



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod

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Companion Relationships:

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Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Delaware-Maryland Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Rev. Dale R. Skogman

Bishop Emeritus

1991-1999

Rev. Harry S. Andersen

Bishop Emeritus

1987-1991

BISHOP'S REPORT FOR CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORTS

The New Year 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Northern Great Lakes Synod;

As you gather in the New Year, I greet you in the loving name of Jesus Christ. He is the light of the world, and no darkness or sin or pain can overcome this Lord of all. Our 82 congregations here in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin are called in 2016 to focus on "Witness," as part of our synod's three year emphasis in "Worship, Welcome and Witness."

We witness to Jesus when we worship God each Sunday, being an example for our neighbors and friends.

We witness to Jesus when we participate in Bible study groups hearing and reflecting upon God's Word.

We witness to Jesus when we eagerly serve as a congregational leader or serve in the choir, altar guild, kitchen or Sunday School classroom.

We witness to Jesus when we affirm God's grace at the coffee hour at church or with our friends at the restaurant.

We witness to Jesus when we share God's love at the food bank or help with a community event, reminding others that we can do all things as He strengthens us.

We witness to Jesus when we write a special check to the church or to the ELCA Hunger Program.

We witness to Jesus when we pray aloud at the bedside of an ill friend and remind them that God cares for and loves them.

We witness to Jesus when we help someone who needs to hear a word of hope; hope which can only come from God's Word.

We share the news that Christ is raised from the dead and that Christ will come again! How will you be a witness to the most wonderful news of all time? How will the witness of your congregation be strengthened by your efforts? May this be the year of witness for you. Today is a great day to celebrate Jesus!

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop