From the Bishop

“WORSHIP”
SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2015 AT FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY

“Keynote Address”

“In this assembly, we are presented with our different identities, symbols and ideas. Jesus is the center of our unity and worship, whether we like it or not. We may incline to what we think is our way of life. We may stay adamant to what we think is right...However, the measure of our true identity and true thoughts is Jesus Christ himself...Jesus uses our traditions to change us...Worship entails talking to and acting with God.... Worship in Jesus Christ is where the spirit of truth is. Whether here in the Northern Great Lakes Synod or in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese in Africa, worship services should reflect the truth in Jesus Christ. I reiterate: this has been the case in our companionship. The spirit of inviting each other, the spirit of helping each other is what defines the reality of worship.

— Dr. Victoria Kisyombe
Eastern and Coastal Diocese
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

“Gathered in Worship”

“It is within the community of faith, gathered in worship around Word and Sacrament, which we learn to be genuinely loving and praising and forgiving and helping toward others. We need each other in order to learn and to practice what it means to be Christian, to each other and to the world. Our calling today is to do all that we can to be agents of oneness. It begins here and goes spilling out those doors into the world, walking out of here with arms wide open, seeking to embrace the world with the love of God.

As the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you are witnesses of these great things of God, gathering as communities of faith in 82 congregations.

Being a witness means not just sharing this great news with those who are already a part of the gathered assembly week-in-and-week-out, but I think this world and parts of this synod, ranging from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin are still hungry to hear that God loves them, God is not dead, God is alive and active, God is found within the community of the gathered, praying, singing, eating, proclaiming, and serving—the church and there is a place for them there.
As Jesus prays to his Father the night before he is handed over to death, he prayed not just for those sitting around the table, but for us. For you! For me! Or, as they say in South Carolina, where I am from, Y’all! Jesus is praying for Y’all.”

— Pastor Kevin Strickland, Director for Worship, ELCA

“Worship
From the Sermon at Synod Assembly

“The Church, the congregation, the synod, the Churchwide ELCA—you know—the whole Church—our job, our calling, our mission is to worship God! Now we do a lot more things—I spend my time doing lots of things that I am privileged to do—in this work—and they are all a part of our mission. Good things—Yes, teach the word of God; yes, provide pastoral care; yes, be a voice for the voiceless; yes, evangelize the world as well as our own Northeastern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; yes, provide for the needs of the community; yes, help the poor—and a lot more functions. But our life, our center, our core—our mission, is to worship God in Spirit and truth.

We are in trouble as a synod and as a church and our congregations are in trouble when on average less than 25% of our membership can be found in worship on any given weekend. Think of that—less than one in four of our people in Church, any church, anywhere! In the last ten years our worship attendance in our average congregation has declined by about 30%. Ugh. Friends, what a joy it is to worship God! Worship is a celebration of our God who has borne our sins and carried our sorrows! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

— Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes

“Worship”
Synod Assembly 2015 News

We gathered as the church at Finlandia University from May 15-17. It was a fine experience. As people of God we worshiped together, shared the Lord’s Supper, heard the Word of God, sang great hymns and prayed for God’s people all over the world. The nearly 300 of us who were the synod assembly:

+Heard the Keynote Address from Dr. Victoria Kisyombe, envoy from Bishop Alex Malasusa. Dr. Kisyombe is a distinguished leader in the work to empower women in East Africa. She is a faithful member of the Tanzanian Lutheran community and brought greetings on behalf of our companion synod.

+Participated in many workshops on Saturday including two from Pastor Kevin Strickland, ELCA Director for Worship. Pastor Strickland also preached at our Sunday Eucharist.

+Elected persons from the synod to positions of responsibility including electing Pamela Long (Grace, South Range) as our new synod vice president. She succeeds Pauline Kiltinen who after eight years has decided not to seek another term as our vice president. We re-elected Pastor Doug Johnson (Bethlehem, Florence) as our synod secretary unanimously. Pastor Johnson begins his third term with us as our very capable secretary.
+Elected persons from this synod to attend the 2016 Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. Attending the triennial event in New Orleans will be:

- Pastor Chris Johnson (Christ the King, Escanaba), Pastor Tamra Harder (Bethany, Negaunee, and Emanuel Skandia), Anna Solberg (Immanuel, Negaunee), Dr. Larry Pagel (Messiah, Marquette), Jake Puhtala (Holy Cross, Baraga), Phil Wirtanen (St. Paul’s, Ironwood) and Melzee Jacobson (All Saints, Wakefield).

+Elected persons to the Synod Consultation Committee:

- Kaaren Ness (United, Crystal Falls), Gene Oestrich (Ascension, Minocqua), Pastor James Duehring (Prince of Peace, Harvey).

+Elected persons to the Synod Discipline Committee:

- Pastor Warren Geier (Bethany, Ishpeming), Pastor Matthew Lamb (St. James, Rudyard) Ruth Warmanen (United, Crystal Falls), Nathan Jarvi (Bethany, Republic), Denise Laakko (United, Crystal Falls) and Mary Hansen (Zion, Ironwood).

+Elected these people to the synod council:

- Jacob Heikkinen (Mission United, Pelkie), Pastor Devon Barrix (Trinity, Rhinelander), Barb Maines (Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner), Greg Garvet (Trinity, Iron River), Pam Durbin (First, Gladstone), and Rick Pink (Zion, Manistique). We also thanked the people who have completed their terms on the council: Roland Jacobson (Christ the King, Escanaba), Pastor Norm Peterson (Immanuel, Rhinelander), Ken Hoffman (Immanuel, Rhinelander), Denise Laakko (United, Crystal Falls) and Pamela Long (Grace, South Range).

+Received offerings at the Synod Assembly totaling more than $30,000 including:
- Lay School and Youth Ministries - $4,663, Always Being Made New Appeal - $869; and World Hunger - $25,402.49.

+Honored pastors celebrating the 25th, 40th, 50th, 55th, and 60th anniversaries of their ordinations as well as retiring pastors at the Saturday evening banquet. Thank you to pastor Rudy Kemppainen (Bethel Ishpeming) who was recognized for 60 years of ordained ministry; Pastor Wallace Leno (First, Ewen) who was honored for 55 years of ordained ministry and Pastor Jennifer Johnson Wrege (Retired, Appleton) who was honored upon her retirement.
BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

+Adopted several resolutions including “Always Being Made New” an appeal of the ELCA. This effort over several years will share proceeds evenly with Churchwide and Synod projects.

+Thanked God for the wise and mature leadership of Pauline Kiltinen as our synod vice president. The synod council presented her with a gift and thanked God for her excellent leadership.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REVIEW

Your Thoughts——Our Thoughts

Your Thoughts:
“Liked the shuttle buses, needed more bathroom access. Know that it is good to be at our church college but the facilities are better at other places.”

“Beautiful place, friendly, helpful staff.”

“Voting could have been more efficient.”

“The woman who spoke for the Muslim community was stellar…Dr. Kisyombe was wonderful.”

“Display area good.”
“Display area too remote.”
“Loved the displays.”
“Displays not a good idea.”

“Great music, good worship and preaching, good fellowship.”

Our Thoughts:
Yes, thank you for understanding the need to be at our church college. There are physical limitations at Finlandia.

Absolutely true. Finlandia sure “wowed” us with their hospitality.

Some synods are using electronic ballots but this will add at least $3,000 to the cost of an annual assembly. This year we had an unusual number of elections.

Workshops were very popular and well received this year.

We tried something different this year in a focused display time. Presenters liked it. The committee will review.

Great Assembly.
BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

Transitions

Congratulations and blessings to:

Pastor D.J. and Amanda Rasner of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hancock who adopted a daughter, Evie Rasner.

Pastor Dave and Katie Johnson of Faith Lutheran Church in Ishpeming on the birth of their daughter, Natalee Johnson.

May God bless both of these families.

Prayer requests for:

Pastor Don Wandersee and his wife, Edwina. Pastor Wandersee was recently diagnosed with liver cancer.

Congratulations to:

Pastor Mark Laatsch as he begins his ministry at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Menominee. Pastor Laatsch will be installed on June 28th at 3 p.m. CT. Clergy are invited to attend. Color of the day will be red.

50th Wedding Anniversary Wishes:

Dr. John and Pauline Kiltinen will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in June. Pauline is the former vice president of the synod. May God bless them!

Thank You’s Received:

Tera Lowe wrote:

“I just wanted to take another opportunity to give thanks for this Synod, its leaders, and the support and prayers of all its people.

I have learned so much here and now I’ll take that with my into my first call.”

Blessings—Tera

(Tera’s ordination was held at First Lutheran Church in Gladstone on May 22nd. Her first call will be a multi-point parish in South Dakota.)

From KERYX Prison Ministries:

April 8, 2015

“We are grateful to the Northern Great Lakes Synod for its generous financial support of the Marquette Keryx program. Your recent check of $400.00 helps finance the upcoming Keryx weekend, April 16-19, at Marquette Branch Prison. There are many costs associated with the weekend. Although the prison is supportive of the program, all materials and food served during the weekend are the responsibility of the Keryx program. We rely on donations from churches, volunteers, other individuals to meet these costs.

We often receive a letter from a former prisoner telling us how the love of God shared during the Keryx weekend was a life changing experience. Thank you for faithfully supporting us with your donations and prayers.”

In sincere gratitude on behalf of the Keryx Advisory Board,

Martha Hayward, Secretary

+Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

~Hebrews 13:2

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever gone to visit someone in their home, and been struck by the details? At the risk of feeding stereotypes, I believe that men might notice carpentry details, how a shelf has been built cleverly into a corner, or their host shows a clear knack for doing the plumbing work himself. Women might notice a certain style or flair in decorating, certain fabrics, colors, how the furniture is arranged.

Both men and women might take note, and perhaps think of ways that their own home could be improved. Then upon their return to their home, they will see things from a visitor’s perspective, especially if they’ve been away for awhile.

Maybe some of that stuff in the front entryway isn’t so necessary. Perhaps looking through the eyes of a visitor, what seemed essential, now appears as clutter. The stack of papers that blended into the counter before, now seems a glaring mess. You paint one wall and the others look dirty. You buy a new couch, and suddenly the carpeting needs an upgrade. Maybe you even sniff around. Does the house really smell like dog? Old socks? Kitty litter? Last night’s fish fry?

When you prepare for company, you look at your house more critically, and attempt to see it through the eyes (and noses) of folks who will no doubt notice what you no longer see - the dust on the shelves, any cobwebs hanging from the light fixtures, the fingerprint smudges on the refrigerator.

I don’t know about you, but there’s nothing that motivates me so much in the area of housework as company coming. Sometimes I invite people over just so that I will clean like I mean it.

Then of course, when guests arrive, we want to make them feel comfortable. We offer a beverage. We invite them to sit. We try to think of topics that will lead to effortless and sparkling conversation.

So what about our churches? When I was a Youth Director in St. Paul, we had a water leakage problem right in the front entryway of the church. Regular attendees were used to the dank smell that rose from the carpet and the brown water puddle lines that stained the ceiling. But folks who perhaps had gone away for vacation and returned led the charge to have the roof fixed and the carpet and ceiling tiles replaced. It took awhile. There was push back. But to be a place of welcome, literally a front door first impression space of welcome, the smell and the stains had to go. After all, what would any visitors think?

We get used to doing things a certain way. We get used to furniture, and wall hangings, paintings, and fixtures, and forget how someone might see them for the first time.
So, in an effort to take a fearless inventory, how tired are the banners that hang in your sanctuary or narthex? Is the material faded? Is the art work dated? Are they liturgically appropriate? Take a look at your entry way. Is there clutter that can be removed? Treasured items that could find a new place? Is it clear which outside door is the main entrance for worship?

And then there’s the bulletin. Look at it from a visitor’s perspective. What if the visitor doesn’t know to say “Thanks be to God” after someone says, “The Word of the Lord.” Is it printed? Is it assumed that they’ll catch on?

Is it possible for someone to come to your church, sit in the pew for worship, and leave, without anyone greeting them except for the pastor?

It is not such an easy thing to look at our church spaces, sanctuary places, restrooms, and bulletins from an outsider’s perspective. That’s why the Evangelism Team of the Northern Great Lakes Synod is sponsoring a new initiative—dubbed “The Sneaky Visitor”. Think in terms of a Mystery Shopper or Undercover Boss.

The Evangelism Team invites you to go to www.nglsynod.org website, download and print a “Sneaky Visitor” evaluation form, and then attend a church where you are sure that no one knows you (you might have to drive a little bit). Then attend worship there. And pay attention. Notice the front entryway, the sanctuary, the spirit of worship, the user-friendliness of the bulletin, the welcome of the people, the cleanliness of the bathrooms, if anyone invited you to coffee or sat with you once you got there. Pay attention.

And then when you get home, fill out the form and send it in to the Synod Office. We will forward it on to the church you visited.

And if you know of any non-church going folks who would be willing to do this, so much the better. Print off a form for them.

Out of this effort, the Evangelism Team hopes for at least two outcomes:

1. That our churches will become more genuinely welcoming, mindful of the stranger.
2. That our churches will be affirmed in their efforts even as they learn something new about what they could improve.

So…you have been warned — A Sneaky Visitor (or maybe just a regular visitor) may come and worship with you soon. It’s time to get the house of worship ready and attend to the details like you mean it.

You have also been invited — to do this small service for another congregation and give them the benefit of your insight and first impressions. After all, there’s really no way for us to see ourselves as others see us, unless others see us, and then tell us what they see.

May your welcome bear witness to the one who gathers us all in.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Katherine Finegan
It was on a day early in 2007 when Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege called me to ask if I would be willing to have my name on the ballot for Synod Vice President at the upcoming May 2007 Synod Assembly. That was the beginning.

After thanking the Assembly after the May elections for their confidence in me, I had to dash off to Chicago for a meeting of the Board of Directors at LSTC. Today is not so different: I am thanking the Assembly for their support over the past eight years, and later this morning we are leaving for Chicago so that my husband John can attend the LSTC Board of Directors meeting.

The past eight years have seen many changes - some of them wrenching changes. But there have been new friendships, new relationships, deserving projects and international contacts that have happened. Through it all, God has been there, guiding and working in the many people who are part of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

I see a couple signs as my second term comes to an end - one is a sign of continuity. Orice Walters, my predecessor, was a great help to me as I began this job. "You can do it!" she would say, and gave me good advice. Now we are about to elect a new Synod Vice President, and the two candidates, Rick Pink and Pam Long, are both very worthy people. It's a tough choice! The Synod Vice Presidency will be in good hands.

The second sign is one of freshness, renewal. Now, here's a question for you: Who, from our Northern Great Lakes Synod, is going to graduate from LSTC tomorrow at 2:30 pm? Yes, Ann Gonyea, and she is going to be returning to the Northern Great Lakes to begin her ministry. Thanks be to God!

I conclude by saying thank you, many times over. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and learn and grow in faith. Thank you for your support in my service. Thank you for the beautiful Nita Engle painting, "May Skies", which will ever remind me of my days with the NGLS. Thank you to my husband John for sharing me with the Synod. Thank you to the Assembly and all the good work it does. And thank you to the leadership of the Synod, that is to say the Synod Council and the office staff, and especially to Bishop Skrenes. Being Vice President has been an honor and a joy.

Pauline Kiltinen
On Sunday, May 17th, Ann Gonyea was awarded her Master of Divinity degree during the 155th commencement of the Lutheran School of Theology. Ann was one of twenty-six M Div candidates, along with numerous other scholars who earned Masters and Doctoral degrees. She is looking to accept a call in our Synod.

"It's a bittersweet time," Ann commented as we spoke with her at the reception in the refectory following graduation. "We have so many friends here at LSTC, and it will be sad to leave them. On the other hand, I'm excited about returning to the Upper Peninsula to begin my work in the church."

Ann was presented the Edgar Krentz Award for Biblical Interpretation for a paper she wrote titled "The Pistis Christou Debate and Use of the Gift-Giving Paradigm and Patron-Client Relations in Paul's Epistles: A Case for the Subjective Genitive Translation."

Her husband, Larry Alexander, has been assisting in many ways with the upkeep of the Seminary, in both paid and volunteer positions as Ann has studied. For example, he set up the meeting room and the dinner tables for the Board of Directors sessions that John attended.

"I have so appreciated Larry's help, and it's been wonderful getting to know Ann," said Patti DeBias, assistant to LSTC President James Nieman. "We are really going to miss this couple when they leave."
Faithful Finances
A Workshop for All Those Responsible for Financial Record-Keeping in the Congregation

Saturday, August 29
9:30 a.m.—12:00 noon
First Lutheran Church, Gladstone

Best practices for handling cash funds, retention of records, filling out required Synod forms, etc. Presented by Betsy Koski, Synod Bookkeeper — Watch for more information!

If interested in attending, please call Synod Office at 906/228-2300.

Summer Gathering

July 7, 2015
11 a.m.-2:00 p.m. ET

All Retired Clergy and their Spouses and Widows of Clergy are invited to gather at

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Escanaba
for a catered lunch.

RSVP to the Synod Office by June 30th, 2015
906/228-2300 or nglsynod.org
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

**Full-time**

Immanuel, Rhinelander - Pastor Devon Barrix  
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  
Porterfield, Porterfield; Beaver American, Pound—Rev. Ken Michaelis

**Part-time**

Faith, Rock & First, Trenary - Pastor Allan Johnson

"Christian stewardship is the practice of the Christian religion. It is neither a department of life nor a sphere of activity. It is the Christian conception of life as a whole, manifested in attitudes and actions."  
- W. H. Greever (1937)

Through the first third of 2015, mission support giving is almost 7% below last year at this time. Increasing our giving for the work of the Church can be a challenge in many congregations; yet one that should be met wholeheartedly with a spirit of joy and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. As Greever notes, the practice of stewardship is the practice of Christian living in all our actions. Does our giving to our congregations, the Synod and the ELCA reflect a life centered in thanksgiving for what God has done for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus? Can joy outweigh anxiety as we give back to God from what God has first given us? With the help of the Holy Spirit, may our stewardship attitudes and actions honor our Lord.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of 4/30</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledged Amount</td>
<td>834,355</td>
<td>829,089</td>
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<td>Amount Received</td>
<td>252,275</td>
<td>234,808</td>
<td>-17,467</td>
<td>-6.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated Gifts</td>
<td>41,467</td>
<td>39,781</td>
<td>-1,686</td>
<td>-4.1%</td>
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</table>
## PRAYFAITHFULLY

### DEVOTION SCHEDULE

**FOR June & July**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Devotion Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 7-13</td>
<td>Pastor Sally Wilke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14-20</td>
<td>Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21-27</td>
<td>Pauline Kiltinen</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 28—July 4</td>
<td>Pastor Bill Jacobson</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5-11</td>
<td>Pastor John Kuziej</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12-18</td>
<td>Synod Women’s Organization</td>
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<td>July 19-25</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26—August 1</td>
<td>Pam Durbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2-8</td>
<td>Pastor Jim Wendt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9-15</td>
<td>Pamela Long</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SYNOD CALENDAR

9:   **Good News Awards**, Noon at Grace United Methodist Church  (Bishop Skrenes)
11:  **Dental Mission & Messiah Group** depart for Tanzania
12-20: **Bishop Skrenes attends Boys State**
24:  **Evangelism Committee Meeting**, 12:30 p.m. ET at the Synod Office
25:  **NGLS Staff Meeting**, 11:00 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
28:  **Installation of Pastor Mark Laatsch**, 3:00 p.m. CT at Emmanuel, Menominee
30:  **Worship Committee Meeting**, 9:30 a.m. CT at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

3:   **Synod Office Closed for July 4th**
7:   **Retired Clergy Gathering**, 11-2 ET at Immanuel, Escanaba
8:   **Leadership Support Committee**, 11:00 a.m. CT at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
9:   **NGLS Staff Meeting** at 1:30 p.m. at the Synod Office
14-19: **RISE UP! Gathering in Detroit**
21:  **NGLS Staff Meeting**, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office
22:  **Bishop Skrenes on Sabbatical** until September 8, 2015
Fortune Lake Fall Fest
October 3rd, 2015

Quilt & Fine Arts Auction
Viewing begins at 9:30, Auction at 11:00

Buffet Brunch 9:30–11:00 am

Country Market–
Selling homemade breads and pies

Country Store– Featuring
smaller handcrafted items

Kids Activities

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd, Crystal Falls, MI
906-875-3697 www.fortunelake.org
Thank You for Your Gifts!

**ELCA Disaster Funds**
- Bethany, Amasa
- Mission United, Pelkie
- Faith, Three Lakes
- Salem, Ironwood
- Ascension, Minocqua
- Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner

**ELCA Malaria Initiative**
- Zion, St. Ignace
- Bethany, Ishpeming
- Calvary, Quinnesec
- All Saints, Wakefield
- Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner

**ELCA Vision for Mission**
- Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner

**Endowment /Answer the Call**
- Rev. Kevin Kaiser
- Roger Knuth
- Tom & Miriam Bredesen
- Stan & Ida Michaelson
- Grace, Pembine
- Helen Leinonen
- Donna Hiltunen
- Joyce Peterson
- Edith Prosen

**Lutheran World Relief**
- Calvary Ev., Minocqua
- Calvary, Rapid River
- Zion, Manistique
- All Saints, Wakefield
- Prince of Peace, Marquette

**Maternity/Malaria Project**
- St. Paul, Mass City
- Faith, Three Lakes

**Seminarian Support**
- Faith, Three Lakes
- Zion, Ironwood
- Bethany, Amasa
- Trinity, Ishpeming
- Justin & Maxine Silvius

**Skogman Scholarship Fund**
- Bishop Dale & Jo Skogman

**Tanzanian Projects:**
- **Dental Mission**
  - Bruce Anderson
- **Kisarawe Teacher Gifts**
  - Ken & Bonnie Groh
  - Joyce Peterson
  - Duane & Rita Palomaki

**World Missionary Support**
- Emanuel, Skandia
- Trinity, Rhinelander
- Bethel, Ishpeming
- Pioneer Lake, Conover
- Immanuel, Negaunee

Thank You for Your Gifts!
Structure of Ministry
Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin & Upper Michigan
### Prayer Calendar - June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Zion, Wilmington DE (Rev Gregory Johnson), Holy Spirit, Eldersburg MD (Rev Robin Simpson Litton), &amp; Faith, Cockeysville MD (Rev Gregory Fetzer.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Rostered Leaders, both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month</strong>: Paul Holmstrom 6/2, Lauri Maki 6/3, Timothy Nyikako 6/3, Katheryn King 6/4, Nick Johannes 6/6, and Barry Levine 6/12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>For all those traveling</strong> to attend graduations and weddings, and those enjoying vacations. <em>Grant them safe travel and happy times.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>For all <strong>graduates beginning a new phase of life</strong>. We pray that they achieve their goals, weather their disappointments and stay close to God as they face new adventures and temptations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors active or retired celebrating anniversaries of ordination</strong>: John Kuziej, Doug Pohlman, Fran Strong, David Van Kley, Ken Michaelis, and Norman Lund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for all those attending <strong>85th anniversary</strong> events at <strong>Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp this weekend</strong> and for those campers enjoying others events in June. Visit <a href="http://fortunelakelutherancamp.org">fortunelakelutherancamp.org</a> for the schedule.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Mbezi Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS companion congregation Eden, Munising (Rev Dave Hueter, interim.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>blessings for planters and for crops</strong> whether those on farms or in their own backyards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>For <strong>school children</strong> dismissed from their regular school work. <em>May they continue to learn and grow</em> and take the time to exercise their minds and bodies in play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for pastors active or retired celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong>: Peter Vorhes, Keith Kolstad, Warren Geier, and Erik Heskin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>For the <strong>Dental Group and the delegation from Messiah, Marquette</strong> as they leave for their 6-week mission to bring dental care to our brothers and sisters in Tanzania.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Bishop Tom Skrenes</strong> as he leaves to spend a week at <strong>Boys State</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>spouses of deceased pastors</strong> – Kaaren Merckx and Jane Magnuson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>For <strong>police officers and fire fighters</strong> who risk their lives to keep us safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our elected officials</strong> that they be always mindful of the public they serve and treat them all fairly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>For all the <strong>Seminary Students</strong> from our synod, but especially this month we pray for Kathryn Drefke.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>For those women, men, and children who are <strong>victims of domestic violence</strong>. May God heal the wounds of body, heart, and soul and help them to stop this cycle of aggression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for pastors active or retired celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong>: Lee Goodwin, Micheal Laakko, Katheryn King, David Jensen, Maxine Gray, Earl Bergh, Rudy Kemppainen, &amp; George Olson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>those</strong> across the synod who are <strong>in need of God’s healing touch</strong> – keep them mindful of God’s presence in their lives as they are renewed in body, mind, and spirit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Offer prayers of <strong>thanksgiving for fathers on Father’s Day</strong>. Pray that all fathers become involved, responsible parents who raise their children to reach their highest potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for those <strong>people everywhere who are homeless</strong>. May God help them retain their dignity while they improve their situation and can return to a place with a permanent roof over their heads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>For <strong>those in prisons</strong>. Keep them from harm and help them to learn from their mistakes. <strong>Keep these children of God close to you, Dear Father.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of St. Stephen, Arbutus, Baltimore MD (<strong>Rev Ryan Roberts</strong>), Lord of Life, Edgewood MD (<strong>Rev Christine Parker</strong>) and St Peter, Ocean City MD (<strong>Rev Gregory Knepp</strong>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for pastors active or retired celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong>: Eleanor Russey, Wally Leno, Dean Marin, Philip Johnson, David Johnson, Paul Holmstrom, Tom Lee, Lauri Maki, &amp; Paul Raappana.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>For victims of bullying</strong>. Help them regain their self-respect and dignity and help them to forgive the bullies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray also for <strong>retired clergy and their spouses</strong>: <strong>Rev Devon and JoAnne Barrix</strong> and <strong>Rev Earl and Nijiko Bergh</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td><strong>For all those getting married this month</strong> that they will learn to solve their problems and become good examples for future generations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for pastors active or retired celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong>: Jon Magnuson, Ingmar Levin, Les Niemi, Robert Sutherland, Matt Lamb, Bob Langseth, Raymond Korry, Tim Johnston, &amp; Stephen Gauger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Worship Committee</strong> meeting at FLLC at 9:30 CT today.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>those</strong> across the synod <strong>who will travel</strong> this summer – keep them safe as they enjoy the beauty of God’s creation and may they know that their church families keep them in prayer when they are away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>For the <strong>unemployed and underemployed</strong> keep them and their families cared for and well-fed. Help them to find meaningful work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray that we may be goods stewards of the all <strong>lakes, rivers, streams, and waterfalls</strong> that grace this synod. Keep them clean and beautiful for future generations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray for our nation as we celebrate independence this day. Ask for God’s guidance that our nation’s leaders will speak out for the rights, welfare, and dignity of people everywhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: Peggy Rose 7/05, Dean Peterson 7/06, Tracy Polzin 7/06, Jennie Johnson Wrege 7/07, Ken Michaelis 7/09, Norm Peterson 7/09, Keith Kolstad 7/09, and Ingmar Levin 7/10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of</strong> Gloria Dei!, <strong>Arnold MD</strong> (Rev Thomas Williamsen), <strong>Holy Communion, Fallsburg MD</strong> (Rev John Burk) and <strong>New Hope, Columbia MD</strong> (Rev Sharon Punte.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Retired Clergy Gathering</strong> at Immanuel, Escanaba at 11:00 today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>For those attending the <strong>Leadership Support Committee</strong> meeting at FLLC at 11:00 CT today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for the ministry of <strong>Shepherd of the Sea Chapel in Copper Harbor</strong> and <strong>Pastor Timothy Johnston</strong> as they welcome summer residents and visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of</strong> Mbagala Lutheran Church, Dar es Saalem, Tanzania and their <strong>NGLS companion congregation</strong> Immanuel Lutheran, Rhinelander, <strong>(Rev Devon Barrix, Interim.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>For those <strong>men and women in the armed forces</strong> away from their homes defending our country and their families who miss them. We thank God for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for pastors celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination this month</strong>: Bob Patrick, D.J. Rasner, Melinda Quivik, Barry Levine, Gerald Anderson, Scott Ehle, Jim Duehring, Peggy Rose, and Katherine Finegan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>For those in Africa and the rest of the world <strong>suffering with malaria and HIV/AIDS.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>150+ youth</strong> leaving today from Messiah for the <strong>Rise Up Together Youth Gathering</strong> in Detroit <strong>July 15-19</strong>. May they return committed and inspired.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray also for <strong>retired clergy and their spouses</strong>: Rev Douglas and Janet Buck &amp; Rev George Candea-Kromm and Shirley Jensen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for those children attending <strong>Vacation Bible School</strong> and the adult and youth leaders who will be enriched by leading it across our synod this summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for all those in our synod <strong>attending seminaries</strong> and especially we pray for <strong>Linda Forray</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>For all <strong>those facing addictions to drugs or alcohol</strong>. Lead them to seek help and forgive them when they make mistakes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for members of Zion, St. Ignace, and Trinity, Brevort and their interim pastor, <strong>Rev Matt Lamb</strong> as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>For blessings and thanksgiving for <strong>musicians who share their talents</strong> with the people in our congregations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Bishop Skrenes</strong> as he begins his <strong>6-week sabbatical</strong>. May he return refreshed and re-energized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of our deceased pastors</strong> – Ora Lindblad and Hilma Backman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for more <strong>pastors celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: D. J. Rasner 7/10, Harlin Haack 7/11, Harry Andersen 7/12, Gerald Anderson 7/17, Devon Barrix 7/24, Timothy Johnston 7/24, and Raymond Korry 7/27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>We send a prayer of <strong>thanks to our Heavenly Father</strong> for the sunshine and the rain, the birds and the flowers, the smell of fresh mown grass and <strong>all of the things we miss so much when snow covers our land</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>For continued <strong>love and strength and blessings for caregivers</strong> everywhere who can’t help but grow weary from carrying burdens for loved ones who can no longer care for themselves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray that we can <strong>help children discover the joy of reading</strong> this summer. Read to small children, choose books for older children, and help them all to become familiar with their local libraries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>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>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for those <strong>struggling with gender orientation and identity issues</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>On this <strong>International Day of Friendship</strong> we pray for <strong>all of our friends</strong> and then we also pray for <strong>all of our enemies</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for all individuals and their families <strong>who are dealing with mental illness</strong>. Pray also that our <strong>governments and health care systems will keep them safe</strong> and get them the treatment that they need and deserve.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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