

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

May 13-14, 2016

Messiah Lutheran Church and
Northern Michigan University
Marquette, Michigan

Theme: Welcome, Worship, Witness

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

2:00 p.m.	Registration	Messiah Lutheran Church
3:00 p.m.	Synod Council Meeting	Messiah Lutheran Church
3:30 p.m.	Workshops (first session)	Messiah Lutheran Church
4:30 p.m.	Workshops (second session)	Messiah Lutheran Church
4:30 p.m.	Resolutions Committee Meeting	Messiah Lutheran Church
6:30 pm.	Opening Worship	Messiah Lutheran Church

THRIVENT FINANCIAL During the worship service, Bishop Skrenes introduced Walker Derby from Thrivent Financial. Thrivent is the sponsor for the fellowship time following the worship service. Walker addressed the assembly.

PORTICO Bishop Skrenes also introduced Jennifer Prinz from Portico. She brought greetings to the assembly from Portico.

LAY SCHOOL FOR MISSION GRADUATES Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Warren Geier who serves as the Dean of the Lay School for Mission. The Lay School for Mission meets on four campuses around the synod: Bethany, Ishpeming; Zion, St. Ignace; Calvary, Minocqua; and First, Gladstone. The campus coordinators were also introduced. Bishop Skrenes read the names of 4 graduating from the Lay School for Mission. The campus coordinators presented the diplomas. The graduates were congratulated with applause.

CONGREGATIONS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES Bishop Skrenes announced that three congregations are celebrating anniversaries this year:

First, Ewen	100 years
Immanuel, Rhinelander	125 years
Trinity, Rhinelander	125 years

Pastors and voting members from these congregations were invited to come forward to receive their certificates. The Assembly recognized these anniversaries with their applause.

DECEASED CLERGY Bishop Skrenes announced that three clergy passed away since last Assembly – Rev. Chris Laursen, Bishop Emeritus Harry Andersen, and Rev. Rudolph Kemppainen.

CLERGY
CELEBRATING
ANNIVERSARIES
AND
RETIREMENT

Bishop Skrenes recognized the following clergy celebrating ordination anniversaries:

- Rev. Kurt Kovanen – 25 years (present)
- Rev. Mary Beth Kovanen – 25 years (not present)
- Rev. Peter Vorhes – 40 years (present with spouse, Liz Siivola)
- Rev. Norman Peterson – 40 years (not present)
- Rev. David Christenson – 40 years (present with spouse, Jane)
- Rev. Thomas Wickstrom- 45 years (present with spouse, Susan)
- Rev. Allan Johnson – 45 years (present with spouse, Sara)
- Rev. Kenneth Michaelis – 50 years (present with spouse, Joanne. He spoke to those in attendance.)
- Rev. Dean Peterson – 50 years (not present)
- Rev. Donald Wandersee – 60 years (not present)
- Rev. Frederick Hallanger – 60 years (not present)
- Rev. Norman Lund – 65 years (not present)

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

- Rev. Katheryn King (not present)

RECEPTION

Messiah Lutheran Church, with financial support from Thrivent Financial, hosted a reception in Magnuson Hall in honor of Lay School for Mission Graduates and clergy celebrating ordination anniversaries and retirement.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast at Messiah Lutheran Church

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration at Northern Michigan University - Synod Assembly Office

8:30 a.m.

PLENARY I – Great Lakes Rooms at NMU

HYMN AND
ORDER FOR
OPENING

The Assembly sang “Arise, Your Light has Come”. Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes gave some initial comments on the theme of “Witness” for this year’s Assembly. He welcomed all in attendance to the 29th Synod Assembly and led those gathered in the Order of Opening of Assembly.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Skrenes introduced the head table: Pam Long (Grace, South Range), Vice President; Rev. Douglas Johnson (Bethlehem, Florence), Secretary and Assembly Parliamentarian; and Karen Kolstad (Zion, Marinette), serving as Assembly Recording Secretary.

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee for some announcements. Bishop Skrenes thanked the people of Messiah and the Worship Committee, including Rev. Katherine Finegan, Assistant to the Bishop, and Rev. George Kaiser, for the great worship service last evening.

INTRODUCTIONS
(continued)

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Chris Boerger, ELCA Secretary; Rev. Stephanie Franz, Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania; Rev. James Holmberg, Lutheran Social Services; Rev. Renee Bakken, Region 5, Rev. Cindy Crane, Lutheran Office for Public Policy; Chris DeForist, Wartburg Seminary; Daryl and Cheryl Lancour, Northland Lutheran Retirement Community; Rev. Tracy Polzin, Director of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp; and Julieth Mutibiliwa, Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Some of those introduced had not yet arrived at the Assembly.

Bishop Skrenes then introduced Timothy Knutson, representative from Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin, and invited him to address the Assembly.

CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Jill Lemke, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 8:30 a.m. May 14, 2016:

Registered Voting Members	227
Clergy (59 under call and 16 retired)	75
Lay Voting Members (58 male/94 female)	152
Registered Visitors	42
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....	269

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 58 of the Pre-Assembly Report and read a portion of this rule.

Rev. Douglas Johnson read the resolution and 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 2016 Assembly.

SA16.05.01

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. Rev. Douglas Johnson read the resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Agenda and Program as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2016 Assembly.

SA16.05.02

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Kevin Kaiser, Chair of the Resolutions Committee. He also introduced the members of the committee. One resolution has been approved by the Synod Council – Resolution Number 7 on page 137 of the Pre-Assembly Report. 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 is 12:30 p.m. today.

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 2016 Assembly: Rev. Gerald Anderson, Chaplain Jesse Brown; Rev. Lee Goodwin, Rev. Paul Holmstrom, Rev. Bill Jacobson, Rev. Jennifer Johnson Wrege, Rev. Kathryn King, Rev. Keith Kolstad, Rev. Ingmar Levin, Rev. Norman Lund, Rev. Dean Marin, Rev. George Olson, Rev. Robert Patrick, Rev. Norman Peterson, Rev. John Shallow, Rev. Diane Srutowski, Rev. Robert Sutherland, Rev. Donald Wandersee, Rev. Mary Weinkauff, Rev. Gene Wickman.

ON LEAVE
FROM CALL

Bishop Skrenes also reported on other rostered persons. Pastors who are currently on Leave from Call are: Rev. Greg Mileski, Graduate School on leave and Rev. Timothy Nyikako.

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, one congregation has yet to submit this report. Conversation continues with that congregation and the bishop is expecting 100% compliance.

REPORT
OF THE
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE

Bishop Skrenes announced that the Northern Great Lakes Synod was asked to nominate two lay males for the ELCA Church Council, to be voted upon at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly this August. Since this was the only election this year, the Synod Council decided to serve as the nominating committee. As Synod Secretary, Rev. Douglas Johnson is the Chair and Bishop Skrenes called upon him for the nominees. The nominees are as follows:

ELCA Church Council – Lay Male – 6-year term (2022)
Roland G. Jacobson, Raymond O. Miller, Ralph B.K. Peterson, Ervin F. Sparapani, Philip L. Wirtanen

No additional nominations were received from the floor.
It was moved and seconded to close nominations for ELCA Church Council – Lay Male.

SA16.05.03

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Bishop Skrenes announced that the first ballot for this position will take place later this morning.

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

WORLD HUNGER OFFERING AND AWARDS Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Eleanor Russey, a member of Synod Hunger Committee. Pastor Russey also introduced Mary Lou Blomquist who is also active with hunger issues. Together Rev. Russey and Mary Lou presented the “Big Bear” award to Prince of Peace, Eagle River. The “Bread Basket” award was presented to George and Ann Belcoe from Eden, Munising. The offering of quarters was then received for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

MISSION OUTREACH AD CAMPAIGN UPDATE Bishop Skrenes introduced Assistant to the Bishop Katherine Finegan who discussed the advertising campaign of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The four advertisements were then shown to the Assembly. As of today, \$15,187.35 has been raised for the campaign and \$10,000 more is needed. Congregations were encouraged to visit www.churchisgood.org to review the information for their congregation to ensure its accuracy.

ELCA REPRESENTATIVE Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Chris Boerger, Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He presented the report from the ELCA. Bishop Skrenes presented him with gifts after his presentation.

HYMN The Assembly sang “Worship-Welcome-Witness” written by Rev. Doug Norquist and accompanied by him on the piano.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP Bishop Skrenes announced that his report is on pages 3 to 8 of the Pre-Assembly Report. 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 gave several highlights from his written report.

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

CREDENTIALS REPORT Bishop Skrenes introduced Jill Lemke, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 10:30 a.m. May 14, 2016:

Registered Voting Members	232
Clergy (59 under call and 16 retired)	76
Lay Voting Members (58 male/94 female)	156
Registered Visitors.....	43
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....	275

FIRST BALLOT Bishop Skrenes offered a prayer and then asked the Elections Committee, chaired by Rev. James Duehring (Prince of Peace, Harvey), to distribute the first ballot for ELCA Church Council – Lay Male. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as possible.

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.

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 1:30 p.m.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Mission Meetings by Conference
 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch on site – Peter White Lounge

1:30 p.m. PLENARY II – Great Lakes Rooms at NMU

OFFERING TOTALS Bishop Skrenes announced the following totals for the recent offerings:
 \$2,523.98 from last evenings worship service
 \$25,073.22 – World Hunger offering

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Elections Committee, to present the following results for the first ballot:

ELCA Church Council Nominee – Lay Male:

Number of Valid Ballots	214
Number of Invalid Ballots	0
Number of Valid Ballots	214
Needed to Elect.....	108
Roland Jacobson.....	58
Philip Wirtanen	94
Ralph Peterson	84
Ervin Sparapani.....	99
Raymond Miller	86

There was no election. The names of Ervin Sparapani, Philip Wirtanen, Raymond Miller and Ralph Peterson will appear on the second ballot.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT Bishop Skrenes introduced Jill Lemke, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 1:30 p.m. May 14, 2016:

Registered Voting Members	232
Clergy (59 under call and 16 retired)	76
Lay Voting Members (58 male/94 female)	156
Registered Visitors.....	43
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....	275

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

INTRODUCTIONS Bishop Skrenes introduced Cindy Crane, Lutheran Office for Public Policy of Wisconsin. She addressed the Assembly. Bishop Skrenes also introduced Rev. Renee Bakken, Region 5 Coordinator.

HYMN The Assembly sang the hymn "In Christ Called to Baptize."

"ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW" Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. David Van Kley, Messiah, Marquette, and Chair of the Mission Outreach Committee. Rev. Van Kley presented information on the "Always Being Made New" campaign of the ELCA.

INTRODUCTION Bishop Skrenes introduced Daryl and Cheryl Lancour from Northland Lutheran Retirement Community.

INSTALLATIONS AND ORDINATIONS The following ordinations and installations were performed under the authority of the synod during May 2015-May 2016:

Ordinations and Installations

6/28/2015	Mark Laatsch	Installed at Emmanuel, Menominee
7/11/2015	Tammy Barthels	Ordained
7/12/2015	Ann Gonyea	Ordained at Bethany, Ishpeming
7/25/2015	David Tielbar	Ordained at St. John's American, Guttenburg, Iowa
8/16/2015	Tammy Barthels	Installed at Immanuel, Rhinelander
9/20/2015	David Tielbar	Installed at Zion, St. Ignace and Trinity, Brevort
10/11/2015	Ann Gonyea	Installed at Eden, Munising
11/22/2015	Andrew Plocher	Received from the Presbyterian Church USA and installed at Grace, Gwinn
1/29/2016	Jay Welshonse	Ordained at Christ the King, Bellevue, Nebraska
2/14/2016	LaVonne Stephenson	Installed at Trinity and First, Iron River
3/20/2016	Soren Schmidt	Ordained at Christ the King, Escanaba
4/3/2016	Jay Welshonse	Installed at Northern Lights, Mass City, Ontonagon and Winona
4/24/2016	Kay Richter	Installed at New Evangelical Lutheran Parish, Ewen, Paynesville and Trout Creek

Lay Leaders

10/18/2015	Lisa Johnson	Commissioned as Associate in Ministry and Installed at Messiah, Marquette and Lutheran Campus Ministry, Northern Michigan University
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SEMINARIANS Bishop Skrenes also announced seminarians present at the Assembly: Linda Forray, and Terry Frankenstein. The Assembly recognized these seminarians with their applause.

YOUTH TRIP TO TANZANIA Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. D.J. Rasner who spoke to the Assembly about the June 2017 youth trip to Tanzania.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Elections Committee, to present the following results for the second ballot:

ELCA Church Council Nominee – Lay Male:

Number of Valid Ballots	209
Number of Invalid Ballots	1
Number of Valid Ballots	208
Needed to Elect.....	105
Ervin Sparapani.....	121
Philip Wirtanen	108
Raymond Miller	96
Ralph Peterson	83

SA16.05.04 **ERVIN SPARAPANI AND PHILIP WIRTANEN WERE DECLARED NOMINATED AS ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL – LAY MALE.**

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

A motion was made and seconded to destroy all ballots.
THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

SA16.05.05

WITNESS SPEAKER Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Stephanie Franz, a German who is a member of the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania as she was ordained in 2010. She addressed the Assembly.

HYMN The Assembly joined in singing “Here I am, Lord.”

REPORT OF THE SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT Bishop Skrenes introduced Pam Long who presented her report as Synod Vice President. As part of her report, she presented certificates to those completing their terms on the Synod Council.

SWO REPORT Bishop Skrenes introduced Fran Voyce, President of the Synodical Women’s Organization, to present her report.

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

CLERGY
COMPENSATION
GUIDELINES
FOR 2017

RESOLVED, that the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2017 as approved by the Synod Council hereby be adopted and recommended to this Synod’s congregations.

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt the resolution.

SA16.05.06

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.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Iron-Gogebic-Ontonagon Conference (One) | Rev. Bill Jacobson (2019) |
| Copper Country Conference (Two) | Rev. Julie Belew (2019) |
| Menominee Valley Conference (Five) | Rev. Cori Johnson (2019) |
| Delta Conference (Six) | Chuck Thomas (2019) |
| Superior Central Conference (Eight) | Hayley Smith (2019) |

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt the resolution. Discussion followed.

SA16.05.07

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 7
ENDOWMENT
FUND
DISTRIBUTION

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 7, Endowment Fund Distribution, submitted by the Endowment Fund Board. Secretary Rev. Douglas Johnson read the entire resolution. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

WHEREAS, the Endowment Fund of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, since its inception in 1989, has relied upon the development work of the synod staff and the Endowment Fund Board; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Foundation, Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin and the Northern Great Lakes Synod have together employed a full-time Planned Giving Counselor since 2003 to work in the six synod of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Endowment Fund continues to benefit from a trained and experienced professional development person who assists members of this church with their charitable planning, wherein the fund grows as does the grants made by it annually to the ministries of the Northern Great Lakes Synod; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Bylaws S11.01.61.i. requires that before any disbursement of the perpetual fund principal, the recommendation of

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 7
(continued)

both the Endowment Fund Board and the Synod Council be secured, such recommendation occurring; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Northern Great Lakes Synod approve the disbursement of not more than \$20,000 per year, for three years, a total disbursement of \$60,000 in Endowment Fund principal pursuant to S11.01.61.i. for the expenses of a development person to represent the Northern Great Lakes Synod Endowment Fund.

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt the resolution.

SA16.05.08

RESOLUTION NUMBER 7 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 5
AMENDED
FISCAL YEAR
2016 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 2016 budget in the amount of \$1,300,578.00 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.

SA16.05.09

RESOLUTION NUMBER 5 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 6
FISCAL YEAR
2017 BUDGET

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 6, Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and Dr. Pagel read it. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2017 budget in the amount of \$1,339,511.00 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.

SA16.05.10

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.

RESOLUTIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes called upon Rev. Kevin Kaiser, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, to give the committee's report. Rev. Kaiser 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.

2017
SYNOD
ASSEMBLY

Bishop Skrenes called upon Rev. Douglas Johnson, Secretary of the Synod. Rev. Johnson announced that the 30th Annual Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod will be Sunday, May 21 through Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at Messiah Lutheran Church and 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.

HYMN AND
THANKS

The Assembly sang the hymn "We Are Called." Bishop Skrenes then thanked Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary, Rev. Douglas Johnson, Synod Secretary and Parliamentarian and Pam Long, Synod Vice President. 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 29th Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was declared adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Date

Rev. Douglas Johnson, Secretary

Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary

Pam Long, Vice President

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