From the Bishop

TRANSITION: CALLING A BISHOP

In a few short weeks, the synod will gather as a “Call Committee” and with prayer and reflection vote for a new bishop to serve this synod. This pastor will be elected and serve for six years— from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2023.

This man or woman will be a person of faith and called by you and the Holy Spirit to be the pastor of this synod. This bishop will pray! This bishop will proclaim and teach the faith! This bishop will preach the Word of God. This bishop will work to build up the body of Christ throughout the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin. This bishop will be a “bishop of the whole church” with specific responsibilities within our eighty congregations.

When this synod gathers (laity and clergy) in Marquette on May 21-23, we will call upon a pastor to be our bishop. Here is what this synod’s bishop does and what I have done for eighteen years:

*Preach* the Word of God in all of our congregations, institutions and agencies.

*Pray* for God’s people.

*Preside* at Communion, and, on occasion, baptisms and funerals in our synod.

*Teach* the Word of God in our congregations and ministries.

*Lead* our synod into mission.

*Administer* the synod’s organization and structure.

*Supervise* our synod’s officers, office staff and assist all of them to accomplish their ministries.

*Recommend* ministers to rostered positions.

*Ordain and install* pastors, deacons and licensed lay ministers.

*Encourage and counsel* ministers, congregations and synod ministries.

*Speak* on behalf of the synod, being the public face of the Church here.
BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

*Challenge* our congregations and its leadership to do justice.

*Help* to raise up women and men for service as pastors, deacons and lay leaders of this church.

*Plan* for our work in this synod and throughout the whole church.

*Provide* pastoral care for our congregations and ministers.

*Serve* on the ELCA Conference of Bishops and its Conference committees.

*Represent* the ELCA Bishops Conference on at least one committee or group of the ELCA. I, for example, serve on the ELCA Foundation Board and advise the ELCA Men in Mission Ministry Board.

*Participate* in the Region 5 Bishop’s group, Ecumenical group of U.P. Bishops, and advise other organizations including the Lutheran Social Services Board of Directors.

*Actively staff* these synod ministries: Synod Council, Synod Council Executive Committee, Endowment Fund Board, Finance Committee, Mission Outreach Committee, Campus Ministry Board, Lay School and Licensed Lay Ministry Board, Stewardship Committee, Leadership Support Committee, and Companion Synod Committee.

*Coordinate* with the Assistant to the Bishop so that these committees function well: Youth Committee, Evangelism Committee, Worship Committee, World Hunger Committee, Synod Assembly Planning Committee, Candidacy Committee and Constitution Committee.

More formally this is what the job description for the office of Bishop looks like!

**Northern Great Lakes Synod**

**Job Description for Synod Bishop**

The statement “*The Office and Ministry of the Bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: A Shared Vision of Episcopacy and a Relational Agreement*” says the following about the office of synod bishop:

**The Office of the Bishop Within the Office of Ministry**

The ordained ministry of the Church, Lutherans agree, is “basically one ministry, centered in the proclamation of the Word of God and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. This ministry embraces both the ministry of pastor within and for a local community of believers and of bishop within and for a communion of local communities” (*The Lutheran Understanding of Ministry*, Lutheran World Federation 1983). The ministry of bishops is understood as an expression of the pastoral ministry. Describing the office of the synodical bishop as the *synod’s pastor*, roots this ministry most deeply in its pastoral understanding.
The constitution of the Northern Great Lakes Synod defines the job of our Synod Bishop as follows:

S8.10. Bishop

S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a pastor who is a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:

a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.

b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.

c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.)

d. Consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service.

e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.

f. Install (or provide for the installation of) rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has attested.

The Office of the Bishop Within the Life of the Church

“Each bishop shall give leadership for ordained and other ministries; shall give leadership to the mission of this church; shall give leadership in strengthening the unity of the church; and shall provide administrative oversight” (ELCA Study of Ministry: Together for Ministry, 1993). In exercising this leadership, the bishop is to give attention to four tasks: 1) to preach and teach the apostolic faith of the Church; 2) to provide for Word and Sacrament ministry within the territory of the bishop’s ministry, including the Church’s power to ordain; 3) to oversee the work of the Church’s mission within the territory of the bishop’s ministry; and 4) to give witness to the unity of the Church.

This church’s understanding of the apostolic faith, and the Creeds and Confessions that give witness to it, are described in its constitutions under the chapter title “Confession of Faith.”

The Office of the Bishop Within the Nature and Organization of This Church

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America understands itself to be one church in three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. Each expression is fully the church, but not, by itself, the whole Church. These expressions work interdependently, rather than hierarchically. The ministry of bishops is to exemplify this understanding of interdependence. Bishops are accountable to the Gospel. Bishops also are accountable to those among whom they serve, to one another, and to this entire church. As individuals and as a conference, the bishops provide counsel to this church. In their public ministries, bishops draw attention to needs that must be addressed in Church and society.
BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:

1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning this synod's life and work; and
5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.

h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:

1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers, and congregations of this synod;
3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
4) Consult regularly with other synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops;
5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
7) Be ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.

i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:

1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod;
2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council and the council's Executive Committee;
3) Ensure that constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
4) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;
5) Coordinate the work of all synod staff members;
6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution.
8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled;
9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church:

a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations;

b) issuance of a certificates of transfer, for rostered ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and

c) entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;

11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a register of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and

12) Appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations, and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

S8.12.01. As this Synod's pastor the bishop shall visit each congregation of the synod at least once during each term, such visit to include participation in worship and meeting with lay leadership.

S8.12.02. As this Synod's pastor the bishop shall at the invitation of the pastor or at the discretion of the bishop visit each pastor of the synod at least once during each term, such visit to include a confidential appraisal of the pastor's ministry, the congregation's mission, and the hopes and dreams each has for the future.

†S8.13. The synodical bishop may appoint an attorney, admitted to the bar within the territory of the synod or the state where the synod is located, to be Synod Attorney. The appointment must be approved by the Synod Council and reported to the Synod Assembly and to the ELCA secretary. The appointment continues until resignation or until a successor is appointed. The Synod Attorney provides legal advice and counsel to the synodical officers and the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney is expected to be familiar with the governing documents and policies of the synod and, as necessary, to attend meetings of the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney serves without salary but may be retained and compensated for specific legal services requested by the synod.

For further description about the work of a Synod bishop you can refer to the document: “The Office and Ministry of the Bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: A Shared Vision of Episcopacy and a Relational Agreement”. This document can be found on the ELCA website (www.elca.org) as “Exhibit J” within the “2017 Toolkit for Synod Bishop Elections”.

It is a big job. Are you praying that one might be called to this work?

+Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes
BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

TRANSITIONS

+ Congratulations to Jeremy and Erin Nausin (Grace, Pembine) on the birth of their daughter, Natalie Ruth Nausin, born on March 20th. May God bless this happy family!

+ Condolences to the family of Pastor Donald Wandersee, who died on Sunday, February 19, 2017. Among the churches he served were St. Stephen’s, Stephenson and Gethsemane, Wallace in Michigan and Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner in Wisconsin. Cards may be sent to Edwina Wandersee at 1609 17th Avenue, Menominee, MI 49858.

+ Congratulations to Pastor Christina Forsythe on her ordination and installation on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at Porterfield Lutheran Church in Porterfield, WI. Pastor Christina has been called to serve Beaver American Lutheran Church in Pound, WI, and Porterfield Lutheran Church.

Congratulations to Pastors-elect:

+ Linda Forray who will be ordained on April 8th, 11 a.m. CT at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Wallace, MI. Linda has been called to serve Peace United Church of Christ in Marinette, WI. Pastors are invited to vest, the color of the day is red; and

+ Terry Franken-stein who will be ordained on April 23, 3 p.m. ET at First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, MI. Pastors are invited to vest, the color of the day will be red. Pastor-elect Terry has been called to serve Zion Lutheran Church in Manistique, MI. Her installation will be held on May 7, 2017 at Zion, Manistique.

Pre-Identification Process for Bishop

Here is how the Pre-Identification Process will progress:

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

- An individual may identify herself/himself or he/she 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 our 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.
Synod Assembly 2017

Bring Your World Hunger Cows and Bulls to Assembly!

We will have them displayed at NMU Monday and Tuesday so please bring them with you!

The World Hunger Offerings will be collected Monday morning at NMU. Checks and paper money are requested, but coins are welcomed also!

Pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers

Opening Worship for Synod Assembly will begin at 4 p.m. ET at Messiah, Marquette. You are invited to process and the color of the day will be red. Vesting will be in rooms 201 and 202.

You are asked to be vested by 3:45 p.m.

Synod Assembly 2017 Offering

The offerings at both worship services this year will be divided equally between Lay School for Mission & Bishop’s Office Transition Expenses

Please make the checks out to Northern Great Lakes Synod or NGLS.

Schedule of Assembly Registration

Registration for Synod Assembly is now available on the website at www.nglsynod.org/assembly. When you are at assembly, you must check in at the Synod Assembly Registration tables to get your nametags, meal tickets and assembly information packets. You will need to wear your nametags during assembly so the elections committee will know if you are a voter or a visitor when handing out ballots. No voter nametag, no ballot.

Registration is required to close just before the Credentials Report is given for each balloting time. Once you have registered on-site, you are registered for the entire assembly.

Here is the schedule.

Sunday
Open 2:00 p.m. ET Closed 4:00 p.m. ET

Monday
Open 7:00 a.m. ET Closed 8:15 am. ET
Open 9:15 a.m. ET Closed 11:00 a.m. ET
Open 1:30 pm. ET Closed 2:45 p.m. ET
Open 4:00 p.m. ET Closed 5:00 p.m. ET

Tuesday
Open 7:00 a.m. ET Closed 8:15 a.m. ET
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My very first experience with death happened when I was a young child. One of our gerbils, Chip I think, the other was Dale (named after the cartoon characters, not the entertainers), was found dead and gone lying in the bottom of our gerbil cage.

As children who were no strangers to Sunday school, my siblings and I promptly planned a gerbil funeral, and dug a small grave in the yard. We had a little ceremony, surrounded the grave with stone markers, and found this all so interesting, we went on a hunt for other dead animals that we could add to the graveyard. A little disturbing, when you think about it, but there wasn’t much else to do. We had three channels on our black and white TV, and there were no cartoons on during the weekday.

Chip was soon followed by Chip #2, #3 and maybe #4 (I began to lose track. For some reason the gerbil named Chip did not live long in our house). Our animal graveyard grew until it become boring and we moved on to some other distraction.

At this age, I experienced no real sense of loss, no real understanding of mortality, only a very matter-of-fact acceptance that gerbils can die. We were still innocent of death’s shadow and the weight of grief.

Until that is, my grandmother died of encephalitis caused by the bite of a mosquito. I was ten years old. We went to her funeral and I cried out my grief. I felt the weight of her loss, not, I think, because I knew her very well, but more because I could feel my father’s grief, and because death has that power to pull on us.

When my own father died suddenly of cardiac arrest at the age of 65, I was still hardly prepared for death. I met my mother at the hospital after an ambulance ride that was unsuccessful in efforts to resuscitate him. Unlike my grandmother, my father’s body was new to death. He was not laid out in a coffin, but on an ER examining table. As my mother called who needed to be called, I sat with my father’s body as the warmth of life left him.

When I arrived in the Northern Great Lakes Synod as a new seminary graduate and first call pastor, my experience of death was limited to the above. Sure, I read of acquaintances who had died in the paper. People at my church died, but I didn’t know them well, or someone I knew knew someone else. But death was still infrequent. It
was easy to forget about death, to get busy with the demands of work, school, children, and more. Death was something like lightening. Striking me painfully at the loss of my father, but then rolling off into the distance. I knew grief better than I knew death. But as a parish pastor, that all changed.

As pastor in a small community, every death has an impact, every loss is felt. Everyone knows the person to some extent, or knows someone else who is bereaved. The grief is borne communally in varying degrees. The possibility of death lurks in every ride home from work, every four-wheeler ride, every fishing trip, every shut-in visit, every swim at the beach. The possibility of death is ever present, even if it stands just outside of the field of vision.

I found that this closeness of death was and is, filled with unexpected blessing. To have a sense of one’s mortality, and the mortality of our loved ones, can deepen one’s faith. If death stands in the periphery, Christ stands there also. When death is near, then the promise of new life in Christ means that much more. We hold our loved ones in prayer more fervently, we grieve with hope, we make our days matter, we know that this life is not all there is to life, and death, even in all its terrible heartbreaking heavy darkness, simply is not the final word.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

It’s not just a platitude. It’s not just something we say in church. It is the heart of the truth of what matters. There is no new life without death, and there is no Easter without Good Friday. God knows we wish there could be. But we know all too well, that death preys upon us. We are afraid of it, we grieve it, we are in pain because of it, we suffer the loss of those we love, we cannot fix it - so let us not deny it.

Worship on Good Friday is about sitting in the shadow of death, that darkness that looms over us in the shape of a cross. And the one who suffers there, the one who dies there, he has come to give us hope in the midst of pain, and to speak light into that darkness. We are not rescued from death any more than he was. Rather, we go where he has first led the way, through death, to new life, to light, to hope, and at least in this life, to comfort, knowing that the separation from our loved ones is temporary, and one day, we too, will join the saints in light.

A blessed Easter to you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Katherine Finegan
Assistant to the Bishop
Synod Assembly Choir
You are invited to sing with an adhoc choir that will enrich the opening worship of Synod Assembly on May 21 at 4:00pm. Dave Dagenais will direct.

Please come to one or both of the following Saturday rehearsals.

May 13  10am Bethany, Ishpeming
May 20  10am Messiah, Marquette

Final run through will be Sunday, May 21 at 3pm at Messiah, before worship begins.

HOUSTON 2018
The National Gathering of Youth
While there was a hope that we could charter a plane for the Synod to go to Houston, the cost is more than individual churches might arrange on their own. So we commend to you the process of making your own arrangements.

Be in touch with Lisa Bouche (lisabouche92@gmail.com) with your plans. She is our Gathering Synod Coordinator and can help congregations with only one or two youth to join the group of another congregation.

Also, Pastor Erik Heskin may be in touch with you as he plans our Synod Day together. Blessings on your preparations and your fundraising!

This experience is worth every effort!!!
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

**Full-time**

First, Iron River; Trinity, Stambaugh—Pastor Mike Laakko

Faith, Ishpeming—Rev. Doug Norquist

Mission United, Pelkie—Pastor Bucky Beach

**Part-time**

Grace, South Range; First, Dollar Bay—Rev. Julie Belew

“DEEDS OF CARING: Feeding the hungry; Providing drink for the thirsty; Welcoming the stranger; Clothing the naked; Taking care of the sick; Visiting the prisoners; Comforting the bereaved.”

*(Paraphrased from Matthew 25:31-46 by Rev. Michael Meier in “Step by Step”)*

Your gifts to the synod and the ELCA are instrumental in carrying out these acts of mercy described by Jesus. While receipt of mission support gifts in 2017 has started out slowly in comparison to last year, we have the ability to and the privilege of surpassing 2016 by giving generously and consistently to the Lord’s work. We are the hands and face of Christ as we share the blessings God provides. You truly make a difference in the world through your benevolence gifts. Thank you.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

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PRAYFAITHFULLY

DEVOTION SCHEDULE
FOR April & May

| April 2-8   | Members of Trinity, Ishpeming |
| April 9-15  | Pastor Kay Richter            |
| April 16-22 | Dave and Mary Lou Blomquist   |
| April 23-29 | Jill Flickinger               |
| April 30 - May 6 | Pastor Bre Kinnunen |
| May 7-13    | Pastor Ken Ranos              |
| May 14-20   | Doris Kewley                  |
| May 21-27   | Pastor Judy Kincaid           |
| May 28-June 3 | Pastor Steve Solberg       |
SYNOD CALENDAR

April 2017

2  Delta Conference 6 Spring Meeting at Bethany, Perkins, 4 p.m. ET
3  Synod Staff Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
8  Ordination of Linda Forray at Gethsemane, Wallace, 11 a.m. CT
14  Synod Office Closed for Good Friday
16  Happy Easter!
18  Synod Staff Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
19  Synodical Women’s Organization Meeting, 9:30 a.m. CT at FLLC
21-22  Bi-Synodical Candidacy Meeting at FLLC
23  Ordination of Terry Frankenstein 3 p.m. ET at First, Gladstone
24  Executive Committee Meeting 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET at Pr. Doug & Elaine Johnson’s Home
26  Inclusive and Welcoming Task Force 11 – 12:30 ET at the Synod Office
Synod Assembly Band Practice 1 p.m. ET at Bethany, Republic
27  World Hunger Committee Meeting Noon ET at the Synod Office
29  Delta Cluster 6 Meeting 9 a.m. – Noon ET at Trinity, Stonington
30  FLLC Annual Meeting 2 - 5 p.m. CT

May 2017

2  Bishop Skrenes - Lutheran Planned Giving Meeting in Madison, WI
3  Synod Staff Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
4  Lay School for Mission/Licensed Lay Ministry Board Meeting 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
6  NGLS Endowment Fund Board Meeting 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
7  Installation of Pr. Terry Frankenstein 3 p.m. ET at Zion, Manistique
   “Answer the Call” Sunday
8  Superior Central Cluster 8 Meeting 6:30 p.m. ET at Bethany, Ishpeming
13  Conference 8 Synod Assembly Choir Rehearsal 10 a.m. ET at Bethany, Ishpeming
15  Synod Council Conference Call 5:30 p.m. ET/4:30 p.m. CT
17  Synod Staff Meeting 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
20  Conference 8 Synod Assembly Choir Rehearsal 10 a.m. ET at Messiah, Marquette
21-23  Synod Assembly at Messiah, Marquette and Northern Michigan University, Marquette
24  Synod Office Closed
29  Synod Office Closed for Memorial Day
31  Bishop Skrenes – ELCA Foundation Meeting in Chicago
Thank you

Advertizing Campaign
Christ the King, Escanaba
Faith, Rock

Answer the Call/Fund for Leaders
Roger and Kay Knuth
Dave and Pat Holli
Pr. Kevin and Steffany Kaiser

Companion Synod Projects
Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood
St. Paul, Ironwood
First, Gladstone
Zion, Manistique
Duane and Rita Palomaki
NGLS Synodical Women’s Organization

ELCA Disaster Relief
Salem, Ironwood
Grace, South Range
Bethany, Amasa

ELCA Good Gifts
Holy Cross, Baraga

ELCA National Youth Gathering
First, Gladstone

General Endowment Fund
Norman Lamberg

Lutheran Campus Ministry
Faith, Rock
Grace, Gwinn
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Lutheran Social Services
Trinity, Ishpeming
Emanuel, Skandia

Lutheran World Relief
Calvary Evangelical, Minocqua
Zion, St. Ignace
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Missionary Sponsorship
Trinity, Rhinelander

Mission Outreach Fund
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Immanuel, Escanaba
Faith, Rock

Seminarian Support
Christ the King, Escanaba
Faith, Rock

Skogman Scholarship Fund
Dirk and Sue Manson

Walk for Water
Prince of Peace, Eagle River
Grants for funds received in 2016

The Always Being Made New Campaign of 2016 generated funds to be used in our Synod to support your congregation’s efforts to address issues of hunger and poverty.

Is there a community food pantry? Clothes closet? A weekend back pack program for your local school? If not, what would it take to start one?

A grant might be just what you need to begin a project by helping to fund an effort that is already in motion or give seed money for a new plan of action.

The Congregation is expected to provide matching funds that are at least 50% of the amount requested.

Each year of the Always Being Made New Campaign congregations and individuals are invited to contribute to the work of Christ through our Synod and our partnership together with the wider church. Half of the funds received for each year will be available for congregational grants through the Northern Great Lakes Synod, the other half will go to support national and global ministry efforts through the ELCA.

- 2015 ELCA Renewing & New Congregations
  2015 NGLS Fortune Lake, Mission Outreach and Barrier Free Projects
- 2016 ELCA World Hunger
  2016 NGLS Local Hunger Grants
- 2017 ELCA Global Church
  2017 NGLS Companion Synod/Tanzania
- 2018 ELCA Leadership: Fund for Leaders
  2018 NGLS Synod Campus Ministry Efforts

An opportunity for congregations to address hunger needs and issues of poverty in their congregations and communities.
Grant Disbursements

Applicants will be informed as to whether or not their proposal will receive funds. If yes, a contract will be sent and the congregation will agree to spend the funds on their project as stated in the proposal, or return said funds.

Grant Requirements

- Complete an application. The Application requires you to:
  - Provide a brief description of your project as well as a timeline of when you expect the project to be completed in its entirety.
  - Submit a proposed budget of the project, clearly showing the congregation’s financial investment.
  - Provide a report of the project within 45 days of its completion, including digital photographs, if possible, and a brief article for possible publication that describes your effort.
  - Give permission to share your idea with other congregations across the Northern Great Lakes Synod.
  - Sign a contract to use any funds received in the way indicated in the proposal.

Hunger Grants Q & A:

~How do we apply?
- Online at www.nglsynod.org, or
- Call the synod office to request a copy of the application be mailed to you, or
- Email kfinegan@nglsynod.org and request that the application be emailed to you.

~How much can we ask for?
- Grant disbursements will depend on how many applications we receive and the amount of funds generated. Congregations must match 50% of their request with congregational funding.

~When are applications due?
- September 1, 2017

~Where do I send it?
- Email applications to the synod office at kfinegan@nglsynod.org.
- Mail to: NGLS Synod Office, 1029 North Third St., Suite A, Marquette, MI 49855

~Need more information?
- Call Pastor Katherine Finegan at 906-228-2300
A Call to Prayer
For our synod as we prepare to elect a new bishop

Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
Luke 10:2

A petition for our congregations at worship services through May 21:

“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.

+Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop

A Call to Prayer
from the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
Luke 10:2

“As the Conference of Bishops, we call our worshiping communities to pray for raising up leaders for this church. We ask that the petitions of every worship service include a plea that new lay leaders, deacons and pastors be identified, invited, encouraged and supported in responding to God's call to ministry.” [adopted March 4, 2017]

At its March 2017 meeting, the ELCA Conference of Bishops claimed identifying, inviting, equipping, and supporting leaders and cultivating vital faith communities as two of the highest priorities for our work together. Active attention to these two priorities is essential for the church’s faithful participation in God’s mission of hope, healing, and reconciliation in changing, challenging times.

This call to prayer also aligns with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton’s leadership initiative, announced in November 2016, which intends to inspire ELCA leaders to seek out and encourage gifted people in their congregations, communities and networks to consider a call to the ministry of the gospel, supported by growing levels of scholarships for seminary tuition.

The harvest is, indeed, plentiful. We need more laborers, lay and rostered, to provide the ministry and leadership that will, by grace and in the power of the Spirit, assist the church in moving forward faithfully and energetically into God’s unfolding future.
Will you join us in prayer every time your worshiping community gets together, and in your own personal and family prayers, asking the Lord of the harvest to raise up and send out laborers into the harvest? And will you consider becoming an answer to that prayer by inviting someone who seems to have the appropriate gifts to consider becoming a pastor or deacon, or by prayerfully considering that call yourself?

Here are a few prayers to consider using, provided by members of the Conference of Bishops:

Christ Jesus, head of the church, raise up from among the baptized pastors to preach your word and administer your sacraments; deacons to serve all people and bear your gospel to the world; and congregational leaders to bring vision and vitality to your people. Grant us the grace to identify those in our midst you are calling, courage to name their gifts, and opportunities to gently nurture and support their discernment. God of mercy. Receive our prayer.

O God, you make your love known in Jesus Christ. We thank you for loving your church so much that you send the Holy Spirit into the hearts of children, women, and men so that they know themselves called to be pastors and deacons and leaders for congregations and the church. Bless your church with an abundance of leaders. And as we are bold to believe that you will raise up pastors, deacons, and leaders from this congregation, ready our hearts to nurture their faith, celebrate their call, and support their preparation for ministry. God of mercy. Receive our prayer.

O God, you so love the world that you sent Jesus, and our world so needs your love. With the whole Church we implore you to call forth pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders to lead us in bearing Christ to all the world so that the world may know your love. We pray especially for those in this faith community the Holy Spirit may be nudging to public ministry in the church and Christ-like service in the world. God of mercy. Receive our prayer.

Lord Jesus, we pray for congregations in the call process and for the pastor you will send them. We pray for those outside the church who will come to know Jesus through ministry in his name and for the deacon you will send to serve them. We pray for our congregation’s future and for the leaders you will call forward to guide us. Embolden us to invite those in whom we experience gifts for these ministries to prayerfully consider your calling, and give us generous spirits to support them. God of mercy. Receive our prayer.

We give you thanks, O God, for the children in our midst – especially those in elementary and middle school. We pray that as they grow, they will hear your voice calling them into your service – in the church, in the world, for the sake of their neighbors. Help them to imagine being pastors and deacons, church council leaders, Sunday school teachers, mentors and community leaders. Give them courage to say yes to your call, O God. We pray in gratitude and boldness in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Rev. Dr. William O. Gafkjen, Bishop
Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA
Chair, ELCA Conference of Bishops
The World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for the 2017 Big Bear Award which will be presented at the 2017 Synod Assembly. Please use the following guidelines to submit your nomination:

- Nominees must be a group (committee, task force, team, etc.) of a Northern Great Lakes Synod congregation that has made an exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry.
- Complete the information and return to the Northern Great Lakes Synod by April 24th.

Thank You!
2017 Bread Basket Award

The World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for the 2017 Bread Basket Award which will be presented at the 2017 Synod Assembly. Please use the following guidelines to submit your nomination:

0. Nominees must be an individual of a Northern Great Lakes Synod congregation that has made an exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry.

0. Complete the information and return to the Northern Great Lakes Synod by April 24th.

Thank You!

