

NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 21, Issue 10

OCTOBER 2008

THINK BOLDLY - LIVE FAITHFULLY

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes

tskrenes@nglsynod.org



What is God up to in the Northeastern part of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan? Where are we being led? How can we follow in faith?

At the recent September Synod Council meeting, nearly two hours of discussion occurred on the future of our mission and ministry as a Synod. Responding to a Synod Council action at the May meeting and a resolution adopted by the 2008 Synod Assembly, your representatives on the Council asked important questions about our future, including:

- 1. How do we encourage more congregations to increase Synod mission support? Do we ask our congregations for a special appeal for unrestricted general benevolence?**
- 2. What staff is needed to carry out our Synod's mission, specifically: what is the level of executive staff needed by the Synod? (Assistant, Youth, Other) What is the level of support staff needed? (Office Manager, Secretary, Bookkeeper)**
- 3. What funding is needed for ministry with our rostered persons for personal support and professional development?**
- 4. Is the 53.5% Mission Support share with the Church-wide ELCA appropriate to our mission in this Synod? Should that percentage be changed to provide more**



1029 N. Third St., Ste. A

Marquette, MI 49855

906/ 228-2300

906/ 228-2527 fax

ngls@nglsynod.org

www.nglsynod.org

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THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)



resources for this Synod's ministries? Should we make formal recommendations to our ninety-four congregations about target mission support percentages for them to consider each year?

5. How can we engage the whole Synod in a discussion of our common mission and ministry? Do we develop a "Synod Dream Team" to dream and envision with us?

We are asking you to think about these questions. Be bold! Be creative! Offer your ideas - your hopes - your concerns. Pray about this. Your ideas are important, and your thoughts and suggestions will be taken seriously and considered by the Synod Council.

Please respond to the Synod Council by November 15. The Synod Executive Committee plans to meet after that date to form a plan for Synod Council action and, perhaps, Synod Assembly action in the new year. What are your thoughts? What is God up to here in our midst? Mail your responses or e-mail them to the Synod at nqls@nqlsynod.org

"Conferences are designed to be a place where lay leaders and pastors can express their thoughts about our mission as a church in their geographical areas."

YOUR CONFERENCE IS MEETING THIS FALL!

YOU ARE WELCOME

Every congregation in this Synod is organized into one of eight Conferences. Conferences are designed to be a place where lay leaders and pastors can express their thoughts about our mission as a church in their geographical areas. We also use the Conferences to elect leaders of our Synod, including two representatives to the Synod Council.

The complete schedule of conferences for the fall meetings follows. Consider attending! Ask your pastor about being a part of your Conference this year.

THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

Conference 1 - IGO: Sunday, October 19 at 3:00 p.m. ET, First in Ewen

Conference 2 - Copper Country: Sunday, October 19 at 2:00 p.m. ET, Mission United in Pelkie

Conference 3 - Headwaters: Sunday, November 2 at 1:00 p.m. CT, Trinity in Rhinelander

Conference 4 - Four Rivers: Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m. CT, First, Iron River

Conference 5 - Menominee: Monday, October 20 at 4:30 p.m. CT, Northland Village

Conference 6 - Delta: Sunday, October 26 at 4:00 p.m. ET, First, Gladstone

Conference 7 - Three Lakes: Sunday, October 5 at 4:00 p.m. ET, Trinity, Brevort

Conference 8 - Superior Central: Sunday, November 2 at 3:00 p.m. ET, Messiah, Marquette

Deadline for Your Response to Sexuality First Draft Near

November 1st is the deadline to respond to the Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality. I encourage all of you to read the document and to study it within our congregations. Your response is a very important part of the process of developing a social statement. After our ELCA members have had a chance to respond to this statement, the task force will then consider all comments and develop a proposed social statement, which is expected to be brought, through the ELCA Church Council, to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly for consideration. Pastor Cori Johnson, from our Synod, is a member of the ELCA Task Force.

I have completed my review of this First Draft. I am thankful to the Task Force for their hard work in this difficult area. There is much to be appreciated in this document. There is, however, parts of which need to be rewritten. The document is too long (50 pages) and the language of the statement is often not accessible to the non-college educated person. In many ways, it covers too many areas and subjects.

The statement needs to be stronger in its affirmation of marriage as a union of one man and one woman. And while the statement honestly recognizes that there is no consensus in the Church on same gender relationships, there is no portion of the document that highlights the fact that, for 2000 years, the Church has not recognized homosexual activity as God pleasing. The Church has indeed called it sinful. The proposed statement must be clearer, less ambiguous and more grounded in the Scriptures as both Law as well as Gospel. Use of Luther's Catechisms would be a helpful improvement to the document.

The Task Force has also been asked to make recommendations concerning the possible rostering of non-celibate homosexual persons as clergy of this Church. That recommendation will be made this coming February. I can see no theological justification for a change in our current practices that would be based upon anything in this Draft Social Statement.

You may read the Proposed Draft Statement and respond to it on line at www.elca.org

SYNOD

STATISTICIAN NEEDED

For five years, our Synod has been well served by David Eitland as Synod Statistician. With him moving out of the Synod - we are in need of someone who can take on that responsibility. The duties include reviewing the parochial reports of the congregations and assisting the leaders of our churches file timely parochial reports. If you are interested in serving, please communicate with me.



TRANSITIONS

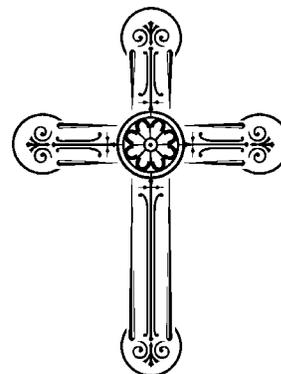
+God bless Pastor Katheryn King (St. James, Rudyard) as she leaves the parish ministry the first of October. Pastor King will go on Leave from Call as she joins her husband, David Eitland, who has begun work in Traverse City, Michigan. We shall miss this couple, and we thank God for their ministry!

+Pastor Ralph Backman (Retired, Marinette) suffered a bad fall recently, breaking his leg and some ribs. He spent some time at the Veterans facility in Iron Mountain and has now returned to his home.

+Congratulations to the pastor and people of Shepherd of the Lakes in Sayner, Wisconsin (Pastor Dorothy Lindstrom) who broke ground on September 14th for a new \$650,000 addition to their church building. They are thinking about the future!

+Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop

tskrenes@nclsynod.org





Thank You

ELCA Disaster Funds

Immanuel, Rhineland
 Grace, South Range
 Prince of Peace, Eagle River
 Faith, Rock

Seminarian Scholarship Fund

Bethany, Amasa

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Bethany, Amasa
 Grace, Gwinn

Lutheran World Relief

Holy Trinity, Chassell
 Calvary, Rapid River
 Grace, Gwinn
 Trinity, Rhineland
 Mission United, Pelkie

Companion Synod Support

Trinity, Stambaugh
 Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood
 Zion, Ironwood

World Missionary Support

Calvary, Rapid River
 Trinity, Rhineland
 Bethel, Ishpeming

Seminarian Support

Calvary, Minocqua
 Zion, Ironwood
 Our Redeemer, Newberry

Endowment Fund

James & Judith Quirk
 Rev. Earnest & Kaaren Ness
 Rev. Paul & Carol Holmstrom
 Rev. Kenneth Lahners
 Rev. Bonny Kinnunen
 David & Dawn Veldhuizen

Mission Outreach

Immanuel, Escanaba

Lay School for Mission

Trinity, Rapid River

Skogman Scholarship Fund

Bishop Dale and Jo Skogman

Tanzania

St. Paul's, Mass City
 Thomas & Joyce Dupras

+ From the Assistant to the Bishop +
 Pastor Jennifer Johnson Wrege



"Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

2 Corinthians 4:1, 5-7

What's the first thing that fills in your imagination when you see this: *M & M*

Do you think of:

candy, especially the peanut ones!

salutations, such as Mr. & Mrs.

mission & ministry

Moses & Meshach

music & miracles

One beautiful fall morning in September, I called a woman named Lois. I had learned that she had yarn and a couple of preferred patterns for knitters to knit sweaters that would help to keep children in Afghanistan warm this winter. In Afghanistan, serious winter begins in November, so the need is great and the timing is urgent.

Turns out that Lois is "fired up" about keeping children warm in several places around the globe. Afghanistan is just one of those geographical areas targeted by her and her congregation to receive knitted sweaters, booties, mittens, scarves – warm clothing. Lois began this ministry with a pair of knitting needles, a love for children everywhere, a collection of yarn that was accumulating in a closet, and a request from a missionary pastor she knew in Mexico

asking for knitted children's sweaters. Lois went to work!

In our conversation, I did not learn Lois' age. She did mention that she has been married for 57 years, so I'm thinking she is a bit older than I am. She is also a bundle of energy, at least when it comes to this ministry! The manner of her ministry over the years has changed. She is no longer able to knit because of some physical deterioration in her shoulders. But clearly, this has not stopped her from speaking up and out about this ministry.

She works with a partner in coordinating the knitting ministry of her congregation. She refers to her partnership with her friend as "M&M" – she's the *mouth* and her friend is the *muscle*. Lois readily talks, shares, speaks, entices and chats about the way God is working through this ministry and how important it is. Her partner, the *muscle*, helps to prepare the knitted items for shipping, hauls boxes here and there for distribution, carries parcels of completed items to church for sorting, and helps deliver yarn to knitters who have used up their own stash and are itching to knit more! M&M in action!

I have knitting needles. I have yarn. I know how to knit. I will be knitting children's sweaters as soon as the pattern arrives from Lois. As I wait, I wonder how many other things I have tucked and hidden away from view that God may be calling me to offer for use in mission and ministry. I am confident that the Holy Spirit will nudge and encourage. The Spirit is famous for this. I am praying for the freedom to respond, "Yes, Lord."

How is the Holy Spirit nudging and encouraging you?

Blessings!



Pastoral Vacancies and Interim Pastors

Bethany, Covington & Trinity, Trout Creek - Pastor Scott Williams

Holy Cross, Baraga - Pastor John Autio

Immanuel, Escanaba - Pastor Jonathan Schmidt

Grace, Gwinn - Pastor Chad Christensen

First, Ewen & Our Saviour's, Paynesville - Pastor Gerald Anderson

Concordia, Palmer & Our Saviour's, Negaunee - Pastor Virginia Eggert

Immanuel, Negaunee - Pastor Peggy Rose

Holy Trinity, Chassell - Pastors Jimalee Jones & Peter Gundersen

First, Trenary - Pastor Stephen Gauger

St. James, Rudyard - Pastor Barry Levine

Prince of Peace, Eagle River - (April 2009)

Summer can be a challenging time for congregations in terms of both offerings received and benevolence remittances to the Synod. For the period of June 1 through August 31, the Synod received mission support gifts totaling \$266,128 — \$27,163 more than the same period last year — and the highest amount for this time period in our history. We are very grateful for the timeliness, generosity and trust displayed through these gifts which allow our ministries to remain strong. Thanks be to God for the partnership we share.

Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 8/31/08	2007	2008	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	1,045,301	1,032,591	-12,710	-1.2%
Amount Received	599,662	597,779	-1,883	-.3%
Designated Gifts	110,082	127,096	+17,014	+15.4%



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA

1029 N. Third Street, Ste. A
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: 906-228-2300
Fax: 906-228-2527
E-mail: ngls@nglsynod.org

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ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR
OCTOBER 2008

www.prayfaithfully.org

October 5-11 / Susan Anderson, Sharon, Bessemer

**October 12-18 / Members of Shepherd of the Lakes,
Sayner**

**October 19-25 / Dan Laatsch, Prince of Peace, Eagle
River**

**October 26-November 1 / Pauline Kiltinen, St. Mark's,
Marquette**



Please Photo-copy for those who provide Youth Ministry in your church!



**Northern
Great Lakes
Synod**

Youth Ministry

**October
2008**

Wendy Black
Youth Ministry Coordinator
715-282-5882
E-Mail Address:
WKBlack@yahoo.com

"This synod supports congregational youth & family ministry through Christ-centered resources, ideas, & powerful ministry events."

THIS MONTH:

- Partnership Events with FLLC
- Bits & Pieces
- 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering
- Youth Ministry Calendar

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS WITH FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP!!

