

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

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

npls@nplsynod.org

E-Notes for June 30,2015

SEASON after PENTECOST

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Praise the Lord. I give thanks to God always for you and the people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod because of your love and faith....may our God the

Lord of peace prosper you and flourish your
work...Grace be with you.”

--N. E. Mkongo, Headmaster Kisarawe Lutheran Junior Seminary,
Kisarawe Tanzania.

FROM THE PRESIDING
BISHOP----
OUR TIME OF
REPENTANCE AND
REFLECTION

June 18, 2015

It has been a long season of disquiet in our country. From Ferguson to Baltimore, simmering racial tensions have boiled over into violence. But this ... the fatal shooting of nine African Americans in a church is a stark, raw manifestation of the sin that is racism. The church was desecrated. The people of that congregation were desecrated. The aspiration voiced in the Pledge of Allegiance that we are “one nation under God” was desecrated.

Mother Emanuel AME’s pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, as was the Rev. Daniel Simmons, associate pastor at Mother Emanuel. The suspected shooter is a member of an ELCA congregation. All of a sudden and for all of us, this is an intensely personal tragedy. One of our own is alleged to have shot and killed two who adopted us as their own. We might say that this was an isolated act by a deeply disturbed man. But we know that is not the whole truth. It is not an isolated event. And even if the shooter was unstable, the framework upon

which he built his vision of race is not.

Racism is a fact in American culture. Denial and avoidance of this fact are deadly. The Rev. Mr. Pinckney leaves a wife and children. The other eight victims leave grieving families. The family of the suspected killer and two congregations are broken. When will this end? The nine dead in Charleston are not the first innocent victims killed by violence. Our only hope rests in the innocent One, who was violently executed on Good Friday. Emmanuel, God with us, carried our grief and sorrow – the grief and sorrow of Mother Emanuel AME church – and he was wounded for our transgressions – the deadly sin of racism.

I urge all of us to spend a day in repentance and mourning. And then we need to get to work. Each of us and all of us need to examine ourselves, our church and our communities. We need to be honest about the reality of racism within us and around us. We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act. No stereotype or racial slur is justified. Speak out against inequity. Look with newly opened eyes at the many subtle and overt ways that

we and our communities see people of color as being of less worth. Above all pray – for insight, for forgiveness, for courage.

Kyrie Eleison.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2015 DENTAL MISSION TO

TANZANIA A SUCCESS

“it went very well.” The work of our dental ministry in Tanzania continued this summer as Luanne Skrenes, Dr. Brian Anderson, Sue Albright, and Diana Herington have now returned from their seventeen days experience in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. A complete report will be soon available to you.

Returning also from Tanzania and their

companion congregation there, a ten person delegation from Messiah in Marquette headed by Pastor David VanKley reports an excellent experience.

Along with the group from Finlandia University, who traveled to Tanzania this spring, these travelers will testify to the warm welcome and the fervent Christian faith of the people of our Tanzania companion diocese.

**BISHOP SOON TO BE
ON SABBATICAL**

“The Synod Council has granted me a three month sabbatical in 2015 which I will take in two segments. The first part is scheduled from July 22 to August 30. I return to work for the months of September and October and then have Sabbatical—Part II from November 1 until December 9th.

So you ask, “What will I be doing in my sabbatical?” Plenty. I have an arm load of books to read, many of which I will review and publish those reviews in 2016 on line. I have a couple of articles I have a desire to write; a few synod policies to re-write and a devotional to create using the Gospel of John as my companion. There will be no lack of things to accomplish. I also intend to walk, pray and sleep.

Your prayers are requested.

In my absence the office here in Marquette will know where I am, and Pastor Katherine Finegan will be available to you.”

Ecumenical Awards Honor U.P. Media for Good News

**--Working with our Catholic, Methodist,
Presbyterian family--**

Nearly 50 media professionals and groups from throughout the Upper Peninsula were recognized for the positive stories they wrote and programs they produced during 2014 at the 18th annual Good News Awards luncheon held at Grace United Methodist Church in Marquette on June 9. This year 16 media outlets, including newspapers, online publications, and TV and radio stations entered a total of 63 entries in the Good News Awards, resulting in 27 Good News Awards and 16 Certificates of Merit being given out.

The Good News Awards, which began in 1998, honors local works of excellence in broadcasting, print and on the web that affirm the dignity of people,

recognize and uphold universally-recognized human values, and uplift and nourish the human spirit. They are sponsored by the religious leaders of the Catholic, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Methodist Churches in the Upper Peninsula region.

Our special thanks to **Pastor Chrys Hendrick** who completes her decade long plus work representing the ELCA community in this effort.

