



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 26, Issue 102

December 2013—January 2014



From the Bishop

TOP TEN REASONS FOR HOPE ADVENT CHRISTMAS 2013 THE NEW YEAR - EPIPHANY 2014



Why it is we can be confident in this year and the next:

10. God's people hearing the Word of God and sharing in the Lord's Supper each and every week.
9. Dedicated men and women teaching the faith to our children in our Sunday Schools, Confirmation ministries and week day schools.
8. A strong friendship and the many prayers of our family in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.
7. The affection and support of our sisters and brothers in other Christian denominations in our local communities.
6. The partnership of the 9,000+ other congregations, 64 other synods, the Churchwide organization and almost four million members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
5. Dedicated lay leaders and lay staff serving us all in our congregations.
4. Institutions of Christian witness like Fortune Lake Camp, Finlandia University, Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran Campus Ministry.
3. Pastors, both active, under call and retired who are ordained to lives of service.
2. Our baptism into the future with God.
1. The Lord Jesus Christ.



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BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

LEADERS IN GENEROSITY

*“Even the smallest person can change
the course of the future.”*

- Galadriel to Frodo in the 2001 New Line Production The Rings



Anna was a senior member of one of our congregations. For a whole lot of years she had been the recording secretary of the council. She lived modestly but gave tremendous regular gifts to God's work. Her quiet example was known by the entire congregation. Another council member Paul had nothing but poor paying jobs for his entire life. Yet he was known for his love of youth ministry in the congregation supporting our young people generously. Anna and Paul were “salt and light” to me and to many others. Though both are now with the Lord, their ministries continue to bear fruit. They were faithful Christian leaders and witnesses.

In my experience working with people across this Church, across our synod and in our congregations, generous stewards seem to have similar characteristics. They have a lot in common. They are optimistic about the future. Generous givers refuse to “whine” when things do not go well and they also tend to have very healthy personal relationships with family and friends. They also tend to be encouragers, helping others to grow as leaders and affirming ministries that happen all around them. Most generous giving is not done by the rich. Some generous givers to the life of the church are middle class. Some are poor and some are wealthy. Whatever their personal financial situation, generous givers tend to connect their faith in God with their day to day actions. Generous givers also feel connected to the Church and want it to grow.

Every one of us needs to make real progress in our giving. It is an honor to be a leader in Christ's community. Leaders of our churches are called by our Lord to be “salt and light.” Members of our congregational leadership, councils and committees give of themselves generously to manage the work of our parishes. Disciples of Jesus are called to leaven the lump and illumine the world with their lifestyle and their vision. Every person in God's Church can be a leader by a life of generosity!

President Harry Truman is reported to have said, “You get a lot more done if you don't care who gets the credit.” That is one attribute of excellent leadership. Leaders set a vision for the community, articulating that vision in a way that gathers support. Leaders also take responsibility for work to be done. Christian leaders model themselves to the best of their ability after the image of Jesus. Stewardship leaders in a congregation generously live their lives for others.



BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

PASTOR PETER H. ANDERSEN
1945-2013

In Christ we are alive! Our brother, Pastor Peter Howard Andersen died on Sunday, October 20, 2013 in Marquette, Michigan. Pastor Andersen was born on January 17, 1945 in Wheaton, Illinois. He was raised and confirmed at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wheaton and attended Carthage College graduating in 1967. Pastor Andersen graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago in 1971, and was ordained into the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament in Rock Island, Illinois in June 1971. Pastor Andersen married the former Marilyn Reuschel in July 1968. He is survived by his wife of 45 years and their son Philip.

Pastor Andersen served as Associate Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Charles, Illinois from 1971 to 1976 and was then pastor at First Lutheran Church of Murphysboro, Illinois from 1976 to 1984. Luther Memorial Church of Quincy, Illinois called him as Senior Pastor from 1984 to 1994. Coming to this synod in 1994, Pastor Andersen served Christ the King Lutheran Church in Escanaba until his retirement in 2009.

At his funeral, I had the privilege of thanking God for the life of Pastor Andersen. This is part of what I said:



“We have lost a fine pastor and a fine person. I will miss his unshakeable faith and his enthusiasm for our common ministry. This man loved the Lord Jesus and His Church. Pastor Andersen was a YES man! Peter always said yes to God’s Church. Passionate about the training of the next generation of pastoral leaders, Peter Andersen said yes to serving on the very important Seminarian Candidacy Committee. Yes, he said, I will go to Tanzania; yes, he said, I will be a mentor for the new pastors in the area; yes, he agreed to serve on synod council; yes, he would be a leader in the bible camp ministry of this church; yes, he said, I will serve as the interim pastor at Grace in Gwinn and here at Messiah in Marquette, yes, he said, I will be a supply pastor in area congregations, yes, he said, I will be fully immersed in the life of Messiah Congregation. Yes—Peter said, I will sing in the choir, yes, I will be at most every congregational activity, yes, he and Marilyn will be partners in the life of the Church—yes, yes, yes, always yes.

But before Peter could ever say YES—God in Jesus Christ said yes to him. God said Yes to him in baptism and yes to him in his wonderful career of ministry. “Yes, yes, yes,” God said, “Always yes.” Pastor Peter Andersen loved the church, loved the ancient rhythm of the liturgy, loved the music of the church, loved the body of Christ,—loved the people of God, certainly loved all of you.”



PRAYERS

In prayer for **Pastor Erik Heskin (Bethany, Escanaba)** who is on the liver transplant list. Pastor Heskin has been working with the University of Wisconsin Hospital-Madison. God bless Pastor Heskin and his family in these days.

Former Pastor Michael Ashman is undergoing radiation for breast cancer. Michael served as pastor at Sharon in Bessemer, Bethel in Ishpeming and Pioneer Lake in Conover before moving to the Green Bay area. May his healing be full. Correspondence can be sent to 460 S. Main Street, Seymour, WI 54165.

TRANSITIONS

+God bless **Elaine Hendrickson** who was installed as Licensed Lay Minister at **Our Saviour's Lutheran in Atlantic Mine**.

+We welcome back to parish ministry **Pastor Matthew Lamb** who was installed at **St. James Church in Rudyard**.

+**Pastor Timothy Nyikako (Trinity Trout Creek, First and Our Saviour's Paynesville)** is now on leave from call after resigning as pastor of the New Evangelical Parish.

+Congratulations to **Pastor Tim Tahtinen** who was recently ordained. He is the son of Nora Tahtinen, Associate in Ministry, and the late Pastor Roy Tahtinen. May God bless his ministry.

LISA JOHNSON CAMPUS MINISTER AT NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY—MARQUETTE



We will install our new campus minister for Northern Michigan University on **Sunday, January 19th at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time** Messiah Lutheran in Marquette. Lisa Johnson comes to us with Bible Camp experience working at Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. She is a graduate of Midland Lutheran College.

Lisa joins the campus ministry staff at NMU as well as serving as Youth and Family Director at Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette. Welcome Lisa to our ministries!

THANK YOU!



Dear Members of NGLS,

Philip and I wish to thank all of the pastors for participating in the funeral of Pastor Pete. We wish to thank everyone for their kind words of comfort. What a tribute for Peter! He enjoyed being with his colleagues. Someone aptly described him as a gardener of faith. Your gift of a plant was deeply appreciated.

In His Name,
Marilyn and Philip Andersen



+Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop
tskrenes@nglsynod.org



+ From the Assistant to the Bishop +
Pastor Katherine Finegan



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

‘Tis the season for warm and generous hearts, and shining tear-filled eyes. We can feel it coming. It seems we feel everything at Christmas, all the more deeply. I think tears come more easily at this time of year, because we remember absent loved ones, and our hope rises for so many things. Christmas gives us a vision of the way things are *supposed* to be, the way people are *supposed* to act. We draw nearer to our hopes as Christmas brings out the best in people. And our hearts fill with the glow and warmth of the season.

This glow and warmth of Christmas begins of course with the glow and warmth of the manger scene. There’s Joseph with his staff, offering protection to Mary as she adores the baby Jesus in the manger. Some manger scenes include the shepherds, usually bearded with heads covered, grown men kneeling in reverence, with a sheep or two at their feet. It’s a glowing scene. We might even imagine the sweet smell of clean straw, and maybe a hint of smoke in the chilly air from a nearby fire. The manger scene paints a beautiful picture of earnest shepherds, shining angels, and a new family resting in the glow of a child’s birth.

But if we look a little closer, and think about this realistically, that’s not the way it was at all. Anyone who has a stable, or has anything to do with animals, knows that the smell around a manger is anything but sweet. You have to watch where you step. You have to watch that you don’t get stepped on. And while no doubt the bodies of the animals gave off some warmth, that’s not all they give off.



And anyone who has given birth, or witnessed a birth, knows that there is blood, and pain, and fear, and sweat. In ancient days, and still today in developing countries, one of the leading causes of death for women is complications of childbirth. Joseph would have been more than a little worried and anxious. I imagine a man who feels he is in way over his head. And after delivering a child, Mary would have been sore and exhausted and sweaty. The birth of Jesus, just like any other birth then and now, was a messy, sweaty, painful, scary business, complete with the rush of amniotic fluid, the smell of blood and perspiration, the cutting and tying of the umbilical cord, and the whole range of human emotions from fear and worry, to doubt and faith, to wonder and love. And that’s just around the manger.

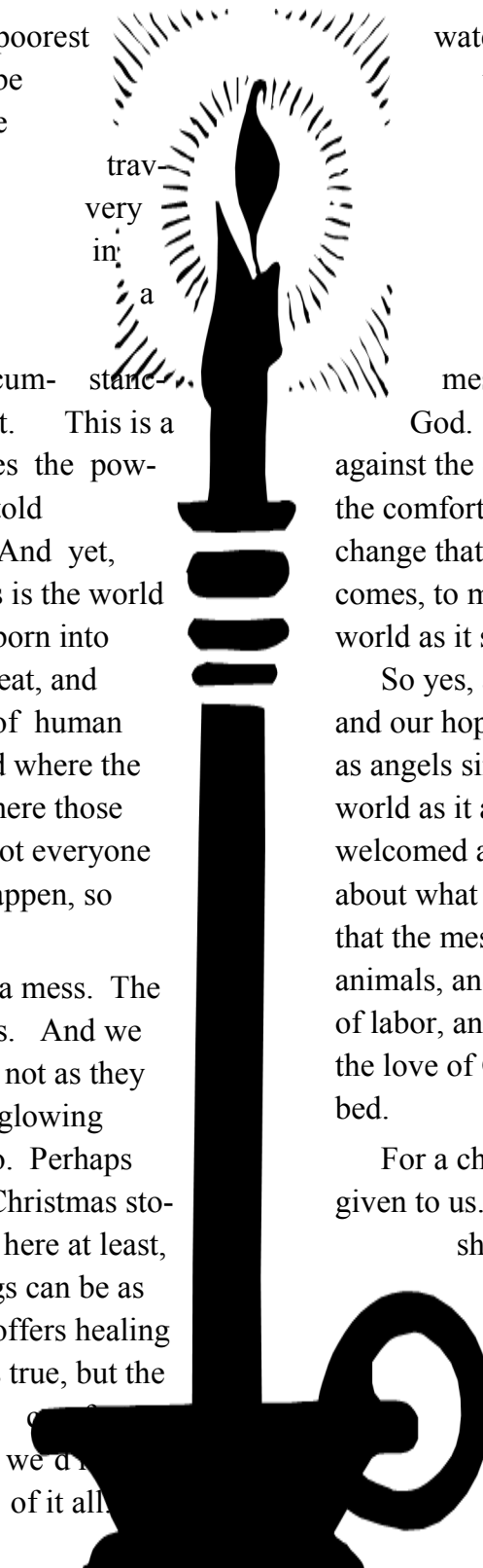
Add to that the messy shepherds, who sleep outside, on the ground, surrounded by sheep. The shepherds are the woodsmen of their day, bathing is not always possible or even a priority. Sure, shepherding then, as now, is sort of an idealized profession. Good kings are called good shepherds, right? But that doesn’t mean that people want to actually invite them into their homes, much less stand too near them. The nature of their work makes them a little stinky. They are known for being unkempt, unshaven, uneducated, and more often than not, unwelcome.

Add to that the mess of politics. Luke takes pains to tell us what kind of world Jesus is being born into. The Roman emperor Augustus is in charge. And the emperor wants to know how much money he can expect from the

ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP, PASTOR KATHERIN FINEGAN (CONTINUED)

people he has conquered, even the poorest of the poor. So everyone needs to be registered. Never mind the expense and time and effort it will take to el, or that the one who travels is pregnant. This is not a world which justice reigns. This is not world where there are inalienable rights, or a vote, or extenuating circumstances, or representation in government. This is a world where the powerful dominates the powerless and people do what they're told or they die. The world is a mess. And yet, Luke would have us know that this is the world into which Jesus is born. Jesus is born into this mess of pain, and fear, and sweat, and blood, and tears and the full range of human emotion. He's born into this world where the powerful oppress the powerless, where those with no voice go unheard, where not everyone is welcomed, where what *should* happen, so often does not.

This Christmas the world is still a mess. The powerful still oppress the powerless. And we still feel it, deeply, when things are not as they should be. Maybe that's why the glowing manger captures our imagination so. Perhaps that's why we are so drawn to the Christmas story, because we want to believe that here at least, maybe even just on this night, things can be as they should be. The manger glow offers healing from the darkness of our world, it's true, but the power of that healing and and hope comes from what we do not see. And that's the mess of it all. Like a swimmer diving into



water, Jesus dives into a world full of the mess of humanity. Jesus is immersed in it all as he comes to us amidst all the things that the Christmas card doesn't show you. He comes to us, he comes to you and to me, in order to bring, in the midst of the mess, Christ brings the presence of God. Christ brings the light that stands against the dark, the hope that fights despair, the comfort that bears the grief, and the change that becomes possible by the one who comes, to make us new, and make the whole world as it should be.

