

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

**Marquette, Michigan**

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E-Notes for August 30, 2013

~ **THE PENTECOST 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”**

“The failure of Christianity is a modern myth,  
and we shouldn’t be ashamed of telling the proper story of  
church history,  
which of course has plenty of muddle and wickedness,  
but also far more than we normally imagine of love and  
creativity and beauty and justice and healing and education and  
hope.

To imagine a world without the gospel of Jesus is to imagine a pretty bleak place...”

-N. T Wright “How God Became King,” p. 163.

## **A NEW BREEZE**

From Bishop Skrenes:

We gathered as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Pittsburgh – all 952 of us from across the country. From every state and from each of the sixty-five synods of this Church we met together in early August. We prayed and sang hymns and talked together all while enjoying a beautiful American city. Seven from our Northern Great Synod were a part of this week long Churchwide meeting. A new breeze blew into Pittsburgh as we elected a new Presiding Bishop and a new Churchwide Secretary for our Church. Here are a few of my election observations:

+The Voting members wanted new leadership. It was clear after the second ballot that **Presiding**

**Bishop Mark Hanson** would not be returning to office. He had indicated his willingness to serve a third six-year term but the voting members were seeking someone else.

+**Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** of the Northeast Ohio Synod is a very competent person. She is a good leader, committed to the unity of the church and a genuine person of deep faith. She is an excellent communicator who can “turn a phrase.” Her big smile and endless enthusiasm will be great assets in this new call.

+There is a genuine air of thankfulness in the Church for the leadership of Bishop Mark Hanson. However, it seems to me that the feeling in the convention hall was that twelve years in Churchwide leadership was enough for one person.

+Former synod **Bishop Chris Boerger** was elected as Churchwide Secretary. He brings strong leadership and administrative credentials to this new ministry. He recently served as bishop in the state of Washington

+I have known Bishop Easton for six years and Bishop Boerger for twelve. These are very good people. Our Church will be well served by their elections.

A lot more happened at the Assembly than just elections. We adopted a new Social Statement, “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries”- on criminal justice. It is an excellent and balanced study document for anyone interested in a faithful study of the American judicial system. We also approved a proposal for the ELCA’s first major fundraising campaign. There will be more about all of that later!

One last observation: Anxiety in this Church has not disappeared. Since 1988 our ELCA has declined by over one million members. We are a smaller church today than we were by any measure two decades ago. Our sisters and brothers in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and in the Wisconsin Synod are facing the same growth challenges. Our leaders will need to cast a vision of service and ministry. With God’s help, there is a future in this country for Lutheranism.

# Dental Mission to Tanzania

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 [mskrenes@aol.com](mailto:mskrenes@aol.com) or 906-485-5121.  
**Karibu Tanzania! (Welcome to Tanzania!).**

## TRANSITIONS

+Congratulations to **Pastor-Elect Julie Belew** on her call to become the pastor at Holy Cross in Baraga. Ms. Belew, a graduate seminarian, and daughter of this synod, will be ordained and installed at Holy Cross on Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. All synod clergy are welcome to process in the worship service (color red.) God bless Pastor-elect Belew as she begins her

ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament.

+Congratulations to **Pastor Matthew Lamb** on his call as Pastor at St. James in Rudyard. Pastor Lamb also serves as synod missoner on the eastern end of the Synod. His recent retirement from secular employment now allows him to serve full time in ordained ministry.

+Our sympathy to **Pastor Marcia Solberg and her spouse Pastor Steve Solberg (Immanuel, Negaunee)** on the recent death of Pastor Marcia's mother. "O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come!"

## **“Breaking the Mold” - #1**

**Register for the September 7<sup>th</sup> event at Christ the King,  
Escanaba by Monday,  
September 2!!!**

# **FORTUNE LAKE GOLF**

# **OUTING**

**GOLF SCRAMBLE/FUNDRAISER  
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2013  
Oak Crest Golf Course  
Norway, Michigan**

**Registration forms can be found on Fortune  
Lake Camp's Website**

## **Stewardship Retreat – God's Work, Our Hands**

**September 16-17**

**Monday 3pm – Tuesday 3pm CT**

**At Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**

**Featuring Keith Mundy of the ELCA, Chicago**

**For Synod Pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers**

**“The goal of our stewardship ministry  
is to help God's people grow in their relationship  
with Jesus**

**through the use of the time, talents, and finances**

**God has entrusted to them.”**

**Cost: FREE Includes housing at the camp and meals!!!!**

**To register, email the Synod Office at [ngls@nglsynod.org](mailto:ngls@nglsynod.org) by September 5!**

**Check out [www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org) for weekly “Breath Prayer” and Daily Devotions.**

## **Coming to a Church near you.... “Breaking the Mold”**

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

All trainings are from 9am – 3pm local time.



All are free,  
but registration is required  
(call the Synod Office at 228-2300 even if you have  
responded on Facebook).  
For Pastors, Youth workers, Sunday school teachers,  
and adults.

Lunch is included!  
Choose from the dates and places below:

**~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**

## **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**

**Lodging:** Cost depends upon lodging preference. Price includes meals.

Please choose from one of the following:

**~Duplex—\$100:** Houses up to 8 people.

Bunk beds with full baths and a lounge area.

Bring your own  
bedding,  
linens, and  
toiletries.

~**Emmanuel Lodge**—\$125:  
Quad occupancy in two queen  
beds.

Full bath.  
Bedding and linen  
provided.

~**Grace Place Retreat  
Lodge**—\$125: Double occupancy,  
twin beds.

In room sink  
and shared bath with  
adjoining room.

Bedding and  
linen provided.

Sorry, no single rooms available and no pets permitted. Motels  
are available in the area.

If you have any dietary restrictions, please bring what you will  
need.

**The Synodical Women's Organization Convention is on September  
20, 2013, before the retreat.**

Please contact Fran Voyce at [francesvoyce@yahoo.com](mailto:francesvoyce@yahoo.com) with any questions.  
Check out the brochure at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).

**Mark Your Calendars:  
Church Musician Workshop with  
Jay Beech**

**Saturday, October 19th at Bethany Lutheran,  
Republic**

**Music, technique, leadership skills, and more  
for the Church Musician.**

**Guitar players, drummers, piano players,  
percussion, and more.**

**Register at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org) \$15/person  
capped at \$50 per congregation. Includes  
Lunch!**

**Bring resources, books, website addresses  
that you find helpful.**

**Go to "The Northern Great Lakes Synod" page**

And “like” us. 😊

## **“Breaking the Mold” - #1**

**Register for the September 7<sup>th</sup> event at Christ the King, Escanaba by Monday, September 2!!!**

### **LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER**

**+ For the people of Syria and Egypt as they face the crisis of war and civil strife. Pray for the millions of people in the Christian communities in Egypt and Syria.**

**+For the twelve new synod bishops taking office and being installed around the nation.**

**+For those in our number struggling with depression, mental illness and addictions. For support and guidance for their families and congregations.**

**+For the women and men in our armed forces serving around**

**the world.**

**+Thomas A. Skrenes,  
Bishop**