



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

nngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for March 15, 2016

The Season of Lent

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Every liturgical year, the church gathers for an intensive mediation in Christian identity. The liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter - with their intensive hearing, singing, washing, eating, and praying - school us as cross and resurrection people. The days' readings and rituals may not change from year to year, but we have changed in the past year. The worship meets our changed identities, re-forming us into Christ's body for the sake of the world."



- p. 114 "Sundays and Seasons"

ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL --- NOMINATIONS

Our 2016 Synod Assembly will be nominating two lay males from our synod to be voted upon at the Churchwide Assembly this summer for the ELCA Church Council. the ELCA Church

Council is the legislative arm of the national church and is responsible for the ministry of our denomination.

We need to find four excellent men who are willing to commit themselves to six years of service on the ELCA Church Council.

Our Synod Assembly will choose two men to be voted upon this summer in New Orleans in August. The one elected by the Churchwide Assembly from the Northern Great Lakes Synod will then serve!

Who is willing to do this work? Who has the maturity, the churchmanship and the ability to be entrusted with this responsibility? If you would like to nominate a person, please contact Pastor Doug Johnson, our Synod Secretary, or the Bishop. We need excellent candidates!

AN ORDINATION—AND YOU ARE INVITED!

He will be prayed for. He will have hands laid on him and he will become a pastor. Soren Schmidt will be ordained next

Sunday—March 20th at 3:00 p.m. E.T. at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Escanaba. You are invited! Pastor-elect Schmidt has been called by the Synod Council to serve as the campus pastor at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan. Soren will take vows, receive the blessing of many colleague pastors and begin his work as an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament. It will be a wonderful day. Clergy are invited to process. The color of the day is red.

AN INSTALLATION – AND YOU ARE INVITED!

You are welcome to join the congregations of the Northern Lights Lutheran Parish as they install their new pastor, Rev. Jay Welshonse on Sunday April 3 at 3:00pm at Siloa, Ontonagon.

Food and fellowship to follow.

Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red.

May God bless their new partnership!

TWO SENIOR SEMINARIANS ASSIGNED TO THIS SYNOD

One comes from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque. One comes from Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Both have been assigned to this synod in the Spring "draft." They both are graduating from seminary in the spring and soon will be nominated to congregations in our synod. Welcome Joe Daiker and John Ansell. May God bless their ministries in our midst.

Ad Campaign Update!

Please send us a digital copy of the outside of your church building for the Ad Campaign. A "landing page" is being developed and we want people to see your church!

Thank you to all those congregations who have been able to give to support this effort. We have received donations from Endowment Funds, General Funds, Memorial Funds, and individuals. As of today, we have received almost \$10,000 with promises of more to come. If your congregation has not yet made a donation, please consider what you can give. We have covered the cost of production, and now need to buy air time. You are invited to be a part of this exciting new way to WITNESS!!!

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+For the newly baptized, young and old alike born into the faith

+For the newly baptized, young and old alike born into the faith of Jesus.

+For those who work for peace around the world and for those who struggle in times of war and instability.

+For the young people of our congregations that we might teach and learn from them.

+For the congregations of our synod that we might grow in numbers, maturity and faithfulness.



MARKED! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the congregations who collected school supplies for our Synod Youth Marked! Events. We had a great time assembling over 300 School kits to be shipped off with your LWR Quilts in the Fall. It was great way of learning all that we can do as Church together!

Almost 200 Youth and Adults participated.

Watch for more information for next year's MARKED!

PASTORS: Have You Taken the Health Assessment Yet?

Portico Benefit Services is offering a 1% discount to each congregation of the Synod if 65%

of our plan members (pastors and covered spouses)
take this health assessment.

Please take 15 minutes of your time TODAY
to take the assessment. You will be benefiting yourself,
your congregation, and your entire synod!

Go to MyPortico and click on the Mayo Clinic
health assessment link under the 2016 GO Challenge.

The health assessment is confidential and results will not
be shared with the Synod Office.



Conference 8 Choir Now Forming for Synod Assembly!

**First rehearsal will be Thursday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. at
Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette. Second rehearsal
will be Friday, May 13, prior to opening worship.
Registration for assembly not required if you are just
participating in the choir.**



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>.

If you do not have a copy of the report mailed by ELCA, you may need to **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!!

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





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 June 1, 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](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](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](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](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](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.



Room at the Inn

Room at the Inn is an emergency homeless shelter which moves from church to church on a weekly basis, and is open from the end of September to the end of May.

We serve about 15 - 20 guests each night. We receive our support from churches, from other groups, and from individuals. We do not accept or solicit donations from any governmental agencies. We also provide a Warming

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*).

We also provide a warming Center for our homeless guests and for anyone wanting or needing breakfasts and lunches at no cost.

Contributions such as yours help us to pay our bills certainly but they also encourage us to realize that we have the support of the wider community in our work to help our homeless guests to get back on their feet by finding jobs and/or finding a place to live. Thank you so much for helping us!

For more information, contact Helen McCormick, President Room at the Inn
347 Rock Street,
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: 906-227-9171
Fax: 906-228-2469

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



**Items for Pre-Assembly Reports are needed
in the Synod Office
NOW!**

**Synod Assembly Registration information is now available
online at www.nglsynod.org/assembly.**

Committees wanting to have a display table
can find a Display Request Form
on the synod website under assembly.



Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp **Activities**

**Register for Summer Camp by April 1, 2016
and get a \$25 discount!**

Volunteers to assist with finishing the four tree
houses are welcome anytime after
April 1, 2016

April 8-10: Adoptive Family Retreat

April 17: FLLC Annual Meeting

April 22-24: Adult Retreat

(Focus on Bible study)

April 22-23: Upper Elementary Retreat

(For grades 3-6)

**April 29-30: Church Staff Renewal
Retreat**

(For anyone on your church staff)

May 11: Spring Cleaning Bee

For more information about any of these events,
please contact FLLC by phone at 906/214-2267
(CAMP)

or check out their website at
www.fortunelakelutherancamp.org.

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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**

