



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 26, Issue 8

August & September 2013

MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD

August 15, 2013



This summer I have been reading a delightful book. Entitled “The Blessed Virgin Mary” authors Tim Perry (Anglican) and Daniel Kendall (Roman Catholic) explain in clear language and in only 100 pages the history of the doctrines concerning the mother of our Lord Jesus. Systematic theology can be challenging reading but these authors discuss clearly the role of Mary in the history and current life of the Church.

Lutherans observe Mary, Mother of our Lord Day on August 15th. This August take the opportunity to reflect on the person and witness of Mary. We can see St. Mary as a woman of faith who always served her son the Lord Jesus. Her example of humility, service and prophecy continues to inspire the Church.

Martin Luther spoke of the Virgin Mary in this way:

“One should honor Mary as she herself wished and as she expressed it in the Magnificat. She praised God for his deeds. How then can we praise her? The true honor of Mary is the honor of God, the praise of God's grace . . . Mary is nothing for the sake of herself, but for the sake of Christ . . . Mary does not wish that we come to her, but through her to God. *(Explanation of the Magnificat, 1521)*

Mary is the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of all of us even though it was Christ alone who reposed on her knees . . . If he is ours, we ought to be in his situation; there where he is, we ought also to be and all that he has ought to be ours, and his mother is also our mother. *(Sermon, Christmas, 1529)*



MILESTONE REACHED AT ST. PAUL'S IN MASS CITY

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another.” (1 Peter 4:10)

In the fall of 2008, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mass City joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) campaign to eradicate malaria in Tanzania. A milestone was reached on July 14, 2013 when offerings from the monthly after-church fellowships reached \$12,091.

There are more than 200 million cases of malaria each year and of those infected, nearly three quarter million people die. The Lutheran Malaria Initiative is helping to make inroads into this grim number. The statistics show that where malaria once claimed the life of a child every 30 seconds, then every 45 seconds, it has now slowed to every 60 seconds. That fifteen second increment may seem miniscule, but it means thousands of lives are saved every day.

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BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

BY THE NUMBERS

SYNOD STATISTICS FOR 2012

For the year 2012, all 82 of our synod congregations reported their various ministry statistics to the synod. Here are some interesting numbers:

- +The average Northern Great Lakes Synod congregation has 343 members.
- +Average worship attendance in each congregation is 82 per Sunday, a decrease of 2 persons from 2011.
- +Membership declined by a total of 884 in all 82 of our congregations to 28,122.
- +Total weekly worship attendance in the synod was 6,757 in 2012 a decrease of 222 from 2011. Only 24% of our members are in worship on an average Sunday.
- +Total baptisms in 2012 were 312 persons while the numbers of member deaths were 349.
- +61 of our congregations have a Sunday School ministry
- +70 of our congregations offer Bible Study for adults
- +38 of our congregations are carrying out or developing a Mission Plan.
- +Regular and special giving to our congregations increased slightly in 2012 totaling \$11,100,000.

A brief analysis of these numbers shows the general decline in membership and worship attendance that has beset our congregations for 25 years continues. We are declining at about a 3% annual rate. The good news is that more congregations are interested in developing mission plans for the next years. We are recognizing the issues before us!

Complete congregation by congregation results and synod totals are available at the synod office and on our synod website at nglsynod.org

WARTBURG SEMINARY BOARD MEMBER

APPOINTED BY OUR SYNOD COUNCIL

At the May Synod Council meeting Renee Johnson was appointed to serve on the Wartburg Theological Seminary Board of Directors. Our synod is entitled to a board member and Ms. Johnson replaces Pastor Jon Schmidt who has moved outside of our synod. She was elected to a six year term on the Board of this Dubuque, Iowa institution.



Renee Johnson is a member of Gloria Dei in Hancock and is a professor at Finlandia University where she teaches the Servant Leadership curriculum. Each year she leads a group of Finlandia students and staff members to our Companion Synod in Tanzania. Renee and her husband Pastor Philip Johnson are the parents of two adult sons.

BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)**CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY IN AUGUST**

Please pray for our Churchwide Assembly—the national gathering of 1000 voting members elected by our ELCA's sixty-five synods. Our seven synod voting members will be gathering in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from Monday to Saturday, August 12 - 17, 2013. They will elect a Presiding Bishop and a Churchwide Secretary as well as consider a number of resolutions brought to the assembly by synods and individual voting members.

Please pray for us:

Mary Hansen (Zion, Ironwood)

Pauline Kiltinen (St. Mark's, Marquette)

Lance Lindstrom (Christ the King, Escanaba)

Pastor Greg Mileski (United, L'Anse)

Blair Sauve (Calvary, Rapid River)

Bishop Thomas Skrenes (Faith, Ishpeming)

Pastor Dave Van Kley (Messiah, Marquette)

DENTAL MISSION IN 2014**Are You Interested?**

Luanne Skrenes is coordinating another dental mission trip to Tanzania next summer (2014). The trip will be approximately two weeks in length and will include time spent with companion congregations, Kisarawe Lutheran Junior



Seminary, and a safari. The cost will be approximately \$4000.00. Any interested dentists, dental assistants, and dental hygienists should contact Luanne at lmskrenes@aol.com or 906-485-5121.