Nomination Form
2017 Bread Basket Award

Name______________________________________
(of Individual)

Congregation________________________________

City/Town___________________________________

Contact Person ______________________________

Phone_______________________________

Email________________________________

Brief Description of Project or Accomplishment:
___________________________________________
___________________________________________
___________________________________________
___________________________________________
___________________________________________

Submitted by________________________________

Congregation________________________________

Phone______________________________________

Email______________________________________

Return to:  Northern Great Lakes Synod
1029 North Third St. , Suite A
Marquette, MI  49855
Or, email the above information to kfinegan@nglsynod.org

Thank You!
**Prayer Calendar – April 2017**

| 1 | Pray for all those currently fighting drug addiction. Pray that all of society will work together to find a way help those who are addicted to stop using drugs and become healthy again. |
| 2 | For all those in Conference 6 as they meet today at 4:00 E.T. at Bethany in Perkins. |
| 3 | Pray for our Synod Staff as they prepare for the Synod Assembly at their staff meeting today at 11:00. |
| 4 | Pray for the members of Kipawa Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation, St. Paul, Mass City (Rev Jay Welshonse, pastor.) |
| 5 | Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – Oradell Lindblad and Hilma Backman. |
| 6 | For all the Seminary Students from our synod, but especially this month we pray for Kelly Ylitalo. |
| 7 | Pray for all those in the congregations of First in Iron River and Trinity in Stambaugh and their interim pastor, Rev Micheal Laakko, as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy. |
| 8 | Pray for Linda Forray at her ordination today at 11:00 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Wallace. |
| 9 | Pray for the members of Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Odessa DE (Rev Michael Merkel), Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wilmington DE (Rev Kathleen Ierian), and Spirit of Life Lutheran Church in Wilmington DE (Rev Clarence Pettit). |
| 10 | Pray for our Rostered Clergy, active and retired, who are celebrating birthdays this month; Mark Bangert 4/13, George Kaiser 4/14, Nancy Kauppi 4/16, and John Autio 4/16. |
| 11 | Pray for Rev Breanne Kinnunen who is celebrating the anniversary of her ordination this month. |
| 12 | For trees, flowers, and green grass. For birds singing and warm breezes. We thank God for all of the seasons, but seem to especially welcome the rebirth we see in springtime. |
| 13 | Just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, pray that each of us may find joy and fulfillment in a life of service to others as disciples of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. |
At the foot of the cross we see his tortured body and feel his pain, yet at the same time we experience this as God’s greatest gift. **Pray that as you leave the cross you take the crucified Christ with you today.**

As the day ends and darkness descends, we do not yet see light, yet we know the blazing light of Easter is about to burst forth. **Pray for hope in all the dark times of our lives and the lives of our loved ones,** as we remember that the life of the resurrected Christ shines light into our lives every day.

**Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!** Say these words over and over this day – make this your breath prayer today and every day. Thank God for the **risen Christ today and every day** knowing that he is with you now and has prepared a place for you in his kingdom where you will live forever.

Pray for our **retired clergy:** Rev Mary Weinkauf and Rev John West.

Pray for our **Rostered Clergy,** active and retired, who are **celebrating birthdays** this month; Ken Ranos 4/20, Melinda Quivik 4/21, Doug Pohlman 4/24, Chrys Hendrick 4/28.

Pray for Pastor Katherine Finegan and **all those attending the Synod Women’s Organization** meeting at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp today.

Pray for our **Rostered Clergy,** active and retired, who are **celebrating birthdays** this month; Bob Patrick 4/29, Amanda Kossow 4/29, Bob Sutherland 4/30.

For Rev Katherine Finegan and all those attending the **Bi-synodical Candidacy Meeting** today and tomorrow at **Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.**

Pray for this planet on **Earth Day.** Pray that all people would take care of this place God has entrusted to us and **preserve it for future generations by recycling and conserving its resources.**

For **Terry Frankenstein as she is ordained** today at First Lutheran Church in Gladstone at 3:00 today.

Pray for the **Executive Committee** as they meet today at 9:00 a.m. CT in Florence.

For all those **suffering from malaria** and those in danger of contracting malaria today on **World Malaria Day.**

For those in the **Synod Assembly Pastor Band** as they meet to practice today at 1:00 at Bethany in Republic.

For those attending the **World Hunger Committee** meeting today at noon at the synod office and **for all those in our synod and around the world** who worry about where their next meal is coming from.

For those attending the **Adoptive Family Retreat** at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp April 28-30 and for all of those families formed by adoption or foster care.

Pray for the **members of Zion Lutheran Church in Wilmington DE (Rev Melissa Lemons), St. Philip Lutheran Church in Wilmington DE (Rev Patrick Downes), and St. Mark Lutheran Church in Wilmington DE (Rev John Keating).**
Pray for the FLLC Annual Meeting and all those attending it at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp 2:00 -5:00 pm CT.

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
**Prayer Calendar – May 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for all those <strong>Finlandia University graduates</strong> and their families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Bishop Skrenes</strong> as he travels to Madison WI to attend the Lutheran Planned Giving Meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>NGLS staff</strong> as they meet today to make final preparations for the busy Synod Assembly later this month.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Lay School for Mission/Licensed Lay Ministry Board Meeting</strong> at the Synod Office, 11:00.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Dover DE (Rev F. Walters), Community Lutheran Church in Frankford DE (Rev Mark Molter), and Reformation Lutheran Church in Milford DE (Rev Eric Evers).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for all our <strong>Rostered Leaders, both active and retired</strong> who celebrate birthdays this month; Philip Johnson 5/1, Tamra Harder 5/4, and Erik Heskin 5/9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>For <strong>Terry Frankenstein</strong> as she is <strong>installed as the pastor at Zion in Manistique</strong> today.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>unemployed and underemployed</strong>. We ask you, Heavenly Father, to <strong>send them opportunities to work, to keep their families well-fed</strong>, and to teach those of us more fortunate how we may help them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordinations</strong> this month: Nick Johannes, Douglas Buck, Norman Peterson, and George Kaiser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for all those in our <strong>Synod who are ill</strong>. Pray that our great God will heal them or comfort and soothe those whom he is calling home to live with him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for all our <strong>Rostered Leaders, both active and retired</strong> who celebrate birthdays this month; Marcia Solberg 5/10, Frederick Hallanger 5/21, and John Shallow 5/21.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Today is National Nursing Day</strong>. Pray for all those <strong>nurses in our congregations</strong> and everywhere who care for us and our loved ones when we are ill and most vulnerable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Conference 8 Synod Assembly Choir</strong> as they rehearse today at 10:00 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Ishpeming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>For mothers everywhere on <strong>Mother’s Day</strong> as you honor your own mother. Pray that all mothers love their children and raise them to have respect for all other people and all living things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Synod Council</strong> as they conduct the last of their business before the Synod Assembly via <strong>Conference Call today at 5:30 E.T today</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Pray for all those with any of the wide spectrum of mental illnesses and pray that more resources be provided for research and treatment of mental illness.

Pray for retired clergy and spouses – Rev Eugene and Carol Wickman and Rev Thomas and Susan Wickstrom.

Pray for the members of Maneromango Lutheran Church, Kisarawe Tanzania, and their NGLS Companion Congregation, First Lutheran Church, Ewen (Rev Kay Richter, pastor.)

Pray for our clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordinations this month: John Shallow, Dean Peterson, Frederick Hallanger, Doug Schoen, Dale Skogman, and Mary Weinkauf.

Pray for the Conference 8 Synod Assembly Choir as they rehearse today at 10:00 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette.

Pray for the hundreds of people attending the Synod Assembly May 21-23 beginning at 2:00 today at Messiah Lutheran Church continuing at Northern Michigan University at 6:00 with the Retirement Banquet for Bishop Skrenes.

Synod Assembly continues today as we begin the election of a new Bishop. We pray that God will be with us all as his Holy Spirit guides us to the right candidate.

Today is the final day of the Synod Assembly and we pray that our new Bishop-elect and all of the people attending the Assembly travel home safely after the Closing Worship Service.

For God’s children in prisons. Keep them from harm, help them to keep from offending again and give them the strength to succeed when released.

Pray for spouses of deceased pastors – Ruth Warmanen and Dora Jane Swanson.

Pray for the members of St. Mark Estonian Lutheran Church in Laurel MD (Rev Agu Ets), Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Laurel MD (Rev Connie Miller), and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fulton MD (Rev Carolyn Shank.)

Pray for all those young adults who are getting confirmed this spring and becoming full voting members of their congregations. May they continue to grow in faith towards Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Pray for farmers, ranchers and all those growing our food and tending the soil. We pray that their growing season is bountiful and their work rewarding.

We thank God for all Americans who have died serving this country on this Memorial Day and we pray that there will come a day when no more wars will be fought and no more soldiers will die.

We thank God for creating us all differently with diverse races, colors, sexes, customs, and personalities and we pray that we can acknowledge that we are all God’s children.

Pray for students who will be graduating in the coming days that higher education and employment opportunities will be available to them.

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”