

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

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

nngls@nnglsynod.org

E-Notes for February 27, 2015

The Season of Lent

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Ministry is God’s gift to us, the gift of leading others in sharing the life of God. It is such a gift that even council meetings can turn mundane

business into holy moments.”

--Andrew Root “The Relational Pastor” p. 125.

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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

GENEROUS GOD!

Our calling is to testify to the generosity of God. This Gospel is good news, forgiveness, hope, life, joy and a peace that no one can give us except the one who hung on the cross. God has been so generous to us---our response is one of generosity, joy and trust in God’s people.

You have been given a great inheritance. In his explanation of the Second Article of the Creed, our brother Martin Luther says it best. Luther talks of the generous, even extravagant God that we have in Christ Jesus. Perhaps you memorized this in Confirmation Class a while ago:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the Virgin Mary is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules in eternity. This is most certainly true.

We have a Lord Jesus who embraces the world who is wildly in love with holiness and us. What a generous God!

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: Zion
Lutheran Church, 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. Any questions, please call the Synod Office

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.

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 other 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>

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

You can find the forms online at www.nglsynod.org/assembly at the bottom of the page.

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.

**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 on the bottom of the Synod Assembly page.

**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.

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.

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 Pastor-elect **Jeremy Nausin** on his ordination into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, March 1, 2015 at Tonque Verrde Lutheran Church in Tucson, Arizona.

+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.

LIFTING UP TO GOD I N PRAYER

+For Pastor Kenneth Lahnens and his family on the death of his mother. Her funeral service was on February 26th in Siren, Wisconsin.

+Our Confirmation students who will attend the synod's "MARKED!" Events – Come Holy Spirit! Renew your Church!

+For persecuted Christians around the world. For the ancient Christian Churches of the Mideast that they might know be supported and encouraged in their struggle for existence.

+For Americans serving the nation around the world. Bring peace to this time O God.

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop