WITNESS!!

29th Assembly of the

Northern Great Lakes Synod

May 13-14, 2016

When the Church family gets together—lots happens! The annual gathering of nearly 300 people from our 81 congregations is quite the event. It began with worship at Messiah Lutheran Church on Friday evening May 13th. With brass and choir and Word and the Sacrament, the Gospel of Jesus was proclaimed. On Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. the synod met at Northern Michigan University. It was a Godly experience of fellowship, education, worship, and business.

So What Happened This Year?

+ We challenged each other to witness to our Lord Jesus.
+ Pastor Chris Boerger, ELCA Secretary called us to claim the three expressions of our church (congregation, synod and churchwide) as tools to witness to the good news.
+ Heard Pastor Stephanie Franz as the "Witness Speaker." She invited us to see what God has done all over the world. Pastor Franz is a native of Germany and a pastor of both her German Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.
+ We celebrated with three congregations as they commemorated anniversaries of their founding (Trinity and Immanuel in Rhinelander - 125 years, and First in Ewen - 100 years). What a witness to the past and the future of God’s Church. We also thanked God for Bethany in Isabella which has ended its ministry as a congregation.
+The Lay School for Mission was lifted up as a witness to Christ in study and reflection. The Assembly recognized Melzee Jacobson, Karen Reitz, Frances Voyce, and Jack Koivisto who have graduated from the Synod’s Lay School for Mission. They are the latest in the 206 graduates of the synod school in its 27 year history.

+Congratulated pastors as the church noted anniversaries of their ordination.

Pastors Kurt and Mary Beth Kovanen - 25 years
Pastor Peter Vorhes – 40 years
Pastor Norman Peterson – 40 years
Pastor David Christenson – 40 years
Pastor Thomas Wickstrom – 45 years
Pastor Allan Johnson - 45 years
Pastor Dean Peterson – 50 years
Pastor Ken Michaelis – 50 years
Pastor Don Wandersee – 60 years
Pastor Fred Hallanger – 60 years
Pastor Norman Lund – 65 years
and Retiring Clergy: Pastor Katheryn King

+Received offerings: World Hunger Quarters - $26,340.84 Bishop’s Discretionary - $1,339.39; Synod Mission Outreach - $1,339.39; Always Being Made New 2016 Cash and Pledges - $2,019.25.

+Nominated Ervin Sparapani (Bethany, Norway) and Philip Wirtanen (St. Paul’s, Ironwood) for Churchwide Council - Lay Male to be voted upon at the ELCA Assembly this summer in New Orleans. Under a new plan, synods now nominate members to the Churchwide Council and the Churchwide Assembly elects one of the two nominees to a six year term. Thus for the next six years there will be a member of our synod on the ELCA Council-the governing body of this Church.

+Welcomed Tim Knutson to the Synod as an ELCA Regional Gift Planner. Tim is eager to speak with our congregations and individuals about how we can support God’s ministries. He works with Pastor Larry Westfield and our synod Endowment Board.

+Elected new members of the Synod Council: Pastors Bill Jacobson, Julie Belew, Cori Johnson, and lay leaders Chuck Thomas and Hayley Smith. They will serve a three year term ending at the Assembly
in 2019. We also thanked the outgoing members of the council - Pastor Chris Johnson, Pastor Fran Strong and Eric Larson.

The Assembly convened all eight conferences on Saturday morning to discuss their common witness and ministry opportunities in their geographic areas.

We heard and read many interesting reports and also adopted synod budgets.

Enjoyed the company of God's people living and serving together in God's Country!

So What Did You Think?

Your Review of Synod Assembly and Responses

One hundred and thirty seven voting members and visitors to the 2016 Assembly completed the evaluation form. The reviews were excellent. Especially positive was the Friday evening Eucharist, the accommodations at Messiah Church and at Northern Michigan University, the ease of registration and the presentations by ELCA Secretary Pastor Chris Boerger and missionary Pastor Stephanie Franz.

Here are a few typical comments and my response:

**On the worship service you said**

“Inspirational”, “Lovely”

“Beautiful,” “Wow!”

**My thoughts:**

Lots of serious worship planning made it happen—Thank you to the Synod Worship Committee

**On the meeting content you said:**

“Rev. Boerger was the best ELCA speaker!”

“Bishop Tom kept the schedule on time.”

**My thoughts:**

Secretary Boerger is excellent and thank you!
BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

On the workshops you said:
“The workshop rooms were small.”

My thoughts:
“Yes they were but the university could not rent us rooms for that Friday time.

On the experience you said:
“What about online streaming next year?”
“The Assembly was absolutely wonderful”

My thoughts:
Good idea! We will try.
Our synod staff and Planning Committee work very hard. Thank you.

WELCOME TIM KNUTSON
You will see him at synod events and on occasion in our congregations. He met lots of people at synod assembly. Timothy Knutson has been employed by the ELCA Foundation and by our synod to help you. He is a Regional Gift Planner and his ministry is helping you meet your goals for financial giving to the ministries of God’s Church. He succeeds Roger Knuth, Pastor Lee Goodwin and others who have worked in our synod with wills, bequest, estate planning and congregational endowments. Tim will spend several days a month in our synod area talking with interested groups and individuals about the work we can be doing together. He and Pastor Larry Westfield are serving all of us in the ELCA congregations in the State of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Tim meets also with our Synod Endowment Fund. You can reach Tim Knutson at (414)477-9979 or e-mail him at timothy.knutson@elca.org

TRANSITIONS
+Congratulations to Pastor David Hueter (Zion, Manistique) who has been called to serve the people of St. Thomas Church in Cheboygan, a congregation of the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod. After 28 years of ordained ministry in our midst, Pastor Dave and Sandy Hueter will be missed.

+Pastor Bre Johnson has now begun her work at Faith in Sault Ste. Marie after serving Bethel, Cedarville and Zion, Allenville. Pastor Bre will also be married this summer. God bless her in the midst of many changes!

+We welcome Pastor Melinda Shriner to Our Redeemer, Newberry and Pastor Kay Richter to the New Evangelical Lutheran Parish (First, Ewen, Our Saviour, Paynesville, Trinity, Trout Creek). They come to us from the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. May God bless their ministry in our midst.

+Prayers after surgery for Pastor Diane Srutowski (Trinity, Stonington and Bethany, Perkins) and Synod Office Secretary Louise Ingalls. The Lord Jesus is our great physician.
1517-2017
THE 500th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
LUTHERAN REFORMATION

“Semper Reformanda: Always Reforming”

Finlandia University and the Northern Great Lakes Synod
September 25-27 at Finlandia University
Hancock, Michigan

This Conference is for clergy and interested lay people and will feature presentations by Bishop Alex Malasusa of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and Luther Seminary, St. Paul Minnesota Historian, Professor Dr. Mark Granquist.

Worship
Panel Discussions
Key Notes
Workshops
Banquet

Registration on-line at www.nglsynod.org/reformation

Festival of Congregational Renewal
Friday, October 28—Saturday, October 29
at First Lutheran Church, Gladstone, MI

Worship....20 Workshops....Fellowship
Check www.nglsynod.org for more information
and to Register. Only $10 per person!!
“ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW”

IN THE

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

We are now in year two of this effort to improve the lives of God’s people. Last year our synod contributed to encourage new and renewing congregations and to assist Fortune Lake Bible Camp. We also established a fund to support congregational efforts to be barrier free.

In 2016, the Campaign in this synod is raising funds to support both ELCA World Hunger as well as local efforts to address poverty and hunger. Many Northern Great Lakes Synod congregations house or support local food pantries, clothes closets and week-end backpack meals.

Now is the time for our congregational members to rise up and be generous! Funds raised in this 2016 year will be split evenly between ELCA World Hunger and grants made available to support local efforts in our synod area to address poverty and hunger!

The whole ELCA is joining together to change lives and bring Christ to those who need to hear the Gospel. This five year $198 million campaign will help our church grow our communities of faith. We will together form new leaders, welcome our neighbors and confront poverty and hunger.

You can help. Ask your congregation leadership to choose a Sunday to highlight this effort of our Church. Remit funds to your congregation or the synod office. Your checks can be marked “Always Being made New Appeal.” Please be generous!

PRAYING

It doesn’t have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don’t try
to make them elaborate, this isn’t
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak. - Mary Oliver
In anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has introduced "Called Forward Together in Christ," an initiative that invites its 3.7 million members to consider what kind of church God is calling the ELCA to become. Led by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and endorsed by the ELCA Church Council and in collaboration with the ELCA Conference of Bishops, the initiative asks members to join in a conversation about the future priorities of the ELCA. "We're asking all of us to think together and to talk together about what our priorities are going to be so we can be as effective as possible in bringing people the good news of Jesus Christ," said Eaton in a video message.

The initiative has three main phases: Conversations across the church about the future, consultations on the directions and priorities that emerge and decisions as a church about where the ELCA is headed. This is important work for this Church in these months and years. "We need you to be involved in the conversation," said Eaton, emphasizing the importance for all members to participate. "The more of us we can hear from, the more of us who are praying and listening to the Spirit, the more possible it will be for us to get a clearer picture and understanding of the future God is calling this church to."

Questions for congregations to consider include:

1. What are your hopes for the future of this church?
2. Who would you like to see joining your congregation, and how might this happen?
3. What are the two biggest challenges facing your congregation right now?

(Send me your answers—I would read and respond to everyone I receive at tskrenes@nglsynod.org)

Following this process, a statement of future directions and priorities will be considered by the ELCA Church Council at its November 2016 meeting. The goal is to launch the statement in 2017 as part of the ELCA's observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

More information is available on the website: ELCA.org/future.

+Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop
WE are officially LAUNCHED!!!
And we have lift off!!!

What is launched, you ask? And what is it that is lifting off?
Our Advertising Campaign!!!
People have already seen our “spots” broadcast on Channel 6, and folks have been sharing them on social media and personal and congregational Facebook pages. In addition, our landing page, www.churchisgood.org, has had many hits.

It’s very exciting, this new effort, as people that you recognize, and who will be recognized in their own communities, go “public” with their support of their church, and the blessings of their community of faith.

But just to be clear, there are things that we hope this campaign will do, and indeed, is already doing, and things that we know it will not do, and do not expect it to.

What this campaign will NOT do….

♦ It will not be the thing that gets people to visit your church. You and your invitation to neighbors, friends, and family is still the most effective means of getting new folks to check out your congregation.

♦ It will not be the thing that gets people to come back to your church after a first visit. It will be you and your welcome that will do that. It’s still all about relationships and connections. No commercial can be a friend, offer compassion, express interest, or bear the presence of Christ. Only people can do that.

♦ So basically, this TV spot does not let you off the hook of inviting, welcoming, or being intentional about talking to the visitor or stranger who has the courage to walk into your church on a Sunday morning, or attend one of your activities during the week. You still have a part to play, indeed, no TV spot can take the place of genuine, authentic, Christian hospitality.

What this campaign is doing and our hopes for the future…

♦ Already, more congregations have improved their websites, Facebook pages, and updated their answering machines. A “seeker” will check out a congregation first online. They will not go to the phone book. They may or may not drive by your building. Your online presence is your first impression. Due to this campaign, many congregations have made the effort to update and improve their online presence.
www.churchisgood.org is an easy, user-friendly website that will help people find your church, both on the map and online.

The Ad Campaign has already sparked a new interest in the Sneaky Visitor Initiative. We have learned that some of our congregations welcome well, and others are not as good at it as they thought. We need to do better at “small talk” and chatting with folks we don’t know. Congregations should consider offering a non-alcoholic option, and be better at verbal communion instructions, because every church does communion differently.

The Ad Campaign, at its most basic, is an effort to “re-brand” Christian church-going people. For whatever reason, Christianity has gotten a bad name. The general, non-church going public, may well see Christians as judgmental, hypocritical, holier-than-thou, cliquish clubs that cause wars and conflict, and condemn freely.

This is not who we are. Offering a positive, alternative, and dissenting voice to the prevailing assumptions was the first and foremost goal of this ad campaign. We wanted people to know that God is good, church is good, and Jesus matters. Admittedly the challenge of including all of that in a 30-second spot is more than a little daunting.

But I think we have done well, and made a good beginning.

Thank you to all the congregations who have contributed financial support to this effort. Over $15,000 has been raised and this has been enough to begin. We hope to receive another $10,000 to be able to extend the effort to seven months. Channel 6 has also offered to use our commercial as filler when the opportunity arises, so that we get even more air time.

As we are in the second decade of the 21st Century, the challenge is to get on board with the technology, while at the same time meeting the challenges of shifting culture. The world threatens to make God irrelevant, and the cross of Christ unnecessary. We know different. By sharing these spots on Facebook, using them as a conversation starter, making our churches visible online, and continuing to invite and welcome, we become more intentional witnesses to the Christ who lives and moves among us and sends us into the world to make a difference.

The Ad Campaign is launched!!!

The rest is up to you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Katherine Finegan

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Marked! 2017

Sunday, February 19, 4:00-7:00 pm—Eden, Munising
Sunday, February 26, 4:00-7:00 pm—First, Iron River
Thank You…

To all those who sang as the Synod Assembly Choir!!

Thank you for responding to the call! Our choir this year consisted of voices from at least five NGLS congregations. Your strong vocal leadership made Setting 9 of the ELW a pleasure to sing and inspired at least one congregation to make ELW 9 their next setting of choice. Special thanks to Dave Dagenais, choir and band director extraordinaire, who also composed an additional verse to the choir anthem. Add to that the talents of Front Street Brass and organist Kathy Strassinski, and the opening Worship was truly inspiring.

It’s not too soon to begin plans for next year’s Synod Assembly Choir!

FYI

- All are welcome to sing
- You need not be a registered voting member to sing in the choir or attend the opening worship.
- Plan on one rehearsal prior to assembly, and another one the day of.
- Next year’s assembly is May 21-23, Sunday – Tuesday. Opening worship will be Sunday May 21. Time TBA.
- Watch for more details in E-notes, Synod newsletter, and on Facebook.

Sticky Faith

Coming This November!!

- Saturday, November 5
- 8:30—11:30 a.m. ET
- At Immanuel, Negaunee
- Only $5.00
- Register by calling the Synod Office
- Register by Tuesday, Nov. 1
- Pay at the Door

To equip adult who work with children and teenagers! Give a boost to your Sunday School teachers, Confirmation and Youth Leaders!!
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

Full-time

Zion, Allenville and Bethel, Cedarville—Pastor Matthew Lamb

Porterfield, Porterfield; Beaver American, Pound—Pastor Ken Michaelis

United, L’Anse—Pastor John Autio

Zion, Manistique—Pastor Stephen Gauger

Bethany, Norway; Calvary, Quinnesec—Pastor Douglas Johnson

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

God has indeed blessed us! Through the end of April, mission support giving continues to remain higher than last calendar year, with an increase of over $13,300. Designated gifts are 63% higher, due in part to congregational donations for the Welcome, Worship Witness TV 6 advertising campaign. We give thanks to God for gifts more abundant than we can imagine and pray we use them to God’s glory as we work together to accomplish Christ’s mission in this Synod.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

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## PRAYFAITHFULLY

### DEVOTION SCHEDULE

**For June & July**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 29–June 4</td>
<td>Pastor Douglas Norquist</td>
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<td>Melody Kysiak</td>
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<td>June 12—18</td>
<td>Gisele Duehring</td>
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<td>June 19—25</td>
<td>Ruth Warmanen</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26-July 2</td>
<td>Pastor Mary Weinkauf</td>
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<td>July 3—9</td>
<td>Pastor Keith Kolstad</td>
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<td>Synod Women’s Organization</td>
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<td>Available</td>
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<td>July 24—30</td>
<td>Pam Durbin</td>
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<td>July 31—August 6</td>
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A Christian theologian is a communicator. Taking the Scriptures, the history and heritage of the Church, a theologian must answer the questions of the age. Martin Luther confronted 16th century medieval thought about sin and judgment and asked, "How is it that we can be saved?" So what are the questions that 21st century moderns are dealing with? These questions would include: What is life's meaning? How can God condemn anyone? Is God fair? What is the eternal destination of good people who happen to be Jews, Muslims, Hindus or atheists?

Rob Bell is a well-known author, pastor and speaker who founded Mars Hill Church in Grandville Michigan. His book "Love Wins" has drawn both praise and contempt. Here are two divergent opinions of "Love Wins." Take your choice!

**BELL AS NEAR HERETIC:** What a theologian of the Christian faith should not do is to so adapt the message of Christ and the Church to fit into modern sensibilities and ideas that it becomes unrecognizable to its own history. This is what Rob Bell has done. Bell has lost integrity with the Christian message by attempt to re-write Christian doctrine. His book does sell. "Love Wins" is a chaotic vision of a God that attempts to reconcile post-modern liberalism to his own neo-evangelical faith. He has failed. Bell consistently quotes scripture to fit his own worldview. Reading his book (apparently no foot notes needed) one gets the idea that he alone has come up with his own ideas. His universalism is nothing but the ancient heresy modernized. It is not hard to understand how the Southern Baptist Convention overreacted to his work by passing a condemning resolution of the book calling it "theologically dangerous" at their 2011 convention.

Rob Bell's book is similar to his "machine gun" like sermons at Mars Hill Church. His work is a series of unsupported assertions and answers that provide no nuance. He doesn't bother with refuting (or even naming) two thousand years of theologians who have come to different doctrinal conclusions. Not surprising is the fact that the Sacraments do not show up in Bell's book until nearly at the end on p. 157. In his theology Christianity is an intellectual understanding, something to be learned, certainly not in any major way a matter of faith or mystery.

**BELL AS MODERN HIP EVANGELIST:** St. Paul who systematized the teachings of the Christian faith nearly 2000 years ago would approve of Rob Bell's attempt to win over urban millennial liberals who have "issues" with the church. That is what Paul tried to accomplish! Bell's method is to not challenge their ideas about God or God's Church but instead re-define the teachings of Scripture to make them understandable to a new college educated urban generation. Reminiscent of C.S. Lewis who also popularized the Christian faith in the previous century, Bell talks of hell as being locked from the inside when he writes, "If we
want isolation, despair and the right to be our own god, God graciously gives us that option...The more we want nothing to do with all God is, the more distance and space are created. If we want nothing to do with love, we are given a reality free from love."(Bell, p. 117) Rob Bell understands that Atonement theory is difficult to understand for moderns. His reflection on the final sacrifice of Jesus on the cross are Biblical, understandable, poetic and inviting to persons with little or no understanding of the Christian faith.

SO WHAT DO I THINK? I am sympathetic to Rob Bell's purpose of bringing into the Christians faith new people even as I find some of his doctrinal understanding at variance with my own. His systematic theology works best in a declining Christian culture in the Northern Hemisphere where the intellectual and cultural elites have largely given up on Christianity. Bell's theological formulations would not work in the radically different world of Southern Hemisphere Christianity where his questions are not being asked in the same way. His assumptions are 21st century American. He is sometimes cynical and always "hip" to cultural trends and ideas that would be very foreign to people of the Christian south but also most folks here in our churches who are more than sixty years old.

