

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 22, Issue 12 & Volume 23, Issue 1

DECEMBER 2009 & JANUARY 2010

ADVENT*CHRISTMAS*EPIPHANY



Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes
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As each day disappears deep into yet another year, and each year soon becomes a decade; as a bathroom mirror daily reveals the brutal truth - a new wrinkle, yet another graying hair; as a family grows into their own futures generating life anew; as a parent watches her parents age and die; as hope is renewed with every smile;

As time goes by...

In the midst of winter nights, with the aches of age leaping about, the question asks itself again and again, "Now what?"



For a hundred generations in a thousand languages, the writer of Hebrews responds to this frail inquiry by mortals all: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever".

Jesus is the meaning of life and time!



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THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

VISITING THE HOLY LAND!

“It is our hope that this journey will teach us much...”

My wife, Luanne, and I will be in Israel and the Palestinian territories from November 28th to December 9th. We are a part of a group of ten ELCA Bishops and eight Bishops' spouses who will be meeting with Palestinian Christians, Jewish and Muslim leaders, as well as visiting several sites that are important in Bible history in Israel and the West Bank. You may recall that this trip was postponed last January because of the violence that occurred in Gaza. It is our hope that this journey will teach us much about the current situation in the Holy Land and, that by visiting with Christians, Jews and Muslims, we will become more acquainted with the realities of daily life in the land where Jesus walked. Much of my trip as Bishop is funded by the Synod Endowment Fund. Luanne's experience and some of my trip is funded by the Skrenes' family budget. During my absence, Pastor Jennifer Johnson Wrege will be available for any Synod needs. You may reach her at the Synod Office. Please pray for us that the Holy Spirit might walk with us in the steps of our Lord Jesus.

**A blessed
Christmas
and New
Year to all!**



THANKING GOD FOR BISHOP JERRY KNOCKE

It was my privilege as Bishop of this Synod to preach at the service celebrating the ministry of the Delaware-Maryland Bishop Jerry Knocke. Bishop Knocke left office at the end of October and the pastors and people of Delaware-Maryland gathered for a festive worship service on Sunday, November 8, 2009 at Christ Inner Harbor Church in Baltimore. It

THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

was a wonderful time of great music and God's Word! We thanked God for Bishop Knocke and sent him on his way into retirement.

Bishop Knocke retired in the middle of his term for health reasons. He will be having surgery on both knees in January and expects an extensive rehabilitation period. Bishop Knocke was with us at our 2004 Synod Assembly when we met in Ironwood.

Some of our pastors may also remember Bishop Knocke when he served in the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. He was the senior campus pastor at the University of Wisconsin in Madison where I first met him. He was my campus pastor from 1974 to 1976. In Baltimore earlier this month, I brought greetings from our Synod and our best wishes for a long and productive retirement for Bishop Knocke. The Delaware-Maryland Synod and our Northern Great Lakes Synod are domestic companion Synods. A new Bishop in Delaware-Maryland will be elected in January.

NOTES AND QUOTES NEWSLETTER NEW PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

This newsletter, *Notes and Quotes*, has been published ten times a year in paper format. Beginning in 2010, the newsletter will be published every other month, six times a year. The Synod E-Notes and website have facilitated electronic communication within the Synod, and now allows us to reduce costs by publishing a written newsletter less often. About 950 individual addressees receive this written newsletter. Notes and Quotes will be published on February 1, April 1, June 1, August 1, October 1 and December 1. Congregations will receive a consolidated congregational mailing from the Synod Office mid-month in January, March, May, July, September and November.

In 2010, our hope is to totally redesign the Synod newsletter and to provide options on electronic reception of the newsletter only. As always, we welcome your thoughts on content and style.

**ADVOCACY AND
ACTION
JUSTICE AND PEACE
CONFERENCE WITH THE
EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY**

On Saturday, January 9, 2010, the Justice and Peace Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan will sponsor a conference entitled, "Manifesting God in the Public Realm: A Conference on Advocacy and Action." It will be an opportunity for Episcopalians and Lutherans to gather to learn about being advocates in the public square (in our neighborhoods, in our towns, cities and state) when it comes to issues that are near our hearts. We will gather to hear from Pastor Ben Baldus, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan and Amy Johnson, Director of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. They will lead the conference at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Marquette, beginning at 10:00 a.m. ET. Lunch will be provided

There will be four workshops during the day. They include "Biblical and Theological Considerations for Advocacy, Michigan's Economic Situation and its Impact on Public Policy, Episcopalians and Lutherans as Advocacy Partners, and Upper Peninsula Issues for Lansing and Washington D.C. This conference will inform the work of the All Michigan Episcopal Network Michigan's three ELCA Synods.

We are called to action as Christians here in the Upper Peninsula. We invite you to join us Saturday, January 9, 2010, at St. Paul's (10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET) for the conference. To register, please call the diocesan office at 800-236-0087, or email Jane Cislucyis at jane@upepiscopal.org by Monday, January 4, 2010.

TRANSITIONS

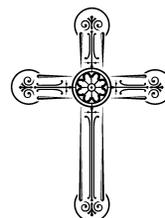
+Congratulations to **Pastor Jean Schmidt (Bethany, Perkins)** on her ordination into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at First Lutheran in Gladstone. It was a great day! God bless our newest pastor.

+Our sympathy to **Bishop-Emeritus Dale Skogman (Retired, Gladstone)** on the death of his sister, Anita Johnson. Both Bishop Skogman and his sister were nurtured in the faith at Zion Lutheran in Felch where Anita was recently laid to rest. Our help is in the name of the Lord!

+God bless **Pastor Nancy Amacher** who has now retired and transferred to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Pastor Amacher and her husband live in Withee, Wisconsin.

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop



Thank You

Lutheran World Relief

Trinity, Rapid River

Zion, St. Ignace

Faith, White Pine

Zion, Marinette

Holy Trinity, Chassell

Calvary, Rapid River

Prince of Peace, Marquette

Lay School for Mission

Trinity, Rapid River

Sabbath Project

Christ the King, Escanaba

Emmanuel, Menominee

World Missionary Support

Bethel, Ishpeming

Trinity, Rhinelander

Trinity, Stambaugh

Calvary, Rapid River

Malaria Net Project

St. Paul's, Mass City

Our Saviour's, Iron Mountain

Ascension, Minocqua

Companion Synod

Grace, South Range

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Bethel, Ishpeming

Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood

Emanuel, Skandia

Grace, Gwinn

Bethany, Amasa

Kisarawe

Bethel, Ishpeming

Seminarian Support

Calvary, Minocqua

Holy Trinity, Chassell

Mission Outreach

Bethel, Ishpeming

Salem, Ironwood

Answer the Call

Bishop Thomas & Luanne Skrenes





+ From the Assistant to the Bishop +

Pastor Jennifer Johnson Wrege



When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said,

"This is a deserted place, and the hour

is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them,

"They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."

And he said, "Bring them here to me."

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five

loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke

the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them

to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what

was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

Matthew 14:14-20

Recently, I sat down at the kitchen table with my 10-year old grandson, Blake, to help him with a bit of homework in math. Blake is in fifth grade. He is an average student who had ten math problems to figure out that night involving perimeters and areas. Perimeters were easy – no problem! But when we got to problem number 9 where Blake was asked to determine the area of a parallelogram described (no diagram!) as having a height of four inches with one side five inches and the other side seven inches, Blake was stumped and so was I! I felt like a contestant on *Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?* Apparently the answer is a resounding NO! I had to write a note on Blake's assignment book that I didn't know how to help him with problem #9 and signed it pathetically - *Grandma*. I wanted to note in parenthesis that I had a master's level degree from a Lutheran seminary, that I've been a pastor for many years, that I currently serve as

an assistant to the Bishop in the NGLS and had been a math whiz in high school, but I did not.

It's not the first time I've felt inadequate to a task. I sympathize easily with the disciples who were asked to provide a meal for this huge crowd of five thousand plus people with only five loaves of bread and a couple of fish. It would appear that there is just no way it's going to happen given the extremely meager resources in the face of the huge need for a hungry crowd so large. Then Jesus instructs them, "Bring them here to me." And, guess what? It happens – with leftovers in abundance!

Already I've had conversations with friends and family about what IS NOT going to happen at Christmas this year. "Times are tough and we have to cut back," seems to be the norm. There won't be as much travel. There won't be as many gifts under the tree and the gifts that are there won't be extravagant. The food won't be as plentiful, especially the treats. It will be a "pared down" Christmas this year.

I wonder where we ever got the idea that the "success" of any given Christmas has to do with what is under the tree, what lands in our tummies, or is dependent on what we spend on travel. I wonder how it is that we so quickly get to something like, "We only have here five loaves and two fish," or "We only have here....whatever."

It's more than viewing the glass half empty or half full. It's coming to the recognition that somewhere there is an abundance of whatever is needed even if that abundance is currently out of our sight. It's coming to the realization that this abundance comes to us from God. It's grasping that the great gift from God in Jesus Christ whose incarnation and birth we celebrate on December 24th and 25th, as well as make preparations a full four weeks ahead of time during Advent, is to save and bless the world – which miraculously includes each of us.

May your Advent and Christmas be filled with an abundance of God's love, grace and peace!

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

"From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." (John 1:16)

Our trust is in God to provide for all our needs as we close the tenth month of the year more than \$38,000 below October 31, 2008 in mission support giving. We strongly encourage all our congregations to make every effort to meet their 2009 pledged support. It is our privilege to do God's work here in this Synod, and our partnership allows that work to happen. Thank you for your timely and generous gifts.

Please note: January 14, 2010 is the last day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that 2009 benevolence gifts can be credited to 2009 giving.

Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 10/31	2008	2009	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	1,032,591	1,005,571	-27,020	-2.6%
Amount Received	764,563	726,414	-38,149	-5%
Designated Gifts	157,414	159,506	+2,092	+1.3%



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Dec. 2009 & Jan. 2010

ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER
2009 / JANUARY 2010

www.prayfaithfully.org

- Nov. 29-Dec. 5 / Dewey Lindstrom, Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Dec. 6-12 / Heather Oysti, First United Methodist Church, Crystal Lake, Illinois
Dec. 13-19 / Pastor Dean Marin, Ascension, Minocqua
Dec. 20-26 / Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes, Northern Great Lakes Synod
Dec. 27-Jan. 2 / Pastor Jennifer Johnson Wrege, Northern Great Lakes Synod
Jan. 3-9 / Karen Kallio
Jan. 10-16 / Steve Olson, Lutheran Social Services
Jan 17-23 / JoAnne Barrix, Faith, Rock
Jan. 24-30 / Jean Sovey, Bethany, Escanaba
Jan. 31-Feb. 6 / First, Ewen; Our Saviour, Paynesville; Trinity, Trout Creek

ANOTHER EXCELLENT ESSAY IN A SERIES OF REFLECTIONS ON THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS REGARDING SEXUALITY:

**ELCA Ordination of Persons in Same Sex
Committed Relationships**
*Pastor David Preus, former Bishop of the
American Lutheran Church*

I am an opponent, past and present, of the ELCA decision to ordain persons in a same sex committed relationship. I have been asked what I intend to do as a result of the ELCA action affirming such ordination. My first answer is simple. I am and intend to remain a faithful, fully participating and supporting member of the ELCA. I do not believe this matter is of sufficient, confessional import to require division among disagreeing brethren. There are faithful, Bible believing, confessional Lutherans on both sides of this issue. The debate will continue. My second answer is that I am a dissenter with respect to the action taken. Continuing dissent is not for me a new reaction to ELCA decisions. I am also a dissenter and outspoken critic of the ELCA action with regard to Called to Common Mission, which I consider to be a greater mistake than the ordination decision. I do not, however, consider either issue to be of such confessional import that it should lead me or anyone else to separate ourselves from our fellow members who disagree with us. My suspicion is that most ELCA members dissent from some portion or another of ELCA organizational and ethical traditions. I do not believe such differences rise to the level of confessional disagreement.

It is my conviction that a distinction must be made between issues that bear directly on the heart of the Christian faith and issues that are comparatively peripheral. I do not believe the issue at hand threatens the gospel of God. The Lutheran Confessions do not explicitly address the issue. That is not to say that comparatively peripheral matters are unimportant. It is to say that there is room for disagreement on various issues that are important but not all-important. My ancestral church body, the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, came into being as a result of a church merger in which the members declared their unity in spite of strong, differing convictions regarding predestination. Those differing convictions have continued to this day. It is such an example that I believe to be appropriate in regard to both the Called to Common Mission and homosexual ordination.

There are, however, grounds for opposing the ordination of persons in same sex committed relationships. The action of the ELCA Assembly has not changed them. I here list reasons that led me to oppose the action.

1. The ELCA constituency is deeply conflicted with respect to Scripture interpretation and authority. Taking definitive action to change church polity and ethical positions in the face of that conflict is an invitation to continuing conflict. Clearly the re-interpretation of salient Biblical passages has not been found convincing by large numbers of ELCA members. The interpretation of the relevant Bible passages is the main issue and the two documents, Human Sexuality – Gift and Trust and Report and Recommendations simply conclude that there are “different opinions” without a thorough examination of the pertinent Bible passages.

2. A fundamental flaw is that the two above named documents do not base their recommendation for change on a careful exegesis of contested Biblical texts. Rather the recommendations are made in order to accommodate everyone's "bound conscience." Lutherans have insisted that the conscience is bound by Scripture. The question is not whether or not the conscience is bound but whether it is bound by the Scriptures.
3. An overwhelming majority of church bodies in the ecumenical church believe that faithfulness to the Scriptures demands opposition to ordination of persons in same sex committed relationships. Their voices have barely been noticed in ELCA documents.
4. The two kingdoms concept should have received greater attention in the ELCA documents. Sexuality is not a matter of salvation, God's kingdom on the right. Sexual ethics belong to God's kingdom on the left which deals with the good of society.
5. Proponents of ordination of persons in same sex committed relationships, to my knowledge, have not responded to the widespread charge that the relevant ELCA documents ground ethical action on the gospel rather than the law. In the opening section the ELCA document does describe the Lutheran understanding of the law and briefly mentions Luther's understanding of the two kingdoms, but in the subsequent discussion of sexuality (III-VII) neither the law nor the two kingdom concept is mentioned at all.
6. The virtually unanimous witness of Christians for 2,000 years declares opposition to homosexual practice on the basis of Biblical injunctions. For the ELCA to take solo action in the face of such heavy historic consensus suggest that the ELCA has some superior insight in the matter. I am not aware of the bulk of ELCA members being given opportunity to hear the reasoning of non-Lutheran Christians or even from partner Lutheran churches who are overwhelmingly opposed to the ELCA action.
7. The assertion that the change in ELCA ordination of persons in same sex committed relationships is comparable to historic changes made in matters of slavery, adultery or the ordination of women is highly debatable. Each of those issues must be dealt with on its own.

Looking to the future the good news is that congregations will have to make their own way in dealing with this matter. This puts the ultimate decision where it should be --- in the basic unit of Christ's church, the local congregation.

SEASONS OF THE PASTORAL LIFE RETREATS

(For Clergy, AIMs, and LLM's Only)

The Seasons of the Pastoral Life retreat series is underway and there is still room for 8 more rostered leaders to participate in the remaining retreats – either all of them or just one. These Sabbath time retreats are an opportunity to step apart from the demands of the parish life – to rest and to remember what is at the heart of the noble calling of pastoral leadership and to listen for the heart of God which speaks to each of us.

Winter Retreat

February 28 - March 2, 2010
Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

**Registration Deadline is
February 14, 2010**

Spring Retreat

May 9 – 11, 2010
Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

**Registration Deadline is
April 25, 2010**

Summer Retreat

July 25 – 27, 2010
St. Norbert Abbey, Green Bay, WI

**Registration Deadline is
July 11, 2010**

Voices for Youth CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Bedroom/Bat Items

- Twin Sheet Sets
- Mirrors for Bedrooms (wall or doors)
- Alarm Clocks
- Pictures for Bedroom Walls
- Bath Towel Sets

Kitchen Item

- Can Openers
- Dish Sets
- Mops, Brooms, Buckets, etc.
- Kitchen Towels
- Pots and Pans

Children's Toys

- Toys for infants and toddlers
(for our youth who are parenting)



Other Household Items

- Area Rugs
- Coat Rack (wooden)
- Craft and Art Supplies (gift card to Michael's)
- Board Games
- DVD Movies
- Gift Cards
- Phone Cards

Personal Items

- Socks
- Sweatshirts
- Bath Soaps
- Shaving Kit
- Comb/Brush
- Curling Iron/Hair Straightener
- Slippers



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

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Prayer Calendar - December 2009

1	Pray for Pastor Eugene Wickman and the members of Grace, Pembine as they celebrate 6 years of ministry together . Pray also for the members of the Evangelism Committee who meet this day.
2	Pray for Pastor John Kuziej , his wife Jeannette , and the members of Pioneer Lake, Conover WI .
3	Pray for the members of Bethel, Frederick MD (Rev Bob Lehman) , Community, Omar DE (Rev John Barton) , Faith, Salisbury MD (Rev Mark Henry) , and Good Shepherd, Wilmington DE (Rev Tom Swears) .
4	Pray for our Sunday School children who learn about God's word each week and who anticipate the birth of baby Jesus in these next days.
5	Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – <i>Ingmar Levin and Thomas & Ora Lindblad</i> .
6	 Advent II – continue to walk in hope, as you move toward the manger, keeping your eyes on the child, the child who will fulfill that hope on the cross of Good Friday. Pray also for Pastor Jean Schmidt and the members of Bethany, Perkins as she is installed this day.
7	Pray for the members of the World Hunger Committee who meet this day.
8	Pray for Pastor Jim Chinery , his wife Beth and their children , and the members of First, Iron Mountain .
9	Pray for the members of Bethany, Negaunee and Interim Pastor Marcia Solberg during this time of pastoral vacancy .
10	Pray for our seminarians who are studying at Luther, St Paul MN, Wartburg, Dubuque IA, and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, IL as they prepare to preach the word, baptize, and share the sacraments throughout the ELCA.
11	Pray for those participating in the Bi-Synodical Candidacy Committee meeting and those who will be future leaders of our church .
12	Pray for the members of Grace, Hockessin DE (Rev Paul Lundmark) , Hope, Middleborough MD (Rev Charlie Marshall) , Luther Memorial, Baltimore MD (Rev Lois Nehmer) , and New Hope, Columbia MD (Rev Katrina Holland) .
13	 Advent III – as you come closer to the manger at Bethlehem get ready to come face to face with the ultimate gift of love – the presence of God in Immanuel, “God with us!”
14	Pray for the members of Azania Front Cathedral (Rev Ernest Kadiva) , Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS companion congregation Messiah, Marquette (Revs David VanKley & Tim Bernard) .
15	Pray for those attending the Advent Gathering for Retired Clergy, spouses and spouses of deceased pastors .

16	Pray for those attending the Synod Office Volunteer Recognition and Christmas gathering .
17	Pray for the members of the Finance Committee who meet this day.
18	Pray for Seminarian Dave Johnson , senior at Luther Seminary, as he celebrates his birthday this day.
19	 Pray for all the baptized , that this day and every day they may be found to be faithful to the calling of the child of Bethlehem.
20	 Advent IV – as you take the final steps to the manger joyfully lift up prayers of thanks for the fulfillment of all of God’s promises in the Christ Child.
21	Pray for Pastor Nickolas Johannes , his wife Judy , and the members of Beaver American (Pound WI) & Porterfield (Porterfield WI) .
22	Pray for the members of Salem, Catonsville MD (Rev Ed Whetstone) , St John, Brooklyn MD (Rev Neil O’Farrell) , St John, Thurmont MD (Rev Judy Moller) , and St Mark, Hagerstown MD (Rev Dave Kaplan) .
23	Pray for our Synod Staff , our Synod Council , and the members of our Synod committees as they work tirelessly for all of us across the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the whole church.
24	 Pray that this evening the light that shines in the darkness may shine again in and through you as you carry the wonder of this evening with you this day – and throughout the coming year
25	 Pray this day that the Prince of Peace may stir the hearts of men and women the world over, that throughout the world, in our own country, our communities and our own homes love and care for each other may rule.
26	Pray for Pastor Paul Mai , his wife Pastor Judy and their children , and the members of Bethany, Escanaba .
27	Pray for those who volunteer for Adults Saving Kids and those young people whose lives are touched.
28	Pray for the spouses of our deceased pastors – <i>Jane Magnuson and Valdora Otto</i> .
29	Pray for the members of St Paul, Jefferson MD (Rev Ginny Price) , St Paul, Aberdeen MD (Rev Neale Wirtanen) , St Peter, Fullerton MD (Rev Mark Crispell) , and Trinity, Boonsboro MD (Rev Joe Donovan) .
30	Pray for the ministries of Lutheran Social Services in our synod – especially for those parents and children who become families through the adoption services.
31	 Offer a prayer of thanks for the opportunities and gifts of the past year – and for courage and insight as the year ahead unfolds.



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

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Prayer Calendar - January 2010

1	 <p>Pray that this new year may find you to be a faithful disciple of Jesus in all that you do. Ask for God's gifts, guidance, and grace as you walk your path of life and faith.</p>
2	<p>Pray for Pastor Warren Geier, his wife Kathy, and the members of Bethany, Ishpeming.</p>
3	<p>Pray for the members of Christ the King, Escanaba and Interim Pastor Len Gilley as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy.</p>
4	<p>Pray for men's ministries in our synod – that they may take root in prayer and Bible study and grow.</p>
5	<p>Pray for the members of Bethel, North East MD (Rev Jack Little), Braddock & St Paul, Burkittsville MD (Rev Kimberly Nunberg), and Grace English, Lutherville MD (Rev Carl Myers).</p>
6	 <p>Pray that as the Magi brought gifts of great value to the newborn king, you too would be willing to share not what's left over, but that which you hold of value.</p>
7	<p>Pray for Pastor David Christenson and the members of St Stephen's, Stephenson as they celebrate 14 years of ministry together this day</p>
8	<p>Pray for those participating in the Ice Fishing Weekend at Fortune Lake Camp these days.</p>
9	<p>Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors in our synod – <i>Elizabeth Peterson and Helen Rankinen</i>.</p>
10	 <p>As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord remember that in your baptism, you are a child of God. You are claimed, held, nurtured and blessed by a good and loving God who sends you into the world to witness the love of Jesus.</p>
11	<p>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>.</p>
12	<p>Pray for the members of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee who meet this day.</p>
13	<p>Pray for the members of Community/St Dysmas, Jessup MD (pastor), First, Ellicott City MD (Revs Glenn Ludwig, Gigie Sijera-Grant & Jon Hundt), and Our Redeemer, Glen Burnie MD (Rev Alan Traher).</p>
14	<p>Pray for the Women of the ELCA and women's ministries in our synod.</p>
15	 <p>Pray for our nation – and our world – that divisions of race, culture, and even faith may be overcome, not by power and violence, but by love and care for all of God's children! Pray also for the members of the Synod Council who meet these days.</p>

16	Pray for the members of Bethany Lutheran, Mohawk and Pastor Lloyd Luedeman as they celebrate the 102nd anniversary of the congregation this day. Pray also for the Synodical Women's Organization Task Force who meet this day. Pray for those attending the FLAME Event at Fortune Lake.
17	Pray for Pastor Fran Strong , his wife Grace and the members of Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood – St Paul, Salem, Zion, St John.
18	 <p>The Confession of St. Peter – this day begins the week of prayer for Christian unity. Pray that all who confess that which Peter confessed – that Jesus is the Messiah – may come together as partners in the work of the gospel!</p>
19	Pray for the members of Christ, Shingleton and Interim Pastor Dick Hueter.
20	Pray for the members of Magothy-Chelsea, Pasadena MD (Rev John Lynch), Salem, jarrettsville MD (Revs David Myers & Jurgen Hilke), and St John, Westminster MD (Rev John Morrill)
21	Pray for the members of All Saints, Wakefield and Pastor Nancy Kauppi as they celebrate the 30th anniversary as a merged congregation – <i>Immanuel and First Lutheran, Wakefield</i> . Pray also for the members of the Worship Committee who meet this day.
22	Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – <i>Norm & Wenona Lund and Dale & Jo Skogman.</i>
23	Pray for our seminaries – the professors, administrators and support staff – as they prepare pastors and teachers and missionaries to go out into the world and proclaim God's word.
24	Pray for Pastor James Duehring , his wife Gisele , and the members of Prince of Peace, Harvey.
25	The Conversion of St. Paul – this day as the week of prayer for Christian unity ends , pray that as Paul heard Jesus call him to faithful service, all of us may hear that call too and respond to God's call for love and care for each other. Pray also 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>
26	Pray for Pastor Barb Girod and the members of Faith, Three Lakes WI as they celebrate 6 years of ministry together this day.
27	Pray for the members of Mbezi Beach Lutheran Church (Rev Anta Muro), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS companion congregation Eden, Munising (Interim Rev Eleanor Russey).
28	Pray for the members of St John, Columbia MD (Revs Brian Hughes & Mike McQuaid), St Mark, Hampstead MD (Rev George Tuttle), St Paul, Leitersburg MD (pastor), and St Peter, Hampstead MD (pastor).
29	Pray for Pastor Gerald Wittmus , his wife Nancy & their daughters , and the members of Zion, Allenville and Bethel, Cedarville.
30	Pray for the members of the Synod Nominating Committee who meet this day.
31	Pray for those who volunteer for Adults Saving Kids and those young people who lives are touched.