

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for May 30, 2014

EASTER SEASON

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“A compelling vision tells people who they are, whose they are, where they are going, and what will guide their journey.”

--Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges, “Lead Like Jesus,” p. 115.

E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PASTOR KATHERINE FINEGAN IS ON A MISSION TO AFRICA!

On June 9th, Pastor Katherine Finegan, Assistant to the Bishop, her husband David and her brother Dr. Stephen Volz will begin travel to Tanzania. They will spend two weeks visiting our companion synod, the Eastern and Coastal Diocese in Dar es Salaam. This “safari” to East Africa is the latest in a twenty year connection between the people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. While in Tanzania, Pastor Finegan and her group will visit our Lutheran institutions including the Kisarawe School which our synod has been instrumental in establishing. Also, Pastor Finegan will lead a retreat for women clergy. Please pray that this visit will be an important growing experience for our church to church

relationship as well as a safe and healthy trip.

WRITE THIS DOWN!!
**Festival of Congregational
Renewal**
Coming October 10 – 11,
2014
at Messiah, Marquette

Only \$10 a person or \$50 per congregation.
Bring a team of folks and attend as many workshops as
possible.

Workshops in the works:

~Constitutional
Review ~Banner Making

~Detroit Youth
 Gathering ~Mercy Ministries
 ~Practice
 Discipleship ~Better Bulletins
 ~Welcoming
 Worship ~Endowment Planning
 ~Using a Screen in
 Worship ~Afterschool Programs

Friday October 10

6:30pm	R
egistration	
7:00pm	O
pening Worship	
8:00pm	Ke
ynote	
8:30pm	Recep
tion	

Saturday October

11, 2014

8:30am	Coffe
e & Registration	
9:00am	W
orkshops	
12noon	Lunc

h
1:00pm W
orkshops
3:00pm Closin
g prayer

Register between **August 1st - October 3rd**
at www.nglsynod.org and be prepared to use paypal.
Hotel accommodations on your own.

HAND WRINGERS NOT!

“We are not called by God not to be “hand wringers,” nor are we to play “Chicken Little,” telling ourselves and all creation that the end of the Church is near. Woe is not us, the sky is not falling. Our calling is not to second guess God or pretend that we have all the answers. Our work, our responsibility, our mission is to tell that holy story of welcome, to baptize the new Christians, to lift up the bread, to share the cup, to heal the sick, to visit the prisoner, to

proclaim freedom, to welcome the stranger, to reconcile the haters, to teach the adults, to play with the children, to forgive sins, to proclaim God's freedom and to witness to the empty tomb. It is our common, magnificent, omnipresent, heresy to confuse our own desires and actions with God's will. We do not know the mind of God except as it has been revealed to us in the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, and in the person of Jesus. Can we witness to the truth, that this institution, this Church, though blessed by God on earth, is not perfect?

-From the Sermon at Synod Assembly May 19, 2014

Rise Up Together: Detroit 2015

Plans are well underway for the Youth

Gathering in Detroit

July 15-19, 2015.

Your church should have received a poster and a DVD. Please use these materials to generate enthusiasm and commitment among your leaders and young people.

Some dates to remember:

- **May 15:** Applications available to be a part of the Gathering Volunteer Corp, \$75 fee. \$250 of travel costs covered. The registration fee is covered. Must be out of high school at least one year and be

at least 19 years old.

- **May 15:** Congregations can apply for Financial Aid at www.elca.org/gathering. This application time will end July 15, or when funds are depleted.
- **September 15:** Registration soft opening. Leaders may enter data.
- **October 15:** Website goes live. Primary leaders can submit registrations.
- **January 15, 2015:** Registration fee increases \$50, from \$325 to \$375.
- Places to find more information:
 - www.gatheringleaks.com

- www.elca.org/gathering
- Facebook page ELCA Youth Gathering
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=285650866539>.

If your church is interested in riding a Synod Bus to the Gathering (leave on Tuesday July 14, return Sunday July 19, 2015) please call the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 or email Rev. Katherine Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org. She is the NGLS Gathering Synod Coordinator and Synod Day Director. If she doesn't know the answer to your question, she'll direct you to someone who will. The cost of the bus will be split between those who ride it. The Synod will provide T-shirts for all NGLS participants for our Synod Day. It's all very exciting!!! Don't miss this incredible opportunity for a faith-deepening, group building, justice proclaiming, fellowship gushing and love overflowing event!

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

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OUR FORTUNE LAKE BIBLE CAMP CRYSTAL FALLS, MICHIGAN

Summer theme is "What Time is It? God's Time!"

There's still time to register for camp! Visit fortunelake.org or phone 906-876-3697.

**“LORD , TEACH US TO
PRAY...”**

Evangelism Retreat, Prayer Workshop

Friday August 22 – Saturday August 23, 2014
Bethel Lutheran Church
Cedarville, Michigan

See the synod website for the brochure!

www.nglsynod.org

Go to “The Northern Great Lakes Synod” page
and “like” us. 😊

TRANSITIONS

+Giving thanks to Almighty God for the life of George Stephenson, husband of Pastor LaVonne Stephenson, who died on May 28th at his home in Newberry, Michigan. We thank God for George’s life and pray for Pastor LaVonne and their family in this time of loss. “O God our Help in ages past.”

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

+In thanksgiving for the Successful Synod Assembly that met earlier in the month in Marquette.

+For those graduating this spring from schools across our world. And in thanksgiving for those who teach and lead our schools.

+For those who are disabled and for those who assist them in their day to day lives.

+For the people of Southern Sudan, Congo, Ukraine, Syria. Bless them with peace!

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop