

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

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E-Notes for January 31, 2014

* THE EPIPHANY 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”

“Faith in God means that we can take delight in our work and savor the meaning we find in it. Work can be a source of great joy, and achievement at work usually contributes to self-esteem. Through work we find a niche in society whereby we contribute, use, and develop our abilities. At the same time we are much more than our work, and we should not expect our work to lend more meaning to life than any created reality can.”

--Pastor Marc Kolden “Work and Meaning”

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD— GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING

The power of the resurrection is the always new spirit blowing through our communities. We are made new each day through the gift of life in our baptism—what a privilege to be a member of God's Church. God does great things! Our Northern Great Lakes Synod continues to be a gift to the whole Church of Jesus and to the world which God has created. The prayers, the energy and the financial support of the ministries of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are an example of how God can work in us. We have turned a corner, there is a new wind blowing and it is now time to recommit ourselves to the work we do together in the name of the Crucified one.

It is important and exciting to know that: +The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America sends **missionaries** with the Gospel of Christ throughout the whole world. We are serving God's people around the globe and they are helping us see the face of Jesus in very different ways!

+Seminaries are training the **next generation of pastors!** Church Colleges, campus ministries at our state universities and bible camps are building lives for Jesus.

+Forty **new congregations** will be organized in the next year throughout the United States with your financial and prayer support.

+Our **synod office supports your work** with youth, stewardship and

outreach programs as well as clergy searches and administrative assistance.

Please pray about your 2014 commitment as a congregation to the financial work of the whole church. I have given your congregation a goal that is possible for your congregation—Can you attain? Certainly every congregation can raise their level of support in some way! Let's do this ministry together with enthusiasm and hope in the promise that God makes all things new—even us, even now!

**You are invited to welcome the
Presiding ELCA Bishop
MARK YOUR CALENDAR! February
16-17.**

**Schedule for Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
IN THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD**

BETHANY ESCANABA/UNITED CRYSTAL

FALLS

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!**

WINTER THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

**The Winter Theological Conference for Professional Leaders will
feature ELCA Churchwide Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
Attendance by registration for rostered persons.**

**The Following WORSHIP HELPS are Available
on the ELCA WEBSITE
For EVERY WEEK OF THE CHURCH
YEAR www.elca.org**

“Sunday February 2 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Readings

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15 (1)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart.

Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia. (Matt. 5:12)

Color: Green

Or

Sunday February 2

Presentation of Our Lord

Readings

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 84 (1) or Psalm 24:7-10 (7)

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. My eyes have seen | your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence | of all peoples. Alleluia.
(Luke 2:30-31)

Color: White

Mon – February 3 Ruth 1:1-18 Philemon 1-25 Psalm 37:1-17
Tue – February 4 Ruth 2:1-16 James 5:1-6 Psalm 37:1-17
Wed – February 5 Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22 Luke 6:17-26 Psalm 37:1-17
Thu – February 6 Deuteronomy 4:1-14 1 John 5:1-5 Psalm 112:1-9[10]
Fri – February 7 Isaiah 29:1-12 James 3:13-18 Psalm 112:1-9[10]”

Breaking the Mold High School Gathering and Youth Ministry Training Retreat Feb. 28 - March 2, 2014

- For 9th - 12th graders and the adults/pastors/volunteers who work with them.
- At Fortune Lake, registration at 6:00pm CT Friday Feb. 28. Eat supper before coming.
- Cost: Only \$75 for adult/youth participant,
 - \$25 of which will be covered by a generous grant

from the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

- Includes snacks, meals, programming, fun, games, worship, music, talent show
- Register online at fortunelake.org by Feb. 25.
- Questions? Call Fortune Lake or the Synod Office at 906-228-2300
- Bring outdoor shoes/boots and indoor shoes/slippers 😊

CHOIR ROBES AVAILABLE

Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming has used choir robes if anyone is interested in them.

Please contact Bethel, Ishpeming at 906/485-5533 for more information.

To Equip the Church Council:

Check out the following link

for 10 - 10minute webinars meant to teach Church Councils how to lead.

<http://waytolead.org/resource/lead-10-minute->

[toolbox/](#)

Marked!

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

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

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

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

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

**YOUR CONGREGATION SHOULD BE
COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- Large bars of bath soap
- Fingernail clippers
- Bath sized and hand sized towels

- **Combs**
- **Toothbrushes and toothpaste**
- **Deodorant and shampoo**

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.

Mark Your Calendars!

Synod Assembly will be May 18-19, 2014 (Sunday afternoon – Monday)

at Northern Michigan University and Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, MI.

Many congregations select their voters at their annual meetings, so take a prayerful moment to decide if you might be interested in attending the assembly as a voter or visitor.

More details about the Assembly will be available online soon.

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

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR BIBLE CAMP

The Annual Meeting of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp will be Sunday April 6.

Please email the names and email addresses
of delegates to
officemanager@fortunelake.org as soon as
they are selected.

Rostered Leaders Reports and
Congregational Parochial Reports (Forms A
& C)

are available at www.elca.org.

If you need help finding them, please contact the
Synod Office for directions!

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

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

- + The people of Syria who have endured a terrible war. We pray for all people of Syria but especially for the persecuted Christian minorities of the ancient eastern churches.**
- + Our congregations as many prepare for annual meetings and complete year-end reports.**
- +For the young people of our area who are seeking to build their lives and families. May Christ Jesus be a center of that home and family.**
- +For the work of the ELCA in our land as new mission starts are created.**
- +For our pastors.**

-Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop