

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

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

**E-Notes for November 14, 2014**

**The Pentecost Season**

**“QUOTE OF THE DAY”**

*“I should offer you a warning, not unlike those offered by the Surgeon General: reading the Bible can be hazardous to your health, but also to your wealth, reputation and even your very*

*life. Seriously. Over the centuries people who have read the Bible have been led to do things beyond their imaginations.”*

*--Pr. David Lose “Making Sense of Scripture”*

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*E-Notes* is a twice monthly electronic newsletter  
from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# **GIFTS AND NOTES—TO TANZANIA WITH THE BISHOP**

On the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week (only a week away!) the bishop along with three parish pastors will travel to Tanzania. Visiting congregations in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania in Dar es Salaam will be Bishop Skrenes, Pastor Chris Johnson from Christ the King Escanaba; Pastor D.J. Rasner from Gloria Dei in Hancock and Pastor David Hueter from Zion in

Manistique and Bethany in Isabella. A part of the two weeks in Tanzania will be meeting with the Convention of the Diocese and companion congregations.

**If anyone wishes to send letters to congregations or individuals in our Companion Diocese please get them to the Synod Office by November 20<sup>th</sup>. Also, if you have clergy albs or pastoral stoles that you or congregation wish to give away to the Tanzanian Church and its pastors please send them to the Synod Office in Marquette by November 20.**

And pray that all might have a safe and meaningful experience as together we worship the living Christ as brothers and sisters.

## **PASSION FOR SOCIAL MINISTRY—RESPONDING TO GOD’S LOVE**

Lutherans have had a passion for social ministry. This month is a great time to remember the least of our brothers and sisters in our communities. What is your congregation doing this month to respond to human need in your town?

Today Lutherans in the United States have a huge system of social ministry networks. Counseling services, adoption, nursing homes, ministry with developmentally disabled, substance abuse, medical and psychiatric

hospitals, and advocacy for those on society's margins are the work of hundreds of Lutheran based organizations across the United States. In our synod, our congregations participate in food banks, make quilts for domestic and world wide relief, provide ministry in nursing homes and hospitals. God continues to bless the stewardship of our people as thousands of hours of volunteer work and thousands of dollars of offerings are used to serve the people living in the Upper Peninsula and northeastern Wisconsin.

What is happening to serve God's people in your community? How can we build on our work to serve the least and the lonely?

## Constitution Meeting

If you have hopes of presenting a completed and approved Constitution at your Congregational meeting in January, please contact Pastor Doug Johnson with your Constitution questions prior to the Constitution Meeting on **December 2**, or call the Synod Office at 228-2300.

## Nominations wanted

for voting members  
to attend the  
**Churchwide Assembly in 2016**  
August 8-13, 2016 in New Orleans,  
Louisiana

Nominees will be considered and elected at the May 15-17, 2015 NGLS Assembly at Finlandia University.

Call the Synod Office for application information.  
We will elect 2 clergy and 4 laity. No more than one  
from any congregation.

**Justice for Women and Children**

The ELCA is currently considering a social statement on this topic.

If you are interested in being a part of this process,

contact Pastor Katherine Finegan at

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

## Matthew 28 in Action Retreat

Coming January 30 – 31, 2015, Friday –  
Saturday

at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

Cost will be **\$50 per team** for lodging,  
meals, and program.

Come to this retreat with a team of 4-6  
congregation members and your pastor.

Register by calling the Synod Office at 906-  
228-2300 by Monday, January 26, 2015.

Sponsored by the Transformational Ministry Team,  
this retreat will give church teams a taste of the  
possibilities for transformation and renewal

available through a variety of resources, activities, Bible Study, prayer, discernment, ministry efforts and more.

Come and find out what can happen in your church and begin the journey of discovery of what God is up to in and through your congregation.

# GOD'S WORK---OUR HANDS 2015 SUMMER DENTAL MISSION

Are you a dentist, dental assistant, dental hygienist? Do you feel God calling you to serve him by helping the poor of Tanzania receive dental care? This just may be the opportunity you've for which you have been waiting!

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is organizing

another dental mission trip to our companion synod, The Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. This mission trip will take place sometime in June or July of 2015 and will include a safari to see the Ngorongoro Crater Animal Preserve.

If this is something that interests you, please call or email Luanne Skrenes at 906-485-5121 or [TLSkrenes@aol.com](mailto:TLSkrenes@aol.com)

## **!!! WHAT IS WITH QUARTERS !!!**

**Every year a Quarter Offering is taken**



**at Synod Assembly for World Hunger.**

**HOW ARE YOU HELPING?**

**This year our goal is 100% participation.**

**Even with not every church giving, we raise more than \$10,000 every year.**

**Imagine what we could do if every congregation of the synod participates!**

**Start collecting loose change NOW.**

**Put a jar out, a basket, a piggy bank, and let the coins pile up.**

**Let's make an intentional effort to let our loose change make a difference.**

**Synod Assembly will be at  
Finlandia University in Hancock  
May 15-17, 2015**

# **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Coming February 8-9, 2015 at Fortune Lake  
Lutheran Camp**

**The Theological Conference for Rostered  
Leaders:**

**Featuring our Keynote Speaker, Bishop  
Craig Satterlee,  
former professor at Lutheran School of  
Theology, Chicago and  
current bishop of the Northwest Lower  
Michigan Synod.**

**CONFIRMATION YOUTH:  
2015**

# **MARKED!**

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**4:00 – 7:00pm local time.**

Sunday, March

1: Prince of Peace,  
Harvey

Sunday, March

8: Zion, Ironwood

Sunday, March

15: Northland Village,  
Marinette

MARKED! is a Synod sponsored event for all NGLS Confirmation Students. Every congregation is asked to attend a MARKED! event at least once every two years, every year

as distance allows. Pastors and leaders bring their Confirmation youth for an afternoon of service, learning, music, and fun. Supper is included in this FREE event.

Like last year, every NGLS congregation will be asked to participate by collecting items. This year it will be all about BABIES! Baby kits for LWR and Baby Bundles for shelters and food shelves will be assembled. Your congregation will receive a letter soon detailing how many of each item we need from your church. Any questions, please call the Synod Office.

## Rise Up Together: Detroit 2015

Plans are well underway for the Youth  
Gathering in Detroit

**July 15-19, 2015.**

Your church should have received a poster and a DVD. Please use these materials to generate enthusiasm and commitment among your leaders and young people.

Some dates to remember:

**TODAY:** Registration soft opening. Leaders may enter data.

**October 15:** Website goes live. Primary leaders can submit registrations.

**January 15, 2015:** Registration fee increases \$50, from \$325 to \$375.

Places to find more information:

[www.gatheringleaks.com](http://www.gatheringleaks.com)

[www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering)

**Facebook page ELCA Youth Gathering**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=28>

[5650866539](tel:5650866539).

If your church is interested in riding a Synod Bus to the Gathering (leave on Tuesday, July 14, return Sunday, July 19, 2015) please call the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 or email Rev. Katherine Finegan at [kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org). She is the NGLS Gathering Synod Coordinator and Synod Day Director. If she doesn't know the answer to your question, she'll direct you to someone who will. The cost of the bus will be split between those who ride it. The Synod will provide T-shirts for all NGLS participants for our Synod Day. It's all very exciting!!! Don't miss this incredible opportunity for a faith-deepening, group building, justice proclaiming, fellowship gushing and love overflowing event!

**Start saving for your congregation's**  
**trip to the**  
**2015 Youth Gathering**

Have you started saving for your congregation's youth to attend the ELCA's Youth Gathering next summer in Detroit? Consider registration fees,

transportation, lodging and meals.

The Mission Investment Fund, the financial ministry of the ELCA, offers a special **Demand Investment Youth Ministry account**. With this account, you earn interest on your fundraising dollars—and have the flexibility and convenience of writing checks as expenses occur. Your congregation can open an MIF Demand Investment Youth Ministry account for as little as \$100, and your funds will be available to you when you need them.

The Mission Investment Fund will also host an onsite Service Center at the Gathering, July 15-19, 2015. Authorized account holders will be able to conveniently cash checks on their MIF Demand accounts at this Service Center at the youth event.

July 2015 is closer than you think. Visit <http://www.mif.elca.org/youthministry> for more information and to download a Demand Investment Youth Ministry account application. For information on MIF investments and ministry loans, contact MIF Customer Service at 877-886-3522 or your MIF Regional Manager LuAnn Ferguson, at (651-900-3575), [luann.ferguson@elca.org](mailto:luann.ferguson@elca.org).

**Check out [www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org) for weekly “Breath Prayer” and Daily Devotions.**  
**The synod website is [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)**

**Go to “The Northern Great Lakes  
Synod” page  
and “like” us. 😊**

# LIFTING UP TO GOD I N PRAYER

\*For our nation. We pray for all elected and appointed officials in the government. May all serve justice and peace.

\*For those who travel. Especially watch over Bishop Skrenes and pastors Rasner, Johnson and Hueter as they visit our friends in Tanzania.



\*For those in the call process as leaders are chosen for congregations in our synod.

\*For those who hunt and cook and spend time in the great northwoods this season.

**+Thomas A. Skrenes**

**Bishop**