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

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for December 4, 2018

The Season of Advent

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We prepare to witness a mystery.
More to the point, we prepare to witness *the* Mystery, *the* God made flesh.
While it is good that we seek to know the Holy One,
it is probably not so good to presume that we ever complete the task,
to suppose that we ever know anything about him
except what he has made known to us...
Think of it like this:
he cannot be exhausted by our ideas about him, but he is everywhere suggested.
He cannot be comprehended, but he can be touched.
His coming in the flesh – this Mystery we prepare to glimpse again –
confirms that he is to be touched.

~God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas
by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, p.30, Day Seven.



Did you know...

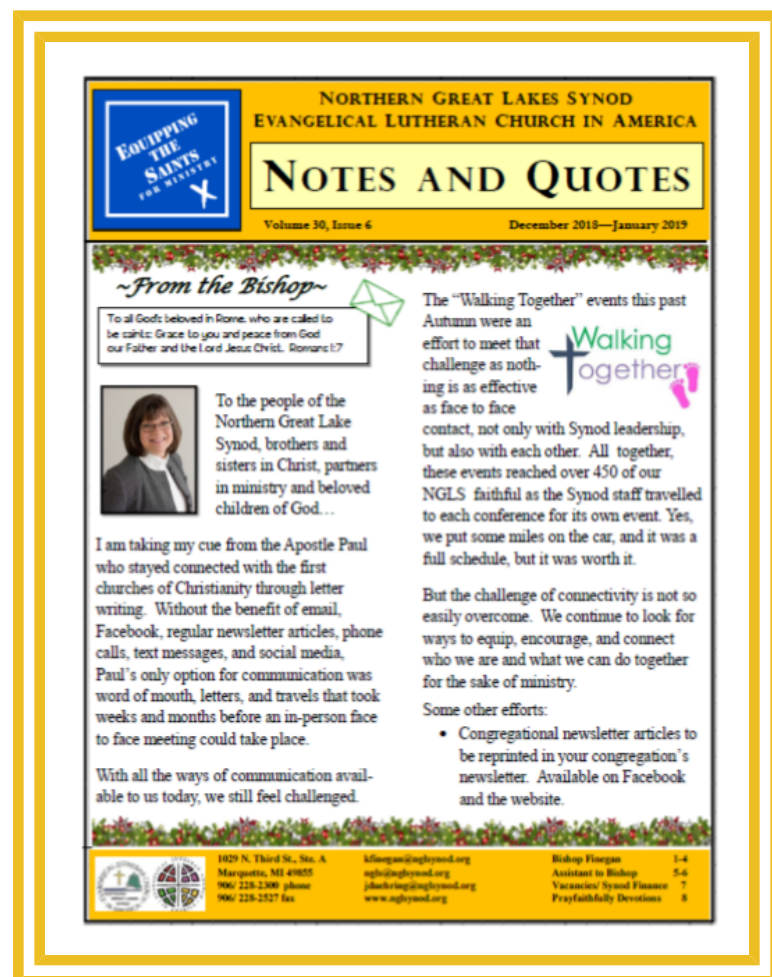
The Bishop was invited by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to attend a Retreat of Newly Elected Leaders sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation. From November 17 – 27, the Bishop spent time in Geneva, Switzerland and Wittenberg, Germany, along with 11 other Lutheran bishops from all over the world; Guyana, Angola, Chile, Hungary, Poland, India, Mexico, Canada, the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA, and Tanzania. She learned about the impressive work of the Lutheran World Federation and the efforts in ministry in very different settings. Many of our struggles and challenges are similar. Many are as unique and distinctive as the setting.

While in Wittenberg, Germany, she planted an apple tree as part of the effort to celebrate the Reformation with the planting of 500 trees. Click on the link below to explore the Luthergarten and see the tree planting. There are also pictures on the Synod Facebook page.

http://www.luthergarten.de/list.html?fbclid=IwAR3v29Kp0Jjn4dFOvk4qrMpp-OxFJoE3-K559hP_NO8q5puPEz5rajhBDxQ

Our Synod has agreed to plant a sister tree here. Watch for more

information about that after the snow melts.



For the latest issue of the Synod Newsletter, Notes and Quotes, click on the link below.

<https://nglsynod.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1660157542ed666bad1aedab2&id=dd23022235&e=a3957c72f2>

TRANSITIONS

~ We celebrate with Pastor Mike Laakko upon his retirement. He will serve his last day at United, Crystal Falls and Bethany, Amasa on December 31, 2018. God bless him and his family as he begins a new adventure.

~We pray God's blessings upon Pastor Kevin Kaiser and his family, as he has accepted a call to serve in our neighboring synod to the south. His last day of ministry at Bethany, Republic will be December 31, 2018. May God bless their good-byes and new beginnings!

~We pray God's blessings upon Pastor Erik Heskin and his family. Pastor Heskin's last day of service to the people of Bethany, Escanaba will be February 28, 2019. May God bless their good-

Attention Treasurers!

Please note these dates:

January 11, 2019

The last day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that 2018 benevolence gifts can be credited to 2018 giving.

February 11, 2019

The last day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that January, 2019 giving can be credited to the Synod fiscal year.



As part of our involvement in the ministry efforts of the greater church, we have representation on various boards and committees. Two positions that are currently open are on the **Lutheran Office for Public Policy of Wisconsin (LOPPW)** and **Lutheran Social Services**.

If you have any interest in being a part of this larger ministry effort, or would like more information, please call the Synod Office. You can also go to their websites:
<https://www.loppw.org/> and
<https://www.lsswis.org/LSS.htm>.

Professional Leaders Event

February 10-11, 2019

Sunday Evening - Monday Afternoon

at the Ramada Inn in Marquette, Michigan

All rostered leaders and licensed lay ministers of NGLS are invited to attend this Continuing Education event.

Rev. Dr. Craig L. Nesson will be the speaker.

He is the Academic Dean and Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He teaches courses in the areas of contextual theology, pastoral theology, and theological ethics. He has oversight of the seminary's internship program.

Register Now!

Registration Deadline is February 1, 2019.

Click the link below for registration form:

<https://jwwmedia.s3.amazonaws.com/ngls/pdf2018/NessonBrochure.pdf>



2019 Marked! Events

Confirmation Students and Leaders
celebrate your identity as baptized children of God
in our Lutheran expression!

Attend any event: IT'S FREE!!

- **Sunday – March 10** at Our Savior's, Marinette 4-7pm CT
- **Sunday – March 17** at Our Redeemer, Newberry 4-7pm ET
- **Sunday – March 31** at Faith, Calumet 4-7pm ET
- **Sunday – April 7** at Ascension, Minocqua 4-7pm CT

**These events include music, worship, learning, food, fun
and two service projects:**

1. **Collect financial donations for Lutheran Disaster Response.** Join a friendly competition to see which church can raise the most financial donations (prorated by average worship attendance).

2. **Collect items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Bring donated items along to your MARKED! Event and we'll assemble the kits together.**

Each kit needs:

- **1 light-weight bath-size towel** (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- **2 or 3 Bath-size bars of soap** equaling 8 to 9 oz., **any brand**, in original wrapper (please, **NO mini soap bars from hotels**)
- **1 Adult-size toothbrush** in its original packaging
- **1 Sturdy comb**
- **1 Metal nail clippers** (attached file optional)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!



Lutheran World Relief Gifts

Give a gift and change a life through LWR Gifts. Did you know that chicks take just 120 days to mature and provide a lasting income for farmers and their families: In just 4 short months, a whole flock of chickens can start producing their own chicks! You could give a hen and chicks, today! Choose from various critters, farming equipment and supplies to help farmers and their families thrive with LWR Gifts.

Check out the full catalog online at **gifts.lwr.org** to support Lutheran World Relief in finding long-term, sustainable solutions to poverty.

Clergy Spouse Conference

February 1-3, 2019

Country Inn and Suites in Iron Mountain, Michigan

All clergy spouses are welcome and invited to join ELCA clergy spouses from Wisconsin and Upper Michigan for a weekend at the Country Inn and Suites in Iron Mountain, MI.

The weekend will be an informal, fun time with valuable workshops, good food, lots of laughter, and fellowship.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. on Friday and dinner will be at 6 p.m. The conference concludes late Sunday morning after worship service.

Presenter will be Barbara Solsaa, owner and director of Clergy Life Coaching, LLC.

Registration Deadline is January 14, 2019.

For more information and a registration form, go to
www.nglsynod.org under Upcoming Events.



Looking for a Good Devotional Resource?

Check out our synod website and the "Prayfaithfully Resource".

People from our synod write weekly devotionals.

Go to www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully to explore this resource. Make daily devotions a part of your routine. You'll be blessed by this inspiring discipline.

Maybe God is inspiring you to write for this synod devotional resource. If interested, contact Betsy Koski in the Synod Office, 906-228-2300 or bakoski@nglsynod.org.

Stewardship—it's not just about giving money.
It's about giving **everything**.

And serve each other according to the gift
each person has received, as good managers
of God's diverse gifts. —1 Peter 4:10, CEB



Pastor Jim Duehring will be glad to talk with any congregation about Stewardship.

Contact him at the Synod Office (906/228-2300).

Here are some possible resources:

www.nglsynod.org/stewardship

www.elca.org/stewardship

www.ebracingstewardship.com

Embracing Stewardship

by Charles R. Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy

Ask, Thank, Tell

by Charles R. Lane

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

by Adam Hamilton



Submit Your 'Synod Snapshot'

(congregational stories of ministries)

Check out the December/January issue
of Notes & Quotes by clicking on the link below:
<https://jwwmedia.s3.amazonaws.com/ngls/NotesQuotes/2018-1201.pdf>

**What is your congregation doing to share
God's love in your community during this
Christmas season?**

Write a one-page story about the event with a couple
of pictures and email it to the Synod Office so it can be
featured in a future issue of Notes and Quotes!

We are in need of more Synod Snapshot articles!



**Northern Great Lakes
Synod Assembly, ELCA**

**2019
Announcement!**

Synod Assembly 2019 will be at **Bay College** and
the ELCA Lutheran Churches in
Escanaba/Gladstone Michigan
on May 16, 17, 18

Thursday evening through Saturday afternoon.

- ~ **More Display Space and Time to Visit Displays!**
- ~ **Attend Multiple Workshops!**
- ~ **More Fellowship Time!**
- ~ **Keynote Speaker, Dwight Zscheile**
- ~ **Enjoy the Banquet at Terrace Bay Inn!**
- ~ **Experience a Synod Assembly Worship Service!**
- ~ **Come Ready to be Equipped for Ministry!**

Mark Your Calendars Now!!



The "Always Being Made New" Campaign **in the Northern Great Lakes Synod**

2018 "Always Being Made New" Campaign: The focus will be on ELCA's **"Fund for Leaders" & Youth & Young Adults** and Northern Great Lakes Synod's **"Synod Campus Ministry"** efforts.

All Congregations received envelopes and bulletin inserts at the Synod Assembly. Plan on dedicating a worship weekend to receive your Always Being Made New offering for this final year of the Campaign.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

- For people of faith as they prepare their hearts and lives for the coming of Christ.
- For people without faith in Christ, that they may come to know the blessings of His presence in their lives, and that
- We have the courage to share our faith with them and invite them to "come and see."
- For our congregations in the call process, may God grant peace and clarity.

CHECK OUT www.prayfaithfully.org
for weekly "Breath Prayer"
and Daily Devotions

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

Bishop's Articles for Congregational Newsletters:
<https://www.nglsynod.org/newsletter-articles/>



E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter
from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Bishop Katherine Finegan

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