

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America**

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for August 15, 2015

SEASON after PENTECOST

QUOTE OF THE DAY

I have observed too many congregations who begin with a focus on their **budget** in a congregation's annual response program. They have skipped at least three foundational steps in their planning process.

If you begin here, you are doomed to fail in bringing capacity to your congregation's mission.

There are three important steps that precede talk about financial stewardship outcomes.

[if !supportLists]• [endif]**Everything we do as a congregation is grounded in the Word.**

[if !supportLists]• [endif]**Clarity of mission is a key to any budget**

[if !supportLists]• [endif]**Pray about it!**

~from the article *What is Most Important?*

By Glenn Taibl. The complete article is available at http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/email_archive.aspx?m=6506

Do you have some With One Voice books to spare?

United Lutheran in L'Anse is looking for about 50 With One Voice Hymnals. Are there any congregations in the Synod are looking to sell or give away their blue hymnals?

If you have any WOV books to spare,
please contact United, L'Anse.
Thank you!

RISE UP DETROIT!!!

147 NGLS Youth and Leaders traveled by bus, car, and van to Detroit for the National Gathering of Youth. Some groups left earlier than the July 15 beginning in order to do some service work and some sight-seeing. Many groups visited the Ford Museum, Belle Isle, the Heidelberg Project, the Riverwalk and more as a part of our stay. The Synod website and our Facebook page is full of pictures. Feel free to check them out!!

Our time in Detroit was divided into three days: Proclaim Story, Proclaim Justice, and Proclaim Community.

[if !supportLists]• [endif]**Proclaim Story** was our Synod Day where we learned “Jesus is Good News!!” and celebrated with worship.

[if !supportLists]• [endif]**Proclaim Justice** was the service day in the community. Unfortunately not every group was able to get their hands dirty, but they made the most of their time together, and did not despair at the change of plans. Those who were able to get to their work sites had a very positive experience as local residents often joined them in their efforts.

[if !supportLists]• [endif]**Proclaim Community** took place at the Cobo Center. Youth and adults participated in Locks for Love, zip lining, the Walk for Water, constructing a Habitat for Humanity house, bumper cars and so much more.

Some interesting statistics:

[if !supportLists]• [endif]1847 mural boards were painted to turn urban blight into art

[if !supportLists]• [endif]600 neighborhoods were left better than we found them

[if !supportLists]• [endif]319 vacant homes were boarded up

[if !supportLists]• [endif]3200 vacant lots cleared of debris

[if !supportLists]• [endif]1425 backpacks distributed

[if !supportLists]• [endif]36 urban gardens installed

[if !supportLists]• [endif]99 picnic tables built

[if !supportLists]• [endif]26 dumpsters filled

[if !supportLists]• [endif]78.8 gallons of blood donated (607

pints)

[if !supportLists]• [endif]One million diapers donated, and 300,000 baby wipes

[if !supportLists]• [endif]650 people (!) donated at least 8 inches of hair. That is a minimum of 433 feet of hair.

[if !supportLists]• [endif]The Gathering raised \$402,000 for the ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water.

[if !supportLists]• [endif]From a Facebook post: “Thank YOU [ELCA Youth Gathering](#)! You folks donated in person power approximately \$2.4M (30,000 people X \$10.00/hr X 8 hours, yes?) to the NPO's in the Detroit area. What a difference you made in the lives of others! [Lutheran Social Services of Michigan](#) appreciates all you did for us!”

Ask anyone who went, and they will tell you stories. Thank you to all the congregations who supported this extraordinary effort, from donating diapers, to sending youth, to financial gifts, to your offerings of prayer. Special thanks to the people of **Zion, St. Ignace** who graciously served the 99 people in the two Synod Busses lunch before going over the bridge. What a treat! Check out the coming *Notes and Quotes* to hear the testimony of some NGLS youth, or attend the recap offered at

the Festival of Congregational Renewal October 23-24 at Ascension, Minocqua. Another slide show will be given this May as part of our pre-assembly events at Messiah, Marquette.

The next Gathering is July of 2018 in Houston, Texas. Start planning now!!!

Thinking ahead to MARKED!

4:00 – 7:00pm local time.

**Includes worship, learning, fun and
food!!**

[if !supportLists]▪ [endif] **Feb. 28: Immanuel,
Escanaba**

[if !supportLists]▪ [endif] **March 6: Prince of**

Peace, Eagle River

[if !supportLists]▪ [endif] **March 13: Holy Trinity, Chassell**

Marked! is a Synod sponsored event to gather in NGLS Confirmation students. This year we are collecting school supplies for LWR School Kits and local schools. Many of the below items are on sale NOW. If your congregation is collecting for the fall, please keep MARKED in mind, and buy extra for the Youth to use in the Spring. 😊

Items needed for LWR School

Kits:

local schools:

~70-sheet notebooks of wide or College

Items suggested for

ruled X 4 ~Hand sanitizer
~30 centimeter ruler X
1 ~Boxes of
tissues
~Pencil sharpener X
1 ~Clorox wipes
~blunt scissor X
1 ~Noteboo
ks
~#2 unsharpened pencils X
5 ~Folders
~black/blue ball point pens (no gel pens) X
5 ~Pens/pencils
~box of 16 or 24 crayons X
1 ~erasers
~2 inch Pencil eraser X
1 ~stickers
~Drawstring school bag. Pattern available
at ~Granola bars

www.lwr.org/schoolkits

Your congregation received a letter with all the details. If you cannot find that letter, call the Synod Office and we'll send you another one, or find it on our website at www.nglsynod.org.

Thank you for your support of this embodiment of walking together as a Synod!

BISHOP 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 ET

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!!!

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!!

The itinerary and more details are

available
online at www.nglsynod.org. Your
congregation also received
material in the last Synod
mailing. Contact Rev. Katherine
Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org
with any questions.

**Join the Tour! Walk in the steps
of Martin Luther.**

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

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.

Contact the Synod Office if you have any questions: louise@nglsynod.org or 906/228-2300!

ATTENTION MUSIC

LOVERS ALL

For Organists, Choir Directors, Choirs,
Musicians and assorted Music lovers

~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. L

unch 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.

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Up and Coming Events:

Saturday September 12
from 8:00am - 4:00pm

God's Work Our
Hands Service Day

Saturday October 3
from 9:00am - 2:00pm
Fall

Fest

Friday to Saturday,
October 16-
17

Junior High
Retreat

Saturday to Sunday,
November (6), 7-8

Senior High
Retreat

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

+**Pastor David Tielbar** has been called to serve Zion, St. Ignace and Trinity, Brevort. He will be installed on Sunday, September 20 at 3pm. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red.

+**Pastor Ann Gonyea** has been called to serve Eden, Munising. She will be installed on Sunday, October 11 at 3pm. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red.

+**Pastor Tammy Barthels** has been called as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rhineland. Her

installation will be August 16th at 3pm at Immanuel, Rhinelander. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is **red**.

We pray God's blessings upon these new pastors and their efforts in our midst.

+May God bless **Pastor Barry Levine and his wife Bobbi** as he leaves Faith, Sault St. Marie to accept another call.

LIFTING UP TO GOD I N PRAYER

+We celebrate with Our Saviour's, Atlantic Mine their 125 years of ministry, and First Lutheran, Ewen as they celebrate 100 years. We thank God for the work of Christ that has been done and will be done through their efforts.

+For bountiful harvests, that the world may be fed.

+For courage, strength, wisdom, trusting faith and creativity as congregations face new challenges.

+ + +

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

+Rev. Katherine Finegan
Assistant to the Bishop