

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

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

npls@nplsynod.org

E-Notes for July 14, 2015

SEASON after PENTECOST

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Pastors are not to be licensed deliverers of unchallenged monologues on subjects of their own choosing. Nor are they to be talk-show hosts or celebrities or entertainers. Rather, Christianity is a meal fellowship, and

Christian leaders are table servers.”

--Gordon Lathrop, “The Pastor: a Spirituality.” P. 64.

OFF TO DETROIT YOUTH GATHERING----Today!

Just moments ago one of our synod busses pulled away from the office parking lot here in Marquette.

On board, youth and youth leaders from this area. Tonight they will be in Detroit joining others from our synod and from around the country. Thirty thousand strong (150 from the Northern Great Lakes Synod) the largest gathering of Lutheran in the United States will celebrate together God’s Justice, God’s Hope and God’s Work in the world. Rise Up Detroit! All of the bishops of our church will be there too! The event continues through Sunday. More later!!

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 decided to read the Gospel of John as my daily companion. Not sure what I will do with this daily reading—maybe the Spirit will speak to me! 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; and a few synod policies to re-write with the Gospel of John as my companion. There will be no lack of things to accomplish. I also intend to walk, pray and sleep. We are also taking a ten day family trip in the middle of it all.

Your prayers are requested.

In my absence, the office staff here in Marquette will

know where I am and Pastor Katherine Finegan will be available to you.”

Faithful Finances

A Workshop for All Those Entrusted
With Congregational Finances

Saturday, August 29
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

First Lutheran Church
1212 Minneapolis Avenue - Gladstone, MI

Topics covered will include:

[if !supportLists] ✓ [endif] Best Practices for Handling Cash

Funds

[if !supportLists] ✓ [endif] Required Synod and IRS Forms

[if !supportLists] ✓ [endif] Records Retention

[if !supportLists] ✓ [endif] And more!

There is no fee, but please contact the Synod Office to register (228-2300).

The workshop will be presented by Betsy Koski,
Synod Bookkeeper

Pastors:

**Rostered leaders in first 3
years of call: MARK YOUR
CALENDARS NOW!**

“The 2015 FCTE (First Call Theological Education) Fall Conference will be held **November 8-11** at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon Wisconsin. Please reserve these dates now, and watch for detailed information to arrive during the early part of September.

Please note: if you would like to assist with any of our worship opportunities, please contact Linda Rozumalski at 715-472-4895 or rozumalskili@gmail.com
See you in November!”

Sheri Jackson, First Call Planning Committee

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!

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 on their calls and ordinations:

Pastor Tammy Barthels has been called as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rhinelander. She was ordained on Saturday, July 11th and has begun her ministry at Immanuel. Her installation will be August 16th.

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

Pastor-elect David Tielbar was called as pastor at Zion in St. Ignace and Trinity in Brevort. An ordination date has been set for July 25th in Iowa.

+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 IN PRAYER

+For all those attending the National Youth Gathering in Detroit, that the Spirit of God will encourage and lift up all who attend. Bless our 150 folks, Lord, with growth in faith!

+Pastors newly ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. May they be people of engaging evangelical faith.

+For the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania as they seek to follow Christ our Lord.

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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.

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop