

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 23, Issues 6 and 7

JUNE & JULY 2010

MISSION - VISION - HOPE

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes
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At the airport, waiting in line one day, I met Joyce. I am not sure where in the Upper Peninsula this 70 something year old lady lives, or what she did for a living or even what church she attends. But I will remember this woman because she had a mission, and vision and she had hope.

Joyce was in a wheelchair dragging behind her a bottle of oxygen. Obviously, she was very ill. My clerical collar and big bishop's cross got her attention that day as I stood in front of her. "I bet you're a pastor," she said. "I am," I replied. "Well," Joyce said, "I hope you touch many hearts with the message of God." We talked about her coming airplane trip. She was on her way to the Mayo Clinic for a procedure to help her breathe better. As the line moved forward, I said, "God bless you." And then came Joyce's Christian witness and her vision for herself and others, "God has always blessed me. I have always been in the hands of Jesus. I am in his hands now."

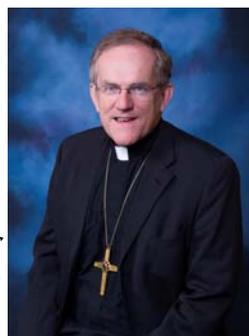
Joyce has a sense of mission, a vision and plenty of hope. And all have been given to her by God. We are now in the beginning of summer! Things "slow down" at church. People go to their cottages and go on vacation. Here in the north woods of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula, the focus is on enjoying these days. And that is good. School is out, the golf courses are full and the lakes are busy with swimmers and boaters.

This summer I am thinking about Joyce. I wonder how she is doing? But I also see in our brief airport conversation an agenda for all of us in God's church.

What is your Mission? Will your life and ministry touch hearts?

What is your Vision? Where is God leading you and your congregation?

Where do you find Hope? How do we as congregations and individuals live out our day to day lives knowing that Jesus has us "in his hands"?



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THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)



BLESSINGS

It was a fine “blessed” three days at our Church college in Hancock, Michigan. The 23rd Annual Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod met at Finlandia University from May 16-18, 2010. Three hundred and fifty persons participated in the worship, the conversations, the forums and the business sessions. We shared God’s blessings in prayer and in Word and Sacrament. At the Assembly:

+The Synod celebrated the reception of a new congregation, Community Lutheran Church of Palmer and Suomi, a merger of Concordia and Our Saviour’s churches. We also thanked the people of the now closed congregation, Faith in White Pine, for their \$105,000 gift to “Answer The Call”, the Synod Seminarian Endowment.

+Heard a Bible Study by the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Bishop Alex Malasusa. Bishop Malasusa joined us in 2005, and this year spent almost a month in our Synod. His wife, Ericah, was with him and participated in the Assembly’s Tanzania workshop.

+Former Bishop Steven Bouman gave an inspiring address on the mission of God’s Church. He represented Bishop Mark Hanson, and currently serves as Executive Director of the ELCA’s Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit in Chicago.

+Elected Larry Pagel (Messiah, Marquette) Synod Treasurer.

+Elected Churchwide Voting Members to the ELCA Assembly in Orlando in 2011.

- Pastor Jean Schmidt (Bethany, Perkins)
- Pastor David Hueter (Zion, Manistique)
- Ann Christiansen (First, Gladstone)
- Loraine Mussatti (All Saints, Wakefield)
- Judith Quirk (Messiah, Marquette)
- Peter Johnson (Trinity, Ishpeming)
- Ralph B.K. Peterson (Bethany, Escanaba)

+Elected Synod Council Members:

- Susan Anderson (Sharon, Bessemer)
- Pastor Scott Williams (United, L’Anse)
- Denise Laakko (United, Crystal Falls)
- Eric Larson (Good Shepherd, Peshtigo)
- Pastor Devon Barrix (Faith, Rock)
- Pastor Steve Solberg (Immanuel, Negaunee)



THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

+Defeated three resolutions that would have attempted to adopt the 1990 Visions and Expectations of the ELCA for this Synod's rostered persons; repudiate the 2009 Churchwide Assembly decisions on human sexuality and end all work on political social statements.

+Recognized pastors who have retired and who celebrated anniversaries. Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege was recognized for a decade of work as Assistant to the Bishop.

+Enjoyed a concert by Synod son, Jon Rundman, as we honored Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for 80 years of Christian outdoor ministry.

+Adopted budgets for 2010 and 2011 that reflect decreased mission support from the congregations but still further the mission and witness of the Synod.

+Received offerings of \$4,745 for Mission Outreach and Companion Synod work.

+Received World Hunger Quarter Offerings of \$15,444.25.

YOUR SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

The saying is true. When you ask for opinions, you get them! About half of the Assembly (152 people) filled out evaluations. The results were very positive. All in all the Assembly received a strong 4.5 approval on a five point scale. You especially liked the worship, the speakers, the Assembly scheduling, the registration process, and the Monday evening concert festivities. You also thought the Synod staff and the Finlandia people were very friendly and helpful. Here are a few comments made and my response to them:

“It is great to be at Finlandia - steps, etc., are an issue, but it's still good.”

We travel to Finlandia about once every four or five years as a sign of support and relationship to our Church College. While the facilities (steps, etc.) are an issue, we feel the University is really welcoming. It is good for all of us to see our school!

“Worship Services were excellent.”

The Synod Worship Committee and our Synod Staff work very hard to have strong, meaningful services. Thanks to Pastor George Kaiser, our Sacristan, the worship goes very well.

“Social Statements - not everyone has computers to print off before hand. Compensation Guidelines - not enough time to review before vote.”

The Synod is committed to reducing paper as a stewardship issue. Costs are mounting to print and send paper. We hope to have even more Assembly material next year on-line. The Compensation Guidelines will be on the website earlier next year, and more of the reports will only be found there. Those without computers may always ask the Synod office for the printed materials. That will be made clearer next year.

“Lack of knowledge on issues. Do not understand voting issues in advance.”

Pastors need to discuss the issues with their lay voting members. Information on most of the issues that are considered by the Synod Assembly are on the Synod and ELCA websites. I am open to other avenues to get the word out. Do you have any suggestions?

“Youth are missing.”

A very noticeable problem for us is the lack of voting members who are younger. The Synod Council has talked about this. We are continuing to seek ideas on how to attract young people. What about a reduced cost to any congregation that registers a youth as an Assembly voting member?

JULY IN TANZANIA

On July 12, 2010, I have been asked to make a presentation at the pastors' gathering in Dodoma, Tanzania. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania is convening all 2,000 of their clergy to discuss theological issues facing this African Church. I will be one of a number of speakers. Our Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson believes this is an important opportunity to reflect with the Tanzanians as there remains considerable tension on sexuality issues between our church body and the Tanzanian Lutheran community. The Churchwide ELCA is paying for my travel.

My wife and I feel that this is the moment to bring most of our immediate family to Tanzania. It has been a dream of ours for our children to see how God is at work in the Tanzanian people. Luanne and three of our four sons will join me in Africa. Our oldest son, Jeremy, is unable to be with us this time. Pastor Kenneth Lahners from Trinity in Ishpeming will also travel with us as he visits Tanzania and his congregation's companion congregation there.

Please pray for our family and for me as I seek to encourage understanding and a unified sense of mission in these days. We work and pray.

TRANSITIONS

+Congratulations to **Pastor Bill Jacobson (Zion, Felch)** who has accepted a call to All Saints in Wakefield. Pastor Jacobson and wife, Melzee, will be moving to Wakefield this summer.

+Congratulations to **Pastor Jeremy Winter (Zion, St. Ignace and Trinity, Brevort)** as he was installed on Ascension Day, May 13. Welcome to the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Pastor!

+Congratulations to **Pastor Judy Mattson (Zion, Skanee)** on her May 15th ordination and installation as the pastor at Zion in Skanee. Welcome to the clergy roster, Pastor Mattson, and God bless you and husband, Howard.

+**Pastor Devon Barrix (Faith, Rock)** has announced his resignation from the parish for physical disability reasons. He and his wife, JoAnne, will return to their home in

the Rhinelander area. God bless Pastor Barrix and restore him to health.

+A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 12th at United Lutheran in Crystal Falls for **Pastor John Linna**. Pastor Linna served for more than three decades at United, and passed from this life earlier this year. The service begins at 1:30 p.m. Central Time.

+The mother of **Luanne Skrenes** died recently. This is what I said at the Opening Communion Service at the Synod Assembly about my mother-in-law, Edith Kallungi:

"This afternoon in Pelkie and Elo, not very far from here, my family and I buried my mother-in-law. Together at the graveside, we said goodbye to one who was wife and mother and grandmother. Surrounded by her husband, three loving children and nine grandsons and two great-granddaughters, as well as what seemed like a hundred cousins and loving Christian friends, we testified to the truth. And that truth is that all are mortal. "We are dust and to dust we shall return." And yet there is one more truth. Surrounded by God's people at the edge of a grave - a grave we, too, every one of us, will one day fill - the blessing of a loving God warmed us and allowed us to cling to each other with Christian hope. And so tonight - we have, all of you present, to walk with us on the journey from life to death to life eternal."

