

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

May 21-23, 2017

Messiah Lutheran Church and  
Northern Michigan University  
Marquette, Michigan

**Theme: Called**

**SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017**

2:00 p.m.	Registration	Messiah Lutheran Church
2:00 p.m.	Refreshments (hosted by Messiah)	Messiah Lutheran Church
2:30 p.m.	Orientation for Voting Members	Messiah Lutheran Church
3:00 p.m.	Resolutions Committee Meeting	Messiah Lutheran Church
3:00 p.m.	Elections Committee Meeting	Messiah Lutheran Church
4:00 p.m.	Opening Worship	Messiah Lutheran Church
6:30 p.m.	Banquet and Program: Bishop Skrenes' Retirement	Northern Michigan University

**MONDAY, MAY 22**

7:00 - 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast at Messiah Lutheran Church or on your own
8:00 - 8:15 a.m.	Registration at Northern Michigan University - Synod Assembly Office
8:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Prayer Chapel - NMU Meditation Room

8:30 a.m.

**PLENARY I - Great Lakes Rooms at NMU**

**HYMN AND  
WELCOME**

The Assembly sang a hymn, accompanied by Pastor Doug Norquist. Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes gave some initial comments on the theme of "Called" for this year's Assembly. He welcomed all in attendance to the 30<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly and led those gathered in the Order of Opening of Assembly.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**INTRODUCTION  
OF BISHOPS**

Bishop Skrenes introduced the bishops who are in attendance: Bishop James Arends (La Crosse Area Synod); Bishop Jeffrey Clements (Northern Illinois Synod); Bishop Paul Erickson (Greater Milwaukee Synod); Bishop Mary Froiland (South-Central Synod of Wisconsin); Bishop William Gohl (Delaware-Maryland Synod); Bishop Richard Hoyme (Northwest Synod of Wisconsin); Bishop Gerald Mansholt (East-Central Synod of Wisconsin); Bishop Rodger Prois (Western Iowa Synod); Bishop Steven Ullestad (Northeastern Iowa Synod) and Bishop Wayne Miller (Metropolitan Chicago Synod). The Assembly welcomed these bishops with their applause.

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 22, 2017:

Registered Voting Members.....	259
Clergy (61 under call and 23 retired).....	84
Lay Voting Members (64 male/111 female).....	175
Registered Visitors.....	144
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....	403

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 90 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 2017 Assembly.

**SA17.05.01**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1 WAS ADOPTED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee for some announcements.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 2  
AGENDA AND  
PROGRAM

Bishop Skrenes announced that it was time to move the adoption of the Assembly Agenda. He reported the Synod Council recommends adoption of Resolution Number 2, who has moved and seconded it. Bishop Skrenes also explained that, due to the uncertainties of the bishop’s election process, we will live under the agenda flexibility principle, page 90 in the Pre-Assembly Report. 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 2017 Assembly.

**SA17.05.02**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 WAS ADOPTED.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Skrenes introduced other guests who are with us for this Assembly: Rev. Linda Norman, ELCA Treasurer; Rev. David Larson and Rev. James Holmberg, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan; Rev. Ramie Bakken, Region 5 Coordinator; Rev. Cindy Crane, Lutheran Office for Public Policy of Wisconsin; Darrell and Cheryl Lancour, Northland Lutheran Retirement Community; Rev. Tracy Polzin, Director of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp; Jennifer Prinz, Portico

INTRODUCTIONS  
(continued)

Benefits; Ervin Sparapani, ELCA Church Council member from Bethany, Norway; and Timothy Knutson, representative from Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin.

ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE

Bishop Skrenes then introduced the Elections Committee and their Chair, Rev. Cori Johnson. He also discussed the importance of the voting members being seated at the tables and having their name tags visible for the members of the elections committee.

FIRST BALLOT  
FOR BISHOP

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman, Treasurer of the ELCA and our ELCA representative who will lead the Assembly in the process for the election of the bishop. After her introduction, Rev. Norman assumed the Chair of the Assembly.

Rev. Norman provided an explanation for the election process and provided oversight for the first ballot for bishop. After the balloting was completed, Bishop Skrenes resumed the Chair of the Assembly.

CATECHISM  
MOMENT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Bishop Bill Gohl from the Delaware/Maryland Synod who led the Assembly in a Catechism moment.

NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes announced that there are two positions on the Synod Consultation Committee and four positions on the Synod Discipline Committee that need to be filled by elections. Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Douglas Johnson, Synod Secretary, to present the committee's report. The updated list of the nominees was included in the packet received at registration. The nominees are as follows:

Synod Consultation Committee–Clergy – 6-year term (2023)

Rev. Tom Otis, Rev. Melinda Schriener

Synod Consultation Committee–Lay Male/Female – 6-year term (2023)

Beverly Ahlborn, Gale Holm, Guy Jeanblanc, Vicki West

No additional nominations were received from the floor for any of the Synod Consultation Committee positions.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Consultation Committee – all positions

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

**SA17.05.03**

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy – 2-year term (2019)

Rev. David Tielbar

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy – 4-year term (2021)

Rev. Diane Srutowski

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy – 6-year term (2023)

Rev. Bill Jacobson, Rev. Chris Johnson

NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT  
(continued)

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay Male/Female – 6 year term (2023)  
Donna Ahlberg, Beverly Ahlborn, Roland Jacobson, Matt Johnson, Patty  
Lindstrom, Vicki West

No additional nominations were received from the floor for any of the  
Synod Discipline Committee positions.

**SA17.05.04**

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline  
Committee – all positions.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

**SA17.05.05**

It was moved and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot to elect the  
positions that are without opposition (Synod Discipline Committee –  
Clergy – 2-year term, Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy – 4-year  
term, and Synod Discipline Committee 6-year term).

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS WERE REV. DAVID TIELBAR (2-YEAR TERM),  
REV. DIANE SRUTOWSKI (4-YEAR TERM), REV. BILL  
JACOBSON AND REV. CHRIS JOHNSON (6-YEAR TERMS)

RESOLUTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Kevin Kaiser, Chair of the Resolutions  
Committee. He also introduced the members of the 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 is 2:00 p.m. today.

EXCUSED  
ASBENCES

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 2017  
Assembly: Rev. Devon Barrix; Rev. Lee Goodwin, Rev. Paul Holmstrom,  
Rev. Nick Johannes, Rev. Ingmar Levin, Rev. George Olson, Rev. Robert  
Patrick, Rev. John Shallow, Rev. Robert Sutherland, and Rev. Tim Vadis.

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.

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, all congregations have submitted their reports! Bishop Skrenes  
expressed his thanks for this work.

WORLD  
HUNGER  
OFFERING  
AND  
AWARDS

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Eleanor Russey, from Zion, Manistique  
and a member of Synod Hunger Committee. Pastor Russey thanked all  
the congregations for the cows that are decorating the hallways,  
stairways and other areas of our Assembly. Rev. Russey recognized  
Rev. John Kuziej and Jeannette Kuziej (who recently passed away) for  
their wonderful efforts on behalf of the World Hunger committee. Rev.  
Russey also presented the “Bread Basket” award to Penny Maki of

St. Paul's Mass City and the "Big Bear" award to Our Savior's, Marinette for the Lord's Diner program. The offering was collected in milk pails for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Bishop Skrenes will announce the offering total when it becomes available.

GIFTS TO  
SYNOD  
INSTITUTIONS

Bishop Skrenes introduced his wife, Luanne, who joined him up front for presentations of gifts to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Northland Lutheran Retirement Community and Finlandia University. Each institution of our synod was presented a framed photograph, taken by Luanne, of their place of ministry.

ORDINATIONS  
AND  
INSTALLATIONS

The following ordinations and installations were performed under the authority of the synod during May 2016-May 2017:

Ordinations and Installations

6/26/2016	Breanne Kinnunen	Installed at Faith, Sault Ste. Marie
7/16/2016	David Hendrickson	Ordained at Christ the King, Escanaba by Bishop James Arends
8/20/2016	John Ansell	Ordained at Bethesda, Malmo, MN
8/21/2016	Joseph Daiker	Ordained at St. Olaf, Ft. Dodge, IA by Bishop Rodger Prois
8/28/2016	Melinda Shriner	Installed at Our Redeemer, Newberry
9/19/2016	John Ansell	Installed at United, L'Anse
10/23/2016	Joe Daiker	Installed at Zion, Allenville and Bethel, Cedarville
11/6/2016	David Johnson	Installed at Bethany, Norway and Calvary, Quinnesec
11/29/2016	Soren Schmidt	Installed as Chaplain at Finlandia University
1/22/2017	LLM Bill Wendorf	Installed at Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
3/19/2017	Christina Forsythe	Ordained at Porterfield, Porterfield and installed at Porterfield, Porterfield and Beaver American, Beaver
4/8/2017	Linda Forray	Ordained at Gethsemane, Wallace for ministry at Peace UCC, Marinette
4/23/2017	Terry Frankenstein	Ordained at First, Gladstone
5/7/2017	Terry Frankenstein	Installed at Zion, Manistique

SEMINARIANS

Bishop Skrenes also announced seminarians present at the Assembly: Katelin Bingner from Messiah, Marquette, Kelly Ylitalo from First, Dollar Bay and employed at Gloria Dei in Hancock, and Bill Wendorf from Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner. The Assembly recognized all those mentioned with their applause

SYNOD  
STAFF

Bishop Skrenes 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. Matthew Lamb, Synod Missioner (St. James, Rudyard). Bishop Skrenes

and his spouse, Luanne, presented gifts to the staff. The assembly thanked the staff with their applause.

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 introduced and thanked the members of the Synod Council.

REPORT OF  
THE BISHOP

Bishop Skrenes announced that his report is on pages 3 to 10 of the Pre-Assembly Report. He presented highlights of that report to the Assembly.

FIRST BALLOT  
FOR OTHER  
POSITIONS

Bishop Skrenes offered a prayer and then called upon the Elections Committee to distribute the first ballot for other positions. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as possible.

ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman and she then assumed Chair of the Assembly to receive the report on the first ballot for bishop. Rev. Cori Johnson, Chair of the Elections Committee, presented the following report for the first ballot for Bishop:

Number of Ballots.....	237
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots .....	237
Needed to Elect.....	178
Katherine Finegan .....	89
Keith Kolstad .....	35
Matt Lamb.....	19
Philip Johnson .....	17
Peter Jonas.....	13
David Van Kley.....	9
Warren Geier .....	4
Mike Laakko.....	4
Jim Duehring.....	3
Melinda Quivik.....	3
Jonathan Schmidt.....	3
Julie Belew.....	2
Chris Johnson .....	2
Doug Johnson .....	2
John Kuziej .....	2
Steve Solberg.....	2
John Sutherland.....	2
Earl Vorpagel.....	2
Peter Warmanen.....	2
Gerald Anderson .....	1
Rich Block .....	1
David Echelbarger .....	1
Scott Ehle .....	1

ELECTIONS	Stephen Gauger .....	1
COMMITTEE	Sam Giere .....	1
REPORT	Lee Goodwin .....	1
(continued)	Maxine Gray .....	1
	David Hueter .....	1
	Bill Jacobson .....	1
	Hans Jorgensen .....	1
	Kevin Kaiser .....	1
	Nancy Kauppi .....	1
	Greg Mileski .....	1
	Linda Norman .....	1
	Doug Norquist .....	1
	Greg Olson .....	1
	Dean Peterson .....	1
	Doug Peterson .....	1
	Brad Pohlman .....	1
	Paul Rohde .....	1
	Peter Vorhes .....	1

There was no election. Those wishing to have their names removed for the second ballot should do so within the next 30 minutes. Bishop Skrenes assumed Chair of the Assembly at the conclusion of the report.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 5  
RECOGNITION  
OF REV. DAVID  
LARSON, LUTHERAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES

Bishop Skrenes introduced Resolution Number 5 and asked Rev. Doug Johnson to read the resolution.

WHEREAS, the Rev. David N. Larson has provided distinguished leadership as President and Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan since July 2002, and prior to that serving as Vice President of resource development; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Larson served as a synod representative to the LSS operating board for six years; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Larson has tirelessly urged a strong commitment to the social ministry of the church, reminding us that, "When people are at their worst, we need to be at our best"; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Larson has been a leading voice of inspiration and challenge to fulfill the mission of LSS, "Motivated by the compassion of Christ, we help people improve the quality of their lives"; and

WHEREAS, Pastor David Larson will retire in 2018 from a career of dedicated service as a Lutheran pastor and social services leader; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that this Northern Great Lakes Synod in Assembly recognize, affirm, and give thanks to God for the Rev. David N. Larson

and his service to the Church, for the thousands of lives that have been changed because of his passionate and committed leadership.

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt the resolution. Bishop Skrenes also spoke to the resolution.

**SA17.05.06**

RESOLUTION NUMBER FIVE WAS ADOPTED.

Pastor Larson addressed the Assembly.

CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Jill Lemke, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 11:00 a.m. May 22, 2017:

Registered Voting Members.....	259
Clergy (61 under call and 23 retired).....	84
Lay Voting Members (64 male/111 female).....	175
Registered Visitors.....	144
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....	403

CATECHISM  
MOMENT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Bishop Bill Gohl from the Delaware/Maryland Synod who led the Assembly in a Catechism moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Assembly sang a hymn. Bishop Skrenes then introduced Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee for some announcements.

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Dr. Larry Pagel, Synod Treasurer, who presented his report as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report. The Assembly thanked him for his work with their applause.

SECOND  
BALLOT  
FOR  
BISHOP

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman, Treasurer of the ELCA and our ELCA representative. Rev. Norman assumed the Chair of the Assembly.

Rev. Norman again gave an overview for the election of a bishop and provided oversight for the second ballot for bishop. After the balloting was completed, Bishop Skrenes resumed the Chair of the Assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Skrenes announced the conference meetings this afternoon. The Assembly broke for lunch on site.

1:45 p.m.

**PLENARY II – Great Lakes Rooms at NMU**

OFFERING  
TOTALS

Bishop Skrenes welcomed everyone back after lunch and announced the following totals for the offerings: \$1,741 Lay School for Mission; \$1,741 Bishop's Office Transition; \$42,677.01 World Hunger.

PORTICO

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



ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Cori Johnson, Chair of the Elections Committee, who presented the following results for the first ballot for other positions:

Synod Consultation Committee – Lay Female/Male – Six-Year Term:

Number of Ballots.....	245
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots .....	245
Needed to Elect.....	123
Gale Holm.....	113
Guy Jeanblanc.....	117
Beverly Ahlborn .....	110
Vicki West.....	140

**SA17.05.07**

VICKI WEST WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD  
CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER.

The names of Guy Jeanblanc and Gale Holm will appear on the second ballot.

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay Female/Male – Six-Year Term:

Number of Ballots.....	252
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots .....	252
Needed to Elect.....	127
Beverly Ahlborn .....	73
Donna Ahlberg.....	62
Patty Lindstrom.....	53
Matt Johnson.....	115
Vicki West.....	100
Roland Jacobson.....	87

There was no election. The names of Matt Johnson, Vicki West, Roland Jacobson and Beverly Ahlborn will appear on the second ballot.

Synod Consultation Committee – Clergy – Six-Year Term:

Number of Ballots.....	248
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots .....	248
Needed to Elect.....	125
Melinda Shriner.....	139
Tom Otis.....	109

**SA17.05.08**

REV. MELINDA SHRINER WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER.

SECOND BALLOT  
OTHER POSITIONS

Bishop Skrenes offered a prayer and then called upon the Elections Committee to distribute the second ballot for other positions. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as possible.

CONFERENCE  
MEETINGS

Bishop Skrenes announced the eight leaders for the conference gatherings. The Voting Members attended their conference meetings.

ELCA VIDEO

A video regarding the ELCA Credit Union was shown to the Assembly.

CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Jill Lemke, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 2:45 p.m. May 22, 2017:

Registered Voting Members .....	259
Clergy (61 under call and 23 retired) .....	84
Lay Voting Members (64 male/111 female) .....	175
Registered Visitors .....	144
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....	403

ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

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

Synod Consultation Committee – Lay Female/Male – Six-Year Term:

Number of Ballots.....	249
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots .....	249
Needed to Elect.....	125
Guy Jeanblanc.....	99
Gale Holm.....	150

**SA17.05.09**

GALE HOLM WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER.

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay Female/Male – Six-Year Term:

Number of Ballots.....	253
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots .....	253
Needed to Elect.....	127
Matt Johnson.....	173
Vicki West.....	132

Roland Jacobson.....97  
 Beverly Ahlborn .....79

**SA17.05.10**

MATT JOHNSON and VICKI WEST WERE DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

ELCA REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman, Treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She presented the report from the ELCA. Bishop Skrenes presented her with gifts from the synod after her presentation.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman and she then assumed Chair of the Assembly to receive the report from the Elections Committee. Rev. Cori Johnson, Chair of the Elections Committee, presented the following report for the second ballot for Bishop:

Number of Ballots.....252  
 Number of Invalid Ballots ..... 1  
 Number of Valid Ballots .....251  
 Needed to Elect..... 189

Katherine Finegan ..... 111  
 Keith Kolstad .....59  
 Matt Lamb.....35  
 Peter Jonas.....24  
 Steve Solberg.....10  
 Chris Johnson ..... 4  
 Greg Mileski ..... 3  
 Rich Block..... 2  
 Doug Peterson..... 2  
 Earl Vorpapel..... 1

There was no election. The top seven names will appear on the third ballot.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The top six candidates each gave three-minute introductory comments. Greg Mileski was not in attendance and did not participate in this session.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Skrenes resumed Chair of the Assembly and introduced Jill Lemke, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 3:45 p.m. May 22, 2017:

Registered Voting Members .....260  
     Clergy (61 under call and 23 retired) .....84  
     Lay Voting Members (64 male/112 female) ..... 176  
 Registered Visitors..... 144  
 TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....404

THIRD  
BALLOT  
FOR BISHOP

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman who again reviewed the process for the election of a bishop and provided oversight for the third ballot for bishop. After the balloting was completed, Bishop Skrenes resumed the Chair of the Assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee for some announcements. Rev. Doug Johnson gave a benediction and Bishop Skrenes declared the Assembly in recess until Tuesday morning.

7:00 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer Service, Messiah Lutheran Church

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 five 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 five congregations are celebrating anniversaries this year:

St. Paul, Ironwood	125 years
Bethlehem, Florence	125 years
Holy Cross, Baraga	125 years
Beaver American, Beaver	125 years
Gloria Dei, Hancock	150 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 Rev. Donald Wandersee passed away since our last Assembly.

CLERGY  
CELEBRATING  
ANNIVERSARIES  
AND  
RETIREMENT

Bishop Skrenes recognized the following clergy celebrating ordination anniversaries:

- Rev. Paul Holmstrom- 55 years (unable to be present)
- Rev. Doug Norquist – 25 years (present with spouse, Shirley)
- Rev. Dean Marin – 50 years (present with spouse, Marie. He spoke to those in attendance.)
- Rev. George Kaiser – 50 years (present; he spoke to those in attendance.)

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

- Rev. LaVonne Stephenson (present; she spoke to those in attendance.)

RECEPTION

Trinity Lutheran Church in Ishpeming, 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.

