

**NORTHERN GREAT LAKES
SYNOD**

**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
Marquette, Michigan**

nngls@nnglsynod.org

E-Notes for May 1, 2013

~ THE EASTER SEASON ~

E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic
newsletter

from the Northern Great Lakes
Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

~QUOTE OF THE DAY~

“I believe he says it all of us: to feed his sheep, his lambs, to be sure, but first to let him feed us—to let him feed us with something of himself.

In the sip of wine and crumb of bread.”

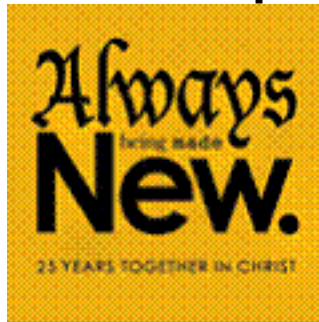
-Frederich Buechner, “The Great Dance”

WHO IS COMING TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY?

About 300 lay and clergy voting members and visitors will descend upon Marquette Michigan on Thursday May 16-18. At the Assembly we will have:

+ELCA Vice-President Carlos Pena

- +Dr. Stan Olson, President of Wartburg Seminary**
- +Jay Beech, Church Musician**
- +Azania Front Lutheran Church Choir, Dar es Salaam**
- +A fun banquet**
- +Powerful worship**
- +Interesting workshops**
- +Fascinating reports and exciting business**
- +Joy in Christ's presence**



WANT TO BE IN A MOVIE?

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh this August is “Always being made new,” which follows our church’s 25th anniversary year focus: We are a church that is deeply rooted and always being made new. For this assembly, the ELCA Marketing Communications team invites congregations to submit short videos that will allow us to showcase their ministries in living out that theme.

From among the submitted videos, we will be

selecting approximately 24 to show in the plenary hall during transition times. Our church values all video submissions and those that are not selected for showing during the Assembly will be posted on the ELCA YouTube channel. Some may be featured on LivingLutheran.com as well.

These videos are intended to be 60-90 seconds long. In them we would like congregations to share what the theme “Deeply rooted in faith, and always being made new” means to them and how they live that statement in their continuing work. The congregations may also wish to consider and address these related questions:

- In a rapidly changing culture, where is God leading and calling us as the ELCA?
- Where are we “showing up” as a church in your community?

We would like to have all videos completed and available for posting to YouTube by June 30.

If you are interested, please email the synod office and let us know by May 7. Churchwide folks will communicate with you with the specifications!

Many thanks for assistance with this project. It will help to bring alive the theme of the Assembly and put a spotlight on the wonderful work of our congregations.

CLERGY-WHAT AN

OPPORTUNITY!
“FAMILY SYSTEMS”
WORK IN OUR
SYNOD
2013-2014

Dr. Doug Hester was in our synod last fall doing introductory workshops for clergy and lay leaders on Family Systems Theory. Dr. Hester is a recognized leader and teacher of this movement that helps the church see itself more clearly. He has offered to spend some time in our synod in the next year to do some in depth work with our clergy and with clergy from other religious communities.

Your Synod Leadership Support Committee is enthusiastic about bringing Doug here to spend some time working with our pastoral leaders. The plan is to have three two day sessions (about 36 contact hours) in

a group of at least 15 participants. The sessions would be all day Monday and all day Tuesday. Three weeks have been selected in this coming fall, winter and in the spring of 2014. The group would meet at Fortune Lake Camp October 7-8; Feb 24-25 and May 19-20. All sessions are from 9:00 am CT- 4:00 p.m. CT.

We seldom have the opportunity to have this significant continuing education opportunity in our synod. Usually we need to drive to Minneapolis or to Chicago for such a program. It will be a great opportunity to have it within reasonable driving distance.

The anticipated cost for the total event (6 days) will be \$750. The synod will reimburse ELCA clergy \$200 of that cost, leaving the pastor or the congregation responsible for \$550 plus housing and meals. Flexible payment plans can be arranged.

