



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for October 30, 2015

SEASON after PENTECOST

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Sometimes congregational stewardship leaders are reluctant to offer additional opportunities for people to give through the congregation. The fear is that if people give in a variety of ways, this will reduce the amount people give through the regular offering of the congregation. The experience of the vast majority of congregations is that this simply does not happen.”

--“Ask, Thank, Tell” by Charles R. Lane, p. 92.

From the Bishop:

NOT ON MY SHOULDERS

“Whoever is full of his own truth and wisdom is not capable of the truth and wisdom of God, which cannot be received save by those who are empty and destitute.” –Martin Luther

When I was a young pastor I was telling a wise old aunt of mine about a funeral I had done for a faithful man in my parish. After a minute or so she said this. “Just remember Tom, you cannot carry any one on your shoulders into heaven.” I have preached at hundred fifty funerals in my ministry and have often thought of

what Aunt Esther told me. She understood the disciples question, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Who is responsible for your stewardship **work** in the congregation? That answer is clear—we all are. A special responsibility falls upon the leaders of the Congregation Council, the Stewardship Committee, and the pastor. But who is really responsible for the **success** of our stewardship work. You, my friend, are not! It is on God's shoulders!

Many years ago, a neighboring pastor reminded me that in the work of God's Church we can only "guarantee our commitment and our work. We can never guarantee the outcome. That is God the Holy Spirit's job. To think we can always demand successful results of our work is sinful."

I have long said that we in the congregations should think about Stewardship Ministry in the same way we think of Christian Education. It is necessary and important and must be done every year. For us, the only question we ever have about Christian Education is "how" we will do it this year—not "if" we will have it this year. The same with stewardship work—not "if" but "how." Like Sunday School, some years our Stewardship Ministry accomplishes more than others.

So keep at it, but remember that you cannot save yourself and you are not responsible for the success of the efforts of time, talent and treasure in the congregation. Work hard but the results are up to God. Put the results on God's shoulders.

Pastors: 2015 FCTE (First Call Theological Education) Fall Conference

It is coming! On November 8-11 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon Wisconsin the newer pastors will gather.

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

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

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

Nov. 6-8 -- UFO Crafting Retreat
Nov. 7-8 -- High School Retreat: "Rise Up and Recharge"
Dec. 4-5 -- Grief Retreat: "A Long December"

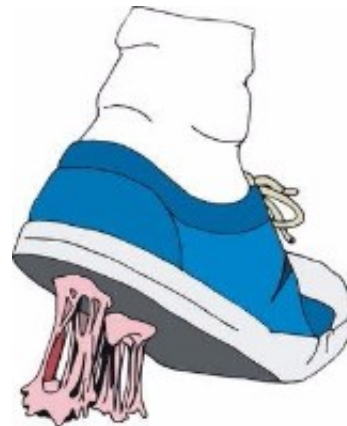


COLLEGE STUDENTS' NAMES WANTED

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.



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

WILDCATS

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 Community College**, contact Tony Morrison at tony.morrison@baycollege.edu.

- 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 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



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. 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.

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.

Items needed for LWR School Kits:

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

Items suggested for local schools:

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

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

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.

remain in confidence at the Synod Office.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee



 Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA

 Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA

+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.



Transitions

+We celebrate with **Pastor LaVonne Stephenson** who has accepted the pastoral call at **First Lutheran and Trinity in Iron River**. Pastor LaVonne begins her work in Iron River in mid-November.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+For the people of Tanzania as national elections have now been completed. God keep Tanzania a peaceful nation.

+For those who hunt. God bless those in the woods with safety.

+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 in faith.

+For the ministry of Christians throughout the world. Help us all spread joy and healing to a world in need.

+ + +

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**

*Copyright © 2015 Northern Great Lakes synod, All rights reserved.
E-notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod*

Our mailing address is:
Northern Great Lakes synod
1029 N. Third Street, Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

MailChimp.