So yes, at Christmas our hearts are full, and our hope rises. We feel the darkness lift as angels sing to shepherds. We see the world as it as it should be, as shepherds are welcomed at the manger, and Mary thinks about what they say. And we give thanks that the mess of this world, and the stink of animals, and the blood of birth, and the sweat of labor, and the smell of fear cannot dim the love of God that shines from that manger bed.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
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
 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



*"Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
 for His steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 106:1 (NRSV)*

Records indicate that mission support receipts in October were at their lowest level in the history of the Synod. As we approach the year end, we strongly encourage all our congregations to fulfill their 2013 benevolence commitment. We are very grateful for the generosity, timeliness, and trust displayed through these gifts which allow our ministries to remain strong, and we value the partnership we share in the Gospel.

Please note the following calendar and fiscal year closing dates:

January 10, 2014 - Last day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that 2013 benevolence gifts can be credited to 2013 giving.

February 10, 2014 - Last day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that January 2014 giving can be credited to the Synod fiscal year.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 10/31	2012	2013	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	822,074	824,736	+2,662	+ .3%
Amount Received	632,713	625,851	-6,862	-1.1%
Designated Gifts	191,330	179,204	-12,126	-6.3%





NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

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*Merry
Christmas*

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Prayer before Christmas Dinner



God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful for each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life this Christmas Day and forever. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



December 4/ **Endowment Meeting**
in Milwaukee (Bishop Skrenes)

December 5 / **Advent Gathering for Retired
Clergy and Spouses** at Faith, Rock

December 6-7 / **Upper Elementary Retreat**
at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

December 8-9 / **Wisconsin Council of Churches**
at Wisconsin Dells (Bishop Skrenes)

December 12 / **Judicatory Meeting / Lunch**
at the Synod Office – 12:30 p.m. ET

December 13-14 / **Bi-Synodical Candidacy**
in Appleton, WI (Pastor Finegan)

December 19 / **Worship Witness Welcome Task
Force Meeting**
at Synod Office – 3:45 p.m. ET

December 24-25 / **Synod Office Closed**
Merry Christmas!

December 29-January 7 / **Bishops' Academy**
at Savannah, GA (Bishop Skrenes)

January 1 / **Synod Office closed** for New Year's Day

January 9 / **NGLS Youth Committee**
at the Synod Office – 9:00 a.m. ET

NGLS Finance Committee
at the Synod Office – 11:00 a.m. ET

NGLS Staff Meeting at 2:00 p.m. ET

January 12 / **NGLS Companion Synod Committee**
at Bethel, Ishpeming – 3:00 p.m. ET

January 14 / **Synod Assembly Planning Committee**
at the Synod Office – 10:30 a.m. ET

January 16 / **NGLS Worship Committee**
at the Synod Office – 10:30 a.m. ET

January 17-18 / **Candidacy Training**
in Madison, WI (Pastor Finegan)

January 19 / **Installation of Lisa Johnson**, NMU Campus
Minister/Messiah Family & Youth Minister at
Messiah, Marquette – 3:00 p.m. ET

January 20 / **NGLS Staff Meeting** at 11:00 a.m. ET

January 21 / **Conference 8 Pericope/Text Study**
at the Synod Office – 10:30 a.m. ET

January 22 / **Endowment Event** with Larry Westfield,
ELCA at Bethel, Ishpeming

January 23 / **Endowment Event** with Larry Westfield,
ELCA at First, Gladstone

January 24-25 / **Synod Council Meeting**
at Prince of Peace, Marquette – 4:00 p.m. ET (Fri.)

January 29-31 / **Practice Discipleship Conference**
in St. Louis, MO (Pastor Finegan)

January 30-31 / **Mobility Conference** in Madison, WI
(Bishop Skrenes)

January 31 – February 2 / **Clergy Spouse Retreat**
in Appleton, WI

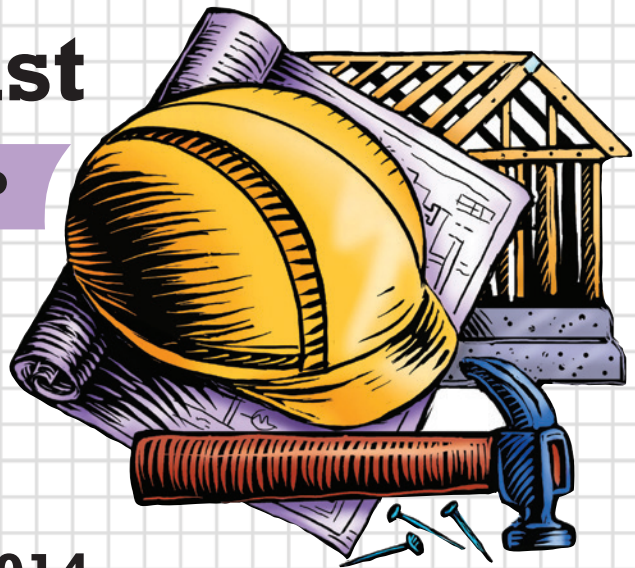


LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION®

Building Men for Christ

WORKSHOP

A one-day workshop to help church leaders develop a life-changing men's ministry for their congregation.