We're expanding our opportunities and events for young people in partnership with Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp! **Mark your calendars now** for the following events:

For Pre-Confirmation Students (grades 3-6): **"Hearts & Hands"** There will be two identical opportunities for your upper elementary students to attend a slumber party at camp. Dates are October 24-25, 2008 and May 1-2, 2009

For Junior High Students: **"Impressions"** There will be two identical opportunities for your junior high/confirmation age students to attend a retreat in a similar model from the synod retreats in the past. Dates are December 5-6, 2008 and February 6-7, 2009.

For High School Students: **"Affirmed!"** There will be a retreat offered for your high school students with a baptismal/vocation theme. Dates are January 9-11, 2009.

For more information or to register for these events, please contact Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp at 906-875-3697.





Bits & Pieces

"MARKED!" Events: The NGLS's annual events for confirmation classes will be *Sunday, March 29 at Immanuel, Escanaba and Sunday, April 26 at Sharon, Bessemer.* Both events are 4:00-7:00 local times. Save the dates now and plan on joining us at one of these events filled with faith, fun, food, music, and time with Bishop Skrenes.

Are you a pastor or youth worker who needs an update in your ministry to young people? Consider attending the **ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza** for some excellent continuing education workshops, uplifting worship, nationally-known speakers & musicians, and the chance to network with other professionals and volunteers. The Extravaganza will be held Jan. 28-Feb. 1 at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. There will also be an opportunity for a pre-ELCA Youth Gathering tour of the city. Some scholarships are available through the Youth Ministry Network and through the synod. For more information, contact Wendy Black or go to: <http://www.elcaymnet.org/extravaganza>

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 10-12 SPUNGE Training, Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg, Wisconsin
- 24-25 "Hearts & Hands" Pre-Confirmation Retreat Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

NOVEMBER

- 6-9 Council of Synod LYO Presidents Meeting, Fayetteville, Arkansas
- 7-9 SPUNGE Training, Lutherdale Bible Camp, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

DECEMBER

- 5-6 "Impressions" Junior High Retreat, FLLC
- 12-14 SPUNGE Training, Sugar Creek Bible Camp Ferryville, Wisconsin

JANUARY

- 9-11 "Affirmed!" High School Retreat, FLLC
- 16-18 SPUNGE Training, Pine Lake Waupaca, Wisconsin
- 28-Feb. 1 ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza, New Orleans, Louisiana



The 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering New Orleans, Louisiana July 22-26, 2009

- Over 25,000 students and adults from 64 synods have already registered for the 2009 Youth Gathering of the ELCA. The registrants were from approximately 1,400 congregations.
- The Gathering's "JESUS+JUSTICE+JAZZ" theme draws from the rich faith history, diverse cultures and arts of New Orleans. The focus will be on service and justice as we live our shared reality as Christians. The registration numbers reflect that our young people are eager to live out their baptismal call to service in the world. The entire Gathering program was completely reshaped in response to an invitation from God's people in New Orleans to partner with them as they continue to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, as well as requests from young people who value such opportunities as highly significant for their faith formation.
- Registration is still open! You may register up until January 15, 2009 unless it fills up before that. Check out the Youth Gathering website at: <http://archive.elca.org/youth/gathering.html>
- Questions? Contact Wendy Black at WKBlack@yahoo.com or 715-282-5882.

HOW WE LOVE TO HATE!

By Pastor Tom Wagner
Former Interim Pastor, Sharon Bessemer

These political times inspire me! Unfortunately it is not a positive inspiration but a pain in my heart that motivates.

Each day I get e-mails from friends I prefer to respect and cherish. They are political in nature. Some dig up every hateful tidbit about one party and some about the other. The tone is most offensive to my faith. It doesn't matter which direction the cannon is aimed, shooting is still not an option for me.

Each side seems to have positive and negative aspects to me. Like others, I enter the fray with preconditioned bias and expectations. I, like others, tend to find what I want to find be it positive or negative. Being fair and objective is difficult. Still, I strive for fairness and objectivity. I even look for places where the opposing sides might agree! Imagine that!

One will win and the other will loose. If the winner is not my favorite I will have to live with it. I refuse to spend the next four years centered on hate. You see, hate is not part of my faith. Jesus seems to have challenged us to love enemies. Surely political opponents are not really enemies. They are just the other point of view. Each political party has it's own way to approach problems. Both have worked from time to time. Both have failed from time to time.

We demand that candidates make promises which are frankly unrealistic. Then when they are elected and fail to meet their promises we hate and defile them. No matter which party. We elect and then despise. That's sick! We need to stop it.

Mostly, my opponents are honorable and sincere in their opposition. I respect that and pledge to treat them as Jesus would. As I recall He opposed those who crucified him but did not hate them.

What a great day it would be if political e-mails took less joy in hating and found more basis in stating the case **for** a candidate rather than against. Enemies are usually not very good at giving fair pictures of their opponents. We look for the unbiased and objective for that. I'm not very interested in the opinions of someone whose mind is made up and who is on the warpath.

What would Jesus do? An interesting question for our times.

"Give 'Um Heaven!"



A Year of Prayer...
A Lifetime of Praying!

prayfaithfully@nglsynod.org
www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully

Prayer Calendar - October 2008

1	Pray for Bishop Skrenes and his colleagues as they attend the Conference of Bishops meeting in Chicago these days.
2	Pray for Pastor Kevin Kaiser and the members of Bethany, Amasa & Trinity, Stambaugh as they begin their ministry together . Pray also for those attending the Synodical Women's Organization meeting in Marquette these days.
3	Pray for the members of Ascension, Minocqua and Pastor David Jensen , as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of the congregation this month.
4	Pray for the members of the Transformational Ministry Team who meet this day – <i>Pastors Chad Christensen, Jonathan Schmidt & Jennie Johnson-Wrege, along with Dave Mason, Ray Miller & Jean Schmidt.</i>
5	Pray for those attending the Three Lakes Fall Conference Meeting . Pray also for those attending the Fall Word & Song Festival of the Suomi Conference .
6	Pray for the members of Augsburg, Baltimore MD (Rev Eric Campbell), Christ, Upperco MD (Rev Mike Adams), Faith, Baltimore MD (pastor), and Hope, New Castle DE (pastor).
7	Pray for Pastor John Autio , his wife Kathy , and the members of Mission United, Pelkie .
8	Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – <i>Lavina Goodrich</i> and <i>Marian Gronquist</i> .
9	Pray for the members of Kijitonyama Lutheran Church (Rev Lewis Hiza), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS companion congregation, Our Saviour's, Iron Mountain (Rev Steve Cowen).
10	Pray for those attending the SPUNGE (<i>synod people uplifting the next generation in the ELCA</i>) training these days – especially those from the NGLS - <i>Cindy Cowell, Diane Gendron, Toni Lynn Kleeba, Jennifer Marshall, Jon Marshall, Sarah Sleeter.</i> Pray also for Pastor Bonny Kinnunen (First, Iron River) as she celebrates her 15th anniversary of ordination.
11	Pray for those attending and those participating in the Fortune Lake Camp Quilt Auction and Chili Cookoff.
12	 <p>Pray for our pastors on Clergy Appreciation Day. We thank God for their presence among us – preaching the Word and celebrating the Sacraments – for being there to nurture and care for us, to guide and teach, to listen, to challenge us and take us in new directions, and to be examples of God's love.</p>
13	Pray for those attending and those presenting at the Secretaries Retreat at Fortune Lake Camp.
14	Pray for those attending the Synod Stewardship/Mission Events – breakfast with pastors of Three Lakes Conference and the evening with congregational leaders and pastors of Superior Central Conference.

15	Pray for the members of Grace & Mt Zion, Keymar MD (Rev Rick Rutkauskas), Lord of Life, Edgewood MD (Rev Paige Evers), and Reformation, Milford DE (Rev John Ranney).
16	Pray for those attending the Synod Stewardship/Mission Events – breakfast with pastors of Copper Country Conference and the evening with congregational leaders and pastors of IGO Conference .
17	Pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey and the members of Trinity, Brevort & Zion, St Ignace as they celebrate 9 years of ministry together this day.
18	Pray for those attending and those presenting at the Focus on Worship Event in Republic.
19	Pray for the members of Christ the King, Escanaba and Pastor Peter Andersen as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the congregation . Pray also for those attending the IGO Fall Conference meeting.
20	Pray for those attending the Synod Stewardship/Mission Events – breakfast with pastors of Delta Conference and those attending the Menominee Valley Fall Conference meeting. Pray also for Pastor Bill Jacobson and the members of Zion, Metropolitan as they celebrate 5 years of ministry together .
21	Pray for the members of Immanuel, Negaunee and Interim Pastor Peggy Rose as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
22	Pray for the members of St James, Rockdale MD (Rev Bob Day), St John, Pimlico MD (Rev Gregg Knepp), St Matthew, Batimore MD (Rev John Kulczycki) and St Paul, Fundstown MD (Rev Darrell Layman).
23	Pray for Pastor Nicholas Johannes, his wife Judy, and the members of Beaver American, Pound & Porterfield, Porterfield.
24	Pray for those young people and adults attending the “Hearts and Hands” Slumber Party at Fortune Lake Camp these days.
25	Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – <i>Pastor Karlo & Eunice Keljo</i> and <i>Pastor George & June Krebs.</i>
26	Pray for Pastor John Kuziej and the members of Pioneer Lake, Conover as they celebrate the 105th anniversary of the congregation . Pray also for those attending the Delta Fall Conference meeting.
27	Pray for those attending the Synod Stewardship/Mission Events – breakfast with pastors of Headwaters Conference and the evening with congregational leaders and pastors of Four Rivers Conference .
28	Pray for the members of Concordia, Palmer & Our Saviour, Suomi and Interim Pastor Virginia Eggert as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
29	Pray for the members of St Peter, Clear Spring MD (Rev Elaine Swinehart), St Timothy, Dundalk MD (Rev Bill Hayman) and Zion, Williamsport MD (Revs Greg Martin & Marty Roberson).
30	Pray for those attending the 2009 Synod Assembly Planning Committee meeting this day.
31	 Pray that the God who reformed the church through Martin Luther five centuries ago, may continue to reform - and transform - the church today.

Mission Possible...

Mission Partners – Bethany Barbeque Bash on the Blacktop Bethany Lutheran Church – Republic, MI

The Mission Partners Task Force is starting this column to invite you to share different mission & ministry developments in your congregation relating to mission beyond your parish. We urge you to share by writing about what you are doing so others may benefit and perhaps duplicate or adapt your efforts to their ministry setting.



Early during the 2008 calendar year, our Evangelism/Social Concerns committee was approached by our pastor, Pastor Katherine Finegan, who reported that there were grant funds available to churches who would like to sponsor an evangelism event for or outside their own congregations.

After considerable discussion of the topic, we came to the conclusion we would sponsor an event for the community combining both an outside worship service followed by a barbecue for the community. This would also coincide with the conclusion of a week-long Vacation Bible School program and was an opportunity for parents and grandparents to join us with their children from the community who had attended VBS. Each committee member went out on their assigned mission with a designated task from getting price quotes on food to the rental of a huge tent and acquiring some type of contemporary music for that Sunday.

Planning progressed and soon things were coming together. Four members of our committee did a day-long shopping trip and came home tired, giddy, but with a sense of anticipation of our forthcoming “mission.” Our office secretary along with Pastor Katherine created and mailed a vivid bright-colored postcard invitation to all postal patrons in our community to serve as a personal invitation.

There were many moments of apprehension surrounding the event as preparations were made. Specifically, concerns were voiced as to whether there would be enough food as we had no estimate of how many would attend. This, however, was squelched with the answer “the Lord will provide!”

On set-up Saturday prior to the service, folks rallied as at least 12-15 fellows reported and worked to set up our tents, chairs and tables, and grills for Sunday morning.

Sunday morning greeted us with dismal and foggy weather which at first dampened our spirits, but with the cooperation of all, things went off as scheduled. The spirit was present in the faces of the children as they rendered the songs they had learned in VBS, through the word of the gospel and in the songs of the musicians. Attendance was very good despite the weather;



however, some chose to leave after the service, but they were replaced by those who only attended the BBQ.

Bethany is proud to have hosted this event and hopefully makes our presence in the community a place to feel welcome and show we are not afraid “to step outside the box” and do new things. In spite of a few unexpected expenses and a few trickles of water down the back of our necks due to the fact not all could fit under the tent, our congregation rose to the challenge of our mission to bring our hospitality and word out to our neighbors and community.



After all was put back into place. The sun broke through the clouds with its shining rays as if to say “well done folks.”

Marcy Rankinen
Evangelism Committee Member
Bethany, Republic

Have a Mission Story to Tell? We’d love to share it with the NGLS!

To contribute your *Mission Possible* story for publication in *Notes & Quotes*, please email your article to:

Pastor Nancy Kauppi
danaKaup@ironbay.net

or

Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege
jenjohn@nglsynod.org



MARKED!

with the cross of Christ forever

SPRING '09 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Annual Events for Confirmation Classes!

"**MARKED!**" is an opportunity for your confirmands to spend time with our Bishop—and an opportunity for Bishop Skrenes to spend time with your confirmands! This event will introduce your youth to the larger church and help them dream about where God might be leading them. There will be music, fun, food, fellowship, worship, photo opp.s, and much more!

***THIS EVENT IS FOR ALL CONFIRMATION CLASSES,
THEIR PASTORS & ADULT GUIDES/MENTORS***

The dates & locations for this spring are:

Sunday, March 29 at Immanuel Lutheran, Escanaba, MI 4-7:00 EST

Sunday, April 26 at Sharon Lutheran, Bessemer, MI 4-7:00 CST

There is no charge for these events which are sponsored by a generous grant from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation of Milwaukee in partnership with the Northern Great Lakes Synod Evangelism Committee & Youth Ministries. Our expectation is that every confirmand in the synod will attend at least one of these events (which will be held at different locations each year) during their confirmation career.

TO REGISTER: We need to know your church (name & city), the number of youth and adults, and which location you will be attending. Please register with the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 or email us at ngls@nglsynod.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Escanaba: March 18

Bessemer: April 15

Campus to Congregation



October 2008

News for our companions in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

from the campus pastor's office at Finlandia University

“side by side . . . growing in faith toward God and love toward neighbor”

People Are the Thing

Perhaps our 24-hour access to news channels and immediate access to news through the internet have stifled our ability to really care. It's a different story every day, but with the same sad neglect of compassion and will. Yet, we can hardly remember the details of these places and problems because we're constantly bombarded with new tragedies. And sometimes we have a hard enough time handling our own chaos, let alone getting involved in a stranger's troubles.

One of the assignments for a course I teach every semester, servant leadership, asks students to select a news story and comment on (1) the newscaster's emotional input into the telling of the story (2) their own emotional response and (3) the various communities of people affected by this event, and their possible emotional responses and the consequences they'll face. The point of the assignment is to ask students to look deeper into a story that may not affect them at a personal level, but certainly affects somebody. It's an exercise in creating opportunities for students to really listen to the news, to really grapple with the issues of the wider world, and most importantly, to move toward a greater ability to see the human side of the story and enter into another person's world of experience.

In the Spiritual Formation course I teach there is a similar assignment, which asks students to cut out a news story and meditate on it, to really think about the people affected, and then to pray for them.

Media sources do not always allow us to digest the latest news story as a person's story. And our pace of life, as well as our cultural training in individualism and acquisition, does little to prepare us to focus on people. We have to practice the art of really listening, really caring. This happens in every day moments when a warm greeting is offered to the person in your presence, when time is taken to ask about a person's day and his interests and life. Basically, it is remembering what is really most valuable in this world, people.

Highlights

Bird Ross: Speaking Volumes

An exhibit of work by Madison, Wisconsin, artist Bird Ross is featured at the Finlandia University Gallery, Hancock, September 18 to October 16, 2008.

In the exhibit, "Speaking Volumes," Ross uses books as raw material to create art. "Books are made for one thing (to be read) and are very often used for something else (to help you reach your peas at the table or to help you walk straighter and balance better). I would like to exhaust the book's possibilities as a non-book. (Is a book still a book when it's not a book?)"

Over 30 artworks comprise the exhibit, each containing some element of a book. Books are opened or stacked, pages are folded, cut or sewn, covers break free from their pages and are transformed with images attached to their surfaces. Through Ross's manipulations, the books are transformed into objects of sculpture.

The Finlandia University Gallery in the Finnish American Heritage Center, 435 Quincy Street, Hancock. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or by appointment. Please call 906-487-7500 for more information.

Campus Pastor's Corner

People are the thing.
If I call gold, gold does not come.
If I call clothes, clothes do not come.
If I call things, things do not come.
People are the thing.
(West African Proverb)

-René Johnson, interim campus pastor and director of servant leadership

