



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

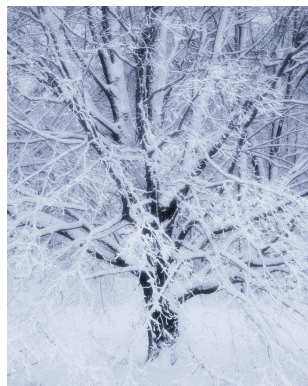
NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 26, Issue 104

April 2014—May 2014

From the Bishop

IT IS SPRING – PLEASE GOD!



The Weather folk—meteorologists and such tell us this is a winter that will set all kinds of records. We have had dozens and dozens of days below zero—we have had numerous “polar vortexes.” We have had and continue to have snow aplenty. Our parish leaders tell us that the weather on Sunday has kept many away from worship services. We know the heating bills for our church buildings have been significantly higher this year. A few of our congregations have had to conserve propane or risk running out of that precious fuel. All in all a winter that will be remembered by all of us in the north woods of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

But now it is spring! The days are getting longer especially (it seems) in the evening. An old gentleman of my acquaintance would say about this time of year, “The sun is now speaking with considerable authority.” It is a delightful occurrence in the Northern Hemisphere that Easter comes in the springtime. Here in April of 2014 we need Spring— we need Easter this year.

The war-weary people of Syria, Ukraine, Congo, and Afghanistan need springtime this year. Those out of work in our own land, those under-employed here in the United States need spring. There are many of our friends and neighbors who face the “winter” that is depression in their lives. Others with terrible acute and chronic illnesses await winter’s end in both their bodies and spirits.

The Christian faith is realistic about this world and our human nature. The winter of sin prevails for a time. Death comes. Yet spring returns. As you face this Lent, and walk in these forty days, know that spring is coming. Easter is God’s announcement that spring has returned and the season of warmth is upon us. And the promise of God is that springtime, much awaited for, will be in our futures forever. The guarantee for this “ever-spring” is the ancient words of the liturgy, “Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.”



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BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

Spring Conference of ELCA Bishops

Twice a year the 66 bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather. This spring we met in Chicago and spent 6 days together. We worshiped, discussed, prayed, reflected about the work that God has called us to in the synods of this church. Here are a few highlights:

*We received the names of 160 available candidates for ordination. The synods reported 290 first call vacancies. Our Northern Great Lakes Synod received two senior seminarians who will be available for our congregations to call as pastors. Two of our own synod seminarians are graduating this year. Senior Erik Grayvold (First, Ewen) has been received by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and Senior Zachariah Shipman (St. Mark's, Marquette) will be considered for call by the congregations of the Western North Dakota Synod.

*We heard an excellent report from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton who shared her four emphases as an understanding of this Church:



1. We are church
2. We are Lutheran
3. We are church together
4. We are church for the sake of the world



*The Conference discussed the continuing relationship between our ELCA and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (Ethiopia). The Ethiopian Church broke altar and pulpit fellowship with us and the Church of Sweden after our 2009 decisions on the ordination of persons in same-gender relationships. The Lutheran World Federation is seeking to encourage all church bodies to listen to each other and to move toward restoration of relationships.

*Pastor Chris Boerger, the ELCA Secretary reports that the number of congregations voting to disaffiliate with our Church body has decreased to 16 in 2013.

*We discussed the early work of the Theological Education Advisory Council. They reported that the average debt of an ELCA graduate last year was \$31,500 with 20% of graduates having more than \$70,000 in debt accrued in pursuit of their degrees.

*We heard that the ELCA Budget is stable with a slight decrease in income from congregations and an increase from non-congregational sources. In 2013 ELCA Hunger receipts were \$18.7 million.

*The Conference heard a report from Portico Benefits Services that 93% of our congregations have chosen the Gold plan option. Portico remains a good steward of our church dollars with a 10.9% health plan expense ratio.

BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)



*We prayed together that God might bless the people and the leaders of the congregations of this church.

*We gave thanks to God for the ministry of outgoing bishops. Those who are not seeking another term: Bishop Peter Rogness (St. Paul Area Synod), Bishop Greg Pile (Alleghany Synod), and Bishop Bill Rindy (Eastern North Dakota Synod).

WE ARE NOT AT OUR GOAL YET!

HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR!

Rostered persons who are a part of the Portico Health Care program need to take the Health Risk Assessment as soon as possible. This year again, our congregations will benefit from the 2% refund program if 65% of our Portico health plan members take the survey! Members will also benefit.

As of March 1, we stand at **35%** of our plan members who have taken the survey. **We need to be at 65% for our congregations to benefit.** Only 22 more of our plan members need to take it!

The deadline is April 30!!

This is important. We made it last year—let's do it again this year!