Saturday, January 25, 2014

8:30 am to 5 pm

Registration information available at LutheranMen.org



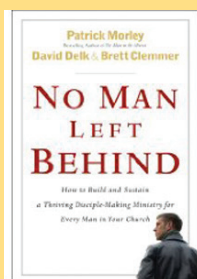
**St. John's
Lutheran Church**

1804 Highland Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Registration deadline: January 15, 2014

*SPECIAL EARLY REGISTRATION FEE
of \$49 for registrations made by
December 28, 2013. SAVE \$10!*

Workshop Resources:



No Man Left Behind
A model for a thriving
disciple-making ministry
for every man in your
church.



Coming of Age
Exploring the spirituality
and identity of younger
men.

Breaking the Mold

High School Gathering & Youth Ministry Training



FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 2014



WHO: For 9 - 12th Graders
AND their Adult Leaders

WHAT: A week-end retreat of fun and learning! Includes both Training for adults and Faith deepening activities for Youth and good stuff for ALL!

WHERE: At Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, Michigan

COST: Only \$75, \$25 of which will be covered by a generous grant from the Northern Great Lakes Synod, for both adults and youth.

REGISTER: Go to www.fortunelake.org

Music, Games, Prayer, Small group discussion, Learning, Laughing, Coffee House Talent Show, Worship, Brunch, Snacks, and SO MUCH MORE!!!!

QUESTIONS: Call the Synod Office at 906/228-2300 or email Pastor Katherine Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org



Building Men for Christ Workshop Frequently Asked Questions

Why should you attend this Workshop?

- Most congregations have fewer men in Sunday worship than women – sometimes by a 2 -1 ratio.
- Young men are the most absent demographic group in our churches.
- Many congregations keep trying the same “programs” to get men involved with no avail.
- Building Men for Christ is a one day team building workshop that will provide tools to prepare a Mission/Vision statement, an initial action plan and the strategies to capture and sustain momentum with the men of the congregation.

Who should attend?

- Men with a passion to help other men have a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.
- The best results are when a team of congregation leaders and staff (male or female) attend with the Pastor (male or female). Pastoral awareness and team participation are essential elements of any effort aimed at bringing change into the congregation.
- Because LMM recognizes the Pastor is a key member of the team, when two or more register from the congregation, the pastor receives a free registration.

How can I sign up?

- Registration Flyer available at www.lutheranmen.org Events/Building Men for Christ Workshop page.
- Registration fee varies by location. Fee ranges between \$50-75.
- A limited number of scholarships are available, provided registration is submitted with a written supporting statement of need.

What else will I get?

- The Building Men for Christ is a workshop developed as part of the leadership training resources of the Lutheran Men in Mission. The workshop is taught by experienced presenters from the Lutheran Men in Mission Board and staff.
- Each registrant will receive:
 - the Patrick Morley, et. al. book, ***No Man Left Behind***, and
 - the Roland Martinson, Paul Hill, et. al. book ***Coming of Age***,
 - the Workshop participant workbook.
- Lunch is included in the registration fee.
- Most importantly – you will get the tools and support to begin, or enhance a life changing men’s ministry in your congregation.

How do I get more information?

Look for contact information on Registration Flyer available at www.lutheranmen.org Events/Building Men for Christ Workshop page.



“Fall Tune-Up” – A Stewardship Thought

Fall has come very quickly this year and I am feeling the pressure to finish up all of the things that I want to get done before the snow flies.

Everett and I need to clean up the plant beds, do some winterizing, plant the shrubs we bought on clearance, clean the windows and get the furnace checked. But that is not all that we want to check up on. We plan to do a check on our charitable giving for this year. We plan to check if we have given what we planned on giving and if there is more that we can give. Are we giving of our time, talents and treasures for God and the world?

Everett and I have been regular givers for many years, but until this year we had not given a full 10% of our income. When I graduated from seminary, we made a conscious decision to tithe (give 10% of our income). We decided on the 10% not just because it was biblical, but because we knew it was a stretch for us, it would be a challenge. I was starting a new job as a pastor, Everett was unemployed, and we had a large amount of debt from seminary. This would be a test of our faith in God to supply what we need.

I knew people who tithed and I was always intrigued by their stories of how it affected their faith lives, but I’m not sure I believed them, and I never thought that we would be able to afford to do it. We had good jobs and we didn’t live an extravagant lifestyle or take a lot of trips, but it just didn’t seem like 10% was realistic.

Now we are making a lot less money than we used to and giving more. Has it meant that our lifestyle has changed? Yes it has. Now we give before we see if there is money left over to do things like go out to eat or go to a movie. We give before we buy things and that means that sometimes the money is not there to get

things that we want. But we have never had to go without the things we need. We still

have more than enough and we know that we are blessed. Part of the blessing has been to be able to give. Our growth in faith is the other part of the blessing. This has been a spiritual discipline that has deepened our relationship with God.

A single woman in my internship congregation had two checking accounts. I do not know if she tithed, but she put a set amount of money in one account out of every paycheck. She loved having that account. She said it made her feel like a rich philanthropist every time she wrote a check from that account. She also fostered many children and felt that it was a wonderful way to teach them about giving. She gave of her time, talents and her treasure.

Where is your giving at? How do you decide how much of your time, talents and treasure to give to God and others? I would like to challenge you to do some praying and some pondering about your giving. Perhaps take the money autobiography that is included in the newsletter. What is God calling you to give? Maybe you can start by looking at what you gave over the last year and determining what percent of your income you gave and then committing to give 1% more over the next year. Think of the additional ministry we could do as a congregation with additional funds in our budget. And if we were able to increase it even more the next year, we could do even more.

Are you giving of your time and talents? If you’re not, the world needs what you have to offer. You don’t need to worry about solving the world’s problems. It is about joining in God’s mission all ready happening in the world. Take a chance with the little things and you may be surprised by how



“Fall Tune-Up” – A Stewardship Thought

your relationship with God changes. I was.

Pastor Tamra Harder




Emanuel, Skandia and Bethany, Negaunee






A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

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

Prayer Calendar – December 2013

1	 <small>First Sunday of Advent</small>	Advent I – give thanks for the gift of faith, and ask for the renewal of the Holy Spirit in your life.
2		Pray for Pastors LaVonne Stephenson and Bucky Beach as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
3		For our Synod Staff and all they do for us as they meet on this day.
4		Pray for members of St. John, Cumberland MD (<i>Rev Tormod Svensson</i>) and of St. Luke, Cumberland MD (<i>Rev David Wright.</i>)
5		Pray for those attending the Advent Gathering for Retired Clergy and Spouses at Faith, Rock.
6		Pray for all those youngsters and their families who are attending the Advent Adventure Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Dec 6 & 7.
7		Pray for pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: <i>Rudy Kemppainen, 12/03 and David Johnson, 12/18</i>
8	 <small>Second Sunday of Advent</small>	Advent II – continue to walk in hope, as you move toward the manger, keeping your eyes on the child, the child who will fulfill that hope on the cross of Good Friday.
9		Pray for our Synod Staff , our Synod Council , and the members of our Synod committees as they work tirelessly for all of us across the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the whole church.
10		Pray for the spouses of our deceased pastors – <i>Helen Rankinen and Ruth Warmanen.</i>
11		Pray for the members of Azania Front Cathedral, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation, Messiah in Marquette (<i>Rev David Van Kley, pastor.</i>)
12		Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – <i>Rev. Raymond and Jeanne Korry and Rev. Robert and Deloris Langseth.</i>
13		For the Bi-Synodical Candidacy Meeting in Appleton, WI this day.
14		Pray for members of St. Paul, Cumberland MD (<i>Rev Marsha Garrett</i>) and of St. Paul, Frostburg MD (<i>Rev Richard Schoenly.</i>)
15	 <small>Third Sunday of Advent</small>	Advent III – as you come closer to the manger at Bethlehem get ready to come face to face with the ultimate gift of love – the presence of God in Immanuel, “God with us!”
16		Also pray for all of our seminary students , especially <i>David Hendrickson and Soren Schmidt.</i>
17		Pray for church choirs who share their gifts of music as they welcome the Christ Child this season.

18	Pray for our Sunday School children who learn about God's word each week and who anticipate the birth of baby Jesus in these next days.
19	For the Worship Witness Welcome Task Force meeting at the Synod Office on this day.
20	Pray for pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: <i>John Kuziej 12/20 and Dave Hueter 12/21.</i>
21	For those addicted to drugs, alcohol and other substances who may find this season of family celebration particularly troublesome. We pray that <i>the light of Christ Jesus may shine into their darkness.</i>
22	 Advent IV – as you take the final steps to the manger joyfully lift up prayers of thanks for the fulfillment of all of God's promises in the Christ Child.
23	For those in prisons. Keep them from harm and help them to see the light of Christ in their lives during this season.
24	 Pray that this evening <i>the light that shines in the darkness may shine again in and through you</i> as you carry the wonder of this evening with you this day – and throughout the coming year.
25	 Pray this day that the Prince of Peace may stir the hearts of men and women the world over, that throughout the world, in our own country, our communities and our own homes love and care for each other may rule. May Peace on Earth become a reality.
26	Pray for all the children on school vacation, may they have a chance to renew, recreate, and enjoy their family and friends.
27	For blessings on all those men and women in the armed forces defending our country who are away from their families this holiday season.
28	Pray for the members of Sharon, Bessemer and their interim pastor, Rev. Fran Strong as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
29	Pray for the ministries of Lutheran Social Services in our synod – especially for those parents and children who become families through the adoption services.
30	Pray for men's ministries in our synod – that they may take root in prayer and Bible study and grow.
31	Offer a prayer of thanks for the opportunities and gifts of the past year – and for courage, hope, and insight as the year ahead unfolds.



***"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@nclsynod.org
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Prayer Calendar – January 2014

1		Pray that this new year may find you to be a faithful disciple of Jesus in all that you do. Ask for God's gifts, guidance, and grace as you walk your path of life and faith.
2		For those who have physical limitations that prevent them from enjoying winter recreation and are lonely and long for companionship and conversation especially as winter weather keeps them indoors.
3		Pray for members of St. Paul, Funkstown MD (<i>Rev Michael Luoia</i>) and of Christ, Hagerstown MD (<i>Rev Salley Fenstermacher.</i>)
4		For pastors <i>Elisabeth Zant, Margaret Johnson, and Jesse Brown</i> as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
5		Pray for pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: <i>Greg Mileski 1/05, Doug Johnson 1/13, David Jensen 1/16, and Elisabeth Zant 1/16.</i>
6		Pray that as the Magi brought gifts of great value to the newborn king, you too would be willing to share not what's left over, but that which you hold of value.
7		Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – <i>Rev Chris and Margaret Laursen and Rev Thomas and Kay Lee.</i>
8		As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord remember that in your baptism, you are a child of God. You are claimed, held, nurtured and blessed by a good and loving God who sends you into the world to witness the love of Jesus.
9		Pray for the NGLS Youth Committee meeting at 9 a.m. and Finance Committee meeting at 11 a.m. at the Synod Office today.
10		Pray for the members of Mbezi Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation, Eden in Munising (<i>Rev Elisabeth Zant, pastor.</i>)
11		Also pray for all of our seminary students , especially <i>Ann Gonyea and Zachariah Shipman.</i>
12		For those traveling to and attending the NGLS Companion Synod Committee meeting this day at Bethel, Ishpeming.
13		For those attending Senior Adult Day at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp today.
14		Pray for the members of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee who meet this day.
15		Pray for the members of Faith, Three Lakes and their interim pastor, Rev. Tom Lee as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy.
16		For those traveling to and attending the Synod Worship Committee meeting at the Synod Office today.
17		For those enjoying the Winter Wonderland weekend at FLLC Jan 17-20.

18	 <p>The Confession of St. Peter – this day begins the week of prayer for Christian unity. Pray that all who confess that which Peter confessed – that Jesus is the Messiah – may come together as partners in the work of the gospel! Pray also for the members of the Worship Committee who meet this day.</p>
19	Pray for the unemployed and underemployed keep them and their families warm and well-fed.
20	As we observe Martin Luther King Jr's birthday , pray for our nation – and our world – that divisions of race, culture, and even faith may be overcome , not by power and violence, but by love and care for all of God's children!
21	Pray for members of Haven L.C., Hagerstown MD (<i>Rev Linda Allesandri</i>) and of St. John, Hagerstown MD (<i>Rev Edward Heim.</i>)
22	For those in Africa and the rest of the world suffering with malaria and HIV/AIDS . Send them skilled doctors and nurses and send them the resources to prevent these diseases. Pray for everyone participating in the NGLS Endowment Event at Bethel, Ishpeming this day.
23	Pray for pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: Margaret Johnson 1/24 and Fran Strong 1/30. Pray for everyone participating in the NGLS Endowment Event at First, Gladstone this day.
24	For those traveling to and attending the Synod Council meeting at Prince of Peace in Marquette today and tomorrow.
25	The Conversion of St. Paul – this day as the week of prayer for Christian unity ends , pray that as Paul heard Jesus call him to faithful service, all of us may hear that call too and respond to God's call for love and care for each other.
26	Keep us safe and warm as ice and snow envelope all those in our synod.
27	Pray for the spouses of our deceased pastors – <i>Dora Jane Swanson and Diane Shepard</i> .
28	For those women, men, and children who are victims of domestic violence . Keep them safe and heal their physical and emotional wounds.
29	Pray for those with macular degeneration and other visual impairments , keep them safe and provide them with caregivers to help them negotiate in the midst of a sighted world.
30	For those attending the Mobility Conference in Madison, WI, today and tomorrow.
31	Pray for those at the Clergy Spouse Retreat in <i>Appleton, WI</i> , Jan 31-Feb 2.

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Northern Great Lakes Synod



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Thank You for Your Gifts!

ELCA Disaster Funds

Bethany, Amasa
Our Redeemer, Newberry
Shepherd of Lakes, Sayner
United, Crystal Falls
Zion Ev., Marinette
Salem, Ironwood
Pioneer Lake, Conover
Mission United, Pelkie
Ascension, Minocqua
Grace, South Range
St. Stephens, Stephenson
All Saints, Wakefield
Holy Trinity, Chassell
Zion, Manistique

ELCA Malaria Initiative

St. Paul, Mass City
Mission United, Pelkie
Trinity Ev., Rhinelander

Endowment /Answer the Call

Grace, Gwinn
Holy Trinity, Chassell
Rev. Kevin Kaiser
Rev. Philip and René Johnson
Stephenson Nat.'l Bank
(in honor of Karen Kolstad)
Bsh. Thomas & Luanne
Skrenes
Wayne Stordahl

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Trinity, Ishpeming
Calvary, Rapid River
United, Crystal Falls
Grace, Gwinn
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
St. Stephens, Stephenson
Mission United, Pelkie
Bethlehem, Florence

Lutheran Social Services

Bethany, Amasa
Trinity, Ishpeming
Bethel, Ishpeming
(Voices for Youth)

Lutheran World Relief

Calvary, Rapid River
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Zion Ev., Marinette
Salem, Ironwood
Mission United, Pelkie
Messiah, Marquette
Shepherd of Lakes, Sayner
Zion, St. Ignace
Prince of Peace, Eagle River
Zion, Manistique
Grace, Gwinn

Maternity/Malaria Project

Skrenes Family – David, Jeff,
Aaron, Jeremy & Kristen,
Luke and Paul
(in honor of parents' 25th wedding
anniversary)

Mbagala Church, Tanzania

St. Stephens, Stephenson

Mission Outreach

Immanuel, Escanaba

Seminarian Support

Calvary, Minocqua
Bethel, Ishpeming
Bethany, Amasa
WELCA – All Saints, Wakefield
Trinity, Ishpeming
Rev. Jon and Rev. Jean Schmidt
(in memory of Rev. Peter Andersen
and Miriam Gustafson)

Prison Ministry

Bethel, Ishpeming

Skogman Scholarship Fund

Rev. Jim and Laura Wendt

Tanzanian Projects

Holy Trinity, Chassell
First, Gladstone
Bethany, Norway
WELCA – Immanuel, Negau
Rev. Robert & Deloris Langs
(In memory of Rev. Peter Ander)

World Missionary Support

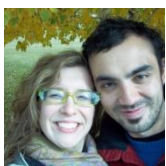
Trinity Ev., Rhinelander
Pioneer Lake, Conover
Mission United, Pelkie
Bethel, Ishpeming



Young Adults in Global Mission Need Your Support!

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.

Thousands of ELCA members and congregations know the joy of supporting a longer-term missionary or Young Adult in Global Mission. This month, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship is sending an invitation to the remaining congregations in our synod to consider creating a covenant relationship of prayer, mutual communication and financial support for either of the following:



Krystle Moraska-Madrussan, from your synod, along with her husband, Ignacio Madrussan, (MSG0720) coordinate the work of the Young Adults in Global Mission serving in Argentina and Uruguay. Check out their blog at <http://yagmar-ur.blogspot.com.ar/>. Krystle grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and her birthday is March 6. She is a former ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission. Ignacio grew up in Bariloche, in the foothills of the Andes Mountains and his birthday is February 5. They have two anniversaries, February 22 and April 27, because they were married in both Argentina and the U.S.

Young Adults in Global Mission serving in Mexico: Liz Burch (GCS3042), Rachel Birkedal (GCS3043), Rachel Johnson (GCS3045), Anna Lamb (GCS3046), Gabe Moe-Lobeda (GCS3047) and Jacob Schroeder (GCS3048). Lindsay Mack and her husband, Omar Mixco, (MSG0726) coordinate the work of these young adults. Check out www.facebook.com/yagmmexico. The full cost to support one volunteer's year of service is only \$11.00.

Please consider this invitation carefully and prayerfully as a way for your congregation to make a world of difference for God's global mission! For more information about these sponsorship opportunities, please contact globalchurch@elca.org or 800-638-3522, ext. 2657.

Your support makes a world of difference! Here's how to give:

By check: Make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with the name of the individual plus the GCS or MSG code number such as "Moraska-Madrussan MSG0720" in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, PO Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764.

By credit or debit card: Call 800-638-3522 and specify the person's name and number such as "Moraska-Madrussan MSG0720."

By automatic monthly bank withdrawal, or to establish a covenant of prayer, communication and support: contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2657
or globalchurch@elca.org.