The Risen Christ sends the Spirit of God to the Church. As “Easter People” we can know God’s presence with us. There are many reports throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of congregations growing in health, mission and witness. What do these congregations look like? What are the common denominators? Congregations that thrive:

- Have a clear and defined mission. Does your congregation?

- Are active in ministries outside their building. Is your congregation growing in these ministries?

- Give away “first fruits” (20%+ of income) and happily bless the needs of others with their generosity. Does your congregation evidence real generosity?

- Are active in the Word - reading the Bible together. How many folks from your congregation are in regular Bible study?

- Make worship the center of their life together. How is your congregational worship attendance?

- Identify spiritual gifts for service and witness. What gifts does your congregation use in the community?

Looking at every congregation in this Synod, we can see some great ministry being done. Yet we also know there is much work to accomplish. What is your congregational plan to grow in size and in faith?
CONFERENCE OF ELCA BISHOPS

SPRING 2010

Twice a year we gather as the Conference of Bishops of this Church. This March we met in Chicago for a week of reflection, business, prayer, and conversation. Over these eleven years serving as your Bishop, I have been impressed with the quality of people that God has called to this ministry of oversight. We are all different, yet committed, to the life of the Church growing in Jesus Christ.

At our meeting this year, we heard of the anxiety and unhappiness that some of our congregations are expressing because of the August 2009 Churchwide Assembly decisions regarding sexuality. We also heard of the appreciation that gay and lesbian persons have because of these actions. The Secretary of the Church, David Swartling, reported that about 300 congregations have taken first votes to leave the ELCA. We will hear more about these congregations as the year progresses. In a previous letter to our Synod leaders, I reported that, as of March 10, 2010, five congregations in the Northern Great Lakes Synod have or will soon take these first votes.

Bishop Mark Hanson commented to us that the future of the ELCA depends on how willing we are as a Church to re-root each and every congregation in the local mission context. He asked several powerful questions for our continuing discussions, including:

- How do we study the Word of God? How can we use the “Book of Faith Initiative” to deepen our scripture study?
- How do we do theology in this Church? Are Social Statements the right vehicle for theological formulation?
- How do we imagine doing work with our ecumenical partners in the next years?

The Treasurer of the Church, Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, reported that the economic recession has had its impact on our Churchwide budget. Income was down about 8.2% from 2008 to 2009. In fact, the unrestricted mission support from the Synods to the Churchwide ELCA in 2009 was the lowest ever in this Church. Adjusted for inflation, income for the ELCA is about half of what it was in 1988. The budget of the ELCA was reduced to reflect that income change, and that included the termination last fall of several dozen Churchwide employees. In 2010, thirty percent of the Churchwide ELCA expenditures are for global mission, with another twenty-one percent spent upon evangelical outreach.
World Hunger income, which had increased over twenty years, was down these past two years. To date about $4.5 million has been given by the ELCA membership to Haiti Earthquake Relief.

Considerable time was also spent on advising the ELCA Church Council on the required changes in the standards for ministry in this Church involving persons in same gender committed relationships. The Board of Pensions also reported to us on their efforts to change the Pension and Medical plans to reflect the required changes, so that church workers can include their same gender partners in the benefits subject to federal tax law limitations. The Conference of Bishops did ask that the Visions and Expectations documents for ordained ministers include language that makes it clear that the definition of marriage is between a man and a woman.

In other matters, our Synod received three seminarians who are ready to be considered for ordained ministry. We received Chad Whaley from Wartburg Seminary and Kate Schruba and David Johnson from Luther Seminary. Seminarian Johnson is from this Synod (Community Lutheran in Palmer-Suomi) and has applied for chaplain service in the U.S. Army. My assistant, Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege, and I have met with Seminarian Whaley and Schruba. They are very fine candidates, and we will be recommending them soon to our congregations.

TRANSITIONS

+Congratulations to new pastors in our Synod: Pastor Ron Strobel, who was ordained in Indianapolis on January 30, 2010, and who was installed as pastor of Holy Trinity in Chassell, Michigan on February 14, 2010. Welcome, Pastor Ron and Mary Strobel, to our Synod! Pastor Jeremy Winter was ordained on March 28, 2010 in Boyden, Iowa. He will be installed as pastor at Zion in St. Ignace and Trinity in Brevort, Michigan this spring. Welcome, Pastor Winter, to our work together.

+God bless Pastor Virginia Eggert as she has retired and moved to Oregon. Pastor Eggert served our Synod as pastor of Faith in Ishpeming since 1999. Pastor Eggert served this Church in many capacities, including as Chair of our Synod Assembly Planning Committee for many years.

+In April, Pastor David Christenson will be going on Leave from Call for disability reasons. Pastor Christenson has resigned as pastor of St. Stephen's in Stephenson and Gethsemane in Wallace, Michigan. We thank Pastor Christenson and his wife, Jane, for their ministry in our Synod and wish them well.

+We have received the resignation of Pastor Steve Cowen as Synod Treasurer. The congregation Pastor Cowen serves, Our Saviour's in Iron Mountain, is moving to terminate its relationship with the ELCA. Pastor Cowen has served us well as Synod Treasurer for the past six years.
+ “In life in death O Lord, abide with me.” A memorial service for Pastor John Linna (Retired), who died in February, will be held June 12, 2010 at the congregation he served for 37 years, United in Crystal Falls, Michigan. Our sympathy to his wife Betty and their family.

+ New life! Congratulations to Licensed Lay Minister Soren Schmidt (Finlandia University) and his wife, Rebekah, upon the birth of their daughter, Olive. Congratulations to Seminarian David Johnson and wife, Wendy, on the birth of their second child, a son, Zachary.

+ Recently hospitalized: Pastor Norman Lund, (Retired) in February, now living in Houghton; and Pastor Devon Barrix (Faith, Rock).

+ Former Pastor Paul Mai has resigned from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

+ God bless Licensed Lay Minister Judy Mattson who has completed her seminary preparation and who is in the call process for the people of Zion in Skanee, Michigan. She is scheduled to be ordained in the ministry of Word and Sacrament on May 15, 2010 in Skanee.

    + Thomas a Skrenes
    Bishop
    tskrenes@nglsynod.org

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**Answer the Call**

Christ the King, Escanaba
Trinity, Trout Creek
Jack & Sandi Siegmeier
Rich & Bonnie Harrer
Bill Eddy
Bruce & Lorry LeBlanc

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**Thank You!**

Jo & Terry Cauvin
First, Ewen
Rev. LaVonne & George Stephenson
Kenneth & Christine Raisanen
Our Saviour, Bruce Crossing
Rev. Lloyd & Amy Luedeman
Bethany, Ishpeming
Grace, South Range
Jean Belkonen
William & Dorothy Lampinen
Dave & Linda Kantola
Bill Waara
Ann Christiansen
Our Saviour’s, Atlantic Mine
Bethany, Negaunee
E. J. Jacobsen
Bethany, Mohawk
Martha Jukkala
John Ritola
Irene Ruohonen
David & Elaine Hendrickson

**Sabbath Project**
Christ the King, Escanaba

**Congregational Mission Support**
Salem, Bark River

**Mission Outreach**
Salem, Bark River

**Lutheran Campus Ministry**
Grace, Gwinn
Emanuel, Skandia
Trinity, Ishpeming
Sharon, Bessemer
Zion, St. Ignace

**ELCA Disaster Funds**
Salem, Ironwood
Bethany, Negaunee
Immanuel, Negaunee
Bethel, Ishpeming
Zion, Felch
Good Shepherd, Houghton
Calvary, Rapid River
Trinity, Rhinelander
First, Iron Mountain
Holy Trinity, Chassell
Immanuel, Rhinelander
All Saints, Wakefield
Ascension, Minocqua
Bethany, Perkins
Eden, Munising
First, Ewen
Salem, Bark River
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
First, Gladstone
Zion, Marinette
Grace, South Range
Faith, Calumet
Bethany, Mohawk
Zion, Skanee
Gethsemane, Wallace
Rev. Virginia Eggert
Bob & Phyllis Gottschalk
Central, Menominee
Faith, Rock
Zion, St. Ignace
Our Savior’s, Marinette
Mission United, Pelkie
Prince of Peace, Eagle River
Immanuel, Rhinelander
Trinity, Ishpeming

**Lutheran World Relief**
Zion, Marinette
Holy Trinity, Chassell
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Trinity, Ishpeming
Grace, South Range

**Tanzania**
Duane & Rita Palomaki

**Lay School for Mission**
Trinity, Rapid River

**Malaria Net Project**
St. Paul’s, Mass City

**Temeke Partnership**
Gloria Dei, Hancock

**Seminarian Support**
Wainola, Mass City
Calvary, Minocqua

**Skogman Scholarship Fund**
Trinity, Ishpeming

**Kemppainen Scholarship Fund**
Trinity, Ishpeming

**Endowment Fund**
David & Mary Lou Blomquist
First, Ewen

**Kisarawe Teachers Gift**
Rev. Robert & Deloris Langseth

**Kisarawe Scholarship Fund**
First, Gladstone
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1

THANK YOU, ALL! I am so very thankful for your gift of an eight-week sabbatical in January and February of 2010. It was a time of retreat, renewal, reflection and becoming re-energized. For someone who easily gets focused on work related responsibilities, it took awhile to be okay with lingering over that second cup of morning coffee while reading books related to the theological topic I was studying which could be summed up with the question: What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

I did have one pretty rude awakening along the way. I begin with a confession: Over the course of autumn and into December of '09, I had "slipped" into irregularity in getting to the "Y" and working out. Irregularity declined further into an increasing absence from the "Y" and the wonderful opportunities for exercise it provided - until I was gone. A no-show. An inactive member. Oh, I was still a believer in the benefits of regular exercises, but you wouldn't know it by my behavior!

My awakening came when I entered the fitness room at a motel where Marv and I stayed one night while traveling to Florida. We joined the "Y" four years ago as part of a New Year's resolution to live a healthier lifestyle. I didn't know a treadmill from an elliptical. Free-style weights were the enemy! I didn't know how to even sit on any of the weight machines, or have a clue how to use them. I vowed I would NEVER leave the fitness center created for shy and self-conscious newbies like me for the main fitness center where everyone else did their workouts. Eventually, though, I was able to leave the safety and security of the newbie workout room and go mainstream.

But, when I stepped up onto the treadmill at that motel and began to walk, I was shocked!!! So much of my work to walk fast at a high incline was LOST! I was almost back to square one! It was a truth that was tough to accept. It was back to the basics for me - and still is! It's sort of like baseball players when they gather for spring training and practice the same skills and drills over and over again - reviewing, learning, gaining depth, building confidence, being strengthened and tending to relationships.

I'm thinking many of us would benefit from a spiritual rendition of spring training. One that would renew, strengthen, help us go deeper, assist us in tending to relationships, and building confidence - a kind of back to the basics review, reflection and practice of basic Christian disciplines. Maybe this is one benefit in observing the season of Lent - reviewing the what of our Christian faith.

Faith is also used to describe the One in whom we believe. The One in whom we believe cannot be taught. It is caught. It can be caught by the work of the Holy Spirit who calls us through the gospel and fuels the fire of faith in such a way that we can proclaim, “I believe in Jesus Christ.”

The One in whom we believe: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen!

This is the bold Easter proclamation and the church's one foundation:

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Blessings!
Pastoral Vacancies and Interim Pastors
Emanuel, Skandia - Pastor James Duehring
Prince of Peace, Eagle River - Pastor Dorothy Lindstrom
Eden, Munising - Pastor Eleanor Russey
Christ the King, Escanaba - Pastor Len Gilley
Siloa, Ontonagon - Pastor John West
All Saints, Wakefield - Pastor Nancy Kauppi
Bethany, Escanaba - Pastor Dean Peterson
Faith, Ishpeming - Pastor Kenneth Lahners
St. Stephen, Stephenson & Gethsemane, Wallace - Pastor Jonathan Schmidt
Porterfield/Beaver - Pastor Lee Goodwin

“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.” Psalm 37:5 (NRSV)

As we begin a new fiscal year, congregational pledges for Mission Support are down by 6.5% or $65,807. This is the lowest pledge amount since 1996, and strongly impacts the mission of the Synod. In this challenging time, our trust remains in the Lord and the assurance of God’s promises. It’s very important that congregations make every effort to remit their monthly pledges in a timely manner.

Gifts to the ELCA Disaster Fund for Haiti Earthquake Relief account for the sharp rise in designated gifts in 2010.

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WE’RE ON THE WEB
WWW.NGLSYNOD.ORG

Volume 23 - Issues 4 & 5
April-May 2010

ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR APRIL 2010
AND MAY 2010
www.prayfaithfully.org

March 28-April 4 / Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, First Gladstone
April 5-10 / Pastor Jean Schmidt, Bethany, Perkins
April 11-17 / Pastor Len Gilley, Salem, Bark River
April 18-24 / Pamela Long, Holy Cross, Baraga
April 25-May 1 / Tera Kossow & High School Youth & Parents, First, Gladstone
May 2-8 / First, Our Saviour, Trinity, Ewen & Trout Creek
May 9-15 /
May 16-22 / Confirmation Students, Calvary, Rapid River
May 23-29 / Confirmation Students, First, Gladstone
May 30-June 5 / Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Board
Life with snow and sunshine might seem like a contradiction by nature, yet God has blessed us with this reality of events and activities in our life melting together into a continuous blessing.

Life at Finlandia is much like life outside of Finlandia. We focus on improving ourselves and those who come in and out of our lives, all the while searching for our own unique niches that fit us. We push, pull, struggle and rejoice at life’s opportunities.

We desire ‘uncommon attention’. Understanding our desire for ‘uncommon attention’, we as Christians, must also realize that Christ has given us THE ultimate uncommon attention and asks us to give uncommon attention to Him as well as our family, friends and community members. You can quickly realize that giving uncommon attention is out of the ordinary and difficult. Or is it? Should it be?

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.” - Isaiah 40:29-31

God is good, all the time!

April 2010

News from the University Chaplain’s office at Finlandia University for our companions in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

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

Sharing the ‘uncommon attention’

Of Christ Jesus

Life with snow and sunshine might seem like a contradiction by nature, yet God has blessed us with this reality of events and activities in our life melting together into a continuous blessing.

There was a particular night at one of our TGIF all-nighter events where God called out to talk to an individual who was looking curious. This student was from China and had never attended a Christian event prior to this night. His campus friends as well as the rest of the group gave him ‘uncommon attention’ through their welcoming, sharing and involving him in the activities.

Later that evening, He told me how excited he was and wanted to know how he could obtain a Bible. He wanted to know more about this Christian life and who Jesus was. His excitement and words overwhelmed me.

Friends...let’s strive to work together to make that ‘uncommon attention’ a COMMON occurrence.

God is good, all the time!

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God’s work. Our hands.

University Chaplain’s Corner

Rejoice and lift your voice in song! Did you know that singing can: help to alleviate stress, build stronger lungs, improve health and brain functions? No wonder why it feels good to praise God with our singing! God smiles as we not only seek the Lord and give thanks, but we are helping to improve our life and bless those around us! So, SING OUT! REJOICE with your voice!

Come attend Finlandia’s ‘University Singers’ Concert: April 22nd at 5:30 in the Chapel of St. Matthew!

-Soren Schmidt, University Chaplain

Any questions or comments? Contact us at soren.schmidt@finlandia.edu or (906) 487-7239.

“Answer the Call”

Every year the Northern Great Lakes Synod’s Endowment Fund makes substantial distributions as the result of very generous gifts. We give thanks as we celebrate all gifts which benefit Christ’s ministry in so many ways. Currently congregations around the synod are stepping up by offering support for seminarian scholarships through gifts to the “Answer the Call” campaign and the NGLS Fund for Leaders in Mission which is part of our endowment program. Though cash gifts are being sought and gifts of any amount are appreciated, we recognize not everyone is in a position to make a cash gift at this time. Some have elected to add their support by designating a planned gift from their estate.

Perhaps the easiest way for you to contribute to the continued growth of our Fund for Leaders endowment is to do a gift through your will, a living trust or a beneficiary designation. Such a gift allows you to maintain access to your resources in the event you need them for your own care and well-being. However, it assures your charitable interests are recognized upon your death and continues to benefit seminarian scholarships and other ministries of your church well into the future.

The simplest bequest to support future leaders in our church can be done by using approximately a couple dozen words: I direct ___% of my estate to the Northern Great Lakes Synod-ELCA Fund for Leaders, 1029 N. Third St, Ste A, Marquette MI 49855. It’s that simple. A couple dozen words or so will make a difference in all ministries of the church for many generations to come and give you great joy for a plan well made. If you would like to visit with someone about how you can “Answer the Call” through your will or estate plan, please contact Roger Knuth, our synod gift planner directly by calling 715-277-3142 or by email at knuthr1@newnorth.net. He can also be contacted by mail at 8520 Sand Lake Road, Harshaw, WI 54529. There is no fee associated with his services.
DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE
Pastor Jim Chinery
First Lutheran Church
Iron Mountain, Michigan

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)

We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. (II Corinthians 4:2)

A few days ago I had the pleasure of attending a Leadership Conference at Fortune Lake Camp. It was a wonderful weekend for many reasons. I was able to bring my wife Beth . . . . and chuckle as everybody looked at her stomach and asking the obligatory questions, “How do you feel?” and “When are you due?”

I was able to visit with and see other pastors in the NGLS (Northern Great Lakes Synod), and share in their joys and struggles. I got to spend some personal time with our Bishop Tom Skrenes, which is time that I value immensely and consider sacred. I was able to do a bit of ice fishing. I was also honored to be able to meet and listen to our Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson, who was our keynote speaker for the weekend.

Bishop Hanson spoke about many things. He shared how nostalgia (that sentimental yearning for the happiness of a former place or time) can be a dangerous force in our congregations. Especially when we look to the past, and allow despair to overcome us in the present (e.g., “we used to have 100 kids in SS,” “Our pews used to be full,” “Our previous pastor never preached from the pulpit.”) He shared the pain he has experienced when he has encountered good Christian people being driven by suspicion, cynicism and sarcasm, and letting that guide their actions and words.

He spoke about the trend in some congregations to view worship and the work of the church as a competition, leading congregations to view worship as entertainment instead of focusing on God’s Word in music, prayer and thanksgiving. He lamented the fact that many have reduced the ELCA’s mission in the world and our local communities to one issue – sexuality; when we could be uplifting the other wonderful things that happened at the CWA (Church Wide Assembly) in August (e.g., Malaria initiative, full communion with the Methodist church, HIV/Aids initiative, among others).

He spoke about the art of preaching, and why we do it. Why do we preach he asked us? The simple answer is because God’s Word needs to be heard . . . . over and over again.

Not only does God’s spoken word create faith, but it strengthens the faithful. He also suggested to us pastors to not be too “cautious” in our preaching. He assured us that the members of our congregation could certainly handle it. I agree and I vow to heed his advice.

Bishop Tom Skrenes updated us on the status of our NGLS. As of February 21, there were 5 congregations that have either begun the voting process to leave the ELCA, or have scheduled their first vote. There are certainly more to come. First Lutheran of Iron Mountain was of course mentioned.
Giving to the synod was down by 5% overall, with expectations of 10% or more in 2010. The full impact of this has yet to play out.

I also was able to feel the joy and pain as other pastors, as well as our bishops shared the struggles they have endured over the past few months. Bishop Hanson spoke of reconciliation (the act of bringing oneself or a group to harmony or agreement), and how the entire church is diminished as congregations and individual members seek to be the church elsewhere.

As we embark on our journey as a congregation, I want us all to remember something. We are a family. A family united under the shared confession that “Jesus is Lord.” Families do break up from time to time. Divorce is sometimes an inevitable act of human life. It is good for us to remember that none of us, not one single individual lives up to the standards that God has set forth in his Holy Word coming to us as Law and Gospel. That’s why Jesus had to die by the way.

When we speak, when we act, when we live . . . . we do so in love. We do so with the neighbor in mind. I have already, at this point, regretted some of the responses I have made to people who have disagreed with the position I have taken against the actions of the ELCA in the CWA. I openly ask for forgiveness. I am a pitiful sinner in dire need of Christ’s saving word and deed. I don’t apologize for speaking the truth (as I read it in God’s Word), but I openly confess that I have not always allowed love to guide my words.

Please pray for our congregation. Pray for our Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. Pray for Bishop Tom Skrenes and our Bishop’s Assistant Jennifer Johnson Wrege. Pray for the pastors in the NGLS and the ELCA (don’t forget to throw one in there for me).

We journey together. We live, breathe, worship, pray and work in the light that has shined into our dark world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5). May the light of Jesus Christ guide us, and our congregation as we attempt to discern God’s will in all things.
For the purpose of this three-part series, let us assume that the exegetical study has been completed. It is time to focus on the delivery of the sermon. Our faith demands that our preaching be effective. Listeners are supposed to be moved! Something is supposed to happen. This demands that the preacher understand and practice the basic principles of public speaking.

First, preachers need to know who they are personally. Use the Myers-Briggs Personality inventory or some similar tool to learn about yourself so you can build on your strengths and adjust to your weaknesses. Find your growing edges and hone them to a sharp moving edge so you can preach effectively.

Then we need to select one of several preaching styles according to what you are most well suited for. Your style may change or grow with experience and confidence. Most pastors are introverts! That surprises people, but on our deepest levels it seems to be true. It means that preaching with a manuscript rather than some form of extemporaneous speech or electronic presentation is likely to be most comfortable among us. That’s okay, but it must be done with energy and practice or the listeners feel unimportant and tune out the preacher. Reading the sermon is not an option. Presenting a seminary theology paper at worship is the quickest way I know to kill the spirit in a congregation. People are hungry to know that the preacher lives in their world and struggles with their faith beside them. Thus, our goal is sermons with two or three powerful stories directly reflecting how the text applies to life this week.

Manuscript preaching requires weekly practice so that the paper is not a barrier between the preacher and the people. The need for practice may diminish over time, but it is still a good idea to go back and use practice once in a while to correct bad habits that creep in. Oral Style is a technique where the sermon is created on the paper just as an artist paints on a canvas. Your specific Oral Style of writing is unique to you. Each is developed over time. You might use **bold letters** for things delivered with a loud voice and *italics* for things whispered with great intensity. The size of the print may vary if you are using a computer. It seems best to use double or even triple line spacing so your eye can find the text without confusion. You may even use long hand! Throw out the grammar book!! Create the words as you will speak them. You may only have a sentence or two on each page! You may have pictures or handwritten sections. Whatever helps with the delivery of the valuable Gospel insight you have created.

In using the manuscript, the paper should be invisible to the listeners! DO NOT BIND THE MANUSCRIPT IN ANY WAY. Flipping pages is extremely distracting and negates
the value of the sermon. Instead, “shuffle” the pages from one pile to the other just as you look up to finish a spoken phrase. Practice it!

Speaking of practice, we should all record our sermons early in the week and play them back to ourselves all week long! It’s really very easy to do and has huge effect. By the time we get to worship (if we start early) we know the sermon so well that preaching without the manuscript becomes a second possibility! Video recording will reveal much about your effectiveness and growing edges. If that is not available, just go into the place you will preach and practice, practice, practice.

A few pastors are able to speak off outlines or extemporaneously without notes. It takes more preparation and practice although years of experience may develop a very easy, relaxed “witness” style. Where manuscript preaching has limits in terms of eye contact and expression, the more extemporaneous methods run the risk of getting too long and losing the focus. There is always somewhere the devil can get in!

A word about preaching without amplification. It is completely different. The way you use your voice is drastically different if it is not amplified. Projection (speaking from the diaphragm) is the key; breathing changes; pauses are different. We must all realize and catalogue the differences between preaching with amplification and without. More another time.

Now you are thinking. “That’s nice for some homiletics geek who has nothing else to do but I’m busy. I don’t have time for all that.” First, make time. It is too important to allow preaching to be ineffective. Here in the northland we are struggling against huge corporate depression where our people are so fond of being put upon that we must feel the Holy Spirit and plow into the “poor me syndrome” like chain saws in a stand of dead trees! We need ENERGY! We need it in liturgy and in preaching. When we see our preaching as vital and exciting it becomes easier and less time consuming. Building the sermon is simply living the week before it with the Gospel message tucked under our arm while looking to see where we find its application in life. I do my exegetical work on Sunday afternoon after the sermon! Then I go out into the week to find that Gospel message in daily life. The next Sunday, just tell the story of what you found! In between, sort out the junk.
It’s time to celebrate 80 years of living and learning in Christian community on the shores of Fortune Lake.

It’s time to reflect on the past and to renew our commitment to future ministry at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. It’s time to give thanks.

YOU’RE INVITED TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

We especially encourage you to attend the Thanksgiving Worship & Banquet on Sunday, June 6.

Note that reservations for the banquet must be made by May 15. Tickets can be purchased at the Annual Meeting March 21, or by calling or e-mailing the camp office. See more events on the reverse side. All will be held on site.

– The 80th Anniversary Committee, on behalf of the FLLC Board of Directors
Sunday, June 6 | Thanksgiving Worship & Banquet

Worship begins at 3 pm CDT

- Fortune Lake 500 - Prelude Parade of Gifts & Vehicles
- Service of Holy Communion celebrated under a huge tent in the field
- Mass Choir from Member Congregations
- Guest Preacher, Rev. Robert Langseth
- Catered Buffet Banquet in the Chapel-Auditorium
- Guest Speaker, Pastor Pete Warmanen
- Historical Dramatic Presentation & Photo Montage

Banquet tickets: Adults $20 • Children 5-12 yrs. $10 • Children under 5 free
Call (906) 875-3697 or e-mail officemanager@fortunelake.org to reserve your spaces by May 15.

July 2–4 | All Staff Alumni Reunion

- Reconnect with friends
- Reflect on camp memories
- Celebrate the present
- Be renewed for the future

Fee info and registration at fortunelake.org or call (906) 875-3697.
Search “FLLC All Staff Reunion 2010” on Facebook to see who else will be there.

Saturday, October 9 | 80th Birthday Fiesta

9 am - 7 pm CDT

- Quilt & Fine Art Auction
- Chili Challenge & Country Market
- Birthday Games for Kids
- Second Sunday Folk Dance 25th Season Opener
Who should attend?
- Pastors & Worship Leaders
- Children’s Ministry Leaders
- Youth & Family Ministers
- Lay leaders
- Parents
- Grandparents
- Faith Formation teams

What will you learn?
- What milestones are
- How to celebrate milestones
- What other congregations do
- Milestones-related Resources
- How to create a master plan
- Tips for getting started now
- Ways milestones can be used in daily life and ministry

Get the word out!
- Personally invite people
- Make it a staff training event
- Email ministry team leaders
- Invite people during worship
- Bring confirmation parents
- Call colleagues in ministry

MILESTONES MINISTRY
CONFERENCE
May 2 - 3, 2010
First Lutheran Church
1212 Minneapolis Avenue
Gladstone, MI 49873
906-428-4565

Registration: $100/congregation (unlimited participants)
Meals: $20/person

For more information & to register
Call Wendy Black @ 715.360.4977
Email: WKBlack@yahoo.com
Housing Information: http://www.nglsynod.org/event-005.html

Sponsored by the Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA
Supported by a generous grant from the Seibert Lutheran Foundation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Registration: $100/congregation (unlimited participants)
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Sponsored by the Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA
Supported by a generous grant from the Seibert Lutheran Foundation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin
A faith milestone is a marker along life’s journey that says, “This is something important and God is here, too.” Biblically based, marking milestones help all generations recognize God’s presence in all of life.

This conference will help you plan a milestones ministry, tailored to your setting, celebrating milestones in the congregation and equipping households to mark their unique milestones at home.”

“I came to the conference reluctantly, saying, “I’m done.” I’m going home saying, “I’m called to do family ministry.” Thank you for helping our team to speak and share the same faith language. Thanks for affirming all we are already doing. Thank you for a new manual that I can open, tweak and use for our milestones. Thank you for providing a home where I hear God’s voice and God’s gentle call.”

Emily Dahlen
Milford, IA

“Thank you for re-filling my cup and sending me back with some new implementable ideas.”

Amy Eisenmann, intern
Buhl, ND

“I want to commend you on your Milestones Ministry. You have developed good theology, good resources and a faithful tenacity that has ushered in a space of grace for the church and a way of life for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world. Thank you!”

Pastor Joe BW Smith
South Dakota

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vibrant faith that is...
Authentic, Available and Affirming

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Minneapolis, MN 55431
877-239-2492
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, pray that you too may find wholeness in a life of service as you seek to be a faithful disciple of your master.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>We are here at the foot of the cross, we gaze into his eyes, we see his pain, and in all this we experience God’s gifts of grace. Pray that as you leave the cross you take the crucified Christ with you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>As the day draws to a close and darkness descends and deepens, we do not yet see light, yet we know the blazing light of Easter is about to burst forth. Pray for hope in the dark times of your life, knowing that the life of the resurrected Christ is God’s gift to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Christ is risen! Alleluia! Keep saying these words over and over this day – make this your prayer today and every day!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for Pastor Bucky Beach and the members of Good Shepherd, Houghton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for the members of Grace, Pembine and Pastor Eugene Wickman as they celebrate the 85th anniversary of the congregation this month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for Seminarian Kristin Rice, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, as she celebrates her birthday this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for the members of Emmanuel, Baltimore MD (Rev Bobby Booher), Glen, Glen Burnie MD (Rev David Berg), Harvest Wind, Mt Airy MD (Rev Cary Moorman), and Jerusalem, Whiteford MD (Rev Hugo Schroeder).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for the members of Emanuel, Skandia and Interim Pastor James Duehring as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for the members of the Transformational Ministry Team who meet this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for the members of the Delta Conference who meet this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for our Synod Staff (Bishop Tom Skrenes, Assistant Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege, Kay Benedict, Louise Ingalls, Betsy Koski, Roger Knuth) who meet this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pray for those attending and those presenting at the Pastor’s Sabbath at Fortune Lake Camp these days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for the members of Mt Zion &amp; St Luke, Feagaville MD (pastor), Peace, Glen Burni MD (Rev Bill Gohl), and Shepherd of the Glen, Glenwood MD (Rev Jim Luedeke).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray for the members of Bethany, Escanaba and Interim Pastor Dean Peterson as they celebrate the 131st anniversary of the congregation this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the Bi-Synodical Candidacy Meeting and Training at Fortune Lake Camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>spouses of deceased pastors</strong> – Louise Faust and Betsy Framstad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for those young people and adults attending the <strong>MARKED! Event</strong> in Minocqua this day. Pray also for <strong>Pastor Keith Kolstad</strong> as he celebrates his <strong>25th anniversary of ordination</strong> this day and prepares for <strong>sabbatical to Tanzania</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Michael Mannisto</strong>, his <strong>wife Michelle</strong>, and the <strong>members</strong> of St. James, Rudyard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>St John, Edgemere MD (pastor)</strong>, <strong>St Mark, Snydersburg MD (Rev Mike Adams)</strong>, and <strong>St Paul, Utica MD (Rev Bill Bucher)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Jimalee Jones</strong> (Gloria Dei, Hancock) as she celebrates her <strong>22nd anniversary of ordination</strong> this month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> 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>23</td>
<td>Pray for the women of our synod who participate in the <strong>Synodical Women’s Organization</strong> as well as those active in local <strong>Women of the ELCA</strong> groups in their congregations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Ron Strobel</strong> and the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Holy Trinity, Chassell</strong> as they <strong>begin ministry together</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for those young people and adults attending the <strong>MARKED! Event</strong> in Negaunee this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Bishop Tom Skrenes</strong> and <strong>Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege</strong> and their <strong>colleagues</strong> as they attend the <strong>Evangelical Outreach &amp; Congregational Ministries meeting</strong> in Chicago these days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>St Philip, Baltimore MD (Rev Michael Guy), Trinity, Reisterstown MD (Rev Tim Feaser)</strong>, and <strong>Woodsboro Evangelical, Israel Creek MD (Rev Dorothy Lundgren)</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Doug Norquist</strong> and the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Community Lutheran Church</strong> (Palmer &amp; Suomi Location) as they <strong>begin ministry together</strong> this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>seminarian Amanda Kossow</strong>, on internship in Osseo WI, as she celebrates her <strong>birthday</strong> this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>retired clergy</strong> and their <strong>spouses</strong> – <strong>Pastor Rell &amp; Louise Spickerman</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Prayer Request</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>On this <strong>National Day of Prayer</strong> we lift our united voices to the Lord – may prayer be a part of our daily routines. Pray also for <strong>Pastor LaVonne Stephenson</strong> and the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Our Redeemer, Newberry</strong> as they celebrate <strong>2 years of ministry together</strong> this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pray for those preparing for <strong>confirmation</strong> – may they remember their baptism and the promise God made to them, may their faith be strengthened, their hearts opened, and their lives forever changed by the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pray for those attending the <strong>Milestone Ministry Conference</strong> at First, Gladstone these days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pray for those attending and those presenting at the <strong>Stewardship Retreat – Being a Stewardship Pastor</strong> at Fortune Lake Camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>students</strong> and <strong>faculty</strong> from <strong>Finlandia University</strong> who are <strong>traveling</strong> in our companion synod <strong>in Tanzania</strong> these days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Christ, Edmondson MD</strong> (Rev Bob Schmitt), <strong>Gloria Dei!, Arnold MD</strong> (Revs Tom Williamsen, Ana Langerak, Hudo Zavandro), and <strong>Haven, Hagerstown MD</strong> (pastor).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Bishop Alex and Ericah Malasusa</strong> who are visiting our synod these weeks from the Eastern and Coastal Diocese in Tanzania.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pray for the members of the <strong>Endowment Board</strong> who meet this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>mothers</strong> – those who have given birth to children and those who are entrusted by God to nurture and care for His children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Prince of Peace, Eagle River</strong> and <strong>Interim Pastor Bill Hayes</strong> as they continue in a <strong>pastoral vacancy</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>retired clergy</strong> and <strong>spouses</strong> – <strong>Pastor Bob Sutherland</strong> and <strong>Pastor Leon &amp; Kay Lindquist</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>Joy Reigns, Edgewater MD</strong> (Rev Nicki Parrish), <strong>Mt Moriah &amp; St Paul, Foxville-Greensburg MD</strong> (Rev Julie Brigham), and <strong>People’s Community, Baltimore MD</strong> (Rev Titus Clarke).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Praise to Jesus the crucified, now ascended Lord!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Scott Williams</strong>, his <strong>wife Melissa</strong> &amp; their <strong>daughter</strong>, and the <strong>members</strong> of <strong>United, L’Anse</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pray those <strong>seminarians</strong> preparing for <strong>commencement</strong> tomorrow at <strong>Wartburg Theological Seminary</strong>, Dubuque IA and <strong>Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago</strong>. Pray for the <strong>pastors and professors</strong> who have taught these students. Pray for the <strong>congregations</strong> that have supported them these years and those that will receive them as they go forth to serve our Lord.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pray for pastors who celebrate <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong> this day – <strong>Donald Wandersee</strong> (retired) 54 years &amp; <strong>Len Gilley</strong> (Salem, Bark River) 7 years ... for <strong>Pastor Jonathan Schmidt</strong> &amp; the <strong>members</strong> of First, Gladstone as they celebrate 13 years of ministry together ... for <strong>Pastor Len Gilley</strong> &amp; the <strong>members</strong> of Salem, Bark River as they celebrate the <strong>127th anniversary of the congregation</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pray for those attending <strong>Synod Assembly</strong> these days. May the Holy Spirit be in the midst of our worship, fellowship, and discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Bonny Kinnunen</strong> and the <strong>members</strong> of First, Iron River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>spouses of deceased pastors</strong> – <strong>Dora Jane Swanson</strong> and <strong>Ruth Warmanen</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of Spirit of Life, Wilmington DE (Rev Clarence Pettit), St John, Essex, MD (Rev Lans Alexis), and St Luke, Hampden MD (Rev Michael Dubsky).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of Maneromango Lutheran Church (Rev Prosper Melli), Kisarawe, Tanzania and their NGLS companion congregation First, Ewen (Rev Gerald Anderson).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Jean Schmidt</strong>, her <strong>husband Jonathan &amp; daughter Rebecca</strong>, and the <strong>members</strong> of Bethany, Perkins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pray that the gift of the Spirit given first at <strong>Pentecost</strong>, given to you in your baptism, may be renewed this day and every day, guiding and nurturing you in a life of faithful discipleship. Pray also for <strong>Pastor Norman Peterson</strong>, Immanuel, Rhinelander, as he celebrates his <strong>34th anniversary of ordination</strong> this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Pray for pastors celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong> this day – <strong>George Kaiser</strong> (retired) 43 years and <strong>John Shallow</strong> (Good Shepherd, Peshtigo) 29 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pray for those in our congregations who share their <strong>gift of music</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of the <strong>Lay School Board</strong> who meet this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of St Mark, Wilmington DE (Rev Fred Melton), St Paul, Cumberland MD (Rev John Duffus), and St Paul, Newark DE (Rev John Keating).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>Pastor Jim Duehring</strong>, his <strong>wife Gisele</strong>, and the <strong>members</strong> of Prince of Peace, Harvey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Pray for the <strong>members</strong> of Our Redeemer, Newberry and <strong>Pastor LaVonne Stephenson</strong> as they celebrate the <strong>122nd anniversary of the congregation</strong> this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pray for those pastors celebrating <strong>anniversaries of ordination</strong> this day – <strong>Bishop Emeritus Dale Skogman</strong> (retired) 45 years and <strong>Jonathan Schmidt</strong> (First, Gladstone) 24 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pray for our <strong>young people</strong> and <strong>teachers</strong> in <strong>Sunday School</strong> classes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quarters for World Hunger

This year’s theme for Synod Assembly is “Blessings!” The World Hunger Subcommittee of the Northern Great Lakes Synod is asking all congregations to share some of their “blessings” by saving quarters for World Hunger! Perhaps you could place a basket of 35 mm film canisters on tables or counters during fellowship hour or in the narthex where people will see them as they come to worship. Through bulletins, newsletters and other announcements, encourage people to collect quarters and return the canisters when they are full. Each holds about $7.

We are asking that the quarters not be in quarter wrappers per request of the bank.

Each voter will receive a “World Hunger Quarters Contribution” form in the pre-assembly report in April, which should be filled out and turned into Betsy Koski, the Synod Bookkeeper, at Synod Assembly. Please, only one form per congregation needs to be turned in. Betsy will have more forms available if needed. This total will be noted on your church’s statement of contribution.

We will gather the quarters in wagons during Synod Assembly on Monday morning and the total amount collected will be announced.

Thank you!
Pastor David Hueter
Zion Lutheran Church
Manistique, Michigan

I recently was at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, Michigan, attending a Theological Conference. It was short – beginning Sunday evening and ending on Monday afternoon – but it was good . . . for many reasons.

The presenter was the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Bishop Mark Hanson. It was good to meet him, to have opportunity to talk with him, but also to listen as he offered three different presentations.

These gatherings are always wonderful opportunities to gather with other pastors from throughout our Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS). We are so spread out, and conferences such as this allow us to visit and share with old friends, but also to meet new ones. We talk a lot of work . . . of ministry . . . but also catch up on and share our daily lives.

We also worship. Even as we dig into the work and business of the church, we set aside time to worship – to pause in the midst of busy schedules to meditate, pray, sing praises, listen to God’s Word proclaimed and celebrate our Lord’s Supper as a community of faith, gathered in fellowship, mission and service. It is good. It is necessary. It is a part of who we are.

What I would like to spend a moment talking about and sharing, is something I experienced in our time of worship. More specifically, it was during the time of prayer as we opened up to petitions being offered by anyone present.

I met Pastor Chang (actually his name – first and last – was much longer, but this was easier for me/us) during registration. He comes to us from Sudan, has studied and received a degree (doctorate?) from the University of Moscow, and went through our Seminary in Chicago (LSTC). He serves several congregations in the Ewen/Paynesville, Michigan area.
In prayer, he offered a petition for the people of Sudan . . . especially those in Darfur. It made sense, as it is a troubled region. But, the words struck me as they were being prayed.

I’ve prayed for Sudan before, just as I have for places like Afghanistan or Iraq – places that are experiencing turmoil or unrest. But in Pastor Chang’s prayer, he helped me to see something different in our prayers.

We were both praying for a need that existed. The difference, however, was that I was praying for something that I had heard about, and he was praying for something he had experienced himself. That is not to say that my prayer was not important, for indeed we lift up on prayer – we place in God’s hands – the needs of all God’s people, everywhere.

It’s just that as I listened to Pastor Chang pray, I realized the deep and personal connection he had in this. It was his family . . . his people . . . his country.

As we journey together through this Lenten season, and as we follow Christ to the cross once again, do we understand and sense the truly deep and personal connection that Christ brings to our lives – not only through his ministry and teachings, but through his very life, death and resurrection.

Remember that Christ, too, looks to us as family . . . as his people. Christ’s deep and abiding love for us is what allowed him to endure the pain and suffering of the cross. It’s why he cared enough to give his life . . . to fulfill God’s promises.

This is personal . . . for Christ, and for us. Remember daily, the sacrifice that Christ has made for us, but more than that, think about how we might best respond in and through lives of gratitude and praise.

With you, all the way to the cross.