

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
May 15-17, 2015  
Finlandia University, Hancock, Michigan

**Theme: Welcome, Worship, Witness**

**FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015**

2:00 p.m.	Registration	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
2:30 p.m.	Synod Council Meeting	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
4:30 p.m.	Voting Member and Visitor Orientation	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
5:30 p.m.	Resolutions Committee Meeting	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
6:30 pm.	Opening Worship	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

**8:10 p.m.**

**PLENARY I – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**

**ORDER FOR OPENING**

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes welcomed all in attendance to the 28<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly and led those gathered in the Order of Opening of Assembly.

**INTRODUCTIONS,  
GREETINGS AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bishop Skrenes thanked Rev. D.J. Rasner, pastor of Gloria Dei for the use of their beautiful building. He invited Rev. Rasner to greet the assembly.

Bishop Skrenes introduced Dr. Victoria Kisiyombe from the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. She represents Dr. Alex Malasusa, Bishop of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and will present the keynote address.

Rev. Kevin Strickland, Worship Director of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was also introduced by Bishop Skrenes. He represents Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and will give a report to the assembly on Sunday.

Bishop Skrenes introduced Erik Larson from Good Shepherd, Peshtigo, who represents our synod on the board of Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, and Rev. James Holmberg who is representing Lutheran Social Services.

Bishop Skrenes thanked Thrivent Financial for sponsoring tonight's reception. He introduced Roxanne Shimek and Bill Bargholtz from Thrivent and invited Roxanne to address the assembly.

Bishop Skrenes announced that Sue Ann Ambuehl of Bethany, Republic, is the chair of the worship committee. Rev. George Kaiser serves as Sacristan and the assembly thanked him and the committee for their ministry in planning the assembly worship services.

Bishop Skrenes also announced that the offering from this evening's service and from the service on Sunday will be divided equally between youth ministry and the Lay School for Mission.

Bishop Skrenes introduced Elaine Johnson (Bethlehem, Florence) and thanked her for helping with many different things at the Assembly.

INTRODUCTION  
OF SYNOD  
OFFICERS

Bishop Skrenes introduced the Synod Officers: Pauline Kiltinen (St. Mark’s, Marquette), Vice President; Rev. Douglas Johnson (Bethlehem, Florence), Secretary; and Dr. Larry Pagel, (Messiah, Marquette), Treasurer. He also introduced Karen Kolstad (Zion, Marinette) serving as Assembly Recording Secretary and Assembly Parliamentarian Susan Anderson (Immanuel, Rhineland).

CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Pamela Long (Grace, South Range), Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 6:30 p.m. May 15, 2015:

Registered Voting Members .....	200
Clergy (50 under call and 12 retired) .....	62
Lay Voting Members (56 male/82 female).....	138
Registered Visitors .....	36
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....	236

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 1  
RULES AND  
ORDER FOR  
PROCEDURE

Bishop Skrenes announced that it was time to move the adoption of the Rules and Order of Procedure for this Synod Assembly. He reminded the Assembly of Rule 6 on page 76 of the Pre-Assembly Report and read a portion of this rule.

Bishop Skrenes reported the Synod Council recommends adoption of Resolution Number 1, who has moved and seconded it.

RESOLVED, that the Proposed Rules and Order of Procedure as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2015 Assembly.

**SA15.05.01**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 2  
AGENDA AND  
PROGRAM

Bishop Skrenes reported the Synod Council recommends adoption of Resolution Number 2, who has moved and seconded it.

RESOLVED, that the Agenda and Program as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2015 Assembly.

**SA15.05.02**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 WAS ADOPTED.

NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Phil Wirtanen, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and asked him to present their report as found on pages 34-54 of the Pre-Assembly Report. Mr. Wirtanen also introduced the other members of the committee.

Nominations were presented for the following positions:

Synod Vice President (4-year term)

Pamela Long and Rick Pink

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Vice President.

**SA15.05.03**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Synod Secretary (4-year term)

Rev. Douglas Johnson

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Rev. Douglas Johnson as Synod Secretary.

**SA15.05.04**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED. REV. DOUGLAS JOHNSON  
WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SECRETARY OF THE  
SYNOD FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM ENDING 2019.

Synod Consultation Committee – Lay Male or Female (6-year term):

Jack Lehto, Kaaren Ness, Gene Oestreich, Ralph Wirtanen

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Consultation Committee – Lay Male or Female.

**SA15.05.05**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Synod Consultation Committee – Clergy (6-year term):

Rev. James Duehring, Rev. Micheal Laakko

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Consultation Committee – Clergy.

**SA15.05.06**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (4-year term):

Rev. Warren Geier, Rev. Greg Mileski

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (4-year term).

**SA15.05.07**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (6-year term):

Rev. Mary Beth Kovanen, Rev. Matthew Lamb

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (6-year term).

**SA15.05.08**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay Male or Female (4-year term):

Nathan Jarvi, Jack Lehto, Rosemary McPherson, Ruth Warmanen

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline Committee – Lay Male or Female

**SA15.05.09**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay Male or Female (6-year term):  
Mary Hansen, William Hartman, Patti Jahn, David Kauppi, Denise Laakko  
No additional nominations were received from the floor.  
It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline  
Committee – Lay Male or Female.

**SA15.05.10**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Clergy:  
Rev. Tamra Harder, Rev. Chris Johnson, Rev. Diane Srutowski, Rev. Sally  
Wilke  
No additional nominations were received from the floor.  
It was moved and seconded to close nominations for 2016 Churchwide  
Assembly Voting Member – Clergy.

**SA15.05.11**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Female:  
Mary Lou Blomquist, Jill Flickinger, Nicole Jarvi, Lynn Lehto, Sally  
Weingartner, Melzee Jacobson  
No additional nominations were received from the floor.  
It was moved and seconded to close nominations for 2016 Churchwide  
Assembly Voting Member – Lay Female.

**SA15.05.12**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Female ages 18-30:  
Anna Solberg, Christine Wilson  
No additional nominations were received from the floor.  
It was moved and seconded to close nominations for 2016 Churchwide  
Assembly Voting Member – Lay Female ages 18-30.

**SA15.05.13**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Male:  
Clyde Anderson, Roland Jacobson, Dan Laatsch, Larry Pagel, Jake Putala,  
Brian Tarro, Phil Wirtanen  
No additional nominations were received from the floor.  
It was moved and seconded to close nominations for 2016 Churchwide  
Assembly Voting Member – Lay Male.

**SA15.05.14**

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Bishop Skrenes announced that the first ballot for all positions will take  
place tomorrow morning at about 9:15 a.m. The Bishop urged all voting  
members to study the report this evening and make their decisions so that  
voting will go quickly in the morning. The Assembly thanked the members  
of the Nominating Committee for their work with their applause.

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. David Murphy, Chair of the Resolutions  
Committee. Bishop Skrenes reported that at this time no additional  
resolutions have been submitted. Bishop Skrenes read bylaw S711.60 and  
announced the deadline for resolutions as 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND CLOSING  
PRAYER

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee. He introduced the committee and gave a few announcements. The Assembly thanked the Synod Assembly Planning Committee with their applause.

Rev. Douglas Johnson, Synod Secretary, gave a closing prayer. Bishop Skrenes announced that the assembly is now in recess until 9:00 a.m.

RECEPTION

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, with financial support from Thrivent Financial, hosted a reception in their parish hall.

**SATURDAY, MAY 16**

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church/Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

7:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Registration at Finlandia University – Assembly Office

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Worship Service at Gloria Dei and Good Shepherd

9:05 a.m.

Hymn & Prayer – Paavo Nurmi Gym, Finlandia University

**9:10 a.m.**

**PLENARY II – Paavo Nurmi Gym, Finlandia University**

INTRODUCTION

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Dr. Philip Johnson, President of Finlandia University, who addressed the assembly.

CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Pamela Long, Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 9:00 a.m. May 16, 2015:

Registered Voting Members .....	222
Clergy (53 under call and 13 retired) .....	66
Lay Voting Members (64 male/92 female).....	156
Registered Visitors.....	42
<b>TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....</b>	<b>264</b>

FIRST BALLOT  
FOR ALL  
POSITIONS

Bishop Skrenes offered a prayer and then asked the Elections Committee, chaired by Rev. Chris Johnson (Christ the King, Escanaba), to distribute the first ballot for all positions. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as the ballots have been tallied.

EXCUSED  
ABSENCES

Bishop Skrenes read Synod Constitutional Provision S14.21 regarding required attendance at Synod Assemblies by rostered persons. The following rostered persons requested excused absences for the 2015 Assembly: Bishop Emeritus Harry Andersen, Rev. Mark Bangert, Rev. Earl Bergh, Rev. Douglas Buck, Rev. Kenneth Carlson, Rev. Allan Johnson, Rev. David Johnson, Rev. George Candea-Kromm, Rev. Paul Holmstrom, Rev. Amanda Kossow, Rev. Kurt Kovanen, Rev. Mary Beth Kovanen, Rev. Barry Levine, Rev. Ingmar Levin, Rev. Dean Marin, Rev. Ken Michaelis, Rev. George Olson, Rev. Robert Patrick, Rev. Duane Priebe, Rev. John Shallow, Bishop Emeritus Dale Skogman, Rev. Rell Spickerman, Rev. Robert Sutherland, Rev. Eugene Wickman, Rev. Thomas Wickstrom, and Associate in Ministry Darrel Diers.

ON LEAVE  
FROM CALL

Bishop Skrenes also reported on other rostered persons. Pastors who are currently on Leave from Call are: Rev. Bonny Kinnunen, Rev. Timothy Nyikako, Rev. Melinda Quivik, and Rev. LaVonne Stephenson.

PAROCHIAL  
REPORTS

Bishop Skrenes reported that congregations are required, by their own constitutions, to submit an annual parochial report to the synod. As of today, three congregations have yet to submit this report. Conversations continue with those congregations and the bishop is expecting 100% compliance.

REPORT OF  
THE BISHOP

Bishop Skrenes announced that his report is on pages 3 to 19 of the Pre-Assembly Report. He will use this time giving his report to thank people! First he expressed thanks to the synod staff and introduced them to the assembly: Rev. Katherine Finegan, Assistant to the Bishop; Louise Ingalls, Secretary; Betsy Koski, Secretary/Bookkeeper; Rev. James Duehring, Synod Missioner (Prince of Peace, Harvey) and Rev. Matt Lamb, Synod Missioner (St. James, Rudyard). The assembly thanked the staff with their applause. Bishop Skrenes also thanked the synod officers: Rev. Douglas Johnson, Synod Secretary and Dr. Larry Pagel, Synod Treasurer. Bishop Skrenes then introduced the Synod Council.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 7  
RECOGNITION  
OF THE MINISTRY  
OF SYNOD VICE  
PRESIDENT  
PAULINE  
KILTINEN

Bishop Skrenes introduced Resolution Number 7, on page 57 of the Pre-Assembly Report. Secretary Douglas Johnson read the resolution, submitted by the Synod Executive Committee.

WHEREAS, Pauline Kiltinen has served our Northern Great Lakes Synod as Vice President since 2007, and

WHEREAS, this Synod has shown confidence in the ability of Vice President Kiltinen by re-electing her in 2011, and

WHEREAS, Pauline Kiltinen has served faithfully as Vice President of this Synod, chairing the Synod Council and its Synod Executive Committee, always with wise leadership, and

WHEREAS, Pauline Kiltinen has been a trusted confidant and counselor to our bishop over this eight year period, always bringing with her into every conversation a maturity of faith, a warmth of personality, and a Christian joy for her life to her service, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod meeting in Assembly on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May does hereby congratulate Pauline Kiltinen for her ministry in our midst, thanking God for her eight years of Synod leadership as our Vice President, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod does hereby thank her husband, Dr. John Kiltinen, for sharing Pauline with this Synod over these years, and

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 7

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Synod stand in appreciation to Vice President Kiltinen for her excellent witness to the Gospel of Christ by this faithful service.

The motion was moved and seconded. Discussion followed.

**SA15.05.15**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 7 WAS ADOPTED.

The assembly stood and thanked Pauline with their applause.

REPORT OF THE  
SYNOD VICE  
PRESIDENT

Pauline encouraged the assembly to read her report on page 63 of the Pre-Assembly Report. Bishop Skrenes presented certificates to those completing their terms on the Synod Council.

HYMN

The assembly sang a hymn led by Dakota Road.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 8  
ALWAYS BEING  
MADE NEW  
APPEAL

Bishop Skrenes introduced Resolution Number 8, Always Being Made New Appeal. The resolution was read by Bishop Skrenes and Secretary Douglas Johnson. It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council.

WHEREAS, at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America established the dates of 2014-2019 for a capital campaign known as Always Being Made New; and

WHEREAS, Always Being Made New would provide crucial funding for the mission of Jesus Christ with youth and young adults, new and existing ELCA congregations, global mission and world hunger, and related areas of ministry; and

WHEREAS, each of the ELCA's 65 synods and all of its congregations have been encouraged to participate in Always Being Made New; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in its May, 2015 assembly adopt a four year plan of participation in Always Being Made New, as follows:

- 50% of all receipts would be used to support mission within the Northern Great Lakes Synod and 50% beyond the Northern Great Lakes Synod through the ELCA;
- A participation goal of 100% of all congregations would be affirmed, rather than a financial goal;
- Time at each synod assembly would be set aside to emphasize Always Being Made New and opportunity would be given for participants to support the appeal through offerings and pledges;
- Each congregation would be asked to set aside one weekend per year from 2015-2019 to learn about Always Being Made New and to receive special offerings and pledges for the appeal as well as regular offerings for the congregation;
- The dates for each congregation's observance of Always Being Made New would be flexible, but a date in September of 2015 would

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 8

be recommended, with weekends in April recommended for each succeeding year;

- The Mission Outreach Committee of the Northern Great Lakes Synod would be asked to coordinate NGLS participation in the appeal and develop additional events during the appeal period;
- Proceeds collected during the appeal would be divided in this way:
  1. In 2015, 50% of the proceeds collected would be given to Renewing and New Congregations in the ELCA and 50% divided between Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp and Congregational Barrier-Free projects in the NGLS;
  2. In 2016, 50% of the proceeds collected would be given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and 50% to Local Hunger grants to congregations of the NGLS;
  3. In 2017, 50% of the proceeds collected would be given to Global Church ministries and partnerships in the ELCA and 50% to the Companion Synod relationship between the NGLS and the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.
  4. In 2018, 50% of the proceeds collected would be given to the ELCA Fund for Leaders and the ministry with youth and young adults and 50% would be given to Lutheran Campus Ministry efforts within the NGLS.

Discussion followed.

**SA15.05.16**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 8 WAS ADOPTED.

Cards and envelopes were distributed to assembly members. Bishop Skrenes announced that the information will be sent in bulk to congregations so that they will have them for the September emphasis.

LUTHERAN  
SOCIAL  
SERVICES

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. James Holmberg representing Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Rev. Holmberg addressed the assembly and showed a video about LSS.

HYMN

The assembly sang a hymn led by Dakota Road.

KEYNOTE  
ADDRESS

Bishop Skrenes introduced Dr. Victoria Kisyonbe from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania to present the keynote address. He presented her with a gift upon the conclusion of her address.

ROSTERED  
PERSONS NEW  
TO SYNOD

Bishop Skrenes announced the following persons who are new to the Northern Great Lakes Synod since our last assembly: Rev. Richard Likeness (Ascension, Minocqua); Rev. Andrea Fluegel (Prince of Peace, Eagle River); Rev. Diane Srutowski (Trinity, Stonington and Bethany, Perkins); Rev. Joseph Iverson (Holy Trinity, Chasell); Rev. Kristi Ursin (Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner); Rev. Jeremy Nausin (Grace, Pembine); and Rev. Tom Otis (First, Gladstone). They were welcomed with applause.



INSTALLATIONS  
AND  
ORDINATIONS

The following ordinations and installations were performed under the authority of the synod during May 2014-May 2015:

Ordinations and Installations

6/8/2014	Richard Likeness	Installed at Ascension, Minocqua
7/1/2014	Andrea Fluegel	Ordained at Roseville, Roseville, MN
9/7/2014	Andrea Fluegel	Installed at Prince of Peace, Eagle River
7/27/2014	Erik Grayvold	Ordained at First, Ewen
8/17/2014	Diane Srutowski	Ordained at First, Gladstone
8/17/2014	Diane Srutowski	Installed at Trinity, Stonington and Bethany, Perkins
8/23/2014	Joseph Iverson	Ordained at Our Saviors, Westby, WI
9/21/2014	Joseph Iverson	Installed at Holy Trinity, Chassell
2/15/2015	Kristi Ursin	Installed at Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
3/1/2015	Jeremy Nausin	Ordained at Tanque Verde, Tuscon, AZ
3/29/2015	Jeremy Nausin	Installed at Grace, Pembine
4/26/2015	Tom Otis	Installed at First, Gladstone

Lay Leaders

8/3/2014	Linda Furray, LLM	Installed at Bethany, Norway and Calvary, Quinnesec
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SEMINARIANS

Bishop Skrenes also announced seminarians present at the Assembly: Linda Furray, Terry Frankenstein and Soren Schmidt. The Assembly recognized these seminarians with their applause.

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

Dr. Larry Pagel, Synod Treasurer, presented his report as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report.

ERIK HESKIN  
VIDEO

Bishop Skrenes introduced a video produced by Portico about Rev. Erik Heskin and his liver transplant. After showing the video, Rev. Heskin addressed the assembly.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 3  
CLERGY  
COMPENSATION  
GUIDELINES  
FOR 2016

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 3, submitted by the Synod Council. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2016 as approved by the Synod Council hereby be adopted and recommended to this Synod's congregations.

**SA15.05.17**

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt the resolution.  
**RESOLUTION NUMBER 3 WAS ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 4  
SYNOD  
COUNCIL

Resolution Number 4, Synod Council, submitted by the Conferences, was presented by Bishop Skrenes. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the following persons nominated by the Conferences be hereby elected the Synod Council with terms expiring at the conclusion of the Synod Assembly in the year indicated herein.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4	Copper Country Conference (Two) Headwaters Conference (Three)	Jacob Heikkinen (2018) Rev. Devon Barrix (2018)
	Four Rivers Conference (Four)	Barb Maines (2018)
	Delta Conference (Six)	Greg Garvet (2018)
	Three Lakes Conference (Seven)	Pam Durbin (2018) Rick Pink (2018)

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt the resolution.  
RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 WAS ADOPTED.

**SA15.05.18**

**HYMN** The assembly sang a hymn led by Dakota Road.

**ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT** Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Chris Johnson, Chair of the Elections Committee, who presented the following results for the first ballot:

Synod Vice President:

Number of Valid Ballots.....	216
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	1
Number of Valid Ballots.....	215
Needed to Elect .....	108
 Pam Long .....	 139
Rick Pink .....	76

**SA15.05.19**

PAM LONG WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD VICE  
PRESIDENT FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM ENDING 2019.

Synod Consultation Committee – Lay Male or Female (6-year term)

Number of Ballots .....	214
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	214
Needed to Elect .....	108
 Kaaren Ness .....	 133
Gene Oestreich.....	109
Ralph Wirtanen .....	100
Jack Lehto .....	74

**SA15.05.20**

KAAREN NESS AND GENE OESTREICH WERE DECLARED  
ELECTED SYNOD CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – LAY.

Synod Consultation Committee – Clergy (6-year term)

Number of Ballots .....	216
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	216
Needed to Elect .....	109
 Rev. James Duehring.....	 130
Rev. Micheal Laakko.....	86

**SA15.05.21**

**REV. JAMES DUEHRING WAS DECLARED ELECTED  
SYNOD CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – CLERGY.**

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (4-year term)	
Number of Ballots .....	215
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	1
Number of Valid Ballots.....	214
Needed to Elect .....	108
Rev. Warren Geier.....	107
Rev. Greg Mileski .....	107

There was no election. The names of Rev. Warren Geier and Rev. Greg Mileski will appear on the second ballot.

