From the Bishop

“WORSHIP-WITNESS-WELCOME”

So what is worship? Why do we do it? How do we worship God? In a children’s sermon a while ago, I asked a sea of very young faces, “Why do we worship God?” One thoughtful little blonde girl had the best answer. She said, “Because God loves us!” Worship is more than just a nice sermon, well written prayers and a great church choir. Worship is more than just words on a screen and more than just a big pipe organ opening up on a 17th century prelude. Worship is more than just stained glass windows and well-spoken assistants who confidently move around the sanctuary. Yes, it can contain all of these and more. We all know worship occurs in our church buildings but the worship of God happens in so many places. So what is it?

One good definition of worship is what we do because God loves us!

Worship is the movement of God’s people together as we respond to Grace. It is our calling to respond to God’s love and we do that as a Christian community. In the Lutheran community we talk of gathering people around Word and Sacrament. We do this act of love towards God on the weekly anniversary of the central event of all human time, the resurrection. We worship God on Sunday because God in Christ Jesus rose from the dead on that Sunday after He was crucified.

God is the audience of our worship. So we need to ask ourselves, “Do our worship services reflect the power of the God who defeated death and the devil? Does our music glorify God? Do our sermons proclaim the truth about who God is in our lives? Do we preach Christ and Christ crucified? Is the church building a beautiful space for worship? Are we welcoming God’s people (and those who have yet to become part of a Christian community) each and every week?

As we explore worship this year in our three year synod emphasis of “Worship-Witness-Welcome,” ask yourselves these questions:

+ Why do I worship God?
+ How can I help to make our congregational worship service joy filled?
+ Who can I invite to be a part of our weekend worship services at church this week?
MISSION SUPPORT 2014
GOOD NEWS

The work continues! Calendar year mission support income from the synod’s congregations totaled $833,569 or 99.9% of our $834,355 income budget. Good work! Thanks be to God.

Fifty nine of our eighty two congregations met or exceeded their estimates (pledges) for 2014. Every single congregation (all 82 of them) supported our work with mission dollars. Thanks to our congregations the work of the Churchwide Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America can be strengthened. World missionaries, our seminaries, the new congregations and the continuing efforts to be a voice for hope and justice continues. Of your mission support dollars given to our Synod—51% of it is placed in the care of the Churchwide organization. Another five cents of every dollar given supports our seminaries. Yet another five cents of every dollar given continues the ministry of Lutheran Campus Ministry. The rest of the synod mission dollars are used to support our synod office, programs and staff.

In many ways the people of this synod are generous. God is at work. The work continues!

REPORT FROM TANZANIA

In late November and early December, I visited our companion synod in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Pastors Christopher Johnson (Christ the King, Escanaba), Pastor D.J. Rasner (Gloria Dei, Hancock) and Pastor David Hueter (Zion, Manistique and Bethany, Isabella) accompanied me as we lived with our sisters and brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

I have completed a report. The following paragraphs are from the beginning of this report:

Convention-Eastern and Coastal Diocese

It was my pleasure to give the keynote address for the 32nd bi-annual convention of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The conventions of the diocese are held every other year, usually in late November and early December in even numbered years. My keynote message/sermon on December 1 was on the theme of the convention from 2 Timothy 4:2: “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.”
The conventions of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese are in many ways organized like our synod assemblies. All pastors of the diocese are delegates as are representatives (usually two lay persons) from each of the congregations. There were about 300 delegates present and voting. In comparison, our Northern Great Lakes Synod has about 250 voting members. The diocese used the campus of the Kisarawe Lutheran Junior Seminary for the event. The dining hall which was built by our synod with a grant from United States Foreign Aid under our synod sponsorship was used for the main plenary meetings. A food tent outside the dining hall provided meals to all in attendance. Delegates of the convention either returned home each night and commuted for the day sessions or stayed at the newly built boys and girls dormitories for overnight accommodations.

At the convention, there was time for worship, education and fellowship. There was also opportunity for ministry partners of the diocese to give greetings and informational announcements. Worship was central to the life of the convention with congregational choirs and special musical groups. Bishop Alex Malasusa chaired all sessions of the diocese convention.

Pastor David Hueter gave a rousing opening Eucharist sermon. His attention to the theme and his passionate call for the gospel to be shared in the Advent season made for a powerful message. Pastor Hueter preached a clear message of grace while calling the church in Tanzania forward. His work was greatly appreciated by the diocese as evidenced by the number of times his sermon was referenced by the bishop and others during the three day convention.

(For the complete report see the synod website at www.nglsynod.org)
ATTENTION PARISH SECRETARIES

Please send the Synod office a copy of your 2014 ANNUAL REPORT which you published for your members.

Please include the synod office on your newsletter mailing list. Printed copies are preferred rather than email newsletters. Do all of your congregation’s publications (Sunday bulletins and newsletters) include:

- Name and address of the church
- Worship service times and pastor’s name and contact information
- Congregational website and Facebook address
- Identify your congregation as a member of the ELCA in all publications. Yes in every Sunday bulletin and every newsletter!

Here is suggested language:

“_________Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”

TRANSITIONS

+ We welcome Pastor Kristi Ursin to our Synod. She will be serving Shepherd of the Lakes in Sayner, Wisconsin. All are invited to attend her installation on Sunday, February 15 at 3:00 pm CT. Clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red.

+ Soren Schmidt began his internship in the Northern Lights Parish on January 1, 2015. The beginning of this partnership was celebrated with a special blessing at worship on January 4th. God bless their year together.

+ Pastor George Candea-Kromm has retired. He and his wife Shirley live in Waterville, Kansas where Pastor Candea-Kromm is doing interim ministry.

+ God bless Pastor Bonny Kinnunen as she begins a three month experience at the Mother Teresa Mission for the poor in Calcutta, India. Pastor Kinnunen recently resigned as pastor at First and Trinity Lutheran in Iron River.

+ Congratulations to Pastor Tom Otis from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod who has accepted the Call to serve as pastor at First Lutheran in Gladstone. He begins his work in our midst in February.

+ Pastor Donald Wandersee (Retired, Menominee) recently suffered a stroke and is having rehabilitation at Rennes West Health Center in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. God bless Pr. Wandersee and his wife, Edwina, as they face this health challenge.

+ Pastor Robert Sutherland (Retired, Negaunee) had knee surgery and is now at Mather Nursing Home in Ishpeming for therapy.

+ We remember with thanksgiving Eunice Keljo (widow of Pastor Karlo Keljo) who died on January 10th. Her funeral service was at Hope Lutheran in Columbus, Ohio on January 18th. May God bless her memory in our midst!

+ Pastor LaVonne Stephenson has moved to New Richmond, Wisconsin to be with family. Pastor Stephenson spent 25 years in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. After the death of her husband George earlier this year, Pastor LaVonne is now seeking ministry opportunities in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.

+ Thomas A. Skrenes
  Bishop
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After living more than 12 years in the Great White North, I have observed that the sun takes its time melting the snow and ice around here. The days get longer sure, but rather than coaxing that white stuff into the ground with firm resolve, the sun is happy to shine benignly on our frozen piles with little perceptible force and the snow of winter simply becomes the snow of spring. But the seed catalogs arrive with greater frequency and I’ll admit, they get more interesting.

For my own mental health, I consider, even in March, that Spring is still a long way off, despite the length of days and the proclamation of the calendar. Yet still, I know Spring is coming. It always does. And so does Lent, which finds its root in the word “lengthen” which means Spring.

In the church, as the days get longer, we begin to prepare for the Holy Days of the Passion of Christ by observing the season of Lent.

The season of Lent is rich in meaning and ritual. Lent is a time of preparation, of challenge, of renewal, of commitment. Often the time of Lent is compared to a journey through the Wilderness.

The Bible is full of stories of wilderness places and visions. The wilderness is a place of struggle and revelation, of searching and waiting for blessing even as lost wanderers cling to the God they seek. A journey through the wilderness brings the experience of opposites – new life in the desert, separation and reconciliation, grief and comfort, the closeness of God and the doubt that suffering brings. To journey through the wilderness is to be refined in fire, to have your mettle tested, to be humbled before God even as we are special in God’s eyes, to submit to the potter’s hands and be molded and shaped to His purposes.

Through the days of waiting, watching,
   In the desert of our sin,
Searching on the far horizon
   for a sign of cloud or wind,
we await the healing waters
   of our Savior’s victory.

~ELW #329, Vs. 2

In your congregation or parish, that Wilderness Road of Lent will no doubt include Worship on Wednesday nights. Maybe you will be blessed with soup besides. Certainly you will be blessed with fellow pilgrims who join you on the journey. Seek out the opportunities that your
church offers for Bible Study, prayer, worship, and service. Take on a new discipleship practice as part of your Lenten discipline; a time of devotion, a new prayer ritual, family God time, conversations of faith.

An other possibility for deepening your walk through Lent is to commit to a limited fast. Some people give up chocolate, or pizza, or soda pop, or even watching television. Whatever it is, it should be something that’s possible and yet still will be missed.

May your Lenten journey be blessed, your faith renewed, and your time in the Wilderness rich with meaning.

Yours In Christ,
Pastor Katherine Finegan

Northern Great Lakes
Synod Assembly
May 15-17, 2015
at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Finlandia University in Hancock, MI.

Thank You,
Vice President
Pauline Kiltinen!

Pauline has been the Synod Vice President for the last 8 years. She has announced that she will not be available for a third term. She will be honored for her years of service during Synod Assembly and a new vice president will be elected. Any lay person is eligible to serve - fill out a nomination form and send it to the Synod Office by March 31st.

COUNCIL RETREAT
March 6-7, 2015
At Fortune Lake Camp
Only $45/per person
For all church Councils, Congregational Leaders, and Pastors. Clarify your mission, discover new energy, open your eyes to new possibilities, learn new leadership skills.

Call Fortune Lake to register at 906-875-3697

* WORSHIP is the theme of assembly.
* Rev. Kevin Strickland, Director of Worship, will be our ELCA Representative.
* Dr. Victoria Kisyombe from Tanzania will give the keynote address.
* Dakota Road will be providing special music throughout the assembly.

Start collecting your quarters now for the World Hunger Offering!
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

**Full-time**
- 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
- First, Iron River; Trinity, Stambaugh - Pastor Mike Laakko

**Part-time**
- Faith, Rock & First, Trenary - Pastor Allan Johnson

“The decision to share with the Lord is not made with a pencil but with the heart.”
- Anonymous

We end 2014 with mission support gifts at 99.9% of pledges. Total gifts were slightly higher ($2,635) than 2013 receipts. We celebrate that 57 congregations met their pledge, with 14 of those exceeding their commitment. Thank you to all our congregations who remitted their gifts for the work of the Synod and the ELCA so faithfully. God blesses us with a partnership that in turn allows us to be a blessing to others around the world. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of 12/31</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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<td>824,736</td>
<td>834,355</td>
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<td>+1.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount Received</td>
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<td>833,569</td>
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<td>255,726</td>
<td>209,446</td>
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## PRAYFAITHFULLY

### DEVOTION SCHEDULE

**FOR February & March**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Devotion Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1-7</td>
<td>Pastor Diane Srutowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8-14</td>
<td>Jon and Sharon Babbitt, LLMs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15-21</td>
<td>Pastor Maxine Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22-28</td>
<td>Rick Pink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1-7</td>
<td>Linda Kinnunen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8-14</td>
<td>Synodical Women’s Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15-21</td>
<td>Pastor Mike Laakko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22-28</td>
<td>Pastor Mary Beth Kovanen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29-April 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1: MARKED! Event, 4 p.m. ET at Prince of Peace, Marquette
Ordination of Jeremy Nausing, Pastor Elect to Grace, Pembine

3-10: Bishop Skrenes at Conference of Bishops in Chicago

6-7: Councils (TM) Retreat at FLLC

8: MARKED! Event, 4 p.m. at Zion, Ironwood

9: Synodical Women’s Organization Meeting at FLLC

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

13-14: Synod Council Meeting, 4 p.m. ET at Zion, Manistique

15: MARKED! Event, 4 p.m. at Northland Village, Marinette

16-17: Rev. Finegan at Churchwide All Staff Meeting in Chicago

18-20: Bishop Skrenes at Endowment Fund Meeting in Chicago

22: FLLC Annual Meeting at FLLC

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

24: Synod Assembly Planning Meeting, 11 a.m. ET at Holy Cross, Baraga

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

25-27: Vibrant Faith Meeting, Green Bay

26: Campus Ministry Meeting, 11 a.m. in Copper Country

27: Bishop Skrenes meets with Judicatory Leaders 12:30 p.m.

29: Companion Synod Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. ET at Immanuel, Negaunee
Festival of Congregational Renewal Update

- October 23-24, 2015
- At Ascension, Minocqua
- If you are interested in presenting a workshop, or sponsoring a display table, email Pastor Katherine Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org.
- Plan on sending a team of people to glean as many ideas as possible.
- Workshops that are in the works:
  - Church Finances and Bookkeeping: How to avoid catastrophe
  - Constitutional Review
  - Youth Ministry
  - Transformational Ministry
  - Worship Matters
  - Equipping the Council for Leadership
  - Small group ministries
  - Rise up Recap
  - Ideas for activities
  - Of Snow Birds and Winter nesters.
  - Evangelism 101 in the 21st Century
The World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for the 2015 Big Bear Award which will be presented at the 2015 Synod Assembly. Please use the following guidelines to submit your nomination:

- Nominees must be a group (committee, task force, team, etc.) of a Northern Great Lakes Synod congregation that has made an exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry.
- Complete the information and return to the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Thank You!

Name ____________________________
(Committee, Task Force, Team, or other Group or Organization)

Congregation ____________________________
_ _ _

City/Town ____________________________
_ _ _

Contact Person ____________________________
_ _ _

Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

Brief Description of Project or Accomplishment:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
2015 Bread Basket Award

The World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for the 2015 Bread Basket Award which will be presented at the 2015 Synod Assembly. Please use the following guidelines.

Nomination Form
2015 Bread Basket Award

Name __________________________________________
(of Individual)

Congregation___________________________________

City/Town_______________________________________

Contact Person

Phone__________________ Email___________________
Brief Description of Project or Accomplishment:
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Submitted by____________________________________
Congregation____________________________________
Phone_____________________ Email________________

Return to: Northern Great Lakes Synod
1029 North Third St. , Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855
Or, email the above information to kfinegan@nglsynod.org
Worship Witness Welcome Grants for 2015

Does your congregation have an idea, dream or vision for ministry in the areas of Worship, Witness, or Welcome but could use a financial boost to make it happen? The Northern Great Lakes Synod has dedicated funds for use by congregations to encourage evangelism and outreach ministry efforts. Congregations can use this opportunity to begin a new ministry or strengthen an existing one.

Proposals that have a clear outreach goal and target ministry to people who are not yet members of the congregation will be given priority.

Since there is no “one size fits all” ministry program, you decide the size and scope of the ministry project, event, or activity. Apply for the amount of grant dollars you need to help fund your idea—grant awards will be between $100 and $2000.

You will need to provide congregational matching funds that are 50% of the amount requested.

Fast Facts regarding the Worship Witness Welcome Grants:

~Where can I get an application?
  • Online at www.nglsynod.org
  • Call the synod office to request a copy of the application be mailed to you.
  • Email kfinegan@nglsynod.org and request that the application be emailed to you.
  • Ask your pastor or Licensed Lay Minister—each congregation received a copy of the grant in November 2014.

~How much can we ask for?
  • Grant requests may range from $100 to $2,000. Congregations must match 50% of their request with congregational funding.

~When are grant applications due?
  • March 15, 2015

~Where are applications sent?
  • Email applications to the synod office at kfinegan@nglsynod.org.
  • Mail to the NGLS Synod Office, 1029 North Third St., Ste. A, Marquette, MI 49855

~Need more information?
  • Call Pastor Katherine Finegan at 906-228-2300

“You are witnesses of these things.”
-Luke 24:48
Some ideas......

~Worship~
- Buy a new instrument, liturgy resource, rent space for a storefront worship service or a tent for an outdoor revival.
- Offer a “Coffee House” worship experience in a local restaurant after hours.

~Witness~
- Equip members to visit first time visitors to your congregation.
- Plan a community meal for people who are generally homebound or isolated. Arrange for transportation and entertainment.
- Discover the needs in your community or the local school and work to meet that need.

~Welcome~
- Facilitate an after school program or event for community youth.
- Partner with other local congregations to house the homeless through “Room at the Inn” or “Hope at the Inn”.
- Make your church more “user friendly”.
- Offer a training to equip members to offer welcome in the neighborhood.
- Add a Parish Nurse to the staff.

~Grant Requirements~
- Provide a brief description of your ministry idea, project, program, event or activity, as well as a description of the expected outcomes.
- Provide a report of the ministry activity within 45 days of its conclusion, including digital photographs, if possible, and a brief article for possible publication that describes your ministry effort.
- Give permission to share your idea with other congregations across the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

~Grant Disbursements~
- Half of the grant award will be disbursed when a congregation is notified that a grant has been awarded.
- The second half of the grant will be disbursed when the report of the evangelism ministry activity has been received at the synod office.
Worship Witness Welcome Grant Request Form

If you prefer to submit this application electronically, please email Pastor Katherine Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org for an emailed form, or go online at www.nglsynod.org.

Congregation: Contact:
Address: Phone:
Phone: Email:

1. Write a narrative describing the ministry effort you propose. Include consideration of the following questions: Why is there a need? Who is the intended audience? What is your goal? How will you accomplish this goal? And what congregational or community resources will you utilize?

2. Would you consider this a Worship, Witness, or Welcome effort? Why?

3. Will this effort be primarily congregational, include conference partners, be ecumenical, and/or include community leaders?
4. Describe if this proposal builds on an existing ministry, is an effort to breathe new life into a declining ministry, or is something you have never tried before.

5. Please complete the budget worksheet below.

Amount requested: ($100 - $2000). $__________

I understand that this grant is intended for an outreach ministry effort. In completing this grant form, I agree to provide a final report within 45 days of the conclusion of the initial activity. I give permission for the Northern Great lakes Synod to share ideas, insights, and photos generated by this effort.

Signature of Contact Person__________________________________________ Date_________________

Estimated Budget Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promotion: mailing, flyers, posters etc.</td>
<td>WWW Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakers, Presenters</td>
<td>Congregational Matching Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tools and Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musicians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Please keep a copy of this application for use in completing the Post Event Report.)
Thank You For Your Gifts

ELCA Disaster Funds
Sharon, Bessemer
Salem, Ironwood
Good Shepherd, Houghton
Grace, South Range
Ascension, Minocqua
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Bethlehem, Florence
Bethany, Escanaba
Bethel, Cedarville
Immanuel, Negaunee

Lutheran Campus Ministry
United, Crystal Falls
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo
Calvary, Rapid River
Grace, Gwinn
Bethel, Ishpeming
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Immanuel, Negaunee

ELCA Malaria Initiative
Trinity, Rhinelander
Bethany, Norway

Lutheran Social Services
Faith, Rock

Endowment/Answer the Call
Christ Lutheran Parish
Trinity, Trout Creek
Faith, Ishpeming
Rev. Amanda Kossow
Rev. Kevin Kaiser
Shelly & Tom Morrish
Rev. Devon & JoAnne Barrix
Rev. Bob & Leda Patrick
Rev. Allan & Sara Johnson
Jill Flickinger
Dave & Pat Holli
Bishop Tom & Luanne Skrenes
Rev. Nick & Judy Johannes
Rev. Paul & Carol Holmstrom
Rev. Jim & Gisele Duehring
Robert & Jean Sovey
Diane Nelson
Wayne & Eileen Stordahl
Dirk & Susan Manson
Dave Veldhuizen

Seminarian Support
St. Paul, Ironwood
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Emmanuel, Menominee
Faith, Rock
Faith WELCA, Rock
Bethel, Ishpeming
Trinity, Ishpeming
Eden, Munising

Lutheran World Relief
Salem, Ironwood
Faith, Calumet
Mission United, Pelkie
Grace, South Range
Calvary, Minocqua
Trinity, Rhinelander
Zion, Marinette
Calvary, Rapid River
Faith, Rock
Zion, Manistique
Our Redeemer, Newberry
Grace, Gwinn
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Skogman Scholarship Fund
Mary Lou Blomquist

Maternity/Malaria Project
St. Paul, Mass City
Mission United, Pelkie

Tanzanian Projects
Mkuza Girls’ School
Mission United, Pelkie
Synodical Women’s Organization
Conf. 6 Cluster & Congregations
Immanuel, Negaunee
Bethany Gems, Escanaba

Kisarawe Student Scholarship
First, Gladstone
Trinity WELCA, Rhinelander

Prison Ministry
Bethel, Ishpeming

NGLS Mission Outreach
Zion, Ironwood
Immanuel, Escanaba

Voices for Youth
Bethel, Ishpeming
Trinity, Ishpeming

World Missionary Support
Trinity, Rhinelander
Bethel, Ishpeming
Congregations are invited to participate in **LSS Sunday** the first Sunday in March – March 1, 2015 – to share and celebrate how it feels to change someone’s life. Resources for LSS Sunday provide the basis for a compelling discussion of how your congregation, through Lutheran Social Services, provides essential services for people in need. A DVD (or YouTube link), prayer petitions, bulletin inserts, and stories of how LSS changes lives, are all available at [www.lsswis.org](http://www.lsswis.org) as well as a link to register your congregation’s participation.

You can help bring help to homeless youth, unite forever families through adoption, welcome refugees, give individuals with disabilities a chance for independence and fulfillment, support housing for seniors, find hope for those struggling with addictions, and so much more. For more information please contact:
Rev. James Holmberg, 414-325-3069, or [james.holmberg@lsswis.org](mailto:james.holmberg@lsswis.org)
NOTICE FROM THE TREASURER OF THE ELCA
Pastor Linda Norman

In order to obtain a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN), organizations must apply by submitting IRS Form SS-4. Line 7 of the SS-4 asks for the name and SSN/ITIN/EIN of the organization’s “Responsible Party,” that is, the individual who has direct or indirect authority over the organization and its assets. Basically, the IRS wants the name and Social Security Number of a specific person it can contact if something is amiss concerning the organization. Many organizations submitted their Forms SS-4 long ago and the names on those forms may no longer be Responsible Parties or in some cases no longer work for the organization.

Last year, the Treasury Department issued Treasury Decision 9617, requiring each organization with an EIN to update the name of its Responsible Party by filing IRS Form 8822-B. Effective January 1, 2014 organizations have sixty (60) days to comply with the new requirement to update Responsible Parties. Going forward, whenever there is a change of Responsible Party, organizations must update that information using form 8822-B within sixty (60) days of the change. This form is very straightforward. Churches should be sure to check the “tax exempt organization” box at the top of the form, and if they are only reporting a change in Responsible Party, they should also check Box 1 (“Employment, excise, income, and other business returns”).

Form 8822-B requires the “Old name of responsible party” as well as the SSN. If your organization cannot find Form SS-4 or if it was submitted without that information, it’s better to leave that box blank rather than not completing the form at all.

Every organization with an EIN must comply with the new requirement to update the name of its Responsible Party, but there are not direct penalties for not complying. We quote from the instructions on Form 8822-B:

“If you are an entity with an EIN and your responsible party has changed, use of this form is mandatory. Otherwise, use of this form is voluntary. You will not be subject to penalties for failure to file this form. However, if you fail to provide the IRS with your current mailing address or the identity of your responsible party, you may not receive a notice of deficiency or a notice of demand for tax. Despite the failure to receive such notices, penalties and interest will continue to accrue on any tax deficiencies.”

While an argument could be made that the bishop (at the synod level) and the pastor (at the congregation level) fit the definition of responsible parties, our (non-legal) opinion is that the persons who best fit this definition for synods and congregations are their respective treasurers. Arguably, the treasurers, more than anyone else, directly or indirectly, “control, manage or direct the entity and the disposition of its assets or funds.”

- Form 8822-B
- Form SS-4
  Instructions for Form SS-4
What's New

Responsible party. Beginning January 1, 2014, any entity with an EIN must file Form 8822-B to report the latest change to its responsible party. Form 8822-B must be filed within 60 days of the change. If the change in the identity of your responsible party occurred before 2014, and you have not previously notified the IRS of the change, file Form 8822-B before March 1, 2014, reporting only the most recent change. Complete Form 8822-B as appropriate; use applicable boxes 8a through 9b to report any changes to the identity of your responsible party. See Responsible Party, later, for more information.

Responsible Party

Enter the full name (first name, middle initial, last name, if applicable) and SSN (social security number), ITIN (individual taxpayer identification number), or EIN (employer identification number) of the old and new responsible party, as defined next.

Responsible party defined. For entities with shares or interests traded on a public exchange, or which are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, “responsible party” is (a) the principal officer, if the business is a corporation, (b) a general partner, if a partnership, (c) the owner of an entity that is disregarded as separate from its owner (disregarded entities owned by a corporation enter the corporation’s name and EIN), or (d) a grantor, owner, or trustor, if a trust.

For all other entities, “responsible party” is the person who has a level of control over, or entitlement to, the funds or assets in the entity that, as a practical matter, enables the individual, directly or indirectly, to control, manage, or direct the entity and the disposition of its funds and assets. The ability to fund the entity or the entitlement to the property of the entity alone, however, without any corresponding authority to control, manage, or direct the entity (such as in the case of a minor child beneficiary), does not cause the individual to be a responsible party.

If the responsible party is an alien individual with a previously assigned ITIN, enter the ITIN in the space provided and submit a copy of an official identifying document. If necessary, complete Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to obtain an ITIN.

You must enter the responsible party’s old and new SSN, ITIN, or EIN unless the only reason you obtained an EIN was to make an entity classification election (see Regulations sections 301.7701-1 through 301.7701-3) and you are a nonresident alien or other foreign entity with no effectively connected income from sources within the United States.

Signature

An officer, owner, general partner or LLC member manager, plan administrator, fiduciary, or an authorized representative must sign. An officer is the president, vice president, treasurer, chief accounting officer, etc.

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. Our legal right to ask for information is Internal Revenue Code sections 6001 and 6101, which require you to file a statement with us for any tax for which you are liable. Section 6109 requires that you provide your identifying number on what you file. This is so we know who you are, and can process your form and other papers.

Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103. However, we may give the information to the Department of Justice and to other federal agencies, as provided by law. We may give it to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths or possessions to carry out their tax laws. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

If you are an entity with an EIN and your responsible party has changed, use of this form is mandatory. Otherwise, use of this form is voluntary. You will not be subject to penalties for failure to file this form. However, if you fail to provide the IRS with your current mailing address or the identity of your responsible party, you may not receive a notice of deficiency or a notice of demand for tax. Despite the failure to receive such notices, penalties and interest will continue to accrue on any tax deficiencies.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is 18 minutes.

If you have comments or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to the:

Internal Revenue Service
Tax Forms and Publications Division
1111 Constitution Ave, NW, IR-6526
Washington, DC 20224

Do not send the form to this address. Instead, see Where To File, on page 1.
Prayer Calendar – February 2015

1. Pray for all those women, men, and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse. May they seek help to leave their abusive relationships and break the pattern of violence.

2. Pray for all of our African American brothers and sisters as they celebrate their heritage during African American History Month.

3. For Bishop Skrenes and Pastor Finegan as they attend the Mobility Conference in Madison, WI today and tomorrow.

4. Pray for all of our pastors, active and retired who are celebrating birthdays in February: Bob Langseth 2/03, Doug Norquist 2/10, Tom Lee 2/12, Craig Mansur 2/12, and Doug Schoen 2/14.

5. Pray for all those in our synod who are living with heart disease. February is Heart Health Month when money and awareness are raised to combat this #1 killer.

6. Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – Pearl Schnorr and Velma Schmidt.

7. Pray for our pastors who are celebrating ordination anniversaries this month: Kenneth Ranos, Steven Solberg, Chrys Hendrick, Christopher Johnson and Tamra Harder.

8. For those attending the Theological Conference with Bishop Craig Satterlee at FLLC today and tomorrow.

9. Pray for all seminary students from our synod and especially this month for Linda Forray.

10. Pray for the congregational members in our partner synod at Grace in Lutherville MD (Rev Veronica Webber), Holy Comforter in Baltimore MD (Rev David Eisenhuth), and Jerusalem in Baltimore MD (Rev Arwyn Gohl).


12. For those attending the Synod Finance Committee Meeting at Synod Office today at noon.

13. Pray for the members of Kinondoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church, Ishpeming (Rev Lauri Maki).

14. Pray for our Faith Formation and Confirmation Education programs throughout the synod that our young people may mature in their faith through further understanding of the ELCA tenets.

15. For those attending the Synod Endowment Committee Meeting at Bethel, Ishpeming 11 a.m.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Kristi Ursin</strong> as she is installed today at 3:00 at <strong>Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>President Obama</strong> and for all past and future presidents on this <strong>Presidents’ Day.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for all of our <strong>pastors</strong>, active and retired who are celebrating birthdays in <strong>February</strong>: Jim Wendt 2/15, Judy Kincaid 2/17, Les Niemi 2/25, Tom Lindblad 2/25, and Wally Leno 2/27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for all the faithful in our Synod as we begin our <strong>pilgrimage to the cross</strong>, that with all those Christians who make this Lenten journey we may be filled with the gifts of life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Grace, Gwinn and their interim pastor, Rev. Rell Spickerman</strong> as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for all of the people in this country and around the world who are not being treated with justice, respect, and dignity on this <strong>World Day for Social Justice</strong>. Pray that each of us will speak up for those who seem invisible and without voices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Banner Workshop at Bethany in Republic</strong> today.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for all <strong>Associates in Ministry and Licensed Lay Ministers</strong> in our synod.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray for all those addicted to drugs and/or alcohol that they will seek help and keep trying to stay substance-free even when they make mistakes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for the congregational members in our partner synod members at <strong>Messiah in Baltimore MD (Rev Jennifer Schmidt), Prince of Peace Rosedale MD (Rev Matthew Fuhrman), and St. Andrew in Baltimore MD (Rev Sandra Alexis.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>For the <strong>Synod Executive Committee Meeting</strong> at Pastor Doug &amp; Elaine Johnson’s home 9:30 a.m. CT.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pr Katherine Finegan</strong> as she travels to the <strong>Bishops’ Assistants Gathering in Jacksonville, FL.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>For those busy <strong>pastors</strong> who nevertheless expend their time and efforts to teach <strong>Lay School</strong> classes and for <strong>all those students</strong> who benefit from their hard work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>winter activities</strong> and the <strong>fellowship</strong> created in our congregations.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
## Prayer Calendar – March 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>youth</strong> attending the <em>Marked! Event</em> at Prince of Peace in Harvey.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for the congregational members in our partner synod members at <strong>St. John, Harford Rd, Baltimore MD (Rev Danny Hammons)</strong> <strong>St John, Edgemere, Baltimore MD (Rev Richard Rutkauskas)</strong> <strong>St. Luke, Hamden, Baltimore MD (Rev Michael Dubsky.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for all of our <strong>pastors</strong>, active and retired who are <strong>celebrating birthdays in March</strong>: Julie Belew 3/03, Ralph Backman 3/09, and Kurt Kovanen 3/15.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>For <strong>Bishop Skrenes</strong> and all others attending the <em>Conference of Bishops in Chicago</em> March 4-10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>For those <strong>brave men and women in the armed forces</strong> who are away from home defending our country and pray for the families they have left behind.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of deceased pastors</strong> – Margaret Roth and Marlys Roberts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>those in prisons</strong>. Keep them from harm. These are God's children, too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>For those <strong>youth</strong> attending the <em>Marked! Event</em> at Zion in Ironwood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Chad Anderson</strong> who is <strong>celebrating anniversary of his ordination this month</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for all of the <strong>Christian men and women</strong> across this synod who <strong>give their time, energy, and resources</strong> to their congregations, the NGLS, and charitable organizations everywhere. <strong>God Bless these volunteers.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>Synod Staff</strong> who meet today at 11:00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Temeke Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong> and their <strong>NGLS Companion Congregation, Gloria Dei, Hancock</strong> (Rev DJ Rasner.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray and for our <strong>Synod Council</strong> as they meet at <em>Zion Lutheran Church in Manistique</em> today and tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>healing for victims of bullying and violence</strong>, whether physical, emotional, or verbal. Pray for <strong>enlightenment of the bullies</strong> that they may truly see and understand the harm they are inflicting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>For those <strong>youth</strong> attending the <em>Marked! Event</em> at Northland Village in Marinette.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for Pastor Finegan and all others attending the <strong>Churchwide Directors for Evangelical Mission (DEM) Meeting in Chicago</strong> today and tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray and give thanks for <strong>police officers and fire fighters</strong> who risk their lives to keep us safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>For <strong>Bishop Skrenes</strong> and all others attending the <strong>Churchwide Endowment Fund Meeting</strong> in Chicago today and tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for all of our <strong>pastors</strong>, active and retired who are <strong>celebrating birthdays in March</strong>: Norman Lund 3/22, Doug Buck 3/24 and Scott Ehle 3/25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>For those <strong>struggling with gender orientation and identity</strong> issues. May they find confidence and peace in their lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>retired clergy</strong> and their <strong>spouses</strong>: Rev Eugene and Carol Wickman and Rev Thomas and Susan Wickstrom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>sustainable sources of clean drinking water</strong> for all on this <strong>World Water Day</strong>. Pray also for our <strong>Northern Great Lakes</strong> that our elected officials will guard their purity and allow public access to their beauty and power of restoration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>For the <strong>unemployed and underemployed</strong> keep them and their families warm and well-fed during these cold months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for all <strong>church musicians</strong> who always practice and perform above and beyond our expectations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>prayer ministries</strong> – those who write devotions and those whose lives are touched by them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Campus Ministry meeting</strong> at 11:00 in The Copper Country.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Vibrant Faith training sessions</strong>, “<strong>Do What Matters</strong>“ in Green Bay March 26 &amp; 27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for the congregational members in our partner synod members at <strong>St. Mark, St. Paul St., Baltimore MD</strong> (Rev Dale Dusman), <strong>St. Mark, Estonian, Laurel MD</strong> (Rev Agu Ets) <strong>St. Paul Lutherville MD</strong> (Rev Mark Huffman.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for those who are less mobile in the winter months and are <strong>lonely and long for companionship and conversation.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>For those with <strong>macular degeneration and visual impairments</strong>, keep them safe and provide them with caregivers to help them negotiate in the midst of a sighted world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Faith, Rock and First, Trenary</strong> and their interim Rev Allan Johnson as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy.</strong></td>
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