



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

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E-Notes for March 31, 2016

The Season of Easter

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is again best to regard Jesus' Easter evening parting, even his being carried up into heaven, as a foreshadowing of Pentecost...The promises of God have not failed. The reign of God has been renewed through the exaltation of the Messiah, and the commission of his apostles has been restored in terms of Israel's ancient calling: to be witnesses to this Messiah and his righteous reign to the ends of the earth."



- p. 444 "Luke" by David Tiede

From the Bishop:

THE TOMB IS STILL EMPTY

I believe in the power of God. The tomb is still empty.
Christ is still risen! The world is blessed by a loving God

who makes all things new. I do not believe in our congregations, I do not believe in our pastors or lay leaders.

Instead of belief, I trust! I trust our congregations, I trust our pastors, and I trust the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. But as to belief, I believe in God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. I believe in the Holy catholic and Apostolic Church. I believe in the communion of saints and the forgiveness of sins and life with Christ forever. A mighty fortress is not our church on Main Street, on Cherry Street or on Putnam Blvd. A mighty fortress is our God.

So what do we have as congregations and as individuals?

What can we offer to God? Can we allow God to change us from apathetic, disinterested, bored by the "same old, same old" people. I have not given up on this synod - not because you are all such wonderful people. Believe me I know you - you are all a pretty average bunch of sinners. I think you know me for what I am. But...but...God has not given up on us. He can take us as we are, sinful creatures and he can bless us. You see, the tomb is still empty. Christ is still risen! The world is blessed by a loving God who makes all things new. Happy Eastertide!

YOU ARE INVITED

Welcome **Pastor Jay Welshonse**, who will be installed Sunday, April 3rd as pastor of the Northern Lights Lutheran Parish. The Service of Installation begins at 3:00 p.m. ET at Siloa Lutheran Church in Ontonagon, Michigan. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red. Welcome Pastor Welshonse to this ministry!

We give thanks for the life of **Pastor Rudolph Kemppainen**. His funeral service is Sunday, April 3rd at 4:00 p.m. ET at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming, Michigan. Clergy are invited to process. The color of the day is white.

"O God our help in ages past. Our hope for years to come."

Ad Campaign Update!

Please send us a digital copy of the outside of your church building for the Ad Campaign. A "landing page" is being developed and we want people to see your church!

Thank you to all those congregations who have been able to give to support this effort. We have received donations from Endowment Funds, General Funds, Memorial Funds, and individuals. As of today, we have received almost \$10,000 with promises of more to come. If your congregation has not yet made a donation, please consider what you can give. We have covered the cost of production, and now need to buy air time. You are invited to be a part of this exciting new way to WITNESS!!!



LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+The women and men of our Church who serve as teachers in public and private schools, in our colleges and seminaries, all around the world.

+For the families of those who are grieving loss. In Christ shall all be made alive!

+For the peace of the world. Take from us our fear and place within all humanity, O God, a sense of compassion and hope.

+For those young people who are in our confirmation classes. May we learn and grow closer to you, O God.



MARKED! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the congregations who collected school supplies for our Synod Youth Marked! Events. We had a great time assembling over 300 School kits to be shipped off with your LWR Quilts in the Fall. It was great way of learning all that we can do as Church together!

Almost 200 Youth and Adults participated.
Watch for more information for next year's MARKED!

PASTORS: Have You Taken

Have you taken the Health Assessment Yet?

Portico Benefit Services is offering a 1% discount to each congregation of the Synod if 65% of our plan members (pastors and covered spouses) take this health assessment.

Please take 15 minutes of your time TODAY to take the assessment. You will be benefiting yourself, your congregation, and your entire synod!

Go to MyPortico and click on the Mayo Clinic health assessment link under the 2016 GO Challenge.

The health assessment is confidential and results will not be shared with the Synod Office.



Conference 8 Choir Now Forming for Synod Assembly!

First rehearsal will be Thursday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette. Second rehearsal will be Friday, May 13, prior to opening worship.

Registration for assembly not required if you are just participating in the choir.





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!

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org
for weekly "Breath Prayer"
and Daily Devotions.
The synod website is www.nglsynod.org



Items for the
Pre-Assembly Report
are needed
in the Synod Office
NOW!

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.

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

Early Registration Deadline
is 5:00 p.m. ET
on April 8, 2016!!

Committees wanting a
display table can find a
Display Request Form
on the synod website
under assembly.

**There are six tables still
available.**

Pre-Assembly Workshops
will be held on Friday,
May 13th,
at Messiah Lutheran Church
in Marquette. More
information
will be available on the
website soon!

Evaluation forms are
available at 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
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



Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp



Activities

**Register for Summer Camp by April 1, 2016
and get a \$25 discount!**

Volunteers to assist with finishing the four tree
houses are welcome anytime after
April 1, 2016

April 8-10: Adoptive Family Retreat

April 17: FLLC Annual Meeting

April 22-24: Adult Retreat
(Focus on Bible study)

April 22-23: Upper Elementary Retreat
(For grades 3-6)

**April 29-30: Church Staff Renewal
Retreat**
(For anyone on your church staff)

May 11: Spring Cleaning Bee

For more information about any of these events,
please contact FLLC by phone at 906/214-2267
(CAMP)

or check out their website at
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.

- Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop
