We are tithers in our house! “Tithe” is an old fashioned, even archaic word. It is a concept not used much in our lives. Tithing means that we give a minimum of ten percent of our family income to God’s work. It is our practice today, but Luanne and I have not always been tithers.

I started out being a tither for the wrong reason. When I became a pastor thirty-two years ago, I said to myself, “Well, now that I am a member of the clergy roster, I should adopt the party line. After all tithing was expected—so be it. I will do it.” For legalistic reasons tithing was begun in the Skrenes home. Tithing was a law to me. But then a miracle happened. God turned what was law into Gospel. Soon writing that check each month to the church became a happy experience for us. It became a joy! God turned what was law and tedium and duty into a blessing. Giving became fun!

Most of you have heard a hundred stewardship sermons. Many of you have gone to countless stewardship meetings, participated in commitment Sundays, written out many a pledge form or estimate of giving. When most of us think of stewardship, the concept of “joy” does not come first to our consciousness. Words like “duty, responsibility, challenge” seem to dominate the stewardship conversation. Not for me. Giving is a joy!
Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes (continued)

I do not know your circumstance. I do not know what financial responsibilities you have. And I would never tell you what you should be giving away to the Lord’s work. I only know this. I am so happy that in God’s wisdom, I have been called to a life of service to the cross of Jesus. I only know the joy that comes from being a disciple of Jesus Christ. I know only Christ and Him crucified. And I know the joy that giving in response to what God has given me is all about.

Two years ago my mother-in-law was carried to her grave by her nine grandchildren. My four boys along with their five cousins brought grandma to her final resting place. After the service I said to one of my sons, “Thank you for being a part of this today.” He stopped me in mid-sentence and said, “No dad, it was a joy and a privilege.”

May we all learn the joy of giving. May we learn the privilege of serving God and God’s people. May we smile as we give knowing that God first loved us.

**COMING THURSDAY DECEMBER 6:**

**DAY OF THEOLOGY ON CHRISTIAN UNITY:**

**LUTHERAN -- CATHOLIC DIALOGUE EVENT**

**AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MARQUETTE**

Lutheran, Roman Catholic, United Methodist and Episcopalian clergy and lay people are invited to a day of discussion and worship. We will gather on the Festival of St. Nicholas at Messiah Lutheran in Marquette, Michigan on Thursday December 6th. Our focus will be the most recent report of the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogues: “The Hope of Eternal Life.”

Our guests for December 6th in Marquette will be:

Bishop Richard Sklba,  
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee

Rev. Lowell G. Almen,  
Former Secretary of the ELCA

Bishop Sklba and Pastor Almen served as Chairs of this most recent round of Dialogues. The theme of the day is the theme of the XI Round: “The Hope of Eternal Life.”
BISHOP THOMAS A. SKRENES (CONTINUED)

December 6 - Dialogue Event Schedule:  (All Times Eastern)

9:30  A.M.   Refreshments
10:00  A.M.   Presentations: Pastor Almen and Bishop Sklba
NOON   Luncheon  ($10 per person)
1:30-3:30 P.M.  Short Presentations and Panel geared for lay and other interested persons:
                “How do we move forward?”
6:30  P.M.   Prayer Service and Reception at Messiah Church.
              Roman Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal and Lutheran judicatory leaders will be
              leading our worship.

The Lutheran Church, Roman Catholic Diocese, Episcopal Diocese, and Methodist Church warmly
invite all clergy and interested lay people to this day of theology.

TANZANIA PRAYERS
AND HOPES

We have received word that tensions between the Muslim and Christian communities in Dar es Salaam Tanzania boiled over recently. A civil disturbance resulted in the destruction of five Christian churches in the city. One of our Lutheran Church buildings was destroyed. Mbagala Lutheran in Dar es Salaam, the companion congregation of Immanuel Lutheran in Rhinelander was severely damaged.

Cooler heads have prevailed thanks to the excellent leadership of the Muslim president of Tanzania and the Christian bishops and other religious leaders. I wrote our friend, Bishop Alex Malasusa a letter recently reminding him and our brothers and sisters in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of our support and affection. In part I wrote:

“It is important that I share with you bishop, word of our sincere prayers for you and for your diocese, church and nation. We grieve with you the shameful destruction of property of the Christian community in Dar es Salaam and elsewhere in your nation. Our synod, our congregations, our people deplore with you and our brother bishops the actions of those who take the law into their own hands and threaten the peace of the nation.
In my many visits to your beautiful country, I see again and again the warm and friendly people living in all parts of Tanzania. I have experienced the hospitality of the Christian community and I have felt the genuine affection you have for God’s people throughout the world. We know how much you love all people, including those of different faith communities. Dear brother bishop, we in the Northern Great Lakes Synod stand with you as you seek reconciliation. We applaud your repeated attempts to build bridges between religions. We give thanks to God for your patience and positive attitude as you face the reality that exists in the community. We pray for your success.

Your sisters and brothers in your companion synod wish to assist you. We in the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the whole Evangelical Lutheran Church in America pledge our prayers. St Paul reminds us all in his 2nd letter to the church at Corinth: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ…our hope for you is unshaken.”

NORTHLAND LUTHERAN RETIREMENT COMMUNITY MARINETTE, WISCONSIN SEEKS CEO/PRESIDENT

“Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, Inc., a multi-service long-term care retirement community in Northeastern Wisconsin, seeks candidates for the CEO/President position. Primary duties include oversight of all programs, including skilled care, rehabilitation, assisted living, home health care, subsidized and non-subsidized housing, group home, at-home services, and fund-raising. Extensive long-term care and business experience, ability to relate to member congregations, team leadership, and commitment to the mission of this ELCA related ministry are required. A Wisconsin Nursing Home Administrator’s license, or ability to obtain such, is a plus. Send resume to The Search Committee, Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, 831 Pine Beach Road, Marinette, WI 54143 or email to michk@northlandlutheran.org.”

TRANSITIONS

+THANK YOU PASTORS JON AND JEAN SCHMIDT. After a great career in the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Pastors Jon and Jean Schmidt have been called to Our Savior Lutheran Church in West Salem, Wisconsin. Pastor Jon has served at First in Gladstone, Faith in Three Lakes and Immanuel in Negaunee. Pastor Jean has served as pastor at Bethany in Perkins. We will miss them both! Pastor Jon served three terms as Synod secretary, and has been our synod representative on the Board of Directors at Wartburg Seminary. He also is
Dean of our Lay School for Mission. Pastor Jean is the driving force behind our Pray Faithfully website and has been on our synod council. Both pastors served on many synod committees. They will be leaving Gladstone in mid-December. We are very thankful to God for the work and witness of the Pastors Schmidt in our synod. God bless their future!

+God bless and thank you to Pastor Gerald Anderson who recently retired at Sharon Lutheran in Bessemer. He and his wife Susan will soon be moving to the Rhinelander, Wisconsin area. Pastor Anderson served for six years at Sharon after coming to us from the Southern Ohio Synod. Pastor Anderson and Susan have both served this synod in leadership on the synod council. Susan has been our synod assembly parliamentarian for a number of years.

+Congratulations to a number of our congregations who are receiving new pastoral leadership! Grace in South Range and First in Dollar Bay will soon welcome Pastor Sally Wilke. Pastor Wilke who is a recent seminary graduate, was ordained in her home congregation Lord of the Lakes in Winneconne, Wisconsin. The Christ Parish of Ironwood (St. Paul’s, Salem, St. John’s And Zion) will soon have two new pastors. God bless Pastors Mary Beth and Kurt Kovanen who begin their work at Christmas time. They previously had served in this synod in Shingleton and Munising.

+God bless Kay Johnson as she retires from our synod office. Office manager here for eight years, she now joins her husband Peter in retirement. Thank you Kay for all you have been and done. We will miss your warm smile and gracious presence!

+There are changes afoot in many of our ministry sites. Northland Lutheran Retirement Community in Marinette is in the search process for a new Chief Executive Officer as pastor Ken Michaelis announces his retirement in early 2013. Emanuel Lutheran in Skandia and Bethany in Negaunee are working towards shared ministry where they will be served soon by the same pastor. Faith in Rock and First in Trenary are moving towards a similar arrangement. Our campus ministry at Northern Michigan University in Marquette is restructuring and will over the next months be studying its future. Pastor Dean Peterson will at the end of this year retire again, this time from his part-time work at Bay College doing ecumenical ministry on the Escanaba campus. Thank you Pastor Peterson for this important work.

+Prayers are requested for Pastor John West who suffered a severe stroke recently. He is having therapy at the Mather Nursing Center, 435 Stoneville Road in Ishpeming. Your card or note of encouragement would be appreciated.

+God bless Pastor David Christenson who is recovering from surgery. His hip replacement surgery and his therapy is going well. May he have a full recovery.

+Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop
tskrenes@nglsynod.org
Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!
~ELW #240, vs. 4

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If Advent was a moment at a dinner party, it would be that space of time between when everything is ready and you are watching and waiting for the guests to arrive.

If Advent was a moment during the church service, it would be that expectant but brief stretch of seconds between when the preacher enters the pulpit and the first words of the sermon are spoken to the congregation.

Advent is the pregnancy before the birth. It is the airborne baseball that is about to soar out of the park. It is the football spinning through space rocketing toward the wide open player. Advent is expectation and hope. It is anticipation and the tension of the in-between space where we wait for what is to come.

But we’re not very good at waiting. Fast food is fast because people do not have time to wait. We have drive through hamburgers, drive through banks, and drive through coffee. Time is money, money is time, and the savvy business owner caters to the consumer who’s in a perpetual hurry. We demand and are used to instant gratification. From doctor’s offices to high speed internet, to test results, to the self-checkout lane at the store, we do not like to wait.

More than a few years back, there was a ketchup commercial. Carly Simon sang “anticipation” while the ketchup bottle tipped and a child waited for the slow moving tomato condiment to work its way to the tip of the bottle. We watched as, with agonizing slowness, the ketchup gathered into the shape of a drop at the end of the bottle, as the drop built up in volume, and finally, finally reached a weight that pulled the drop away from the bottle to land on the waiting hamburger.

Advent invites a similar stretch of the moment. We live in the tension of the now and the waiting for what is to come, knowing that it is coming, and still, it is not here yet. But to rush through this space is to miss the glory of the suspense, the wonderful tension of mystery, the hanging on the edge of the moment.

Advent is when we live in sweet anticipation of all the goodness that comes when God’s presence is known in our midst.

So together we wait for our Lord Jesus to be our guest and we watch for his coming.

Together we wait for God to speak the Word Christ into our lives, and then together we will sing -

Joy to the World, the Lord is come,
let earth receive its king.
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav’n and nature sing!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Katherine
Pastoral Vacancies and Interims

Full-time
Holy Trinity, Chassell - Pastor Chuck Fluegel
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner - Pastor Devon Barrix
Faith, Three Lakes - Pastor Tom Lee
Good Shepherd, Peshtigo - Pastor Jim Wendt
Sharon, Bessemer - Pastor Fran Strong
First, Gladstone - Pastor Peggy Rose
Ascension, Minocqua - Associate Pastor

Part-time
Bethany, Negaunee (Pastor Marcia Solberg) & Emanuel, Skandia (Pastor Jim Duehring)
St. Mark’s, Marquette - Pastor Bill Payne
Faith, Rock & First, Trenary - Pastor Erik Heskin
Holy Cross, Baraga - Pastor John Autio
Bethany, Perkins - Pastor Erik Heskin

“...but be filled with the Spirit ...giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:186,20)

Mission Support receipts in October were extremely low, bringing both our calendar year and
fiscal year giving totals below those of 2011. Your timely remittance of these gifts is deeply appre-
ciated as the Synod works to honor the mission commitments we have made. Designated gifts are
higher in 2012 due primarily to gifts for Seminarian Support and the Tanzania Dental Mission. We
give thanks to God for all these gifts!

Please read these closing dates:

January 11, 2013 - Last day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that
2012 benevolence gifts are credited to 2012.

February 11, 2013 - Last day for checks to arrive in the Synod Office so that
January 2013 gifts can be credited to the Synod’s fiscal year.

- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of 10/31</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledged Amount</td>
<td>823,634</td>
<td>822,074</td>
<td>- 1,560</td>
<td>- .1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Received</td>
<td>636,693</td>
<td>632,713</td>
<td>- 3,980</td>
<td>- .6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Gifts</td>
<td>176,360</td>
<td>191,330</td>
<td>+ 14,970</td>
<td>+ 8.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR  
DECEMBER 2012 / JANUARY 2013  
www.prayfaithfully.org

Dec. 2-8 / Pastor Peter Andersen, Messiah, Marquette
Dec. 9-15 / Pastor John Kuziej, Pioneer Lake, Conover
Dec. 16-22 / Jeannette Kuziej, Pioneer Lake, Conover
Dec. 23-29 / Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes, NGL Synod Office
Dec. 30-Jan. 5 / Pastor Katherine Finegan, NGL Synod Office
Jan. 6-12 / Members of Christ the King, Escanaba
Jan. 13-19 / Members of First, Iron River
Jan. 20-26 / Members of First, Iron River
Jan. 27-Feb. 2 / Pastor Kristin Rice, Northern Lights Lutheran Parish
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2012

December 1 / Bi-Synodical Candidacy meeting in Appleton, WI

December 4 / Advent Gathering for Retired Clergy and Spouses at Calvary, Rapid River beginning at 11:30 a.m. ET

December 5 / Executive Committee meeting at Larry Pagel’s home starting at Noon ET

December 6 / Day of Theology on Christian Unity at Messiah, Marquette starting at 9:30 a.m. ET with refreshments, Presentation at 10 a.m. ET

December 8 / Transformational Ministry meets at First, Gladstone starting at 10:00 a.m. ET

December 21-25 / Synod Office is closed

December 31 / Synod Office closed

January 2013

January 1 / Synod Office closed

January 6 / Epiphany

January 8 / Synod Assembly Planning Committee meets at the Synod Office at 11 a.m. ET

January 11 / Calendar Year closes - Last day for checks to arrive in Synod Office so that 2012 benevolence gifts are credited to 2012!

January 11-12 / Synod Council meets at Immanuel, Negaunee starting at 4:00 p.m. ET

January 16 / Worship Committee meets at the Synod Office at 10:30 a.m. ET

January 26 / Northern Great Lakes Synod Men in Mission Breakfast at Calvary, Minocqua at 8:00 a.m. CT

Merry Christmas!
Building Men for Christ

WORKSHOP

A one-day workshop to help church leaders develop a life-changing men's ministry for their congregation.

Saturday, February 9, 2013
8:30 am to 5 pm

First Lutheran Church
1212 Minneapolis Avenue
Gladstone, MI 49837


Workshop Resources:

No Man Left Behind
A model for a thriving disciple-making ministry for every man in your church.

Coming of Age
Exploring the spirituality and identity of younger men.
Building Men for Christ Workshop Frequently Asked Questions

Why should you attend this Workshop?

- Most congregations have fewer men in Sunday worship than women – sometimes by a 2-1 ratio.
- Young men are the most absent demographic group in our churches.
- Many congregations keep trying the same “programs” to get men involved with no avail.
- Building Men for Christ is a one day team building workshop that will provide tools to prepare a Mission/Vision statement, an initial action plan and the strategies to capture and sustain momentum with the men of the congregation.

Who should attend?

- Men with a passion to help other men have a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.
- The best results are when a team of congregation leaders and staff (male or female) attend with the Pastor (male or female). Pastoral awareness and team participation are essential elements of any effort aimed at bringing change into the congregation.
- Because LMM recognizes the Pastor is a key member of the team, when two or more register from the congregation, the pastor receives a free registration.

How can I sign up?

- Registration Flyer available at www.lutheranmen.org Events/Building Men for Christ Workshop page.
- Registration fee varies by location. Fee ranges between $50-75.
- A limited number of scholarships are available, provided registration is submitted with a written supporting statement of need.

What else will I get?

- The Building Men for Christ is a workshop developed as part of the leadership training resources of the Lutheran Men in Mission. The workshop is taught by experienced presenters from the Lutheran Men in Mission Board and staff.
- Each registrant will receive:
  - the Patrick Morley, et. al. book, No Man Left Behind, and
  - the Roland Martinson, Paul Hill, et. al. book Coming of Age,
  - the Workshop participant workbook.
- Lunch is included in the registration fee.
- Most importantly – you will get the tools and support to begin, or enhance a life changing men’s ministry in your congregation.

How do I get more information?

Look for contact information on Registration Flyer available at www.lutheranmen.org Events/Building Men for Christ Workshop page.
Lutheran Men in Mission
Breakfast Meeting

January 26, 2013    8:00 AM CT

Calvary Lutheran Church, Minocqua WI

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 26, Lon Buss, Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) Region 5 Board 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 am CT with a continental breakfast hosted by the men at Calvary Lutheran Church, located at 8632 Hwy. 51, Minocqua, WI. 54548. The church is located across from Paul Bunyan Restaurant on Hwy. 51, between Minocqua and Woodruff.

If you plan to attend, please contact Chuck Dube, dubelc@newnorth.net, or call 715-277-4233 by January 22. 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. You can also go to www.lutheranmen.org for information about LMM and/or One Year to Live Retreats in WI in 2013.
Thank You for Your Gifts!

**ELCA Disaster Funds**  
Prince of Peace, Eagle River  
Immanuel, Negaunee  
First, Iron River  
Sharon, Bessemer  
Bethany, Amasa  
Salem, Ironwood  
Grace, South Range  
Mission United, Pelkie  
Bethel, Ishpeming  
Calvary, Rapid River  
Holy Trinity, Chassell  
Ascension, Minocqua

**ELCA 100 Wells Challenge**  
Pioneer Lake, Conover  
Bethany, Mohawk

**Endowment Fund/Answer the Call**  
Dave and Mary Lou Blomquist  
Mary Jurgensen  
Rev. James and Gisele Duehring  
Prince of Peace, Eagle River  
Gethsemane, Wallace  
David and Patricia Holli  
Rev. Douglas and Elaine Johnson  
All Saints, Wakefield

**Kisarawe**  
Rev. Robert and Deloris Langseth

**Lutheran Campus Ministry**  
Immanuel, Negaunee  
Calvary, Rapid River  
United, Crystal Falls  
Grace, Gwinn  
Zion, Manistique  
Mission United, Pelkie  
Our Redeemer, Newberry  
Bethlehem, Florence  
Bethel, Ishpeming

**Lutheran World Relief**  
Our Redeemer, Newberry  
Zion, Manistique  
Eden, Munising  
Prince of Peace, Marquette  
Calvary, Rapid River  
Bethel, Ishpeming  
Zion, Marinette  
Messiah, Marquette  
Salem, Ironwood

**Malaria Net Project**  
All Saints, Wakefield  
Bethany, Mohawk  
St. Paul's, Mass City  
Bethel, Ishpeming  
Ascension, Minocqua  
Bethany, Escanaba

**Mission Outreach**  
Immanuel, Escanaba

**Prison Ministries**  
Bethel, Ishpeming

**Seminarian Support**  
Bethany, Amasa  
Janice Brill  
Rev. Kevin Kaisel  
Our Redeemer, Newberry  
Bethel, Ishpeming  
Calvary, Minocqua

**Skogman Scholarship Fund**  
Rev. James and Laura Wendt

**Tanzanian Dental Mission**  
Jeanette Lawton  
Immanuel WELCA, Rhinelander  
Bethany WELCA, Norway  
Kenneth & Edna Mattson  
Melanie Mattson  
John and Mary Ann Sorby  
Ray and Andrea Anderson  
Karen Carter  
Elaine Berglin and Janice Freis  
Joyce and Vernon Lindquist  
Rev. Douglas and Marilyn Schoen  
Donald and Ivon Butman  
Barbara Anderson  
Bethany, Mohawk  
Tom and Joyce Dupras

**World Missionary Support**  
Bethel, Ishpeming  
Pioneer Lake, Conover  
Trinity, Rhinelander  
Mission United, Pelkie
# Prayer Calendar – December 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer Requests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Eugene Wickman</strong> and the members of <strong>Grace, Pembine</strong> as they celebrate <strong>8 years of ministry together</strong>. Pray also for the members of the <strong>Bi-Synodical Candidacy Committee</strong> and those who will be <strong>future leaders of our church</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Advent I</strong> – give thanks for the gift of faith, and ask for the renewal of the Holy Spirit in your life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor LaVonne Stephenson</strong> (on leave) as she celebrates her <strong>23rd anniversary of ordination</strong> this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Annual Retired Clergy Advent Gathering</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>Synod Executive Committee</strong> who meets this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for those presenting and those attending the <strong>Day of Theology Events</strong> at Messiah, Marquette. Pray also for <strong>Pastor Jean Schmidt</strong> and the members of <strong>Bethany, Perkins</strong> as they celebrate <strong>three years of ministry together</strong> this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Bethel, Frederick MD (pastor)</strong>, <strong>Community, Omar DE (Rev Elizabeth Wolinski)</strong>, <strong>Faith, Salisbury MD (Rev Theresa Langdon)</strong>, and <strong>Good Shepherd, Wilmington DE (Rev Kathleen Ierien)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for the members of the <strong>Transformational Ministry Team</strong> who meet this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Advent II</strong> – continue to walk in hope, as you move toward the manger, keeping your eyes on the child, the child who will fulfill that hope on the cross of Good Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of our deceased pastors</strong> – <strong>Nancy Kalweit and Valdora Otto</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Jonathan Schmidt</strong>, his <strong>wife Jean</strong> and <strong>daughter Rebecca</strong>, and the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>First, Gladstone</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for the members of <strong>Mtoni Lutheran Church (Rev Leah Mwankenja), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</strong> and their <strong>NGLS companion congregation Prince of Peace, Harvey (Rev Jim Duehring)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for the ministries of <strong>Lutheran Social Services</strong> in our synod – especially for those parents and children who become families through the adoption services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members of Grace, Hockessin DE (Rev Paul Lundmark), Hope, Middleborough MD (Rev Charlie Marshall), Luther Memorial, Baltimore MD (Rev Lois Nehmer), and New Hope, Columbia MD (Rev William Miller-Zurell)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>Synod Staff</strong>, our <strong>Synod Council</strong>, and the members of our <strong>Synod committees</strong> as they work tirelessly for all of us across the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the whole church.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Advent III</strong> – as you come closer to the manger at Bethlehem get ready to come face to face with the ultimate gift of love – the presence of God in Immanuel, “God with us!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>church choirs</strong> who share their gifts of music as they welcome the Christ Child these next days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Dave Johnson</strong>, his <strong>wife Katie</strong> and the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Faith, National Mine</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>Sunday School children</strong> who learn about God’s word each week and who anticipate the birth of baby Jesus in these next days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor John Kuziej</strong>, his <strong>wife Jeannette</strong>, and the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Pioneer Lake, Conover</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Bucky Beach</strong> (Good Shepherd, Houghton) as he celebrates his <strong>23rd anniversary of ordination</strong> this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Salem, Catonsville MD (Revs David Asendorf &amp; Timothy Jahn)</strong>, <strong>St John, Brooklyn MD (Rev Neil O’Farrell)</strong>, <strong>St John, Thurmont MD (Rev Susan Beck)</strong>, and <strong>St Mark, Hagerstown MD (Revs Stanley &amp; Stephanie Steele)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td><strong>Advent IV</strong> – as you take the final steps to the manger joyfully lift up prayers of thanks for the fulfillment of all of God’s promises in the Christ Child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray that this evening the light that shines in the darkness may shine again in and through you as you carry the wonder of this evening with you this day – and throughout the coming year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray this day that the Prince of Peace may stir the hearts of men and women the world over, that throughout the world, in our own country, our communities and our own homes love and care for each other may rule.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Dave Hueter</strong>, his <strong>wife Sandy</strong> and their <strong>family</strong>, and the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Zion, Manistique &amp; Bethany, Isabella</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>retired pastors and their spouses</strong> – <strong>Pastor Ingmar Levin and Pastor Thomas &amp; Ora Lindblad</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Bethany, Republic</strong> and <strong>Interim Pastor Doug Norquist</strong> as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>St Paul, Jefferson MD (Rev Katrina Holland)</strong>, <strong>St Paul, Aberdeen MD (Revs Neale Wirtanen &amp; Lisa Watson-Hill)</strong>, <strong>St Peter, Fullerton MD (Rev Lans Alexis)</strong>, and <strong>Trinity, Boonsboro MD (Rev Joe Donovan)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>men’s ministries</strong> in our synod – that they may take root in prayer and Bible study and grow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Offer a prayer of thanks for the opportunities and gifts of the past year – and for courage and insight as the year ahead unfolds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our partner synod relationship.”
**Prayer Calendar - January 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pray for</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pray that this <strong>new year</strong> may find you to be a faithful disciple of Jesus in all that you do. Ask for God’s gifts, guidance, and grace as you walk your path of life and faith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Bishop Tom Skrenes</strong> and his colleagues as they attend the <strong>Conference of Bishops</strong> these next days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Pastor Steve Gauger</strong>, his <strong>wife Peggy</strong>, and the <strong>members of Calvary, Rapid River</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>members of Bethel, North East MD (Rev Mark Crispell), Braddock &amp; St Paul, Burkittsville MD (Rev Kimberly Nunberg), and Grace English, Lutherville MD (Rev Veronica Webber).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>members of Maneromango Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Rev Prosper Melli) and their NGLS Companion congregation First, Ewen (Rev Tim Nyikako).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray that as the Magi brought gifts of great value to the newborn king, you too would be willing to share not what’s left over, but that which you hold of value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>retired pastors and their spouses</strong> – <strong>Pastor Norm &amp; Wenona Lund and Bishop Emeritus Dale &amp; Jo Skogman.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Pastor Peter Vorhes</strong>, his <strong>wife Liz</strong>, and the <strong>members of Faith, Calumet</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>members of Good Shepherd, Peshtigo, and Interim Pastor Jim Wendt</strong>, as they continue in the call process during a <strong>pastoral vacancy</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>staff and all who participate in events at Fortune Lake Camp.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>members of the Synod Council</strong> who meet these days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Community of St Dysmas, Baltimore MD (Rev Gerry Rickel), First, Ellicott City MD (Revs Eugene Kern &amp; Gigie Sijera-Grant), and Our Redeemer, Glen Burnie MD (Rev Alan Traher).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>As we celebrate the <strong>Baptism of our Lord</strong> remember that in your baptism, you are a child of God. You are claimed, held, nurtured and blessed by a good and loving God who sends you into the world to witness the love of Jesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Pastor Doug Johnson</strong>, his <strong>wife Elaine</strong>, and the members of Bethlehem, Florence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Pastor Elisabeth Zant (Eden, Munising)</strong> as she celebrates her 2nd <strong>anniversary of ordination</strong> this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>members of Bethany, Mohawk and Pastor Tim Johnston</strong> as they celebrate the <strong>105th anniversary of the congregation</strong> this day. Pray also for <strong>Pastor Erik Heskin</strong> and the <strong>members of Bethany, Escanaba</strong> as they celebrate 2 years of ministry together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Margaret Johnson</strong> (retired) as she celebrates her <strong>20th anniversary of ordination</strong> this day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>The <strong>Confession of St. Peter</strong> – this day begins the <strong>week of prayer for Christian unity</strong>. Pray that all who confess that which Peter confessed – that Jesus is the Messiah – may come together as partners in the work of the gospel!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for those who are involved with <strong>Campus Ministry Committee</strong> across our synod.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Immanuel, Manchester MD (Rev Matthew Schenning)</strong>, <strong>Salem, Jarrettsville MD (Rev Jeanne Larsen)</strong>, and <strong>St John, Westminster MD (Rev Kristin Dubsky)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>All Saints, Wakefield</strong> and <strong>Pastor Bill Jacobson</strong> as they celebrate the <strong>33rd anniversary as a merged congregation – Immanuel and First Lutheran, Wakefield</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of our deceased pastors</strong> – <strong>Jane Magnuson and Elizabeth Peterson</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Grace, Gwinn</strong> and <strong>Interim Pastor Rell Spickerman</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for our nation – and our world – that divisions of race, culture, and even faith may be overcome, not by power and violence, but by love and care for all of God’s children!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>The <strong>Conversion of St. Paul</strong> – this day as the <strong>week of prayer for Christian unity ends</strong>, pray that as Paul heard Jesus call him to faithful service, all of us may hear that call too and respond to God’s call for love and care for each other.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for those attending and those presenting at the <strong>Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast</strong> in Minocqua.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Keith Kolstad</strong>, his <strong>wife Karen</strong>, and the <strong>members of Zion, Marinette</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Stewardship Committees</strong> as ministries and budgets are planned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>St John, Columbia MD (Rev Brian Hughes)</strong>, <strong>St Mark, Hampstead MD (Rev George Tuttle)</strong>, <strong>St Paul, Upperco MD (Rev Melvina Stricklin)</strong>, and <strong>St Peter, Hampstead MD (pastor)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for those involved with <strong>Synod Assembly Planning</strong> as they prepare for assembly in May.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for congregations and pastors as mission and ministries are discussed during <strong>annual meetings</strong> these next weeks.</td>
</tr>
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