

**NORTHERN GREAT
LAKES SYNOD**

Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for February 28, 2013

~ **THE LENTEN 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~

“Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. In fact, God’s good and gracious will comes about without our prayer that it may also come about in and among us.”

-Martin Luther on The Third Petition of the Lord’s Prayer

2013 issue of Stories of Faith in Action!

This year the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrates its 25th anniversary as a church that is deeply rooted — and always being made new.

In this special anniversary issue of Stories of Faith in Action, you'll discover 21 stories of the people whose lives have been touched by ELCA ministries in the past year, as well as our [25th anniversary timeline](#) celebrating where we've come and where we're going as a church freed in Christ to serve.

You'll also find resources on [Mission Support](#) (the portion of your

weekly offering that is shared with ELCA synods and churchwide ministries) and how the important contributions members make to this church are put to use in life-changing ministries across the country and around the world.

To order free copies call 800-638-3522, ext. 2580, and ask for ELCAMA1167. Copies are available at the synod office in Marquette. Come by and pick them up—or they can be delivered to your congregation. Give us a call! Or order online at www.elca.org/resources and search for ELCAMA1167. You'll only pay for shipping.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT TIME AGAIN!

If you are a plan member and receiving health care benefits under the ELCA Portico plan —time to take the health Assessment! Cash wellness benefits are available to you and to your congregation again this year. The church will save 2% again this year. Last year well over 80% of our synod plan members benefited from this program. **Pastor Barb Girod** will be encouraging you to spend the time on the Portico website and complete the questions. **As of the end of January this year, less than 25% had taken the survey.** If you are

waiting—please wait no longer and get it done!

Please go to the ELCA Portico website

<http://www.porticobenefits.org/>

Thank you!

Synod Assembly Banquet Tickets

This year's Synod Assembly (May 16-18) includes a BANQUET on May 17!

For all registered voters and visitors, the price of the ticket is included in the registration fee, but if you have others that would like to attend just the banquet, there is now an added line on the payment part of the registration form so you can purchase

as many extra tickets as you need and on the actual registration form there will be a place where you can put the entrées selected for each additional ticket. However, anyone and everyone, even if they are not a registered voter or visitor, is invited to attend the banquet. Additional tickets are available for purchase through the Synod Office for \$16.00 each.

World Hunger Offering at Synod Assembly

It's not too soon to be thinking 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:

- *Buck a Chick (see <http://elca.org/hunger> for resources)
- *Make a paper chain to fill the narthex, \$1 a link.
- *Devote a complete month to gather loose change and bills
- *Give out Global Barnyard boxes, or World hunger boxes
(available for free at <http://elca.org/hunger>)
- *Fill M&M candy containers or film canisters with quarters
- *Invite your folks to simply Write a check. 😊

Also, if you know of a **congregation** that has gone above and beyond in their efforts to address World Hunger, please nominate them for “The Big Bear Award”



And if you know of an **individual** who has given a distinguished effort towards addressing World Hunger, please nominate them for “The Bread Basket Award” Nominations can be sent to kfinegan@nglsynod.org

**MBAGALA
LUTHERAN
CHURCH SUNDAY
MARCH 17, 2013**

One of our churches has suffered a fire loss.

The people of Mbagala Lutheran Church in Dar es Salaam were victims of mob violence. On October 13, 2012 a fire was set which did tremendous damage to this congregation of our companion synod. Without insurance and with few resources the folks of the Mbagala Parish are determined to re-build their church.

You can help.

The Northern Great Lakes Synod Council is encouraging all of us to receive an offering in our worship services on the weekend of March 17th to assist this parish in its reconstruction. Can you make this happen in your congregation?

I am asking you to discuss this appeal with your parish leadership and then to:

1. Lift up the people of Mbagala in prayer.
2. Tell the story of this burned church to your congregation.
3. Pass the plate in worship and in other ways receive offerings for the

reconstruction of the church building.

4. Send your congregational offering to the synod office designated “Mbagala Offering.”

All gifts received for this effort will be sent to the congregation.

REMINDER:

Pastor’s Report to the Bishop are due!



All rostered persons are required by the constitution to submit a pastor’s report to the bishop.

**The form for the report is on the ELCA website.
Click this link:**

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Secretary/Congregation-Administration/Rostered-Leader-Reports-to-the-Synod-Bishop.aspx>

If you cannot access it there please contact the synod office.

INVITATION:

All are invited (clergy to process, color red) for the installations:

+Pastor Tamra Harder at Bethany,
Negaunee on Sunday March 3 at
1:00pm

And at Emanuel, Skandia
on Sunday March 10 at
4:00pm

*Lord, Teach Us
How to Pray -
Prayer
Workshop*

Coming to Zion Lutheran
in Manistique

April 12-13, 2013

The Plan – Pastors and Lay Leaders recruit a minimum of 2, ideally 4-5 or more to attend this event.

It is encouraged, but not required, that the pastor come also.

Participants will then return to their congregations with

concrete ideas for strengthening and implementing prayer ministries that serve the congregation and reach out into the community.

The Details –

Cost: \$10 per person meal fee for Friday's supper and Saturday's breakfast.

Overnight accommodations are on your own.

(We recommend the Hotel Peninsula Pointe, 906-341-3777, special rate of \$59 with 2 per room)

It is encouraged that congregations cover the cost of those who participate.

FYI – This is the same workshop that was offered at First Lutheran, Gladstone in August of 2012. The Synod Evangelism Committee is glad to be able to offer this workshop in Manistique, and they would be happy to offer it in your

conference too. Please call the Synod Office if you are interested in hosting in the future.

Registration – E-mail the Synod Office at nglsynod.org or call at 228-2300 by **April 1, 2013**.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee with generous support from the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Urban Plunge Update



June

10

–

14,

20

13:

for
High
School
of
Youth
14
– 18
years
old

As of

February
24, the 2
vans

going to
the Urban
Plunge
are full. A
waiting
list has
begun.

The folks who signed up will receive registration materials and participating congregations will be asked to take an offering in support of the ministries where we will be serving.

More information about that will come to you soon.

With such a wonderful response, we will look for a program next year that can accommodate more youth!

Call the Synod Office at 906 - 228-2300 with any questions or concerns.



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**

***Dates & Locations
for our annual
MARKED! events
for confirmation
classes.***

***Add it to your
calendar today!***

**Sunday, April 21,
2013 Messiah
Lutheran,
Marquette, MI 4:00-
7:00pm ET**

**Sunday, April 28,
2013 Prince of
Peace, Eagle River,
WI 4:00-7:00 pm CT**

For more information, click on:
[http://nglsynod.org/pdfs/marked
2013.pdf](http://nglsynod.org/pdfs/marked2013.pdf)

TRANSITIONS

**+Pastor Tamra Harder as she is installed at
Bethany, Negaunee and Emanuel, Skandia.**

WE HOLD IN PRAYER

**+That our congregations might be
renewed, refreshed and all encouraged to
share the Gospel of Jesus.**

+For our leaders in authority over us that all may seek the “general welfare” of our nation.

+All those who long for Spring, light, and the lengthening of days.

+For our armed forces serving around the world that they may complete their missions in safety.

+Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop

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