



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

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for January 31, 2016

The Season of Epiphany

QUOTE OF THE DAY

A poem for

Transfiguration Sunday

February 7, 2016



Suddenly they saw him
the way he was,
the way he really was
all the time,
although they had never
seen it before,
the glory which blinds the everyday eye
and so becomes invisible.
This is how
he was, radiant, brilliant,
carrying joy
like a flaming sun
in his hands.
This is the way he was-is
from the beginning,
and we cannot bear it.
So he manned himself,
came manifest to us;
and there on the mountain
they saw him, really saw him,
saw his light.
We all know that if we really
see him we die

see that we are.
But isn't that what is
required of us?
Then, perhaps, we will see
each other, too.

-Madeleine L'Engle

Always Being Made New Update

Thank you to all congregations and individuals who have responded to this appeal so far! As of January, we have received \$15,058.60 that will be divided between Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, ELCA New and Renewing Congregations, and Barrier Free Projects in the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

That breaks down to: ELCA - \$9284.57
FLLC - \$4642.29
NGLS - \$4642.28

Soon, congregations will be able to apply for grants that can support Barrier Free projects to make our NGLS churches more accessible. We expect more funds to come in as the fiscal year ends, making even more grant money available.

Funds for this appeal received in the rest of 2016 will go to support World Hunger efforts, both globally and locally.

Please consider responding to this appeal, if you haven't already done so, as we strive together to make a difference in the world.

**Remember to register for the
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,
go to www.nglsynod.org.**

Deadline is February 15, 2016

Have You Ever Thought About Being a Pastor?

The harvest needs workers! As dedicated and faithful lay leaders and pastors -- you are the right person to be asking excellent young members of your congregation this question, "Have you ever thought about being a pastor?" Or perhaps your questions could be, "Is God calling you to a life of service as a pastor in the Church?"

Our synod has 82 congregations and in these places God has appointed people of faith and excellence to serve as our pastors. Who will God call to be our pastors in the years ahead? Look around you on Sunday morning. Who seems to have the gifts and skills to be an effective pastoral leader? Pray for that person and ask them to consider ministry. As bishop of our Synod, I would love to talk to this young person about being a pastor. Pastor Katherine Finegan and I are available to you to assist identifying these people of promise in our congregations. Call us and let's talk about God's work!

The I.R.S. Has Lowered the Mileage Reimbursement for 2016

In 2016 the reimbursement rate allowed by the I.R.S. is

In 2016, the reimbursement rate allowed by the IRS is 54 cents per mile, down from 57.5 cents per mile in 2015.

Please share this information with your congregational financial leadership!



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.....

An Adventure for Youth to Travel to Tanzania

+ 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!



Congregational Parochial Reports (Forms A & C)

Congregations should have received their Form A & C from the ELCA by now. They are also available on the ELCA's website at this link: <https://webapps.elca.org/FormAAndC/Login.aspx>. You will need to contact the Synod Office for your password and

contact the Synod Office for your password and congregation's ELCA number. Reports can be submitted directly to the ELCA by filling them out online and the Synod can download them from their. Or you mail fill it out by hand and mail it into the Synod Office to be submitted.

The deadline is February 20, 2016!!

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 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.**

ROSTERED LEADERS REPORT TO THE BISHOP

Every rostered leader is expected to submit a report to the Synodical Bishop every year. The reports can be found on the ELCA website or by clicking the following links:

Clergy Under Call from a Congregation:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_Under_Call_Fom_A_Congregation.pdf?_ga=1.147968880.675730411.1361995271

Clergy On Leave or Disability:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_Not_Under_Call.pdf?_ga=1.190152172.675730411.1361995271

Clergy Retired:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_Retired.pdf?_ga=1.186257902.675730411.1361995271

Clergy Under Call Synod Council:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_From_Synod_Council_Church_Council_Under_Call.pdf?_ga=1.146551667.675730411.1361995271

A.I.M.s & Licensed Lay Ministers Under Call from a Congregation:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Lay_Under_Call_From_A_Congregation.pdf?_ga=1.176873314.675730411.1361995271

A.I.M.s Retired:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Lay_Retired.pdf?_ga=1.184277601.675730411.1361995271

You should be able to fill in the form online, save it to your computer, then attach it to an email to the Synod Bishop (tskrenes@nglsynod.org) or Synod Office (ngls@nglsynod.org). If you are not able to fill it out online, please print it out and fill it in by hand, then mail it to the Synod Office.

Call the office at 906/228-2300 if you have any questions.

Filming is Almost Complete!

The Worship, Witness, Welcome Task Force is in the process of developing an advertising campaign that celebrates the blessings of the community of



blessings of the community of faith, and more specifically, ELCA Lutheran congregations.



A BIG thank you to those congregations who remembered this effort in their Endowment disbursements for the year. We have received more than \$6000, enough to pay for the production of the spot.

Now we need to raise funds for the actual air time.

Please consider giving to this effort. No gift is too small. The finished product will be unveiled soon!!

Nurturing Faith that Sticks

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

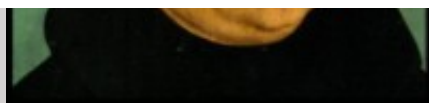
- A workshop event to equip Adult Volunteers and Staff who work with Youth, Parents, Pastors, Grandparents, Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation, Small Group Leaders, and more.
- We all want to pass on the faith to the next generation.
- Come learn some skills, attitudes, and practices to help that happen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

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

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

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!

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Activities

February 27-28: Family Retreat
(Any type of family unit is welcome.)

March 4-5: Church Council Retreat
(Individuals or whole councils are welcome.)

April 8-10: Adoptive Family Retreat

April 22-24: Adult Retreat
(Focus on Bible study)

April 29-30: Church Staff Renewal Retreat
(For anyone on your church staff)

For more information about any of these events, please contact FLLC by phone at 906/875-3697 or check out their website at www.fortunelakelutherancamp.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 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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Transitions:

- **Congratulations to Pastor-elect Jay Welshonse on his call to serve the Northern Lights Lutheran Parish (St. Paul's, Mass City; Siloa, Ontonagon, and First Lutheran, Winona). Pastor Welshonse will be ordained on Friday January 29 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bellevue, Nebraska. We look forward to Pastor Jay and his wife Diane joining us in our efforts.**
- **Congratulations to Pastor LaVonne Stephenson who will be installed as pastor of First Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran in Iron**

River on Sunday, February 14 at 2:00 p.m. CT. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red. May God bless this new partnership!

Wedding Engagement Announcements:

- God bless Pastor Cori Johnson (St. Stephen's, Stephenson and Gethsemane, Wallace) and her fiancé Todd Parsons as they announce their pending nuptials on Saturday February 20th. May God bless them as they commit themselves to each other.
- God bless Pastor Bre Johnson (Bethel, Cedarville and Zion, Allenville) and her fiancée, Thomas Kinnunen as they announce their forthcoming marriage. A summer wedding is being planned. God bless their lives together.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+For our nation as we discern the quality of the candidates and make voting decisions. May God's will be done.

+For our congregations, that we be in prayer and discussion, listening for the Spirit's voice and guidance.

+For the annual meetings soon to be held in most of our churches. May they be full of ministry and mission discovery!

+ + +

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**

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