

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

npls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for April 16, 2015

EASTER SEASON

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“God’s Grandeur”

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

THE WORLD is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not wreck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Thank you for MARKED!

**Thank you to all who came and all who
donated**

baby items

**for Lutheran World Relief baby kits and local
relief efforts.**

**153 participants assembled 176 baby kits,
and brought carloads of items to various
shelters and food shelves around the
synod.**

**We have received heartfelt thank you's for
your abundant generosity.**

Thank you also to this year's host sites:

Prince of Peace, Harvey

Zion, Ironwood

Zion, Marinette

Next year's Marked! Events will be at

Immanuel, Escanaba – February 28, 2016

Prince of Peace, Eagle River – March 6, 2016

Copper Country – March 13, 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARKED!

ONLY HALF WAY THERE---33 done; 21 to go!

THIS IS THE LAST MONTH--ONLY 10 days to go!!

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.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA— AND OUR SYNOD RESPONSE!

This word from Chicago:

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's first comprehensive campaign,

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA,

is celebrating the completion of its first year with nearly \$45 million raised, representing 23 percent of the five-year, \$198 million Jan. 31, 2019, goal.

In addition, the campaign has received another \$3.4 million in current gift commitments

and \$10.8 million in planned gifts commitments to the priorities of the campaign. "In the first year of our first-ever comprehensive campaign, we achieved more than 23 percent of our goal.

We are actually slightly ahead of our goal," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop.

"This points to the abundance of God, the generosity of our people and the hard work of our campaign staff. I am excited and encouraged."

Our Synod Response:

At our synod assembly, a resolution will be presented that will, if adopted, establish a synod campaign for the whole church.

The resolution has been developed by Pastor David Van Kley and the Mission Outreach Committee of the synod.

Approved by the Synod Council in March—we will be seeking your enthusiastic endorsement in May.

This project will encourage individual giving to a 50-50 split for various churchwide and synod projects.

Please consult your Pre-Assembly Report which can be found at www.nglsynod.org/assembly for details.

This is very good work! We are encouraged!

SPEAKING OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY: IMPORTANT NOTES

The 2015 Synod Assembly meets in Hancock, Michigan on Friday evening, May 15, to Sunday, noon, May 17.

*Offerings will be received at worship this year at assembly to benefit the “Lay School for Mission” and “Youth Ministries of the Synod.”

Please encourage your congregations to be generous as they support these ministries as well as the Hunger “Quarter” offerings.

*In early April, the Bishop will be sending every congregation a copy of a sermon that can be read during worship in your congregation on May 17th in the absence of the pastor.

Pastors will be at the Synod Assembly and the sermon could be delivered by a lay person.

Accompanying the e-mail and hard copy sermon will be a bulletin insert for the weekend worship services.

If you are interested in hosting a display, for Assembly email Louise at the Synod Office louise@nglsynod.org by May 1st.

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, 2-5:30 p.m.

The Pre-Assembly Report

(5 parts, 156 pages total)

is now online at

www.nglsynod.org/assembly.

**Part 1 has been mailed out to all clergy
and synod assembly voters currently
registered.**

A Volunteer Opportunity

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.

levesquec@charter.net and kfinegan@nglsynod.org.

FREE COMMUNITY MEDICATION DRO

P-OFF

KEEPING DRUGS OUT OF OUR WATERS

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2015

10:00 AM – 2:00 P.M.

The Lake Superior Watershed Partnership wants you to “drop off” prescription and over-the counter medications that are out of date or no longer useful to you.

Inhalers, products containing microbeads and sharps and needles too!

Contact the website for drop off locations:
[www.SUPERIORWATERSHEDS.ORG/POLLUTION-
PREVENTION](http://www.SUPERIORWATERSHEDS.ORG/POLLUTION-PREVENTION)

SAVE THE DATE!

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

-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.

-Organist Workshop and Hymnfest/Concert: At Messiah
Lutheran, Marquette.

Featuring Daniel Schwandt, Organist and Cantor for the
Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago

Friday, October 2 at 7pm, Cost is \$5.00 (Choirs invited to
rehearse Thursday evening)

**On Saturday, October 3
Workshop, beginner to**

8:30am registration - 2:30pm:

advanced. Lunch included.

**Cost: \$30.00 (complimentary ticket to Friday Concert with
pre-registration). Register by going to www.nglsynod.org.**

Festival 2015

**The Festival of Congregational Renewal is
coming October 23-24, 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.

**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.**

**This event is in partnership with the East Central Synod of
Wisconsin.**

Come learn with our neighbors in Christ.

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.

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

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: 85th Anniversary Celebration featuring Fortune Lake
500 parade, worship with**

dedication of new pavilion; picnic dinner tickets
available \$12 adults;

kids 5-12 years \$5.

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

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.

- **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!

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 give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Pastor Thomas Lindblad who joined the Saints

Triumphant on March 30. Pastor Lindblad faithfully served many congregations in the

Northern Great Lakes Synod. The Bishop, and many area clergy, attended the celebration of

his life on April 7 at Emmanuel, Menominee. Peace be to the memory of Thomas.

✦ We also give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Pastor Ralph Bachman who joined the

Saints Triumphant on April 13. A celebration of his life will be April 29 at Zion, Marinette.

✦ We celebrate with Grace, Pembine at the installation of Pastor Jeremy Mausin. May God bless

their partnership in ministry.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYE

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†For the Synod Staff and Voting members who are preparing for the Synod Assembly in May.

†For all those undergoing treatment for cancer. God give you patience and renewed strength.

†For the families of recent martyrs and all those around the world who worship in fear

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

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E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter
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