So often humor, or the value of a good joke, comes from the unexpected punchline, and the open tomb is quite the punch line — unexpected, unpredicted, and unforeseen, despite the generations of prophets and all the prophetic proclamations and foreshadowing, no one put two and two together to the point where they could say convincingly, “I saw that coming.”

Simeon and Anna come close (Luke 2) but even they, I would argue, only have a glimpse of the full extent of God’s plan in Jesus.

In hindsight of course, we see the signs, we make sense of the scriptural prophecies, and we see, with a rather disturbing clarity, that God’s joke extends well beyond the open tomb.

The joke continues as Jesus relies on fishermen to give witness to his life, death, and resurrection. The unpredictability of the Spirit puts the laugh on those who gather at Pentecost, who suddenly can hear the disciples speak in their own language.

With a twinkle and a giggle, God places the future of church growth into the hands and voices of a rag tag bunch of flawed followers who have no idea what they’re getting into, but only know that they can’t keep this resurrection news to themselves.

Then the joke is on Saul who gets turned around and knocked off his feet by God’s laughter, to the point where the persecutor becomes the proclaimer, and the one who held the jackets of
BISHOP FINEGAN (CONTINUED)

those who stoned Stephen becomes an apostle and evangelist for The Way, joining the movement he once condemned and being imprisoned for what he once imprisoned others.

As the joke of the resurrection and the foolishness of the cross spreads, we see again and again how Christ surprises, how Christ hides in plain view, in the unexpected, in the unpredictable. Christ is in the “least of these,” in the stranger in need of welcome, in the one who stands outside the circle.

And the ripples of laughter extend all the way to us, today. Because God continues to place the future of the Church in the hands of flawed disciples who have no idea what we’re getting into. You and me.

And here we are.

Like Moses, we say, “Who me?” and God laughs, (Exodus 4).

Like Mary, we say, “Are you sure?” and God gently waits, (Luke 1).

Like Zechariah, we say “You’ve got to be kidding.” And then we need to sit in silence for a while and get used to God’s ideas. (Luke 1).

Like Peter, we have good intentions in our promises, only to disappoint. And Jesus tries again, to explain the joke, that it’s all about love and forgiveness, “Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep.” (John 21).

We don’t always get it. But with the help of the Spirit of the living Christ, perhaps we get it enough. Maybe it is with fear and trembling that we step forward in faith to take on some new ministry, some new effort. Maybe it’s with a laugh and a “here goes…” that we leap into some conversation about faith or God, or we take a stab at telling our story, of how God has surprised us, how God had a good laugh, and how we are so glad and thankful that things turned out so differently than we expected.

It is a crazy thing, that God invites us to participate in God’s plans, that God would want to use us, flawed disciples, to further God’s purposes, build up the Body of Christ, and make a difference in the world for the sake of Jesus. But that is the way it is. It is God’s big joke on you, that you have been blessed with gifts of the Spirit, that you are equipped with all you need simply by saying Yes to God. Yet it is in the doing and the believing, that we join in the laughter, doing what we never thought we’d do, saying what we never thought we’d say.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!!

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan
TRANSITIONS

Congratulations to Pastor Joe Iverson who has accepted a new call to serve the people of God at Zion Lutheran Church in Galesville, Wisconsin. His last day at Holy Trinity, Chassell will be Sunday, April 8, 2018. God bless Pastor Joe and his family as he begins a new call, and God bless the people of Holy Trinity.

Welcome to Pastor Don Ludemann, the interim senior pastor for Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, Michigan. He began February 26th. May God bless him and the people of Messiah as they discern their future steps.

Congratulations to Pastor David and Katie Johnson on the birth of their son, Josiah David Johnson. He was born on Thursday, March 22, 2018 and weighed in at 5 pounds 8 ounces. God bless their family!

2018

April 1

April 13-15—Clergy Spouse Retreat at Country Inn and Suites in Iron Mountain

April 15—Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Annual Meeting

April 19-21—Candidacy Retreat in Marathon, WI

April 22—Healthy Congregations Workshop at All Saints, Wakefield (see insert for more info.)

April 23—Healthy Congregations Workshop at Bethany, Ishpeming (see insert for more info.)

April 24—Boundaries Workshop for Clergy/LLMs at Prince of Peace, Marquette (see insert for more info.)

April 25—Healthy Congregations Workshop at Immanuel, Escanaba (see insert for more info.)

April 26—Boundaries Workshop for Clergy/LLMs at Porterfield, Porterfield (see insert for more info.)

May 17-19—Synod Assembly in Marquette

June 27-July 1—National Youth Gathering in Houston

September 14-16—SWO Fall Convention/Retreat
The Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly Information
May 17-19, 2018

Location: Messiah Lutheran Church and Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan
ELCA Representative: Linda Bobbitt, Congregational Vitality Project Coordinator, ELCA

Assembly Registration Links, Marquette Hotel information, and the “Display Request Form” are available on the website: www.nglsynod.org under Synod Assembly.

Workshop information and sign-up is now available on the website for Synod Assembly participants. (See insert for workshop titles and information.)

The World Hunger Project for Synod Assembly
Each congregation has been sent a quilt square with instructions on what to do and where it should be sent back. The squares will be made into one quilt to be displayed at assembly. Each congregation is also asked to do projects to raise money for World Hunger which will be collected at assembly on Friday morning.

Breakfasts and Banquet
Breakfast will be offered at Messiah Lutheran Church on Friday and Saturday mornings of assembly for $7 per person.

A banquet is planned for Friday evening. The cost is $20 per person.

Breakfast and banquet tickets can be purchased when you pay for registration online, or send a registration form with a check to cover meals and registration fees to the Synod Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Opening Worship at Messiah Lutheran Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Recognition of Clergy Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries and Retirements and Lay School for Mission Graduates followed by a reception in Magnuson Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. ET</td>
<td>Plenary 1 at NMU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m. ET</td>
<td>World Hunger Offering, Big Bear Award and Bread Basket Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-3:15 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Plenary II at Messiah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-4:30 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Workshops at Messiah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00-7:30 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Banquet &amp; Program at NMU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Holden Evening Prayer at NMU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 19</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. ET</td>
<td>Worship &amp; Installation - Assistant to the Bishop at NMU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. ET</td>
<td>Plenary III at NMU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Closing of Assembly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
March and April in this part of the world may or may not be the full blossoming of spring. I remember our first April up here when it snowed twenty four inches on April 1st. Gisele and I knew we weren’t in Amarillo, Texas any more! When the temperature jumps above fifty degrees it seems as if some people think it’s July. People start getting out their shorts and flip flops footwear. 50 degrees one day can suddenly lead to 25 degrees and wet, heavy snow the next.

We celebrate Easter this year on April 1st. No one is really into their gardens yet, but the maple sap has been flowing, and hopefully the fish are biting. We especially notice the first robin of the spring, and many seek out that first crocus cutting through a crust of snow and mud.

The ups and downs of faith mimic the bouncing meteorological realities of spring in this neck of the woods. We really do want to be optimistic. Spring will eventually get here. The gospel writers describe those first days after the resurrection in pretty mixed terms. John’s Gospel has most of the disciples locked behind closed doors out of fear. Whatever sense they had of the resurrection of Jesus apparently didn’t immediately translate into earth-moving faith. They didn’t immediately join the church choir or form an evangelism committee.

In brutal honesty, Matthew’s Gospel, even in the context of Jesus’ ascension into heaven, states that some doubted. Faith is probably never that easy for us humans. We tend to think we’ve got it all figured out—when we think that spring and new life is really here and ready to burst forth—then we are whacked with the reality of freezing temps.

Some of the earliest texts of Mark’s Gospel end with an empty tomb and the women being afraid. (“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.”) What honesty! Ultimately, the course of the New Testament shows us that fear did not overpower, but amazement and faith emerged in startling new ways that forged that first Christian community. God was up to something new!

Thankfully God’s love is steady. I can just imagine that the risen Jesus dealt with each of the disciples on their own terms. Maybe Jesus took time to minister to each individual disciple knowing what they needed at that
point in their lives. Maybe with Peter it was something like… “O Peter, I know that you denied me in my hour of need, but I’m here now and I’m counting on you to do mighty things in my name.”

I believe that God’s love addresses each of us both corporately and individually. We gain great strength by being around other “believers” and “doubters”. But we certainly need those moments when it feels like Jesus is wanting a conversation with just us.

In the ups and downs of life, what does Jesus have to say to you this springtime? Listen. Watch. God’s promises are true! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! That’s true whether it’s 65 degrees or snowing.

Happy Spring and Happy New Beginnings in Christ!

Pastor Jim Duehring
Assistant to the Bishop
and Director for Evangelical Mission,
Northern Great Lakes Synod

Synod Assembly Choir

Directed by Dave Dagenais, the Synod Assembly choir may include anyone from anywhere in the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Rehearsals will be the previous two Saturdays at 10:30am on May 5th (site TBD), May 12th at Messiah, and May 17th before the Opening Worship at Messiah.

You need not be a registered voting member to sing in the choir.

The choir will sing one anthem and lead worship singing for the Synod Assembly Opening Worship on Thursday, May 17th at 6:30pm.

Attention Pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers!!!

A “Pastor Band” is once again forming to lead the closing Synod Assembly worship on Saturday, May 19th at 8:30am. Dust off your guitar, warm up your vocals, soak that clarinet reed and consider joining this small group of fearless musicians and singers.

Please send an email to lewickst@gmail.com if you’re interested.
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

**Full-time**

First, Iron River; Trinity, Stambaugh—Pastor Mike Laakko  
Faith, Ishpeming—Pastor 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 Scott Ehle  
Messiah, Marquette (Associate Pastor)  
Bethany, Negaunee/Emanuel, Skandia—Pastor Warren Geier  
Trinity, Ishpeming—Pastor Lauri Maki  
Prince of Peace, Marquette—Pastor Ann Gonyea  
Grace, Pembine—Pastor Doug Johnson  
Messiah, Marquette (Senior Pastor)—Pastor Don Ludemann  
Immanuel, Escanaba—Pastor Stephen Gauger  
Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp—Sara Jonasen  
Holy Trinity, Chassell—Rev. Soren Schmidt

**Part-time**

Lutheran Campus Ministry (NMU), Marquette  
St. James, Marinette—Pastor Keith Kolstad

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! The reason for all our giving is summed up in this joyous proclamation. Jesus paid the price for our sin; our hope for eternity is sure. It is our privilege to give back to God through our congregations in response to the unbounding love God showed for us through the cross of Christ. May our giving in 2018 be joy-filled and generous, as we remember Jesus’ death and resurrection. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NRSV).

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2017</th>
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<td>April 1-7</td>
<td>Kathy Godec</td>
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<td>April 8-14</td>
<td>Pastor Kevin Kaiser</td>
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<td>April 15-21</td>
<td>Jacqueline Lehto</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22-28</td>
<td>Pastor Mark Laatsch</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>Pastor Chris Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6-12</td>
<td>Pastor Keith Kolstad</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-19</td>
<td>Pastor Eleanor Russey</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20-26</td>
<td>Pastor Ann Gonyea</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27-June 2</td>
<td>Pastor Chris Johnson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### SYNOD CALENDAR

#### April 2018

1. **Happy Easter!**

3. **Conference 8 Text Study at the Synod Office**, 10:30 a.m. ET

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

9-11. **Systems Academy, Chicago** (Pastor Jim Duehring)

13-15. **Clergy Spouse Retreat, Iron Mountain**

15-18. **ELCA All Staff Meeting in Chicago** (Pastor Duehring)

18. **Synodical Women’s Organization Board Mtg. at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**, 8:30 a.m. CT – 2 p.m. CT

19-21. **Bi-Synodical Candidacy Retreat in Marathon, WI**

22. **Healthy Congregations Workshop at All Saints, Wakefield**, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CT

23. **Inclusive & Welcoming Task Force Meeting at the Synod Office**, 2 p.m. ET

24. **Healthy Congregations Workshop at Bethany, Ishpeming**, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. ET

25. **Boundaries Workshop for Clergy & LLMs at Prince of Peace, Marquette**, 9 a.m. ET

#### May 2018

1. **Conference 8 Text Study at the Synod Office**, 10:30 a.m. ET

3. **Lay School for Mission/Licensed Lay Ministry Board Mtg at the Synod Office**, 11 a.m. ET

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

16. **Packets for Synod Assembly prepared at Messiah, Marquette**, 1 p.m. ET

17. **Synod Assembly Registration begins at Messiah, Marquette**, 2 p.m. ET

18. **Synod Assembly Plenary 1 at Northern Michigan University (NMU)**, 8:30 a.m. ET

19. **Worship/Installation of Assistant to the Bishop and Plenary 3 at NMU**, 8:30 a.m. to Noon ET

20. **Synod Assembly Plenary 2 and Workshops at Messiah**, 1:30 p.m. ET

21. **Banquet at NMU**, 5:30 p.m. ET

26. **Boundaries Workshop for Clergy & LLMs at Porterfield, Porterfield**, 9:00 a.m. CT

28. **Synod Endowment Fund Board Meeting at the Synod Office**, Noon ET

30. **World Hunger Committee at the Synod Office**, Noon ET
Answer the Call/Fund for Leaders
Rev. Kevin & Steffany Kaiser
Trinity, Trout Creek
Kay and Roger Knuth

Companion Synod Projects
Christ Lutheran Parish
St. Paul, Mass City
First, Gladstone
Rev. Tom & Luanne Skrenes

ELCA Disaster Relief
Sharon, Bessemer
Salem, Ironwood
Trinity, Trout Creek
Grace, South Range
Christ the King, Escanaba
Emanuel, Skandia

ELCA Good Gifts
Holy Cross, Baraga

ELCA National Youth Gathering
First, Gladstone

Lutheran Campus Ministry
Faith, Rock – NMU
Grace, Gwinn - NMU
Prince of Peace, Marquette - NMU
Immanuel, Negaunee - NMU

Lutheran World Relief
Sharon, Bessemer
Zion, Marinette
Prince of Peace, Marquette

Missionary Sponsorship
Trinity, Rhinelander

Mission Outreach Fund
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo

NGLS Stewardship
Mike Gaunt

Seminarian Support
Faith, Rock

Skogman Scholarship Fund
Dirk & Sue Manson

Skrenes Fund for Ministry
Peter & Kay Johnson
Thrivent Financial

“Walking Together”

Fall Conference Events
Bethany, Ishpeming

Lutheran Social Services
Emanuel, Skandia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!</em> God has granted each of us new life by uniting us with Jesus’ death and resurrection through our baptism. Pray that this new life will manifest itself in a new way for you this Easter Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate birthdays this month</strong>: Linda Forray (4/3), Kenneth Ranos (4/20), Melinda Quivik (4/21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>retired pastors who have birthdays this month</strong>: Mark Bangert (4/13), George Kaiser (4/14), Nancy Kauppi (4/16), Doug Pohlman (4/24), Chrys Hendrick (4/28), &amp; Bob Patrick (4/29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all of creation</strong> as God brings renewed life with the spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Staff</strong> as they meet today – that God will guide them as they plan for future events, help congregations in the midst of call processes, and prepare for Boundaries Workshops and Healthy Congregations Workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>accountants, treasurers, and tax preparers</strong> as they work long hours helping others get their taxes sent in on time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our seminarians</strong>: Pat Kempf, Micah Cavaleri, Carolyn Lawrence, Kelly Ylitalo, Katelin Bingner and Kate Drefke as they head into the end of the spring term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month</strong>: Linda Forray (4/8), Breenne Kinnunen (4/22), Terry Frankenstein (4/23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all those fighting addiction to drugs and alcohol</strong>. Pray also that our society, medical professionals, and lawmakers will work together to help those who are addicted and to break the cycle of addiction that has taken so many lives in our nation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>teachers and students as they prepare for and celebrate spring awards banquets, proms, and other events</strong>. Pray that their celebrations will be safe and sober events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for members of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Columbia, MD; All Saints Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; and Ascension Lutheran Church, Towson, MD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Lutheran Disaster Response</strong> and all of their partner ministries around the world. Pray also for the victims of natural and human-caused disasters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of clergy</strong> who serve in our Synod as they gather in Iron Mountain for a retreat today and tomorrow. Grant them renewal as they grow in faith and their walk with God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>migrating birds</strong> as they travel to their summer homes and <strong>animals</strong> awakening from their winter hibernation. Pray also for people as they travel the roads – that they may be alert to animals along the roadways and avoid accidents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pray for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, the camp staff (*Sara Jonassen, Interim Director; Chris Nocerini, Facility Manager; Mary Ryan, Office Manager; Cindy Attkisson, Office/Camp Assistant; Zach Erickson, Intern*), prospective campers and summer staff, and all those attending the FLLC Annual Meeting today.

Pray for Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring as he attends an ELCA all staff meeting in Chicago.

Pray for members of First Lutheran Church & Trinity Lutheran Church, Iron River, MI, and their Interim Pastor Mike Laakko as they discern God’s will in calling a new pastor.

Pray for those who are home-bound, in long-term care facilities, and feel isolated or lonely. Pray for their caregivers and families. Pray that communities surround them with the companionship and support that they need.

Pray for members of Magomeni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their partner congregation Zion Lutheran Church, Manistique, MI.

Pray for all High School Students, especially those who are working together to advocate for changes that will protect them from gun violence in their schools.

Pray for farmers, ranchers, and others who care for creation and provide food for our tables. Pray for favorable weather and safe working conditions.

Pray for all of creation as we celebrate Earth Day. Pray that all people will take care of this place God has entrusted to us and preserve it for future generations by recycling and conserving its resources.

Pray for all active-duty military personnel. Pray for their safety, their families who miss them so much, and for peace between nations that are currently at war.

Pray for all past military personnel and their families – veterans, retired, injured, recovering, disabled, all who suffer from PTSD. Pray that they receive proper care for their injuries, that they are provided for in the midst of disability, that their families are supported by our nation and their communities.

Pray for all those suffering from malaria and those in danger of contracting malaria today on this World Malaria Day.

Pray for all volunteers everywhere. Pray that their energy will continue to grow and bless the communities where they serve.

Pray for members of Augsburg Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Beaver Creek-Keedysville Parish, Keedysville, MD; Bethany Lutheran Church, Brunswick, MD; & Bethel Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD

Pray for the NGLS Endowment Committee as they meet today. May they be blessed with wisdom and insight as they plan for needs in the Synod today and in the future.

Pray for the NGLS World Hunger Committee as they meet today and look forward to and plan for the Synod Assembly next month, consider what programs they with implement for future years, and discern which applicants will be given awards this year.

Pray for those in prison. Pray that justice is served, that the innocent will be released, and that those who remain in custody will come to repentance and to know God’s love and grace.

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
## Prayer Calendar – May 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>pastors who celebrate birthdays this month</strong>: Philip Johnson (5/1), Erik Heskin (5/9), Tammy Barthels (5/13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for and with all those who join in the <strong>National Day of Prayer tomorrow</strong>. Pray that our nation and our nation’s leaders may cooperate with one another in all they do, may work for justice for all people, and care for the vulnerable in our communities and our world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Lay School for Mission/Licensed Lay Ministry Board Meeting</strong> today – that they will continue to provide education and ministry within our Synod.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Finlandia University graduates, all college and university graduates</strong>, and their families as they move into a new phase of life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>May is Mental Health Awareness Month.</strong> Pray for all those with any of the wide spectrum of mental illnesses and pray that more resources will be provided for research and treatment of mental illness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all those planning, leading, and attending Baccalaureate Services</strong> – that faith will continue to be supported in our communities and students will grow in their faith throughout their lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>students</strong> who will be <strong>graduating from High School</strong> in the coming days that higher education and employment opportunities will be available to them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>our Synod Staff</strong> as they meet today and make their final preparations for the Synod Assembly – that all will be well with them and any anxieties will be calmed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>teachers, bus drivers, school staff and administrators</strong> – as they head into the final days and weeks of the school year and begin plans for Summer School and the next school year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordinations this month</strong>: Nick Johannes (5/10), Douglas Buck (5/18), Tom Otis (5/21), Norman Peterson (5/22), George Kaiser (5/23), and John Shallow (5/23).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>members of Magogoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong>, and their partner congregation Christ the King Lutheran Church, Escanaba, MI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Today is <strong>National Nursing Day</strong>. Pray for all those nurses in our congregations and everywhere who care for us and our loved ones when we are ill and most vulnerable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>For <strong>mothers</strong> everywhere on <strong>Mother's Day</strong> as you honor your own mother. Pray that all mothers love their children and raise them to have respect for all other people and all living things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Bethel Lutheran Church, North East, MD; Braddock Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD; Calvary Lutheran Church, Mt. Airy, MD; and Chapel Lutheran Church, Woodsboro, MD.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all those young adults who are confirmed this spring.</strong> <em>May they continue to grow in faith towards Jesus Christ, our Savior.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>those who gather today to assemble the packets for the Synod Assembly</strong> – that they will have energy, patience, and endurance in their work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all those who are gathering for our Synod Assembly</strong> at Messiah Lutheran, Marquette, and Northern Michigan University. Pray that they have safe travels and God’s guidance as they prepare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>God’s continued guidance at our Synod Assembly</strong> – that all listen for God’s wisdom and are filled the Spirit’s power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>this final day of the Synod Assembly</strong> – that all will have safe and happy returns home and that God will provide all we need to implement ministry and mission in the days ahead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>✝️ Pray that the Holy Spirit will renew all believers around the world as we celebrate Pentecost today. <strong>Come, Holy Spirit, Come!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>retired pastors who have birthdays this month:</strong> Frederick Hallanger (5/21) and John Shallow (5/21).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all Rostered Leaders and their families</strong> – that they may have productive times of study and prayer, relaxing days of renewal, and supportive relationships inside and beyond the congregations they serve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>unemployed and underemployed.</strong> We ask you, Heavenly Father, to <strong>send them opportunities to work, to keep their families well-fed,</strong> and to teach those of us more fortunate how we may help them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Faith Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, MI,</strong> and their <strong>Interim Pastor Doug Norquist</strong> as they discern God’s will in calling a new pastor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordinations this month:</strong> Dean Peterson (5/26), Frederick Hallanger (5/27), Doug Schoen (5/27), Dale Skogman (5/30), and Mary Weinkauf (5/30).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>camps and camping ministries, especially Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp,</strong> as they gear up for the summer and as their summer staff members are trained. May the Holy Spirit empower and guide them as they watch over all who will be in their care this summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>✞️ Pray for <strong>all the faithful around the world as we celebrate the mysteries of God’s diversity within unity on this Holy Trinity Sunday.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>✈️ We thank God for all <strong>Americans who have died serving this country</strong> on this <strong>Memorial Day</strong> and we pray that there will come a day when no more wars will be fought and no more soldiers will die.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>all the congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod</strong> as we prepare to welcome summer visitors and vacationers in our beautiful area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for members of <strong>Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Christ Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, MD; Christ Lutheran Church, Inner Harbor (Baltimore), MD; and Christ Lutheran Church, LaVale, MD.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>prayer ministries</strong> – that all may know God’s power in their lives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”
The World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for the 2018 Big Bear Award which will be presented at the 2018 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 by April 21st.

Thank You!
The World Hunger Committee is accepting nominations for the 2018 Bread Basket Award which will be presented at the 2018 Synod Assembly. Please use the following guidelines to submit your nomination:

- Nominees must be an individual 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 by April 21st.

Thank You!
Healthy Congregations Workshops

Presented by
Rev. Ramie Bakken

Rev. Ramie Bakken currently serves as ELCA Candidacy and Leadership Manager for Region 5 - the 12 synods in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

What is “Healthy Congregations”? For all congregation members, this event focuses on teaching healthy behaviors and communication that increases the effectiveness of ministry and improve congregational vitality.

What is “Boundaries Training”? For all Pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers, this training seeks to prevent difficulties and conflict that can result from unhealthy boundaries and behavior.

Boundaries Training for Clergy & LLM’s

Workshops Schedule

April
22 (Sun) Healthy Congregations Workshop
   All Saints, Wakefield     6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
23 (Mon) Healthy Congregations Workshop
   Bethany, Ishpeming       6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
24 (Tues) Boundaries Workshop for Clergy and LLMs
   Prince of Peace, Harvey  9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
25 (Wed) Healthy Congregations Workshop
   Immanuel, Escanaba      6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
26 (Thur) Boundaries Workshop for Clergy and LLMs
   Porterfield, Porterfield 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Healthy Congregations Workshops are free!
Boundaries Workshops for Clergy & LLM’s include lunch.
Lunch Fee is $5.00

REGISTRATION FORM for
Healthy Congregations Workshop & Boundaries Training for Clergy and LLM’s

Name:_______________________________ Email:________________________ Phone:_______________________

Home Congregation (Name/Town)_______________________________________________________________

I plan to attend: ___ Healthy Congregations Workshop on Sun., April 22 at All Saints, Wakefield
___ Healthy Congregations Workshop on Mon., April 23 at Bethany, Ishpeming
___ Healthy Congregations Workshop on Wed., April 25 at Immanuel, Escanaba
   or
___ Boundaries Workshop + Lunch for Clergy & LLM’s, Tues., April 24 at Prince of Peace, Harvey
___ Boundaries Workshop + Lunch for Clergy & LLM’s, Thurs., April 26 at Porterfield, Porterfield
___ Enclosed is $5.00 for lunch during Boundaries Workshop.

Please mail registration form and lunch fee (if applicable) to: Northern Great Lake Synod - 1029 N. Third St., Ste. A - Marquette, MI 49855
Grace and peace be unto you from God, our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!

You know you do it. Somehow a tune is heard, discussed or simply thought about and then you have it stuck in your head the entire day. This morning I woke up and immediately began humming, then whistling “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” (ELW#512, if you are wondering). I’m not sure why that was the particular tune in my head upon waking. Perhaps it was part of a dream, perhaps it was because of readings as of late when I was in Pelkie or Atlantic Mine or Calumet. Wherever it came from—here it was. Even when I picked up my phone, turned on and turned up “Beautiful Day” by U2 (in order to wake up my daughter), ELW#512 remained. As I drove my son to pre-school listening to NPR at 8:06am because he LOVES the theme song to “Morning Edition” and has to hear it every school day or he gets bumbled and occasionally upset if he misses out—I found myself still quietly whistling #512 to myself. It continues throughout the day: hearing it in my head, whistling, humming, singing. Despite a case of tinnitus...this tune of the day refuses to be drowned out by thoughts, noises, and the surrounding happenings of the day.

God is music. We are called to live our lives as music. This music that encompasses life in its ever-flowing stream of beautiful melodies, harmonies, counterpoints. This music that expresses all emotions, that can be mathematically graphed and yet cannot be completely grasped in its fullness. This rich blessing of sound and music that vibrates our entire universe and embodying all of creation—what else can it be called but a gift. And if this music is indeed a gift, then our lives...our being and very essence is called in loving thanksgiving to sing out (make a joyful noise of) the thanks to God our composer, director and indeed, also our music. Our life as music. As a piece written by both God and self that continues to be written as we mark down on our sheet music that which come from the Holy Spirit and flows on in endless song—line after line, musical staff after musical staff. The orchestration continues.

What will your Opus in Christ Jesus do and be? What form and function, crescendos and decrescendos, dynamics, turns, ornaments, and movements express for this one precious life we are given? Will your music be written as a dance suite, a symphony, an opera? Plainchant, Sankyoku, a drumbeat? A requiem?

As we move throughout the days—take time to hear your song, hear the song of others in community, and hear the calling of Christ to live this life as music—as a song. Imagine our entire creation that God has given us is one large opus—in, under, within, around encompassing all things. Even the smallest of notes is necessary and important and valued...and loved. Let your faithful music drown out the concerns of tomorrow, and allow it to wash over you as a prayerful, meaningful, Spirit-filled fermata. Welcome yourself and others and all of God’s creation to this endless composition “where love can grow and peace is understood”. Be blessed. Be a blessing. Amen.  

Rev. Soren S. Schmidt
Campus Pastor
Finlandia University
soren.schmidt@finlandia.edu
906-487-7239

Campus Ministry activities and events:

- Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) to the Copper Country on Monday, April 2nd, 7pm, Chapel of St. Matthew! An amazing opportunity in the global perspective of faith and community.
- April 19th: Mobile Food Pantry in Ontonagon, MI. 4-7pm. No prerequisites. Please join us.
- Worship: Tue. 12:30-1pm
- “Soup & Meet” 1st & 3rd Wed., 5-6pm in the Chapel. Meal and Holden Evening Prayer.
- “Second Tuesday Recital Series” from 12:30-1pm All are welcome to attend and/or perform. To perform, please contact me prior.
- “The Table: A student needs pantry” continues to serve students well. TO DONATE: please contact the Campus Pastor.
- If you have an event or idea for Campus Ministry, please feel free to send information to our Campus Pastor
**Synod: Greek: “walking together”**

It was a Wednesday afternoon when my cell phone rang. It was Pastor Andrea Fluegel at Prince of Peace Lutheran church in Eagle River.

“They announced at the school this morning that a senior student was killed last night in a car accident. I’ve been at the school all day with the kids. We’re having a candlelight vigil tonight. Can you help?”

And so on that night, I gathered up a few boxes of candles and drove up to Eagle River. We didn’t know if we’d have 5 or 100 kids coming, but Pastor Andrea had done a wonderful job preparing for the night. There were candles upon candles for people to light. There were cards they could write prayers on. There were pieces of dissolvable paper and a bowl of water for people to write down the things they never got to say to Michael.

By the time the night was over, all of us were exhausted. We’d been crying, we’d been praying, we’d been hugging. And the grieving had only just begun. Still, I think we succeeded in providing a space, no matter how short, for people to openly wrestle with their emotions and just grieve.

It’s on those nights that I’m glad we are synod – that we, congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have each other to rely on. I’m glad that neither Pastor Andrea nor I had to do the work of helping 150 high school students grieve the loss of their classmate alone.

Being the church isn’t always easy, especially when we live in times of grief and mourning. Thanks be to God that our congregations have each other to get through the difficult times, to laugh during the happy times, and to do more together than any of us could do on our own!

Pastor Andrea, Father Patrick from St. Peter Roman Catholic Church, and I read scripture and prayed with the over 150 people who came that night to grieve Michael’s loss and to find some measure of hope and peace with each other.

Pastor Ken Ranos
Faith Lutheran Church, Three Lakes
1. **Companion Congregations: The Companion Synod Committee**
   What are the blessings of a Companion Congregation relationship? What should a congregation know about this vital ministry in our Synod?

2. **Compensation Guidelines: Rev. Bill Jacobsen**
   Where do these come from? How are these figures determined? And why?

3. **Congregational Vitality: Linda Bobbitt**
   What it is, what it looks like, how to build it, why it matters.

4. **The Draft on the ELCA Statement on Women & Justice: Marsha Wainio**
   You are invited to join the conversation and give your feedback.

5. **Having Difficult Conversations: Rev. Matt Lamb and Rev. Tom Otis**
   In a polarized and anxious time, how do we as people of faith, have productive and meaningful conversations about things that matter?

6. **Leaving a Legacy, Supporting Ministry: Timothy Knutson**
   Discover the blessings of Endowment Ministry to support our work together and make the most of your resources long after you are gone.

7. **Lutheran Theology 101: Rev. Chris Johnson and Rev. Steve Gauger**
   What makes Lutheran theology distinctive? What do we have to add to the conversation?

   What do the numbers tell us? What don’t they tell us?

9. **Updating Your Constitution: Rev. Doug Johnson**
   How to do it and why you should.

10. **Prepare the Way: Rev. Allan Johnson**
    In preparation for the Year of Luke beginning this fall, get an overview of the arc of this gospel’s proclamation.

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**Voters and Visitors to Assembly** are asked to go to [www.nglsynod.org/assembly](http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly) and select which one workshop they will be attending. Please register by May 1st so the appropriate room size can be determined for each workshop.