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WE BELIEVE...

"We believe that God made good his promise by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord."

-from an African (Masai Tribe) Creed



THANK YOU!

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I am writing to thank you for all of your support through my seminary career. Without your help, finances would have been much tighter. Thank you for your prayers and friendship. Emily and I have been assigned to the Western North Dakota Synod and we are excited to see what God has in store for us there. We hope that the WND Synod is as much a blessing as the NGL Synod is to the whole Body of Christ. Again, thank you for all that you do in Jesus' name.

God Bless you all!

- Zachariah Shipman (St. Mark's, Marquette)

TRANSITIONS

Congratulations!

+**Northland Lutheran Retirement Community (Marinette, Wisconsin)** has named its Chief Executive Officer. Congratulations to Darrell Lancour from Emmanuel Menominee. Darrell has been a long time manager at the Retirement Community and began his work as Chief Executive Officer on March 1.

will be installed on June 8th, 2014.

+**Pastor Kristine Ertl (Faith, Rock and First, Trenary)** has announced her retirement as of March 31st. May God bless her and husband John as they move from our synod to the Milwaukee area.



Condolences



+We received word recently of the death of **J. Howard Tamminen**. His spouse is Bea Tamminen who was our synod's Office Manager for the first years of our life together as a synod. Her address is 7000 62nd Avenue North, #140, Minneapolis MN 55428. "In life in death O Lord, Abide with me!"



+We are saddened at the death of **Pastor Robert E. Williams**. He served our synod at Bethany Lutheran Church in Norway, MI for 17 years. Cards and words of support can be sent to his wife Mary at Saint John's on the Lake, 1840 N. Prospect Avenue, Stratford Court, #223, Milwaukee, WI 53202.



+God bless **Pastor Elisabeth Zant (Eden, Munising)** on the death of her grandmother Audrey. "In Christ shall all be made alive!"



+Ascension, Minocqua has called **Pastor Richard Likeness (Grace, Glen Ellyn IL)** as Team Pastor. Welcome to the Northern Great Lakes Synod and to the work at Ascension Lutheran! Pastor Likeness



+**Pastor Erik Heskin (Bethany, Escanaba)** continues to recover from liver transplant surgery. He continues to improve at home.



+**Pastor Elisabeth Zant (Eden, Munising)** has announced her engagement. She and Wesley Daniels will be married on June 7th, 2014. Congratulations and blessings!

+**Pastor Kenneth Lahnens (Trinity, Ishpeming)** has announced his engagement. He and Naomi Richards will be married on May 24th, 2014. God keep this couple!



+**Bishop Skrenes** received the "2014 Friend of Rural Ministry" award from Wartburg Seminary's Center for Theology and Land recently at a dinner in Dubuque.

tskrenes@nglsynod.org

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop

ELCA Disaster Funds

Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood
 Holy Trinity, Chassell
 Grace, South Range
 Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
 Bethany, Norway

Endowment /Answer the Call

Trinity, Trout Creek
 Rev. Kevin Kaiser

Lutheran Campus Ministry

United, Crystal Falls
 Grace, Gwinn

Lutheran World Relief

Salem, Ironwood
 Zion Ev., Marinette
 Bethel, Ishpeming
 Prince of Peace, Marquette
 Zion, St. Ignace

Maternity/Malaria Project

St. Paul, Mass City

Mission Outreach

Immanuel, Escanaba

Northland Lutheran Retirement—Luther Home

Our Redeemer, Newberry

Seminarian Support

Calvary, Minocqua
 Eden Ev., Munising



Thank

You

For

Your

Gifts

**Tanzanian Projects**

Holy Trinity, Chassell
 Immanuel, Negaunee
 Rev. Bob and Deloris Langseth
 Ken & Bonnie Groh
 Bishop Tom & Luanne Skrenes
 David & Mary Lou Blomuist
 St. Mark's, Marquette
 Albert & Kathryn Sundine
 David & Tracy Rowe
 Marvin & Laura Kantola

Voices for Youth Appeal

Trinity Ev., Rhineland
 Bethel, Ishpeming
 Bethany, Ishpeming
 Prince of Peace, Marquette
 Bethany, Negaunee
 Emanuel, Skandia
 Stephen & Cathleen Nelson
 Thomas & Cheryl Stimac
 Carl Weimann
 Dora Jane Swanson
 Rev. Tamra & Everett Harder
 Thomas & Barbara Bach
 Lois Kokko
 Dale & Sally Weingartner
 Ruth Warmanen
 Michael & Sandi Ruotsi
 Rev. Allan & Sara Johnson

World Missionary Support

Trinity Ev., Rhineland
 Bethel, Ishpeming

+ From the Assistant to the Bishop +

Pastor Katherine Finegan



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It used to be that Palm Sunday was a day of celebration. The better part of the worship service was Hosannas and palm branches waving. Children and adults looked forward to this upbeat worship, especially after 40 days of somber, penitential Lent. And the service acted as a sort of reprieve, before the intensity of Holy Week began.

But then, attendance during the Great Three Days began to decline. Maybe Holy Week was too intense for some. Maybe it was too sad. Maybe these three days somehow were no longer given the focus and attention due them as the central worship of our faith.

Whatever the reason, missing Holy Week meant that folks were experiencing the “happy happy joy joy” of Palm Sunday and then leaping over Holy Week to the “happy happy joy joy” of Easter Sunday. They would completely skip over death, and suffering, and sadness. They would miss the betrayal, the last supper, the crucifixion of Jesus.

And I guess, who can blame folks for wanting to avoid all that grim darkness. We would much rather celebrate and be joyful than be sad and somber.

But worship that only considers the happy hosannas and the empty tomb misses the whole point of Christ on the cross and the sin of the world that put him there. There is value in looking at the death of Jesus, in pondering suffering, and in dwelling on his last hours of life.

Because you know and I know that life is not all “happy happy joy joy.” To worship in Lent, and to dive in to Holy Week is to admit the truth to ourselves, no matter how unpleasant – that life can be hard, and death can be harder. We live in the shadow and fear of death. We suffer. We sin. We die. And we need saving.

So I am glad that our Lutheran tradition dwells in the darkness, if only for a little while. It is good that our worship reflects the truth of life and the truth of our faith. Constant joy is not the way things are. And worship that only celebrates feeling good, soon seems hollow, no matter how upbeat the music.

So during Lent and Holy Week, we take the time to consider the suffering and death of Jesus. During these 40 days, we sit in the knowledge of our sinfulness and consider our need for God.

And we take this time, not so that we feel condemned and sad, but because death is the only way to new life.

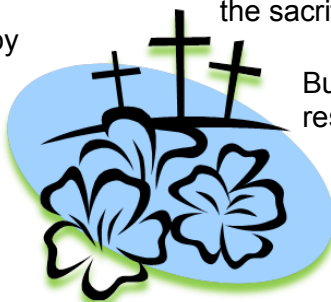
Jumping from Palm Sunday to Easter is like jumping from fall to spring with no winter. Fall and winter are necessary before spring can come. And Jesus must suffer death before he can rise again. There is no resurrection without the crucifixion. There is no rising without dying. Easter joy is real when we admit that death is real. We receive the freedom of forgiveness with relief and gladness if first we understand our need for God’s grace.

So Palm Sunday is now Passion Sunday and our hosannas quickly fade. During Holy Week, we will pause in Jesus’ final hours and give them their due. In our Lutheran tradition there is no escaping the sacrifice and death of Christ.

But then neither do we miss the new life of resurrection and the fullness of Easter joy.

~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

First, Gladstone - Pastor Peggy Rose

Prince of Peace, Eagle River - Pastor William Nordmark

Emmanuel, Menominee - Pastor Lee Goodwin

Immanuel, Rhineland - Pastor Maxine Gray

Grace, Pembine - Pastor Doug Johnson

First, Ewen; Our Saviour, Paynesville; Trinity, Trout Creek - Pastor Bill Jacobson

Part-time

Bethany, Perkins - Pastor Steve Gauger

Faith, Rock & First, Trenary - Pastor Allan Johnson

"... and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one thing has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you; all of them have come to pass for you, not one of them has failed." (Joshua 23:14)

We thank God for the generosity of the people of the people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod whose mission support gifts through February have increased by 9.7 % over 2013. Thirty-nine congregations have pledged to raise their giving in 2014 by a total of \$9,619. God has promised to provide in abundance all we need to further God's mission in our synod and around the world, and we trust in that promise knowing that God has never failed us. May we move forward with confidence and joy as together we carry out the work God has called us to.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 2/28	2013	2014	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	824,736	834,355	+9,619	+1.2%
Amount Received	96,885	106,295	+9,410	+9.7%
Designated Gifts	22,113	18,548	-3565	-16.1%



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

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PRAYFAITHFULLY

DEVOTION SCHEDULE

FOR APRIL & MAY

March 30-April 5	Pastor Bonny Kinnunen - bkinnunen@aol.com , First, Iron River
April 6-April 12	Pastor Chris Johnson - pastorchris.ctl@gmail.com , Christ the King, Escanaba
April 13-April 19	Pastor David Murphy - revdavidmmurphy@gmail.com Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
April 20-April 26	Bishop Tom Skrenes - tskrenes@nglsynod.org
April 27-May 3	Fran Voyce - tfvoyce@hotmail.com
May 4-May 10	



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- 3 **Synod Youth Meeting** at Synod Office at 10 a.m. ET
- 4-8th **“2015 ELCA Youth Gathering”**
Training in Chicago (Rev. Finegan)
- 6 **Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Annual Meeting**
- 8 **Judicatory Heads Mtg.** at Synod Office
- 9 **Synod Staff Meeting** at 11 a.m. ET
- 10-11 **Churchwide Stewardship Think Tank Mtg.** in Chicago (Bishop Skrenes)
- 14-19 **Bishop Skrenes on Vacation**
- 18 **Synod Office Closed** for Good Friday
- 23 **Synod Staff Meeting** at 11 a.m. ET
- 26 **Candidacy Meeting** at FLLC (Rev. Finegan)
- 27 **Finlandia University Baccalaureate and Graduation** (Bishop Skrenes)
- Pastor Ranos Installation** at Faith, Three Lakes at 3 p.m. CT
- Conference 6 Meeting** at Trinity, Stonington at 4 p.m. ET
- 29 **Stewardship Committee Mtg.** at Synod Office at 11 a.m. ET

- 5 **Synod Staff Meeting** at 11 a.m. ET
- 6 **Lutheran Planned Giving Mtg.** in Madison, WI (Bishop Skrenes)
- Synodical Women’s Organization Board Mtg.** at FLLC 10 a.m. CT (Rev. Finegan)
- 8 **Lay School For Mission & Licensed Lay Ministry Board Mtg.** at Synod Office, 11 a.m. ET
- 10 **Synod Endowment Committee Meeting** at FLLC, 10 a.m. CT
- 11 **“Answer the Call” Sunday**
- 16 **East Central Synod of WI Synod Assembly** (Bishop Skrenes)
- 18 **Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly Registration** at Northern Michigan University (NMU), 2 p.m. ET
Synod Council meets at NMU, 3 p.m. ET
Workshops at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. ET,
Banquet at 6 p.m. ET
- 19 **Synod Assembly Opening Worship -** Messiah, Marquette, 8:30 a.m. ET followed by coffee time
Plenary 1 at NMU – 11 a.m. ET
Quarters for Hunger collection
Keynote Speaker – Rev. Michael Stadie, Program Director, Lutheran Domestic Disaster Response
Lunch on-site, 12:30 p.m. ET
Plenary 2 at NMU – 2 p.m. ET
Closing of Assembly at NMU, 4 p.m. ET
- 26 **Synod Office Closed** for Memorial Day



Northern Great Lakes Synod 2014 Synod Assembly Events

May 18 - 19, 2014

Northern Michigan University
& **Messiah Lutheran Church**
Marquette, Michigan

The theme is “**WELCOME**”

On-Site Registration

will be held on Sunday, May 18, from 2:00-5:30 p.m. ET in the Superior Room (Synod Assembly Office) at Northern Michigan University.

Workshops

will be offered at 3:30—4:15 and 4:30—5:15 p.m. ET on Sunday at NMU. More details will be available soon.

Displays

will be set up in the Charcoal Room at NMU Sunday afternoon through Monday. Be sure to take some time to check them out!



Fair Trade Chocolate Bars

Chocolate bars will be available at the World Hunger display table.



A Banquet

will be held on Sunday in the Great Lakes Rooms at NMU starting at 6 p.m. ET. **Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.** Clergy celebrating Ordination anniversaries or Retirements and Lay School for Mission Graduates will be honored at the banquet. **Pre-paid tickets** will be in your nametags which will be given to you at the on-site registration. Pastor Doug Norquist will be providing musical entertainment.



Opening Worship

will begin at 8:30 a.m. ET Monday morning at Messiah Lutheran Church with coffee time following in Magnuson Hall.

The Keynote Speaker and ELCA Representative is **Pastor Michael Stadie**, Program Director for Lutheran Disaster Response U.S.

“Quarters for Hunger” Collection

will take place Monday between 11:15 - 11:30 a.m. at NMU. The total will be announced by the end of Synod Assembly.





Thank You for Your Gifts!

ELCA Disaster Funds

Sharon, Bessemer
Pioneer Lake, Conover
Salem, Ironwood
Bethlehem, Florence
All Saints, Wakefield
Holy Trinity, Chassell
Good Shepherd, Houghton
United, L'Anse
Bethany, Mohawk
Siloa, Ontonagon
Mission United, Pelkie
Grace, South Range
Ascension, Minocqua
Trinity, Rhinelander
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Bethany, Amasa
United, Crystal Falls
Trinity, Stambaugh
Zion, Marinette
Bethel, Menominee
St. Stephen's, Stephenson
First, Gladstone
Calvary, Rapid River
Bethel, Cedarville
Bethany, Ishpeming
Messiah, Marquette

Endowment /Answer the Call

St. Stephen's, Stephenson
Larry Pagel
Bethany, Ishpeming
Peter Johnson
Rev. Paul and Carol Holmstrom
Rev. Kevin Kaiser
Marilyn Andersen (in memory
of Rev. Peter Andersen)
Rev. Robert & Deloris Langseth
Ann Gonyea-Alexander
John & Pauline Kiltinen
Rev. Doug and Elaine Johnson
Dave and Patricia Holli
Rev. Tom and Kay Lee
Rev. Amanda Kossov
Robert & Jean Sovey

ELCA Malaria Initiative

Florence Parish Sunday School
All Saints, Wakefield
Mission United, Pelkie
Calvary Ev., Minocqua
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo

General NGLS Ministries

Revs. Steve & Marcia Solberg

Kemppainen Scholarship Fund

Anne Todia

Lutheran Campus Ministry

United, Crystal Falls
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Calvary, Rapid River
Grace, Gwinn (in memory of
Rev. Peter Andersen)
Immanuel, Negaunee

Lutheran Social Services

Bethany, Amasa
Immanuel, Negaunee

Lutheran World Relief

Salem, Ironwood
Faith, Calumet
Holy Trinity, Chassell
First, Iron River
Zion, Marinette
Christ the King, Escanaba
Calvary, Rapid River
Zion, Manistique

Maternity/Malaria Project

St. Paul, Mass City
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Mission Outreach

Zion, Ironwood
Immanuel, Escanaba
Rev. Chrys Levesque Hendrick

Seminarian Support

Calvary Ev., Minocqua
Emmanuel, Menominee
St. James, Rudyard
Eden, Munising

Skogman Scholarship Fund

Dave and Mary Lou Blomquist
Joe and Pam Durbin, (In memory
Ben & Ruth, of Rev. Peter
Dan & Kathleen Andersen)
Rev. James & Laura Wendt

Tanzanian Projects

Holy Trinity, Chassell
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Christ the King, Escanaba
First, Gladstone
Larry Pagel
Trinity WELCA, Rhinelander
Karl Langseth

Voices for Youth Appeal

Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood
Immanuel, Escanaba
Bishop and Mrs. Skrenes
Ann Christiansen

World Missionary Support

Mission United, Pelkie
Trinity, Rhinelander
Grace, Gwinn



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday Sept. 7, 2014



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday celebrates who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. On **Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014**, ELCA congregations will gather once again for a day dedicated to serving the communities in which we live. Every day you do the work of serving your neighbors and sharing God's love with others. **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** provides us with the opportunity to do God's work together.

The first **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**, held in 2013, gave members of all ages an opportunity to live out their faith in service to others. As a church that believes God is calling us into the world together, we shared Jesus' love with our neighbors through a multitude of service projects — from preparing meals for people who are homeless to cleaning up beaches and parks, from visiting with the elderly to writing letters to military personnel. We did all of this and more.

We hope you are considering plans to organize a day of service. To help guide your congregation's planning, download a toolkit at www.ELCA.org/dayofservice. T-shirts are once again available from Old Lutheran to help increase the visual impact across the ELCA. Sign up your congregation for the day of service by following the simple steps listed below. This will allow us to keep your congregation updated with new information for what we pray will be another remarkable day of service. **Register in four steps:**

Click [here](#) to go to the **Registration** page

1. Insert your Congregational ID number
2. Insert your ELCA member number: **8-10355864**
3. Provide contact information and answer a few questions

Shortly after Sept. 7, we will invite you to share stories about your congregation's participation. Send your stories and photos to LivingLutheran@elca.org, so that together we can celebrate what God accomplishes through you.

We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world. With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world. I look forward to doing this work together on **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** and every day.

In Christ who frees us,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[Register your congregation](#) for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday.



Plan your day from start to finish using this [toolkit](#).



Order your [T-shirts](#) today!

Yellow: wear it, share it.

Living in the Light: Our Solar Experience at Calvary, Rapid River

In August of 2013, the men of our congregation installed a photo-voltaic solar system on the roof of the Calvary parish hall. The system was designed by members Dave Holmgren and Dick Kruse, and consists of 44 – 250 watt panels, for a maximum output of 11 kilowatts per hour. The system will generate all the electricity we use at Calvary, since our utility, UPPCO, will buy back our excess power, and we can access their grid power at night, or in the depths of December.



The question everyone asks is, “Does it really work in the U.P.?” Here is a summary of our experience.

1. It works better than we had ever hoped for. We thought it would take a full summer of solar generation before the system could meet our needs. Since going on line in September 2013, we have already created a surplus of electricity. Every sunny day in March produces a new record for us, (about 80 kwatt hours), and even on cloudy days, the system produces an average of 30-35 kwatt hours.



2. The biggest challenge has been snow, and this winter there has been plenty of that. Getting the snow off the panels right after every snowfall is a big plus, especially when the next day is bright and sunny. If we didn’t have dedicated snow-rake volunteers, we would lose a big part of our November through March production.

3. Because the research, planning, and construction were all done by members of the congregation, this has been a great opportunity for community building and creating excitement in the church. We planned each detail for two years before committing to the project, and we were blessed to have the engineering and construction experts at Calvary who were able to do a professional job using the talents of our members. Our total cost came to \$24,900. Hiring an outside firm would have doubled our expenses.

4. This is an important part of our commitment to stewardship and creation care at Calvary. Sure, it is great to be saving money each month on our utilities, but the real blessing is knowing that we are modeling for our community the importance of caring for God’s gift of creation. For more than 30 years, Calvary has been committed to using the latest technology and construction techniques for our buildings—this is just the latest and most visible sign of that commitment.

5. This has been a really positive project for the men of Calvary, and I think it has put some fire into our ministry with young adults and young families. People in the U.P. know how precious a gift we have in the natural world around us—the church can lead the way in showing how we can celebrate and care for all God has given us. Solar is exciting, it grabs people’s attention, and it really works. Even in the winter. Even in the U.P.

Pastor Steve Gauger
Calvary Lutheran Church - Rapid River, Michigan

Problem or Challenge?

When it comes to our life together as the Church, I often hear about the problems we as the Church face and sometimes I will hear suggested solutions on how to address those problems. In those moments, I usually hear a combination of two things, lament and desire. I hear the lament when someone points out how things are not what they used to be. I hear the lament in one's words as the "glory days" of the past are remembered, even if they may not have been as glorious as we remember them to be. When the lament surfaces, there is a sense that what the speaker pictures in his/her mind of the Church is not congruent with the current reality. For



example, I have heard this lament: "Our church just isn't full anymore on Sunday like it used to." This lament points to a time when the church was perceived to be full (the picture in the speaker's mind), but makes it clear now is not that time (current reality). So, the solution that is often suggested sounds something like this: "Well, we need to get more people in church," or "We need to start a contemporary service to attract more people," or "We need

to get our evangelism committee functioning again," or fill in the blank. So, where do we start? The solution then becomes more daunting than the stated problem, and I think I know why. I suggest we make a distinction between two terms, technical problems and adaptive challenges.

Technical problems are those problems we face that are clearly defined and have clear, attainable solutions to them. These are specific problems with specific solutions. An example of a technical problem would be when the toilet stops functioning. That is a problem! But, it can be solved in a number of specific ways (call a plumber, replace the toilet, pump out the septic tank, etc.). We solve the problem then we move on to the next one. In our life together as the Church, some technical problems we may face are: we have a number of homebound members that need to be visited (solution: find some creative, technologically savvy person to take ownership of the website); there are more people who have a sensitivity to gluten or alcohol (solution: provide gluten free and alcohol free options for communion and fellowship time).



Now for adaptive challenges. Adaptive challenges are more organic and complex than technical problems. Adaptive challenges are those issues we face that are largely out of our control. They do not have a clearly defined solution. They require creativity to overcome. Here's a good way to distinguish between the two: technical problems can be solved whereas adaptive challenges can only be adapted to. Here's an example in our life together as the Church. We



heard the lament earlier about how worship attendance has decreased over the years. That is a cultural trend that is full of complex factors, including socioeconomic factors, parental practices, media pressures, political decisions, theological disputes, and unhealthy (or downright evil) beyond our creativity and resilience to adapt to. We cannot control it . . . it just is. We can adapt to it and adjust the way we do ministry.

The danger for us, though, is that we often try to solve adaptive challenges with technical solutions, like putting up screens or starting a contemporary worship to attract people to us. Think of the adaptive challenges you have had to face. Were they solved with technical solutions? Probably not. We live in a rapidly changing world. That is our adaptive challenge.

World Malaria Day 2014

Join the movement - Save the date!



School children smile in the Oshigambo village of Namibia.

World Malaria Day is coming up on April 25, and it's another great opportunity to do something big for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. For the last several years, the ELCA observed World Malaria Day by dedicating an entire week to raising funds and awareness for our companions' programs. To date, we have joined hands in 12 African countries to help fight malaria, and we have seen great progress. This year, let's make it 13.

We are looking to you and members of this church to help take the ELCA Malaria Campaign work into the next country – Namibia. If we raise \$250,000, we'll have enough to kick-start programing in Namibia, the last country in our rollout plan.

Will you join thousands of ELCA members across this church and millions of people around the world in taking action? Please consider observing this day by taking a special offering for the ELCA Malaria Campaign on **Sunday, April 27, 2014**. Find special [World Malaria Day resources](#) that will help you activate your congregation to learn about malaria, the ELCA Malaria Campaign, our work in Namibia and more.

We are already making a difference in 12 countries across Africa. Together, I know we can make it 13.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Nipp Hacker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Nipp Hacker
Coordinator, ELCA Malaria Campaign

Go to malaria@elca.org to find resources for promoting this day!







A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

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

Prayer Calendar – April 2014

1	Pray during April, Cancer Awareness Month , that all people are diligent about visiting their doctors and <i>getting cancer screening tests</i> . And for <i>all those currently fighting cancer</i> .
2	<i>Pray for First in Ewen, Our Saviour in Paynesville, and Trinity in Trout Creek</i> and their interim pastor, <i>Rev Bill Jacobson</i> , as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
3	For those attending the Synod Youth Meeting at the Synod offices today and for <i>Rev Breanne Johnson</i> who is celebrating the anniversary of her ordination this month.
4	Pray for Pastor Finegan as she attends training in Chicago for <i>the Youth Gathering in Detroit in 2015</i> .
5	Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – <i>Marlys Roberts and Judy Piel</i>
6	Pray for those attending the Annual Meeting of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on this day.
7	Pray for our Rostered Clergy , active and retired, who are celebrating birthdays this month; <i>Kristin Rice 4/07, Mark Bangert 4/13, George Kaiser 4/14</i> .
8	For our Public Schools : officials, administrators, office personnel, teachers and assistants to whom <i>we entrust our children's education and safety</i> .
9	Pray for the members of Luther Chapel Lutheran Church in Jefferson MD (<i>Rev. Dianne Bowers</i>), and Braddock Lutheran Church, Frederick MD , and St. Paul in Burkittsville MD (<i>Rev Kimberly Nunberg</i>).
10	Pray for Bishop Skrenes as he travels to Chicago to attend the <i>Churchwide Stewardship Think Tank meeting</i> today and tomorrow.
11	Pray for families ; patients and caregivers, <i>struggling with mental illness</i> .
12	For <i>all of the children</i> that they are kept safe from abuse and <i>cared for with love, patience, and understanding</i> .
13	Pray for all those attending the Second Sunday Concert and Dance at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp . May they be refreshed and rejuvenated.
14	Pray for our retired clergy and their spouses : <i>Rev Norman and Wenona Lund and Rev Jon and Diana Magnuson</i> .
15	Pray for the members of Mtoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation, Prince of Peace, Marquette (pastor: Rev Jim Duehring.)
16	Pray for our Rostered Clergy , active and retired, who are celebrating birthdays this month; <i>Nancy Kauppi 4/16, John Autio 4/16, Melinda Quivik 4/21</i> .

17	 MAUNDY THURSDAY	Just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, pray that each of us may find joy and wholeness in a life of service as we become evermore faithful disciples of our Savior.
18	 GOOD FRIDAY	At the foot of the cross, we see his tortured body and feel his sorrow and his pain, yet in all this we experience God's greatest gift. Pray that as you leave the cross you take the crucified Christ with you.
19	 Saturday VIGIL	As the day draws to a close and darkness descends, we do not yet see light, yet we know the blazing light of Easter is about to burst forth. Pray for hope in the dark times of our lives and the lives of our loved ones, knowing that the life of the resurrected Christ is God's gift to us.
20	 The Lord is Risen!	Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Say these words over and over this day – make this your breath prayer today and every day. Take the risen Christ with you today and every day as you journey through life knowing that he has prepared a place for you in his kingdom.
21		Pray for our government leaders at every level that justice for all might prevail here in our country as well as around the world.
22		For this planet on Earth Day . Pray that all people would take care of this place God has entrusted to us and preserve it for future generations by recycling and not wasting its resources.
23		Pray for our Rostered Clergy , active and retired, who are celebrating birthdays this month; <i>Doug Pohlman 4/24, Chrys Hendrick 4/28, Bob Patrick 4/29, Amanda Kossow 4/29, Bob Sutherland 4/30.</i>
24		Pray for all of our Licensed Lay Ministers as they continue their leadership positions: Darrel Diers , <i>St. James, Marinette</i> ; Clay Hilman , <i>Gloria Dei, Hancock</i> ; Soren Schmidt , <i>Finlandia University</i> ; Diane Srutowski , <i>Trinity, Stonington</i> ; Elaine Hendrickson , <i>Our Saviour's, Hancock</i> ; and John and Sharon Babbitt , <i>First, Grand Marais</i> .
25		For all those suffering from malaria and those in danger of contracting malaria today on World Malaria Day .
26		Pray for the Candidacy Committee as they meet today at <i>Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp</i> .
27		For all those graduates and their families at the Finlandia University Baccalaureate ceremony today.
28		Pray for all the green and growing trees and plants and the flowers that God has given us as they once more show us their glory and renew us after a difficult winter.
29		For all those seminarians from our synod preparing for a life of ministry. This month we especially pray for Tera Lowe.
30		Pray for the members of St Paul in Thurmont MD (<i>Rev Albert Lane</i>), Elias in Emmitsburg MD (<i>Rev John Greenstone</i>), and Evangelical in Frederick MD (<i>Rev Robert Driver-Bishop</i>).


"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
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Prayer Calendar – May 2014

1	Pray for all our Rostered Leaders, both active and retired who celebrate birthdays this month ; <i>Philip Johnson 5/1, Tamra Harder 5/4, and Erik Heskin 5/9.</i>
2	For those families attending the Adoption Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp May 2-4.
3	Pray for retired clergy and spouses – <i>Rev Dean and Marie Martin and Rev Kenneth and Joanne Michaelis.</i>
4	For those in prisons . Keep them from harm and help them to keep from offending again.
5	Pray for our Synod Staff who are meeting today (<i>Bishop Tom Skrenes, Assistant to the Bishop Katherine Finegan, Louise Ingalls, and Betsy Koski</i>) and who do such a good job organizing the Synod Assembly every year.
6	Pray for our clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordinations this month : <i>Nick Johannes, Don Wandersee, Douglas Buck, Chris Laursen, Norman Peterson, and George Kaiser.</i>
7	For children and families dealing with autism and other leaning disorders .
8	This week is National Nursing Week . Pray for all those nurses in our congregations and everywhere who care for us and our loved ones <i>when we are ill and most vulnerable.</i>
9	Pray for the members of Grace Keymar in, Woodsboro MD (<i>Rev Ann Schlossnagle</i>), Mt. Zion Haugh's in Keymar, MD (<i>Rev Michelle Carlson</i>), and St. Paul's in Jefferson MD (<i>Rev Katrina Holland</i>).
10	For the Synod Endowment Committee meeting today at FLLC .
11	 Pray for Mothers everywhere on Mother's Day. Honor your mother and pray that all mothers become loving and responsible parents raising their children to honor and respect all living things.
12	For those seniors attending Seniors Go to Camp at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp today and tomorrow.
13	For those men and women everywhere in the armed forces defending our country and for their families who carry on without them by their sides.
14	Pray for the unemployed and underemployed . We ask you, Heavenly Father, to send them opportunities to work, to keep their families well-fed , and to teach those of us more fortunate how we may help them.
15	Pray for all our Rostered Leaders, both active and retired who celebrate birthdays this month ; <i>Marcia Solberg 5/10, Frederick Hallanger 5/21, and John Shallow 5/21.</i>

16	May is Mental Health Awareness Month. <i>Pray for all those with any of the wide spectrum of mental illnesses and pray that more resources be provided for research and treatment of mental illness.</i>
17	For those who give freely of their time to serve on committees , task forces, and councils in all of the congregations in our synod.
18	Pray for the Synod Assembly that begins this evening as we celebrate coming together to conduct business, learn, and worship together.
19	Pray for our clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordinations this month: <i>John Shallow, Dean Peterson, Frederick Hallanger, Doug Schoen, Dale Skogman, and Mary Weinkauff.</i>
20	Pray for all those addicted to drugs and/or alcohol that they will seek help and keep trying to stay substance-free even when they slip up.
21	Pray for the members of Kijichi Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation, First Lutheran, Gladstone (Rev Peggy Rose, interim.)
22	Pray for spouses of deceased pastors – <i>Valdora Otto and Kaaren Ness.</i>
23	Pray for the members of Bethany in Perkins and their interim pastor, Rev Stephen Gauger as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
24	For all the Seminary Students from our synod, but especially this month we pray for David Hendrickson .
25	Pray for all those in our Synod who are ill . Pray that our great God will heal them or comfort and soothe those who he is calling home to live with him.
26	 For all Americans who have died serving this country on this Memorial Day .
27	Pray for the peace makers in Afghanistan, Syria and in all other troubled lands . We pray <i>especially to keep civilians; men, women, and children</i> safe from the violence they must endure each day.
28	Pray for all those who are lonely and long for companionship and conversation .
29	For single parents who struggle to be raise responsible children and provide for them physically and emotionally.
30	Pray for the members of Mt. Zion and St. Luke's Feagaville both in Frederick MD (Rev Ken Gill) and Zion in Middletown (Rev Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman.)
31	Pray for students who will be graduating in the coming days that higher education and employment opportunities will be available to them.

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