**TUESDAY, MAY 23**

7:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Breakfast at Messiah Lutheran Church

7:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Registration at Northern Michigan University - Synod Assembly Office

8:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Prayer Chapel – NMU Meditation Room

**8:30 a.m.**

**PLENARY III – Great Lakes Rooms at NMU**

HYMN AND PRAYER

Bishop Skrenes welcomed all in attendance. The plenary session opened with a hymn and a prayer.

CATECHISM MOMENT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Bishop Bill Gohl from the Delaware/Maryland Synod who led the Assembly in a Catechism moment. At the conclusion of the presentation, Bishop Skrenes presented gifts to Bishop Gohl on behalf of the synod. The Assembly thanked him with their applause.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Jill Lemke, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 8:15 a.m. May 23, 2017:

Registered Voting Members .....	260
Clergy (61 under call and 23 retired) .....	84
Lay Voting Members (64 male/112 female) .....	176
Registered Visitors .....	144
<b>TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS.....</b>	<b>404</b>

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman and she then assumed Chair of the Assembly to receive the report from the Elections Committee. Rev. Cori Johnson, Chair of the Elections Committee, presented the following report for the third ballot for Bishop:

Number of Ballots.....	258
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots .....	258
Needed to Elect.....	172
Katherine Finegan .....	122
Keith Kolstad .....	57
Peter Jonas.....	35
Matt Lamb.....	19
Steve Solberg.....	16
Chris Johnson .....	8
Greg Mileski .....	0

There was no election. The top three names will appear on the fourth ballot.

QUESTION  
AND ANSWER

The top three candidates participated in a question and answer session led by Rev. Linda Norman.

YOUTH  
MINISTRY

Rev. Steve Solberg, Immanuel, Negaunee and Chair of the NGLS Youth Committee, presented his report on behalf of that committee.

SWO REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Melzee Jacobson, President of the Synodical Women's Organization, to present her report.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 6  
BISHOP  
EMERITUS

Bishop Skrenes introduced Synod Vice President Pam Long who introduced Resolution Number 6, brought to the Assembly from the Synod Council who recommends its adoption. Rev. Doug Johnson read the resolution in its entirety.

WHEREAS, Pastor Thomas A. Skrenes has served with great strength and distinction as Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from 1999 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Skrenes has served as an officer of the Northern Great Lakes Synod since its inception in 1987; and

WHEREAS, as Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, he has provided strong and effective leadership, and a vision for ministry to the people of this synod; and

WHEREAS, as Bishop he has been a true pastor to all the people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod; and

WHEREAS, as Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod he has served the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with commitment and faithfulness; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Great Lakes Synod will continue to benefit from his service and witness for many years to come; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Northern Great Lakes Synod, at this Thirtieth Annual Assembly, does hereby bestow on the Reverend Thomas A. Skrenes the honorary title of "Bishop Emeritus, Northern Great Lakes Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

**SA17.05.11**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 6 WAS ADOPTED.

The Assembly recognized this action with their applause. Bishop Skrenes, with his spouse, Luanne at his side, addressed the Assembly.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 4  
SYNOD  
COUNCIL

Resolution Number 4, Synod Council, submitted by the Conferences, was presented by Bishop Skrenes. The Synod Council recommends adoption. Rev. Doug Johnson explained the resolution and read the resolved portion.

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

Iron-Gogebic-Ontonagon Conference (One)	Philip Wirtanen (2020)
Four Rivers Conference (Four)	Rev. Michael Laakko (2020)
Menominee Valley Conference (Five)	Judy Peterson (2020)
Three Lakes Conference (Seven)	Rosemary McPherson (2020)
Superior Central Conference (Eight)	Rev. Douglas Norquist (2020)

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

**SA17.05.12**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 3

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 3, submitted by the Synod Council. The Synod Council recommends adoption. Rev. Doug Johnson read the resolved.

RESOLVED, that the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2018 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. Discussion followed.

**SA17.05.13**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 3 WAS ADOPTED.

FOURTH  
BALLOT  
FOR BISHOP

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman who again reviewed the process for the election of a bishop and provided oversight for the fourth ballot for bishop. After the balloting was completed, Bishop Skrenes resumed the Chair of the Assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. James Duehring, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, for some announcements. He also introduced the committee members and thanked them for their work.

AD CAMPAIGN  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Cori Bodeman from TV 6 to present a report from the Ad Campaign. The Ad Campaign Report is found on pages 102-107 of the Pre-Assembly Report. The Assembly thanked her with their applause.

WELCOMING  
AND INCLUSIVE  
CHURCH

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Matthew Lamb, St. James, Rudyard, and Chair of the Task Force on an Inclusive and Welcoming Church. He also introduced the other members of the task force.

CONGREGATIONAL  
ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Skrenes recognized United, Crystal Falls, on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation. Members of the congregation, along with their pastor, came forward and received their certificate.

ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman and she then assumed Chair of the Assembly to receive the report from the Elections Committee. Rev. Cori Johnson, Chair of the Elections Committee, presented the following report for the fourth ballot for Bishop:

Number of Ballots.....	251
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots .....	251
Needed to Elect.....	151
Katherine Finegan .....	147
Peter Jonas.....	63
Keith Kolstad .....	41

There was no election. The top two names will appear on the fifth ballot.

FIFTH  
BALLOT  
FOR BISHOP

Rev. Linda Norman again reviewed the process for the election of a bishop. The top two candidates each gave a three-minute summary statement. Then the fifth ballot was distributed. After the balloting was completed, Bishop Skrenes resumed the Chair of the Assembly.

ALWAYS  
BEING  
MADE NEW

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. David Van Kley who, along with the help of several others, presented a report from the Always Being Made New Campaign of the ELCA.

ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Linda Norman and she then assumed Chair of the Assembly to receive the report from the Elections Committee. Rev. Cori Johnson, Chair of the Elections Committee. She thanked the committee and other synod persons for their work with the election process and then presented the following report for the fifth ballot for Bishop:

Number of Ballots.....	250
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	2
Number of Valid Ballots .....	248
Needed to Elect.....	125
Katherine Finegan .....	164
Peter Jonas.....	84

**SA17.05.14**

KATHERINE FINEGAN WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS BISHOP. The Synod congratulated her and her spouse, David, with their applause. Bishop-Elect Finegan addressed the Assembly.



THANKS

Bishop Skrenes assumed Chair of the Assembly and thanked Rev. Linda Norman for her work on the election process.

MOTION TO  
DESTROY  
BALLOTS  
SA17.05.15

A motion was made and seconded to destroy all the ballots. Bishop Skrenes also expressed thanks to Rev. Cori Johnson for her work as Chair of the Elections Committee.

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 8  
AMENDMENTS  
TO THE SYNOD  
CONSTITUTION

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Douglas Johnson, Synod Secretary, to introduce Resolution Number 8 dealing with constitutional changes.

WHEREAS, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America amended the *Model Constitution for Synods*, and

WHEREAS, the amendments made by the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to required portions of the *Model Constitution for Synods* have already been incorporated into the constitution of the Northern Great Lakes Synod per †S18.11., and

WHEREAS, the amendments made by the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to non-required portions of the *Model Constitution for Synods* require approval by a majority of the Synod Assembly in order to be incorporated into the constitution of the Northern Great Lakes Synod per †S18.12., therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the constitution of the Northern Great Lakes Synod be amended as follows to incorporate non-required amendments to the *Model Constitution for Synods* made by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (proposed changes are highlighted in grey with additions noted by underline and deletions noted by ~~strikethrough~~):

**(Deletes and replaces current language)**

**S7.11.01.** The time and place of the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced 12 months prior to the assembly.

