



**NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Marquette, Michigan

[nngls@nnglsynod.org](mailto:nngls@nnglsynod.org)

**E-Notes for February 16, 2016**

## The Season of Lent

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"For Luther, preaching was not a preacher's ideas stimulated by the prod of a text. It was not human reflections about God and life...Christian preaching - when it is faithful to the word of God in the Scriptures about our need and God's response to it - is God speaking...just as surely as if Christ himself had spoken it."  
--- Dr. Fred Meuser, "Luther the Preacher"



### OUR TRAP

*"What the Tempter was saying was, 'Compromise! Come to terms with me! Don't pitch your demands quite so high. Wink just a little at evil and questionable things.'"*

*-William Barclay*

Immediately after his baptism, Jesus went into the desert. His 40 day retreat was punctuated by three assaults from the devil. The devil sets a trap and sets Jesus up for disaster. "Just worship me and all this world will be yours," the evil one tells Jesus. "You can have it all. Why just give me

be yours, the evil one tells Jesus. You can have it all. Why, just give me my due Jesus, and everything I have in this world will be yours! You deserve it—you can have it!” Our Lord resists this come on and tells the Devil, in so many words to go to hell!

Our magazines, our newspapers, our radios and televisions are full of advertisements. We are told to buy automobiles, clothing, insurance, computers, toys and everything else that the most productive economic culture in the history of the world can produce. And it can be a big trap! Our credit cards are stressed and our homes have second mortgages. Family paychecks have to pay for two vehicles and a slug of other things that have been sold to us because “we deserve them” or “we have to have them.”

Real stewardship is a lot more than just financially supporting our congregation. Christian Stewardship teaches us that God is concerned about all of what we have, not just the dollars we put in the offering plate. Can we help our people to live in such a way as to allow us all to give 10% of our income to God’s work, save 10% of our income for our futures and live on the remaining 80%? Unless we as a church confront our common obsession to buy, consume and spend we will spend a lifetime in a great financial trap. And worse we will have set an even bigger trap for our children.

## **LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER**

- +For our newly elected congregational lay leaders. May they serve well always with joy in the Gospel.
- +For those who sing anthems, play the organ and direct our choirs. Help us O God to make that joyful noise.
- +For peace in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. For bridge builders and servants of the Prince of Peace.

+For those who grieve, especially Pastor Tracy Polzin at the death of her father.

## **LSS SUNDAY - March 6, 2016**

Celebrate the Mission that Changes People's Lives!

**Join with congregations all across Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to share how your congregation's ministry through LSS is changing lives each and every day.**

*Our work is rewarding and humbling, and in that humility we ask that you:*

- Designate the first Sunday in March as LSS Sunday at your congregation (or another date of your choice).
- Request an LSS staff speaker (as available).
- Confirm your participation and let us know how many offering envelopes we should mail to you.

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY at  
[www.lsswis.org/LSS-Sunday-registration](http://www.lsswis.org/LSS-Sunday-registration).**

Thank you for being a partner in our ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jim Holmberg at 414.325.3069 or [james.holmberg@lsswis.org](mailto:james.holmberg@lsswis.org).

## **PROFESSIONAL LEADERS EVENT**

Synod Sponsored Theological Conference

**Sunday, February 21st & Monday, February 22nd**

at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp  
138 Fortune Lake Camp Road  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

**Starts on Sunday with Registration at 5:00 p.m.  
Ends on Monday after Sending Prayer at 2:00 p.m.**

**Our presenter will be Dr. Hank Langknecht, Homiletics Professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.**

**For more information and to download the register form, go to [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).**



## **MARCH 4-5, 2016 CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT**

Retreat begins with registration at 4:30pm Friday CST with dinner at 5:30pm. The event ends at 2:30pm on Saturday.

Come to this retreat and get energized, learn from other councils, and explore the mission and vision of your congregation.

Cost: \$45/person

[fortunelake.org](http://fortunelake.org)

\*NEW PHONE #: 906-214-CAMP (-2267)\*  
138 Fortune Lake Camp Road  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.....

# **An Adventure for Youth to Travel to Tanzania.**

+ A youth trip (16+ years old) is being planned to visit Tanzania in the summer of 2017. See the Synod's website for more information. This could be a very exciting experience!

## **Congregational Parochial Reports** **(Forms A & C)**

Congregations should have received their Form A & C from the ELCA by now. They are also available on the ELCA's website at this link:

**<https://webapps.elca.org/FormAAndC/Login.aspx>.**

If you do not have a copy of the report mailed by ELCA, you may need to **contact the Synod Office for your password** and congregation's ELCA number. Reports can be submitted directly to the ELCA by filling them out online and the Synod can download them from their.

Or you may fill it out by hand and mail it into the Synod Office to be submitted.

**The deadline is February 20, 2016!!**

Check out [www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org)  
for weekly **"Breath Prayer"**  
and **Daily Devotions**.  
The synod website is [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)

## **TANZANIA PRESENTATION FOR OUR CONGREGATIONS**

Luanne Skrenes is willing to visit your congregation or conference/cluster area in 2016 to do 45-90 minute programs on the Companion Synod work of our synod in Tanzania. Her presentation can be tailored to your specific needs. She is available to speak on the Dental Clinic, Mkuzi Girls School, Kiseruwa School and

Dental Clinic, MKUZA GIRLS SCHOOL, KISARAWA SCHOOL and the whole companion relationship that has enriched our synod work for nearly the past 25 years. Our congregations need to hear of the good ministries that are being done by the people of our congregations and the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The only honorarium needed is an offering for our work together in Tanzania and some mileage.

Please contact Luanne at  
**906.485.5121 or 906.869.6796.**

## **ROSTERED LEADERS REPORT TO THE BISHOP**

Every rostered leader is expected to submit a report to the Synodical Bishop every year. The reports can be found on the ELCA website or by clicking the following links:

### **Clergy Under Call from a Congregation:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Ordained\\_Minister\\_Under\\_Call\\_Fom\\_A\\_Congregation.pdf?  
\\_ga=1.147968880.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_Under_Call_Fom_A_Congregation.pdf?_ga=1.147968880.675730411.1361995271)

### **Clergy On Leave or Disability:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Ordained\\_Minister\\_Not\\_Under\\_Call.pdf?  
\\_ga=1.190152172.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_Not_Under_Call.pdf?_ga=1.190152172.675730411.1361995271)

### **Clergy Retired:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Ordained\\_Minister\\_Retired.pdf?  
\\_ga=1.186257902.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_Retired.pdf?_ga=1.186257902.675730411.1361995271)

### **Clergy Under Call Synod Council:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Ordained\\_Minister\\_From\\_Synod\\_Council\\_Church\\_Council\\_Under\\_Call.pdf?  
\\_ga=1.146551667.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Ordained_Minister_From_Synod_Council_Church_Council_Under_Call.pdf?_ga=1.146551667.675730411.1361995271)

### **A.I.M.s & Licensed Lay Ministers Under Call from a Congregation:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Lay\\_Under\\_Call\\_From\\_A\\_Congregation.pdf?\\_ga=1.176873314.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Lay_Under_Call_From_A_Congregation.pdf?_ga=1.176873314.675730411.1361995271)

### **A.I.M.s Retired:**

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report\\_For\\_Lay\\_Retired.pdf?\\_ga=1.184277601.675730411.1361995271](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Report_For_Lay_Retired.pdf?_ga=1.184277601.675730411.1361995271)

You should be able to fill in the form online, save it to your computer, then attach it to an email to the Synod Bishop (tskrenes@nglsynod.org) or Synod Office (ngls@nglsynod.org). If you are not able to fill it out online, please print it out and fill it in by hand, then mail it to the Synod Office.

Call the office at 906/228-2300 if you have any questions.



### **Room at the Inn**

Room at the Inn is an emergency homeless shelter which moves from church to church on a weekly basis, and is open from the end of September to the end of May.

We serve about 15 - 20 guests each night. We receive our support from churches, from other groups, and from individuals. We do not accept or solicit donations from any

### **Sneaky Visitor Initiative**

**Similar to a Mystery Shopper or an Undercover Boss, you are invited to visit another congregation, preferably where no one knows you (*including the distant cousin and the aunt four times removed*), and evaluate that congregation on their welcome, their worship, their witness, and their building.**

**Evaluation forms are available at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org). Simply go to any NGLS congregation, and after your visit (*please do not fill out the form during the visit*), send the completed forms in to the Synod Office (*either***

governmental agencies. We also provide a Warming Center for our homeless guests and for anyone wanting or needing breakfasts and lunches at no cost.

Contributions such as yours help us to pay our bills certainly but they also encourage us to realize that we have the support of the wider community in our work to help our homeless guests to get back on their feet by finding jobs and/or finding a place to live. Thank you so much for helping us!

For more information, contact Helen McCormick, President Room at the Inn  
347 Rock Street,  
Marquette, MI 49855  
Phone: 906-227-9171  
Fax: 906-228-2469

**electronically or through the mail). The form with your feedback will be sent on to the congregation, and the fact that you sent it (that is, your identity) will remain in confidence at the Synod Office.**

**Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee**



Thinking ahead to

**MARKED!**

4:00 – 7:00pm local time.



Includes worship, learning, fun and food!!

**Feb. 28:** Holy Trinity, Chassell

**March 6:** Prince of Peace, Eagle River

**March 13:** Immanuel, Escanaba

Marked! is a Synod sponsored event to gather in NGLS Confirmation students. This year, we are collecting school supplies for LWR School Kits and local schools. Many of the below items are on sale NOW. If your congregation is collecting for the fall, please keep MARKED in mind, and buy extra.

### **Items needed for LWR School Kits:**

70-sheet notebooks of wide or College ruled X 4

30 centimeter ruler X 1

Pencil sharpener X 1

Blunt scissor X 1

#2 unsharpened pencils X 5

Black/blue ball point pens (no gel pens) X 5

Box of 16 or 24 crayons X 1

2 inch Pencil eraser X 1

Drawstring school bag. Pattern available  
at [www.lwr.org/schoolkits](http://www.lwr.org/schoolkits)

### **Items suggested for local schools:**

Hand sanitizer

Boxes of tissues

Clorox wipes

Folders

Pens/pencils

Erasers

Stickers

Granola bars

Your congregation received a letter with all the details. If you cannot find that letter, call the Synod Office and we'll send you another one, or find it on our website at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org).

Thank you for your support of this embodiment of walking together as a Synod!

## Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Activities

### February 27-28: Family Retreat

(Any type of family unit is welcome.)

### March 4-5: Church Council Retreat

(Individuals or whole councils are welcome.)

### April 8-10: Adoptive Family Retreat

### April 22-24: Adult Retreat

(Focus on Bible study)

### April 29-30: Church Staff Renewal Retreat

(For anyone on your church staff)

For more information about any of these events, please contact FLLC by phone at 906/214-2267 or check out their website at [www.fortunelakelutherancamp.org](http://www.fortunelakelutherancamp.org).

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*E-Notes* is a twice monthly electronic newsletter from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**- Thomas A. Skrenes  
Bishop**