



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

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for January 17, 2017

The Season of Epiphany

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The soft glow of light that suffused the manger stall grows in intensity and clarity throughout the Epiphany season until it reaches its apex at the Transfiguration. The gospel readings of the Epiphany season reveal the person and purpose of Jesus, until like the disciples, we may be overwhelmed with the truth of who Jesus is, and find ourselves with our faces in the dust, and our hearts thumping against the ground.

**Theological Conference
featuring Dr. Anna Madsen**
Coming February 19-20, 2017
To Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

A nationally known theologian and speaker, Dr. Madsen is engaging, thought-provoking, and insightful. Don't miss this opportunity for meaningful discussion and learning.

Pastors and LLM's, register by February 1, 2017

Wondering What Your Congregation Can Give to Your Pastor's Spouse for Epiphany?

Send them to the

Clergy Spouse Retreat

February 5-7, 2017

in Appleton, WI.

Registration deadline has been extended to January 23, 2017. Go to www.nglsynod.org for more info.

Wondering What Your Congregation Can Do to Celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord?

Send your Council and Pastor to the Congregational Leaders Intensive!

Featuring Key Note Speaker Rev. Michael Rehak,
and materials from our own NGLS
Transformation Ministry Team.

Don't miss this opportunity to equip your
leaders for leadership, and lead your congregation
into renewal and transformation.

Friday - Saturday, February 24-25, 2017
at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

hint: Request a Thrivent Action Grant to help pay for it.
Registration and more info at www.fortunelake.org.

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 people from the churchwide offices in Chicago will be with us February 17th and 18th to hear the hopes and dreams of our synod members as we lean into the future. You are invited to share your thoughts with them. Interview times are still available for Saturday, February 18th, at either United Lutheran Church in Crystal Falls or Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette. The Interview Team will be eager to hear your opinions and ideas. To sign up, call or e-mail the Synod Office for an appointment at one of the interview locations on February 18th.

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 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...

- February 17-19: Jr and Sr High Retreat with Agape!
- February 19-20: Theological Conference
- 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

+For Pastor John Kuziej at the death of his wife, Jeannette. A celebration of her life will be held at Salem, Ironwood on Saturday, January 21, at 11 a.m., and at Pioneer lake, Conover on Saturday, January 28, at 11 a.m. Whether we live, or whether we die, we are the Lord's. We pray for comfort for Jeannette's family, and all who loved her.

+For the Synod transition Team, as they lead our Synod in these next months.

+For those discerning a call to ordained ministry. May God raise up faithful leaders.

+For our country and our newly elected president as he begins his term of service.

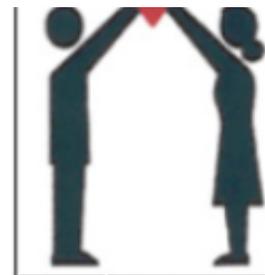
LOOKING AHEAD



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 Rehak 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





What's on your 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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E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Rev. Katherine Finegan
Assistant to the Bishop