An Interview between Bishop-Elect Katherine Finegan and Bishop Thomas Skrenes

Bishop Thomas Skrenes concludes his ministry as bishop of our synod on August 31st. Bishop Skrenes was called by the Synod Council in September 1992 as Assistant to the Bishop and elected by the 1999 Synod Assembly as bishop. He was re-elected in 2005 and 2011. On September 1, Bishop-elect Katherine Finegan begins her work as synod bishop. She interviewed Bishop Skrenes as he now completes his ministry as leader of the synod.

Bishop-elect Finegan: In eighteen years as bishop, and before that, your seven years as assistant, how would you say our synod has changed in that time?

Bishop Skrenes: The world has shifted around us in the last quarter century. Like most Christian communities in North America, our church is smaller. In my time in the synod office, attendance at weekend worship in our synod has declined more than 40%. Two decades ago, an average congregation had 110 people in worship and today it has 70. Our Sunday Schools are much smaller and our youth groups almost non-existent. I have worshiped at every congregation, sat with every congregation council, and I note that our lay leadership is about ten years older than it was twenty-five years ago. This impacts all our ministries as our average congregational council member is sixty plus. When Bishop Skogman concluded his episcopacy, we had 94 congregations. Today, we are at 80 congregations in this synod. One of our congregations merged into another, nine left the synod in the sexuality controversy of 2009-2011 and four churches have closed. Our church has changed.

We have vital and important institutional ministries as Fortune Lake Camp, Northland Lutheran Retirement Community and Finlandia University seek to serve our community. Some of our congregations have realized that their future is dependent upon their reaching out to their communities and sharing Jesus. Some of our congregations are seeing that thriving means to follow the Great Commission in Matthew as well as being servants to the community as described in Matthew 25. Unfortunately, many congregations see their mission as keeping their church doors open. Those congregations bent on self-preservation will not survive!

Bishop-elect Finegan: What have been your greatest joys?

Bishop Skrenes: Three areas have delighted me as bishop. First, I have ordained about 90 pastors in my 18 years as bishop. We have vital and important institutional ministries as Fortune Lake Camp, Northland Lutheran Retirement Community and Finlandia University seek to serve our community. Some of our congregations have realized that their future is dependent upon their reaching out to their communities and sharing Jesus. Some of our congregations are seeing that thriving means to follow the Great Commission in Matthew as well as being servants to the community as described in Matthew 25. Unfortunately, many congregations see their mission as keeping their church doors open. Those congregations bent on self-preservation will not survive!

Bishop Skrenes: Three areas have delighted me as bishop. First, I have ordained about 90 pastors in my 18 years as bishop.
Bishop & Bishop-elect (continued)

Bright, happy, Christ-centered people have begun work in this synod. Many stay five years and then move on to other synods and Calls but many others remain at work here. To watch a pastor grow in ability and confidence is a joy!

A second joy is to help a congregation grow in its understanding of stewardship. I realize that financial stewardship is one of the more difficult areas of growth but to hold hands in partnership with a congregation and its leadership as they work on stewardship is very exciting and deeply fulfilling. A special stewardship joy has been to watch our synod embrace the concepts of endowments. Our synod endowments have really grown in my time and I am delighted that in 2017 about $90,000 of earnings from synod owned endowments will be employed in mission here and throughout the Church. Isn’t that great? It’s only a beginning!

Bishop Malasusa and Bishop Skrenes

A third joy has been to participate in the Companionship work with our sister synod, the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. My trip this July to Dar es Salaam will be my seventh experience there, as my spouse Luanne and I have worked hard to grow the relationship between our churches. We have a very active committee of synod clergy and laity which have built this ministry and we have learned a great deal from our Tanzanian brothers and sisters. They are teaching us about hospitality, about sharing the faith and about service to the poorest of the world. I love Tanzania and will always be inspired by their warmth, friendship and Christian commitment.

Bishop-elect Finegan: What has surprised you?

Bishop Skrenes:

The Holy Spirit continues to amaze me. It shows up as what the Finns call “SISU.” It means determination, or courage or just “guts.” In our congregations, there is an insistence on making things work. I have been surprised how powerful that determination is with our people. Some would even call it courage!

I attended worship a few years ago where a young man, about 17 years old was baptized. His parents were not present; indeed they were not present in his life. He had just wandered in off the street one Sunday and after a few months of mentoring by his pastor, he was at the font. He wanted to be baptized. He wanted to lead a Christian life. He said he loved Jesus. I cried!

I sat at a reception one Sunday afternoon for a pastor who was leaving that congregation to retire. During the program, one man stood up, pointed to the pastor and said, “That man saved my life!” The pastor had worked with this man, an alcoholic, to get him into a life-changing treatment program.
BISHOP & BISHOP-ELECT (CONTINUED)

So in spite of our problems as a synod (and there are plenty of them), we can be totally made new, revived and reformed by the work of God the Holy Spirit. Indeed, I am counting on that surprise!

Bishop-elect Finegan: What have been your greatest frustrations?

Bishop Skrenes: Sin and human nature keep getting in our way. We all want “magic bullets” to solve problems. We all want a sharp young pastor who will bring in the youth, a great musician to turn our worship life around bringing in new people, a fancy stewardship program that will solve all our financial issues. We want magic. I have no “magic wand” and neither will your next bishop. All we need is in the Scriptures. We have all we need to build God’s Kingdom on earth and to grow the faithful community with the age old practices of prayer, worship, generosity and love. Yet as pastors and laity, we don’t want to follow the ancient practices that have served the church well over the centuries. We keep looking for solutions that do not require effort or work. The old saying is true, “Everybody wants to go to heaven; no one wants to die.” No one wants to give up their own sin—no one wants to follow the way of the cross.

Bishop-elect Finegan: What do you see for the future of the church, and the church in our synod? For what will you pray for the Northern Great Lakes Synod?

Bishop Skrenes: I believe in the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. The battle has already been won. Christ’s church will prevail forever. However, it is an open question if the Lutheran witness will exist a hundred years from now in our synod area. In some ways, we are still an immigrant church that is struggling to attach itself to the soil of this part of the world. Can we make the case that God’s people gathered into congregations serve by lives of witness, sacrifice and service? Can we make the case that God has won for us eternal life, not by our own doing, but by his own gracious love? The answer to that question will make all the difference whether any of our congregations exist in fifty or seventy-five years. I will pray that our people and our children have faith.


Bishop Skrenes: From 3:00 to 4:00 a.m. I am awake most nights. I call it “The Bishop’s Hour.” In that time I review all that has happened in the last day and I re-live the latest meetings I have attended. I think of what I should have done or said differently. I know it is not a productive time. Yet, I am awake and I wonder!

In 2009-2011, our synod went through a trauma. Nine of our congregations including
our second and fifth largest by worship attendance left us as the ELCA moved to the acceptance of gay and lesbian pastors. It was a terrible time of conflict. To sit with a room of people, most of them very anxious, even angry about the future, is not a pleasant experience. I had plenty of those experiences. I honestly wonder what we as a synod could have done differently to retain the important voices of the nine congregations that separated themselves from us. I was bitterly attacked by both liberals and conservatives, for never being pure enough in my politics for them. I opposed the conservatives who attacked those in our church who advocated for gay and lesbian persons. I also opposed the liberals who said to me that it would be better if those conservatives just left us. My regret is that healing has not occurred, reconciliation remains elusive and that bitterness in all camps continues to exist. It was ugly. I will carry some of these feelings to my grave. To this day, I am not sure what we as a synod could have done differently. Even that inability to see a better outcome is a frustration.

Bishop-elect Finegan: What advice do you have for me?

Bishop Skrenes: Don’t listen to any advice—even from me!! Honestly, I am not going to give you any advice that I have not given any pastor in our synod when they have accepted a new call. Here is my advice:

Visit the folks!
Listen to the folks!
Love them all (pastors and laity alike).

Bishop-elect Finegan: What do you look forward to in retirement?

Bishop Skrenes: After a few weeks of organized rest, I expect to come to the realization that my first calling is to be a baptized child of God. My second calling is to be a husband, father, brother, uncle and cousin. I hope to be a better Christian in retirement. I want to study the scriptures more, pray and worship more and serve God’s people more.

I will be transferring my congregational membership to Immanuel in Negaunee so I can join my wife in the pew most Sundays. I told the pastor that I plan to worship there, sing in the choir and on occasion serve coffee or wash dishes after a funeral. I will avoid church meetings and will do my very best to support the work of the synod, the ELCA and our new bishop.

After a fashion, I may be interested in doing some ministry somewhere outside our synod. Maybe there will be a part-time temporary call for me. We will see what the Lord has in store. The Psalmist tells us in my favorite Psalm (34) “Taste and see that the Lord is good. Happy are those who trust in Him.”

Amen!

Oh, and Bishop-elect Katherine, I look forward to hearing wonderful things about you as you lead this synod.
Northern Michigan University
Lutheran Campus Ministry Update

Deacon Lisa Johnson, who has served as Campus Ministry leader at Northern Michigan University since November of 2013, has resigned her position to accept a call to serve as youth pastor of Saint John Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The LCM-NMU Board will be meeting to address the current vacancy. Several students have agreed to provide interim leadership at this time, together with members of the board and local clergy. We are working with Northern Great Lakes Synod leadership to identify candidates to serve as the Campus Ministry leader or Campus Pastor at NMU. We will continue to explore options and hope to issue a call at some point in the near future.

In the meantime, Lutheran Campus Ministry representatives have been present at freshman orientation events. With the resumption of classes in late August, we will continue the tradition of Sunday evening dinners at the LCM House (provided by members of Messiah Lutheran Church), as well as worship on campus, and opportunities for Bible or book study. We also are exploring ways for greater cooperation with the Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Presbyterian Campus Ministry organizations. Finally, our partnership with Messiah offers a wide variety of opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service close at hand.

--Pr. Dave Van Kley, Chair of LCM/NMU Board of Directors

Choir for Bishop Finegan’s Installation

The choir is an important part of worship leadership, and adds much to enrich and guide the worship experience. There is nothing like singing in a cathedral! We are hopeful to have a full voice choir for the installation.

However, there are some things you need to know before you sign up:

- Because of the needs of sound and musicians, the choir will sing from the balcony of St. Peter Cathedral.
- There are 30 narrow and winding steps spiraling up to the balcony.
- There is a small chair lift which can transport one person at a time.
- The nearest bathroom facility is either up more stairs or back down the 30 stairs.
- There will be a final choir rehearsal on Saturday October 21 at 10am at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette.

If you are interested in being a part of this choir and willing to brave the balcony steps, please call the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 and sign up. We will send the music to you and try and schedule at least one rehearsal near you. Please sign up by September 15th.
BISHOP & BISHOP-ELECT (CONTINUED)

TRANSITIONS

+We give thanks for the ministry of Deacon Darrel Diers, who retires as the Licensed Lay Minister from St. James Lutheran Church and Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, both in Marinette, WI. His last day will be August 12, 2017.

We pray for God’s blessings upon Pastor Cori Johnson, of St. Stephen’s, Stephenson and Gethsemane, Wallace, as she goes on leave from call.

+Our prayers and well-wishes are with Bishop Skrenes as he begins the journey of retirement. We thank him for his many years of service in God’s ministry through the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

God Bless!

COMING EVENTS

2017

September 15-17—Women’s Fall Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (FLLC)

September 24-26—Fall Theological Event for Clergy and Spouses at Mackinac Island. Registrations and fees are due in the office by August 7th!

September 30—Altar Guild Workshop at Bethany, Ishpeming

October 7—FLLC Quilt Auction

October 10—Planning Ahead—Leave a Legacy Pioneer Lake, Conover (see pg. 5 for details)

October 12—Planning Ahead—Leave a Legacy Calvary, Rapid River (see pg. 5 for details)

October 21—Bishop Finegan’s Installation at St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette

2018

February 11-12—Winter Theological Event

February 18—Marked! Event at Gloria Dei, Hancock

February 25—Marked! Event at First, Gladstone

May 17-19—Synod Assembly in Marquette
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

**Full-time**

First, Iron River; Trinity, Stambaugh—Pastor Mike Laakko  
Faith, Ishpeming—Rev. Doug Norquist  
Mission United, Pelkie—Pastor Bucky Beach  
Faith, Calumet—Pastor Timothy Johnston  
Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood—Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde  
St. Stephens, Stephenson/Gethsemane, Wallace—Pastor Gene Wickman  
St. James, Marinette—Pastor Keith Kolstad

**Part-time**

Grace, South Range; First, Dollar Bay—Rev. Julie Belew  
Lutheran Campus Ministry (NMU), Marquette

As stewards of God’s blessings, we are privileged to share in God’s mission. We are also responsible to support the ministries we are called to. At the end of June, we have received 7.6% or $29,410 less in mission support than through June, 2016. Congregations are encouraged to remit their pledges to the Synod on a timely basis, so that no ministry suffers. God has called us to wonderful things and generously provides all we need. Thank you for your partnership as together we proclaim Christ’s message of grace to the world.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of 6/30</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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<td>Pledged Amount</td>
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<td>Amount Received</td>
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<td>Designated Gifts</td>
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<td>114,683</td>
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**PRAYFAITHFULLY**

**DEVOTION SCHEDULE**

**FOR August & September**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Devotional Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 6-12</td>
<td>Pauline Kiltinen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 13-19</td>
<td>Pam Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20-26</td>
<td>Pastor Kay Richter</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27-September 2</td>
<td>Pastor Julie Belew</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 3-9</td>
<td>Hayley Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10-16</td>
<td>Pastor Mike and Denise Laakko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 17-23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 24-30</td>
<td>Phil Wirtanen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SYNOD CALENDAR

2017

1  Retired Clergy and Spouses and Widows Luncheon, 11a.m. CT at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Stephenson

2  Inclusive and Welcoming Task Force meeting, 10:30 a.m. ET at the Synod Office, Marquette

7  Youth Ministries Support Team meeting, 10:30 a.m. ET at the Synod Office, Marquette

8  Synod Campus Ministry Committee meeting, 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office, Marquette

12  Endowment Fund Board meeting, 11 a.m. ET at Bethany Lutheran Church, Republic

13  United Lutheran Church, Crystal Falls celebrating 50th anniversary

14  NGLS Staff meeting, 11 a.m. at the Synod Office

16  Bi-Synodical Candidacy, Tomahawk, WI and SWO Meeting at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

20  Companion Synod Committee meeting, 3-5 p.m. ET at the Skrenes’ Home

21  Executive Committee meeting, 9 a.m. CT at Pastor Doug Johnson’s Home

23  Worship Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m. ET at Bethany Lutheran Church, Republic

24-26  Bishop-elect Finegan attends Region 5 Bishops meeting in Rockford, IL

31  Bishop Skrenes’ last day in the Synod Office

2017

4  Synod Office closed for Labor Day

5  NGLS Staff meeting 11 a.m. ET at the Synod Office, Marquette

6  Leadership Support Committee meeting, 11 a.m. CT at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls

7  Bishop Finegan attends Region 5 Bishops meeting with Lutheran Social Services, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT in Wittenburg, WI

8-9  Synod Council meeting at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls

15-17  SWO Fall Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls

24-26  Clergy and Spouses Retreat at Mackinac Island

28-Oct 3  Bishop Finegan attends Conference of Bishops in Chicago

30  Altar Guild Workshop, 8:30 – 2:30 ET at Bethany Lutheran Church, Ishpeming
Advertizing Campaign
Faith, Rock

Answer the Call/Fund for Leaders
Bethany, Mohawk
Bethany, Norway
Pastor Kevin and Steffany Kaiser
Bethany, Negaunee
Bethany, (Perkins) Gladstone
Frederic Gaabo

NGLS General Endowment Fund
Pastor John Ansell
Mary Jo Johnson
Pastor Gerald and Susan Anderson
Pastor Allan and Sara Johnson

Companion Synod Projects
St. Paul, Mass City – Malaria Netting
Immanuel, Escanaba – Malaria Netting
Jamieson Orthodontics – Dental Mission

ELCA Disaster Relief
Salem, Ironwood
Bethany, Norway
Zion, St. Ignace
Grace, South Range

Lutheran Campus Ministry
Faith, Rock – NMU
Grace, Gwinn – NMU
Calvary, Rapid River
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Lutheran Social Services
Trinity, Ishpeming
Immanuel, Negaunee
Emanuel, Skandia

Lutheran World Relief
Calvary, Rapid River
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Missionary Sponsorship
Trinity, Rhinelander

Mission Outreach Fund
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo

Seminarian Support
Zion, Ironwood

Skogman Scholarship Fund
Dirk and Sue Manson
Put out to Deep Water and let down your nets for a CATCH…

~Luke 5

By the Grace of God
The Rev. Katherine A. Volz Finegan
is called to serve as Bishop of the
Northern Great Lakes Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

You are invited to a
Festive Installation Service with Holy Communion
on
Saturday October 21, 2017
at 1:30pm.
Doors open at 12 noon. Prelude begins at 1:00pm

The Worship Celebration will take place at
St. Peter’s Cathedral
311 West Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI. 49855

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton
Presiding Bishop of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
will preach.

Hors D’oeuvres Reception to follow from 3:00 – 5:30pm
at the Holiday Inn
1951 U.S. Highway 41
Marquette, MI.

Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, Bishops, and Judicatory leaders are invited to vest and process.
The liturgical color of the day is red. Please be ready and vested by 1:15pm.
PLANNING AHEAD

What to do with it since you can’t take it with you.

Don’t miss this great opportunity to meet with our Regional Endowment Planner, Tim Knutson.

Come learn something about Estate Planning, getting your financial affairs in order, and creating a legacy that will benefit your family, your church, and the work of Christ long after you are gone.

This event is FREE, however, registration is required. Please reserve your spot by calling the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 by the end of the day on Thursday October 5.

(Pastors/LLM’s are invited to join Tim for lunch on:
Tuesday October 10 at 12noon at Tula’s in Rhinelander or
Thursday October 12 at 12noon at Family Inn in Escanaba.
Please call the Synod Office by October 5 to reserve your lunch.)

Plan for the Future!
Leave a Legacy!

Two Congregational Events:
6:00-8:00pm
Supper included!

Tues. October 10
Pioneer Lake,
Conover

Thurs. October 12
Calvary,
Rapid River

Sponsored by the
Northern Great Lakes Synod

1029 North 3rd St. Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855

www.nglsynod.org
Women's Fall Retreat
Fortune Lake Bible Camp
September 15-17, 2017

Theme "A Godly Touch"
"I want men/women everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing." 1 Timothy 2:8

Engaging Workshops
Singing
Praise & Worship
Great Fellowship
Food & Fun
Crafts
15 minute Massage (cost $10)

Cost
Duplex housing $125.00
Lodge housing $140.00
Cost Includes: Meals, Saturday night ice cream social, workshop materials, and Coffee Cafe'.

~To register please call Pam at 906-428-2442 or 906-280-2918. Forms are available on the following website:
https://www.nglsynod.org/welca/

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD; HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER
PSALM 107:1
Altar Guild Workshop

A Day of Learning

Those who prepare the sanctuary for worship engage in a vital and important ministry. Your care and attention enriches the worship of God and the space in which we offer our praise, our offerings, and our prayers. But where does the Paschal candle go? What about the placement of the cross? Paraments? Liturgical seasons and colors? The Font? Can we use silk flowers? How and when are the candles lit?

Dr. Melinda Quivik, along with the Synod Worship Committee, offers a day of learning for all those who serve on Altar Guilds or might like to do so.

Bring your good ideas and your questions.

At
Bethany Lutheran
715 Mather Ave.
Ishpeming, MI.

Featuring
Dr. Melinda Quivik

8:30am – 2:30pm ET

$20.00 includes program and lunch

Register by
Monday, September 25.

Go to
www.nglsynod.org.

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
1029 N. 3rd St., Ste. A
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-2300
www.nglsynod.org
ngl@nglsynod.org
ALTAR GUILD WORKSHOP

Registration

Saturday, September 30th

Begins at 8:30am with Sign in and Coffee fellowship

Ends at 2:30pm

at

Bethany Lutheran
715 Mather Ave
Ishpeming, MI 49849
906-486-4351

Cost: $20.00 includes snacks, lunch, and program.

Register by Monday, September 25

Either register electronically using Paypal
Or print this form and send the portion below with your check to:

Northern Great Lakes Synod
1029 N. 3rd St. Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855

Altar Guild Workshop Registration (September 30, 2017):

Name______________________________________ Email ___________________________

Phone_____________________________________

Congregation ______________________________ Town ______________________________

Amount enclosed $____________

A question you would like answered?_____________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Retired Clergy and Spouses and Widows Luncheon</strong>, today at 11 a.m. CT at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Stephenson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>For the <strong>Inclusive and Welcoming Task Force meeting</strong>, today at 10:30 a.m. ET at the Synod Office, Marquette.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for those pastors both active and retired <strong>celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: <strong>Paul Raappana 8/06, Diane Srutowski 8/06 and Bucky Beach 8/11.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray that <strong>everyone in our synod will be able to take time to enjoy the sunshine and all of the flowers, fruits, and vegetables flourishing around us this summer.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>For a <strong>solution to the rampant gun violence</strong> in our country. Make all of our citizens, especially, our children safe, Heavenly Father.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for those brave <strong>women who give children up for adoption.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>For the <strong>Youth Ministries Support Team meeting</strong>, today at 10:30 a.m. at the Synod Office, Marquette.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Synod Campus Ministry Committee meeting</strong>, today at 11 a.m. at the Synod Office, Marquette.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Magomeni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation Lutheran Church, Zion, Manistique (Rev Terry Frankenstein.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie MD, (Rev Viki Hamel), St. Mark Lutheran Church, Hampstead MD (Rev Jason Burns) and St. Abraham Lutheran Church, Beckleysville MD (Rev Matthew Schenning.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>For those <strong>men and women in the armed forces defending our country and their families</strong> who miss them and sometimes struggle in everyday life without those they love.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Synod Endowment Committee</strong> meeting at 11:00 E.T. at the <strong>Bethany Lutheran Church, Republic</strong> today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Congratulations and Blessings to United Lutheran Church in Crystal Falls as they celebrate their <strong>50th Anniversary today!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for those pastors both active and retired <strong>celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: <strong>Cori Johnson 8/13, Christopher Johnson 8/16, Jim Duehring 8/18, and Jesse Brown 8/21.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>retired pastors and their spouses – Rev Robert &amp; Leda Patrick, and Rev Dean &amp; Elaine Peterson.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for Bishop-Elect, <strong>Katherine Finegan</strong> as she travels to Tomahawk, WI to attend a meeting of the bi-synodical <strong>Candidacy Committee.</strong> We pray also for those attending <strong>NGLS Women’s Organization</strong> Meeting, at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for pastors <strong>Kevin Kaiser, Joe Iverson, Rell Spickerman, Amanda Kossow</strong> and as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for those pastors both active and retired <strong>celebrating birthdays</strong> this month: <strong>Matt Lamb 8/23, Andrea Fluegel 8/24, and Eleanor Russey 8/27.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Today is <strong>World Humanitarian Day.</strong> This day is dedicated to recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes. <strong>We pray our thanks</strong> for sending people like them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Companion Synod Committee meeting, 3-5 p.m. ET</strong> at the Skrenes’ home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>Executive Committee meeting</strong> 9 a.m. CT at Pastor Doug Johnson’s Home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of deceased pastors</strong> – Dale Caskey and Lavina Goodrich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>For the <strong>Worship Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m. ET</strong> at Bethany Lutheran Church, Republic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for Bishop-elect <strong>Katherine Finegan</strong> as she attends <strong>Region 5 Bishops meeting</strong> in Rockford, IL August 23-26.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Mission United Lutheran Church in Pelkie</strong> and their interim pastor, <strong>Rev Bucky Beach,</strong> as in their call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for pastors both active and retired <strong>Diane Srutowski, Bill Jacobson, Gene Wickman,</strong> and <strong>Craig Mansur</strong> as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Beckleyville MD</strong> (Rev Norma Schenning), <strong>Salem Lutheran Church, Jarrettsville MD</strong> (Rev Bette Larsen) and <strong>St. John Lutheran Church, Linthicum Heights MD</strong> (Rev Michael McQuaid.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for all those in our synod <strong>attending seminars</strong> and we pray that <strong>all congregations will encourage members to consider a career as an ordained pastor.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>For those <strong>families taking children to college for the first time</strong> and missing them already. We pray that the <strong>almost</strong> adult children will be safe and will be industrious in their studies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for pastors both active and retired <strong>Devon Barrix, Kenneth Lahners, Dave Christenson</strong> and <strong>Doug Norquist</strong> as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Bishop Thomas Skrenes</strong> as he spends his <strong>last day as the Bishop</strong> of our Synod!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
### Prayer Calendar – September 2017

|   | Pray for the **members of Grace English Lutheran Church, Lutherville MD (Rev Tormod Svensson), St. Paul Lutheran Church Lutherville MD (Rev Edward Kay) and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Manchester MD (Rev Charles Marshall.)**
|---|---
| 2 | Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: **David Murphy, 9/06, Gene Wickman, 9/08, Thomas Skrenes 9/08, Judith Kirchoff 9/09, and Rell Spickerman 9/10.**
| 3 | Pray for all those in our synod **attending seminaries**, especially we pray for **Kathryn Drefke**.
| 4 | 🎊 Pray for all the **workers in this country**, past and present on this **Labor Day**.
| 5 | Pray for pastors **Cori Johnson, Nancy Kauppi, Mark Bangert, and Tracy Polzin** as they celebrate **anniversaries of ordination** this month.
| 6 | For those attending the **Leadership Support Committee meeting**, 11 a.m. CT at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls.
| 7 | Pray for **Bishop Finegan** as she attends the **Region 5 Bishops meeting** with Lutheran Social Services, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT in Wittenburg, WI.
| 8 | Pray for the **members the Synod Council** as they meet at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp today and tomorrow.
| 9 | Pray for all those workers for Christ who celebrate this weekend by doing **God’s work, Our hands** in their communities.
| 10 | Pray for all those **troubled and depressed people who may be contemplating suicide**; that they will seek help. **Suicide can be prevented** and **lives can be improved**. We give **thanks all those doctors, nurses, and counselors** who are available to help those so troubled. Today is **World Suicide Prevention Day**.
| 11 | Pray for **teachers and educators** and **all who work in schools** as they share their gifts. Pray for all **students** as a new year of classes begins.
| 12 | Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: **Kenneth Lahners 9/11, George Olson 9/12, Steven Solberg 9/14, and Mary Weinkauf 9/22.**
| 13 | Pray for the **members of Christ Lutheran Church, Millersville MD (Rev David Simpson), St. John Lutheran Church, Phoenix MD (Rev George Tuttle) and Trinity Lutheran Church Reisterstown MD (Rev Timothy Feaser.)**
| 14 | For the **Installation Choir** who will sing at Bishop Finegan’s Installation on October 21. Please **sign up for the choir by calling the Synod Office** today or tomorrow.
| 15 | Pray for the **Synod Women of the ELCA** as they enjoy their retreat **Sept 15-17 at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.** |
| 16 | Pray for our **retired pastors and their spouses** – **Rev Norman and Mary Peterson and Rev Douglas and Susan Pohlman.** |
| 17 | For **farmers who are harvesting their crops**; we pray for **good weather and sufficient help.** |
| 18 | Pray for pastors as they celebrate **anniversaries of ordination** this month: **Julie Belew, Kari Vadis, Timothy Vadis and Greg Mileski.** |
| 19 | Pray for **Sunday School teachers** and leaders who put in countless hours of preparation and organization **to shape our children’s Christian foundations.** |
| 20 | As we begin to see signs of autumn, **we give thanks for the change of seasons, the beautiful fall colors, and the special scent in the air** in the NGLS. |
| 21 | For members of **Grace Lutheran in South Range and First Lutheran in Dollar Bay** and their interim pastor, Julie Belew, as they continue in the call process during a **pastoral vacancy.** |
| 22 | **Pray for those in prison.** Keep them safe and keep them away from temptation when they are released, Heavenly Father. |
| 23 | Pray for the **spouses of deceased pastors** – **Ruth Groth and Nancy Kalweit.** |
| 24 | Pray for the **members of Ukonga Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania** and their **NGLS Companion Congregation, Calvary in Rapid River** (Rev Stephen Gauger, pastor.) |
| 25 | For all those enjoying the **Clergy and Spouses Retreat** at Mackinac Island Sept. 24-26. |
| 26 | Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: **David Christenson 9/27, Peter Vorhes 9/28, and Lee Goodwin 9/29.** |
| 27 | For those **who give freely of their time to serve on committees,** task forces and councils in all of the congregations of our synod. |
| 28 | For **Bishop Finegan** as she attends the **Conference of Bishops in Chicago** Sept 28-Oct 3. |
| 29 | For **police officers and fire fighters** who risk their lives to keep us safe. |
| 30 | Pray for those attending the **Altar Guild Workshop**, 8:30 – 2:30 ET at **Bethany Lutheran Church, Ishpeming.** |

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