Luther Land Tour

Coming September 19-28, 2016!!!

**Watch for more details in the next
Congregational Mailing.**

Pastor Katherine Finegan and her husband, Dave, will be leading a Ten Day Fall Tour in the steps of Martin Luther.

Sponsored through “Faith Journeys”, hotel, breakfasts and dinners, program and guide, bus and airfare will all be included in the cost.

**Save the dates in your calendar today!!
More info coming soon!!!!**

Sneaky Visitor Initiative

**Similar to a Mystery Shopper or an Undercover Boss, you are invited to visit another congregation, preferably where no one knows you
(including the distant cousin and the aunt four times**

removed),

and evaluate that congregation on their welcome, their worship, their witness, and their building.

Evaluation forms are available at www.nglsynod.org.

Simply go to any NGLS congregation, and after your visit (please do not fill out the form during the visit), send the completed forms in to the Synod Office (either electronically or through the mail).

The form with your feedback will be sent on to the congregation,

and the fact that you sent it (that is, your identity) will remain in confidence at the Synod Office.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee 😊

CLERGY—Registration

Open

Mackinac Island Retreat

September 27-29, 2015

For twenty years (every other year), our synod has sponsored a retreat for clergy (and if married their spouses) on Mackinac Island. We spend time on this beautiful island the last week the resorts are open in the fall. We received a great price from the Mission Point Resort as we spend a Sunday evening, Monday and Tuesday, September 27-29, 2015 in one of the premier vacation areas of the country.

Our clergy and spouses hear lectures, have great discussions and enjoy time in worship and learning as well as have free time on the island. This has been a very popular continuing education opportunity. Our main

speaker this year is one of the senior bishops of the ELCA, Bishop Gary Wollersheim of the Northern Illinois Synod. Bishop Wollersheim is known in the Conference of Bishops as having a passion for evangelism and outreach. We look forward to his presentations.

Registration brochures are available soon on the synod website!

**ALL NGLS
CONGREGATIONS ARE
INVITED
TO BEGIN COLLECTING**

DISPOSABLE DIAPERS FOR DETROIT!

This is an “in kind” offering for the
RISE-UP Detroit Youth
Gathering. Please bring the diapers to
any of the following churches by July 10.

St. Paul's, Ironwood
Ignace
Pioneer Lake, Conover
Shepherd, Peshtigo
Zion, Marinette
Minocqua
Holy Cross, Baraga
Savior's, Marinette
Bethel, Ishpeming
Rhineland
Messiah, Marquette
United, Pelkie

Bethany, Republic
Good Shepherd, Houghton
Bethany, Ishpeming
Zion, Manistique
Zion, Allenville
Christ the King, Escanaba
Bethany, Escanaba
Immanuel, Escanaba
First, Gladstone
Bethel, Cedarville
Our Redeemer, Newberry
Bethel, Menominee

Zion, St.
Good
Ascension,
Our
Trinity,
Mission

ATTENTION MUSIC LOVERS ALL

Up and coming opportunities for Organists, Choir Directors, Choirs, Musicians and assorted 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 8:30am
registration - 2:30pm: Workshop, beginner to
advanced. Lun
ch 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.**

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Summer Camp is now in full swing!!!

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

+ Congratulations to the three seminarians assigned to our synod this spring on their impending calls and ordinations:

Pastor-elect Tammy Barthels has been called as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rhinelander. She will be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Saturday July 11 and begins her ministry soon thereafter at

Immanuel.

Pastor-elect Ann Gonyea-Alexander has been called at Eden Lutheran Church in Munising. She will be ordained into the ministry of Word and sacrament on Sunday July 12th at Bethany Lutheran Church in Ishpeming.

Seminarian David Tielbar will be considered for call as pastor this Sunday July 5 at Zion in St. Ignace and Trinity in Brevort. A tentative ordination date has been set for July 25th in Iowa.

+Congratulations to **Pastor Mark Laatsch** who was installed as Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran in Menominee. Coming to us from the Northern Illinois Synod, we ask God's blessings upon him and his family as Pastor Laatsch serves in the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

+May God bless **Pastor Greg Mileski** and his family as he leaves United in L'Anse to pursue graduate work in Colorado. Pastor Mileski has been active in our synod work, serving on the synod council and is continuing his

studies this fall in world religions and systematic theology.

LIFTING UP TO GOD I N PRAYER

- +For all those preparing to attend the National Youth Gathering in Detroit, that the Spirit of God will encourage and lift up all who attend.
- +Pastors soon to be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.
- +For our nation that healing and reconciliation occur between people of all beliefs and races.
- +For the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania as they seek to follow Christ our Lord.

+ + +

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

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop