

**NORTHERN GREAT
LAKES SYNOD**

Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for April 1, 2013

~ THE EASTER SEASON ~

E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic
newsletter

from the Northern Great Lakes
Synod of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

~QUOTE OF THE DAY~

**“Why do you look for the living among
the dead? He is not here, but has
risen.”**

-St. Luke 24:5b

“ANSWER THE CALL SUNDAY”

April 21, 2013

Seminarian Tera Kossow Lowe from First
Lutheran in Gladstone 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 comes 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.”

Last year, \$40,422 was distributed to our ten seminarians, both part and full-time students. What a joy to support these future pastors! These are the men and women who will carry the Gospel to a generation yet un-born! Your support of “Answer the Call Sunday” would mean a great deal to these students, their families and the whole Church of

God. If you would like to endow a scholarship for a student, call the bishop at the synod office. If you would like to make a gift to this work, your support is deeply appreciated. The training of our pastors is something this synod and the whole ELCA does very well.

**CLERGY - WHAT AN
OPPORTUNITY!
“FAMILY SYSTEMS”
WORK IN OUR SYNOD
2013-2014**

Dr. Doug Hester was in our synod last fall doing introductory workshops for clergy and lay leaders on Family Systems Theory. Dr. Hester is a recognized leader and teacher of this movement that helps the church see itself more clearly. He has offered to spend some time in our synod in the next year to do some in-depth work with our clergy and with clergy from other religious communities.

Your Synod Leadership Support Committee is enthusiastic about bringing Doug here to spend some time working with our pastoral leaders. The plan is to

have three two day sessions (about 36 contact hours) in a group of at least 15 participants. The sessions would be all day Monday and all day Tuesday. Three weeks have been selected in this coming fall, winter and in the spring of 2014. The group would meet at Fortune Lake Camp October 7-8; Feb 24-25 and May 19-20. All sessions are from 9:00 am CT- 4:00 p.m. CT.

We seldom have the opportunity to have this significant continuing education opportunity in our synod. Usually we need to drive to Minneapolis or to Chicago for such a program. It will be a great opportunity to have it within reasonable driving distance.

The anticipated cost for the total event (6 days) will be \$750. The synod will reimburse ELCA clergy \$200 of that cost, leaving the pastor or the congregation responsible for \$550 plus housing and meals. Flexible payment plans can be arranged.

I need to know if this is of interest to you! Could you respond to this email soon and let us know if you would like to continue the conversation about this possibility. Seven pastors have already indicated their interest! I recommend this work to you.

For more information about Dr. Hester please see his website: <http://ministryleadershipconcepts.com>

TAKE THE ELCA “ADVOCACY” SURVEY

2013 ELCA Advocacy National Priorities
survey

As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor, and advocating for public policy that helps the most vulnerable and protects God’s creation is one way we live out this call. Advocacy is most effective when Lutherans across the country are involved and active, and the ELCA has advocacy ministries that help facilitate these efforts. This staff works through offices in Washington, D.C., at the United Nations, in state capitols, and with corporations about

their practices and social responsibility to engage Lutherans in a national network for policy change. Our work is framed by ELCA social policy and by the service Lutherans are engaged in throughout the world. Your responses to this short four-question survey greatly help the church's advocacy ministries facilitate this active and growing network of Lutherans speaking out for public policy that advances the common good and reflects your commitments. To get started now on the third annual ELCA Advocacy National Priorities survey, go to:

<http://archive.elca.org/cgi-bin/rws/rws5.pl?FORM=NAP2013>

**WE
WANT
YOUR
PICTUR
ES!**

As we celebrate the 25th

anniversary of the ELCA and the Northern Great Lakes Synod, the Synod Assembly planning Team needs photographs (digital or hard copy) of ALL of the following:

- ~Significant dates in your congregation in the past 25 years.

- These might include groundbreaking, pastors' installations, Anniversary celebrations, or other events.

- ~Your Confirmation Class photo of 1988.

- ~1-3 shots of activities that have taken place in the last year, 2012-2013.

We plan to use the photos during Synod Assembly for both photo board displays and include them in

powerpoint presentations.

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

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

Photographs can be mailed to the Synod Office, Attn: Betsy Koski, 1029 N. Third St., Marquette, MI 49855, or you can e-mail them to Betsy at bakoski@nglsynod.org.

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake

Lutheran Camp

April 19 – 21: Life Together Adult Retreat at FLLC;
explore the teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer with Pastor Pete Andersen and Pastor Jim Duehring.

May 13 – 14: Seniors Go to Camp;
an overnight opportunity for senior adults to sample the program that kids get to enjoy.

For more info., visit fortunelake.org or phone 906-875-3697.

**PASTOR
CHARLES
“CHICK” LANE OF
LUTHER
SEMINARY**

TO BE WITH US IN LATE APRIL!

He is the “stewardship guru” of the whole Evangelical Lutheran Church in America!

The author of the great resource “Ask, Thank, Tell!” Pastor Lane will be with us on two nights in late April.

Congregational leaders, stewardship committee members, interested Lutherans—

you are welcome to hear Pastor Lane discuss practical helps in improving our stewardship work.

We will think and work together to help our congregations grow!

MONDAY APRIL 29 7:00-8:30

**GLORIA DEI CHURCH,
HANCOCK**

TUESDAY APRIL 30 7:00-8:30

BETHANY CHURCH, ESCANABA

Please call the synod office at
906.228.2300

or email us at ngls@nglsynod.org with
the number of people who will come
from your congregation.

.HEALTH ASSESSMENT TIME AGAIN!

If you are a plan member and receiving health care benefits under the ELCA Portico plan —time to take the health Assessment! Cash wellness benefits are available to you and to your congregation again this year. The congregation will save 2% again this year. Last year well over 80% of our synod plan members benefited from this program. **Pastor Barb Girod** will be encouraging you to spend the time on the Portico website and complete the questions. **As of February 28 of this year, 40% had taken the survey.** If you are waiting—please wait no longer and get it done! We need 19 more people to take

the survey.

Please go to the ELCA Portico website

<http://www.porticobenefits.org/>

Thank you!

Synod Assembly Banquet Tickets

This year's Synod Assembly
(May 16-18) includes a
BANQUET on May 17!

For all registered voters and visitors, the price of the ticket is included in the registration fee, but if you have others that would like to attend just the banquet, there is now an added line on the payment part of the registration form so you can purchase as many extra tickets as you need and on the actual registration

form there will be a place where you can put the entrées selected for each additional ticket.

However, anyone and everyone, even if they are not a registered voter or visitor, is invited to attend the banquet. Additional tickets are available for purchase through the Synod Office for \$16.00 each.

World Hunger Offering at Synod Assembly

It's not too soon to be thinking of your congregation's offering.

Traditionally, it has been a quarter collection.

But there are as many ways to gather in this offering as there are

congregations.

Here are some ideas:

- *Make a paper chain to fill the narthex, \$1 a link.

- *Devote a complete month to gather loose change and bills

- *Give out World hunger boxes (available for free at <http://elca.org/hunger>)

- *Fill M&M candy containers or film canisters with quarters

- *Invite your folks to simply Write a check. 😊

The Big Bear Award

Also, if you know of a **congregation** that has

gone above and beyond
in their efforts to
address World Hunger,
please nominate them for
“The Big Bear Award.”
Click here for the form:
<http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly/pdf/BigBear2013.pdf>

The Bread Basket Award

And if you know of an
individual who has given a
distinguished effort
towards addressing
World Hunger, please
nominate them for
“The Bread Basket
Award.”

Click here for the form:
<http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly/pdf/BreadBowl2013.pdf>.

Completed forms can
be sent to
kfinegan@nglsynod.org

May 17-19, 2013
**Youth Quake for Grades 6-
12 at Finlandia University**
PLAN ON IT!

**This is a great opportunity for every
church in the Northern Great Lakes Synod
to bring their youth.**

Never before has a Youth Encounter
Event been so close to us!
Mark your calendar and plan on being
there!!

**Go to youthencounter.org for
registration information**

***Dates & Locations
for our annual
MARKED! events
for confirmation
classes.***

***Add it to your
calendar today!***

**Sunday, April 21,
2013 Messiah**

**Lutheran,
Marquette, MI 4:00-
7:00pm ET**

**Sunday, April 28,
2013 Prince of
Peace, Eagle River,**

WI 4:00-7:00 pm CT

For more information, click on:
<http://nglsynod.org/pdfs/marked2013.pdf>

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

- +The Synod Staff as they prepare for the May Synod Assembly**
- +For peace in Syria and Afghanistan. Help us O God as Christians and as Americans to be peacemakers in this world.**
- +For our church secretaries, janitors and organists as together we serve Christ.**
- +For the women and men who teach the Gospel every week to our young people in our Church Schools.**

Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop
tskrenes@nglsynod.org

WE WANT YOUR PICTUR ES!

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ELCA and the Northern Great Lakes Synod, the Synod Assembly planning Team needs photographs (digital or 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.

~Your Confirmation Class photo of 1988.

~1-3 shots of activities that have taken place in the last year, 2012-2013.

We plan to use the photos during Synod Assembly for both photo board displays and include them in powerpoint presentations.

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

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
Photographs can be mailed to the Synod Office, Attn: Betsy Koski, 1029 N. Third St., Marquette, MI 49855, or you can e-mail them to Betsy at bakoski@nglsynod.org.

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

April 19 – 21: Life Together Adult Retreat at FLLC;

explore the teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer with Pastor Pete Andersen and Pastor Jim Duehring.

May 13 – 14: Seniors Go to Camp; an overnight opportunity for senior adults to sample the program

that kids get to enjoy.
For more info., visit fortunelake.org or phone
906-875-3697.

**PASTOR
CHARLES
“CHICK” LANE OF
LUTHER
SEMINARY
TO BE WITH US IN
LATE APRIL!**

He is the “stewardship guru” of the
whole Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America!

The author of the great resource “Ask,
Thank, Tell!” Pastor Lane will be with us

on two nights in late April.
Congregational leaders, stewardship
committee members, interested
Lutherans—
you are welcome to hear Pastor Lane
discuss practical helps
in improving our stewardship work.
We will think and work together to help
our congregations grow!

MONDAY APRIL 29 7:00-8:30

**GLORIA DEI CHURCH,
HANCOCK**

TUESDAY APRIL 30 7:00-8:30

**BETHANY CHURCH,
ESCANABA**

Please call the synod office at
906.228.2300

or email us at ngls@nglsynod.org with
the number of people who will come
from your congregation.

.HEALTH ASSESSMENT TIME AGAIN!

If you are a plan member and receiving health care benefits under the ELCA Portico plan —time to take the health Assessment! Cash wellness benefits are available to you and to your congregation again this year. The congregation will save 2% again this year. Last year well over 80% of our synod plan members benefited from this program. **Pastor Barb Girod** will be encouraging you to spend the time on the Portico website and complete the questions. **As of February 28 of this year, 40% had taken the survey.** If you are waiting—please wait no longer and get it done! We need 19 more people to take the survey.

Please go to the ELCA Portico website

<http://www.porticobenefits.org/>

Thank you!

**Synod Assembly
Banquet Tickets**

This year's Synod Assembly (May 16-18) includes a

BANQUET on May 17!

For all registered voters and visitors, the price of the ticket is included in the registration fee, but if you have others that would like to attend just the banquet, there is now an added line on the payment part of the registration form so you can purchase as many extra tickets as you need and on the actual registration form there will be a place where you can put the entrées selected for each additional ticket.

However, anyone and everyone, even if they are not a registered voter or visitor, is invited to attend

the banquet. Additional tickets are available for purchase through the Synod Office for \$16.00 each.

World Hunger Offering at Synod Assembly

It's not too soon to be thinking of your congregation's offering.

Traditionally, it has been a quarter collection.

But there are as many ways to gather in this offering as there are congregations.

Here are some ideas:

- *Make a paper chain to fill the narthex, \$1 a link.

- *Devote a complete month to gather loose change

and bills

*Give out World
hunger boxes
(available for free at
<http://elca.org/hunger>
)

*Fill M&M candy
containers or film
canisters with quarters

*Invite your folks to
simply Write a
check. 😊

The Big Bear Award

Also, if you know of a
congregation that has gone
above and beyond

in their efforts to
address World Hunger,
please nominate them for

“The Big Bear Award.”

Click here for the form:

<http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly/pdf/BigBear2013.pdf>

f

The Bread Basket Award

And if you know of an **individual** who has given a distinguished effort towards addressing World Hunger, please nominate them for “The Bread Basket Award.”

Click here for the form:
<http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly/pdf/BreadBowl2013.pdf>.

Completed forms can be sent to
kfinegan@nglsynod.org

May 17-19, 2013
Youth Quake for Grades 6-12

at Finlandia University

PLAN ON IT!

**This is a great opportunity for every church
in the Northern Great Lakes Synod to bring
their youth.**

Never before has a Youth Encounter
Event been so close to us!

Mark your calendar and plan on being
there!!

**Go to youthencounter.org for
registration information**

***Dates & Locations
for our annual
MARKED! events
for confirmation
classes.
Add it to your***

calendar today!

**Sunday, April 21,
2013 Messiah**

**Lutheran,
Marquette, MI 4:00-
7:00pm ET**

**Sunday, April 28,
2013 Prince of
Peace, Eagle River,
WI 4:00-7:00 pm CT**

For more information, click on:
[http://nglsynod.org/pdfs/marked
2013.pdf](http://nglsynod.org/pdfs/marked2013.pdf)

LIFTING UP TO GOD

IN PRAYER

- +The Synod Staff as they prepare for the May Synod Assembly**
- +For peace in Syria and Afghanistan. Help us O God as Christians and as Americans to be peacemakers in this world.**
- +For our church secretaries, janitors and organists as together we serve Christ.**
- +For the women and men who teach the Gospel every week to our young people in our Church Schools.**

Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop
tskrenes@nglsynod.org