What troubles me at points in Bell's work is his use of scripture and his willingness to explain some parts of the Bible as metaphor and then to take some parts of the scriptures very literally. He uses Biblical texts that fit his thesis. He never allows other opinions to grace his pages. Of course Lutherans have been guilty of Scriptural manipulation too historically as we present arguments for our own causes and issues. Our "pick and choose hermeneutic" is endemic. For example we are eager to explain away St. Paul in some places as culturally conditioned (women's roles, dietary laws, slavery) while we at the same time take St. Paul literally as he gives us the Words of Institution for the Lord's Supper or speaks of the physical resurrection of Jesus.

On balance Rob Bell contributes to our evangelical mission. He calls us to think differently. He is challenging and sometimes absolutely poignant and poetic. He could, however, learn modesty in his teaching as Bell's writing in some places seems arrogant. He would benefit from admitting his own frailty and uncertainty in the face of God. His best thoughts are these. They sure speak to me. And I think they speak to all of us:

"Jesus calls us to repent, to have our hearts and minds transformed so that we see everything differently. It will require a death, a humbling, a leaving behind of the old mind, and at the same time it will require an opening up, loosening our hold, and letting go, so that we can receive, expand, find, hear, see, and enjoy." (Bell, p.196)

+Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop
Conference Mission Meetings at Synod Assembly

“Witness” was the theme at the May 2016 Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly. We can express that witness on many levels: individually, in our local congregations, through our conference churches, through our Northern Great Lakes Synod, through the whole ELCA, and by the whole church catholic. Rev. Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA, shared the perspective of our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, that we in the ELCA are: 1) church 2) Lutheran 3) church together 4) church for the sake of the world. Just prior to lunch on Saturday, the voting members of the assembly divided up by conferences—there are eight in our synod—to see how they could work together as church for the sake of others.

Eight facilitators led the conversations around two questions: 1) What are the needs of our communities? 2) What is one thing that we might do together as a conference to meet these needs? Synod leadership thanks the following people for their facilitation of the lively discussions:

| Conference 1 | Rev. Kurt Kovanen | Conference 5 | Rev. Scott Ehle |
| Conference 3 | Rev. Ken Ranos | Conference 7 | Rev. Matt Lamb |
| Conference 4 | Rev. Mike Laakko | Conference 8 | Hayley Smith |

In assessing these “Mission Meetings” one can quickly conclude that there are plenty of needs in our communities. Pastors and lay people alike are keenly aware of the problems and challenges of not only the church communities but our communities at large. Several of the conferences cited various social concerns: drugs, the lack of sufficient social services, hunger, homelessness, mental illness causing an array of challenges, unemployment or underemployment, overcrowding in jails...and the list goes on.

Such a long list of concerns doesn’t surprise us, and reminds us that issues about the coffee hour or the color of the carpeting in the narthex shouldn’t rule the day. There are real, significant issues demanding attention over and against the “adiaphora” (non-essentials)! There were certainly “church-related” challenges that were discerned. Including such things as: youth involvement, intolerances manifested in many ways, lack of pastors in some contexts, lack of cooperation among churches, perceived irrelevance of the church, general lack of biblical knowledge among people...and the list goes on.

Not only was conversation stimulated, but concrete action items were recommended. Conference 6 was encouraged to connect with a “Stephen Ministries” class at First Lutheran in Gladstone. Conference 8 had a seed planted regarding ministry presence at Sawyer, where there is no ELCA congregational presence. Several conferences committed to “following-up” with these conference conversations the next time the conference churches gather and further develop action plans. Conference 1 wants each congregation to add “Conference Mission Updates” to their monthly or regularly scheduled council/congregational meeting agendas. And one person commented that these “Conference Mission Meetings” should be a regular part of synod assemblies.

The hope is that this is just the beginning of a renewed spirit of churches witnessing together and not just an exercise in filling up time in a synod assembly agenda. Notes from these conference discussions can be shared on the synod website and among the conference churches. May God bless our witness in being church together for the sake of others as we perceive the strength that we have in healthy cooperative efforts.

(Respectfully submitted by Pastor Jim Duehring on behalf of Bishop Skrenes)
Update on Lutheran Social Services in the UP – June 2016

Lutheran Social Services has undergone a great deal of change in the past year, especially here in the Upper Peninsula. There has been some confusion in the belief that LSS is no longer providing any services, but that is not the case. Lutheran Social Services remains committed as the social ministry arm of the ELCA churches and we look forward to many more years of working in partnership with the congregations here in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin to serve here who are in need.

Our Adoption and Pregnancy Services program serves the Upper Peninsula. This program provides international and domestic adoption programs for families looking to start or grow their families through adoption. LSS offers support and guidance during the adoption process and beyond and promotes an atmosphere of openness in adoption. LSS currently has international programming in the Philippines, Bulgaria and Kyrgyzstan. Our Pregnancy Services program also serves clients from anywhere in the UP and assists clients in safe and secure environment with pregnancy counseling, information and referral, emotional support and guidance as they consider their options and make decisions on parenting or adoption. Pregnancy Services are free of charge to clients.

Welcome Home in Marquette is our homeless assistance program and serves Marquette and Alger counties. Even though we longer have the Voices for Youth Program, the Welcome Home program can provide clients ages 18 and older with housing and case management services. The purpose of the program is to help persons and families who are experiencing chronic homelessness make the transition to safe, secure and permanent housing as they work toward self-sufficiency and independence. The ultimate goal of the Welcome Home program is to help preserve the dignity and respect of the individual, while providing the skills, training and supportive services necessary to maintain stable housing and move towards independent living.

Additionally, LSS operates two HUD subsidized housing projects in the Marquette area. Cherry Creek Village is a 32 unit complex located in Harvey for seniors 62 and over and those under 62 with a physical disability. Oakwood Village is a 24 unit complex in Marquette Township for seniors 62 and over.

Serving both Cherry Creek and Oakwood Village is the HUD Service Coordinator in the Marquette area. The Service Coordinator connects tenants to needed services to ensure that tenants retain their independence and current home.

In Houghton County, LSS operates two additional HUD subsidized apartment buildings. Golden Horizons is located in Calumet and serves persons 62 and older and those who are disabled. Pineview Apartments are located in Houghton and serves clients with a chronic mental illness. Both sites are served by Service Coordinator who works on site.

For any additional information you may contact Kerry Wiese at 906-226-7410 ext 14
WWW Ad Campaign Support
Christ the King, Escanaba
Grace, Gwinn
First, Iron River
St. Paul, Ironwood
St. Paul, Mass City
Bethany, Negaunee
Immanuel, Negaunee
Bethany, Perkins
Immanuel, Rhinelander
Trinity, Stonington
Northern Lights Lutheran Parish
(Mass City, Ontonagon)

Seminarian Support
Zion, Ironwood
Emmanuel, Menominee
Our Redeemer, Newberry
Faith, Rock
Don and Jo Schutt

General Endowment Fund
Christ the King, Escanaba
Bethany, Ishpeming

Answer the Call/Fund for Leaders
United, L’Anse
Robert Beyersdorf
Wayne Covieux
Elaine Hendrickson
Donna Hiltunen
Gerald Johnson
Pastor Kevin Kaiser
Victor Klumb
Carl and Mary Nurmi
Joyce Peterson
John Pilarzyk
John Ritola
Betsy Slabaugh
Margaret Staquet

Skogman Scholarship Fund
Our Savior’s, Marinette
Dirk and Sue Manson
Bishop Dale and Jo Skogman

Kemppainen Scholarship Fund
Norman and Marilyn Andrew
Jonelle Collins
Pastor Wally and Alice Leno
Pastors Jon and Jean Schmidt
Bishop Dale and Jo Skogman
Linnea Werner

NGLS Companion Synod Projects
St. Paul, Mass City
Immanuel, Negaunee
Helen Ademino
David and Mary Lou Blomquist
Jonelle Collins
Pastor David and Sandy Hueter
Pastor Robert and Deloris Langseth
Pastor George and Ruth Olson
Joyce Peterson
David and Tracy Rowe
Bishop Tom and Luanne Skrenes
Albert and Kathy Sundine

Lutheran Campus Ministry
Grace, Gwinn
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Immanuel, Negaunee
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Calvary, Rapid River
Faith, Rock

NGLS Mission Outreach Fund
Faith, Rock

Lutheran World Relief
Grace, Gwinn
Bethany, Isabella
Zion, Marinette
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Calvary, Minocqua
Calvary, Rapid River
St. James, Rudyard
Grace, South Range

Marked! Events
Bethany, Isabella

Missionary Sponsorship
Bethel, Ishpeming
Mission United, Pelkie
Trinity, Rhinelander

Disaster Relief
Good Shepherd, Houghton
Ascension, Minocqua
Bethany, Norway Ladies Guild
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Grace, South Range
All Saints, Wakefield

Lutheran Social Services
Trinity, Ishpeming
Emanuel, Skandia
SYNOD CALENDAR

JUNE

1 – 4 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly (Bishop Thomas Skrenes)
1 Worship Committee at Bethany, Republic, 10:30 a.m. ET
5 Meeting for Youth Interested in Going to Tanzania at Fortune Lake Camp, 3:00 p.m. CT
8 NGLS Staff Meeting at the Synod Office, 11:00 a.m. ET
9-18 Bishop Skrenes attend Boys State
14 World Hunger Committee at Bethany, Amasa, 2:00 p.m. CT
15-16 Tim Knutson, ELCA Regional Gift Planner, visiting in Synod
21 Leadership Support Committee at Fortune Lake Camp, 11:00 a.m. CT
23 NGLS Staff Meeting at the Synod Office, 11:00 a.m. ET
26 Installation of Pastor Bre Johnson at Faith, Sault Ste. Marie, 3:00 p.m. ET
30 Churchwide Assembly Voters Meeting at the Synod Office, 2:00-5:00 p.m. ET

JULY

1-9 Bishop Thomas Skrenes on Vacation
8-10 Pastor Katherine Finegan on Vacation
13 NGLS Staff Meeting at the Synod Office, 11:00 a.m. ET
14 Retired Clergy and Spouse and Widows Gathering at Faith, Rock, 11:00 a.m. ET
18-19 Tim Knutson, ELCA Regional Gift Planner, visiting in Synod
21-25 Region 5 Bishop and Spouse Gathering at Triago, WI
27 NGLS Staff Meeting at the Synod Office, 11:00 a.m. ET
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>those</strong> across the synod <strong>who will travel</strong> this summer – keep them safe as they enjoy the beauty of God’s creation and may they know that their church families keep them in prayer when they are away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>blessings for planters and for crops</strong> whether those on farms or in their own backyards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray that we may be good stewards of the all <strong>lakes, rivers, streams, and waterfalls</strong> that grace this synod. Keep them clean and beautiful for future generations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray for our nation as we celebrate independence this day. Ask for God’s guidance that our nation’s leaders will speak out for the rights, welfare, and dignity of people everywhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: Dean Peterson 7/06, Tracy Polzin 7/06, Jennie Johnson Wrege 7/07, Ken Michaelis 7/09, Norm Peterson 7/09, Keith Kolstad 7/09, and Ingmar Levin 7/10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Luther Chapel, Jefferson MD (Rev Dianne Bowers), Braddock Lutheran Church, Frederick MD (Rev Kimberly Nunberg) and St. Paul, Burkittsville (also Rev Kimberly Nunberg.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for the ministry of <strong>Shepherd of the Sea Chapel in Copper Harbor</strong> and <strong>Pastor Timothy Johnston</strong> as they welcome summer residents and visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>For those <strong>men and women in the armed forces</strong> away from their homes defending our country and their families who miss them. We thank God for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>blessings on the marriage of Pastor Breanne Johnson and Thomas Kinnunen</strong> who are getting married today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Kinondoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS companion congregation Bethel Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, (Rev Lauri Maki)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>For all <strong>those facing addictions to drugs or alcohol</strong>. Lead them to seek help and forgive them when they make mistakes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for pastors celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination this month</strong>: Bob Patrick, D.J. Rasner, Melinda Quivik, Gerald Anderson, Scott Ehle, Jim Duehring, and Katherine Finegan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>For those in Africa and the rest of the world <strong>suffering with water-borne illnesses caused by mosquitoes that breed in water or the various diseases caused by unclean water.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for those <strong>retired clergy, their spouses and spouses of deceased clergy</strong> attending the retreat at Faith, Rock, today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray also for <strong>retired clergy and their spouses</strong>: Rev Ken and Joanne Michaelis &amp; Rev Les and Marcia Niemi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for those children attending <strong>Vacation Bible School</strong> and the adult and youth leaders who will be enriched by leading it across our synod this summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for all those in our synod attending <strong>seminaries</strong> and especially we pray for <strong>Terry Frankenstein</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>For our shared ELCA Planned Giving Coordinator, <strong>Tim Knutson</strong> as he visits our synod today and tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>St. John Creagersville and St. Paul Utica, Thurmont MD, (Rev Albert Lane), &amp; Elias, Emmitsburg MD (Rev Jon Greenstone.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Porterfield Lutheran in Porterfield and Beaver American Lutheran in Pound</strong> and their interim pastor, <strong>Rev Ken Michaelis</strong> as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>For blessings and thanksgiving for <strong>musicians who share their talents</strong> with the people in our congregations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>For <strong>Bishop Tom Skrenes and his wife, Luanne</strong>, and all those bishops in Region 5 who are attending the <strong>Bishops and Spouses Retreat in Triago, WI today and tomorrow</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of our deceased pastors</strong> – <strong>Darley Kemppainen and Marilyn Andersen</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for more <strong>pastors celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: <strong>D. J. Rasner 7/10, Kristi Ursin 7/12, Gerald Anderson 7/17, Devon Barrrix 7/24, Timothy Johnston 7/24, and Raymond Korry 7/27</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>We send a prayer of <strong>thanks to our Heavenly Father</strong> for the sunshine and the rain, the birds and the flowers, the smell of fresh mown grass and <strong>all of the things we miss so much when snow covers the land in our synod</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>For continued <strong>love and strength and blessings for caregivers</strong> everywhere who can’t help but grow weary from carrying burdens for loved ones who can no longer care for themselves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray that we can <strong>help children discover the joy of reading</strong> this summer. Read to small children, choose books for older children, and help them all to become familiar with their local libraries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>For those with <strong>macular degeneration and other visual impairments</strong>, keep them safe and provide them with caregivers to help them negotiate in the midst of a sighted world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for those <strong>struggling with gender orientation and identity issues</strong>. That they will find peace with God’s help and with human understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>On this <strong>International Day of Friendship</strong> we pray for <strong>all of our friends</strong> and then we also pray for <strong>all of our enemies</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for all individuals and their families <strong>who are dealing with mental illness</strong>. Pray also that our <strong>governments and health care systems will keep them safe</strong> and get them the treatment that they need and deserve.</td>
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“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
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<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Mt. Moriah and St. Paul, both in Smithburg MD</strong> <em>(Rev G. Brigham)</em>, <strong>&amp; Trinity, Smithburg MD</strong> <em>(Rev Virgil Cain.)</em> Pray also for those attending the <strong>Worship Committee</strong> meeting at <strong>Bethany, Republic at 10:30 today</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>For <strong>Bishop Skrenes</strong> as he travels to attend the <strong>Delaware/Maryland Synod Assembly</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Rostered Leaders, both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month</strong>: Paul Holmstrom 6/2, Lauri Maki 6/3, Timothy Nyikako 6/3, Katheryn King 6/4, and Nick Johannes 6/6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>For all <strong>graduates beginning a new phase of life</strong>. We pray that they achieve their goals, weather their disappointments and stay close to God as they face new adventures and temptations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>For those attending a meeting of <strong>Young People Interested in Going to Tanzania</strong>, <strong>3:00 CT at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors active or retired celebrating anniversaries of ordination</strong>: John Kuziej, Doug Pohlman, Fran Strong, David Van Kley, Ken Michaelis, and Norman Lund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Yombo Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS companion congregation Immanuel, Negaunee</strong> <em>(Revs Steven and Marcia Solberg.)</em></td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>spouses of deceased pastors</strong> – Margaret Laursen and Dorothy Andersen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>For <strong>school children</strong> dismissed from their regular school work. <strong>May they continue to learn and grow</strong> and take the time to exercise their minds and bodies in play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Bishop Tom Skrenes</strong> as he leaves to spend a week at <strong>Boys State</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>For all <strong>those traveling</strong> to attend graduations and weddings, and those enjoying vacations. <strong>Grant them safe travel and happy times.</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for pastors active or retired celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong>: Peter Vorhes, Keith Kolstad, Warren Geier, and Erik Heskin.</td>
</tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>World Hunger</strong> committee meeting today at <strong>2:00 CT at Bethany, Amasa.</strong></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>For <strong>Tim Knutson, ELCA Gift Planner</strong> who is visiting in the Synod today and tomorrow.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp</strong> and for those campers enjoying the many events throughout the summer. FLLC has something for everyone -- visit <a href="http://fortunelakelutherancamp.org">fortunelakelutherancamp.org</a> today for the schedule.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>For all the <strong>Seminary Students</strong> from our synod, but especially this month we pray that <strong>all congregations in our synod would encourage their young people to explore the ministry</strong> as their calling in life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for pastors active or retired celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong>: Lee Goodwin, Micheal Laakko, Katheryn King, David Jensen, Maxine Gray, Earl Bergh, &amp; George Olson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Offer prayers of <strong>thanksgiving for fathers on Father’s Day</strong>. Pray that all fathers become involved, responsible parents who raise their children to be caring individuals who will have productive and fulfilling lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for those across the synod who are <strong>in need of God’s healing touch</strong> – keep them mindful of God’s presence in their lives as they are renewed in body, mind, and spirit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Leadership Support Committee</strong> meeting at FLLC at 11:00 CT today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for those <strong>people everywhere who are homeless</strong>. May God help them retain their dignity while they improve their situation and can return to a place with a permanent roof over their heads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>For those <strong>in prisons</strong>. Keep them from harm and help them to learn from their mistakes. <strong>Keep these children of God close to you, Dear Father.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of Zion, Williamsport MD (<strong>Rev Warren Martin</strong>), Christ, Lavale MD (<strong>Rev Charles Erzkus</strong>) and Bethany, Brunswick MD (<strong>Rev Kathy Heinsohn</strong>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for pastors active or retired celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong>: Eleanor Russey, Wally Leno, Dean Marin, Philip Johnson, David Johnson, Paul Holmstrom, Lauri Maki, &amp; Paul Raappana.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>For <strong>Pastor Breanne Johnson</strong> as she is <strong>installed at Faith, Sault Ste Marie</strong>, 3:00 ET today.</td>
</tr>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Pray also for <strong>retired clergy and their spouses</strong>: Rev <strong>Jon and Diana Magnuson</strong> and Rev <strong>Dean and Marie Marin</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>For all those <strong>getting married this month</strong> that they will learn to solve their problems and become good examples for future generations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for pastors active or retired celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong>: Jon Magnuson, Ingmar Levin, Les Niemi, Robert Sutherland, Matt Lamb, Bob Langseth, Raymond Korry, Tim Johnston, &amp; Stephen Gauger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>For <strong>victims of bullying</strong>. Help them regain their self-respect and dignity and help them to forgive the bullies.</td>
</tr>
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