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (6-year term)	
Number of Ballots .....	215
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	215
Needed to Elect .....	108
Rev. Matthew Lamb .....	113
Rev. Mary Beth Kovanen .....	107

**SA15.05.22**

**REV. MATTHEW LAMB WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS  
SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – CLERGY.**

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay Male or Female (4-year term)	
Number of Ballots .....	212
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	212
Needed to Elect .....	107
Ruth Warmanen .....	137
Nathan Jarvi .....	137
Rosemary McPherson.....	78
Jack Lehto .....	66

**SA15.05.23**

**RUTH WARMANEN AND NATHAN JARVI WERE DECLARED  
ELECTED AS SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – LAY.**

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay Male or Female (6-year term)	
Number of Ballots .....	214
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	214
Needed to Elect .....	108
Denise Laakko.....	118
Mary Hansen.....	103

David Kauppi .....	103
William Hartman.....	52
Patti Jahn.....	43

**SA15.05.24**

**DENISE LAAKKO WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – LAY**

The names of Mary Hansen and David Kauppi will appear on the second ballot.

**Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Clergy**

Number of Ballots .....	214
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	214
Needed to Elect .....	108
Rev. Chris Johnson.....	149
Rev. Tamra Harder .....	104
Rev. Diane Srutowski.....	82
Rev. Sally Wilke .....	78

**SA15.05.25**

**REV. CHRIS JOHNSON WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER – CLERGY.**

The names of Rev. Tamra Harder and Rev. Diane Srutowski will appear on the second ballot.

**Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Female**

Number of Ballots .....	213
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	213
Needed to Elect .....	107
Nicole Jarvi .....	93
Mary Lou Blomquist .....	91
Sally Weingartner.....	71
Melzee Jacobson .....	56
Lynn Lehto.....	54
Jill Flickinger .....	44

There was no election. Due to Synod Constitution S9.01.31, Mary Lou Blomquist was declared ineligible to serve as she is from the same congregation as Dr. Larry Pagel who was elected on the first ballot. The names of Nicole Jarvi, Sally Weingartner, Melzee Jacobson and Lynn Lehto will appear on the second ballot.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Female Age 18-30	
Number of Ballots .....	214
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	214
Needed to Elect .....	108
Anna Solberg.....	136
Christine Wilson.....	78

**SA15.05.26**

ANNA SOLBERG WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER – LAY FEMALE AGE 18-30.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Male	
Number of Ballots .....	215
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	215
Needed to Elect .....	108
Larry Pagel.....	140
Jake Putala .....	117
Roland Jacobson.....	85
Phil Wirtanen .....	80
Brian Tarro.....	68
Dan Laatch.....	63
Clyde Anderson.....	55

**SA15.05.27**

LARRY PAGEL AND JAKE PUTALA WERE DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER – LAY MALE.

Due to Synod Constitution S9.01.31, Roland Jacobson was declared ineligible to serve as he is from the same congregation as Rev. Chris Johnson who was elected on the first ballot. The names of Phil Wirtanen and Brian Tarro will appear on the second ballot.

**SECOND  
BALLOT**

Bishop Skrenes offered a prayer and then asked that the Elections Committee distribute the second ballot.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND PRAYER**

Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, gave a few announcements and led the assembly in a prayer. Bishop Skrenes announced that the assembly is now in recess until tomorrow morning.

- 12:25 – 2:00 p.m.
- 2:00 – 5:30 p.m.
- 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

- Lunch
- Displays at Jutila Center
- Forums & Workshops at Jutila Center
- Banquet/Program – Paavo Nurmi Gym

**LAY SCHOOL  
FOR MISSION  
GRADUATES**

During the banquet, Bishop Skrenes announced that Rev. Warren Geier serves as the Dean of the Lay School for Mission. The Lay School for Mission meets on five campuses around the synod: Bethany, Ishpeming;

Zion, St. Ignace; Calvary, Minocqua; Finlandia Chapel in Hancock; and First, Gladstone. The campus coordinators were also introduced. Bishop Skrenes read the names of 7 graduating from the Lay School for Mission. The campus coordinators presented the diplomas. The graduates were congratulated with applause.

**CLERGY  
CELEBRATING  
ANNIVERSARIES  
AND  
RETIREMENT**

Also during the banquet, there was recognition of the following clergy celebrating ordination anniversaries:

- Rev. Robert Patrick – 25 years
- Rev. Kenneth Carlson – 40 years
- Rev. Mark Bangert – 50 years
- Rev. Duane Priebe – 50 years
- Bishop Emeritus Dale Skogman – 50 years
- Rev. Douglas Buck – 55 years
- Rev. Wallace Leno – 55 years (he and his spouse, Alice, were present at the banquet)
- Rev. Earl Bergh – 60 years
- Rev. Rudolph Kempainen – 60 years (he and his spouse, Darley, and family members were present at the banquet. He spoke to those in attendance)
- Rev. George Olson – 60 years

The following clergy are celebrating retirement since the last Synod Assembly:

- Rev. George Candea-Kromm
- Rev. Jennifer Johnson Wrege (she and her spouse, Marv, were present at the banquet and she spoke to those in attendance).

8:30 – 9:15 p.m.  
9:15 p.m.

Concert – Dakota Road  
Holden Evening Prayer – St. Matthew Chapel

**SUNDAY, MAY 17**

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.  
8:30 a.m.

Registration – Finlandia University – Assembly Office  
Worship – Paavo Nurmi Gym, Finlandia University

10:10 a.m.

**PLENARY III – Paavo Nurmi Gym, Finlandia University**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bishop Skrenes gave a few brief announcements.

**CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

Bishop Skrenes introduced Pam Long, Chair of the Credentials Committee, to give this final report as of 10:00 a.m. on May 17, 2015:

Registered Voting Members .....	223
Clergy (54 under call and 13 retired) .....	67
Lay Voting Members (64 male/92 female).....	156
Registered Visitors.....	42
<b>TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....</b>	<b>265</b>

The assembly thanked the Credentials Committee for their work with applause.

**ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Chris Johnson, Chair of the Elections Committee, who presented the following results for the second ballot:

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay Male or Female (6-year term)	
Number of Ballots .....	211
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	1
Number of Valid Ballots.....	210
Needed to Elect .....	106
Mary Hansen.....	119
David Kauppi .....	91

**SA15.05.28**

**MARY HANSEN WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS  
SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE, LAY.**

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (4-year term)	
Number of Ballots .....	213
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	213
Needed to Elect .....	107
Rev. Warren Geier.....	107
Rev. Greg Mileski .....	106

**SA15.05.29**

**REV. WARREN GEIER WAS ELECTED AS  
SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE CLERGY.**

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Clergy	
Number of Ballots .....	212
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	3
Number of Valid Ballots.....	209
Needed to Elect .....	105
Rev. Tamra Harder .....	117
Rev. Diane Srutowski.....	92

**SA15.05.30**

**REV. TAMRA HARDER WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS  
CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER – CLERGY.**

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Female	
Number of Ballots .....	211
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	211
Needed to Elect .....	106

Nicole Jarvi .....	138
Sally Weingartner.....	98
Melzee Jacobson .....	87
Lynn Lehto.....	83

**SA15.05.31**

NICOLE JARVI WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER LAY FEMALE.

Due to Synod Constitution S9.01.31, Sally Weingartner was declared ineligible to serve as she is from the same congregation as Rev. Tamra Harder who was elected on the second ballot. The names of Melzee Jacobson and Lynn Lehto will appear on the third ballot.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Male

Number of Ballots .....	210
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	210
Needed to Elect .....	106

Phil Wirtanen .....	132
Brian Tarro.....	78

**SA15.05.32**

PHIL WIRTANEN WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER – LAY MALE

THIRD BALLOT

Bishop Skrenes offered a prayer and then asked that the Elections Committee distribute the third ballot.

PORTICO PRESENTATION

Bishop Skrenes introduced Jennifer Prinz who made a presentation to the assembly on behalf of Portico.

WORLD HUNGER OFFERING AND AWARDS

Bishop Skrenes introduced Ann Christiansen, a member of Synod Hunger Committee. Ann introduced Nicole Jarvi, who is also active with hunger issues. Together Ann and Nicole presented the “Bread Basket” award to Christy Salo of Bethany, Negaunee. A “Bread Basket Award Certificate of Appreciation” was given to Lisa Bouche of Bethany, Escanaba. The “Big Bear” awards were presented to St. Stephen’s, Stephenson and St. Paul’s, Mass City. The “Big Bear Certificate of Appreciation” was given to Prince of Peace, Eagle River. The offering of quarters was then received for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal while the assembly sang a hymn.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Chris Johnson, Chair of the Elections Committee, who presented the following results for the third ballot:

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Female

Number of Ballots .....	180
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	180
Needed to Elect .....	91



Melzee Jacobson .....	110
Lynn Lehto.....	70

**SA15.05.33**

**MELZEE JACOBSON WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER LAY FEMALE.**

Bishop Skrenes expressed thanks to the Elections Committee for all their work. The Assembly thanked the committee with their applause.

A motion was made and seconded to destroy all ballots.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.**

**SA15.05.34**

**ELCA REPRESENTATIVE**

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Kevin Strickland, Director of Worship for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He presented the report from the ELCA. Bishop Skrenes presented him with gifts after his presentation.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Bishop Skrenes called upon Rev. David Murphy, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, to give the committee’s report. Rev. Murphy reported that there have been no additional resolutions submitted for consideration. Bishop Skrenes expressed his thanks for the work of the committee and the Assembly thanked the committee with their applause.

**ELCA MILITARY CHAPLAINS AND PRAYER BOOK**

Bishop Skrenes gave some opening comments regarding the 152 ELCA Military Chaplains who currently serve in the various branches of the armed forces. Bishop Skrenes then introduced Rev. Jesse Brown from Our Redeemer, Newberry, who is an Air Force Reserve Chaplain. Rev. Brown addressed the assembly. Bishop Skrenes announced that the synod has purchased a “Prayer Book for the Armed Services,” recently published by Augsburg Fortress, for each congregation. The congregation is to give this book away to an active duty service person. Bishop Skrenes and the assembly also recognized the military veterans who were present. He offered a prayer from the book.

**FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP**

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Tracy Polzin, Director at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. She presented a report from the camp to the assembly.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 5 AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET**

Bishop Skrenes announced that it was time to deal with the budget resolutions and introduced Dr. Larry Pagel, Synod Treasurer. Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 5 and Dr. Pagel read it. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the amended Fiscal Year 2015 budget in the amount of \$1,294,601 as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt Resolution Number 5.

**SA15.05.35**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 5 WAS ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 6  
FISCAL YEAR  
2016 BUDGET

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 6, Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and Dr. Pagel read it. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2016 budget in the amount of \$1,284,145 as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt Resolution Number 6.

**SA15.05.36**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 6 WAS ADOPTED.

Bishop Skrenes expressed thanks to Synod Treasurer Dr. Larry Pagel and Synod Bookkeeper Betsy Koski for their work. The assembly thanked them with their applause.

THANKS FOR  
DAKOTA ROAD

Bishop Skrenes called upon Dakota Road, thanked them for their presence and music leadership and presented them with gifts on behalf of the assembly. The assembly thanked them with their applause.

2016 SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY

Bishop Skrenes called upon Rev. Douglas Johnson, Secretary of the Synod. Rev. Johnson announced that the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod will be Friday, May 13 through Saturday, May 14, 2016 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Skrenes called upon Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee. He had some final announcements for the Assembly. He also acknowledged and thanked the committee members. The Assembly thanked Pastor Duehring and the committee with their applause.

THANKS

Bishop Skrenes thanked Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary, Rev. Douglas Johnson, Synod Secretary and Susan Anderson, Assembly Parliamentarian, and the synod staff for their work and ministry. The Assembly thanked these people with their applause.

ORDER FOR  
CLOSING OF  
THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Skrenes led the Assembly in the Order for Closing of Assembly. The 28<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was declared adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

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Date

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Rev. Douglas Johnson, Secretary

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Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary

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Pauline Kiltinen, Vice President

Approved by the Synod Executive Committee per S11.01.11.f