



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

[ngls@nglsynod.org](mailto:ngls@nglsynod.org)

**E-Notes for March 15, 2017**

## The Season of Lent

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

However, to read the Bible as a historical document is to miss the point. What is important about the Bible and its message is the *meaning* of certain events in history. The Bible was written to communicate God's role and activity in history, making that history crucial for life today.

The Bible, then, is another gift from God. We need not search for God or God's will any longer. Though we do not live in the time of Jesus in Galilee, the promise of God is that Jesus can be encountered still as we read God's book.

- Bishop H. Gerard Knocke in "The Gift of the Gosepl", page 99



You are Invited to a Banquet  
**Honoring Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes**  
Upon His Retirement.

**Sunday, May 21, 2017**

**Eucharist Worship: 4 p.m. ET**  
at Messiah Lutheran Church  
305 W. Magnetic Street, Marquette

**Banquet: 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. ET**  
in the Great Lakes Rooms  
Northern Michigan University Center  
Marquette, Michigan

\$25 per dinner: Seating is limited so please call the Synod Office for availability of tickets at 906-228-2300. Registered Assembly voters and visitors will be given priority.

**Menu Options:** Lake Superior Whitefish  
Bistro Steak  
Mediterranean Stack (Vegetarian)

*In lieu of personal retirement gifts, a  
"Bishop Thomas A. and Luanne M. Skrenes Fund for Ministry"  
has been established.*

## **Pre Assembly Reports are due!!!**

**If you are the Chair of a Synod Committee or a  
Conference President,  
it falls to you to write a report.  
Please send it to [louise@nglsynod.org](mailto:louise@nglsynod.org).**

## **Parochial Reports are due!!**

**If you are a LLM or a Pastor, or the interim of a congregation,  
it falls to you to be sure that the Parochial Report of the  
congregation is completed and submitted.**

**You were sent a hard copy, with password info. However, if  
you cannot find it, you can click on**

[https://webapps.elca.org/FormAAndC?\\_ga=1.139156411.961504632.1488908367](https://webapps.elca.org/FormAAndC?_ga=1.139156411.961504632.1488908367)

**You may call the Synod Office for your password information  
and ELCA number if you cannot find it or need help.**

All Pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers are to send their pastoral reports to the Bishop. These are overdue!

## **Big Bear Award and Bread Bowl Award**

Do you know a congregation that has excelled in their efforts to raise funds for World Hunger? Please nominate an individual for the Bread Basket Award, or a Congregation for the Big Bear Award.

Nominations need to be received in the Synod Office by Monday April 24. Forms available at <https://www.nglsynod.org/assembly>.

Please send a hard copy of your Congregation's Annual Report to:

**Northern Great Lakes Synod  
1029 North Third St, Suite A  
Marquette, MI. 49855**

## **Time to register for Synod Assembly!!!**

Register today, as the price goes up on April 7.

Go to <https://www.nglsynod.org/assembly/>

This year's assembly is May 21-23, 2017 at NMU and Messiah, Marquette. Special features include our Churchwide Representative, Rev. Linda Norman, a banquet honoring our out-going Bishop Thomas Skrenes, Holden Evening Prayer, A Pastor – type Band, Festival Worship, a Hunger Herd of Cows, and the Election of a new Bishop.

## Wondering What Your Congregation Can Do to OBSERVE LENT?

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.

**RESCHEDULED TO MARCH 31 - APRIL 1, 2017**  
(DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER)

at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

hint: Request a Thrivent Action Grant to help pay for it.  
Registration and more info at [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org).

### Bishop's Transition Team News

Thank you to all who participated in the Synod Self  
Study!

The next step begins a "Pre-Identification Process".

Any member of our Northern Great Lakes Synod congregations may submit the  
name of any ordained minister in the whole of the ELCA as a possibility.

An Identification Form will be posted on the Synod website from April 1 - 15th for you  
to use to identify any ordained minister that you believe has the ability and potential  
to serve as the Bishop of our Synod.

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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 link to provide a background check.

#### Timeline:

**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.**

**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 to use this Pre-Identification Process to lift up individuals who may serve us well as our next bishop.

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## **Coming to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp...**

March 17-18: Upper Elementary Retreat


March 31 – Apr 1 Leadership Intensive – for Congregational Councils

April 28-30: Adoptive Family Retreat

For more information about any of these great opportunities, go to [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org)

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**Always**  
being made  
**New.**

*The Campaign for the ELCA.*

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

Applications are now being accepted for Synod Hunger Grants!

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

**NEXT – YOU ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO THE 2017 CAMPAIGN TO BE SPLIT BETWEEN:**

- 1. Grants given to congregations to begin or nurture a companion congregation relationship with another congregation from our Lutheran Companion Synod in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of Tanzania.**
- 2. The money will be divided equally. The Churchwide portion will go to equip missionaries from Tanzania to Tanzania and beyond; and the Synod portion will go to nurture or begin companion congregation relationships between NGLS congregations and ELCT congregations.**

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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.

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**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 all those discerning a call to serve as bishop.

+For the peace of the world, especially in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq.

+For those discerning a call to ordained ministry as seminarians, pastors and deacons. May God raise up faithful leaders.

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)

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*E-Notes* is a twice monthly electronic newsletter  
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**Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes**

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