

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

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

npls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for February 15, 2015

**The Transfiguration of our
Lord**

The Season of Lent

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“The heart of evangelism is being in love with God,
being part of a church you love
and caring about other people who do not know
that faith.

Faith sharing focuses on relationships,
not “bringing in more young people,” or “helping
our church to grow again.”

Evangelism is motivated by growing love –
not by all the lists, bread deliveries, mailings, parties
for unchurched friends,
small group curriculum decisions or new member
classes.

Details matter.

Means of showing love are important,
but the heart of evangelism is love – of God, of
church of others.”

~*Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism* by
Martha Grace Reese

+ + +

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

Congregational Reports are due.

Call the Synod Office for the password
and have your five digit congregational ID# ready in order to
complete the form at the link below:

<https://webapps.elca.org/FormAAndC/Login.aspx>

Pastor Reports to the Bishop are due.

Pastors and Rostered Leaders can click on the link
below.

Then click on the gray “Synod” tab to find the report.
Save the completed report to your computer first, then
send as an attachment by email. If this does not
work, please save and print off a completed copy to

snail mail it to the Synod Office.
Apparently, there has been some trouble with
formatting.

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

The Council Retreat 2015

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

Cost is **\$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

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
kfinegan@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 bulletins 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 hotel 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-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.

FEBRUARY 2015

BANNER WORKSHOP

At 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	Wrap up and
	good-bye	

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 an 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.

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.

**If you are interested in hosting a display,
email Louise at the Synod Office
louise@nglsynod.org. Include what the
display is for, how much space you will
need, and a question that can only be
answered by checking out your
display. Also plan on being present at**

**your display on
Saturday May 16 during the dedicated
display time.**

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 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

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=285650866539>.

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 that 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

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

+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 Tucson, Arizona.

+We celebrate with First Lutheran, Gladstone as they welcome Pastor **Tom Otis** to begin his efforts among them. He will be installed Sunday, April 26. More details to follow.

+We wish **Clay Hilman and his family** Godspeed as they venture into a new business and realize a dream that they have entertained for a long time. Gloria Dei will celebrate the Hilman family and their ministries at a “Bash” after his final service at 10:30 on Sunday, March 1.

+For newly elected Councils, that they be equipped for leadership and embrace a vision for mission in their congregations.

LIFTING UP TO GOD I N PRAYER

+Pastor Bonny Kinnunen as she serves through the Sisters of Charity in Calcutta, India.

+All those who are expecting a child or struggling with infertility.

+That our efforts in ministry be blessed and that our eyes be open to the possibilities.

+The MARKED! Events - that they be a meaningful experience, that we have enough supplies, and the Spirit will be present.

~Pastor Katherine Finegan
Assistant to the Bishop