

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for December 16, 2013

~ THE ADVENT 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”

“It is not as though Jesus came to give a lecture on God. He came to die and be nevertheless raised...He moves into our lives to do things.”

--Gerhard Forde “Where God Meets Man”

Mark your

calendar! February 16-17.

**SCHEDULE FOR BISHOP ELIZABETH
EATON
IN THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
IN FEBRUARY
BETHANY ESCANABA/UNITED CRYSTAL
FALLS
WINTER THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE**

Bethany Lutheran Church in Escanaba will host a coffee reception honoring Bishop Eaton starting at 9:45 a.m. Eastern Time—Sunday, February 16th. Bishop Eaton will preach during Bethany's Sunday worship at 10:45 a.m. ET.

Forum and Reception: Sunday 1:30 p.m. Central Time – United Lutheran, Crystal Falls

The above are open to the public. All are welcome!

The Winter Theological Conference for Professional Leaders will feature ELCA Churchwide Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Attendance by registration for Clergy and LLM's.

VOICES FOR YOUTH NEEDS OUR HELP!

I have been informed by our friends at Lutheran Social Services that a very important ministry here in the synod is in special need during these winter months of 2013 and 2014. For the past twenty years, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Voices for Youth (VFY) Program has been providing comprehensive support services to at-risk, runaway, and homeless youth, ages 10-21, and their families. Presently, VFY delivers services to communities in Marquette, Alger, Delta, Dickinson, and Iron Counties in Michigan. VFY services have helped improve the lives of over 300 Upper Peninsula youth annually by assisting, teaching, and guiding them in making positive life choices leading to family reunification and maintaining constructive relationships, and helping them navigate the road to independence and self-sufficiency. **And now the problem!** The UP Voices for Youth program has been severely affected by the federal government sequester. Effectively this means that several months will go by before the government again renews their grant to the program. LSS is working to bridge the shortfall in support with donations and grants. To make this work for our ministry together, we need to provide about \$23,000 from local sources.

Can the Lutheran community make a difference? Can we rise up and support this social ministry, this ministry of mercy and hope? I fully realize that there are so many needs out there in our communities and in our churches. But we are a blessed people who can make a difference. I encourage the pastors and lay leaders of our congregations to write a check themselves to the synod for this work and then encourage others in your church to do the same. It is a cold winter! There are homeless young people who need Voices for Youth and we need to support it! Send your offering and gifts to the synod. Make the check out to the Northern Great Lakes Synod and designate it “Voices for Youth.” We worship a Lord Jesus who was once homeless himself.

IRS SETS MILEAGE RATES FOR 2014

The Internal Revenue Service has issued its optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. On January 1, 2014, the standard mileage rates for the use of a vehicle will be: 56 cents per mile for business miles driven; 23.5 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and 14 cents per mile driven in service of

charitable organizations The business, medical, and moving expense rates decrease one-half cent from the 2013 rates.

COMING

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 2014

Breaking the Mold
High school Gathering &
Youth Ministry Training

WHO: For 9 - 12th Graders AND their Adult Leaders

WHAT: A week-end retreat of fun and learning! Includes both Training for adults and Faith deepening activities for Youth, and good stuff for ALL!

WHERE: At Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, MI.

HOW MUCH: Only \$75, \$25 of which will be covered by a generous grant from the Northern Great Lakes Synod, for both adults and youth.

REGISTER: Go to www.fortunelake.org

Music, Games, Prayer, Small group discussion, Learning, Laughing, Coffee House Talent Show (bring your talent!)

, Worship, Brunch, Snacks, and SO MUCH MORE!!!!

?s call the Synod Office or email Pastor Katherine Finegan at

kfinegan@nglsynod.org

Marked!

**Marked! is an afternoon of service, learning, food and fun
for Confirmation Youth.**

Watch your mail for the details of a New Plan.

**You are encouraged to bring your Confirmation Youth to
one of the following Marked! Events:**

**March 16, 2014 at First,
Gladstone From 4:00 –
7:00pm**

**March 23, 2014 at Our
Redeemer, Newberry From 4:00 –
7:00pm**

**March 30, 2014 at United,
L'Anse From 4:00 –
7:00pm**

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

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

Coming to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp!!!!

March 7 - 8: Church Council Retreat.
Designed to help church councils evaluate
current ministries
and shape plans for the future.

Dawn Rundman will lead the sessions
and Jonathan Rundman will make music!
Dawn, currently an editor at Augsburg-
Fortress Press,
has a doctorate in psychology
and Jonathan is a nationally recognized
church musician.

Both have deep roots in our synod and are certain to both inspire and motivate your council.

(Cost is \$45-\$50 depending on lodging choice;

receive \$5 discount per person for a group of 5 or more from one congregation).

The new Stewardship Link on our website is up and running.

Check it out at www.nglsynod.org for resources and ideas.

Coming January 31 – February 2,

2014

The Clergy Spouse Retreat!

Go to www.nglsynod.org for
registration info.

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

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

- +For the homeless and the alone this season.
- +For Bishop Mary Froiland as she is installed in the South Central Synod of Wisconsin
- +For the sharing of the Advent-Christmas message that "Christ will come again."
- +For our families.
- +For those who await surgery and test results. Lord have mercy!

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes

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