I need to know if this is of interest to you! Could you respond to this email soon and let us know if you would like to continue the conversation about this possibility. Many pastors have already indicated their interest! I recommend this work to you.

For more information about Dr. Hester please see his website: <http://ministryleadershipconcepts.com>

THANK YOU FOR

YOUR PICTURES!

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ELCA and the Northern Great Lakes Synod, the Synod Assembly Planning Committee thanks you for the photographs sent to the synod office of your ministries in the past twenty-five years. We have plenty! We appreciate your willingness to share.

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

May 13– 14: Seniors Go to Camp;
An overnight opportunity for senior adults to
sample the program
that kids get to enjoy.

For more info., visit fortunelake.org or phone
906-875-3697

WE DID IT AGAIN!----THANK YOU----HEALTH ASSESSMENT!

You did it! We are over our 65% numbers! --- and
the cash benefits (2%) savings will be available to
all our congregations!

Good job!

You can still take the survey. Please go to the ELCA
Portico website <http://www.porticobenefits.org/>

Thank you!

A REMINDER:

To Conference 8 churches.

**Spread the word among those who
love to sing in your church,
a Conference 8 choir is forming to
sing at Synod Assembly.**

**Rehearsals will be at Messiah
Lutheran:**

Wednesday May 1, 6:00 – 6:45pm

Wednesday May 8, 6:00 – 6:45pm
Thursday, May 16, Assembly Worship
begins at 6:30pm.

We are hoping for 30-60 voices!

World Hunger Offering at Synod Assembly

Let's think of your congregation's offering.
Traditionally, it has been a quarter
collection.

But there are as many ways to gather in
this offering as there are congregations.

Here are some ideas:

- *Make a paper chain to fill the narthex, \$1 a link.

- *Devote a complete month to gather loose change and bills

- *Give out World hunger boxes (available for free at <http://elca.org/hung>)

er)

*Fill M&M candy containers or film canisters with quarters

*Invite your folks to simply Write a check. 😊

May 17-19, 2013

**Youth Quake for Grades 6-12
at Finlandia University**

PLAN ON IT!

This is a great opportunity for every church in the Northern Great Lakes Synod to bring their youth.

Never before has a Youth Encounter Event been so close to us!

Mark your calendar and plan on being there!!

Go to youthencounter.org for registration information

check out the info at:

[http://www.youthencounter.org/Default.aspx?
tabid=980](http://www.youthencounter.org/Default.aspx?tabid=980)

[http://nglsynod.org/pdfs/marked
2013.pdf](http://nglsynod.org/pdfs/marked2013.pdf)

TRANSITIONS:

+Congratulations to **Pastor Norman Peterson (Immanuel, Rhinelander)** who has announced his retirement this summer. God bless Pastor Norm as he completes 37 years of ordained ministry, including 33 at Immanuel.

+Congratulations to **Pastor Eugene Wickman (Grace, Pembine)** who has announced his retirement this summer. Pastor Gene has served the Lord as an ordained clergy for 32 years and Grace Ev. Lutheran Church since 2003.

+Death of **Gordon Usitalo (Faith, Calumet.)** Gordon was a congregational leader and a supporter of this synod. He served on our synod council representing

the Copper Country Conference. Our sympathy to his church family and his wife Carol and their family. "In Christ shall all be made alive."

+Welcome! Welcome to baby Leo born to Jennifer and Pastor Greg Mileski (United, L'Anse) on April 8, 2013. God bless this young family.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+The people of Syria who are struggle in Civil War!

+Those affected by terrorists around the world. Bless the first responders who seek our safety.

+ Finlandia University as Chaplain Soren Schmidt prepares for the Quake/Zone and all the Youth and leaders who are planning to attend.

+ The Synod Staff as they prepare for the

Synod Assembly

**+ For the Transformational Ministry Teams
from Grace, Pembine and Faith, Sault St.
Marie and their
congregations, as they continue the
process and prepare to attend the
Transformational Ministry
Retreat in May.**

**+Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop
tskrenes@nglsynod.org**