

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for December 31, 2013

~ THE CHRISTMAS 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”

“Life-Affirming preaching is not political preaching or social-issue preaching. Its purpose is not to change laws or Christianize the nation. Its purpose is to proclaim Jesus Christ, to change hearts and save souls, to nourish and give hope and comfort to the saved...It moves us to make good decisions and to live holy lives. Life-Affirming preaching moves us to affirm life with our words and actions in the public square.”

--Pr. James Lamb

Lutherans for Life

**CALLING ALL ENDOWMENT AND
MEMORIAL COMMITTEES
HOW CAN WE HELP OUR
CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES GROW?**

In January, Pastor Larry Westfield from the ELCA Foundation will be our guest in this synod. Pastor Westfield serves the six synods of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan of our Church and assists congregations and individuals in gift planning and the development of endowment funds. He will be leading two meetings on two successive evenings to help our congregations as they develop and manage their Endowment and Memorial Funds. Pastor Westfield will discuss with you and others who attend, the many ways congregations can encourage members to support the ministry of the church in their estate plans. He is an expert on gift planning and the possibilities for ministry our congregations can take advantage of when they ask our members to remember the

work of God's Church in their estate planning. Bishop Skrenes will also be in attendance at these meetings. Think about attending either:

January 22nd, Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET at Bethel Lutheran in Ishpeming

January 23rd, Thursday evening from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET at First Lutheran in Gladstone

This meeting is for all interested leaders in our congregations: Council members as well as Endowment and Memorial Fund Committee persons. The questions to be answered at these meetings are: “How can our congregations help our members to be excellent stewards of the resources entrusted to their care? How can we grow our congregational endowments for service to God and His people?”

It's a Celebration!!!

WHO: COME! All are welcome to a celebration for Lutheran Campus Ministry!

WHAT: Lisa Johnson, the new Campus Minister at Northern Michigan University, will be installed during the worship service.

Johnson served as Associate Director of Program Operations at Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, a summer camp, conference and retreat center for the Nebraska Synod, ELCA. She graduated from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska with a Bachelor's Degree in Youth and Family Ministry/Human Services and minors in Religion and Philosophy. Johnson has spent time in Tanzania co-facilitating and participating in Peer Ministry. She also studied abroad and lived in Cuernavaca, Mexico and spent time in El Salvador as part of a program through Augsburg College focusing on Women, Gender and Social Change, and Liberation Theology. She enjoys the outdoors, being active and a good campfire. Lisa is from Albion, Nebraska. Her father is a teacher/head football coach and her mother is the school librarian. Lisa has one sister/brother-in-law and a new niece.

WHEN: Sunday, January 19th at 2:30 p.m. with worship at Messiah at 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: The processional will begin at the Peter White Lounge on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette, and end at Messiah Lutheran Church (305 W. Magnetic Street) for worship at 3:00 p.m. Clergy are invited to process. The color of the day is green. Following the service, we will join in a meal together at Messiah.

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

On Sunday, February 16th

Bethany Lutheran Church in

Escanaba:

9:45 a.m. Eastern

Time Coffee Reception

10:45 a.m. Eastern

Time Bishop Eaton preaching at Sunday Worship

United Lutheran Church in Crystal

Falls:

1:30 p.m. Central

Time Forum and Reception

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 rostered persons.

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.

TRANSITIONS

+God bless the people of **Faith Lutheran in Three Lakes, WI** as a new pastor has been called. Welcome to **Pastor-elect Kenneth Ranos** a recent graduate of Trinity Seminary in Columbus Ohio who was called by the congregation on December 22nd. His ordination is scheduled for February in Chicago. Pastor-elect Ranos will be married this coming Spring. God bless his ministry in our midst.

+Congratulations to new grandparents **Pastor Norman and Mary Peterson (Retired, Rhinelander)** whose son and daughter-in-law are the happy parents of baby Heath Charles

Peterson of Toronto, Canada. God bless this family.

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.

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

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 people of Southern Sudan that the civil war there may cease and peace prevail.**
- + For a new year full of opportunities to serve the Lord**

Jesus.

+ For generous hearts who may respond to the needs of the poor and struggling in our land and throughout the world.

+ For former Bishop James Justman and his family as well as the people of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin as they will soon seek a new bishop.

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes

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