

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

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

**E-Notes for December 15, 2014**

**The Season of Advent**

**“QUOTE OF THE DAY”**

In the bleak mid-winter frosty winds made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone,  
snow had fallen snow on snow..... snow on snow.

In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.  
Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;

heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to  
reign;  
in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ

~ELW

#294, vs. 1-2

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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

# ADVENT DAYS IN TANZANIA

The four of us (Pastors Dave Hueter, Chris  
Johnson and D.J. Rasner and myself)

returned safely to the synod last Tuesday evening after two weeks in Tanzania. We praise God! The days spent with our friends in Africa are powerful reminders of the work of the Holy Spirit. Pastor David Hueter (Zion, Manistique and Bethany Isabella) wrote me of his experience:

The highlights were many: the honor of preaching at the opening of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese General Assembly, or the worship at Magomeni Lutheran Church with five choirs and brass that added to the worship – four hours long and yet it did not seem so! Instead of through emails, it was meeting face-to-face. Instead of merely talking about the ministries that our Northern Great Lakes Synod supports, there was

opportunity to visit and see for ourselves. Or how about attending a wedding of one of their pastors, or the ordination service of three new pastors? And the hospitality that was offered from the beginning to the end is something we could all learn from. So many things, and yet these two stood out for me as being different to our practice or experience, for which I believe, the Church is stronger. The people prayed ... ALL the people prayed. They didn't turn automatically to the Pastor, but it came from within. And then I couldn't help but notice that almost everyone came to worship carrying a Bible. Central to all they did was prayer and God's Word. And it showed. The churches were full and the people were active. Yes, God is alive!"

More about this inspirational experience later!

## Festival 2015

The Festival of Congregational  
Renewal is  
coming October 16 – 17, 2015 at  
Ascension Lutheran, Minocqua, Wi.

Plan on meaningful worship,  
interesting workshops, riveting  
discussion,  
and a boatload of ideas to bring  
back to your congregations.  
Mark your calendars now to avoid  
future conflicts.

# BANNER

# WORKSHOP

Coming to Bethany Lutheran, Republic on  
Saturday Feb. 21, 2015

(In case of inclement weather, call the Bethany  
office for alternate date)

**Cost: \$10.00 a person**

Time: 8:30am ET Registration with coffee  
8:45am Welcome  
9:00am Workshop begins  
12:00noon Lunch  
2:45pm Wrap up and good-bye

Bring anything you're currently working on, completed projects for show and tell, and your ideas & measurements for future banners.

**Come with your thoughts, hopes, and ideas:  
Leave with more ideas, a pattern, and plans of action.**

Led by Rev. Chrys (Levesque) Hendrick. Feel free to call her with questions at 906-458-8687 or email her at [pastorchris@charter.net](mailto:pastorchris@charter.net).

Register by Monday, February 16, 2015. Call Bethany, Republic at 906-376-8826. Pay your \$10 upon arrival. Covers lunch and materials.

Looking for a book to read about the church today? Feel free to check out

***“The Agile Church: Spirit-led Innovation in an Uncertain Age”***

by Dwight J. Zscheile

**Treasurers and Bookkeepers: Two Important Dates**

**January 12, 2015:** Last day for checks to arrive in Synod Office so that 2014 benevolence gifts can be credited for 2014 giving.

**February 10, 2015:** Last day for checks to arrive in Synod Office so that January 2015 giving can be credited to the Synod



2014 fiscal year.

## 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 own?

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?

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.

Nomination forms available at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.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 [FLSkrenes@aol.com](mailto:FLSkrenes@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

**Youth are invited to bring a baby picture of themselves.**

MARKED! is a Synod sponsored event for all WGLS 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 DWR 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=285350866539>.

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 IN PRAYER

‘For those who are racist and those who suffer racism. May systems of racism be dismantled, justice roll down, and mutual respect prevail.

‘We offer prayers of thanksgiving for meaningful time spent with our friends in Christ in Tanzania and the safe return of Bishop Skrenes and Pastors D.J. Rasner, Christopher Johnson and David Hueter. May their experience bear fruit of deeper understanding and renewal in the Spirit.

‘For all those undergoing treatment for cancer. We remember especially Pastor Marcia Solberg, Peggy Gauger, and Jeanette Kuzeij. For those recovering from surgery, especially Rev. Bob Sutherland currently recovering from knee surgery at Mather Nursing Home.

‘For those who are feel the absence of loved ones in this season of joy. We lift up Pastor Judy Kincaid at the recent death of her father, and all those who have suffered the death of loved ones in this past year.

‘For Soren Schmidt as he begins an Internship at the Northern Lights Parish. For pastoral students Ann Gonyea and Tera Kossow as they are interviewed for Approval and enter the assignment process for pastoral placement. For all those discerning a call to ministry in Christ’s church.

**+Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop and Rev. Katherine  
Finegan  
Assistant to the Bishop+**