

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

Marquette, Michigan

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E-Notes for April 30, 2014

EASTER SEASON

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“The kind of forgiveness one gets from God is not a mere announcement from heaven or a lecture about forgiveness which we then have to work up the ability to believe, but a forgiveness which is actually worked in us by the very descent of God into things humble and lowly, into earthen vessels.”

--Gerhard Forde in “Where God Meets Man” p. 80.

E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter
from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

GOD'S VISION—WELCOME, WORSHIP, WITNESS

In our Synod, I am asked on occasion what is “**your vision**” for the future? “Bishop, tell me,” they say, “Where do **you** see us going as a church body? What do **you** think should happen to us as a Synod in the next years?” While good intentioned, the questions are all wrong. Indeed, when I have answered these questions, I have felt uncomfortable. Questions like this seem to be born of a human-centered world view where we are the only actors in this drama. As a Synod, we should be asking instead, “Where is **God** leading us? What are we called by **God** to accomplish in this Synod, this corner of the Kingdom? What can **God** do in us to renew this Synod and our eighty-two congregations? How can we learn to walk together as a church as **God** calls? We will not find out these important answers by taking surveys of our members asking “What do you want the Synod to do for you? What services do you want from the Synod? What do you think should be changed? These might be important questions to reflect upon, but our mission from God as the Northern Great Lakes Synod is for us to discern together God’s

vision, God's call. We can, in humility, learn this from the study of God's Word, from prayer, conversation and fellowship with God's people."

--Bishop Thomas Skrenes

GOOD NEWS FROM PORTICO

Our friends at Portico tell us that we have achieved the 65% survey results! Yahoo! Again this year (our fifth) we as a synod and all our congregations will receive the 2% reduction in cost. Thank you for your energy in "getting it done" and completing the survey. If you have yet to complete the Health Assessment Survey—still not too late to receive the personal benefits available to you as a member of Portico.

Rise Up Together: Detroit 2015

Plans are well underway for the Youth Gathering in Detroit July 15-19, 2015.

Your church should have received a poster and a DVD. Please use these materials to generate enthusiasm and commitment among your leaders and young people.

Some dates to remember:

- May 15: Applications available to be a part of the

Gathering Volunteer Corp, \$75 fee. \$250 of travel costs covered. The registration fee is covered. Must be out of high school at least one year and be at least 19 years old.

- May 15: Congregations can apply for Financial Aid at www.elca.org/gathering. This application time will end July 15, or when funds are depleted.
- September 15: Registration soft opening. Leaders may enter data.
- October 15: Website goes live. Primary leaders can submit registrations.

- January 15, 2015: Registration fee increases \$50, from \$325 to \$375.
- Places to find more information:
 - www.gatheringleaks.com
 - www.elca.org/gathering
 - Facebook page ELCA Youth Gathering
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=285650866539>.

If your church is interested in riding a Synod Bus to the Gathering (leave on Tuesday July 14, return Sunday July 19, 2015) please call the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 or email Rev. Katherine Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org. She is the NGLS Gathering Synod Coordinator and Synod Day Director. If she doesn't know the answer to your question, she'll direct you to someone who will. The cost of the bus will be split between those

who ride it. The Synod will provide T-shirts for all NGLS participants for our Synod Day. It's all very exciting!!! Don't miss this incredible opportunity for a faith-deepening, group building, justice proclaiming, fellowship gushing and love overflowing event!

Synod Assembly will be May 18-19, 2014

(Sunday afternoon – Monday)

at Northern Michigan University and Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, MI.

Registration is now available online at www.nglsynod.org/assembly

**DO YOU SING BASS? TENOR? ALTO?
SOPRANO?**

A Synod Assembly Choir is forming.

Rehearsals will be at Messiah, Marquette.

The Choir will rehearse Setting 7 ELW, a choir anthem, and prepare to lead the hymn singing at Synod Assembly. Choir singers should plan to attend at least one or more of the following rehearsals:

~Thursday May 8 at 6:30pm ET

~Saturday May 17 at 10:00am ET

And warm-up before worship on **Monday May 19 at 7:45am.**

The choir will sing at the Opening Worship of the Assembly,
on Monday, May 19 at 8:30am.

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

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OUR
FORTUNE LAKE BIBLE CAMP**

CRYSTAL FALLS, MICHIGAN

May 12 – 13: Seniors Go to Camp: experience the fun of camp, "senior style."

Begins 10 a.m. Mon.; concludes 2 p.m. Tues.; may attend as a day camper also.

May 21: Camp clean-up day. Time to spruce up the place for the summer season.

Come anytime after 8:30 CT. Bring your own rake if weather permits outside work.

Lunch will be provided. (Please call camp if bringing a group.)

Summer theme is "What Time is It? God's Time!"

There's still time to register for camp! Visit fortunelake.org or phone 906-876-3697.

**“LORD , TEACH US TO
PRAY...”**

Evangelism Retreat, Prayer Workshop
Friday August 22 – Saturday August 23, 2014
Bethel Lutheran Church
Cedarville, Michigan

See the synod website for more details!

nglsynod.org

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

TRANSITIONS

+Our Christian sympathy to Bishop Alex Malasusa’s wife Ericah and their family as Ericah mourns the death of her sister in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania of Leukemia. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

+Please pray for our two assigned graduate seminarians, Andria Fluegel and Joe Iverson, both from Luther Seminary. They will be nominated soon to synod congregations.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+ The people of Tanzania as devastating floods inundate many communities. May God provide help and comfort.

+ The Youth of our Synod and the evolving plans for the 2015 National Gathering of Youth in Detroit.

+For a sense of renewal in our congregations as spring advances. May we have a joy in the presence of the Easter Christ.

+For the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. God is at work in all of us.

+For those in the military, the foreign service and for all who serve our nation in the cause of peace.

+Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop