2015

SEASON after PENTECOST

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“When I came out of seminary, I was very naive about money. Like many pastors, I never planned to talk much about it. I even believed the myth that many people in congregations resent having the pastor discuss money. Since stewardship is a result of our spiritual commitment, I also believe that committed Christians would therefore give. It took only a few short years to shatter most of the illusions.

- People do not “automatically” respond to the gospel with good giving habits.
- Regular church attendance does not translate into strong stewardship levels.
People who attend regularly usually give more than the occasional worshippers.
- Churches cannot wait until people grow spiritually so they will give; some people cannot grow spiritually until they decide to give. And asking people to improve their treasure management is asking them to grow spiritually – the two matters cannot be separated when we look at principles for vital stewardship, we are looking at principles that can help people grow spiritually.

Congregations with growing incomes and effective stewardship ministries see stewardship as a vital component in their whole ministry picture.”

~from *Generous People* by Eugene Grimm, p. 11-12

From the Bishop:

“I AM PRAYING THAT YOU MIGHT

CONSIDER ORDAINED MINISTRY!"

At the last Conference of Bishops meeting in Chicago it was reported to us that there has been a serious decline over the last years in the number of women and men who are seeking ordained ministry. Our seminary class sizes are much decreased! We are in a time when young men and women are not responding in good numbers to the call to serve God's people as pastors. There will be retirements aplenty in the next years. Our own synod has noticed a decline in the number of people in the candidacy process for pastors. This is all very troubling.

I am convinced that God is still calling! So what are the issues? Why are not many responding? Money is often cited, as the cost of education has jumped. Your synod is very concerned about money for this important seminary education. I am delighted to tell you that this academic year every full-time seminarian from one of our 82 congregations (our synod) will receive a synod scholarship of \$10,000 per year! This is the highest amount of a scholarship by any synod in the ELCA.

I am praying that God the Holy Spirit will raise up men and women from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin who will respond to God's call. Who in your congregation has the gifts for ministry? Have you ever asked a person with ministry gifts to consider ordained ministry? Are you praying for new leaders to rise up from our congregations? Let us pray in our weekend worship services that young men and women may hear the Call of God!

Do you know someone who should be considering seminary? Call me and let me know who they are so I can pray for them too. For more information on the ministry and candidacy process please call me or Pastor Katherine Finegan at 906.228.2300. Come Holy Spirit!

Festival 2015

**The Festival of Congregational Renewal is coming
October 23-24, 2015
at Ascension Lutheran, Minocqua, WI.**

**Register at www.nglsynod.org by October 16th!
Only \$10 per participant. Lunch included.**

**Please go to our website and fill out the
"Interest Inventory"
to indicate which workshops "interest" you.**

**The "inventory" is designed to help the planning
committee decide which rooms would accommodate
the most requested workshops.**



[NGLS Fall Conference Meeting Schedule 2015](#)

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 - IGO	October 18	Zion, Ironwood	3:00 p.m. CT
2 - Copper Country	October 18	Our Saviour's, Atl. Mine	1:30 p.m. ET
3 - Headwaters	October 11	Immanuel, Rhineland	2:00 p.m. CT
4 - Four Rivers	October 25	Bethlehem, Florence	3:00 p.m. CT
5 - Menominee Valley	October 22	Northland Village Dinner	5:00 p.m. CT
		Worship	6:00 p.m. CT
		Meeting	7:00 p.m. CT
6 - Delta	October 18	Christ the King, Escanaba	4:00 p.m. ET
7 - Three Lakes	October 4	Zion, Allenville	4:00 p.m. ET
8 - Superior Central	October 25	Prince of Peace, Marquette	3:00 p.m. ET

COLLEGE STUDENTS' NAMES WANTED

Where are your congregational students going to college?

Our Synod supports efforts for Lutheran Campus Ministry.

In an effort to connect new freshman (and others in school) with a supportive community of faith, we are asking for names so that students can be contacted directly.

For **Northern Michigan University** students, please contact Lisa Johnson at messiah.lisaj@gmail.com

For **Michigan Technological University** students, please contact Pastor Bucky Beach at bsbeach@mtu.edu,

and at **Bay de Noc**



Nurturing Faith that Sticks

Two are scheduled so far:

~Saturday, January 16 at Bethany, Escanaba
8:30 a.m. - Noon

~Saturday, February 13 at Bethel, Ishpeming
8:30 a.m. - Noon

- A workshop event to equip Adult Volunteers and Staff who work with Youth, Parents, Pastors, Grandparents, Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation, Small Group Leaders, and more.
- We all want to pass on the faith to the next generation.
- Come learn some skills, attitudes, and practices to help that happen more effectively.

Please register by sending \$5.00 along with your name, church, email and phone

Community College, contact
Pastor Dean Peterson at
deteron2@charter.net.

to the Synod Office.

If you would like this event to come to your
conference, please contact Pastor
Katherine Finegan at
kfinegan@nglsynod.org.

Sponsored by the Synod Youth Task Force

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES AND SYRIAN REFUGEES

The work of Lutheran Social Services includes refugee resettlement as our church social ministry agency works with the federal government and Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services. LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan is working with 450 refugees this year and the Syrian refugee crisis will bring more later this year and next year into Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. LSS is a respected partner with the U.S. government and will be contracted to assist in our humanitarian responsibility to help those fleeing war and political instability. Please pray for this work that God might bless our church's efforts.

Thinking ahead to MARKED!

4:00 – 7:00 pm local time.

Includes worship, learning, fun and food!!

Feb. 28: Holy Trinity, Chassell

March 6: Prince of Peace, Eagle River

March 13: Immanuel, Escanaba

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. J

Items needed for LWR School Kits: **schools:**

- ~ 70-sheet notebooks of wide or College ruled X 4
- ~ 30 centimeter ruler X 1
- ~ Pencil sharpener X 1
- ~ blunt scissor X 1

Items suggested for local

- ~ Hand sanitizer
- ~ Boxes of tissues
- ~ Clorox wipes
- ~ Notebooks

- ~ #2 unsharpened pencils X 5
- ~ black/blue ball point pens (no gel pens) X 5
- ~ box of 16 or 24 crayons X 1
- ~ 2 inch Pencil eraser X 1
- ~ Drawstring school bag. Pattern available at www.lwr.org/schoolkits

- ~ Folders
- ~ Pens/pencils
- ~ erasers
- ~ stickers
- ~ Granola bars

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.

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



Faithful Finances

A Workshop for All Those Entrusted With Congregational Finances

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Ascension Lutheran Church Minocqua, WI.

Topics covered will include:

- Best Practices for Handling Cash Funds
- Required Synod and IRS Forms
- Records Retention

And more!

Presented by Synod Bookkeeper: Betsy Koski

Offered as part of **The Festival of Congregational Renewal** so please register at www.nglsynod.org

Cost for the Festival and Lunch, \$10.

Attend this workshop only, or add others.

**Pastors:
Rostered leaders
in first 3 years of
call:
MARK YOUR**

Luther Land Tour

Coming September 19-28, 2016!!!

**Pastor Katherine Finegan and her
husband, Dave,**

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
See you in November!"

Sheri Jackson, First Call Planning Committee

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. Your
congregation also received
material in the last Synod
mailing.**

**Contact Rev. Katherine Finegan at
kfinegan@nglsynod.org with any
questions.**

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

You save \$100 if you register by
October 31, 2015. Registrations
received until May of 2016.

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. 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

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

To register, visit www.fortunelake.org or phone 906-875-3697

Oct 16-17 -- Junior High Retreat: "I Believe"
Nov. 6-8 -- UFO Crafting Retreat
Nov. 7-8 -- High School Retreat: "Rise Up and Recharge"
Dec. 4-5 – Grief Retreat: "A Long December"

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

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

On FACEBOOK???

Go to "The Northern Great Lakes Synod" page and "like" us.

TRANSITIONS

+Welcome to **Pastor Andrew Plocher** as he has received the pastoral call at Grace in Gwinn. We welcome him and his wife Anna Zimmer to our synod. Pastor Andrew will be installed on Sunday November 22 at 4:30pm. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red.

+We celebrate with **Pastor Melinda Quivik** as she is installed at Portage Lake United on October 18 at 2pm. May God bless their new partnership.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+For Pastor Tamra and Everett Harder on the death of her father, Philip Zander, on Sept. 28. God has won for us the victory!

+For those candidates who are up for election and the American people as they discern the leadership qualities of each candidate.

+For the people of Palestine and Israel as tensions escalate. For Syria, as powers compete for control and people flee for safety. May refugees and immigrants find hope and welcome.

+For all congregations who are engaged in intentional stewardship ministries, that God will open hearts and hands to the blessings of generosity and inspire effective financial management.

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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.

Pastor Katherine Finegan
Assistant to the Bishop

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E-notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

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