



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

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E-Notes for February 16, 2017

The Season of Epiphany

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them." - Chuck Lane "Ask, Thank, Tell"

The Fiscal Year is Over! Good News!

Congregations of this synod responded to the call for mission support in Fiscal 2016 - and gave 102% of the projected income budget. Mission Support is the amount received from our congregations to sustain the ministry of the whole ELCA around the world and in our Northern Great Lakes Synod. Thank you for sending over \$846,838 to the Synod Office in the past fiscal year. Fifty-one percent of the amount received is shared with the Churchwide ELCA and forty-nine percent is retained by the Synod for the work we do together in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin. God has blessed us and we rejoice in God's generosity and the faithfulness of God's people.

**Theological Conference
featuring Dr. Anna Madsen
February 19-20, 2017
at 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!

**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 News

The Bishop's Office Transition Team is chaired by Pastor Doug Johnson. At the January meeting of the Synod Council, they approved a Pro

At the January meeting of the Synod Council, they approved a Pre-Identification Process as a prelude to the election of a new Synod bishop at our Synod Assembly, May 21-23 in Marquette. This process will allow for the identification of individuals, prior to our Synod Assembly, who would be open to election as our Synod Bishop.

This process is not a nomination process but merely a way for individuals to express an interest in serving in the office of Synod bishop. Our Synod constitution requires that we use an Ecclesiastical Ballot to begin the process of electing a synod bishop. This means that every voting member of the Synod Assembly will, on the first ballot, receive a blank ballot and they will be instructed to write down the name of any pastor who is currently on the ELCA Roster of Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament. So even if someone is pre-identified as open to election as bishop during the Pre-Identification Process some voting member of the Assembly will still need to write their name on that first Ecclesiastical Ballot to officially nominate them for election.

We believe the benefit of this Pre-Identification Process is the dissemination of information about individuals willing to serve as our Synod bishop prior to the Assembly. Every individual who is pre-identified and wants to participate in the process will have an opportunity to provide a picture, some biographical information and the answers to several questions that would help folks understand more about the individual. Those individuals who provide their information by the deadline will have their picture and information posted on our Synod website for all of you to view, think about, and pray about prior to the beginning of our May Assembly.

Here is how this Pre-Identification Process will progress:

By April 1 - The Self-Study Report and/or a Summary of the report will be made available on the Synod website for everyone to read.

April 1-15 - Identification of individuals for participation in the Pre-ID Process.

An individual may identify herself/himself or she/he may be identified by someone else. An Identification Form will be provided on the Synod website to be used for all identifications. It would be prudent to have the permission of the individual you are identifying before submitting the form.

The individual identified will be contacted by a member of the Transition Team to make sure they want to proceed and be pre-identified. If the individual agrees to proceed, they will be provided with the Job Description for Synod bishop, the Biographical Information Form, and the two forms needed for background checks. These forms will be available on the Synod website.

When all of the completed forms from an individual are received in the Synod Office, that individual will be considered as pre-identified.

Background checks will be done on all pre-identified individuals.

April 25 - Deadline for returning to the Synod Office all Biographical Information and Background Check forms from identified individuals.

May 1 - A picture and all biographical information for all pre-identified individuals will be posted on the website.

May 21-23 - Synod Assembly and the bishop's election.

We hope you will continue to pray about who our next Synod bishop will be. We encourage all of you who are pastors, Congregation Councils, or individual members of one of our synod congregations to use this Pre-Identification Process to lift up individuals who may serve us well as our next bishop. For this process to work, we need participation from you the leaders and members of our Synod congregations. We are hopeful that this Pre-Identification Process will provide helpful information to many of you in our Synod as well as our Assembly voting members as they seek to

you in our Synod as well as our Assembly voting members as they seek to make informed and spirit-filled decisions at our Assembly when casting their votes for the next bishop of our Synod.

Coming to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp...

- February 17-19: Jr and Sr High Retreat with Agape!
- February 19-20: Theological Conference
- February 24-25: 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.

The deadline for the application for Hunger Grants from the Always Being Made New Campaign has been moved up to May 31, 2017.

Because so many efforts to feed the hungry in our communities are already underway, or will begin in the Fall, we wanted to disburse the funds sooner, so congregations could make good use of this opportunity.

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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, February 26, 2017 at Eden, Lansing
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.

**Please call the Synod Office with your best guess of
numbers within the week before the Marked! Event you
plan to attend.**

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+For the people of Tanzania in this time of drought. Let
gentle rain fall on the people and land.

+For our Synod and Churchwide leaders as they plan for
our common future.

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

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org
for weekly **"Breath Prayer"**

and Daily Devotions.
The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

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Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop

