

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 26, Issue 4 & 5

April and May 2013

EASTER PEOPLE EASTER QUESTIONS

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes

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“This is a very sobering time for ecclesiastically minded Americans. At a steadily growing rate, more and more Americans—especially the young—claim no religious affiliation. The figure has climbed from 15% to 20% of all Americans in the past few years. Pew researchers call the trend “nones on the rise.”... In the beginning of the baby-boom era, Christian identification among Americans was at least 91%; today it’s down to 77%.”



--John Meacham, “Time” p.46 March 25, 2013

“What will be the Lutheran witness? I believe that our most significant way of commemorating the 500th anniversary of the ongoing reforming movement in the church catholic named for Luther would be for us to trust there is more we hold in common as Lutheran Christians that what keeps us apart. I do not say this lightly, nor am I for one moment denying the magnitude of the obstacles to such trust. But how much longer will we continue to approach the Confessions and Scripture and our rich theological tradition as cause for perpetual conflict over who holds the true interpretations rather than as grounds for proclaiming Christ Jesus crucified and risen? Have we been in a 25-year, 500-year battle to see whose interpretation will prevail?”

--Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson
Conference of Bishops Report
March 2013



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BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

The recent Conference of Bishops was anxious! The 65 synod bishops meet with the Presiding Bishop of the Church twice a year for about five days to think together about our common work. This spring meeting in Chicago was full of talk of congregational struggle, seminary financial distress and a general worry about the future of this denomination. Yet in some ways for all of its “hand wringing,” there was a sense of possibility continuing to be revealed. God put hope in the meeting!

Our Church has very significant assets that we can use as we face the future. Our theology, our institutions (colleges, Bible camps, seminaries, social ministry organizations, world wide partners, etc.) We have a capable and informed clergy roster and 9000+ wonderful Christ-centered congregations. There is much to be thankful for and good reason for hope.

As I sat in one of the sessions discussing the future of theological education (how we train our pastors), I was struck how the church in the next thirty years will need skills and abilities in its clergy for which I was not trained in the 1970’s when I studied to serve as a pastor. The culture and the church continues to shift. Here are a few thoughts: How would I respond if a young person today would ask me, “How should I prepare myself to be a pastor in the Church?” Knowing that this young woman or man would be a member of the clergy into the middle part of this century, this is what I would tell them:



Study Spanish. Today 15% of the American people speak Spanish as a first language. In twenty years it may be 30%. Half of all grade school children today in the public schools are ethnic minorities. If we are going to grow as a Church we will need Spanish language capable pastors who can share the message of Jesus in America’s other language.



Study the theologian, church leader and Pastor Martin Luther while becoming post-Lutheran. Justification by Grace is still the center of this Lutheran Christian community. We need pastors who are well versed in the Lutheran Confessions and yet post-denominational in the sense that we do not worship a heritage, even as we are shaped by it.

Become a community organizer with a message of Jesus Christ. Getting groups together, building bridges between communities and developing coalitions for change is the key to growing a future church. Teaching others to tell the story of Jesus is central. Learn how to teach. Can Lutherans learn to share Jesus with people who have never heard? If we don’t we will die.

Learn to play a musical instrument. Yes, probably a guitar! Music will always be a powerful part of worship. While some of us love organ music (I do), there are few people under 50 who prefer the organ to the keyboard or the guitar.



Become comfortable with all things electronic. Know the “web!” While we can debate the value of “virtual community,” know all about it and use it and the other emerging technologies of our age.

BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

Be an entrepreneur. Have another career that you can market so if you are called to only part-time ministry you can still support yourself. Learn how to run a business. Karl Barth is reported to have said that a pastor should have a Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other. Perhaps in the 21st century that newspaper in hand should be “The Wall Street Journal.” Or maybe it would be an “app” on a smart phone.

Work on yourself. Learn about the spiritual disciplines. Exercise. Listen to music. Go to sporting events. Let God invade you totally. Pray.



All of these are in addition to the study of Bible, Theology, Church History and a dozen skills needed for pastors in the work to which we have been called.

Well, I never said it would be easy!

**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?**

Our ELCA working through the Church Council has recently released a “**Social Message On the Body of Christ and Mental Illness.**” I recommend it to you! This is how it begins: “In their lifetimes, one-half of Americans will have a serious mental health condition, but fewer than half of them will receive treatment. A study by the ELCA found 16 percent of male clergy and 24 percent of female clergy to be suffering from depression.” It’s a document well worth reading and answers the questions: “What is mental illness? Why address mental illness now? What are the challenges? What does this Church say? And what does this Church do?” The message is available to you on the internet at www.ELCA.org/socialstatements

The Conference of ELCA Bishops recently adopted a “**Pastoral Letter on Violence.**” It is re-printed in an insert to this Notes and Quotes. If you are looking for a document advocating for or against “gun control” or the “Second Amendment” this is not where you will find it. Instead the bishops of your church call us all to do the ministry that we can do as people of faith in the midst of a highly polarized culture.

This is the center of the statement: “We invite you, our sisters and brothers, to join us in this work:

- **The work of lament** – creating safe space for naming, praying, grieving, caring for one another, and sharing the hope in God’s promise of faithfulness
- **The work of moral formation and discernment** – listening to scripture, repenting, modeling conflict resolution in daily life, addressing bullying, conducting respectful conversations, and discerning constructive strategies to reduce violence
- **The work of advocacy** – acting to address the causes and effects of violence.”



TRANSITIONS



+God bless **Pastor Tamra Harder** on her installation as pastor of **Bethany in Negaunee and Emanuel in Skandia**. We welcome her and her husband Everett to the synod!

+Congratulations to **Ron Lawrence** at his installation as the new CEO of **Northland Lutheran Retirement Community in Marinette, Wisconsin**.



Engagement Congratulations!

+Congratulations to **Pastor Jeremy Winter (Zion, St. Ignace, Trinity, Brevort)** on the announcement of his engagement to be married. He will join hands with Elizabeth Bolkema on May 25th. God bless this couple beginning life together!

Prayers for Continued Recovery

+Retired **Pastor John West** has left the nursing home and is now living with his son in downstate Michigan. Pastor West has made progress after his stroke last fall.



Retirements!

+Congratulations to **Pastor Ken Michaelis** on his retirement after 33 years of ministry at the Northland Lutheran Retirement Community.

+Congratulations to **Pastor Doug Schoen** who has announced his pending retirement from **Emmanuel, Menominee**. He completes his 33 year ministry there in May.

Condolences



+Our Christian sympathy to **Fran Voyce (President of the Northern Great Lakes Synod Women of the ELCA)** on the death of her husband Tom. Tom was a faithful member of St. John's Church in Ironwood at the time of his death.

+ "In life in death O Lord, abide with me." The mother of **Denise Laakko** (synod council member and spouse of Pastor Michael Laakko) **United, Crystal Falls** died recently. Pastor Nancy Sparks was a retired pastor of the United Methodist Church. God bless this family.

+**Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop**

tskrenes@nglsynod.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

ELCA Disaster Funds

Trinity Ev. Rhineland
Immanuel, Negaunee
Mission United, Pelkie
Grace, South Range

ELCA Malaria Campaign

First, Gladstone
Zion, Manistique
Bethany, Amasa
Calvary, Minocqua

Endowment Developer Ministry

David Veldhuizen

Endowment Fund/Answer the Call

Roger and Kay Knuth
Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood
Carl and Kathleen Vaara
Rev. Chrys Hendrick
Messiah, Marquette
Eden, Munising
Rev. Kevin Kaiser
Trinity, Trout Creek

Feeding America 50105

Immanuel, Negaunee

Kemppainen Scholarship Fund

Ann Todia

Kijichi Lutheran Scholarship

First, Gladstone

Kisarawe Student Scholarships

First, Gladstone

Lutheran Campus Ministry

NMU - Grace, Gwinn
NMU - Immanuel, Negaunee
NMU - United, Crystal Falls

Lutheran Social Services

Bethany, Amasa

Lutheran World Relief

Calvary, Rapid River
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Zion Ev., Marinette
Salem, Ironwood

Malaria / Maternity Health Care

St. Paul, Mass City

Mission Outreach

Faith, Calumet
Immanuel, Escanaba

Seminarian Support

Rev. Kevin Kaiser
Faith, Whit Pine Scholarship
Calvary Ev., Minocqua
Zion, Ironwood

Tanzanian Dental Mission

Emmanuel, Menominee
Bethel, Menominee
Zion, Manistique

World Missionary Support

Trinity, Ishpeming
Bethel, Ishpeming
Zion, Ironwood
Trinity Ev., Rhineland

Shepherd of the Sea

Mission United, Pelkie



+ From the Assistant to the Bishop +
Pastor Katherine Finegan



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It seems to me that Spring in the U.P. has some remarkable similarities to the kingdom of God and the power of Jesus' resurrection. You might well doubt this as you look out your window at the falling snow, but I do believe it's true.

Consider that our calendar declares the first day of Spring to be March 20th. And yet, even in April, we still look around with dismay at piles of snow. We feel the chill in the air. Our faces still must turn away from freezing wind. Certainly, even April days can look pretty much the same as February or even January.

And yet, we *know* that winter is on its way out. Not only because the calendar tells us that it's really April, but there really are signs of Spring. Of course, we don't see daffodils in the garden yet, or green grass, and certainly not flowering trees, but there are signs of Spring nevertheless, some small and some huge.

If we look closely, we see that the snow is melting as much as it is refreezing. We see that here and there, the dirt and mud are emerging, and the road is relatively dry. And even if you're not a gardener, you may well feel the urge to thumb through seed catalogs and browse the bird-feeder and garden equipment aisle.

And most of all, we notice that the light grows. The days are longer, brighter, and above zero.

We do more than hope for Spring because we *know* that Spring is coming. After all, we've had to wait for it before in all the years that we've lived, and this year will be no exception. We know Spring is coming because Spring always does. The calendar declares it, and we need only wait until it comes even to us.

The kingdom of God and the power of Jesus' resurrection are the same. The open tomb declares that death no longer has a hold of us. We are freed from the power of sin, freed from bondage, freed to serve God.

Yet, as we rejoice in our new life, we still see the pain of this world, the conflicts, the warfare, the chaos. Suffering piles up higher than any drift of snow. It sure still looks like a sinful world. The winds of injustice still blow. The world still feels the cold weight of death.

But new life is coming, has come, is almost here. We wait for it. We see signs of it in little bits. We gather for worship and song. We partner together in ministry. We seek to make a difference in this world, and in large and small ways, we actually do. We may not see peace between nations, but we glimpse peace in our own hearts, a peace that passes understanding. We are blessed with a fellowship among sinners within the community of faith, and we are sent out into the world to bear the presence of Christ to sinners out there.

Just as the conviction that Spring is coming helps us to be patient with snowy days, so does faith in the one who died and rose, give us strength and courage to face dark days overshadowed by death and sin. We wait for new life to come even to us. We wait, knowing that it *will* come, and in the meantime, we let the hope of Easter fill us, to give us patience, and joy.

Alleluia!! Christ is risen!
 He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Katherine Finegan



Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

Full-time

Holy Trinity, Chassell - Pastor D. J. Rasner
 Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner - Pastor Norman Peterson
 Faith, Three Lakes - Pastor Tom Lee
 Good Shepherd, Peshtigo - Pastor Jim Wendt
 Sharon, Bessemer - Pastor Fran Strong
 First, Gladstone - Pastor Peggy Rose
 Ascension, Minocqua - Associate Pastor
 St. James, Rudyard - Rev. Matt Lamb
 Prince of Peace, Eagle River - Rev. William Nordmark
 Bethany, Amasa and Trinity, Stambaugh - Rev. Bonny Kinnunen

Part-time

St. Mark's, Marquette - Pastor Bill Payne
 Holy Cross, Baraga - Pastor John Autio
 Bethany, Perkins - Pastor Erik Heskin

"From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." (John 1:16)

The 82 congregations of this synod share in a special partnership as we work to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. Together we closed Fiscal Year 2012 with an increase in mission support giving of \$9,338 over Fiscal Year 2011. Thank you for your generosity! Pledges remain flat for calendar year 2013 and giving through the first two months is down slightly. Designated gifts to the ELCA and NGLS ministries are down in 2013. With the new year comes new opportunity to share the abundant blessings of God. May we do so with thanksgiving for the grace upon grace given to each of us.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 2/28	2012	2013	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	822,074	827,629	- 5,555	+ .7%
Amount Received	102,954	96,885	-6,069	- 5.9%
Designated Gifts	35,372	22,113	-13,259	- 37.5%



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Volume 26 - Issues 4 & 5
April 2013 & May 2013



Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly

May 16-18, 2013

Messiah Lutheran Church & Northern Michigan University - Marquette, MI

Guest Speakers

Register your voters at www.nglsynod.org/assembly today!



Mr. Carlos Pena, Vice President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be our ELCA Representative during Synod Assembly. He will be addressing the assembly on Saturday.



Rev. Stan Olson, President of Wartburg Theological Seminary and our Keynote Speaker, will give his presentation on Friday morning.



Early registration deadline is April 12th. **On April 13, the fee goes to \$140 per voter.** Be sure to mark which entrée each voter would like for Friday evening's celebration banquet on the registration form! The banquet is included as part of the registration fee. Visitors are welcome and are to register also. The \$25 fee includes the visitor's banquet plus an informational packet which is mailed at the same time as the Pre-Assembly packet is mailed to voters.

Activities: Two Worship Services; Recognition of Lay School Graduates; Quarters for Hunger collection; Big Bear Award, Bread Basket Award, Workshops, Recognition of Clergy celebrating ordination anniversaries and retirement; Azania Front Lutheran Choir from Tanzania; Jay Beech; and a celebration of 25 years together as ELCA and NGLS with "Mission Moments" throughout the assembly and a banquet Friday evening! **Come and celebrate with us!!**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 3 / **NGLS Worship Committee** meeting at the Synod Office at 10:30 a.m. ET

April 6 / **Transformational Ministry** meeting at Sally Weingartners' home at 10 a.m. ET

April 7 / **Delta Conference** meeting at Immanuel, Escanaba at 4 p.m. ET

April 8 / **Youth Think Tank** at the Synod Office at 11 a.m. ET

April 11 / **Synodical Women's Organization** meeting at FLLC at 10 a.m. CT

April 12 – 14 / **Lutheran Men in Mission** meeting in Nashville, TN

April 14 / **Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Annual Meeting** at 3 p.m. CT

April 16 / **NGLS Stewardship Committee** meeting at the Synod Office at 11 a.m. ET

April 17 / **Mission Moments – SA Pictures** subcommittee meeting at the Synod Office at 10 a.m. ET

April 18 / **Campus Ministry** meeting at Bethany, Ishpeming at 5 p.m. ET

April 18-19 / **"Change or Die" Conference** in Milwaukee, WI

April 19-20 / **Candidacy Committee** meeting at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

April 21 / **"Answer the Call" Sunday**
and

Marked! Event at Messiah, Marquette 4 – 7 p.m. ET

April 22 / **Leadership Support Committee** meeting at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp at 10 am. CT

April 24 / **NGLS Constitution Committee** meeting at the Synod Office at 11 a.m. ET

April 27 / **NGLS World Hunger Committee** meeting at United, Crystal Falls at 10 a.m. CT

and

NGLS Endowment Committee meeting at Bethel, Ishpeming at 11 a.m. ET

April 28 / **Marked! Event** at Prince of Peace, Eagle River 4 – 7 p.m. CT

April 29 / **Stewardship with Chick Lane** at Gloria Dei, Hancock 7 – 8:30 p.m. CT

April 30 / **CROP** Meeting at Country Grill, Ishpeming at 9 a.m. ET

and

Stewardship with Chick Lane at Bethany, Escanaba 7 – 8:30 p.m. ET



May 3-4 / **Transformational Ministry Retreat** at Eden, Munising

May 9 / **Lay School for Mission / Licensed Lay Ministry Board** meeting at the Synod Office 11-1 p.m. ET

May 16 / **Synod Council** meeting at Messiah, Marquette 3:30 p.m. ET

May 16-18 / **Synod Assembly** at Messiah and Northern Michigan University

May 17-19 / **Youth Quake-Encounter** at Finlandia University, Hancock

May 27 / **Synod Office closed for Memorial Day**

May 30 / **NGLS Evangelism Committee** meeting at the Synod Office at Noon



Northern Great Lakes Synod
“Answer the Call Sunday”
April 21, 2013

“Answer the Call” is an Endowment Fund to benefit seminarians from the Northern Great Lakes Synod who are seeking to serve Jesus Christ as pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

***Seminarian Dave Hendrickson** from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Escanaba, MI, now attending Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN writes:*

“The Northern Great Lakes Synod has been very supportive of my call to ministry. They have been there for me as I discern my vocational call into the world. Helping me to see how God is working in my life, and finding a way for me to participate in that action. When I was not able to see the path before me, or know where it was leading, I found myself shaken and nervous. A pastor of mine told me, ‘if you chose to take this path, you should know that there will be people who will support you along the way.’ This has been most certainly true. The Northern Great Lakes Synod has amazing scholarships for their seminarians. Something that is not possible for all Synods of the ELCA. The financial burdens of education are very heavy in this day in age, it is a blessing to have a Great synod walking with me, helping me to lift those burdens, and giving me words of encouragement along the way.”

***Seminarian Tera (Kossow) Lowe**, from First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, MI, now attending Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA writes:*

“As a recipient of seminary scholarship funds from the Northern Great Lakes Synod, I have to extend my heart-felt thanks for not only this support, but for the prayer support and words of encouragement that come to me from all of you. Answering God’s call to ordained ministry causes much to be anxious about, and it is a blessing to be relieved of some anxiety over how my education will be paid for. I thank God for the blessing of your prayers and support.”

Please Consider Making a Gift to
“Answer the Call”

One of the major obstacles preventing people from responding to God’s call to ministry within this church is the cost of a seminary education. Often seminary graduates are so burdened by education debt that they are unable to serve this church in areas where they are needed most – smaller, rural congregations, for example. The “Answer the Call” is an investment in the whole church’s future ministry.

Your gift will go to the NGLS Fund for Leaders Endowment Fund where it will be invested and reinvested in perpetuity. The earnings from this investment are then used to provide tuition support for seminary students.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift to “Answer the Call.”

Fill out the bottom portion of this page and return it with your gift to:

Northern Great Lakes Synod Endowment Fund
1029 North Third Street, Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855

Thank you!

“Answer the Call”

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

Gift Amount \$ _____

“Ask, Thank, Tell” Nights

with Pastor Chick Lane

“The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God’s people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.”

— Pastor Charles R. Lane

Two evenings are scheduled this spring for workshops on giving! Each session will give opportunity to begin to develop “hands on” strategies for our congregations to further develop stewardship ministries.

Come and meet Pastor Lane!

Monday, April 29, 2013

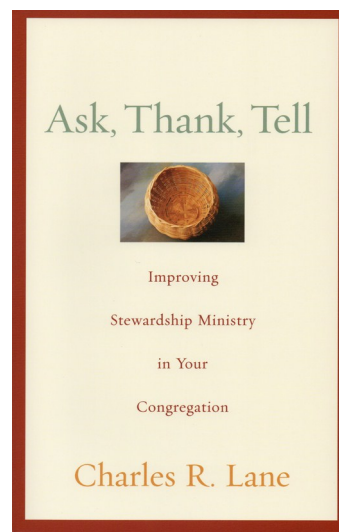
7:00—8:30 ET

Gloria Dei Lutheran, Hancock

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

7:00—8:30 p.m. ET

Bethany, Escanaba



Pastor Charles “Chick” Lane leads Stewardship Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN and is the author of “Ask, Thank, Tell,” the premier stewardship resource today in the ELCA.



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A Pastoral Letter on Violence adopted by the ELCA Conference of Bishops, March 4, 2013

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Jeremiah 31:15 and Matthew 2: 18

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Every faithful caregiver who sits with victims of violence knows what we know – as God's church, we are called to reduce violence and should, in most cases, restrain ourselves from using violence. Whether or not statistics show that overall violence has declined in recent years, every person wounded or killed is a precious child of God.

As bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we lament the tragedy of gun violence in our country. We are grieved by the way violence threatens and destroys life. We affirm the current soul searching and shared striving to find a way to a better future.

While the church grapples with this call to reduce violence and make our communities safer, we recognize that before God we are neither more righteous because we have guns nor are we more righteous when we favor significant restrictions. Brokenness and sin are not somehow outside of us. Even the best of us are capable of great evil. As people of God we begin by confessing our own brokenness – revealed in both our actions and our failure to act. We trust that God will set us free and renew us in our life's work to love our neighbors.

In this time of public attention to gun violence, local communities of faith have a unique opportunity to engage this work. As bishops, we were thankful to recognize the many resources our church has already developed (see below). We begin by listening: listening to God, to Scripture, and to each other. Providing a safe place for people to share their own stories, together we discern courses of action. Together we act. And together we return to listening - to assess the effectiveness of our efforts to reduce violence.

In the Large Catechism Luther says, "We must not kill, either by hand, heart, or word, by signs or gestures, or by aiding and abetting." Violence begins in the human heart. Words can harm or heal. To focus only on guns is to miss the depth of our vocation. Yet, guns and access are keys to the challenges we face.

We recognize that we serve in different contexts and have different perspectives regarding what can and should be done. But as we live out our common vocations, knowing that the work will take many forms, we are committed to the work of reducing and restraining violence. This shared work is a sign of our unity in Christ.

We invite you, our sisters and brothers, to join us in this work:

- **The work of lament** – creating safe space for naming, praying, grieving, caring for one another, and sharing the hope in God's promise of faithfulness
- **The work of moral formation and discernment** – listening to scripture, repenting, modeling conflict resolution in daily life, addressing bullying, conducting respectful conversations, and discerning constructive strategies to reduce violence
- **The work of advocacy** – acting to address the causes and effects of violence

Knowing that we are not saved by this work, we undertake it trusting in Christ Jesus, who laid down his life for the world and who calls us to be peacemakers, to pursue justice, and to protect the vulnerable.

In this, as in all things, Christ is with us. Thanks be to God.

Important Resources:

- Video: "We have Work to Do" by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/News/Releases.aspx?a=5271>
- "Community Violence" a social message, <http://www.elca.org/socialissues>
- "The Body of Christ and Mental Illness" a social message, <http://www.elca.org/socialissues>
- "Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice," a proposed social statement
- "Peace: God's Gift, Our Calling," a 1995 social statement.
- "Ban of Military-Style Semi-Automatic Weapons," 1989 social policy resolution, <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Resolutions/Search-by-Topic.aspx#guncontrol> (both social policy resolutions are at address)
- "Community Violence – Gun Control," 1993 social policy resolution

Campus to Congregation

April/May 2013

News from the University Chaplain's office at Finlandia University for our companions in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

"side by side . . . growing in faith toward God and love toward neighbor"

God Reveals God

How are you liberated in Christ Jesus? Have you, someone else, or has God revealed God's self to you in different ways? In the last few years and in my seminary readings, I have noticed that there is a fair amount of discussion (know and unknown...relationally speaking) within the church regarding and/or reacting Avery Dulles five models of revelation (his book *"Models of Revelation"*). These models are (as written by Daniel Migliore in *"Faith Seeking Understanding"*), that:

The 1st Model of Revelation takes the form of authoritative doctrine.

The 2nd Identifies revelation with particular historical events.

The 3rd model Revelation is seen as a special inner experience.

The 4th is more dialectical in presence...that emphasis is on a non-objectifiable encounter with the Word of God that is mediated by Scripture and church proclamation.

The 5th model understands revelation as a new awareness that leads to transformative action.

However, most seem to react and respond to the second, third and fourth models of revelation in particular, yet those discussions did not seem to completely quantify any of the three. They have been discussed as collaborating various models of revelation centered around the understanding that we as human beings are and will remain flawed, imperfect and undeserved, and yet, God chooses us, frees us, and reveals God's self to us.

Karl Barth describes his take on God's revealing in *"The Goettingen Dogmatics"*. Here, Barth states that God reveals God's self to us, and not through nature. He finds complete contradiction between the destructive force of nature and the revelation and salvation that comes through grace of God as God's self as Jesus Christ alone. But if Barth's assumptions are incorrect, and it is not just the personal and that prop-

ositions are indeed also of some value, then revelation is more than just the testimony of the divine encounter. Of course we want a more Christ-centered approach and less approach from the side of humankind, but is there more than one model of revelation that can work together, perhaps even layered as well as intertwining beyond that of our own human insights? Gustavo Gutierrez seems to give insight and understanding as well in his book *"Encountering God in History: A Theology of Liberation"* that God does reveal God's self through Jesus Christ, but ALSO that God tells and shows us that "The promise of that presence WAS FULFILLED in different ways throughout history". (p.107 Gutierrez) Gutierrez seems to relate to the second, third and roughly the fifth model of revelation as explained through Dulles. The point of similarity and comparison between Barth and Gutierrez is that "Christ is the temple of God" (p.109 Gutierrez) as the new and focused point of revelation and how God does indeed reveal God's self and that it is in no way the hands of humankind that reveal God. While we may sometimes reach up from our grave, we come to find a friendly hand that has already been waiting for us...to pull us up and acknowledge our blindness to revelation while also delivering and liberating our understanding.

How do you see God revealing God's self in your life and within the lives of others and creation around you?



Campus Ministry Events Calendar

Where "Christ, the Teacher" leads us!

ALL ARE WELCOME :-)

Recurring Spring 2013 Events:

Tuesdays 12:30-1:00 pm Student-led Chapels 5:30pm alternating between Ministry Meeting and Bible Study

Thursdays 12:30-1:00 pm Chapel with Communion

5:00pm-9:00pm Lay School at the Chapel of St. Matthew

Fridays (every other) 8:00-9:00 pm TGIF (next event: Ap. 5)

Related Activities:

April 22-26 Finals Week! Finals Week Care Packages are delivered to students

April 28 Finlandia Graduation: 10am Baccalaureate Service followed by luncheon and 1:30pm Commencement

May 17-19 Y.E. QuakeZone at Finlandia! Sign up NOW ASAP!!! / Also Synod Assembly time

Check the Finlandia e-newsletter, Finlandia website and 'Finlandia Campus Ministry' on Facebook for more info. on activities above. (many more activities will be announced in electronic format)

YOUTH QUAKE EVENT: May 17-19, 2013 @ Finlandia University

Finlandia University is hosting a Youth Encounter's YOUTH QUAKE Event!

YES...right here in our own Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Less travel, less expense...

but the **same FANTASTIC, FAITH-FILLED Event!** Don't miss out.

(*We'll also Skype in and chat with those at the 2013 NGL Synod Assembly!!)

SAVE THE DATE: May 17-19, 2013

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Jeremiah 29:11

Look soon for more information either in:
upcoming NGLS Newsletters,
Finlandia News,
Youth Encounter Brochures,
and more.



Any questions or comments? Contact Soren Schmidt, University Chaplain at: soren.schmidt@finlandia.edu or (906) 487-7239.

Visit our Website: www.finlandia.edu



1988

We Need Your Pictures!



2013



**Pictures
needed by
April 15th!**

The Synod Assembly Planning team needs photographs (digital and hard copy) of ALL of the following:

- ~ **Significant dates in your congregation in the past 25 years. These might include groundbreakings, pastors' installations, Anniversary celebrations, or other events.**
- ~ **Pastor's picture from 25 years ago**
- ~ **Confirmation Class photo of 1988**
- ~ **1-3 shots of activities that have taken place in the last year, 2012-2013.**

The photos will be used during Synod Assembly for both photo board displays and include them in powerpoint presentations.

When you send the photos, please include the following info:

- 1. Date photo was taken**
- 2. Congregation name and location**
- 3. Event name or description of photo**
- 4. Names of those in the photograph, if possible.**

Mail photos to the Synod Office, Attn: Betsy Koski, 1029 N. third Street, Ste. A, Marquette, MI 49855, or you can e-mail them to Betsy at bakoski@nglsynod.org.



A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

prayfaithfully@nglsynod.org
www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully

Prayer Calendar – April 2013

1	Pray during April, Cancer Awareness Month that all people are diligent about visiting their doctors and <i>getting cancer screening tests</i> . And for <i>all those currently fighting cancer</i> .
2	Pray for the members of Holy Trinity, Chassell, Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner, and First in Gladstone and <i>their interim Pastors</i> as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
3	Pray for those attending the Worship Committee meeting at the synod office today.
4	Pray for our Rostered Clergy , active and retired, who are celebrating birthdays this month, <i>Kristin Rice, Mark Bangert, George Kaiser, Nancy Kauppi, John Autio, Melinda Quivik, Doug Pohlman, Chrys Hendrick, Bob Patrick, Amanda Kossow, and Bob Sutherland</i> .
5	Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – <i>Dora Swanson and Pearl Schnorr</i>
6	For all of the children that they are kept safe from abuse and <i>cared for with love, patience, and understanding</i> .
7	Pray for the members of the Delta Conference who attend their Spring Meeting at Immanuel, Escanaba
8	For our Public Schools : officials, administrators, office personnel, teachers and assistants to whom <i>we entrust our children's education and safety</i> .
9	Pray for the members of Peace Lutheran, Glen Burnie, MD (Rev. Fred Lehr), St. John in Linthicum, MD (Rev. Michael R. McQuaid) and St. Martin in Annapolis, MD (interim Rev Mary Miller-Zurell)
10	For families ; patients and caregivers, <i>struggling with mental illness</i> .
11	Pray for all those attending the Synodical Women's Organization meeting at FLLC on this day.
12	Pray for those traveling to and attending the Lord, Teach Us How to Pray, Prayer Workshop at Zion Lutheran Church in Manistique.
13	For all those churchwide who are attending the Men in Mission meeting in Nashville, TN April 12-14 .
14	Pray for those attending the Annual Meeting of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on this day.
15	Pray for the members of Kurasini Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Rev Job Mwaisaka) and their NGLS Companion Congregation, St. James Lutheran, Rudyard (interim pastor: Rev Matt Lamb.)
16	Pray for our retired clergy and their spouses : <i>Ralph (Hilma) Backman and Mark (Kristi) Bangert</i>

17	Pray for Pastor Christopher Johnson and the members of Christ the King, Escanaba as they celebrate 3 years of ministry together this day.
18	For those attending the Lutheran Campus Ministry meeting at Bethany, Ishpeming.
19	Pray for the Candidacy Committee as they meet today and tomorrow at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.
20	For all our Seminary Students , but especially this month we pray for Julie Belew and Linda Forray .
21	Pray for those youth attending the Marked! with the Cross of Christ Forever event at Messiah in Marquette this evening.
22	For this planet on Earth Day . Pray that all people would take care of this place God has entrusted us with <i>to preserve all of its resources for future generations</i> . We also pray for Breanne Johnson who is celebrating the <i>anniversary of her ordination</i> today.
23	For farmers struggling with the lack of moisture for their crops for their livelihood <i>we pray for steady yet gentle rain</i> .
24	Pray for all of our Licensed Lay Ministers as they continue their leadership positions, Darrel Diers , St. James, Marinette, Clay Hilman , Gloria Dei, Hancock, Soren Schmidt , Finlandia University, Sandy Hamburg , Ministry Health Care, Diane Srutowski , Trinity, Stonington, John and Sharon Babbit , First, Grand Marais.
25	For all those <i>suffering from malaria and those in danger of contracting malaria</i> today on World Malaria Day .
26	Pray for our government leaders at every level that justice for all might prevail .
27	For those attending the World Hunger Committee meeting at United, Crystal Falls .
28	Pray for those youth attending the Marked! with the Cross of Christ Forever event at Prince of Peace in Eagle River this evening.
29	For those attending the Stewardship Event “Ask, Thank, Tell” with Chick Lane today and tomorrow.
30	Pray for the members of All Saints, Baltimore MD (Rev. Churchill B. Wortherly, Jr.), Amazing Grace, Baltimore MD (Rev Gary Dittman), and Augsburg in Baltimore MD (Rev Eric Campbell) .


*“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod
as part of our partner synod relationship.”*




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Prayer Calendar – May 2013

1	Pray for all our Rostered Leaders, both active and retired who celebrate birthdays this month ; <i>Philip Johnson, Tamra Harder, Erik Heskin, Marcia Solberg, Bob Williams, Frederick Hallanger, and John Shallow.</i>
2	May is Mental Health Awareness Month. <i>Pray for all those with any of the wide spectrum of mental illnesses and pray that more resources be provided for research and treatment of mental illness.</i>
3	Pray for those attending the Transformational Ministry Retreat today and tomorrow. Bless them in their work, Lord.
4	For those in prisons . Keep them from harm and help them to keep from offending again.
5	Pray for the members of Christ, Inner Harbor, Baltimore MD (Rev Susan Tjornehoj), Emmanuel, Baltimore, MD (Rev, F. Bobby Booher), and Epiphany, Baltimore MD (William J. Gohl, Jr.).
6	Pray for <i>Nick Johannes, Don Wandersee, Douglas Buck, Chris Laursen, Norman Perterson, George Kaiser, John Shallow, Dean Peterson, Bob Williams, Frederick Hallanger, Doug Schoen, Dale Skogman, and Mary Weinkauff</i> who are celebrating anniversaries of their ordinations this month.
7	For children and families dealing with autism and other leaning disorders.
8	Pray for retired clergy and spouses – <i>Pastor Devon & JoAnne Barrix and Pastor Earl & Nijiko Bergh.</i>
9	Pray for those traveling to and attending the Lay School and Licensed Lay Ministry Board Meeting on this day.
10	For those men and women everywhere in the armed forces defending our country and for their families who carry on without them by their sides.
11	Pray for our Synod Staff (<i>Bishop Tom Skrenes, Assistant Pastor Katherine Finegan, Louise Ingalls, and Betsy Koski</i>) who do such a good job organizing the Synod Assembly this and every year.
12	<div><div><p>Mother's Day</p></div><div>Pray for Mothers everywhere on Mother's Day. Honor your mother and pray that all mothers become loving and responsible parents raising their children to honor and respect all living things.</div></div>
13	Pray for those attending the Seniors Go to Camp at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.
14	This week is National Nursing Week. Pray for all those nurses in our congregations and everywhere who care for us and our loved ones <i>when we are ill and most vulnerable.</i>
15	Pray for the Azania Front Lutheran Church Choir from Tanzania , and those attending the Synod Welcome Dinner for them at Immanuel, in Negaunee this evening.

16	Pray for the Synod Assembly that begins this evening as we celebrate <i>Always being Made New and 25 years of life together in Christ as the ELCA.</i>
17	For those who give freely of their time to serve on committees and task forces and councils in all of the congregations in our synod.
18	Pray for those attending and leading Youth Quake Event at Finlandia University .
19	Pray for those being confirmed and those preparing for confirmation – may they remember their baptism and the promise God made to them, may their faith be strengthened, their hearts opened, and their lives forever changed by the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in them.
20	Pray for all those addicted to drugs and/or alcohol that they will seek help and keep trying to stay substance-free even when they slip up.
21	Pray for the members of Magomeni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Rev Henry Mwinuka) and their NGLS Companion Congregation, Zion Lutheran, Manistique (Rev David Hueter.)
22	Pray for spouses of deceased pastors – <i>Velma Schmidt and Margaret Roth.</i>
23	Pray for the members of Bethany, Amasa, Trinity Stambaugh, and Ascension, Minocqua and their <i>interim Pastors</i> as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
24	For all our Seminary Students , but especially this month we pray for Ann Gonyea-Alexander and Eric Grayvold
25	Pray for the members of Faith, Baltimore MD (Rev Eric T. Campbell, First English, Baltimore MD (Rev Donald L. Burggraf) and Grace, Hamilton, Baltimore MD and their interim pastor.
26	For single parents who <i>struggle to be raise responsible children</i> and provide for them physically and emotionally.
27	 For all Americans who have died serving this country on this Memorial Day
28	Pray for all those who are lonely and long for companionship and conversation.
29	Pray for the members of Our Redeemer, Newberry and Pastor Jesse Brown as they celebrate the 125th anniversary of the congregation this day.
30	For those traveling to and attending the Evangelism Committee Meeting on this day.
31	Pray for students who will be graduating in the coming days that higher education and employment opportunities will be available to them.

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