From the Bishop

WORSHIP IS CENTRAL

“Witness—Welcome—Worship”

Many years ago on Christmas Eve a member of our congregation’s choir looked out over the full church and whispered in my ear, “My, my, look at all the Poinsettias out there!” Obviously, he was not talking about those red Christmas flowers. He was referencing the dozens and dozens of folks who only grace the worship space on Christmas and perhaps again on Easter each year. He was being cynical about the less than weekly attenders. I have a different take. To me, I am grateful that God the Holy Spirit has led these people into worship. Even if they worship God twice or even once a year, I still rejoice that their feet have come through the church door. I give thanks that they will at least once in this year receive the Word of God in proclamation and in Sacrament.

Worship is central to who we are as Christian women and men. We can honestly say, if the church worships God it can call itself a church. If it fails to worship God, it is not a church. As Lutherans, we have certain understandings about worship and about our sacramental life. In 1997, our ELCA adopted for guidance a statement on the practice of Word and Sacrament. It is entitled “The Use of the Means of Grace.”

This document is our church policy on worship. In it, there are 54 principles which are to shape, govern and guide our congregational worship life. As Lutherans we are allowed a lot of latitude in worship. However, these principles give us food for thought as well as guard our life together so that we might worship in fullness the Triune God. Some of the principles seem obvious. Others push us to understand worship as our response to God, and not entertainment. Baptism as the entrance rite to the life of faith is stressed. Frequent reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion is strongly encouraged.

A wonderful study of our worship life as congregations could be based on these 54 principles. You can download the full document from the ELCA website or order a copy of the written booklet from Augsburg.
IN TANZANIA—WITH THE CHURCH

From November 25th to December 9th, I along with three parish pastors will travel to Tanzania. Visiting congregations with me in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania in Dar es Salaam will be Pastor Chris Johnson from Christ the King in Escanaba; Pastor D.J. Rasner from Gloria Dei in Hancock and Pastor David Hueter from Zion in Manistique and Bethany in Isabella. A part of the two weeks in Tanzania will be meeting with the Convention of the Diocese and our companion congregations. We will also travel to Lutheran institutions including Kisarawe Lutheran Junior Seminary and Mkuza Girls School.

Pray that all might have a safe and meaningful experience as together we worship the living Christ.

GOD’S WORK---OUR HANDS

2015 SUMMER DENTAL MISSION

Are you a dentist, dental assistant, dental hygienist? Do you feel God calling you to serve him by helping the poor of Tanzania receive dental care? This just may be the opportunity for which you have been waiting!

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is organizing another dental mission trip to our companion synod, the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. This mission trip will take place sometime in June or July of 2015 and will include a safari to see the Ngorongoro Crater Animal Preserve.

If this is something that interests you, please call or email Luanne Skrenes at 906-485-5121 or TLSkrenes@aol.com
BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES

SUPPORTING EXCITING MINISTRIES
YOUR ENDOWMENT FUND

Big News! Over the last twenty plus years our Synod Endowment Fund has supported God’s work in a host of ways. Each year a percentage of the accumulated assets are used to support our Christian work in this synod. In 2014, your Synod Endowment Fund will provide $70,028 to support the Lord’s ministry. This is all very exciting work. YOU are helping to build up the body of Christ.

Look at the grants from the synod endowment fund this year.

$29,813 Seminarian Scholarships
$11,290 Rural Ministry Candidacy and Outreach
$10,000 Pastor’s Debt Retirement
$5,925 Tanzania Scholarships
$4,000 Bay College Campus Ministry
$3,000 Tanzania Ministry - Mkuza Girls Secondary School
$3,000 Lay School for Mission
$3,000 Detroit Youth Gathering - Congregational Support

Total 2014 Distribution: $70,028

I am inviting you today to think with me about the future ministry of our Church. I am the third bishop of our synod to work with our synod Endowment Fund. It has been a wonderful experience! Every year, my wife Luanne and I contribute to the Synod Endowment Fund. Today, I am asking you to contribute to the Synod’s Endowment Fund. Every member of the Endowment Fund Board is being asked to support the fund. All of our synod council members will also be asked to give to this ministry. All of our pastors and other rostered leaders are being asked to give! You, as a member of this synod, are being asked to give to the work of the Synod Endowment Fund. Please set a generous example!

Can I count on your gift? The size of your gift is not nearly as important as your willingness to get behind this ministry. All of us love to give money away to build God’s Church. Please consider a gift in 2014. You may choose to designate your gift. Or, you may have your gift applied to the undesignated fund. Thank you for your consideration! Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I love being a part of God’s Church in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
TRANSITIONS

+ Congratulations to Pastor Kristin Rice who has accepted a call to serve Cross Lutheran Church in Burlington, Wisconsin. She becomes the Pastor of Spiritual Formation in that parish.

+ God bless Pastor Kristine Ertl and her family on the death of her mother Helen Nyquist Cook. Mrs. Cook was buried from Bethany in Escanaba on Saturday October 11th. “Christ is Risen, we too shall rise.”

The Staff of Northern Great Lakes Synod wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

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
Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Finlandia University in Hancock, MI

Call the Synod Office for application information.
We will elect 2 clergy and 4 laity.
No more than one from any congregation.

Remember to collect Quarters for the World Hunger Offering at Synod Assembly in May 2015!

-- Thomas A. Skrenes
Bishop
tskrenes@nglsynod.org
~A Word about Advent~

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If Advent was a moment at a dinner party, it would be that space of time between when everything is ready and you are watching for the guests to arrive.

If Advent was a moment during the church service, it would be that expectant but brief stretch of seconds between when the preacher enters the pulpit and the first words of the sermon are spoken to the congregation.

If Advent was a moment on a fishing trip, it would be that stretch of time, long or short, between when the line is cast, and the fish takes the bait.

Advent is expectation, anticipation, and hope. It is the tension of the in-between space where we wait for what is to come.

But we’re not very good at waiting. Fast food is fast because people do not have time to wait. We have drive through hamburgers, drive through banks, drive through coffee, drive through pharmacists. Time is money, money is time, and the savvy business owner caters to the consumer who is in a perpetual hurry. We demand and are used to instant gratification. From scratch off lotto tickets to high speed internet to hot and ready pizza, we do not like to wait for results.

I confess that I liked watching the T.V. show LOST when it was on. But it was also a frustrating show because the plot moved so very slowly. I wanted to know NOW what’s going to happen (to be read as a whine!). And yet there’s no doubt that the popularity of the show was due in part to its drawn out quality. It made its viewers wait. The plot stretched the suspense of each moment to its breaking point, and just when you thought you were going to get some answers, the show either went to commercial or ended for the evening. It was maddening, and yet, I was hooked for another week.

Advent invites a similar stretch of the moment. We live in the tension that builds between the now and the waiting for what is to come, knowing that it is coming, and still, it is not here yet.

But to rush through this space is to miss the glory of the suspense, the wonderful tension of mystery, the hanging on the edge of the moment.

Advent is when we live in sweet anticipation of all the goodness that comes when God’s presence is known in our midst.

So together we wait for our Lord Jesus to be our guest and we watch for his coming.

Together we wait for God to speak the Word Christ into our lives, and then together we will sing –

Joy to the World, the Lord is come, 
Let earth receive its king. 
Let every heart prepare him room, 
And heav’n and nature sing!

Yours in Christ, 
Pastor Katherine Finegan
Matthew 28 in Action Retreat
January 30 – 31, 2015, Friday – Saturday
at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

Cost will be only $50 per team
for lodging, meals, and program.

If your church is all but dead –
this is not for you.

If your church is angry and fearful–
this is not for you.

If your church is giving up –
this is not for you.

But if you’re willing to consider new possibilities - This retreat is for YOU!

If you would like to build on current hope and promise - This retreat is for YOU!

If you are willing to unite in vision and action that can bring change and new life -
This retreat is for YOU!

Come to this retreat with a team of 4-6 congregation members and your pastor.

Register by calling the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 by Monday, January 26, 2015.

Sponsored by the Transformational Ministry Team, this retreat will equip church teams to lead their congregations towards possibilities for transformation and renewal available through a variety of resources, activities, Bible Study, prayer, discernment, ministry efforts and more.

