



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

nngls@nnglsynod.org

E-Notes for May 17, 2016

The Season of Pentecost

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Kelly Fryer has written about the church: "The Church may be the only organization on the planet that exists entirely for the sake of those people who don't belong to it yet. In fact, as soon as we forget this and start making it all about ourselves, we stop being the church."

29th Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

What Happened?

Almost 300 people gathered at Messiah Lutheran Church and at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI on

Friday and Saturday, May 13-14. It was a great experience of fellowship, education, worship, and business.

+We thanked God for a good and important year of Christian witness as we gathered as a Synod around Word and Sacrament Friday evening.

+Received the report of the Church from Pastor Chris Boerger, ELCA Secretary.

+Heard Pastor Stephanie Franz as the "Witness Speaker."
Pastor Franz is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

+Celebrated with three congregations as they commemorated anniversaries of their founding (Trinity and Immanuel in Rhineland - 125 years, and First in Ewen - 100 years).

+Recognized Melzee Jacobson, Karen Reitz, Frances Voyce, and Jack Koivisto who have graduated from the Synod's Lay School for Mission.

+Congratulated pastors as the church noted anniversaries of their ordination.

+Received offerings: World Hunger Quarters - \$25,436.93; Bishop's Discretionary - \$1,264.39; Synod Mission Outreach - \$1,264.39; Always Being Made New 2016 Cash and Pledges - \$2,019.25.

+Nominated Ervin Sparapani (Bethany, Norway) and Philip Wirtanen (St. Paul's, Ironwood) for Churchwide Council - Lay Male to be voted upon at the ELCA Assembly this summer.

+Welcomed Tim Knutson to the Synod as a Regional Gift Planner.

+Elected new members of the Synod Council: Pastors Bill Jacobson, Julie Belew, Cori Johnson, and lay leaders Chuck Thomas and Hayley Smith.

+Convened all eight conferences to discuss their common witness and ministry opportunities in their geographic areas.

+Heard reports and adopted budgets.

+Enjoyed the company of God's people living and serving together in God's Country!

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! Check out your congregation's information at www.churchisgood.org.

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 \$15,000 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 people of God gathering in synod assemblies all over the United States in these spring days. We pray especially for those synods electing bishops. God keep us steadfast.

+For those who struggle with acute or chronic illnesses. In the midst of pain and worry, give those afflicted and their families

the peace that passes all human understanding.

+For rest this summer. May we enjoy the beautiful forests, lakes and streams that God provides us.

+For all who learn, grow and enjoy Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp.

TRANSITIONS

+ Congratulations to **Pastor David Hueter** (Zion Lutheran Church in Manistique) who has been called to serve the people of St. Thomas Church in Cheboygan, a congregation of the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod. We shall miss Pastor Hueter who leaves this synod after twenty-eight years of service in our midst.

Always Being Made New Campaign

Thank you to all the congregations and individuals who contributed to the Always Being Made New Campaign for 2015! We now have almost \$5000 that is available for grants to our Northern Great Lakes Synod congregations for Barrier Free Projects. For more information on details and how to apply, go to www.nglsynod.org.

Application deadline is September 1, 2016.

DOMESTIC HUNGER GRANTS AVAILABLE

Congregations interested in applying for ELCA Domestic

Hunger Grants should note the following deadlines:

May 1 - Applications available on website

July 10 - Deadline for completed application

Grants awarded on a two year cycle - current funding will be for 2016-2017.

FAIR TRADE USERS: To celebrate 20 years of making a difference through Fair Trade, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is offering a coupon for 20% off your next order.

The coupon can be found in the latest issue of "Living Lutheran." This might be a good time to get your congregation to start using these products. Go to: www.lwrcoffee.com and use the different code, Lutheran20, when you place your order.

Registrations Due by June 1

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!

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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 an questions.

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



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!

+Interested youth and their families are welcome to a meeting to talk about this trip - Sunday, June 5 at 3:00 p.m. CT at Fortune Lake Camp.

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



Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Activities

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

For more information about

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

all events,
please contact FLLC by phone
at 906/214-2267 (CAMP)
or check out their website at
www.fortunelakelutherancamp.org.

**that you sent it (that is, your
identity) will remain in
confidence at the Synod Office.**

**Sponsored by the
Evangelism Committee**



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