**S7.22.** All retired rostered ministers of this synod in attendance at the synod assembly shall be voting members. ~~The~~ This synod may establish processes that permit ~~ordained, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above.~~ The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 8  
AMENDMENTS  
TO THE SYNOD  
CONSTITUTION  
(continued)

Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. ~~above~~. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ~~leaders~~ ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

**S7.24.** ~~Ordained ministers~~ Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of ~~ordained ministers~~ of this synod. ~~Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod.~~ Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

**S7.26.** Deletes the words “Division for Outreach”

**(Creates new S7.27)**

**S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant ~~an ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister’s service in a congregation of this church.

**Rename S7.27. to S7.28.**

**S10.03.** The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:  
d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service and of other official rosters~~, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under

**S11.11.** This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ~~ordained~~ ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 8  
AMENDMENTS  
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CONSTITUTION  
(continued)

by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

- S13.11.** When a ~~pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal-rostered~~ minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12.** A congregation under financial obligation to its former ~~pastor or associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal-rostered~~ minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.

**Chapter 14.**

**~~ORDAINED MINISTERS AND LAY ROSTERED MINISTERS~~**

**S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament**

- ~~S14.013.~~** The pastor (a) shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- ~~S14.014.~~** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- ~~S14.015.~~** Each ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- ~~S14.127.~~** No ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. ~~An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- ~~S14.215.~~** All ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 8  
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CONSTITUTION  
(continued)

conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

**S14.30. Official Rosters of Laypersons Ministers of Word and Service**

**S14.33.** The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

**S14.34.** Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

**S14.42.** No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

**S14.47.** All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

**SA17.05.16**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 8 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 7  
AMENDED 2017  
BUDGET,  
2018 BUDGET  
AND OTHER  
FINANCIAL  
MATTERS

Bishop Skrenes introduced Larry Pagel, Synod Treasurer, to introduce Resolution Number 7 dealing with the Synod's financial matters.

WHEREAS, the Northern Great Lakes Synod congregations have an almost thirty year history of sacrificially sharing unrestricted mission support with the Churchwide ELCA organization, and

WHEREAS, the unrestricted mission support income of the congregations to the synod and Churchwide organization has decreased approximately 20% since 2007, while costs relating to our synod's mission have increased, and

WHEREAS, the budget years 2017 and 2018 will see major changes due to the election of a new bishop and calling of a new assistant to the bishop, with uncertainty related to moving costs and benefits, and

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 7  
AMENDED 2017  
BUDGET,  
2018 BUDGET  
AND OTHER  
FINANCIAL  
MATTERS  
(continued)

WHEREAS, the synod must maintain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to fulfill its ministry, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly adopt a revised fiscal year 2017 budget of \$1,361,681 and a fiscal year 2018 budget of \$1,283,901, with the right of the Synod Council to amend the budget to reflect the realities of the synod's income and expenses, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the synod remit in fiscal year 2017, 45% of its unrestricted mission support to the Churchwide ELCA with that percentage number increasing to 48% of unrestricted mission support in fiscal year 2018, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Synod Assembly hereby create a policy that requires that a minimum of \$110,000 and a maximum of \$150,000 be maintained in unrestricted cash reserves and should these unrestricted cash reserves exceed \$150,000 at the end of each fiscal year, the excess amount be remitted to the Churchwide ELCA for its work in addition to the percentage fixed within the approved budget.

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

**SA17.05.17**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 7 WAS ADOPTED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Skrenes gave some concluding announcements. He then called upon Rev. Douglas Johnson, Secretary of the Synod to announce the next Synod Assembly. The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod will be Thursday, May 17 through Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Messiah Lutheran Church and Northern Michigan University in Marquette. It was also announced that the installation of Rev. Katherine Finegan as Bishop will be held on Saturday, October 21 at 1:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) at St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as the installing officer.

THANKS

Bishop Skrenes called upon Rev. Jim Duehring to give the final announcements. Bishop Skrenes thanked Pastor Duehring, Jill Lemke, and the head table and presented all with gifts. The Assembly thanked these people with their applause.

11:46 AM

The Assembly participated in the closing worship service.

ORDER FOR  
CLOSING OF  
THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Skrenes led the Assembly in the Order for Closing of the Assembly. The 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was declared adjourned at 1:12 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