

**NORTHERN GREAT
LAKES SYNOD**

Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for March 15, 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** ~

**I bind unto myself the name,
The strong name of the Trinity
By invocation of the same,**

**The three in One and One in Three,
Of whom all nature has creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation:
Salvation is of Christ the Lord!**

~From St. Patrick's Breastplate.

WE WANT YOUR PICTURES!

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ELCA and the Northern Great Lakes Synod, the Synod Assembly planning Team needs photographs (digital or hard copy) of ALL of the following:

~Significant dates in your congregation in the past 25 years. These might include groundbreaking, pastors' installations, Anniversary celebrations, or other events.

~Your Confirmation Class photo of 1988.

~1-3 shots of activities that have taken place in the last year, 2012-2013.

We plan to use the photos during Synod Assembly for both photo board displays and include them in powerpoint presentations.

When you send the photos, please include the following information:

1. Date photo was taken
2. Congregation name and location
3. Event name or description of photo
4. Names of those in the photograph, if possible

Photographs can be mailed to the Synod Office, Attn: Betsy Koski, 1029 N. Third St., Marquette, MI 49855, or you can e-mail them to Betsy at bakoski@nglsynod.org.

Upcoming Events at

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

April 19 – 21: Life Together Adult Retreat at
FLLC;
explore the teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
with Pastor Pete Andersen and Pastor Jim
Duehring.

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.

**PASTOR
CHARLES**

“CHICK” LANE OF LUTHER SEMINARY TO BE WITH US IN LATE APRIL!

He is the “stewardship guru” of the whole Evangelical Lutheran Church in America!

The author of the great resource “Ask, Thank, Tell!” Pastor Lane will be with us on two nights in late April.

Congregational leaders, stewardship committee members, interested Lutherans—

you are welcome to hear Pastor Lane discuss practical helps in improving our stewardship work.

We will think and work together to help
our congregations grow!

**MONDAY APRIL 29 7:00-
8:30 GLORIA DEI
CHURCH, HANCOCK**

**TUESDAY APRIL 30 7:00-
8:30 BETHANY CHURCH,
ESCANABA**

Please call the synod office at
906.228.2300
or email us at nngls@nnglsynod.org with
the number of people who will come
from your congregation.

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 February 28 of this year, 40% had taken the survey.** If you are waiting—please wait no longer and get it done! We need 19 more people to take the survey.

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:

- *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/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.”

Click here for the form: <http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly/pdf/BigBear2013.pdf>

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”

Click here for the form:

<http://www.nglsynod.org/assembly/pdf/BreadBowl2013.pdf>.

Completed forms 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.

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ONLY TWO MORE WEEKS TO SIGN UP !!!

*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.*

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**ONLY TWO MORE WE
EKS TO SIGN UP !!!**

**Urban Plunge
Update**

June 10 – 14, 2013: for High School 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)

WE HOLD IN PRAYER

- +The Synod Assembly planning team as they arrange the many details of our gathering in May.**
- +The work of the Spirit in and through us as individuals and as congregations.**
- +All those who long for Spring, light, and the lengthening of days.**

+Christians everywhere, as we come into Holy Week and contemplate the suffering of our Lord and celebrate the mystery of salvation.

Rev. Katherine Finegan
Assistant to the Bishop