

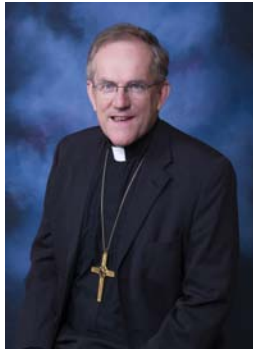
NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 23, Issues 2 and 3

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2010

GOOD PREACHING: IN JESUS CHRIST

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes
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It is at the top of the list of what pastors do! Pastors are called to be ministers of the Word - good preachers! Our folks in the pew (all of us) want to hear good messages, memorable and important to their lives. Here are a few thoughts about "good preaching."

+*Good preaching* centers in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

+*Good preaching* tells the truth about our sinfulness and God's answer to our sins in Jesus Christ.

+*Good preaching* means that the listener hears about their own lives in the sermon and their connection with Jesus Christ.

+*Good preaching* includes stories from the world and illustrations from Scripture which invite all into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

+*Good preaching* is often clever, poetic, literate and interesting. And humor, too, can draw people into the message of hope in Jesus Christ.

+*Good preaching* invites all, including the preacher, to a life of action responding to God's grace in Jesus Christ.

+*Good preaching* uses emotions to convey the truth of Jesus Christ.

I still remember the sermon preached in chapel on my first day of seminary in the fall of 1976. President Fred Meuser of our seminary in Columbus, Ohio invited us new students to "Come to the Table." I still recall with thanksgiving the power of that message calling us to live in the good news of Jesus Christ!

At your next meeting at church, ask this question in your beginning devotions: "What sermon can you remember, and why is that sermon important to you?"



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BISHOP'S PAGES	1-4
TRANSITIONS	4
HAITI RELIEF NEWS	6
SYNOD FINANCIALS	7

THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

MISSION SUPPORT IN 2009



The calendar 2009 financial year is closed. God's people have been generous as the ninety-three congregations of our Synod have given to support the worldwide ministry of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Gifts to world hunger, our Lutheran institutions throughout the Church, companion synod work and other important ministries add hundreds of thousands of dollars to our total Synod giving. We give out of response to God's great gifts to us!

However, the year 2009 was a reduced income year to the Synod and the ELCA. The total income for mission support (divided 53.5% to Churchwide ELCA and 46.5% Synod) in 2009 was \$971,038. This was the first year we, as a Synod, did not reach \$1,000,000 since 1998. In fact, our income for 2009 was 6% below 2008 and 9% below 2007 levels.

The general depressed economic condition of our country and Synod is responsible for much of this decrease. The Churchwide Assembly actions concerning homosexuality is also cited by our pastors for the decline in giving in a few of our congregations. ELCA and Synod mission support, which had increased most years in the 1990's, had leveled off in the current decade and now has decreased in the last two years.

The Synod Council and our Finance and Executive Committees are looking carefully over our budgets for 2010 and 2011, and will bring a revised budget to the March Synod Council meeting and the 2010 Synod Assembly that reflects our current realities. Preliminary projections for 2010 indicate that income will be further reduced.

God provides!

A "MODERN" QUOTE

"I am concerned about worship in our parish churches. Whether the liturgy is lived with little or considerable ceremony is quite beside the point. The question is: Do we really believe that worship is the celebration of the presence of God in Word and Sacrament? Are we giving the utmost for the highest in our worship?"

I am concerned about the presence of children at worship in our parish churches. Is the criticism true that for the most part services of worship are adult-centered

"Do we really believe that worship is the celebration of the presence of God in Word and Sacrament?"

THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

and adult-focused? The congregation is a family and every baptized child is a full-fledged member. The gathering of the whole parish family should be at the altar. And certainly there should be no conflict between Church School and worship. School is school and worship is worship.

I am concerned about the witness and the outreach of our parish churches.

I am concerned about the image of the Synod and the congregations. Does our Synod in its membership represent a cross section of the people of the area? Do our congregations represent a cross section of the people of their communities?We are called to minister to and to reach out to and welcome into fellowship people of all racial and ethnic groups. ‘Go ye into all the world’ means much more than geography.”

-Pastor Theodore E. Matson

President of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Synod, Lutheran Church in America in his report to the Synod Convention,

May 19, 1964

SYNOD COUNCIL NEWS

The Northern Great Lakes Synod Council is made up of twenty-one persons from around the Synod, including the four officers, a youth representative and sixteen persons elected from our eight Conferences. The Council gathers four times a year to hear reports from the Synod Officers and to act upon the business of the Synod. We are also a community of prayer who study the Word of God together and pray for all of God's people.

Our January 2010 meeting was at St. Mark's Church in Marquette. The Council:

*Heard a report from the Synod Assembly 2010 Planning Committee. The theme of the three-day event, May 16-18 at Finlandia University, is “ Blessings.” Bishop Alex and Ericah Malasusa from Tanzania will be our guests, as well as Pastor Steve Bouman from Churchwide ELCA. Jonathan Rundman will be our musician. The Council adopted the Assembly Agenda and the 2010 Assembly fees with a discount for on-line registration.

*Renewed the agreement with Pastor Jon Magnuson, the Synod employee assistance program provider, for rostered persons and their families.

*Adopted an Investment Policy Statement as proposed by the Synod Endowment Fund Board.

*Appointed Pastor Doug Johnson, Pastor Gerald Anderson, Vice President Pauline Kiltinen and Bishop Skrenes to an Ad Hoc Committee to make recommendations to the Synod Council concerning any congregations seeking to disassociate themselves from the ELCA under the constitutional provisions of the Synod.

*Placed Pastors Kim Beckmann and Paul Mai "On Leave From Call."

*Heard reports from the Youth & Family Ministry in 2010, Ministry Development and Assembly Rules Task Forces. New directions in all of these areas will be further considered at the March meeting.

*Heard reports from the Bishop, Secretary, Vice President and Treasurer.

*Participated in the presentation "Despair yet Hope: Palestine & Israel Today" given by Bishop Tom and Luanne Skrenes on their recent trip to the Holy Land.

*Prayed for the people of Haiti in the midst of their terrible earthquake.

Please contact me or any member of the Synod Council with any questions or concerns.



TRANSITIONS

+Congratulations to **Pastor Doug Norquist** from the Eastern North Dakota Synod who has been called to **Community Lutheran Church, Palmer** (the newly consolidated Concordia, Palmer and Our Saviour's, Suomi). Pastor Norquist begins his ministry with us this spring. Welcome to Pastor Norquist and his wife, Shirley, to the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

+Congratulations to the people of All Saints in Wakefield as they call **Pastor William Twynham** as their next pastor. Pastor Twynam and his wife, Beth, come to us from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Welcome!

+May God bless **Pastor Tom Lee (Ascension, Minocqua)** and his family as they remember with thanksgiving the life of Pastor Lee's mother who died recently in the LaCrosse area of Wisconsin.

Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop

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+ + + + + + + + + +



Thank You!

Seminarian Support

Messiah, Marquette
 Calvary, Minocqua
 Holy Trinity, Chassell
 St. James, Rudyard
 Richard & Evelyn Bjorklund
 Faith WELCA, Rock
 Bethel, Ishpeming
 Rev. George & Ruth Olson
 Zion, Ironwood
 Our Redeemer, Newberry

ELCA Disaster Funds

Grace, South Range
 Christ Parish, Ironwood
 Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
 Bethany, Negaunee
 Salem, Ironwood
 Mission United, Pelkie

Answer the Call

Grace, South Range

Trinity, Stambaugh

Rev. Robert & Deloris Langseth

Donna & Jon Ahlberg

Rev. Devon & JoAnne Barrix

Robert & Jean Sovey

Wayne & Eileen Stordahl

Janice Mikkola

Karl & Carolyn Rundman

All Saints, Wakefield

Karl & Barbara Gipp

Trinity, Brevort

Lay School for Mission

Trinity, Rapid River

World Missionary Support

Trinity, Rhinelander

Calvary, Rapid River

Pioneer Lake, Conover

Bethel, Ishpeming

Faith, Rock

Zion, Ironwood

Mission United, Pelkie

Tanzania

Calvary, Minocqua

Joyce Dupras

Endowment Fund

Rev. Cori Johnson

Sharon, Bessemer

Lutheran World Relief

Holy Trinity, Chassell

St. Mark's, Marquette

Zion, Marinette

Prince of Peace, Marquette

Calvary, Rapid River

First, Iron Mountain

Zion, Manistique

Grace, South Range

Congregational Mission Support

Salem, Bark River

Mission Outreach

Salem, Bark River

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Trinity, Trout Creek

Grace, Gwinn

Calvary, Rapid River

Zion/Allenville, Moran

Bethany, Amasa

Bethlehem, Florence

Emanuel, Skandia

Malaria Net Project

St. Paul's, Mass City

Kisarawe Scholarship Fund

Bethany, Perkins

Rev. Jean Schmidt

Karl Langseth

Trinity WELCA, Rhinelander

Rev. Robert & Deloris Langseth

Skogman Scholarship Fund

Rev. Jean Schmidt

Steven & Joni Peffers

Lloyd & Alice Jensen

Paul & Susan Manson

Kemppainen Scholarship Fund

Immanuel WELCA, Negaunee

HAITI RELIEF NEWS

We've received a bit more information about Thrivent Financial for Lutherans request for donations to help disaster relief in Haiti. Thrivent Financial will add \$1 for every \$2 that members donate for "Helping Haiti".

*Members can go to www.thrivent.com/helping-haiti to make donations on line.

*Members can call 800-236-3736. When prompted, say "directory" and enter extension 83003. A recorded message will explain how to mail donations and who members can make the checks out to. After the recorded message, an operator will come on the line, who can take donations over the phone.

*If sending in a check or money order, it needs to be made out to one of the four relief agencies with Helping Haiti written on the memo line.

- Lutheran World Relief
- LCMS World Relief Human Care
- ELCA Disaster Response
- Wels Committee on Relief

*Thrivent Financial will add up to \$250 per each member contribution.

*Checks should be mailed to:

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
4321 N. Ballard Road
Appleton, WI 54919

*Donations may also be dropped off at your local Thrivent office, but they should be check or money orders only.

*If donations are taken at the church to be sent in, Thrivent Financial will add only if Thrivent members have donated with a check made out to one of the four groups. If donations are cash,

or are made by non-members, Thrivent Financial cannot add to the donation.

MARKED! EVENTS FOR SPRING 2010

Sunday, April 18, 2010 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Minocqua, Wisconsin

Sunday, April 25, 2010 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Negaunee, Michigan

Both events are 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. local times

These events are for all confirmation students, their pastors, and adult mentors/guides.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.nglsynod.org/youth-ministry.html>

Don't miss out on this opportunity to spend a fun day with your students!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2010

May 16-18

(Sunday, Monday, Tuesday)

Finlandia University

Hancock, Michigan

*Registration material will
be mailed out soon!*

Pastoral Vacancies and Interim Pastors

Zion, St. Ignace & Trinity, Brevort - Pastor George Kaiser

Emanuel, Skandia - Pastor James Duehring

Prince of Peace, Eagle River - Pastor Bill Hayes

Eden, Munising - Pastor Eleanor Russey

Siloa, Ontonagon - Pastor John West

Bethany, Negaunee - Pastor Marcia Solberg

Christ the King, Escanaba - Pastor Len Gilley

Trinity, Stonington - Pastor Stephen Gauger

Bethany, Escanaba - Pastor Dean Peterson

Mission support giving in 2009 fell 5.6% below giving in 2008, and 3% or \$30,863 less than budgeted. Receipts were at their lowest level since 1998. The decline in giving has several causes, but the result is the same: as a Synod we are unable to provide the same level of support for God's work as we have in the past.

Fifty-nine congregations remitted 100% or more of their pledge; another ten gave 95-99%. We are grateful for the partnership we share with all the congregations of the Synod.

God is faithful, our hope is secure, as we move into 2010 trusting in God's presence with us.

Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

As of 12/31/09	2008	2009	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	1,032,591	1,005,571	-27,020	-2.6%
Amount Received	1,032,135	974,252	-57,883	-5.6%
Designated Gifts	230,785	232,377	+1,592	+.6%



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Volume 23 - Issues 2& 3

February & March 2010

ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR FEBRUARY
2010 AND MARCH 2010

www.prayfaithfully.org

Jan. 31-Feb. 6 / First, Ewen; Our Saviour, Paynesville; Trinity, Trout Creek

Feb. 7-13 / Faith Circle, First, Gladstone

Feb. 14-20 / Tim Mulvaney, First, Trenary

Feb. 21-27 /

Feb. 28-March 6 / Members of Immanuel, Escanaba

March 7-13 / Faith Circle, First, Gladstone

March 14-20 / Scott Chamberlain, First, Grand Marais

March 21-27 /

March 28-April 3 (Holy Week)



**Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
celebrates 80 years of ministry
this year!**

"A Time to Reflect and Renew"

Save these anniversary dates:

Sunday, March 21st – Annual Meeting (3 p.m. CT)

Sunday, June 6th Thanksgiving Worship focusing on "A Time to Reflect"
featuring a mass choir and guest preacher

- Catered Anniversary banquet and program featuring a dramatic sketch depicting FLLC's early years, more music, and keynote address by Pastor Pete Warmanen focusing on "A Time to Renew." (reservations required)
- Kick off for the Fortune 80 Anniversary Campaign (details for a memorable gathering activity to follow)

July 2 – 4 All-staff Alumni Reunion
Anyone who has served on a FLLC staff is invited to retreat together to share memories of the past, celebrate the present, and anticipate the future

Sat., October 9th Fall Fiesta featuring annual Quilt and Fine Art Auction, Chili Challenge, Country Market, all with an anniversary flavor

WANTED: caring and enthusiastic young adults (and volunteers of any age) who are willing to answer God's call to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp's "mission field" this summer. Join in a Christian outdoor community that works and plays hard. But BEWARE: Christian community incites change! These individuals may never be the same again!

Check out our renewed website, complete with camp songs and videos,
summer employment applications and summer camp registration info.
www.fortunelake.org

Here's what's happening at FLLC during February and March:
(Check our website for details)

Mon., Feb. 8 - Senior Adult Day with theme "A Time to Reflect"

**Sat., Feb. 13 - FLAME meeting (9 a.m. - noon); receive summer brochures,
learn about new program opportunities and anniversary plans,
and meet Pastor Pete.**

Feb. 12 - 14 Ski Weekend

Feb. 14 and March 14 - Second Sunday Folk Dances

Feb. 19 - 21 Family Winter Weekend

Feb. 21 - 22 Theological Conference with Bishop Hanson

**March 19 - 21 "Affirmed" High School Retreat
and Craft Retreat**

Summer Camp Discounts: don't be a fool - register early!!

Register and pay in full by April 1, and receive a \$15 discount.
In celebration of FLLC's 80th anniversary, the first 80 campers
paid in full will receive a **\$10 credit for the canteen.**

Packets of new materials, including summer camp brochures, will
be sent to congregations in early February.