

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

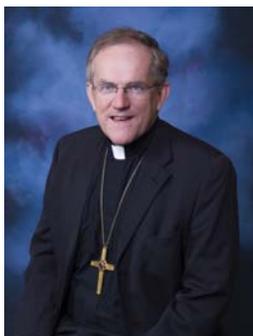
# NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 25, Issues 8 and 9

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2012

## TANZANIA AND OUR SYNOD: WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes  
tskrenes@nglsynod.org



For twenty years now, folks from our Synod and Lutherans from Tanzania have been involved in a “companion synod relationship.” Every one of the 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a companion synod. Some even have more than one diocese or synod or district of a Lutheran Church in an African, South American or Asian country. We have received nearly as many guests from the Dar es Salaam diocese in these two decades.

In my 13 years as Bishop, I have seen the great value in this ministry. My wife, Luanne, and I have made four trips, and we have experienced the value of this work. Here is what the Companionship has meant:

We in the Northern Great Lakes Synod are blessed with a Tanzanian diocese that is growing by double digit percentages each year. The diocese is about twice the size that it was when I made my first trip in 2001. There are growing and new congregations. It is a joy to see such growth!

The Tanzanians are on fire with the Gospel! We can learn much from their fresh enthusiasm.

The African Church in Tanzania has learned how to set a Godly vision before its people. We can learn from them on establishing visions and goals for our communities.

Tanzanian Lutherans rely less on clergy and more on lay leadership. How can we build the Church like they do upon the strengths of lay people and their leadership?

We can support and encourage the work being done by the Tanzanian church. We have gifts to offer them and together we can grow closer to Jesus Christ.

Our Synod has had well over 100 people from Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan visit Tanzania, and our sisters and brothers in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania have sent us nearly as many in these two decades.

On Sunday, July 29, nine of us from this Synod are on our way. A big “thank you” to my wife, Luanne, who has organized this important trip. We are visiting the Church in Tanzania as a part of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lutheranism in East Africa. We also are



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**THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)**

participating in a dental mission that the congregations of this Synod have embraced with their offerings and prayers. We return in mid-August.

**Dr. James Hayward and Martha Hayward** (Immanuel, Negaunee) and **Dr. Mike Orhanen (Messiah, Marquette)** are staffing a dental clinic in some of the poorest areas of Dar es Salaam. Along with them, **Ardith Frisk, Luanne Skrenes (Trinity, Ishpeming), Pastor Norman Peterson** and **Mary Peterson (Immanuel, Rhinelander)** and **Pastor James Duehring** (Prince of Peace, Harvey) will accompany me as we visit the congregations and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

This trip for us is the latest in a long series of opportunities Tanzanian and American Lutherans have had to learn from, and grow closer, over the last twenty years. Our companion relationship with the Eastern and Coastal Diocese and their Bishop Alex Malasusa has been a sign of God's blessings. Our life together continues to be a rich and powerful experience.

On behalf of your Synod and those of us traveling, I ask you to **pray for those of us who journey** that God will grant safety and mission success. Pray for the people of the Lutheran community in Tanzania that their relationship with us might continue to flourish.

**You may wish to go to our Synod website ([nglsynod.org](http://nglsynod.org)) and read updates from our trip.** I hope to have an update on the website about every other day while in Tanzania. More information on our companion relationship can be found on the Synod website under programs - Companion Synod.

## **GROWING AS A CONGREGATION:**

### **“SYSTEMS THEORY”**

Dr. Doug Hester will lead us September 15-18 in a series of events around our Synod in understanding “Systems theory” and applying it to life in the congregation.

Who should come? Congregational members, leaders and pastors who want to understand the dynamics of congregational life. Where? In Escanaba, Chassell and at Fortune Lake. For more information and to register, check out the full brochure on the Synod website. There is no cost - a gift from our Synod Endowment fund!

## **TEN REASONS WHY CONGREGATIONS GIVE INCREASING MISSION SUPPORT DOLLARS**

10. It is an opportunity for your congregation to discover the joy of giving to God's mission beyond yourselves. This practice changes our perspective from looking inward at ourselves to looking outward at our neighbors and beyond to do God's work.
9. Mission support models for your congregation what it means to give in proportion to what you have received. When the congregation gives 10% or more in mission support, this sets an example for households.
8. Mission support is an opportunity for your congregation to discover its potential. This practice changes our perspective from looking inward at ourselves to looking outward at our neighbors and beyond to do God's work. And to be proud of God's Church!
7. Mission support unites you, your congregation and others in the ELCA in common vision and effort to do God's work. The Apostle Paul understood this partnership as a means to be the church together.

**THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)**

6. Mission support lifts our spirits and frees us from holding too tightly to our possessions. Generous giving teaches us that sacrifice and giving freely can be a good thing.
5. Mission support contributors are motivated to be generous by the opportunity to say “Thank You” for what they have already received.
4. Mission support reminds us that most congregations began because others first helped them get started. This kind of giving takes us back to our missional roots.
3. Mission support prevents us from taking our many ongoing expenses (staff, worship supplies, educational materials, facilities and more) for granted. All of these are possible because of our giving to do God’s work.
2. Mission support helps to make possible a variety of ministries and services across the country and around the world. These would include missionaries, colleges, seminaries, chaplaincies, disaster response and hunger ministries.
1. And the number one reason to increase mission support is ultimately about our freedom to give in response to a God who has first given to us and a Savior who sacrificed himself for us. We are free to respond, trusting that God always loves us and will provide.

**BORROWED LOVE****A Reflection on the Gift of Marriage by****Bishop Steven L. Ullestad, Northeastern Iowa Synod**

Weddings have many layers of emotions. Generations of people gather, perhaps for the first time in many years. Two family traditions celebrate the gift of love that has found their children. The families also spend a weekend recognizing that everything must now change as the two become one.

Recently, Ruth and I received many blessings at our daughter Krista’s wedding. I wish to share with you two of those gifts.

The pastor proclaimed a message filled with good news. Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber made the distinction between “wedding love” and “borrowed love.” She celebrated the “wedding love” of joy, passion and excitement. Then she reminded the wedding couple that there will be times when “wedding love” will not be enough. Tragedy may happen. An argument may become a fight. Passion may be drained and the relationship strained. That is why, said the pastor, all of these family and friends have gathered from all over the country. At those times when “wedding love” is not sufficient, those who have gathered here today are promising you and God that you can “borrow” some of their love. In those moments when that is not enough, God is promising you that you can always “borrow” God’s love. You can count on it. The couple’s promises were surrounded by the promises of the church and God. As a couple, they heard where they can always find “borrowed love.”

The liturgy carried us through the profound experiences of celebration and “letting go” in order to fully embrace the new couple and their new life. From the walk down the aisle to the presentation of the newly married couple, the church offers a ritual that immerses all who are present with the essential truths of a marriage that has Christ at the center. It is a remarkable gift.

These two gifts caused me to renew my commitment for the church to be a prophetic voice in the midst of a culture struggling to define meaningful relationships. None of what happened on Krista’s and Adam’s wedding day is available to people who live together without being married. There are no committed promises, no promises of “borrowed love” from family or God for those who simply live together. There is no ritual that communicates, in ways more powerful than words,

the commitment of God and family to accompany the couple in new ways on the journey of life and faith.

When a couple lives together without being married, there are only two human beings, created in the image of God, yes, but also broken by sin. There is no marriage with Christ at the center. No love to borrow. Nothing other than themselves. That simply is not enough to create a lifelong relationship.

I encourage pastors and confirmation teachers to continue to teach the gifts that marriage brings to a couple and their families. Parents and family members need to have the difficult, even painful, conversations with one another about why marriage is different from living together. Yes, it is your business to have this conversation because it is about the community of faith that nurtures loving relationships with prayer and promises.

When a couple needs someplace to borrow love, married couples will know where to find it. That is no small gift.

## MINISTRY AND MISSION NOTES:

+**Lutheran Men in Mission Summit This Fall!** Four hundred dollars for expenses is available for two men to represent our Synod this fall at the "Lutheran Men in Mission Summit for Leaders" in Chicago, October 12-14. Interested? See the website <http://www.lutheranmeninmission.org> and call the Bishop.

+**Luther Decade** has been declared by the German church in thanksgiving for 500 years of the reformation. The themes selected for the Luther decade are:

2012 - Reformation and Music

2013 - Reformation and Tolerance

2014 - Reformation and Politics

2015 - Reformation-Visual Arts and the Bible

2016 - Reformation and the One World

2017 - Anniversary of the Reformation

How are we going to recognize this Luther-Reformation decade?

## TRANSITIONS

+Wedding Bells have rung! Congratulations to **Pastor Dave Johnson (Faith, Ishpeming)** as he was joined in

marriage with Katie Lea Garvin on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. May decades of happiness be with them. God bless our Synod Office Manager, **Kay Benedict**, and her husband, Peter Johnson, as they began life together in marriage on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Alleluia!

+**Pastor Rell Spickerman** has contracted with Grace in Gwinn for a two-year interim ministry beginning October 1. He has been serving as Interim Pastor at Bethany in Negaunee and St. Mark's in Marquette. Pastor Spickerman and wife, Louise, are also celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary this summer!

+**Pastor Barb Girod** concluded her ministry at Faith in Three Lakes, Wisconsin at the end of June. We thank her for her work in our Synod and ask God to bless her future.

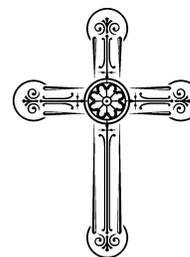
+A dear person and faithful member of Immanuel in Escanaba, **Rosa Maria Opferkuch**, died on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rosa Maria was active in the Synod serving on several committees and was a 1993 Voting member to the Kansas City Churchwide Assembly when it met that year in Kansas City. A great woman of faith, Rosa Maria is survived by her husband, Paul. We thank God for her!

+Congratulations to **Pam Long** who has retired as the Licensed Lay Minister at Holy Cross in Baraga. Pam is a graduate of our Lay School and has done a fine job at Holy Cross. May she enjoy these God given years of retirement!

+**Pastor John Shallow** (Good Shepherd, Peshtigo) has announced his retirement from full-time ministry effective August 31<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Shallow has served at Good Shepherd since 1987. We thank God for his ministry, and ask God's blessings upon him and his wife, Sue.

+We have received word that a former pastor of this Synod area, **Rev. Frederick Vanhala**, died April 28<sup>th</sup>. He had served in the Upper Peninsula many years ago at Faith, Ishpeming and in the Community Lutheran Palmer parish. May God bless his memory in our midst!

--Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop



[tskrenes@nglsynod.org](mailto:tskrenes@nglsynod.org)



### **Malaria Net Project**

St. Paul's, Mass City  
 Grace Covenant Church, Iron River  
 Pioneer Lake, Conover  
 Bethany, Ishpeming  
 Immanuel, Rhinelander  
 Calvary, Minocqua  
 Bethany, Republic  
 Faith, Sault Ste. Marie  
 Immanuel, Escanaba  
 Trinity, Rhinelander

### **World Missionary Support**

Pioneer Lake, Conover  
 Trinity, Rhinelander  
 Mission United, Pelkie  
 Bethel, Ishpeming

### **Tanzania Dental Mission**

Bishop Thomas & Luanne Skrenes  
 David & Mary Lou Blomquist  
 Rev. Robert & Deloris Langseth  
 John & Joan Lillie  
 Rev. Devon & JoAnne Barrix  
 Rev. Rudy & Darley Kempainen  
 Bethany, Perkins

Trinity, Ishpeming

### **ELCA Disaster Funds**

Grace, South Range  
 Mission United, Pelkie  
 Immanuel, Negaunee  
 Bethel, Menominee  
 Bethany, Amasa

### **Lutheran World Relief**

Messiah, Marquette  
 Zion, Marinette  
 Salem, Ironwood  
 Prince of Peace, Marquette  
 Jonelle Collins  
 Calvary, Rapid River  
 All Saints, Wakefield  
 Zion, Manistique

### **Seminarian Support**

Bethany, Amasa  
 Calvary, Minocqua  
 Zion, Ironwood  
 Rev. Devon & JoAnne Barrix  
 Rev. Kevin Kaiser  
 All Saints, Wakefield  
 Bethel, Cedarville

### **Lutheran Campus Ministry**

United, Crystal Falls  
 Immanuel, Negaunee  
 Good Shepherd, Houghton  
 Calvary, Rapid River  
 Grace, Gwinn  
 Trinity, Ishpeming

### **Kempainen Scholarship Fund**

Jonelle Collins

### **Bishop's Discretionary Fund**

## + From the Assistant to the Bishop +

### Pastor Katherine Finegan



*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I come into this work more fully, I would like to share with you some thoughts from what I have heard and the people I have talked to.

1. Everyone seems to agree that the church is changing. And everyone agrees that they're not quite sure what that means and what to do about it.
2. Changes include declining membership and worship attendance, an absence of men in the pew and leadership roles, and not as many young people.
3. There is anxiety about this, mixed with a desire to be faithful, mixed with some nostalgia for the way things used to be, and an uncertainty about where to go from here.

There's no question that the church is changing. Those who study these things agree that the way the church grew in the past no longer holds true. It used to be simply a matter of having children. Families grew and so did the church. But that's just not the way it is now.

So now what.....

I have been reading the book, *Renew Your Congregation: Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead*. And I will share with you some very interesting insights from the author William T. McConnell, (p. 11).

“~Growing and shrinking congregations DO the same things. They have programs, services, meetings, and worship.

The only difference between growing and shrinking congregations is that growing congregations have a clear sense that God is active within them and is using them to change lives. Shrinking congregations do not have this sense of divine call.”

~There is no magic pill, program, cure, or process to fix the problems.

“However, congregations that have turned around have experienced a spiritual renewal. Everything else comes from that. Nothing happens without that.”

Spiritual renewal of course begins and ends with the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is notoriously elusive, like trying to catch the wind, or hold fire in your hand.

But as baptized children of God, the Spirit's presence is promised to us. So perhaps there are some things we can do, as people of faith. At the risk of offering a prescription for what ails the church, here is a brief list of where we can begin.

~Pray. Pray before choir. Pray before meetings. Pray at Sunday School and Confirmation. Pray for the Spirit's presence, guidance, challenge, vision.

~Dwell in the word. Begin meetings with a brief (or long) devotion before Council, Altar Guild, Choir, Quilting, Property, Finance, etc. Share that responsibility and privilege with all committee members.

~Pastors and Congregations together develop an intentional strategy to welcome, invite, include, minister to, serve and engage folks who do not know the love of God in Christ Jesus. Find specific ways of being a blessing to your community.

Once again, there is no single easy program that will change a declining church into a growing one. As far as programs go, churches often look the same. But perhaps the goals are different. Jesus calls us to “make disciples”. He doesn't call us to “make members.” Christ has given his church the awesome privilege of being him in the world. That's what we celebrate when we worship. That's what worship and study and fellowship equips us to be.

As the church continues to change, the Spirit is changing us too, transforming us from members into disciples, from sinners into saints, from who we have been into who God would have us be. No need to carry our baggage on the journey, for God has already given us all we need to meet the challenges ahead.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Katherine

## Pastoral Vacancies and Interim Pastors

### Full-time

Christ Parish, Ironwood - Pastor Peggy Rose  
 Siloa, Ontonagon, St. Paul & First of Winona, Mass City - Pastor John Autio  
 Grace, Gwinn - Pastor Peter Andersen  
 First, Dollar Bay & Grace, South Range - Pastor Bucky Beach  
 Holy Trinity, Chassell - Pastor Melinda Quivik  
 Bethany, Republic - Pastor Doug Norquist  
 Emanuel, Skandia - Pastor Jim Duehring  
 Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner - Pastor Devon Barrix  
 Faith, Three Lakes - Pastor Tom Lee

### Part-time

Bethany, Negaunee - Pastor Rell Spickerman  
 Faith, Rock - Pastor Jonathan Schmidt  
 St. Mark's, Marquette - Pastor Rell Spickerman  
 First, Trenary - Pastor Jonathan Schmidt  
 Holy Cross, Baraga - Pastor John Autio

**“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”**  
 1Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)

Through the first half of 2012, mission support gifts are more than \$17,000 higher than last year at this time. We thank God for this generous outpouring of gifts! Designated gifts to Synod and ELCA ministries are also higher. As we walk together through the remainder of this year, may we keep our trust and hope firmly in the promises of our Lord Jesus Christ, working together to keep the exciting ministries of our Synod flourishing.

*- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper*

As of 6/30	2011	2012	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	823,634	822,074	-1,560	-.1%
Amount Received	351,621	368,680	+17,059	+4.8%
Designated Gifts	107,043	109,784	+2,741	+2.5%



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**[WWW.NGLSYNOD.ORG](http://WWW.NGLSYNOD.ORG)**

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**Volume 25 - Issues 8 & 9**

**August-September 2012**

**ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR AUGUST-  
SEPTEMBER 2012**

**[www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org)**

**July 29-Aug. / Sue Hill, Sharon, Bessemer**

**Aug. 5-11 / Tina St. Aubin, Seminarian, Wartburg**

**Aug. 12-18 / Ruth Warmanen, United, Crystal Falls**

**Aug. 19-25 / Terry Frankenstein, First, Gladstone**

**Aug. 26-Sept. 1 / Mark St. Aubin, Seminarian, Wartburg**

**Sept. 2-8 / Pastor Chris Johnson, Christ the King, Escanaba**

**Sept. 9-15 / Ann Gonyea, Seminarian, LSTC**

**Sept. 16-22 / Synodical Women's Organization**

**Sept. 23-29 / Diane Srutowski, LLM, Trinity, Stonington**

**Sept. 30-Oct. 6 / Confirmation Students, Immanuel, Escanaba**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## AUGUST 2012

August 10-11 / Prayer Workshop at First in Gladstone

August 15 / Bi-Synodical Meeting in Tomahawk, WI

August 16 / Campus Ministry meeting at the Synod Office – 11:00 a.m. ET

August 18 / Endowment Fund Board meets at Fortune Lake Camp – 10:00 a.m. CT

August 24 / Finance Committee meets at the Synod Office – 12:00 noon ET

August 27-30/ Region 5 ELCA Bishops and Spouses Gathering in Marquette

September 10 / Fortune Lake Golf Outing in Norway, MI

September 12 / Worship Committee meets at the Synod Office at 10:00 a.m. ET

September 13 / World Hunger Committee meets at First in Gladstone at 11:00 a.m. ET

September 15 & 16 / Systems Theory Conference for congregational leaders at Immanuel in Escanaba (15<sup>th</sup>) and at Holy Trinity in Chassell (16<sup>th</sup>)

September 17-18 / Systems Theory Conference for rostered leaders at Fortune Lake Camp in Crystal Falls

## SEPTEMBER 2012

September 3 / SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED

September 4 / Stewardship meeting at First in Iron River – 11:00 a.m. CT

September 7 / Mission Outreach meets at Finlandia University in Hancock at 1:00 p.m. ET.

September 7-8 / Synod Council meeting at Finlandia University in Hancock

September 9 / Companion Synod Committee meets at Fortune Lake Camp at 2:00 p.m. CT

September 21 / SWO Convention at Fortune Lake Camp in Crystal Falls

September 21-22 / Women's Retreat at Fortune Lake Camp in Crystal Falls

September 27 / Lay School meeting at the Synod Office – 11:00 a.m. ET

September 28-29 / Youth Leadership Event at Fortune Lake Camp



# **A MISSION EFFORT MADE BY OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN – MARINETTE**

**Pastor Jim Wendt**

Too many of our congregations are struggling to fill the pews on Sunday morning, and now even on Christmas and Easter. The average age of worshippers in ELCA congregations is 57, according to ELCA Research and Evaluation. My experience is that the average is even older. One of the reasons is because of the worship style. The aging baby boomers prefer the traditional liturgies and hymns. Meanwhile, many of their children and grandchildren search for a different kind of worship experience. Many congregations in my area have members on the church rolls but not attending worship, while some charismatic denominations are going strong in worship numbers. In our community, there are two charismatic church bodies attracting younger people as well as “older” people looking for something different. These churches are rapidly growing in population. After observing this style of church growth and a long discernment, with the support of Church Council, I made an intentional move to begin to look at offering an alternative or contemporary mid-week worship. This mid-week service is designed with the goal of reaching out to those who are currently members and not attending church, as well as those in the community without a church home.

Where to begin? Unfortunately, terms like contemporary often are not clearly defined and can be confusing to the traditional folks. What do we mean by contemporary? Is it changing the musical styles and leadership? Does it mean not using traditional patterns and texts in the attempt to make the worship experience more appealing to visitors who may have little or no background in Christian worship?

I have been critically listening and studying the congregation I serve and its worship life as we make this transition to offering two worship services which are very different from each other. Without abandoning our rich Lutheran heritage, we begin to plan. We hired a younger man who recently moved into the church neighborhood. It turns out he is a contemporary worship leader and agreed to lead our worship music team. Soon four more young men joined the worship team, including my son, another high school student who is the best pianist in the area, and two guitar players (one of whom is a middle school teacher). We began our new service in December on Wednesday evenings and call it “Break Away”. So far, we have averaged 25 people per week, and are actively seeking to grow our attendance and refine our worship style. We have members attending on Wednesdays who were not attending on Sunday morning, and also some new faces to our church.

After five months of leading this worship, we now ask new questions about how to continue to grow and refine this ministry. The worship music leader and I will attend a conference the first week of May to study how to better plan music and preaching in the contemporary setting of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

# Practicing Discipleship Registration

With generous grant support from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation, registration fees are only:

**\$25/person OR**

**\$40/congregation (up to 4 people)**

So why not bring a team or two from your congregation?!? The fee includes lodging in any of the facilities at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (register early to get your top pick!), plus breakfast and lunch on Saturday. If you chose to attend only the Saturday sessions, the cost remains the same.

To register, contact Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp at 906-875-3697 or [officemanager@fortunelake.org](mailto:officemanager@fortunelake.org)

Questions about the weekend? Please contact Wendy Black, Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Ministry Events Coordinator at 715-360-4977 or [WKBlack@yahoo.com](mailto:WKBlack@yahoo.com)

***Hope to see you there!!!***

# Practicing Discipleship



## **Walking Together With Young People**

**An Event for Adults Who Work with  
Young People in Congregations**

***September 28-29, 2012***

***Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp***

A partnership event of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp with generous support from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation of Milwaukee, WI.

Are you a veteran to youth ministry?  
Are you a pastor?  
Are you a volunteer?  
Are you brand new in this ministry?

***No matter who you are, or what your experience level is, this retreat has something for you!!***

The main focus of the retreat will be the ELCA's Practice Discipleship curriculum. Used in part at the recent ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, we will go deeper and get to the heart of issues such as:

- Who are the "youth" and what's important to them?
- How do we invite other adults to participate and how can we prepare them?
- What are different ways to do youth events?
- What have you been doing well and what works? (feel free to bring examples to share!)

Our main presenter is Tera Kossow, a current student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Tera is a veteran youth minister and has a deep passion for young people. She is on track to be an outstanding pastor and we are excited that she is able to join us!

Our time together will also include a break-out session with a wide variety of focus areas such as games, Bible studies, fund-raising, technology, and more! These will be led by experts from around our synod.

So plan on attending this retreat! You'll be able to begin the 2012-13 school year recharged & energized, equipped with solid youth ministry strategies!

## Retreat Schedule

(Central Time)

### Friday, September 28

7:00	Welcome
7:30	Opening prayer, introductions, mixers
8:00	Overview of ministry to youth
9:30	Evening Devotions
10:00	Snacks & free time

### Saturday, September 29

8:00	Breakfast
8:45	Morning Devotions
9:00	"Practicing Discipleship" Part 1
10:30	Break
10:45	"Practicing Discipleship" Part 2
12:00	Lunch
12:45	Breakout sessions
1:30	"Practicing Discipleship" Part 3
2:45	Closing Prayer
3:00	Head for home!





**FLLC Golf Outing**  
**Golf Scramble / Fundraiser for**  
**Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**  
**Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – 2012**  
 Oak Crest Golf Course - Norway, MI



- **Registration begins at 9:00 AM (CST)**
- **Shotgun start at 10:00 AM (CST)**
- **\$65 per person/\$240 per foursome includes 18-holes, cart and lunch**
- **Lunch to follow**
- **Silent Auction**
- **Deadline is September 1, 2012**

**\*Make checks payable to FLLC Golf Outing and mail to:**

*FLLC – 138 Fortune Lake Camp RD –  
 Crystal Falls, MI 49920 – Attn: Golf Outing*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

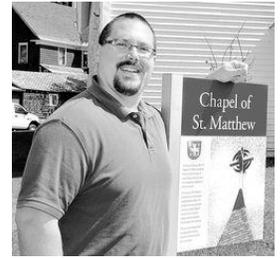
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

UPGA Member? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

\*One Registration form per golfer (\$65.00) by September 1, 2012  
 \*\*If you have a foursome, please send in all registration forms and \$240 together. If you would like to golf with a particular person, list them and we will do our best.  
 \*\*\*Non Golfers – donations to Fortune Lake Lutheran camp are welcome!  
**Questions – call (920-268-8673) or Email: [ajsims84@gmail.com](mailto:ajsims84@gmail.com)**

August/September 2012

News from the University Chaplain's office at Finlandia University for our companions in the Northern Great Lakes Synod



*"side by side . . . growing in faith toward God and love toward neighbor"*

## A Vacation From A Vacation; or,

### Thank God for Jesus - because I sure can't do it!

Have you ever gotten back from some kind of vacation, only to recite the phrase:

*"Man...I feel like I need a vacation from my vacation.."*

It just seems like sometimes we can't 'escape' without life just gettin' in the way.

Professor Karoline Lewis talks about this on [workingpreacher.com](http://workingpreacher.com) and says that even with the disciples (and our) rest, there is always "the intrusion of human need".

I've been thinking about a reading from Mark 6:30-34. This is the lead up to the feeding of 5000+. The apostles, weary from travels, preaching and all their acts, have just returned to Jesus and are sharing their stories of faith and of weary bodies.

Even when the apostles were called to "come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while (Mark 6:31)" there was no rest, for the needs of the many surrounded them. But thank God for Jesus! Jesus saw the crowd. He saw the need. He pushed the apostles to continue their calling and their work despite it being their so-called time for rest.

God reminds the apostles that there is ministry to do and hungry souls to feed. There will be other times for rest, so for now, Jesus called them to rest inside their thoughts of what God is doing for the people. Jesus, through his ultimate servant leadership, give us a lesson in service from God.

I reflect on the times in my life when I feel weary, when I feel unmotivated, when I feel like I simply need a break...and then there is that 'one more thing' - that "intrusion of human need". I'm pushed over the edge...

I'm wiped out and I simply cannot get myself to do it.

I fail. I become lazy. I'm miserable.

...but thank God for Jesus!

It is Jesus who recognizes the need, and it is Jesus who give us motivation to, once again, stand and deliver.

Do I always do it. No. Not even close. I fail. I fail him many, MANY times. Yet, I am forgiven and I realize that when I *get to*, it is not motivation coming from myself, or caffeine from some overpriced pop or an energy shot (yuck!). The motivation comes from Christ, who dwells among and within. Christ, who calls out: "Get up off your lazy duff, and get out here to help my people! This is your call. This is what I am asking you to do. You know what's up. I know you do."

And so we go. Possibly unmotivated by our own deceitful thoughts, yet charged with a calling in Christ. A calling that changes those thoughts, that changes our moods, that challenges us, that encourages us, that creates life and community, that responds to life and community, that interacts on a spiritual level. We are unworthy of the works of Christ Jesus, yet we can be vessels for his truth—knowing that when labor is done, we WILL find rest in his arms.

Prepare for more.

Give thanks.

Sabbath.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## Campus Ministry Events Calendar

Where "Christ, the Teacher" leads us!

ALL ARE WELCOME :-)

### Recurring Fall 2012 Events:

**Sundays** Keweenaw Friends & Rugged Cross Church usage

**Tuesdays 12:30-1:00 pm** Student-led Chapels 5:30pm alternating between Ministry Meeting and Bible Study

**Thursdays 12:30-1:00 pm** Chapel with Communion

**Fridays (every other) 8:00-9:00 pm** TGIF (next events: Feb. 24, Mar. 16, 30)

### Related Fall Activities:

**Aug. 19** Preach @ Jacobsville Chapel (7:30pm)

**Sept. 2-3** Mackinac Bridge Walk (come walk with us)

**Sept. 10** Golf Scramble in Norway

**Sept. 13** Lay School for Mission begins (at Chapel: Every Thursday at 5pm)

**Sept. 22** International Parade (Houghton/Hancock)

**Sept. 26** See You At The Pole event

Check the Finlandia e-newsletter, Finlandia website and 'Finlandia Campus Ministry' on Facebook for more info. on activities above. (many more activities will be announced in electronic format)

## YOUTH QUAKE EVENT: May 17-19, 2013 @ Finlandia University

Finlandia University is hosting a Youth Encounter's YOUTH QUAKE Event!  
YES...right here in our own Northern Great Lakes Synod.

*Less travel, less expense...*

but the **same FANTASTIC, FAITH-FILLED Event!** Don't miss out.

(\*We'll also Skype in and chat with those at the 2013 NGL Synod Assembly!!)

**SAVE THE DATE: May 17-19, 2013**

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
- Jeremiah 29:11**

Look soon for more information either in:  
upcoming NGLS Newsletters,  
Finlandia News,  
Youth Encounter Brochures,  
and more.



Any questions or comments? Contact Soren Schmidt, University Chaplain at: [soren.schmidt@finlandia.edu](mailto:soren.schmidt@finlandia.edu) or (906) 487-7239.

Visit our Website: [www.finlandia.edu](http://www.finlandia.edu)



A Year of Prayer  
A Lifetime of Praying!

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[www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully](http://www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully)

## Prayer Calendar – August 2012

<b>1</b>	Pray for <b>Bishop Emeritus Harry Andersen</b> (retired) as he celebrates his <b>60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>2</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Barry Levine</b> and the <b>members of Faith, Sault Ste. Marie</b> as they celebrate <b>8 years of ministry together</b> this day.
<b>3</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Maxine Gray</b> and the <b>members of Calvary, Minocqua</b> as they celebrate <b>6 years of ministry together</b> this month. Pray also for the <b>members of Faith, Rock</b> and <b>Interim Pastor Jonathan Schmidt</b> as they celebrate the <b>101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the congregation</b> this day.
<b>4</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Amazing Grace, Baltimore MD (Rev Gary Dittman), Christ, LaVale MD (Rev Charles Erzkus), Epiphany, Ellicott City MD (Rev John Trautwein), and Good Shepherd, Frederick MD (Rev Cary Moorman).</b>
<b>5</b>	Pray for all who have been a part of <b>Fortune Lake Bible Camp</b> this summer – campers, counselors and staff.
<b>6</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Steve Gauger</b> and the <b>members of Calvary, Rapid River</b> as they celebrate the <b>110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation</b> this month.
<b>7</b>	Pray for the <b>spouses of deceased pastors – Pearl Schnorr and Ruth Groth.</b>
<b>8</b>	Pray for <b>Darrel Diers LLM</b> and the <b>members of St James, Marinette</b> as they celebrate <b>8 years of ministry together</b> this day.
<b>9</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Azania Front Cathedral, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Rev Ernest Kadiva)</b> and their <b>NGLS Companion Congregation Messiah, Marquette (Revs Dave VanKley &amp; Amanda Kossow).</b>
<b>10</b>	Pray for those attending and those presenting at the <b>Prayer Workshop</b> in Gladstone these days.
<b>11</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Holy Spirit, Eldersburg MD (Rev Robin Simpson Litton), Living Water, Kent Island MD (Rev Mark Walters), Mt Union, Uniontown MD (pastor), St Andrew, Dover DE (Rev Patricia Payne) and St John, Linthicum MD (Rev Michael McQuaid).</b>
<b>12</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Dave Hueter</b> and the <b>members of Zion, Manistique</b> as they celebrate the <b>127<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation</b> this day.
<b>13</b>	Pray for those who will be attending the <b>U.P. State Fair</b> these next days and for <b>members of the Delta Conference churches</b> who will be representing the Northern Great Lakes Synod at a display at the fair.
<b>14</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Jean Schmidt</b> and the <b>members of Bethany, Perkins</b> as they celebrate the <b>117<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation</b> this day.
<b>15</b>	Pray for those participating in the <b>Bi-Synodical Candidacy Committee</b> meeting and for the <b>candidates</b> who are discerning where God is calling them.

<b>16</b>	Pray for the members of the <b>Campus Ministry Committee</b> who meet this day. Pray for <b>pastors</b> celebrating <b>anniversaries of ordination</b> – <b>Rell Spickerman</b> (retired) <b>48 years</b> and <b>Lloyd Luedeman</b> (Prince of Peace, Eagle River) <b>4 years</b> .
<b>17</b>	Pray for <b>summer travelers</b> as vacations are nearing an end – may they continue to be fed in faith communities wherever they are.
<b>18</b>	Pray for the members of the <b>Endowment Committee</b> who meet this day.
<b>19</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Bill Jacobson</b> (All Saints, Wakefield) as he celebrates his <b>11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>20</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor John West</b> (retired) as he celebrates his <b>9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>21</b>	Pray for our <b>Synod Staff</b> – <i>Bishop Skrenes, Pastor Katherine Finegan, Kay (Benedict) Johnson, Louise Ingalls, and Betsy Koski</i> – who meet this day.
<b>22</b>	Pray for the <b>members</b> of <b>St Matthew &amp; St Peter, Beaver Creek-Keedysville MD (Rev Eric Moser), St Paul, Walkersville MD (Rev Mark Foucart), Sts Stephen &amp; James, Baltimore MD (Rev Lowell Thompson), and Zion, Baltimore MD (Rev Holger Roggelin)</b> .
<b>23</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Eugene Wickman</b> (Grace, Pembine) as he celebrates his <b>31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> .
<b>24</b>	Pray for the members of the <b>Finance Committee</b> who meet. Pray for <b>Pastor Kevin Kaiser</b> (Bethany, Amasa & Trinity, Iron River) as he celebrates his <b>4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>25</b>	Pray for the <b>members</b> of <b>Emanuel, Skandia</b> and <b>Interim Pastor Jim Duehring</b> as they celebrate the <b>118<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation</b> this day. Pray also for <b>Seminarian Zachariah Shipman</b> (Middler at Wartburg) as he celebrates his birthday.
<b>26</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor John Autio</b> (Mission United, Pelkie) as he celebrates his <b>7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>27</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Amanda Kossow</b> (Messiah, Marquette) as she celebrates her <b>1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>28</b>	Pray for <b>pastors</b> celebrating <b>anniversaries of ordination</b> – <b>Devon Barrix</b> (retired) <b>7 years</b> , <b>Craig Mansur</b> (Bay Area Medical Clinic) <b>24 years</b> , and <b>Kenneth Lahnens</b> (Trinity, Ishpeming) <b>5 years</b> .
<b>29</b>	Pray for <b>pastors</b> celebrating <b>anniversaries of ordination</b> this day – <b>David Christenson</b> (retired) <b>36 years</b> and <b>Kate Schrub</b> (ELCA Lutheran Parish of Dickinson County) <b>2 years</b> .
<b>30</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Doug Norquist</b> as he celebrates his <b>20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b>
<b>31</b>	Pray for <b>retired pastors and their spouses</b> – <b>Rev Harry &amp; Dorothy Anderson and Rev D.C. &amp; Nancy Kalweit</b> .

*“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our partner synod relationship.”*



A Year of Prayer  
A Lifetime of Praying!

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[www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully](http://www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully)

## Prayer Calendar – September 2012

<b>1</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Faith, Sault Ste Marie and Pastor Barry Levine</b> as they celebrate their <b>49<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation</b> (Elim & St John's). For <b>Pastor Dave Hueter</b> and the <b>members of Zion, Manistique &amp; Bethany, Isabella</b> as they celebrate <b>16 years of ministry together</b> .
<b>2</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Christ Parish, Ironwood and Interim Pastor Peggy Rose</b> as they continue in the call process during a <b>pastoral vacancy</b> .
<b>3</b>	Pray for <b>teachers and educators</b> and <b>all who work in schools</b> as they share their gifts. Pray for all <b>students</b> as a new year of classes begins.
<b>4</b>	Pray for the members of the <b>Stewardship Committee</b> who meet this day.
<b>5</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Thomas Wickstrom</b> (retired) as he celebrates his <b>41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>6</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Ascension, Towson MD (Revs James &amp; Judith Cobb), Christ, Millersville MD (Rev David Simpson), and Evangelical, Frederick MD (Revs Robert &amp; Terri Driver-Bishop)</b> .
<b>7</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Norman Peterson</b> and the <b>members of Immanuel, Rhinelander</b> as they celebrate the <b>121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the congregation</b> this day. Pray also for <b>Pastor Corinne Johnson</b> (Gethsemane, Wallace/St Stephens, Stephenson) as she celebrates her <b>9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day. Pray for the members of the <b>Synod Council</b> who travel to Finlandia University to meet these days.
<b>8</b>	 Pray for our <b>Bishop Thomas Skrenes</b> as he celebrates his <b>birthday</b> this day! We ask God's blessings on this his faithful servant and give God thanks for his ministry for and with us.
<b>9</b>	 Pray for <b>Rally Days</b> across our synod this month as children are once again engaged in Christian Education and learning that "Jesus Loves Me!" Pray also for members of the <b>Companion Synod Committee</b> who meet this day.
<b>10</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Nancy Kauppi</b> (retired) as she celebrates her <b>17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>11</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Reformation, Milford, DE (Rev Eric Evers), and St Benjamin, Westminster MD (Rev Dave Schafer)</b> .
<b>12</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Grace, Pembine and Pastor Eugene Wickman</b> as they celebrate the <b>87<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation</b> . Pray for the members of the <b>Worship Committee</b> who meet this day.
<b>13</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Calvary, Minocqua and Pastor Maxine Gray</b> as they celebrate the <b>61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the congregation</b> . Pray also for the members of the <b>World Hunger Committee</b> who meet this day.
<b>14</b>	Pray for <b>Pastors Steve &amp; Marcia Solberg, their children, and the members of Immanuel, Negaunee</b> .

<b>15</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Bethel, Ishpeming and Pastor Lauri Maki</b> as they celebrate the <b>125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation</b> this day.
<b>16</b>	Pray for those attending and those presenting at the <b>Systems Theory Conference</b> .
<b>17</b>	Pray for those attending and those presenting at the <b>Rostered Leaders Conference</b> at Fortune Lake these days.
<b>18</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Dave Hueter</b> (Zion, Manistique & Bethany, Isabella) as he celebrates his <b>24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>19</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Kijichi Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Rev Antony Adam Rashid)</b> and their <b>NGLS Companion Congregation First, Gladstone (Rev Jonathan Schmidt)</b> .
<b>20</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Tim Nyikako</b> (First & Our Savior, Ewen & Trinity, Trout Creek) as he celebrates his <b>3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>21</b>	Pray for those women attending the <b>SWO Convention and Women's Fall Retreat</b> at Fortune Lake these days and the staff who care for them.
<b>22</b>	Pray for the <b>members of St Mark Estonian, Baltimore MD (Rev Heino Nurk), St Paul, Fulton MD (Revs Rod Ronneberg &amp; Cathy Ammlung), and St John, Parkville MD (Rev John Burk)</b> .
<b>23</b>	Pray for the <b>spouses of deceased pastors – Betty Framstad and Lavina Goodrich</b> .
<b>24</b>	Pray for the <b>members of Faith Rock and Interim Pastor Jonathan Schmidt</b> as they continue in the call process during a <b>pastoral vacancy</b> .
<b>25</b>	Pray for our <b>retired pastors and their spouses – Pastor Rudy &amp; Darley Kempainen and Pastor George Kaiser</b> .
<b>26</b>	 <p>As we celebrate the <b>8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first prayfaithfully devotion this day and our synod prayer ministry</b>, we pray for all who have written devotions, all who have been pray-ers, all who have been prayed for, and all whose lives are touched by prayer. We thank God for these faithful witnesses.</p>
<b>27</b>	Pray for the members of the <b>Lay School for Mission and Licensed Lay Ministry Boards</b> who meet this day. Pray also for <b>Pastor Timothy Vadis</b> (Trinity, Rhinelander) as he celebrates his <b>9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>28</b>	Pray for those attending and those leading the <b>Youth Leadership Event</b> at Fortune Lake these days. Pray also for <b>Pastor Kari Vadis</b> (Trinity, Rhinelander) as she celebrates her <b>9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination</b> this day.
<b>29</b>	Pray for the <b>members of St Timothy, Timonium MD (Rev Jason Burns), Zion, Middletown MD (Rev Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman &amp; Christopher Frigm), and Holy Trinity, Laurel MD (Revs Tom &amp; Connie Miller)</b> .
<b>30</b>	Pray for <b>Pastor Peter Vorhes, his wife Liz, and the members of Faith, Calumet</b> .

*"We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our partner synod relationship."*

**THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER**  
**JULY 2012**  
**“PROJECT H.O.P.E. 2012”**

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

When July rolls around my heart swells with pride at the fact that I am an American. I am the product of a nation founded by brilliant people that wanted to create an environment where all people could enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And, at the same time have the ability to worship God without interference from the Government (freedom of religion, not, freedom from religion).

So, your asking yourself, what does this have to do with “stewardship” and what is “Project H.O.P.E. 2012”?

Well, let’s start with “Stewardship”. By definition, a “Steward” is someone who manages something on behalf of another. What is important to note is that the “Steward” is not the owner, he or she, is simply managing for someone else who is the owner! As Christians we believe that God owns everything and we are only the managers of the little “*time*” we have, the “*abilities*” we have been given and the “*income*” (wealthy compared to the majority of the world) we are able to produce. Good “Stewardship” then becomes a question of how well do we manage what God has entrusted to us our “*time*”, our “*ability*” and our “*income*”. We can only hope our efforts will be pleasing and acceptable to Him!

So, to whom does this apply? Certainly we expect this to apply in our family lives, but what about other areas? How about at work? Isn’t it reasonable to make good use of our time and ability so the company can make a reasonable profit and we can keep our jobs and make a reasonable wage? How about at church? We elect a council to manage the affairs (time, talent and finances) of the church. Certainly it is reasonable for us to expect them to be good stewards of the contributions made by the members so we can remain solvent and at the same time be challenged to do God’s work. How about those elected to public service positions (state, federal and local government)?

This is where “**PROJECT H.O.P.E. 2012**” begins and where I am asking for your help.

**H.O.P.E.** stands for **Heal Our Political Ethics**. I believe that God wants us to unite in prayer and ask Him to heal the political ethics of the leaders of this nation and to teach them to be good stewards of all that this great nation has to offer. Please join me in prayer first thing every Monday morning saying: **Dear Father in heaven, we pray that you will guide the hearts and minds of all elected individuals in this nation, giving them the strength and courage to meet the challenges that are ahead and the wisdom, knowledge and above all the understanding to know what it is that they should say and do to lead our community, our state and our nation, in a manner that is pleasing and acceptable to you. Amen!**

For more information and a prayer you can forward please email: [projhope2012@gmail.com](mailto:projhope2012@gmail.com). I am also introducing this on my Facebook page.

Wouldn’t it be great if we could have a million plus people praying to God every Monday AM! Do your part by praying and spreading the word. (Mark 4:31-32)

Thank you!

Jerry Rasner  
Stewardship Committee - Gethsemane Lutheran Church

## **Project H.O.P.E. 2012**

Dear Friends and Fellow Christians everywhere,

I share this letter and the promise of H.O.P.E. with you because I believe you care about this great nation, believe in God, and, believe in all that He can accomplish if we just ask Him.

My concerns and goals are simple. The concern is for the future of this great nation because of the apparent lack of ethics in the political process. Too many politicians have become consumed by power and greed in both parties. Many act as though they are above the laws of sound Christian behavior. They seem to have lost sight of the need to practice good stewardship in their elected positions. For us, the issue is the enormity of the problem. It's impossible for us to get our arms around it alone. We could easily tell ourselves that we are only individuals and are helpless against such an overwhelming challenge. (Similar to what the Israelites must have felt when they faced the fortress of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-27)). The concern is that unless something changes our children and grandchildren may suffer terribly. God is the only one I can think of that is able to change the direction that we are headed. I feel He is waiting for us to call on Him. It is only through a united effort by people like us who are willing to pray often, and to engage others in prayer for healing, that we can expect things to change. Please join me in "Project H.O.P.E. 2012"!

Again, the goal is very simple. Each of us must pray and spread the word! God can make something great out of the smallest thing (Mark 4:26-32).

The following questions and answers may be helpful in understanding and communicating what God is asking of us at this time.

### **What does "Project H.O.P.E. 2012" stand for?**

**H.O.P.E.** stands for - **Heal Our Political Ethics**. I believe that God wants us to unite in prayer and ask Him to heal the political ethics of the leaders of this nation and to teach them to be good stewards of all that this great nation has to offer.

### **Who should be involved?**

Anyone who is a Christian and believes in the power of Prayer.

### **Why?**

God has the power to change the hearts and minds of all people. He is the only person big enough for the task at hand!

### **What can I do?**

Pray every Monday morning at the start of your day and spread the word to others and ask them to embrace "PROJECT H.O.P.E. 2012" by praying and spreading the word also.

### **What should I pray?**

You can write your own prayer or use the one below. Just post it somewhere that it will serve as a constant reminder. Maybe it should be placed on the bathroom mirror, or on your desk, or on the visor in your vehicle, or at the table, or on the counter. Here is the prayer that I am saying: **Dear Father in Heaven, we pray that you will guide the hearts and minds of all elected individuals in this nation, giving them the strength and courage to meet the challenges that are ahead and the wisdom, knowledge and above all the understanding to know what it is that they should say and do to lead our community, our state and our nation, in a manner that is pleasing and acceptable to you. Amen!**

### **How do I communicate to others about "PROJECT H.O.P.E. 2012"?**

Forward this message to everyone you know that believes in the power of prayer. You can also give them the following email address and I will send them a copy of this message and a copy of the Newsletter article I wrote to introduce this concept to our congregation. "[ProjHope2012@gmail.com](mailto:ProjHope2012@gmail.com)"

### **What else can I do?**

Be a leader in your congregation by doing a temple talk on this subject during worship services, or write a newsletter article for your congregational newsletter. Or, discuss it in a small group where you are a member. Remember, all we are doing is turning a problem over to God. He is the one who is most effective at fixing problems. I'm sure He will be tolerant of whatever effort we are able to put forth.

Also, pray for this project. Pray that "Project Hope 2012" will be useful and meaningful. Pray that the process will yield a healthier and more responsible behavior from a nation that has been so richly blessed by God! If a million people asked God for help on the same issue, on the same day, of every week, for months at a time, do you think he will respond? Let's find out!

Thank you for your interest! Thank you for your concern! Thank you for your willingness to support "Project Hope 2012" with your prayers!

Respectfully,

Jerry Rasner - "Project H.O.P.E. 2012" - Come Pray with me!

P.S. - Questions may be sent to: "[ProjHope2012@gmail.com](mailto:ProjHope2012@gmail.com)"