

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America
Marquette, Michigan**

npls@nplsynod.org

E-Notes for January 30, 2015

The Season of Epiphany

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Let us keep the light burning. God will work the miracle of abundance with even our smallest lights; the few crusts we offer will become a feast.
We are abundantly blessed.”

--Christopher Levan "Thanks Giving"

+ + +

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

A WORD FROM BISHOP ALEX MALASUSA

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

December 8, 2014

It is my privilege this evening to offer a few reflections about Bishop Skrenes and his team. It is an honor to say a few words on this day of thanksgiving. A day to thank servants of the Living God for giving their life to Jesus and by doing so sharing their life with us. As we gather with you Bishop Skrenes, together with Pastor David Hueter, Pastor D.J. Rasner and Pastor Christopher Johnson, it is my joy and

privilege to address you. After all the joy, excitement and intensity of these days of your most historic visit, we now cherish this moment of prayerful reflection with you.

During our general assembly you blessed us by the powerful preaching. You were bold enough to speak about how to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in all seasons. Time and again, you have spoken of the importance of the contribution of the Christian faith in our society. We can already sense a new openness to this question, and to the role of faith communities, in the hearts and willingness of so many people. We will pursue and build on these opportunities for the common good of all. You have urged in the installations of our priests to be faithful to their ministry and we bishops to be fathers to our priests. This we will strive to do. You have meditated with us on the unity between Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, the Eucharistic sacrifice which he has given to his Church and his 'eternal priesthood' in which we participate in daily living. Your words point to our baptismal calling 'to bring the reconciling power of his sacrifice to the world in which we live.'

Dear Bishop, you gave us new hearts for the tasks ahead, especially in the wonderful gift of social services, it is a blessing model for us to follow. We have named one student hall of residence after your name. Indeed it is your effort and contribution. By doing so, we recognize and appreciate the work of fostering vocations and forming men and women to be the future generations of professionals in our church and nation. This is a work to which we are deeply committed and I know you will leave with great joy reflecting the position and standard of seminary. Dear Bishop at this visit you have contributed richly to our history and to the shaping of our future. You lift our hearts and reinvigorate us for our ministry especially in the example you give to us with your openness of heart, keenness of mind and gentle eloquence of expression in your unfailing witness to the mystery of Christ. And so, Dear Bishop and your colleagues, on behalf of my church, I pledge our love and prayers for your vital and rich ministry in the Church. May Almighty God bless you and inspire you in your service of love.”

Matthew 28 in Action Retreat is now
The Council Retreat 2015

and is now scheduled for March 6-7, 2015 at
FLLC.

Cost will be **\$45 per person** for lodging,
meals, and program.

Come to this retreat with your Council,
Congregational leaders, and your pastor.

Register by calling Fortune Lake Lutheran
Camp, or go to their website at
www.fortunelakelutherancamp.org

Sponsored by the Synod 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. In addition, specific attention will be given to the challenges and call of Council leaders to lead with a focus on equipping them for ministry and leadership.

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.

Festival 2015

The Festival of Congregational
Renewal is

**coming October 23-24, 2015 (note
date change)**

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.**

**If you would like to present at a workshop
or host a display,**

call the Synod Office at 228-2300 or email

Pastor Katherine Finegan at

cfinegan@nglsynod.org.

Worship, Witness, Welcome Grants

Grant applications are currently being received for innovative and creative evangelism efforts. Go to www.nglsynod.org, or call the Synod Office for an application.

Grants up to \$2000 will be awarded. **The deadline is March 15, 2015.**

Support your Homework Club, add snacks to your Youth Night, hire musicians for a special event, purchase door knob hangers,

send your congregational extrovert to an
Evangelism seminar,
buy a guitar for your guitar player, buy a
radio minute,
do something with Coffee,
buy a megaphone and yell at the
neighbors on a Sunday morning 😊
...The possibilities are endless.

Awards for Efforts to Fight Hunger

The Hunger Committee is now
accepting nominations for
The Big Bear Award: For a
congregation that has made an

exceptional effort in raising funds and awareness for World Hunger,

And the Bread Basket Award: For an

individual that has made an

exceptional effort in raising funds and awareness for World Hunger.

Please direct nominations to Mary Lou Blomquist at dmlb1530@gmail.com or

Pastor Katherine Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org.

**ATTENTION PARISH
SECRETARIES**

+Please send the Synod office a copy of your 2014 ANNUAL REPORT which

you published for your members.

+Please include the synod office on your newsletter mailing list.

Printed copies are preferred rather than email newsletters.

+Do all of your congregation's publications (Sunday bulletin and newsletters) include:

- Name and address of the church

- Worship service times and pastor's name and contact information

- Congregational website and face book address

- Identify your congregation as a member of the ELCA in all publications.

Yes in every Sunday bulletin and every newsletter!

Here is suggested language: “ _____ Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”

A CONTINUING EDUCATION AND ROAD TRIP OPPORTUNITY for Pastors and Congregational Leaders

March 26 and 27, Thursday – Friday
9am – 3:30pm both days

“Do What Matters”

Vibrant Faith is offering a two-day training experience for church leaders in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Synod would like to encourage your attendance at this event, which is geared towards not only rostered leaders, but all congregational leaders. The Synod is glad to be able to offer you financial assistance in the form of motel accommodations for pastors and rostered leaders. If you can bring leaders from your congregation, so much the better, however the

expense of their attendance would not be covered by this grant.

Please click on the link below in order to register for this event and read about what is being offered. If you bring two more people from your congregation, you receive a discount on the registration fee (\$99 for one, \$89 for three or more).

If you decide to attend, then call Louise Ingalls in the Synod office so she can make your hotel reservations. Expect double occupancy. If you have a pastor roommate in mind, let Louise know this too, otherwise we will assign you someone.

Any questions, feel free to contact the Synod Office or pastor Katherine Finegan.

Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/do-what-matters-green-bay-march-26-27-registration-tickets-13008600073>.

WITNESS, WORSHIP, WELCOME

The WWW task force is writing a series of newsletter articles that you are free to reprint for church newsletters. These articles are available at the Synod Website, www.nglsynod.org.

Click on “Resources”.

More will be added soon.

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.

FEBRUARY 2015

BANNER WORKSHOP

Coming to Bethany Lutheran, Republic on Saturday, February
21, 2015

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

Cost: \$10.00 a person Space is limited.

Time:	8:30am ET	Registration
with coffee		
	8:45am	Welcome
	9:00am	Workshop
	begins	
	12:00noon	Lunch

2:45pm
good-bye

Wrap up and

This is a **learn-by-doing** event for all—those new to banner-making or “old hands.” Bring along a work in progress ... consider re-making in older burlap-and-felt design in bright satin fabric ... experiment on a small banner for Sunday School.

Expect from Pastor Chrys: a **brief talk** on process ... idea to design, size, color, pattern, materials, backing, hems, rod-pockets, and storage ... as well as **help with your work**. Also, expect to help each other, using the skills and experience you bring ... sewing, quilting, applique, embroidery, drawing, problem-solving, teaching, and creativity.

Grid-square and other paper for designs and patterns will be provided. So will satin and other fabric scraps, as well as heat bond material, for practice and projects.

Each person (or group) will need to bring: Sharp scissors for fabric; scissors for paper; pencils, erasers, and fine Sharpie markers; tape measure, yardstick &/or quilting ruler; fabric and thread for a project already in the works; sewing machine; iron and board and any or all of the following: A “scribbled” idea or a complete design; a project already begun; an old banner to be re-made; anything you want to use or share!

Questions? Contact Pastor Chrys (Levesque) Hendrick at (cell) 906-458-8687 or e-mail: pastorchrys@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: An Important Date

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.

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 can be elected from any

single congregation.
Nomination forms available at
www.nglsynod.org .

!!! MORE 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**

**CONFIRMATION YOUTH:
2015 MARKED!**

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 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 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

July 15-19, 2015.

Registration fee \$375.

Places to find more information:

www.gatheringleaks.com

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.

Also, let Pastor Katherine know when you have registered. Send an email with leaders contact info and number of youth. The Synod has committed funds to help each and every registered congregation, even if your youth have registered under another congregation's name. More details about our Synod Day – Proclaim Story will be coming soon.

And whether you are sending youth or not, please pray

hat this event is safe, meaningful, and a faith deepening experience for those who attend, and those people and places who will host us in Detroit.

Take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment!

Portico Benefit Services is again offering us the opportunity to earn a 2% discount on ELCA health contributions this year.

Each congregation and organization in our synod will receive a 2% discount on all of this year's health contributions if 65% of our eligible ELCA-Primary health plan members and eligible spouses complete the confidential Mayo Clinic Health Assessment
January 1 – April 30.

This year, we could collectively save approximately \$15,000!

If you have ELCA-Primary health benefits, we need your help.

Take this year's Mayo Clinic Health Assessment January 1 – April 30

You'll earn a \$150 credit to your wellness account to offset out-of-pocket medical costs,
and will help us earn a 2% discount on the cost of your health coverage.

If your spouse has ELCA-Primary health benefits and completes the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment, too,
you'll receive another \$150 wellness dollars into your wellness account,

and will help us earn our synod-wide 2% discount on health contributions.

New this year: To take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment, access Mayo Clinic's Healthy Living online directly through myPortico — no separate Mayo Clinic ID and password necessary.

Go to PorticoBenefits.org/HealthyLiving for details.

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Feb. 20-22 Family Retreat

March 6-7 Church Council/Retreat

March 20-22 Adult Lenten Retreat

March 22 FLLC Annual Meeting

May 1-3 Adoptive Family Retreat

June 5-7 All Staff Alumni Reunion

June 7 85th Anniversary Celebration featuring Fortune Lake 500

To register, visit fortunelake.org or phone 906-875-3697

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org for weekly 'Breath Prayer' and Daily Devotions.

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

On FACEBOOK??? Go to “The Northern Great Lakes Synod” page and “like” us. 😊

TRANSITIONS

✚ We welcome **Pastor Kristi Ursin** to our Synod. She serves **Shepherd of the Lakes in Sayner**. All are invited to attend her installation on Sunday, February 15 at 3:00pm CT. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red.

✚ Congratulations to Seminarian Graduate **Jeremy Nausin** on his call to serve at **Grace in Pembine**. Pastor-elect Nausin comes to us from Luther Seminary and he will be ordained into the

Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday March 1,
2015 in Tuscon, Arizona.

-We give thanks to God for the life of **James Quirk**. Jim was a member of the Companion Synod Committee and had been to Tanzania on a previous work group. He died on the 27th of January at home. Our sympathy to his wife Judy and their family. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

-Those who celebrate new life in birth and baptism. Give

Thanks to the Lord for God is good!

-The ministries of Finlandia University, its students, board of directors, faculty and staff. May Finlandia in Hancock continue to serve the community and witness to the light of Jesus.

-For the people of Syria, Afghanistan, Iran and other places of war and tension in the world. May our leaders seek peace, justice and reconciliation.

-For the those who teach Sunday School and confirmation in our congregations. Help them O Lord to reflect your image in the faces of our youth.

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop