



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for January 4, 2016

The Season of Christmas

QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
and the future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*

Amen!

--Evangelical Lutheran Worship 295



PROFESSIONAL LEADERS EVENT

Synod Sponsored Theological Conference

Sunday, February 21st & Monday, February 22nd

at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
138 Fortune Lake Camp Road
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

**Starts on Sunday with Registration at 5:00 p.m.
Ends on Monday after Sending Prayer at 2:00 p.m.**

**Our presenter will be Dr. Hank Langknecht, Homiletics
Professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.**

For more information and to download the register form

For more information and to download the register form,
go to www.nglsynod.org.



CLERGY SPOUSE CONFERENCE

February 5-7, 2016

The Annual Clergy Spouse Conference is scheduled for February 5-7, 2016 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin. Rachel Kurtz and Pastor Tracy Polzin will lead the program. More information is available at nglsynod.org.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.....

Adventures For You to Travel to Tanzania.

+ Luanne Skrenes will be leading a mission trip in June 2016 to our companion synod The Eastern and Coastal Diocese. Come and

Companion Synod, The Eastern and Coastal Diocese. Come and experience the Mkuza Girls' School, Kisarawe Lutheran Junior Seminary, our companion congregations, health ministries and other sites. More information is on the Synod's website.

+ A youth trip (16+ years old) is being planned to visit Tanzania in the summer of 2017. See the Synod's website for more information. This could be a very exciting experience!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ELCA SECRETARY Rev. Chris Boerger

CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY THE ELCA ENDORSED INSURANCE PROGRAM:

"Church Mutual is proud to be selected as your ELCA-endorsed insurance provider. As a reflection of our commitment to helping you achieve your goals under an umbrella of protection, security and partnership, we are excited to offer all ELCA congregations and synods a 5% discount when they select us as their insurance provider, effective January 1, 2016. As the largest single insurer of the ELCA church-wide offices, regional offices, synod offices and congregations, we look forward to our continued partnership. Learn more about Church Mutual by downloading our brochure. If you'd like us to provide a quote, simply go to churchmutual.com/ELCA and click on "Request a Quote," or call (800) 554-2642, selection Option 1. Thank you again for your trust in Church Mutual."

TANZANIA PRESENTATION FOR OUR CONGREGATIONS

Luanne Skrenes is willing to visit your congregation or conference/cluster area in 2016 to do 45-90 minute programs on the Companion Synod work of our synod in Tanzania. Her presentation can be tailored to your specific needs. She is

presentation can be tailored to your specific needs. She is available to speak on the Dental Clinic, Mkuza Girls School, Kisarawe School and the whole companion relationship that has enriched our synod work for nearly the past 25 years. Our congregations need to hear of the good ministries that are being done by the people of our congregations and the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The only honorarium needed is an offering for our work together in Tanzania and some mileage.

Please contact Luanne at **906.485.5121 or 906.869.6796.**

Would you like to be in a commercial?

The Worship, Witness, Welcome Task Force is in the process of developing an advertising campaign that celebrates the blessings of the community of faith, and more specifically, ELCA Lutheran congregations. We are looking for "actors" of every age group who are willing to speak to a camera and say one line (that is scripted J).



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

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Katherine Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org.

Also, if you would like to financially support this new and ground breaking effort, your gifts would be appreciated. So far Immanuel, Negaunee and First, Gladstone have dedicated a portion of their 2016 Endowment disbursements to this effort. Gifts from congregations and individuals are welcome!

- 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.

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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.

Registrations received until May of 2016.

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



Thinking ahead to

MARKED!

4:00 – 7:00pm local time.
Includes worship, learning, fun and food!!

Feb. 28: Holy Trinity, Chassell

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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
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!

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 anyNGLS 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



 Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA

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LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+Our congregations that we might have a new burst of renewal and Christian witness. "Help us O Lord to Witness to the Risen Christ."

+For those who wage peace around the globe. For the men and women of the United States Armed Services in harm's way. "Bless the peacemakers and teach us to make war no more."

+For safety of travel in this new year, "Travel mercies to all those on the roads or in the air or on the seas."

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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.

- Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop

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E-notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod

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