

**NORTHERN GREAT LAKES
SYNOD
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America
Marquette, Michigan**

npls@nplsynod.org

E-Notes for December 30, 2011

CHRISTMAS

A twice monthly electronic newsletter from the Northern Great Lakes Synod

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**“In the Gospels, Jesus is the bearer of forgiveness, but forgiveness is not the only word on his lips. Jesus calls for obedience. He asks for discipleship.”
--Martin Marty, “The Lord’s Supper” p. 67.**

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**MEN IN MISSION - BREAKFAST
IN RHINELANDER**

*Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast Meeting
January 14, 2012 - 8:00 a.m. CT - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rhineland*

Just as Philip invited Nathanael in John 1:46, Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) invites men to ***Come and See*** Jesus Christ! LMM's vision is for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation. As part of this relationship, we are **Called** to walk with Christ, be **Equipped** to live like Christ and **Sent** to work for Christ.

On Saturday, January 14, Lon Buss, LMM Region 5 Director, will share information from LMM about resources, events and ideas for congregations regarding their ministry with men and helping them have a closer walk with Christ. There will be an opportunity to share ideas from congregations and discuss the potential for multi-congregational activities and raising the awareness of LMM's ministry in the area and Synod.

The meeting will start at 8:00 a.m. with a breakfast hosted by the men at Immanuel Lutheran Church, located at 21 W. Timber Drive, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501. To help with planning, please call Pastor Norm Peterson at 715 362-5910.

If you are unable to attend, or would like more information about LMM sooner, please contact Lon at londebbuss@charter.net or [608 516-7875](tel:6085167875). You can also go to www.lutheranmen.org for information about LMM and/or One Year to Live Retreats in WI in 2012.

BULLETINS-NEWSLETTERS-ANNUAL REPORTS-CONGREGATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

ATTENTION CHURCH SECRETARIES AND PASTORS

+2012 Bishop's Report for congregational Annual meetings is now available on line at the Synod website nglsynod.org. Please print it in your reports for your Annual meeting.

+Please review your congregational bulletins and newsletters. Some of our congregations do not indicate that they are a member of the ELCA or this Synod. I suggest that every bulletin or newsletter include: “_____ Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and its Northern Great Lakes Synod.”

+Is your website up to date? Does your answering machine at the church still indicate Christmas Eve worship times? A quick review of many of our congregational websites tells that many are not current.

+Audit Information and Best Practices for congregational year-end work is available on the ELCA website.

IRS REIMBURSEMENT OF MILEAGE FOR 2012

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2012 rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2012, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 55.5 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 23 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The rate for business miles driven is unchanged from the mid-year adjustment that became effective on July 1, 2011. The medical and moving rate has been reduced by 0.5 cents per mile.

**STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION - FOR 2012 NOW
AVAILABLE**

Stories of Faith in Action is a free resource full of dynamic stories of how God is changing lives around the world through the mission and ministry of the ELCA. You'll also find information on Mission Support (the financial contributions given by synods and congregations to fund churchwide ministries), including budget numbers, and more. This is a very useful resource for the Epiphany season and for congregational meetings. To order your free copy of Stories of Faith in Action, call 800-638-3522 or order online at www.elca.org/resources. Ask for **ELCAMA1008**. The resource is free; you only pay for shipping.

PASTORAL CHANGES

Seven of our congregations are now deep in the process to call their next pastor! In this Synod, the congregations "Call" a pastor after recommendation by a Call committee and nomination by the Bishop. The interview process is a way the Holy Spirit helps us all to discern God's will. In this Church, a pastoral candidate must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote by both a Congregational Meeting and a Call Committee. While December-January is usually a slower month for clergy mobility, this year a number of our congregations are interviewing and asking God's will for their futures. In the pastoral interview process are: Bethel, Menominee; Gloria Dei, Hancock; Bethany, Norway and Calvary, Quinnesec; Bethel, Cedarville and Zion, Allenville; and Our Redeemer in Newberry. Please pray for these congregations and for those who may serve in those communities as pastors. Pray for the Call Committees and all leaders in this time of transition.

PEACE AND JUSTICE ----CHECK THIS OUT!

Looking for a 2012 Lenten calendar that can be used individually or for groups? The **Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin** is offering a Lenten calendar that focuses on peace and justice themes, and highlights the important work being done in every corner of the world by Lutheran Christians. The

calendar includes daily activities and devotions, as well as suggestions for season-long discipleship. Copies of the calendar will be available on our website (www.loppw.org), distributed via the listserve, or by contacting Amy Johnson at ajohnson@loppw.org / [608-270-0201](tel:608-270-0201) for paper copies.

PLANNING FOR 2012 MARKED! Events for Confirmation Classes

***Sunday, April 22 at Our Savior's Lutheran
Church, Marinette, WI
and
Sunday, April 29 at First Lutheran, Iron
River, MI***

For more information click on:

<http://nqlsynod.org/pdfs/Marked2012.pdf>

Save the date...July 9-13, 2012

L.I.F.T. (Living In Faith Together)

Formerly Leadership School

This is a leadership building, faith-filled week for all high school students at Finlandia University.

Please pass along this information with the young people in your congregation!

Registration material will be available after Jan. 1.

PRAYERS

+ Please pray for those who end this year underemployed or unemployed. For those who are ill or struggling. For the discouraged we intercede.

+For the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its people. May we face the New Year in quiet confidence in the Word of God.

+For our sisters and brothers in Tanzania who face flooding and natural disaster. For the work of the Church there we pray.

+We give thanks for the beauty of this area, for the gift to all of us who live in the Northwoods of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula.

+Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop

tskrenes@nglsynod.org

Synod Website: nglsynod.org

ELCA Website: elca.org

If you would like an email address added to this twice monthly electronic newsletter, please respond to this email and we would be happy to add additional emails from you congregation.

