



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

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

**E-Notes for March 31, 2017**

## The Season of Lent

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah!

bright wings.

~ *God's Grandeur*

by Gerard Manley Hopkins





## **National Youth Gathering – Houston: June 27 – July 1, 2018**

Make plans to attend with your youth,  
or contact Lisa Bouche at [lisabouche92@gmail.com](mailto:lisabouche92@gmail.com)  
if you have one or two youth who need a church to go with.

We had hoped to charter a plane for those attending from  
the Northern Great Lakes Synod, however, the cost was prohibitive.  
Please feel free to make travel arrangements that work best for you.

Check out the information and links available at [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering).

## **Portico Links to Informational Pre-Retirement Seminars**

<https://www.porticobenefits.org/NewsEvents/Events/Pre-RetirementSeminars.aspx?ctrl=tabs-preretirementseminars&focus=preretirementseminarsregister>



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

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 now!!!**

**If you are the Chair of a Synod Committee or  
a Conference President,  
it falls to you to write a report.**

**According to our Synod Constitution, the Pre-Assembly Report is to  
be available 30 days prior to the start of assembly, which means by  
April 21, 2017.**

**The deadline for submitting reports to be compiled  
is April 10th. 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=1.18905784.1291334846.1490982565](https://webapps.elca.org/FormAAndC?_ga=1.18905784.1291334846.1490982565)

**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!

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## Big Bear Award and Bread Basket 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>.

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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 Friday, April 7.**

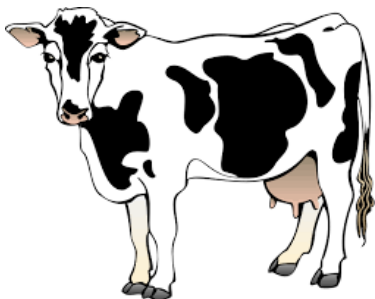
Go to <https://www.nglsynod.org/assembly/>

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.

The Synod Assembly 2017 Offering will be divided  
equally between: **Lay School for Mission &  
Bishop's Office Transition Expenses.**

**Pastors, please be vested by 3:45 p.m. ET on Sunday,  
May 21 at Messiah in preparation for the Festival  
Opening Worship of Synod Assembly. The color of the  
day is red.**



### **Holy Cow!**

Remember to bring your decorated cow to  
join the Hunger Herd at Synod Assembly!  
While coin offerings will still be accepted, we  
appreciate and encourage the lighter, easier to  
carry and count paper currency. Thank you  
for your generous – and creative ☺  
participation!!! We want to stamp out hunger  
as the cows come home! It will be udderly  
amazing! We're going to milk this for all it's  
worth!!

*Please include the following prayer, or something similar, in your  
congregational prayer petitions during worship for April and May:*

“Come Holy Spirit! Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, call one to  
be the bishop of this Northern Great Lakes Synod. Send your Spirit upon  
the Assembly that gathers in Marquette, Michigan May 21 to 23.  
Encourage candidates to be open for service in this ministry. Clothe them  
with holiness of life and truth of doctrine that they may faithfully serve  
before you, the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy  
Church: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in Your Mercy: **Hear Our Prayer.**

## Bishop's Transition Team News

**The results of the Synod self Study are posted and available on the Synod website.**

**The "Pre-Identification Process" is April 1-15.**

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.

Go to [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org) to complete and submit a form that names an ordained minister of the ELCA as one that you would like to be considered as a possibility to serve as Bishop. Any member of our Northern Great Lakes Synod congregations may submit a name.

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:**

**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.**

Please 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...

April 28-30: Adoptive Family Retreat

For more information about this great opportunity,  
go to [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org)

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### 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

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 equip missionaries from Tanzania to Tanzania and beyond; and the Synod portion will go to nurture or begin companion congregation relationship 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 South Sudan and those who bring comfort and aid. Make us compassionate and generous, to help bring relief to those who are suffering starvation.

+For all those discerning a call to serve as bishop.

+For our congregations, that your Holy Spirit would inspire creativity and energy, hope and vision, discipleship and faith.

+We give thanks for the blessing of Natalie Ruth, second daughter born to Pastor Jeremy Nausin and his wife, Erin. May God bless their growing family!

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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  
from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Rev. Katherine Finegan**  
**Assistant to the Bishop**

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