

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

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E-Notes for September 13, 2013

~ **THE PENTECOST 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”

**“But beware! Because when the Holy Spirit shows up, lives are changed
—the dead are raised,
demons are cast out, sins are forgiven, despair gives way to hope,
unbelief turns to faith, the alienated are reconciled,
those in poverty hear good news, people sell their possessions and give
to the poor, and all welcome at the table.
Pentecost was not a one-time event.”**

---Bishop Mark Hanson in “The Mission Table” by Stephen Bouman

Prayers for Peace Requested

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are called to pray for the people of Syria, the Middle East and throughout the world. The prayer is for the protection of people “affected by the fighting in Syria” and for “all who are working for peace: international leaders, politicians, religious leaders and ordinary citizens” and that “all of us be strengthened by the hope of a future built on love and justice for all. In the midst of the complexities, volatility, uncertainties and tragedies in Syria and the surrounding region, let us join together in praying for peace,” said the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop. “We can have deep differences about the responsible way forward,” said Hanson. “Our religious convictions may be different. The public debate is intense and so much is at stake. What better time to pray? God has entrusted us with just one creation. We are all created in God's image for relationships that reflect God's desire for harmony, dignity and peace with justice. Let our prayers be cries of lament. Let us listen for God's word of promise. Let the diverse languages and petitions of our prayers reflect the beauty of diversity in the midst of our one God given humanity. Yes, may we humbly confess our sinfulness and gratefully receive God's gift of mercy and strength to be about God's work of peace and reconciliation.”

Bishop Hanson sent letters to the U.S. president and Congress urging for more diplomatic efforts over pursuing military action in response to reports of the use of chemical weapons against the people of Syria. ELCA members and congregations are invited by the Bishop to write to Congress and to the president to “vote against an authorization to take military action against Syria” and to ask the president “not to take such action.” ELCA members are also committed to keeping decision-makers in prayer, asking that “God will continue to give them wisdom as they discern the best path to avoid atrocities while pursuing peace.”

Dental Mission to Tanzania

Luanne Skrenes is coordinating another dental mission trip to Tanzania next summer (2014).

The trip will be approximately two weeks in length and will include time spent with companion congregations, Kisarawe Lutheran Junior Seminary, and a safari.

The cost will be approximately \$4000.00. Any interested dentists, dental assistants, and dental hygienists should contact Luanne at lmkrenes@aol.com or 906-485-5121.

Karibu Tanzania! (Welcome to Tanzania!).

TRANSITIONS

+Our sympathy to **Pastor Maxine Gray and her spouse Lloyd** on the recent death of their son-in-law Jeremy Kranz. God bless their daughter Adrien and granddaughter Carmen as they remember Jeremy. “O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come!”

+Congratulations to **Pastor-elect Julie Belew** who will be ordained into the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament and installed as pastor on Sunday September 22 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Baraga, Michigan**. Clergy are invited to process—the color of the day is red.

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org for weekly “Breath Prayer” and Daily Devotions.

Coming to a Church near you.... “Breaking the Mold”

A series of training events to equip adults to share the Gospel with Young Adults, Youth, and the Unchurched.

All trainings are from 9am – 3pm local time.

All are free,
but registration is required
(call the Synod Office at 228-2300 even if you have responded on Facebook).

For Pastors, Youth workers, Sunday school teachers, and adults.

Lunch is included!

Choose from the dates and places below:

~Saturday, September 28—

Zion, St. Ignace

906-643-7870

**This event is in partnership with the North/West Lower Michigan
Synod**

~Saturday, October 5—

**Holy Cross, Baraga
906-353-6541**

~Saturday, October 12—

**Pioneer Lake, Conover
715-479-4966**

~Saturday, November 23—

**Messiah, Marquette
906-225-1119**

Moved by the Spirit

~September 20-22, 2013~

**All the Women of the ELCA
in the Northern Great Lakes Synod
are invited to a weekend of Spiritual Renewal
at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**

Lodging: Cost depends upon lodging preference. Price includes meals.

Please choose from one of the following:

~**Duplex**—\$100: Houses up to 8 people.

Bunk beds with full baths and a lounge area.

Bring your own bedding, linens, and toiletries.

~**Emmanuel Lodge**—\$125: Quad occupancy in two queen beds.

Full bath. Bedding and linen provided.

~**Grace Place Retreat Lodge**—\$125: Double occupancy, twin beds.

In room sink and shared bath with adjoining room.

Bedding and linen provided.

Sorry, no single rooms available and no pets permitted. Motels are available in the area.

If you have any dietary restrictions, please bring what you will need.

The Synodical Women's Organization Convention is on September 20, 2013, before the retreat.

Please contact Fran Voyce at francesvoyce@yahoo.com with any questions.

Check out the brochure at www.nglsynod.org.

Mark Your Calendars:
**Church Musician Workshop with Jay
Beech**

Saturday, October 19th at Bethany Lutheran, Republic
Music, technique, leadership skills, and more
for the Church Musician.

Guitar players, drummers, piano players, percussion, and
more.

Register at www.nglsynod.org \$15/person capped at \$50
per congregation. Includes Lunch!

Bring resources, books, website addresses that you
find helpful.

Go to "The Northern Great Lakes Synod" page
And "like" us. 😊

Finance for Congregations

Resources for congregational treasurers & bookkeepers

(Available on the ELCA website--see Office of the Treasurer)

Complying with tax requirements and tax reporting is the responsibility of each ELCA congregation's treasurer. In addition, it is their responsibility to be aware of tax laws and reporting requirements as they are established and change.

The ELCA Office of the Treasurer strongly encourages congregational treasurers to consult up-to-date resource materials on tax requirements and reporting. Treasurers are also encouraged to consult with a qualified tax preparer and/or attorney familiar with tax laws, as necessary.

[Congregational Treasurers Financial & Accounting Guide](#) This guide for treasurers and bookkeepers reviews the responsibilities of the treasurer, creating the chart of accounts, financial reporting and more.

[Handling Financial Matters in the Congregation](#) This document is an overview of many of the financial matters relating to the congregation. Some areas mentioned in this document are separation of financial duties, safeguarding offerings, charitable deductions, and designated and restricted gifts.

Accounting Methods -- Cash Basis and Accrual Basis How does a congregation decide on a way to record transactions? Learn more about the advantages and disadvantages of cash vs. accrual methods of accounting.

Program Budget Presentations Wondering how to best show your congregation's budget in a way that will describe the breadth and depth of the congregation? This article provides a model for how a congregation can combine the dollar and cents budget and their strategic directions in what is often called a 'Program Budget' to reflect the various programmatic areas of the congregation's mission and ministries.

Financial Contingency Planning This document addresses key components of financial contingency planning for congregations, including operating reserves, cash flow projections, budget reductions and banking considerations.

Accountable Reimbursement Policies For business and tax reasons, in most instances, it is in the best interests of the congregation and its staff to have in place an accountable reimbursement policy to pay for the business expenses that are necessary to do the ministry of the congregation.

Congregational Audit Guide This comprehensive guide addresses questions ranging from the simple to complex, such as:

- Who can perform a congregational audit?
- How does the audit process begin?
- What should be done with payroll and tax records?
- What is involved in auditing cash?
- How is the control system audited?

Congregational Audit Guide Exhibits I, II, III, IV, and V The exhibits of the Congregational Audit Guide are provided in MS Word format so that they may be used as a template that can easily be edited and manipulated.

Internal Control Best Practices This document describes major financial activities and related best practices in order to assist congregations in establishing their own system.

Data Security A growing concern in our society is the issue of data security. We as entities that collect, store, and communicate information have a responsibility to those that provide us their information/data to keep it safe and secure. This helpful set of simply slides provide an explanation of PII (Personal Identity Information) and how to keep data secure at many levels.

Identity Theft Every day, the risk of identity theft grows greater. Congregations -- and congregation administrators -- are not immune from the risk of identity theft nor from the concern members may have for protecting their personal data. Government agencies and private organizations have enacted new laws, regulations and policies intended to prevent the loss of identity information.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+ For the people of Syria in the midst of their civil war. Pray all people, especially the Christian community in Syria.

+For the new presiding bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton as she is installed on October 5.

+For those in our congregations engaged in high school and college sports. Give safety and success to all.

+For the women and men in our armed forces serving around the world.

**+Thomas A. Skrenes,
Bishop**