

# **NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America**

**Marquette, Michigan**

[nngls@nnglsynod.org](mailto:nngls@nnglsynod.org)

**E-Notes for March 13, 2015**

## **The Season of Lent**

### **“QUOTE OF THE DAY”**

As the pastor of a now rapidly growing Ohio church said,

“You know, it almost doesn’t matter where you

start with evangelism.

God has blessed some pretty halting, stumbling efforts we've made.

Maybe when it comes to sharing the Gospel we just need to jump in from whatever point on the shore we're standing and start paddling around."

~Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism, p. 36

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

## IN PRAYER

The other morning after my workout at the gym, a

woman walked up to me.

She must know that I am a pastor since she said to me, "Will you pray for my cousin."

At that point she burst into tears. We talked. Her family member has been working in the Mideast for an oil company, and was recently kidnapped by the Islamist terrorist group ISIS. I assured her I would pray for her family.

Walking from the gym I realized that even in Marquette, Michigan we can be affected by events and forces that occur half a world away! I realized anew that the world is brutal and all of us are connected to each other in moments of joy as well as times of terror.

I also realized that we are called to pray for one another and to bear the burdens of the other.

So today I am praying for those who are held against their will.

I am in prayer for Christians, Muslims and others  
who are innocent victims of war.  
And I pray for their families and friends.

"Lord Jesus, free the oppressed, liberate the  
prisoner,  
and give hope to all those who worry and wait.  
Bring justice to your world O God.  
Bless especially this day those in peril in the  
Mideast.  
"Amen."

# Synod Women's Organization

Upcoming events

**Friday September 18: Convention**

**At Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.**

**Come to learn what the Women of the ELCA in the NGLS  
are doing to partner in ministry.**

Board elections will also be held, and we will hear from our Churchwide representative.

[if !supportLists] [endif] **Come for the Convention – Stay for the RETREAT!**

**Friday, September 18 – Sunday,**

**September 20, 2015**

The theme verse this year is I Corinthians 3:16: Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?

It is being planned by the “Bethany Babes” of Norway, Michigan and they are very excited to offer participants a program that is filled with meaning, worship, fun, and more.

Accommodations are assigned first come, first served, so register early.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

## **A Volunteer Opportunity**

[if !supportLists] [endif] **To be a member of the Good**

**News Awards Committee**

**Every year, awards are given to the**

authors/presenters of news stories that are particularly uplifting, positive, and well done. Committee members are responsible for reviewing articles etc. and deciding which are worthy of a "Good News Award". Duties also include the planning of the Good News Award luncheon where the awards are given.

This year's luncheon is Tuesday, June 9, at Grace United Methodist Church.

The new member would be invited to observe and learn this year, in order to participate fully next year.

More information is available from Pastor Chrys Levesque-Hendrick and from Rev.

Katherine Finegan at the Synod Office.  
[evesquec@charter.net](mailto:evesquec@charter.net) and  
[finegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:finegan@nglsynod.org).

# SAVE THE DATE!

Jobs and coming opportunities for  
Organists, Choir Directors, Choirs,  
Musicians and Music lovers

-George Mauer Piano Concerts:

5:30pm, Monday, March 23 at Zion,  
Manistique and 7:00pm, Tuesday,  
March 24 at Christ the King,  
Escanaba. FREE with goodwill offering  
taken.

-Heritage Hymn Festival: 7pm on July 25 at the Keweenaw Heritage Center, Calumet. Cost - \$10. Includes lunch. Featuring international choir director and organist Michael Burkhart. For more info, call Kathleen at 906-337-2567. Register by emailing [swell2pedal@yahoo.com](mailto:swell2pedal@yahoo.com).

-Organist Workshop and Hymnfest/Concert: At Messiah Lutheran, Marquette. Featuring Daniel Schwandt, Organist and Cantor for the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago  
On Friday, October 2 at 7:00pm:  
Hymnfest and Concert Cost:

\$5.00. (Choirs invited to rehearse Thursday evening)

On Saturday, October 3 at 8:30am  
registration – 2:30pm: Workshop,  
beginner to advanced. Lunch  
included. Cost: \$30.00

(complimentary ticket to Friday  
Concert with pre-  
registration). Register by calling the  
Synod Office at 906-228-2300.

**2015 MARKED!**

# THANK YOU!!!

At this writing, there is still one more  
**MARKED! Event to go.**

Thank you for your faithful response!!  
So far 140 Baby Kits were assembled for  
Lutheran World Relief efforts,  
and car loads of supplies have been delivered to  
shelter agencies for local women and children.  
Special thanks to Prince of Peace in Harvey and  
Zion Lutheran in Ironwood  
for their gracious hospitality which included  
helpful volunteers  
and plenty of food for hungry teenagers.  
Also HUGE thanks to all those churches who did  
not send youth,  
but supplied us with all that we needed to  
assembly LWR Baby Kits,  
one of the most complicated projects of LWR,

and yet you managed to find diapers and pins  
and everything else.

Thank you, Thank you.

And thank you in advance to Zion Lutheran in  
Marinette for hosting on Sunday, March 15!!

We walk together, as people of faith,  
as congregations, as a synod  
together.

Thank you for your partnership!!

**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](http://PorticoBenefits.org/HealthyLiving) for details.

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

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](mailto:dmlb1530@gmail.com)

or Pastor Katherine Finegan at  
[kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org).

You can find the forms online at  
[www.nglsynod.org/assembly](http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly) at the  
bottom of the page.

**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-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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](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=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](mailto: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 20-22 Spirituality Retreat led by Terry Cathcard & Rob  
Engelhart**

**March 22 FLLC Annual Meeting (FLAME meeting at 1:30 CDT)**

**April 17-18 Church Staff Renewal Retreat**

**April 24-25 Upper elementary Retreat: "Great Big God"**

**May 1-3 Adoptive Family Retreat**

**May 11 Senior Adult Day: program by Pr. Robert Langseth, camp  
historian**

**June 5-7 All Staff Alumni Reunion**

**June 7 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration featuring Fortune Lake 500**

**To register, visit [fortunelake.org](http://fortunelake.org) or phone 906-875-3697**

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)

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

## TRANSITIONS

**We celebrate with Grace Lutheran, Pembine as they begin their partnership with Pastor Jeremy Nausin. Pastor Nausin will be installed on Sunday, March 29 at 3pm CT. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red. May God bless their partnership.**

# **LIFTING UP TO GOD IN** **PRAYER**

-For all those considering new ways to reach people with the presence and proclamation of Christ. God grant us creativity and courage!

-For those who are denied their freedom, who are captives who are oppressed. May justice roll down!

-For all those preparing for the Youth Gathering in Detroit and any other summer youth trips and service events.

**+Rev. Katherine Finegan**

**Assistant to the Bishop**