

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

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E-Notes for December 2, 2013

~ THE ADVENT 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”

In the midst of the long nights of December this hymn:
“Lost in the night do the people yet languish, longing for morning the
darkness to vanquish,
plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish.
Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?”
--Nordic Hymn #243 ELW

HOUSING ALLOWANCE TAX BENEFIT IN DISPUTE: FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT RULING CHANGES NOTHING—FOR NOW!

From Pastor Scott Anderson of the Wisconsin Council of Churches:

“ I am sure word has made its way to you about the recent federal district court ruling in Madison which declares the tax exempt status of the clergy housing allowance to be unconstitutional.

Several things to note:

1. The ruling was “stayed” pending the outcome of all appeals, meaning that the ruling does not take effect until defendants have exhausted all legal means. Thus the ruling has no immediate impact on clergy. It will take a year or more for this case to wind its way through the federal appeals courts.
2. Our denominational offices and pension boards are now

fully engaged and will be mounting a legal defense of the housing allowance for the appeals process.

3. The WCC may file a “friend of the court” brief giving this issue a local context.

Merton Strommen and Richard Hardel report:

CHARACTERISTICS OF MATURE CHRISTIAN MEN

From their research Strommen and Hardel report that mature Christian men: “Seek Spiritual Growth, Both Alone and With Others” and these men also:

1. Are heard referring to having prayer, devotions and meditation times.
2. Ask sincere and searching questions about the nature of a life of faith in God.
3. Prefer and attend gatherings where they can learn more about Christian faith.
4. Accept opportunities for learning how to speak

naturally and intelligently about their faith.

5. Are involved in Bible study and/or prayer groups.
6. Join Christian groups to build friendships and learn how to be a friend.

(A more complete report on this research is available at the synod office)

Did you know there is a ton of FREE resources for World Hunger at www.elca.org/hunger.

There are small collection boxes, skits, information, posters, catalogs and more.

This year, for Christmas, encourage folks to give out of the

"Good Gifts" Catalog!

Free copies are available at the
above website.

Coming at Fortune Lake Lutheran
Camp!!!!

March 7 - 8: Church Council Retreat.
Designed to help church councils evaluate
current ministries
and shape plans for the future.

Dawn Rundman will lead the sessions
and Jonathan Rundman will make music!
Dawn, currently an editor at Augsburg-
Fortress Press,

has a doctorate in psychology
and Jonathan is a nationally recognized
church musician.

Both have deep roots in our synod and are
certain to both inspire and motivate your
council.

(Cost is \$45-\$50 depending on lodging
choice;

receive \$5 discount per person for a group
of 5 or more from one congregation).

**The new Stewardship Link on our
website is up and running.
Check it out at www.nglsynod.org
for resources and ideas.**

**Coming January 31 – February 2,
2014**

The Clergy Spouse Retreat!

**Go to www.nglsynod.org for
registration info.**

**PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON
TO SPEAK AT WINTER THEOLOGICAL
CONFERENCE**

The Winter Theological Conference for Professional Leaders
will feature ELCA Churchwide Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
Mark your calendar! Bishop Eaton will be a guest of our synod
at Fortune Lake Camp
on Sunday, February 16-17. Mark your calendar!

There will be an opportunity for those not attending the clergy theological conference to meet Bishop Eaton on Sunday afternoon. More information will be sent to pastors and licensed lay ministers soon.

Marked!

Marked! is an afternoon of service, learning, food and fun for Confirmation Youth.

Watch your mail for the details of a New Plan.

You are encouraged to bring your Confirmation Youth to one of the following Marked! Events:

**March 16, 2014 at First,
Gladstone From 4:00 –
7:00pm**

**March 23, 2014 at Our
Redeemer, Newberry From 4:00 –
7:00pm**

**March 30, 2014 at United,
L'Anse From 4:00 –
7:00pm**

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org for weekly “Breath Prayer” and Daily Devotions.

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

**Go to “The Northern Great Lakes Synod” page
And “like” us. 😊**

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

- +For safety on our roads in this winter time.**
- +For the sharing of the Advent-Christmas message that “Christ will come again.”**
- +For peace in our times, especially in our families, our churches and in our world**
- +For those who await surgery and test results. Bring healing O Lord!**

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes

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