

NOTES & QUOTES

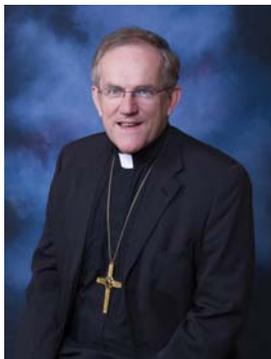
Volume 22, Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2009

IN CHICAGO: CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS WORKS WITH MINISTRY AND MONEY ISSUES

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes

tskrenes@nglsynod.org



Twice each year, the ELCA Conference of Bishops gathers to discuss the work of the whole Church. Our early October meeting in Chicago was the first meeting since the August Churchwide Assembly. The days were long and difficult as we talked a great deal about the decisions made surrounding sexuality at the Minneapolis Assembly.

The Conference of Bishops is working hard to follow the Churchwide Assembly intent on ministry policies in regards to rostered persons who are in same sex monogamous life long relationships. While the Churchwide organization and the Church Council are leaders in the development of appropriate rules, the Conference of Bishops is helping craft language that fits the intent of the 2009 Assembly. There is no rush to implement these policy changes. They will be in place sometime after next April. While we disagree on much in the Conference of Bishops, we are united in our efforts to strengthen the unity of the Church.

The ecumenical work continues. Ministry continues with our denominational partners. We are in discussions with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Roman Catholics on the way forward. Conversations also continue with our Lutheran colleague churches around the world.

Mission Funding is a great concern for this Church. The economic realities, plus the tensions involving sexuality, will have an impact upon our common ministries in 2009 and in 2010. Financial cuts will be made. Yet, God is at work to build us all as individuals and as a Church. Come Holy Spirit. Your Churchwide organization and your Synod continues to be trustworthy with God's resources.



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THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

AT WORSHIP TOGETHER

LUTHERANS AND ROMAN CATHOLICS



The oldest building in Chicago, Old St. Patrick's Church, was the site of the recent celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Joint Statement on Justification. The Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican both signed the statement on Reformation Day 1999. The Tenth Anniversary Worship Service of Thanksgiving on October 1st this year was presided over by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago, Francis Cardinal George and by our ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. A number of Roman Catholic bishops and priests attended, along with the entire ELCA Conference of Bishops. Bishop Wilton Gregory of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta preached the sermon. He said:

“Our fellowship is real and grounded in a common profession of faith in Christ. His saving work becomes the means of our acceptance by God, and his Holy Spirit renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works. Jesus Christ is the gift that unites us.”

For nearly fifty years, Lutheran and Catholics have been in formal dialogues on the church dividing issues between us. Commenting on the recent ELCA Assembly actions on sexuality, Gregory pointed out that these decisions “pose a serious challenge to our relationship, and I must add, a new agenda for our dialogues.”

Lutheran and Catholics are promising to continue the discussions as Christian sisters and brothers.

ORDAINED INTO THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Thanks be to God that women and men of faith are being called to service as ministers of the Gospel. Congratulations to **Pastor Changjwok Nyikako**, called to serve the people of First in Ewen, Trinity in Trout Creek and Our Saviour's in Paynesville. He was ordained at Augustana Lutheran College in Chicago on September 20, 2009 and was installed as the congregations' pastor on October 25, 2009.

“Jesus
Christ
is the
gift
that
unites
us.....”

THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

Pastor Michael Mannisto was ordained on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at Grace Church in South Range. Pastor Mannisto was then installed at St. James in Rudyard on Sunday, October 25, 2009. Welcome to Pastor Mannisto and his wife, Michele.

Pastor Judy Mai now serves Immanuel in Escanaba. She was ordained and installed at Immanuel on Saturday, October 24, 2009. God bless her ministry in our midst. Pastor Judy Mai's husband, Pastor Paul Mai, serves Bethany in Escanaba.

In the Lutheran Communion, Ordination is a Rite where a called servant of Jesus Christ is set apart for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament by the laying on of hands and by prayer. After a time of theological preparation and spiritual formation, the Church approves candidates and congregations call out from its midst persons to serve as pastors. Several more candidates are about ready to be called and ordained for service to our Synod congregations.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WHITE PINE

After 53 years of dedicated witness to the White Pine community, and to the whole Church, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church has closed. Its final congregational worship service was on October 18, 2009. It was my privilege as the Bishop of this Synod to preside at this celebration of the congregation's life. After the devastating fire which destroyed the church building, and for the last years of its existence, the congregation has gathered at the United Methodist congregation in White Pine. At the end of 2008, the Faith Lutheran congregation listed 38 baptized members with 8 in attendance at worship on an average Sunday.

Earlier this year, working with the Council and Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jennifer Johnson Wrege, the decision was made for the congregation to close. The Congregation wanted to serve Christ, even as its formal ministry was ending. At a banquet on October 18, 2009, the congregation presented financial bequests to several of our Synod ministries. The largest gift was an endowed scholarship for our Synod seminarians, as a part of our "Answer the Call" Synod campaign. Other ministries that received gifts were Fortune Lake Camp, Lutheran Social Services, the Tanzania programs of our Synod and the Synod Mission Outreach Fund. Other gifts were made by the Faith congregation that will assist other Christian congregations and ministries locally. We will hear more about the gifts the people at Faith at White Pine made at our 2010 Synod Assembly when the first "Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of White Pine Scholarship" is given to a Synod seminarian.

Thanks be to God for Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of White Pine. Thanks be to God for 53 years of Word and Sacrament ministry. Thanks be to God for this sister congregation who proclaims the faith of Jesus even as it ended its corporate ministry.

GOOD NEWS AND DIFFICULT NEWS

FROM THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

First, the good news. As of September 30, 2009, more than 75% of our Board of Pension insured members have taken the Health Assessment Survey. With this high number taking the survey, the whole Synod is eligible for a 2% discount in medical premiums on covered Board of Pension persons until the end of the year. Estimated savings on medical premiums for our congregations will total about \$3,500. Based upon their own situations, plan members are also able to receive some other benefits.

Now, the difficult news. Beginning in January 2010, retired persons who receive an annuitized pension from the Board of Pensions for service in this Church, will have these pensions reduced by 9% over the 2009 payments. There will be further reductions in 2011 and 2012, subject to market conditions, that will reduce payouts to an accumulated 25%. The stock market decline over the last eighteen months has forced this action. It is important that our congregations be aware that the incomes of our senior clergy will be adversely affected. Many pastors have had reduced salaries during their working years so that they might serve our smaller congregations. I am fully aware of the sacrifices that many have made to proclaim the Gospel. It is very unfortunate that God's faithful retired servants are now further sacrificing in their later years.

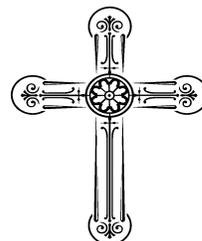
TRANSITIONS

+Congratulations to **Pastor Kari and Pastor Timothy Vadis (Trinity, Rhinelander)** on the birth of a daughter, **Tatiana Grace**. Tatiana weighed around 8 pounds and was born on October 12, 2009. God bless this family!

+“In life, in death O Lord, abide with me.” Our sympathy to **Elaine and Pastor Doug Johnson (Bethlehem, Florence)** on the death of Elaine's mother, Margaret Tollefson. Elaine's mom was 91. Her funeral was on October 21, 2009.

+We have also received word that the infant son of **Pastor Scott and Stefanie Ehle** has died. Pastor Ehle is a son of this Synod and currently serves a congregation in the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin. His home congregation is St. James in Rudyard. Luke was born three months premature, lived one day and passed from this life. Luke's father baptized him into Christ. The Ehles are at home at P.O. Box 176, Fairwater, WI 53931.

+Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop





Thank You

Mission Outreach

Faith, White Pine

Tanzania

Faith, White Pine

World Missionary Support

Trinity, Rhineland

Mission United, Pelkie

Faith, Rock

Calvary, Rapid River

Trinity, Stambaugh

Bethel, Ishpeming

Pioneer Lake, Conover

Lutheran World Relief

St. Mark's, Marquette

Gloria Dei, Hancock

Our Saviour's, Iron Mountain

Zion, Marinette

Calvary, Rapid River

Bethel, Ishpeming

Holy Trinity, Chassell

Prince of Peace, Marquette

Lay School for Mission

Trinity, Rapid River

Bethany, Amasa

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Mission United, Pelkie

Emanuel, Skandia

Calvary, Rapid River

Bethany, Amasa

Bishop's Discretionary Fund

Thomas & Joyce Dupras

Seminarian Support

SWO

Calvary, Minocqua

Zion, Manistique

Skogman Scholarship Fund

Rev. James & Laura Wendt

Tanzania Scholarships

SWO

Malaria Net Project

St. Paul's, Mass City

Ascension, Minocqua

Answer the Call

Robert & Jean Sovey

+ From the Assistant to the Bishop +
Pastor Jennifer Johnson Wrege



*As a deer longs for flowing streams,
 so my soul longs for you,
 O God
 My soul thirsts for you, O
 God
 for the living God.
 When shall I come and
 behold the face of God?
 Psalm 42:1-2*

I'll bet these two days are marked in your mind and on your calendar: November 15th, November 21st in Wisconsin, and November 26th – opening day of deer hunting season and Thanksgiving Day. It's no secret that some folks, both church folks and not, occasionally refer to firearm deer hunting season as the *high holy days*. There's some evidence to support this view that deer hunting season does have some characteristics that mirror sacred holy days.

Like Advent, Lent, Pentecost and all the seasons of the Church year have a specific color assigned to them, deer hunters dapper up in their color of the season: blaze orange. There are initiation rites which typically do not take as much time as confirmation or first communion instruction which include the recently added mentoring of ten year olds and gun safety classes for 'tweens. Like Advent prepares us for the coming of Christ and Lent prepares us for his suffering, death and resurrection, deer hunting season comes with its own list of specific preparations both at deer camp and with deer hunting equipment. Like congregations have Augsburg for church supplies, deer hunters have local, online and catalogue supply stores designed to support their hunting activities. And, akin to the traditional foods and beverages of famous congregational pot-lucks, deer camps also hold fast to their traditional menus of food and beverages.

It's no wonder that enthusiastically participating in deer hunting season is a high priority for many of us. But what if, this year, we were also able to learn from deer something about ourselves? What if we remembered, walking out there in the woods or hunkering down in the deer stand, what Psalm 42 reminds us: *As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.* What if we spent some time thinking and reflecting on what it means to possess a longing so deep, so necessary for life, and so powerful in the way it compels us to connect with God that the scriptures compare it to the deep, powerful, and so necessary for life thirst that a deer has for water to drink? What if we printed out Psalm 42:1, placed it in our hunting gear, put a copy in our wallet, taped it to the dash of our car or truck, used a magnet to hold it on the refrigerator, and watched for signs of how God is working in our lives, in the lives of others, and in the whole world?

A popular song uses Psalm 42 as the foundation for its lyrics:

*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul
 longs after you;*

*You alone are my heart's desire and I long
 to worship you.*

*You alone are my strength and shield; to
 you alone may my spirit yield.*

*You alone are my heart's desire and I long
 to worship you.*

"As the Deer" Maranatha Praise, Text by
 Martin J. Nystrom

When you see blaze orange, when you see hunters, when you see the harvested deer, when deer run across the road, recall Psalm 42:1 and give thanks.



Blessings!

Pastoral Vacancies and Interim Pastors

Concordia, Palmer & Our Saviour's, Negaunee - Pastor Virginia Eggert

Holy Trinity, Chassell - Pastors Jimalee Jones & Peter Gundersen

Zion, St. Ignace & Trinity, Brevort - Pastor George Kaiser

Emanuel, Skandia - Pastor James Duehring

Prince of Peace, Eagle River - Pastor Bill Hayes

Eden, Munising - Pastor Eleanor Russey

Siloa, Ontonagon - Pastor John West

Bethany, Negaunee - Pastor Marcia Solberg

Christ the King, Escanaba - Pastor Len Gilley

Trinity, Stonington - Pastor Stephen Gauger

“In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done. In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.” (ELW #679 - For the Fruit of All Creation)

The third quarter of 2009 closed with mission support receipts 6% below congregational pledges. Designated giving is 17.4% less than in 2008, including \$19,741 less in World Hunger receipts. As we enter the final quarter of the year, may we all remember how richly blessed we really are, and respond in joyful thanksgiving for the love shown us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 9/30	2008	2009	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	1,032,591	1,005,571	-27,020	-2.6%
Amount Received	692,438	651,177	-41,261	-6%
Designated Gifts	146,289	120,773	-25,516	-17.4%



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ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR
NOVEMBER 2009

www.prayfaithfully.org

Nov. 1-7 / Linda Forray, Gethsemane, Wallace

Nov. 8-14 / Pauline Kiltinen, St. Mark's, Marquette

Nov. 15-21 / Sue Hill, Sharon, Bessemer

Nov. 22-28 / Teresa Charlevoix, Bethany, Norway

Nov. 29-Dec. 5 / Lori Mayer, Bethany, Norway



Northwoods Lutheran CORE Gathering

December 5th @ 9 am – 4 pm (CST)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1210 S. Kimberly Ave., Iron Mountain, MI

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. \$5 suggested donation.

Speakers, with question/answer time:

*"Key Note Address" Ryan Schwartz; Washington, DC
CORE Steering Committee and nominee for ELCA Vice-President*

"3 Responses" Rev. Ken Kimball; Pastor in Waterville, IO and CORE Steering Committee

"Big Picture in the ELCA" Rev. Nicholas Hopman; Pastor at Grace Lutheran, South Range and First Lutheran, Dollar Bay, MI

Lunch is on your own – restaurant names and directions will be made available.

This gathering is intended for anyone concerned about the recent changes in policies made at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

"The over-arching goal of Lutheran CORE is to be a voice for the Word of God within the church. We are, therefore, a confessing and confessional movement within the Lutheran church. We seek the renewal of Lutheran churches according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and we endorse the Common Confession as a summary of Lutheran convictions for our time and place. Lutheran CORE is open to all who share our commitment for renewal — congregations, lay people, pastors, and other reform movements."

Information on Lutheran CORE, COalition for REnewal, can be found at www.lutherancore.org. For more information regarding Northwoods CORE gathering in Iron Mountain email: northwoods.core@gmail.com.

+++ +++ +++

NORTHWOODS CORE GATHERING REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PH: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Offering enclosed to support the CORE Gathering: \$5.00 _____ Other _____

Please mail registration and check to: Northwoods Lutheran CORE, 21 Mesnard St. L'Anse, MI 49946

ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF EXCELLENT ESSAYS. LAST MONTH, DR. TIMOTHY WENGERT. THIS MONTH ---

DR. DAVID YEAGO: IN THE AFTERMATH

(EXCERPTED BELOW)

HOW DO WE LIVE NOW?

I'm writing for those who share with me the conviction that the actions taken by the Assembly on human sexuality constitute a theological, ethical, ecclesiological, and ecumenical disaster of immense proportions. I'm not going to make the case for viewing those actions in that way; that has been done repeatedly and very capably by others in the debates that preceded the Assembly. I am writing for those who are already convinced, whom I will call traditionalists.

The question I want to address is "How do we live now?" Is this the "break-point," the point at which, as one good friend put it in private correspondence, we must judge that this branch of the church has died and withered? What future can traditionalists in the ELCA look forward to besides contempt, irrelevance, and dwindling numbers? I want to address this, moreover, not as a question about organization and strategy, but as a spiritual question, a question about how we are to live our faith in a fallen and erring church.....

I find myself already called to an examination of conscience here. Have I done justice to, much less magnified, the faith and good works of people in the church whom I believe have gotten this issue wrong? I know of pastors living in "committed same-sex relationships" who are doing what I cannot describe otherwise than as heroic and exemplary ministry in hard places. What should predominate in my attitude to them, the sin in the relationship or the heroism of the ministry? Should I magnify, make much of, the sin or the faith and good works? Luther seems clear.

More generally, should we jump to describe the assembly's actions as deliberate "heresy and crimes against the Holy Church" or should we regard them as "failings of the weak," a huge mistake by well-meaning but confused Christian brothers and sisters? What does it mean to "put the best construction on my neighbor's actions" (Small Catechism) in this situation?

For pastors, that means: "Do these decisions prevent you from preaching the gospel and building up the people of God as you have been called to do?" "Prevent" is not the same as "make more difficult." Being "prevented" is not the same as being treated as a narrow-minded fossil, feeling alienated, and not seeing a bright future. Likewise, all of us as baptized believers are asked: "Do these decisions prevent you from hearing the gospel and being formed as a disciple of Jesus?" Here again, "prevent" is a word with a precise meaning. It is not the same as "make it harder." Being "prevented" is not the same as feeling unsupported and despised. If we can read the Bible we ought to know full well that such difficulties are just the sort of sandpaper God regularly uses to shape his people.

For myself, I cannot see that these decisions prevent me from continuing to do what I have been charged to do as a seminary teacher. If someone in authority were to tell me that I must suppress what I teach about marriage or the law of God because of these actions, then the situation would change. But that has not happened yet, and I do not know that it will ever happen. Likewise, I do not see that these decisions prevent me from hearing the gospel in my local congregation and being formed there as a disciple. Indeed, if I attend to what Luther says, the Assembly actions give me a great if painful opportunity to learn discipleship, to practice love. It seems rather a distraction to speculate about leaving when I have barely started to learn what I could about following Jesus right where I am.

Here is my dream for the future of traditional Christians in the ELCA. Instead of thinking of ourselves primarily as dissenters and opposition, let us ask God to make of us a movement of repentance and renewal, so that the continuing presence of traditionalists in the ELCA will be a blessing and an adornment for the whole church. Let us traditionalists be the ones who live most deeply in the Scriptures, who bring forth the bread of life most richly from the Scriptures, who let themselves be most drastically challenged and remade by the word of God, who live most intensely in prayer, who are able to teach prayer to others. Let us traditionalists be in the forefront of ministry among the poor, the apparently hopeless, the despised; let us be the ones who volunteer to go to the hard places. Let our revisionist brothers and sisters, let homosexual persons in the church, be conscious when they meet us mostly of how much we care for them, how far we are willing to go for them, of the respect and honor with which we treat them, despite our clear disagreement with aspects of their teaching and/or life.

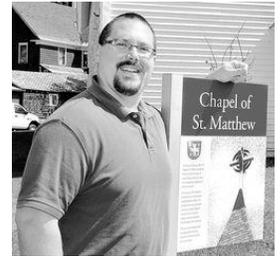
Having written the last paragraph, I have to say that it convicts me down to the ground, which strikes me as a sign that I might be on to something.

TO READ THE ENTIRE ESSAY BY DR. YEAGO, SEE:

www.lutheranspersisting.wordpress.com/david-yeago-in-the-aftermath/

November 2009

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"

Sharing Faith And Fellowships Through Athletics

Recently, I met up with some students and employees at Finlandia who approached me on the subject of sports, athletes, coaches and faith. They were looking for a way to help respond to a need they have noticed – that of building and encouraging the faith life and spiritual values from within athletics.

Coming from an athletic background of being a wrestler, I understood their need. Many aspects of athletics can relate very well to the stories, struggles and triumphs in faith. I always looked at my wrestling practices and matches partly through the eyes of my life in Christ. I would wrestle not with the intent of doing harm or to belittle and embarrass my opponent, but rather to do my best and ensure that 'win, lose or draw' - I would look to show God's work through my hands! I thank God for meetings my former competitors like Bobby DeMay and Able Chouinard who are filled with the Spirit!

In my search and discussions for another outlet to share Christ - the students, myself and others worked on developing a new venue at Finlandia, as an Officially Certified FCA Campus. 'Fellowship of Christian Athletes' became a new way to come together ecumenically, while reaching out to more of those in need.

I encourage you this month to reach out to your local athletes and coaches. Let them be aware of your support and your prayers. Remind them that they can all compete AND pray together. Maybe you (as an 'athlete', 'coach', or 'spectator') can even look to recite this FCA Creed together:

The Competitor's Creed

I am a Christian first and last. I am created in the likeness of God Almighty to bring Him glory. I am a member of Team Jesus Christ. I wear the colors of the cross. I am a Competitor now and forever. I am made to strive, to strain, to stretch and to succeed in the arena of competition. I am a Christian Competitor and as such, I face

my challenger with the face of Christ. I do not trust in myself. I do not boast in my abilities or believe in my own strength. I rely solely on the power of God. I compete for the pleasure of my Heavenly Father, the honor of Christ and the reputation of the Holy Spirit.

My attitude on and off the field is above reproach—my conduct beyond criticism. Whether I am preparing, practicing or playing; I submit to God's authority and those He has put over me. I respect my coaches, officials, teammates and competitors out of respect for the Lord.

My body is the temple of Jesus Christ. I protect it from within and without. Nothing enters my body that does not honor the Living God. My sweat is an offering to my Master. My soreness is a sacrifice to my Savior.

I give my all - all of the time. I do not give up. I do not give in. I do not give out. I am the Lord's warrior - a competitor by conviction and a disciple of determination. I am confident beyond reason because my confidence lies in Christ. The result of my efforts must result in His glory.

LET THE COMPETITION BEGIN.
LET THE GLORY BE GOD'S.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Campus Events and Activities

Mid-Late October:

- Oct. 14 - Blessing of the Athletes & Coaches
 - F.C.A. (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) 'Field of Faith' @ Condon Field
- Oct. 18 - F.C.A. "Huddles" begin
- Oct. 21 - Guest: Pr. Bucky Beach
Musical Guests: Carla Phillips, Nicole Frantti, Tara Nancarrow
- Oct. 28 - Guest: Fr. Augustin George

November:

- Nov. 4 - Guest: Cpt. Mark Brown
- Nov. 6-7 - Retreat @ Fortune Lake
- Nov. 9 - Guest: Charlie Kemppainen
- Nov. 11 - Guest: Pr. Pete Gundersen
- Nov. 17-20 - Voc./Ed. Seminary Trip

Recurring Events:

- ◇ Chapel (12:30pm-1pm; M & W)
- ◇ Student-led Monday
- ◇ Communion Wed.
- ◇ Campus Ministry Meetings every other Wednesday, 8:30pm
- ◇ F.C.A. "Huddles": Sundays, 8pm
- ◇ Chapel "Praise Team" practice, Mondays, 12:00pm
- ◇ Women's Bible Study: Thursdays, 6:30pm

University Chaplain's Corner

Believe in yourself.

Jesus believed in Himself 100%. He believed in Himself and his mission to his very core. Know that 100% belief in yourself is not arrogance. Would you call Christ arrogant? The difference lies within how you personally share your confidence. Is your confidence what assists you to selflessness or arrogance?

How much DO you believe in yourself?

Why might you be afraid to believe 100% in yourself?

What do you think would happen?

Jesus believed in himself 100%. How can we, with God, achieve this?

Excerpts from "Jesus CEO—Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership"
-Soren Schmidt, University Chaplain





A Year of Prayer...
A Lifetime of Praying!

prayfaithfully@nglsynod.org
www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully

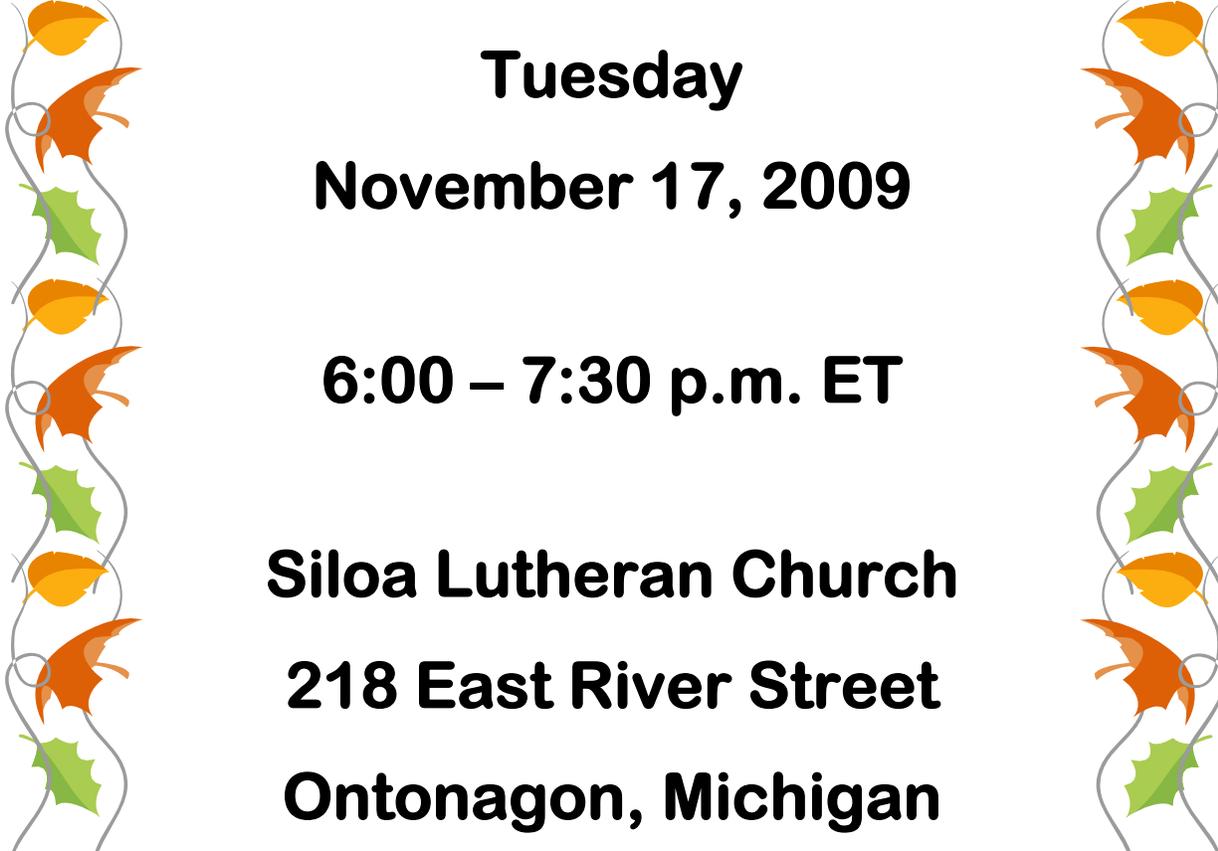
Prayer Calendar - November 2009

1	Pray for those pastors attending the Sabbath Project Retreat - " <i>Seasons of Life</i> " - these days, along with presenter Pastor Lee Goodwin .
2	 <p>On this All Saints' Day, remember those who have gone before us – their care and nurture, their love and strength, their faithful witness and example – gifts to us of God's grace. Thanks be to God!</p> <p><i>All Saints' Day</i></p>
3	Pray for those attending the First Call Theological Conference in Wisconsin these days.
4	Pray for Pastor Dorothy Lindstrom and the members of Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner, WI as they celebrate 7 years of ministry together .
5	Pray for those attending and those presenting at the " Stubbing Your Tax Toe " Workshop . Pray also for the board members from LSTC, Wartburg and Trinity Seminaries who meet these days.
6	 <p>November is National Adoption Month. Pray for those children who are now part of a family and have a sense of belonging. Pray for those children who continue to be a part of God's family, while they wait for a Mom & Dad. Pray for those adults who open their homes and hearts and receive the gift of a child.</p>
7	Pray for the members of Christus Victor, Parkville MD (Rev Joe Skillman) , Faith, Cockeysville MD (Rev Greg Fetzer) , and Grace, Hamilton MD (pastor) . Pray also for the members of the Synod Endowment Board who meet this day.
8	Pray for those attending the Cooper Country Conference Fall Conference Meeting
9	Pray for Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Jennie Johnson-Wrege as she celebrates her 24th anniversary of ordination this day. We thank God for her ministry among us.
10	Pray for our Synod Staff as they meet this day – <i>Bishop Tom Skrenes, Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Jennie Johnson-Wrege, Kay Benedict, Louise Ingalls, Betsy Koski, Wendy Black and Roger Knuth</i> .
11	Pray for the members of the Synod Worship Committee who meet this day.
12	 <p>In these days of stewardship emphases, pray that we will be wise stewards of the resources God has given to us – our time, ourselves, and our possessions – and that we will give back to God the first fruits in thanks for His presence and love in our lives.</p> <p><i>Give unto the Lord</i></p>
13	Pray for our young people attending, their adult chaperones, and the staff presenting at the Jr. High Retreat at Fortune Lake Camp these days.
14	Pray for the members of Grace, Gwinn and Pastor George Candea-Kromm as they celebrate the 105th anniversary of the congregation this day as well as beginning ministry together . Pray also for those attending the Evergreen Conference Fall Conference Meeting

15	Pray for the members of Mt Zion, Sharpsburg MD (Rev Blaine Feightner), Salem, Baltimore MD (Rev Barbara Melosh), St James, Union Bridge MD (Rev Dick Michael), and St John of Sweet Air, Phoenix MD (Revs David Asplin & John Seltzer).
16	Pray for Bishop Thomas Skrenes as he celebrates his 28th anniversary of ordination this day. We thank God for his ministry among us. Pray also for Pastor Jim Wendt (Our Savior's, Marinette WI) as he celebrates his 1st anniversary of ordination and ministry together in this congregation.
17	Pray for the members of Trinity, Ishpeming and Pastor Kenneth Lahners as they celebrate the 138th anniversary of the congregation this day. Pray also for Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege and her colleagues attending the Region 5 Directors for Evangelical Mission meeting in Dubuque IA these days.
18	Pray for the spouses of our deceased pastors – <i>Ruth Groth</i> and <i>Toini Heikkinen</i>
19	Pray for the members of Tandika Lutheran Church (Rev Kumbuka Pori), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS companion congregation Faith, Sault Ste Marie (Rev Barry Levine).
20	Pray for the members of St Mark, Baltimore MD (Rev Dale Dusman), St Michael, Perry Hall, MD (Revs John Mohan & Karen Gray), and St Paul, Highlandtown MD (pastor).
21	Pray for Pastor-Elect Jean Schmidt on her ordination to Word and Sacrament Ministry this day at First, Gladstone to serve at Bethany, Perkins.
22	 <p>Rejoice! Christ the King is here, in our midst, on his throne, on the cross. Give thanks to God this day for Christ the King, the crucified.</p>
23	Pray for Pastor Kevin Kaiser and the members of Bethany, Amasa and Trinity, Stambaugh .
24	Pray for the members of Holy Trinity, Chassell and Interim Pastors Peter Gundersen & Jimalee Jones as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
25	Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – <i>Pastor Bob & Deloris Langseth</i> and <i>Pastor Wally & Alice Leno</i> .
26	 <p>We give thanks this day for the blessings God has bestowed upon us - the blessings we see around us in our daily lives, the blessings that we overlook, and most of all the blessings of hope which we have in our Lord Jesus Christ.</p>
27	Pray for the members of St Peter, Eastpoint MD (Rev Bob Harvey), St Philip, Wilmington DE (Rev Patrick Downes), Tree of Life, Middletown DE (Rev Jennifer Carlson), and Trinity, Smithsburg MD (Rev Gerald Johnson).
28	Pray for Bishop Skrenes , his wife Luanne , and the other Bishops and spouses who will travel to Israel these next days returning December 9.
29	 <p>Advent I – give thanks for the gift of faith, and ask for the renewal of the Holy Spirit in your life.</p>
30	Pray for Pastor Judy Mai and the members of Immanuel, Escanaba as they begin their ministry together .

“Reflections on the Churchwide Assembly 2009”

With Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes



Tuesday
November 17, 2009
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. ET
Siloa Lutheran Church
218 East River Street
Ontonagon, Michigan

**Discussion with “Questions and Answers”
about the Churchwide Assembly adoption of the
human sexuality Social Statement and
Ministry Recommendations**



“All Are Welcome!”