Come and find out what can happen in your church and begin the journey of discovery of what God is up to in and through your congregation!
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

**Full-time**

Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner - Pastor Norman Peterson
First, Gladstone - Pastor Steve Gauger
Emmanuel, Menominee - Pastor Lee Goodwin
Immanuel, Rhinelander - Pastor Devon Barrix
Grace, Pembine - Pastor Doug Johnson
First, Ewen; Our Saviour, Paynesville; Trinity, Trout Creek - Pastor Bill Jacobson
Eden, Munising - Pastor Dave Hueter
Zion, St. Ignace; Trinity Brevort - Pastor Matt Lamb
Siloa, Ontonagon; First of Winona & St. Paul’s, Mass City - Pastor John Autio

**Part-time**

Faith, Rock & First, Trenary - Pastor Allan Johnson

“We give thee but thine own, What-e’re the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord from thee.”  (LBW #410)

God entrusts us with countless gifts and as partners together in the Northern Great Lakes Synod we use these gifts to bring Christ’s Word of hope and grace to others here and abroad. As of October 31, mission support giving is up 3.3% over last year at this time and we give thanks to God and to the congregations who have so faithfully remitted these gifts. As we come to the end of the year, we strongly encourage all our congregations to meet or exceed their benevolence commitment, that our work for the Lord may remain vibrant and strong.

Please note the following calendar and fiscal year closing dates:

**January 12, 2015** - Last day for checks to arrive in Synod Office so that 2014 benevolence gifts can be credited to 2014 giving.

**February 10, 2015** - Last day for checks to arrive in Synod Office so that January 2015 giving can be credited to the Synod fiscal year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledged Amount</td>
<td>824,736</td>
<td>834,355</td>
<td>+9,619</td>
<td>+1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Received</td>
<td>625,851</td>
<td>646,388</td>
<td>+20,537</td>
<td>+3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Gifts</td>
<td>179,204</td>
<td>133,290</td>
<td>-45,914</td>
<td>-25.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRAYFAITHFULLY

DEVOTION SCHEDULE
FOR December & January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Devotion Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 30 - December 6</td>
<td>Pastor Mike Laakko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7-13</td>
<td>Pastor Fran Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 14-20</td>
<td>Pastor Bre Johnson’s Confirmation Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21-27</td>
<td>Bishop Thomas Skrenes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 28 - January 3</td>
<td>Virginia Paulson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 4-10</td>
<td>Pastor Doug Norquist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11-17</td>
<td>Linda Kinnunen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18-24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25-31</td>
<td>Pastor Erik Heskin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SYNOD CALENDAR

1-8: Bishop Skrenes, Pr. Dave Hueter, Pr. Chris Johnson, and Pr. DJ Rasner in Tanzania

2: NGLS Constitution Committee, 1 p.m. ET at the Synod Office

3: NGLS Staff Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office

8: Evangelism Committee, 10:30 a.m. ET at the Synod Office

11-13: Bi-Synodal Candidacy Meeting in Appleton, WI

15: NGLS Staff Meeting, 10 a.m. ET at the Synod Office

16: Judicatory Heads Meeting, 12:30 p.m. ET at the Synod Office

17: LSS Christmas Gathering at Oakwood Village, Synod Office will be closed Noon – 2 p.m.

18: Advent Gathering for Notes & Quotes volunteers, Noon – 2 p.m. ET

19: Synod Office closed for NGLS Staff Christmas Gathering

22-31: Pr. Finegan on vacation

24-26: Synod Office Closed for Christmas

31: Synod Office closing at Noon

1: Synod Office Closed for New Year’s Day

3-10: Bishop Skrenes on vacation

12: NGLS Staff Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office

13: Synod Assembly Planning Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at Gloria Dei, Hancock

14: Worship Committee Meeting, 10:30 a.m. ET at Bethany, Republic

Leadership Support Meeting, 11 a.m. CT at FLLC

15: Mission Outreach Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office

18: Companion Synod Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. ET at Trinity, Ishpeming

19: Synod Youth Committee Meeting, 10 a.m. ET at the Synod Office

23-24: Synod Council Meeting, 4 p.m. at Immanuel, Escanaba

27: Stewardship Committee Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office

28: NGLS Staff Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office

29-30: National Youth Gathering Planning Meeting in Detroit
# Thank You For Your Gifts!

**ELCA Disaster Funds**  
Sharon, Bessemer  
Salem, Ironwood  
All Saints, Wakefield  
Good Shepherd, Houghton  
Bethany, Mohawk  
Pioneer Lake, Conover  
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner  
Faith, Three Lakes  
Bethany, Amasa  
Bethany, Ishpeming  
Messiah, Marquette  
IGO Conference 1

**Lutheran Social Services**  
Trinity, Ishpeming

**Tanzanian Projects**  
First, Gladstone  
Bethany, Isabella

**Lutheran World Relief**  
Salem, Ironwood  
All Saints, Wakefield  
Calvary, Minocqua  
Zion, Marinette  
Calvary, Rapid River  
Zion, Manistique  
Bethel, Ishpeming  
Prince of Peace, Marquette

**Maternity/Malaria Project**  
St. Paul, Mass City

**Endowment /Answer the Call**  
Donna Hiltunen  
Rev. Kevin Kaiser  
Larry Pagel

**Mission Outreach**  
Immanuel, Escanaba

**Kisarawe Student Scholarships**  
Holy Trinity, Chassell

**Pastors Debt Reduction**  
IGO Conference 1

**Dental Mission**  
Bishop Dale and Jo Skogman  
Rev. Rudy and Darley  
Kemppainen  
Larry Pagel

**Voices for Youth Appeal**  
Emanuel, Skandia

**World Missionary Support**  
Pioneer Lake, Conover  
Trinity, Rhinelander  
Bethany, Norway  
Bethel, Ishpeming

**Lutheran Campus Ministry**  
Grace, South Range  
United, Crystal Falls  
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo  
Calvary, Rapid River  
Zion, Manistique  
Grace, Gwinn  
Trinity, Ishpeming  
Prince of Peace, Marquette  
Immanuel, Negaunee  
Zion, St. Ignace

**Seminarian Support**  
Our Redeemer, Newberry  
Eden, Munising  
Zion, Manistique

**Skogman Scholarship Fund**  
Rev. Nancy and David Kauppi  
ELCA Luth. Parish/Dickinson Co.  
Our Savior’s, Marinette  
Rev. James and Laura Wendt
Once again, your confirmation classes, and their friends, are invited to the Spring MARKED! event.

For those of you who are new, (and those who need a refresher) the MARKED! events are sponsored by the Synod in an effort to connect Youth across the Synod with each other, and celebrate our identity as baptized children of God in our Lutheran expression. Confirmation classes are asked to attend one or more such events during the years of instruction, with the Synod offering an event within an hour or so of your location at least every other year.

This year, you are invited to bring your Confirmation classes to one of three events:

- **March 1, 2015** at Prince of Peace, Harvey 4-7pm
- **March 8, 2015** at Zion, Ironwood 4-7pm
- **March 15, 2015** at Northland Village, Marinette 4-7pm

As always, these events will include music, worship, and food.

And since it went so well last year, we are once again collecting items for a service project....

**We will be assembling LWR “Baby Kits” for global mission, and what we are calling “Baby Bundles” for local food pantries and shelters!!!!!!**

**This is very exciting!**

In preparation for this service project, your congregation is asked to collect items for the Baby Kits and for the Baby Bundles. Your Pastor or church office will have more information on how many items your congregation is being asked to provide. Our goal is to assemble over 500 kits. Pastors and leaders will then leave the MARKED! event armed with Bundles for their local needs, and the Kits will get shipped off with the quilts and layettes the following fall.

**Some important things to remember:**

- **If you are not** attending, please get your items to a neighboring church that is going, drop them off at the Synod Office, or call the Synod Office to arrange pick-up.
- **If you are** attending, bring the items with you when you come.
- **EVERY** NGLS congregation is asked to participate, whether your congregation plans to attend a MARKED! event or not. **We need your items.** That every church is involved is a wonderful, tangible expression of who we are as “Synod” walking together, making a difference, even if not bodily present. If the three sites are too far away, look forward
to 2016 when one will be closer to you. But we still need your items for this March! Call the Synod Office if you cannot get the items where they need to be.

◆ The number listed next to your church name is the minimum amount of each item that we need. You are welcome to collect more 😊. And feel free to get your knitters knitting baby sweaters and caps, or sewing gowns. Instructions are available at http://lwr.org/atf/cf/%7B3F934D1F-3443-49CB-95AC-954E18EF5D03%7D/GI_QK_Hooded_Baby_Cape_Pattern.pdf and http://lwr.org/atf/cf/%7B3F934D1F-3443-49CB-95AC-954E18EF5D03%7D/GI_QK_Baby_Gown_Pattern.pdf

◆ DO NOT ASSEMBLE THE KITS. This will be the work of the students. Let them do it.

Your Congregation is asked to collect the indicated number on the grid for the Kits. The Bundles will be assembled from any Kit leftovers and from any other items collected. The items needed for the Kits are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items needed for LWR Baby Kits:</th>
<th>Items suggested for Baby Bundles:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two lightweight cotton t-shirts (not onesies)</td>
<td>Disposable diapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two gowns without feet</td>
<td>Baby wipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two receiving blankets</td>
<td>Baby toiletries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four cloth diapers</td>
<td>Clothing, all sizes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One jacket or sweater with hood or cap</td>
<td>Pacifiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two pairs of socks</td>
<td>Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One hand towel</td>
<td>Sleepers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two bath size bars of soap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two diaper pins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your cooperation and participation in this effort. If you have any questions or concerns, or you see a glaring flaw in the plan, please don’t hesitate to contact me at kfinegan@nglsynod.org or call the Synod Office at 906-228-2300.
What are Conference Meetings for anyway?

In my somewhat limited experience, it seems to me that conference meetings have moved from a sense of possibility and opportunity to a sense of obligation and maybe even futility. They are not well attended. They are not a priority. It seems for many, they feel like a necessary evil, a debt to be paid to Constitutional demands (because the Constitution requires them), and yet little seems to get done.

However, I do believe that is not the intent, and never has been. And like so many things having to do with church, the challenge is to change attitudes from a “have to” to a “get to”.

The thing is, Conferences and Conference meetings are hugely important, not only for raising up leaders through the process of elections, but also for nurturing the network of churches and opening up the possibilities for ministry. There really are some things that we do better together as partners in ministry than we can do as a congregation alone.

Conferences are purposely grouped geographically. This enables Conference congregations to partner together for:

Youth Ministry Education and Activities:
~Are there churches near you that would like to send their few youth with you to the Detroit Gathering? Or you to them?

~Would joint Confirmation work?
~Have a friendly completion between churches for the Souper Bowl, Malaria Nets, LWR.
~Partner together to sponsor FLLC to lead VBS
~How about inviting the Synod Youth Committee to present a morning work-shop for adults, pastors, and parents who work with youth, or want to know how to?

Some more ideas:
~Invite Synod Bookkeeper Betsy Koski to lead a workshop to equip church treasurers in your area.
~Partner together as a conference to sponsor a YAGM (Young Adult in Global Mission), or a missionary, or a Seminary student.
~Intentionally support a food pantry, shelter, or other ministry in one of your churches.
~Serve a community meal in one of your churches. Take turns hosting.
~Take turns offering Lay school-like evening Adult Ed. classes, invite the whole conference and the neighborhood.
~Brainstorm together at your next Conference meeting. Make a point of every pastor being present along with two members of each congregation. Allow time in the agenda for prayer, a consideration of the possibilities, and a willingness to put next steps in place for whatever ideas the Spirit blows your way.

Many of the above ideas are already being done by NGLS conferences.

The Spirit is at work! Consider how your conference can make the most of ministry possibilities.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Katherine Finegan
**Prayer Calendar – December 2014**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: Rudy Kemppainen 12/03, Kris Ertl 12/17, and David Johnson, 12/18.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Constitution Committee meeting</strong> at the synod office at 1:00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>church choirs</strong> and musicians who share their gifts of music as they welcome the Christ Child this season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>St. John, Pimlico, Baltimore MD</strong> (Rev Zavandro Andriamaheninkaja), <strong>St. Martin, Annapolis MD</strong> (Rev Marta Wallace), and <strong>Salem, Battery Ave, Baltimore MD</strong> (Rev Jacob Simpson.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for those attending <strong>A Long December: Room to Grieve Retreat</strong> at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Dec 5-7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastors LaVonne Stephenson and Bucky Beach</strong> as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Advent II</strong> – Walk in hope, as you move toward the manger, keeping your eyes on the child, the child who will fulfill that hope on the cross of Good Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Evangelism meeting</strong> at the synod office today at 10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>Synod Staff</strong>, our <strong>Synod Council</strong>, and the members of our <strong>Synod committees</strong> as they work tirelessly for all of us across the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the whole church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of our deceased pastors</strong> – Dora Jane Swanson and Ruth Warmanen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>For the <strong>Bi-Synodical Candidacy Committee</strong> meeting Dec 11-13 in Appleton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>retired pastors and their spouses</strong> – Rev. Rell and Louise Spickerman and Rev. Francis and Grace Strong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Magogoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong> and their <strong>NGLS Companion Congregations, Christ the King and Immanuel in Escanaba</strong> (Rev Christopher Johnson and Rev Judy Kincaid, pastors.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Advent III</strong> – as you come closer to the manger at Bethlehem get ready to come face to face with the ultimate gift of love – the presence of God in Immanuel, “God with us!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>For <strong>those addicted to drugs, alcohol and other substances</strong> who may find this season of family celebration particularly troublesome. We pray that the <strong>light of Christ Jesus may shine into their darkness</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Judicatory Heads Meeting</strong>, 12:30 p.m. at the synod office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>For the <em>Lutheran Social Services Christmas Gathering at Oakwood Village</em>; Synod Office will be closed from Noon – 2 p.m. May the joy of Christmas be shared by all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>Sunday School children</strong> who learn about God’s word each week and who anticipate the birth of baby Jesus in these next days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>For all of the <strong>hard-working and dedicated NGLS Staff</strong> as they take time to celebrate the coming of the Christ child together <em>at their Christmas Gathering</em>. The Synod Office will be closed today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: John Kuziej 12/20 and Dave Hueter 12/21.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Advent IV – as you take the final steps to the manger joyfully lift up prayers of thanks for the fulfillment of all of God’s promises in the Christ Child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for members of <em>Salem, Catonsville, Baltimore MD (Rev Timothy Jahn), Second English Lutheran Church, Baltimore MD (Rev Cameron Coe), and Trinity, Reisterstown MD (Rev Timothy Feaser.</em>)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>For <strong>those in prisons</strong>. Keep them from harm and help them to see the light of Christ in their lives during this season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray that this evening <em>the light that shines in the darkness may shine again in and through you</em> as you carry the wonder of this evening with you this day – and throughout the coming year. Synod office closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray this day that the Prince of Peace may stir the hearts of men and women the world over, that throughout the world, in our own country, our communities and our own homes love and care for each other may rule. <strong>May Peace on Earth become a reality.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for all the <strong>children on school vacation</strong>, may they have a chance to renew, recreate, and enjoy their family and friends. Synod office closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>For blessings on all those <strong>men and women in the armed forces</strong> defending our country who are away from their families this holiday season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <em>Eden, Munising and their interim pastor, Rev. Dave Hueter</em> as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for the ministries of <strong>Lutheran Social Services</strong> in our synod – especially for those parents and children who become families through the adoption services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all of our seminary students</strong>, especially Tina and Mark St. Aubin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Offer a <strong>prayer of thanks</strong> for the opportunities and gifts of the past year – and a <strong>prayer of hope</strong> that the coming year will bring us courage and insight to deal with its challenges and the grace, mercy, and peace of Our Savior throughout the year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*"We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship."*
**Prayer Calendar – January 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray that this <strong>new year</strong> may find you to be a faithful disciple of Jesus in all that you do. Ask for God’s gifts, guidance, and grace as you walk your path of life and faith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>For those who have <strong>physical limitations</strong> that prevent them from enjoying winter recreation and are <strong>lonely and long for companionship and conversation</strong> especially as winter weather keeps them indoors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Zion, City Hall Plaza, Baltimore MD</strong> (Rev Holger Roggelin) <strong>Ascension, Towson MD</strong> (Rev Judith Cobb) and <strong>Christus Victor, Baltimore MD</strong> (Rev Joseph Skillman.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>For the <strong>Lay School campuses and all of the busy pastors</strong> who give their time and efforts to teach folks eager to learn more about our theology and scripture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: Greg Mileski 1/05, Doug Johnson 1/13, and David Jensen 1/16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray that as the Magi brought gifts of great value to the newborn king, you too would be willing to share not what’s left over, but that which you hold of value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>retired pastors and their spouses</strong> – Rev Donald and Edwina Wandersee and Rev Robert Sutherland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>For <strong>continued strength for peace makers and aid workers</strong> across this globe already working to stem the tide of war, violence, and disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>For pastors Margaret Johnson, and Jesse Brown as they celebrate <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong> this month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Yombo Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong> and their <strong>NGLS Companion Congregation, Immanuel in Negaunee</strong> (Revs Steven and Marcia Solberg, pastors.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>As we celebrate the <strong>Baptism of our Lord</strong> remember that in your baptism, you are a child of God. You are claimed, held, nurtured and blessed by a good and loving God who sends you into the world to witness the love of Jesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Also pray for <strong>all of our seminary students</strong>, especially Linda Forray.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for the members of the <strong>Synod Assembly Planning Committee</strong> who meet this day at <strong>11:00 at Gloria Dei in Hancock.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>For those traveling to and attending the <strong>Synod Worship Committee</strong> meeting at <strong>10:30 a.m. ET at Bethany, Republic</strong> and the <strong>Leadership Support Meeting</strong>, <strong>11 a.m. CT at FLLC.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Zion, St Ignace and Trinity, Brevort</strong> and their <strong>interim pastor</strong>, Matt Lamb, as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Prayer Request</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>For those enjoying the <strong>Winter Wonderland Ski weekend at FLLC Jan 16-18.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>men’s ministries</strong> in our synod – that they may take root in prayer and Bible study and grow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>The <strong>Confession of St. Peter</strong> – this day <strong>begins the week of prayer for Christian unity.</strong> Pray that all who confess that which Peter confessed – that Jesus is the Messiah – may come together as partners in the work of the gospel! Pray also for those traveling to and attending the <strong>NGLS Companion Synod Committee</strong> meeting this day at 3:00 at Trinity, Ishpeming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>As we observe <strong>Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday</strong>, pray for our nation – and our world – that <strong>divisions of race, culture, and even faith may be overcome</strong>, not by power and violence, but by love and care for all of God’s children!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>unemployed and underemployed</strong> keep them and their families warm and well-fed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Emmanuel, Baltimore St, Baltimore MD</strong> (Rev Bobby Booher), <strong>Epiphany, Baltimore MD</strong> (Rev William Gohl), and <strong>First English, Baltimore MD</strong> (Rev Donald Burggraf.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>For those in Africa and the rest of the world <strong>suffering with Ebola, Malaria and HIV/AIDS</strong>. Send them skilled doctors and nurses and send them the resources to treat and prevent these diseases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>For those traveling to and attending the <strong>Synod Council</strong> meeting at <strong>Immanuel in Escanaba</strong> today and tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: Margaret Johnson 1/24 and Fran Strong 1/30.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>The <strong>Conversion of St. Paul</strong> – this day as the <strong>week of prayer for Christian unity ends</strong>, pray that as Paul heard Jesus call him to faithful service, all of us may hear that call too and respond to God’s call for love and care for each other.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>Keep us safe and warm</strong> as ice and snow envelope all places in our synod.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of our deceased pastors</strong> –Lenita Scholer and Diane Shepard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>For those women, men, and children who are <strong>victims of domestic violence</strong>. Keep them safe and heal their physical and emotional wounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>National Youth Gathering Planning Meeting</strong> in Detroit today and tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Matthew 28 in Action Retreat</strong> (Transformational Ministry) at FLLC today and tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for those with <strong>macular degeneration and other visual impairments</strong>, keep them safe and provide them with caregivers to help them negotiate in the midst of a sighted world.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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