



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

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E-Notes for December 30, 2016

The Season of Christmas

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies."

- Hymn 646 - With One Voice

Bishop's Transition Team Asks Your Help

The Bishop's Office Transition Team is chaired by Pastor Doug Johnson. Since created by the Synod Council, the Transition Team has had two meetings and is working on two separate but connected projects.

A synod "self-study" has been approved by the Synod Council. Four persons from the churchwide offices in Chicago will be with us this winter to hear the hopes and dreams of our synod members as we lean into the future. Invitations to all congregations have been sent to attend interviews on Saturday, February 18th, at either United Church in Crystal Falls or

Messiah Church in Marquette. The Interview Team will be eager to hear opinions and ideas from our congregational leaders - pastors and laity. Call or e-mail the Synod office for an appointment at one of the interviews on February 18.

The Transition Team is also working on the process for the election of the bishop. The Synod Council will be approving the process complete with schedule at its January meeting. Immediately after that meeting, the complete process schedule will be communicated with the synod's congregations and pastors.



2017 STANDARD MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

The Internal Revenue Service has issued its 2017 optional standard mileage rates. Effective January 1st, 2017, the IRS standard rate will be 53.5 cents per mile driven for ministry or business purposes. The new rate is down from 54 cents per mile for 2016 because of lower gas prices. Use of this rate is optional, though it is widely seen by churches as a simple way to determine a standard rate for calculating mileage reimbursement for employees who use their personal vehicle for ministry or business purposes. If your organization uses the IRS rate to calculate mileage reimbursement, be sure to update your systems to account for this change.

Clergy always have the option of claiming deductions based on the actual costs of using a vehicle rather than the standard mileage rates. When a staff member uses the church-owned vehicle for personal use, the value must be added to their W-2 income. Personal use is any use which is not ministry related. Commuting is considered personal use. The individual is

...continuing to be considered personal use. The individual is required to log their mileage and provide the church with a statement showing the ministry/business miles driven and the total miles driven.

Coming to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp...

January 13-16: Winter Wonderland Retreat
February 17-19: Jr and Sr High Retreat with Agape!
February 28-29: Congregational Leadership Intensive
March 3-4: Financial Peace Retreat
March 17-18: Upper Elementary Retreat
April 28-30: Adoptive Family Retreat

For more information about any of these great opportunities, go to www.fortunelake.org

Always
being made
New.

The Campaign for the ELCA.

The Always Being Made New Campaign
in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

If your church has not already done so, consider making an offering to benefit congregational efforts to address hunger and poverty in our communities.

Your donation must be received in the Synod office by February 28, 2017.

Even if your congregation doesn't have a pantry, a backpack program, a clothes closet, a community meal, or some other ministry to address hunger, you have the opportunity to make a difference to a sister congregation that does.

Please be generous! Funds raised in 2016 will be split evenly between ELCA World Hunger and grants made available to support local NGLS efforts to address hunger and poverty.

Let us join together to do God's work on a scale and scope that we could never do within our individual congregations.

MARKED! EVENTS

Sunday, February 26, 2017 at Eden, Munising
Sunday, March 5, 2017 at First, Iron River

Make plans now to attend
with your Confirmation Youth,
and to collect Health Kit and Love Bundle
supplies in your congregation.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

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+For peace in our time. Bless, O Lord, the peacemakers as they seek justice. Give them hope!

+That our synod congregations may grow.

+For our congregation leaders, pastors and laity alike, as they work to serve God's people doing their ministries.

+For Finlandia University, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp and Northland Lutheran Retirement Community.

+For those diagnosed with cancer. Replace fear, O God, with the peace only you can bring.

LOOKING AHEAD

Congregational Leaders Intensive

February 24-25, 2017

**at Fortune Lake Camp
Crystal Falls, MI**



**Effective leadership is important!
Be equipped, learn new skills, deepen
your understanding of what effective
congregational leadership looks like.**

Featuring Mike Dehak with tools to

featuring MIKE KENAK with tools to
enrich your ability to lead.

Request a Thrivent Action Grant to
help with expenses.

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

Lutheran Men in Mission's Triennial Gathering



BG

BOLD GATHERING
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 21-23, 2017

- It's a gathering for men of all ages. Start inviting and recruiting guys and young men to attend with you.
- Experience workshops, worship, speakers, service projects, networking, music and more.
- The Lutheran Men in Mission Assembly is July 20-21.
- Watch for details and registration at BoldGathering.com.

See you in Minneapolis!

What's on you schedule for July 2017? We're hoping it will include the Lutheran Men in Mission's (LLM) Triennial Gathering. It will be July 21-23, 2017 in Minneapolis. The **BOLD GATHERING** is a weekend for men to come together to learn, to worship, to network, and be equipped to **BOLDLY** live out their faith!

This is the first time the Gathering has been held in the Midwest since the 90's. Please share this information with the men and pastor(s) in your congregations.

Registration for the **BOLD GATHERING** is open. Details can be found at this link: [Bold Gathering Website w/ Info and Registration](#)

Contact Lon Buss, SCSW LMM Task Force Leader at 608-516-7875 if you have questions.

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