Karibu Tanzania! (Welcome to Tanzania!)

TRANSITIONS



+Congratulations to **Pastor David Murphy**, recently ordained, as he is installed on September 15th as pastor at Good Shepherd in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. A spring graduate of Wartburg Seminary, Pastor Murphy was ordained by Bishop Skrenes at his home congregation Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marion, Iowa in late June. He will be installed on Sunday, September 15th at 3:00 p.m. central time in Peshtigo. Welcome to Pastor Murphy, his wife Karen and their four young children.

+Two synods in our Region 5 elected new bishops this spring. **Pastor Rodger Prois** was elected as bishop of the Western Iowa Synod and **Pastor Rick Hoyme** was elected bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Welcome to these new synod leaders.

+God bless the family and friends of **Bishop Paavo Kortekangas**, the Bishop Emeritus of the Kuopio Diocese and Tampere Diocese in Finland. Bishop Kortekangas died July 21st in Finland. He had strong connections to our Finlandia University. Thanks be to God for his faithful life and Christ centered mission.



+Congratulations to **President Philip Johnson** and the organizing committee of FinnFest 2013. What a spectacular week! The closing worship service at Gloria Dei in Hancock was jubilant, music filled and packed!



Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop
tskrenes@nglsynod.org

Moved by the Spirit

~September 20-22, 2013~

All the Women of the ELCA
 in the
 Northern Great Lakes Synod
 are invited to a weekend
 of Spiritual Renewal at
 Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp



For more information and registration details, check out the brochure at www.nglsynod.org. Click on "programs" and "women of the ELCA"

Church Musician Workshop



Saturday

October 19, 2013

9:00am—3:00pm
 at Bethany Lutheran,
 Republic

Featuring **Jay
Beech**



+ From the Assistant to the Bishop +
Pastor Katherine Finegan

***“All we need are more members
to help us pay the bills.”***

***“Our mission is to keep our
doors open.”***

***“What does it matter what the
community thinks of us?”***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When I first started to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop, I met with congregational councils for a variety of reasons, and now and again I heard the above sentiments expressed, or something like them.

Such statements may not strike you as strange. Perhaps you’ve heard fellow church members say these things. Perhaps you’ve said something like this yourself.

When I hear these things, I hear the fear of not being able to pay the bills. I hear the anxiety faced by congregations who remember a time when the pews were full, when the Sunday school was busting at the seams, when people came to church because it was the right thing to do. I hear grief and sadness that things aren’t the way they used to be.

And things are definitely different. It used to be that Christianity was the by far the dominant religion in our culture. Now there is everything from atheism, to complete non-affiliation to a whole host of non-Christian spiritual options. It used to be understood that Sunday was a holy

day. Now there are sports tournaments and hockey practice and shopping and everything else that didn’t get done during the week.

I could go on, but the thing is, the church has been in this position before. Way back when, in the first century, when Christianity was just beginning, Sunday was a work day, like Monday, so folks had to carve out time for worship. And in the first century, there were many gods to pick from. Christianity was hardly a given. In fact, most folks down the street had no idea who Jesus was, and worship of any god may or may not have been a part of their experience.

Well folks, we’re right back where the first disciples were at Pentecost. It’s not about keeping our doors open, it’s about going through those doors to share Christ with your neighbor. It’s not about getting more members, it’s about making disciples. It’s about engaging the community to be a blessing to them, meeting the needs of our neighbors in the name of the one who died and rose again.



And maybe, just maybe, the church has lost sight of that just a little bit, because for years, decades, centuries, it’s been too easy. The culture has supported our faith practices.

But no more. So now, in this century, it would be helpful to have a clearer understanding of God’s purpose for each and every congregation. What is the mission of your church? In what ways is your congregation uniquely equipped to serve?

ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP, PASTOR KATHERIN FINEGAN (CONTINUED)

What *does* your community think of you?

These are not easy questions to answer. And in the face of anxiety, it takes a certain amount of courage to see the challenges for what they are.

However, in an effort to assist congregations to intentionally engage these questions and more, the NGLS offers some resources that can begin the process of clarifying your mission and moving forward in an understanding of how to meet the challenges ahead.

~**Mission Conversations:** A new effort which asks congregations to meet three times for 1 ½ hours each time. So far, seven congregations have completed these conversations. Many new ministry efforts have begun as a result: Home-work clubs, new Book Clubs and Bible Studies, meaningful outreach, and more.

~**Transformational Ministry:** A more intensive process, congregational leaders sign on and commit to a full year of monthly meetings, three overnight retreats, and efforts to return to their congregations to relate all that they've learned.

~**Breaking the Mold:** While these training efforts do not explore the specific mission of your congregation, they are meant to equip participants with an understanding of our current cultural situation, and give folks practical tools for how to be actively engaged in God's mission: spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

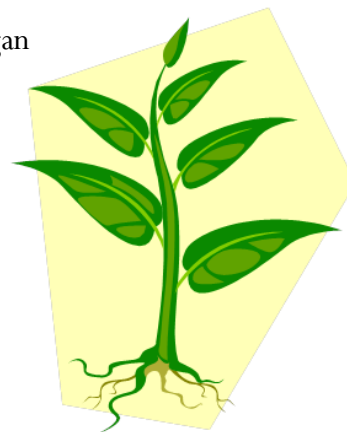
See www.nglsynod.or for more information on any of the above efforts or call Pastor Katherine Finegan or the Synod Office at 906-228-2300.

Yes, the world is changing. Yes, our churches and neighborhoods and our very culture is changing. And while this might be a cause for anxiety, it is also an opportunity. I believe the Spirit is driving us to clarify how we are to participate in God's mission, to deepen our discipleship, and to commit ourselves once again, to faithful service. God is up to something. This generation is seeing challenges that the church hasn't faced for two millennia, and some more challenges that the church has never faced. We are privileged, that's right, *privileged*, to live in a time when God is doing something new.

So whether your church is thriving or declining, whether your congregation conversations are full of angst or enthusiasm, whether your church budget is in the black or red, consider what you can do, as a congregation together, to intentionally engage, invite, welcome, reach out to, or otherwise bring Christ to your community or some corner of the world.

A new day is upon us. The Spirit is at work in and through your congregation to bring Christ, to be Christ....out there.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Katherine Finegan
Assistant to the Bishop



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
 Sharon, Bessemer - Pastor Fran Strong
 First, Gladstone - Pastor Peggy Rose
 Ascension, Minocqua - Associate Pastor
 Prince of Peace, Eagle River - Pastor William Nordmark
 Emmanuel, Menominee - Pastor Lee Goodwin
 Immanuel, Rhinelander - Pastor Maxine Gray
 Grace, Pembine - Pastor Doug Johnson

Part-time

St. Mark's, Marquette - Pastor Bill Payne
 Bethany, Perkins - Pastor Steve Gauger

"In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints..."

Colossians 1:3-4

Mission Support giving remains strong through the end of July, with designated gifts increasing by 7% over 2012. The Synod is grateful for the generous and timely remittance of these gifts, and we look forward to a fall full of excitement as we grow in service and witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 7/31	2012	2013	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	822,074	824,736	+2,662	+ .3%
Amount Received	435,117	442,247	+7,130	+1.6%
Designated Gifts	121,595	130,178	+8,583	+7%



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Breaking the Mold

A series of training events to equip adults to share the Gospel with Young Adults, Youth, and the Unchurched.

*You are encouraged to attend **ONE** of the following:*



~Saturday, **September 7**— Christ the King, Escanaba
906-786-7400

~Saturday, **September 28**— Zion, St. Ignace
906-643-7870

This event is in partnership with the North/West Lower

Michigan Synod

~Saturday, **October 5**— Holy Cross, Baraga
906-353-6541

~Saturday, **October 12**— Pioneer Lake, Conover
715-479-4966

~Saturday, **November 23**— Messiah, Marquette
906-225-1119



These trainings are meant for Pastors, church leaders, parents who work with Youth, teachers, and anyone interested in sharing the gospel with youth, young adults, and the unchurched.

IN ADDITION—Mark your calendars!
Feb. 28—March 2, 2014

Breaking the Mold Retreat at FLLC
for both High School Youth **and** their Adult Leaders.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



August 1 / **Staff Development Day**

August 2 / **Mission Outreach Committee**
meeting at the Synod Office
11 a.m. ET

August 3 / **Endowment Fund Board**
at Fortune Lake Camp
At 10 a.m. CT

August 12-18 / **Churchwide Assembly**
in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 22 / **Evangelism Committee**
meeting at St. Stephen's,
Stephenson at 1 p.m. CT

August 23-24 / **Transformational Ministry Retreat**
in Munising



September 3 / **Conference 8 Pericope**
meeting at the Synod Office
10:30 a.m. ET
&
NGLS Staff meeting at Synod Office at 2:00
p.m. ET

September 7 / **Breaking the Mold**
at Christ the King, Escanaba
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

September 8 / **125th Anniversary ELCA Sunday**

September 13 / **FLLC Golf Scramble**
at Oak Crest Golf Course, Norway

September 13-14 / **Synod Council** meeting at
FLLC

September 15 / **Pr. David Murphy Installation**
at Good Shepherd, Peshtigo, WI at 3:00
p.m. CT

September 16 / **Leadership Support**
meeting at FLLC at 10 a.m. CT

September 16-17 / **Stewardship Retreat** at
FLLC, 2 p.m. CT

September 19 / **NGLS Staff** meeting at Synod
Office at 11:00 a.m. ET

September 20-22 / **SWO Convention/Retreat**
at FLLC

September 28 / **Breaking the Mold** at Zion,
St. Ignace, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

September 29 – October 1 / **Clergy and Spouses Leadership Retreat** at Mackinac
Island

Church Musician Workshop

Saturday October 19, 2013

9:00am—3pm ET at

Bethany Lutheran, Republic

906-376-8826



Featuring the Leadership of Jay Beech!

This gifted artist has performed and led worship all over the country in venues ranging from stadiums to small country churches. He has long been recognized for his creative blending of musical energy and theological substance, and his ability to lift up ancient traditions



The workshop will offer tools, resources, and a sharing of ideas for music leadership in the congregation. Praise bands, guitar players, singers, keyboard artists, drummers and more are invited to learn and share at this event.

~Register by Monday October 14:

Only \$15 a person, or \$50 per congregation.

~After October 14, \$30 a person, or \$100 per congregation.

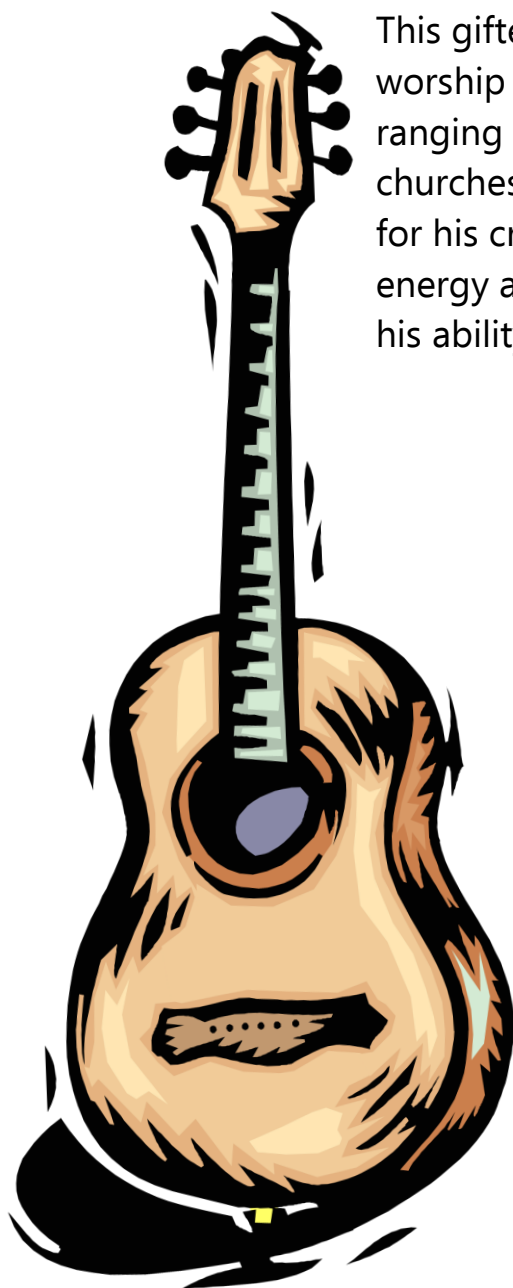
Cost includes workshop and lunch.

To register, go to www.nglsynod.org.



This wonderful opportunity is made possible by a generous grant from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. 906-228-2300
www.nglsynod.org kfinegan@nglsynod.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Celebrate Global Church Sunday

This fall, congregations are invited to pick a day to celebrate our connections and common mission in Christ's global church in conjunction with World Day of Prayer for Peace (Sept. 21), World Communion Sunday (Oct. 6) or Lutheran World Federation Sunday (Oct. 27). For more information, see www.ELCA.org/GlobalChurchSunday.

Uganda: Refugees receive ELCA aid

At least 66,000 people fearing the violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo have fled to neighboring Uganda. The ELCA has given \$100,000 to help provide them with shelter, water, cooking supplies and basic personal items. See www.ELCA.org/Uganda-refugees.

Kenya: Fostering community peace

In a country where tribal conflicts often result in violence, a series of popular workshops attended by such diverse groups as tribal farmers and pastoral nomads explored ways to preserve peace. The Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church's youth department with the help of ELCA World Hunger organized the effort. See www.LivingLutheran.com/Kenya-peace.

Madagascar: Poverty leads to emotional goodbye

"It breaks my heart," says ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission participant Sarah Adam. Two of her close Malagasy friends decided that to survive financially they had to leave their families and take jobs in Kuwait. Sarah says the experience has moved her to advocate for women living in poverty. See www.LivingLutheran.com/Madagascar-poverty.

Mauritania: Learning to respond to disasters

Floods, fires, tornadoes, drought and locust attacks — this small country has seen them all in recent years. With the help of Lutheran Disaster Response and The Lutheran World Federation, people in several communities are being trained to respond to such emergencies. See www.LivingLutheran.com/Mauritania-disasters.

South Africa: A beautiful vision

A simple outdoor scene of a father lovingly bathing his adult, disabled son became a precious spiritual moment for ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission participant Taisha McWilliams. See www.ELCA.org/YAGM-vision.

Kenya: Knitting toward self-reliance

The sweaters they make are nice, but learning a skill that can help support their families is even nicer. The students learn knitting and self-reliance at a school sponsored by the Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation, led by the Rev. Michael Fonner, ELCA missionary. See www.ELCA.org/Kenya-knitting.

Year of service molds ELCA young adults

"I'm truly transformed by it," says Stephanie Berkas, an alumni of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, referring to her work in South Africa from 2009 to 2010. In August, 64 new young adult volunteers began their year of service abroad. For more testimonials from former participants, see www.ELCA.org/YAGM-alumni. For photos from the program, see www.LivingLutheran.com/YAGM-photos.

Seven new ELCA missionaries seek sponsors

Learn how you can support them in their global service by emailing globalchurch@elca.org. For photos from their commissioning and anointing this summer, see www.Facebook.com/GlobalLinks.

'Lutheran Happy Hour' supports ELCA Malaria Campaign

Members of several ELCA Connecticut congregations gathered in downtown Hartford for a lively, African-themed event to support the campaign to curb malaria in Africa. See www.LivingLutheran.com/Hartford-malaria.

Take The Plunge to Geneva and Taizé in 2014

The Plunge is a spring pilgrimage for young adults, ages 18-35, to deepen spirituality through an experience with the global church. See www.ELCA.org/Plunge2014.

New book explores Christianity in relation to other religions

For Christians in an increasingly diverse world, other religions are not academic curiosities but rather faith traditions that can be encountered in our daily lives. Kristin Johnston Largen in "Finding God Among our Neighbors: An Interfaith Systematic Theology" addresses the appreciation of other religions from a Christian point of view. For more on this Fortress Press publication, see www.ELCA.org/religions-book.

In our prayers

Remember in your prayers Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke, ELCA missionaries teaching English in Kumamoto, Japan. (This prayer suggestion for Sept. 24 is available along with daily prayers from around the globe at www.ELCA.org/prayerventures.)

Academic Degree Programs

At Finlandia University, two- or four-year degree programs are offered by two schools and two colleges in the disciplines of liberal studies, health sciences, business, and fine art and design.

Suomi College of Arts & Sciences

BA Liberal Studies/Communication
BA Liberal Studies/Criminal Justice
BA Liberal Studies/English
BA Liberal Studies/Pre-professional Science
BA Liberal Studies/Psychology
BA Liberal Studies/Social Sciences
BA Liberal Studies/Sociology
BA Liberal Studies/Art Therapy
AAS Criminal Justice
AGS General Studies
English as a Second Language (ESL)

Liberal Studies Concentrations

- Christian Vocation
- Communication
- Corporate Communication
- Criminal Justice
- Economics and Business
- Fine Art
- Finnish Studies
- English Language and Literature
- Environmental Studies
- History and Political Science



- International Studies
- Music
- Psychology
- Religion and Philosophy
- Science
- Sociology
- Visual Communication



International School of Art & Design

BFA Bachelor of Fine Arts

Fine Arts Concentrations

- Art Therapy (BA)
- Ceramic Design
- Digital Art/Graphic Design
- Fiber/Fashion Design
- Integrated Design - Product/Interior/Sustainable
- Studio Arts - Painting/Drawing/Illustration

International School of Business

BBA Bachelor of Business Administration

Business Majors

- Accounting
- Applied Management
- Arts Management
- Criminal Justice
- Healthcare Management
- International Business
- Management and Entrepreneurship
- Marketing
- Sports Management

2+2 in Applied Management BBA

2+2 in Healthcare Management BBA



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AAS Medical Assistant
AAS Physical Therapist Assistant
BBA Healthcare Management



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Basketball
Cross Country
Golf
Ice Hockey
Soccer



Women's Sports

Basketball
Cross Country
Golf
Ice Hockey
Soccer
Softball
Volleyball



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Lay School Campuses

Ishpeming, MI:

Site: Bethany Lutheran Church
Coordinator: Rev. Warren Geier
(906) 486-4351
pastor@bethanyishpeming.org
Tuesdays: 3:00—8:30 p.m.
Starts: September 3, 2013

Gladstone, MI:

Site: First Lutheran Church
Coordinator: Rev. Steve Gauger
(906) 474-9353
calvaryrapidriver@gmail.com
Tuesdays: 5:15—9:15 p.m.
Starts September 10, 2013

Hancock, MI:

Site: Finlandia University
Coordinator: Rev. Greg Mileski
(906) 524-6484
johngreg2@yahoo.com
Thursdays: 5:00—9:00 p.m.
Starts September 5, 2013

Menominee, MI:

Site: Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Coordinators: Rev. Lee Goodwin
and Jerry Gentz
(906) 863-3431
jleegoodwin@gmail.com
Mondays: 5:15—9:15 p.m.
Starts September 9, 2013

Minocqua, WI:

Site: Calvary Lutheran Church
Coordinator: Rev. Devon Barrix
(715) 277-4983
dbarrix001@luthersem.edu
Thursdays: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Starts: September 19, 2013

St. Ignace, MI: Lay Academy

The Lay School also engages in a cooperative ministry with the Presbytery of Mackinac through the classes of the Lay Academy meeting at Zion Lutheran Church in St. Ignace and in the northern lower peninsula. For more info, please contact :

Rev. Jeremy Winter
(906) 643-7870
jwinter001@luthersem.edu

Lay School for Mission

Northern Great Lakes Synod

Curriculum and Course Descriptions

Pentateuch: A study of the first five books of the Old Testament. Hear the beginning of God's work in this world; creation, the call of Abraham and Sarah, the formation of the people Israel, the exodus, the wandering, and finally the arrival in the Promised Land. The stories of the Pentateuch will be examined, not merely as history, but as theological statements, and the legal material will be considered in light of our contemporary culture.

Systematics—Second Article: A study of the second article of the Nicene Creed concerning who Jesus is and what he represents, why does God come into the world as a Jewish man from Nazareth and what is it about the human condition that necessitates Christ and the cross? Couldn't there have been an easier (and less painful!) way? What are the historical foundations, especially regarding the nature of Christ? What in the world does the cross and the empty tomb have to do with my life today?

Ethics: A brief course on ethical behavior in light of the cross and God's call to righteousness. Our life as disciples of Christ leads us to look at the world in a certain way. We are freed from the old way of doing things but are part of a new covenant. But what exactly does this mean? In this partisan world where everything is Left vs. Right, is there a way for Christians to look at an issue from a perspective of faith?

Spiritual Development: An exploration of spiritual practices, especially prayer, and how as we develop them they develop us in our faith journey. Hindus do yoga. Buddhists meditate. But what exactly do Christians do to grow in their spirituality? We worship and we pray! But how can we do worship and prayer in ways that deepen and broaden our understanding of God? There will be an emphasis on learning and doing spiritual practices, not just learning about them.

Overview of Ministry in the Congregation: This class will take a quick overview of a number of congregational ministries which may vary from site to site: education, stewardship, social ministry, youth ministry, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Hunger, Earthkeepers, the Lutheran Office of Public Policy and Reconciling Works, and other ministries that are routinely a part of congregational life. Come and examine all the various ministries that can and do happen in congregations all over the world and how you can be involved!

Coordinator's Choice: A class unique to the site that will allow instructors to share material of importance for the life of the church and for which they have a passion.



A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

prayfaithfully@nclsynod.org
www.nclsynod.org/prayfaithfully

Prayer Calendar – August 2013

1	We give thanks for the hard-working and cheerful synod staff . Today is Summer Staff Development Day—the Synod Office is closed .
2	Pray for pastors Bishop Emeritus Harry Andersen, Art Weiss, and Rell Spickerman as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
3	Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: Sally Wilke 8/03, Paul Raappana 8/06, Diane Srutowski 8/06, Bucky Beach 8/11, Cori Johnson 8/13, Christopher Johnson 8/16 .
4	Pray for the members of First, Gray Manor Baltimore MD , (Rev William Wallace), Good Shepherd, Dundalk Baltimore MD (Rev C. Andrew Carr, int.) and Hope, Middleborough Baltimore, MD (Rev Charles Marshall.)
5	Pray for all who have been a part of Fortune Lake Bible Camp this summer – campers, counselors and staff.
6	Pray for those brave women who give children up for adoption .
7	Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – Betty Linna and Eunice Keljo
8	For the Worship Committee meeting at the synod office this day.
9	Pray for the members of Yombo Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation Immanuel, Negaunee (Revs Steven and Marcia Solberg).
10	Pray for those families who are trying to adopt children and for agencies like Lutheran Social Services that help them.
11	Pray for the members of Luther Memorial, Baltimore MD (Rev Lois Nehmer), Prince of Peace, Rosedale Baltimore, MD (Rev Matthew Fuhrman) St John, Edgemere, Baltimore MD (Rev Richard Rutkauskas, Jr.)
12	Pray for all those traveling to and attending the Churchwide Assembly Aug 12-18. We pray for the work they might accomplish and the bonds they might renew.
13	Pray for all those in our synod attending seminaries and especially we pray for Soren Schmidt and Zachariah Shipman .
14	We give you thanks, Lord, for all of the flowers and trees and green grass that we miss so much in the winter.
15	For God's children in prisons . Keep them from harm and help them to become contributing members of society.
16	Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: Jim Duehring 8/18, Jesse Brown 8/21, Don Wandersee 8/22, Matt Lamb 8/23, Eleanor Russey 8/27 .

17	Pray for summer travelers as vacations are nearing an end – may they continue to be fed in faith communities wherever they are.
18	Pray for pastors Bill Jacobson, John West, and Gene Wickman as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
19	Today is World Humanitarian Day . The day dedicated to recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes. We pray our thanks for sending people like them.
20	Pray that all children may receive a quality education and that government officials will make this a priority when allocating funds.
21	Pray for the members of Prince of Peace, Eagle River and their interim pastor, Rev. William Nordmark as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
22	Pray for the members of St John, Essex Baltimore MD (Rev Eileen Kelley-Wamer), St Luke, Dundalk Baltimore MD (Rev Jeff Corson, int), and St Peter, Eastpoint Baltimore MD (Rev Vicki Hamel.)
23	For those attending the Transformational Ministry Retreat in Munising today and tomorrow.
24	Pray for pastors Kevin Kaiser, John Autio, and Amanda Kossow as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
25	For those families taking children to college for the first time and missing them already. We pray that the almost adult children will be safe and will be industrious in their studies.
26	For those men and women in the armed forces defending our country and their families who miss them and sometimes struggle in everyday life without those they love.
27	Pray for pastors Craig Mansur, Devon Barrix, and Kenneth Lahners as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
28	For our government leaders at every level that justice for all might prevail .
29	Pray for pastors Dave Christenson, Kate Schruba, and Doug Norquist as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
30	Pray for all who are sad and lonely across our synod , especially home-bound individuals who long for a friend to visit.
31	Pray for retired pastors and their spouses – Rev Paul & Carol Holmstrom, and Rev Nicholas & Judy Johannes .



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




A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

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

Prayer Calendar – September 2013

1	Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: Gene Wickman , 9/08, Chris Laursen 9/09, Judith Kirchoff 9/09, and Rell Spickerman 9/10.
2	Pray for all the workers in this country , past and present on this Labor Day .
3	Pray for teachers and educators and all who work in schools as they share their gifts. Pray for all students as a new year of classes begins.
4	For the Bishops attending the Region 5 Bishops' Conference in LaCrosse 9/4-9/6
5	Pray for pastors Cori Johnson , Nancy Kauppi , Mark Bangert , and Tracy Polzin as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
6	Pray for the members of St Timothy, Dundalk Baltimore MD (Rev Robert Schmitt-int), Ascension, Towson Baltimore MD (Revs James and Judith Cobb) and Christus Victor, Parkville Baltimore MD (Rev Joseph Skillman.)
7	Pray for all those workers for Christ who celebrate this weekend the 25th Anniversary of the ELCA by doing God's work in their communities – "God's work, Our hands."
8	 Pray for our Bishop Thomas Skrenes as he celebrates his birthday this day! We ask God's blessings on this his faithful servant and give God thanks for his ministry for and with us.
9	For those gifted and diligent church musicians who always practice and perform above and beyond our expectations. Thank you for making our worship a gift to God.
10	Pray for all those troubled and depressed people who may be contemplating suicide ; that they will seek help. Suicide can be prevented and lives can be improved . We give thanks all those doctors, nurses, and counselors who are available to help those so troubled.
11	Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: Kenneth Lahners 9/11, George Olson 9/12, Steven Solberg 9/14, Art Weiss 9/20, and Mary Weinkauff 9/22.
12	Pray for pastors Dave Hueter , Timothy Nyikako , and Greg Mileski as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
13	Pray for the members the Synod Council as they meet at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp today and tomorrow.
14	 Pray for Rally Days across our synod this month as children are once again engaged in Christian Education and learning that "Jesus Loves Me!"
15	For Rev. David Murphy and his installation at Good Shepherd in Peshtigo.
16	Pray for the members of Divinity, Towson Baltimore MD (Rev Christopher Chantelau), Faith, Cockeysville MD (Rev Gregory Fetzer) and Grace English, Lutherville, MD (Rev Veronica Webber.)

17	Pray for all those in our synod attending seminaries and especially we pray <i>for Diane Srutowski and Mark St. Aubin.</i>
18	For farmers who are harvesting their crops ; we pray for <i>good weather and sufficient help.</i>
19	Pray for the members of Kinondoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation, Bethel in Ishpeming (Rev Lauri Maki, pastor.)
20	For the Women of the ELCA as they meet Sept 20-22 at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.
21	For members of Faith in Three Lakes and Sharon in Bessemer and their interim pastors as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy.
22	For the <i>families of those who have lost loved ones to violence.</i>
23	Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – <i>Selma Karjala and Toini Heikkinen</i>
24	Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: Mary Beth Kovanen 9/25, David Christenson 9/27, Peter Vorhes 9/28, and Lee Goodwin 9/29.
25	Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – <i>Rev George Kaiser and Rev Margaret and James Johnson.</i>
26	 <p>As we celebrate the 9th anniversary of the first prayfaithfully devotion this day and our synod prayer ministry, we pray for all who have written devotions, all who have been pray-ers, all who have been prayed for, and all whose lives are touched by prayer. We thank God for these faithful witnesses.</p>
27	Pray for pastors Kari Vadis, Timothy Vadis, and Kristin Rice as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
28	For those struggling with addiction to drugs and alcohol , we pray that you keep seeking help with your problem.
29	Pray for those attending the Clergy and Spouses Retreat on Mackinac Island these next few days.
30	As we begin to see signs of Autumn, <i>we give thanks for the change of seasons and the beauty of fall in the NGLS.</i>

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Your Personal Letter to Your Senator Would Help

Congress is considering legislation to clarify the "Affordable Health Care Act" to insure that Church Health Plans (like Portico) have the same benefits as private plans.

Our ELCA and Portico are asking you to write a letter to your senators to urge adoption of Senate Bill 1164. Following is a sample letter along with the names and addresses of our senators.

Date _____

Dear Senator _____:

I am the pastor (*or a member*) of (*congregation*) in (*location*). I recently learned that the Affordable Care Act does not extend to clergy and lay employees covered in church health plans the same tax benefits that will be available to the general public. The Church Health Plan Act of 2013, S. 1164, corrects this shortcoming. The bill would allow clergy and lay church employees enrolled in church health plans to receive the same tax credits as other individuals.

For more than 100 years national church organizations have provided retirement and health benefits to clergy and lay church employees. Nationwide, more than one million individuals receive health care coverage through national church organizations. This coverage by national church organizations is essential for the advancement of the church's mission.

Debate about the Affordable Health Care Act was and continues to be heated. But some of the concerns generated by this debate can be answered: the bill is not a special tax break for churches and clergy, it only extends to small congregations, clergy and lay church employees the same benefits available to the general public and to small businesses, the bill will not increase the federal deficit, but because of safeguards in the bill, will be "budget neutral".

I urge you to show your support and commitment to clergy, lay church employees and the many millions of people they serve. Co-sponsor S. 1164.

Thank you.

Wisconsin

Senator Tammy Baldwin
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Michigan

Senator Debbie Stabenow
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Carl Levin
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Thank You For Your Gifts!

ELCA Disaster Funds

Salem, Ironwood
All Saints, Wakefield
Holy Trinity, Chassell
United, L'Anse
Mission United, Pelkie
Grace, South Range
Ascension, Minocqua
Trinity, Rhinelander
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Bethany, Amasa
United, Crystal Falls
Bethany, Norway
Bethel, Menominee
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Christ the King, Escanaba
Our Redeemer, Newberry
Zion, St. Ignace
Bethany, Ishpeming
Eden, Munising
Immanuel, Negaunee
Emanuel, Skandia

ELCA Global Barnyard

Christ the King, Escanaba (Buck-a-Chick)

ELCA Malaria Initiative

All Saints, Wakefield
Bethany, Mohawk
Mission United, Pelkie
Ascension, Minocqua
Bethany, Ishpeming

Endowment Fund/Answer the Call

Bethany, Mohawk
Faith, Rock
Elry Reetz
Jacob Holappa
Dora Jane Swanson
Joyce Peterson
Pastor Kevin Kaiser
Estate of Raymond Kargard

Lutheran Campus Ministry

United, Crystal Falls
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Calvary, Rapid River
Grace, Gwinn
Immanuel, Negaunee

Lutheran Social Services

Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Bethany, Amasa

Lutheran World Relief

Salem, Ironwood
Mission United, Pelkie
Zion, Marinette
Calvary, Rapid River
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Maternity/Malaria Project

Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood
St. Paul, Mass City

Mbagala Church, Tanzania

Gloria Dei, Hancock
Pioneer Lake, Conover
Christ the King, Escanaba
Faith, Ishpeming

Mission Outreach

Immanuel, Escanaba

Seminarian Support

Calvary, Minocqua
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Faith, Ishpeming
Eden, Munising

Skogman Scholarship Fund

Our Savior's, Marinette
Pastor James and Laura Wendt

Tanzanian Student/Teacher Scholarships

First, Gladstone

Urban Plunge

Good Shepherd, Houghton

World Missionary Support

Mission United, Pelkie
Pioneer Lake, Conover
Trinity, Rhinelander
Bethel, Ishpeming