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop

tskrenes@nglsynod.org

Malaria Net Project

St. Paul's, Mass City

Bishop Thomas & Luanne Skrenes

United, Crystal Falls

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Zion, Manistique

All Saints, Wakefield

Emanuel, Skandia

Trinity, Ishpeming

Grace, Gwinn

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United, Crystal Falls
Calvary, Rapid River

World Missionary Support

Bethel, Ishpeming
Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Trinity, Rhinelander
Mission United, Pelkie
Pioneer Lake, Conover

ELCA Disaster Funds

Salem, Ironwood
Mission United, Pelkie
Trinity, Rhinelander
All Saints, Wakefield
Holy Trinity, Chassell
Grace, South Range
Immanuel, Rhinelander
Faith, Ishpeming
Our Saviour's, Iron Mountain
Grace, Gwinn
Messiah, Marquette
Immanuel, Negaunee
United, Crystal Falls
Emanuel, Skandia
Zion, Skanee
Bethel, Ishpeming
Ascension, Minocqua
Bethany, Mohawk
St. James, Marinette
Trinity, Brevort
Bethany, Amasa
Pioneer Lake, Conover

Congregational Mission Support

Salem, Bark River

Mission Outreach

Salem, Bark River

Sabbath Project

Sharon, Bessemer

Skogman Scholarship Fund

Bishop Dale & Jo Skogman

Tanzania Teachers' Gift

Joyce Peterson
George & Jonelle Collins
Peter & Trudy Johnson
David & Tracy Rowe
Albert & Kathryn Sundine
Elaine Jalonen
Helen Bjork
Bishop Thomas & Luanne Skrenes
David & Mary Lou Blomquist
Rev. Jennifer Johnson Wrege & Marv Wrege
James & Judith Quirk
Helen Ademino
Robert & Phyllis Gottschalk
John & Pauline Kiltinen

Lutheran World Relief

Zion, Marinette
Calvary, Rapid River
Holy Trinity, Chassell
Prince of Peace, Marquette
Messiah, Marquette
Grace, South Range
Gloria Dei, Hancock
First, Gladstone

Seminarian Support

Calvary, Minocqua
Wainola, Mass City

Lay School for Mission

Trinity, Rapid River

Kisarawe

Holy Trinity, Chassell

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



*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
 that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found;
 was blind but now I see.*

Highways 41 and 141 are very familiar to me – they stretch north and south from the Upper Peninsula to Appleton and beyond. One summer Sunday evening, I was heading back to Marquette in heavier than usual traffic and thinking more about the week ahead than my driving. When cars suddenly slowed in the right lane, I clicked on my left turn blinker and immediately began to steer my car into the left lane only to be shocked and frightened by the reality that two people on a motorcycle cruising along, like I was, at seventy miles an hour or more, were in my blind spot. Had it not been for the quick maneuvers of the cycle driver, I am certain I would have been responsible for their deaths or injuries and lots of other damage.

BLIND SPOTS: they're not just about driving. I'm thinking we have blind spots in terms of our faith.

I seem to have a kind of chronic blindness when it comes to seeing Jesus – Jesus in others, Jesus at work in the world, Jesus speaking through the Word. I say that I want to see Jesus, but my actions do not match my words. On another Sunday afternoon, just a few weeks ago, I stopped at the Synod office between responsibilities to pick up a book I needed. There was a woman quietly sitting on the curb to the left of the offices. I did not wave. I did not greet her. I did not acknowledge her in any way. I was on a mission. I did lock my car.

A few minutes later, as I was walking back to my car, she called me over and asked if there was anyone around who could help her. Was there a pastor in there (she pointed at the Synod and Lutheran Social Services offices) or at the church over there (she pointed toward Messiah Lutheran)? Dressed in black clerics that day, it had to be obvious that she was talking to a pastor. Yet, I did nothing to help her. She needed diapers for her daughter's baby and food for her daughter and herself. She offered that she had an appointment with someone at Lutheran Social Services the next day – Monday – but she didn't know what to do for diapers and food for the rest of that day and the night. I offered a couple of places where, possibly, she could receive some immediate help, then left.

I was in a hurry! I was on my way to some important meeting! I had to get going! Down the street I went as a still, small voice whispered, "Go back and invite her to come with you." I didn't do it. The thought went through my head again, "Go back and invite her to come with you." But by now I was late. I didn't think I had the time.

The truth is this: I was blind and didn't even know it until it was too late to respond in any way – this time.

Thanks be to God that in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness. Thanks be to God that in Jesus Christ our sight can be restored. Thanks be to God that in Jesus Christ we are renewed and sent to serve.

Thanks be to God!

Blessings!

Pastoral Vacancies and Interim Pastors

Full-time

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
 Bethany, Escanaba - Pastor Dean Peterson
 Faith, Ishpeming - Pastor Kenneth Lahners
 St. Paul, Wainola, First of Winona, Mass City - Pastor John Autio
 St. Stephen, Stephenson & Gethsemane, Wallace - Pastor Jonathan Schmidt
 Porterfield/Beaver - Pastor Lee Goodwin

Part-time

Our Saviour, Atlantic Mine - Pastor Bucky Beach
 Central, Menominee - Pastor Ken Michaelis
 Bethany, Covington - Pastor Scott Williams
 Bethany, Negaunee - Pastor Marcia Solberg
 Trinity, Stonington - Pastor Steve Gauger
 Faith, Rock - Pastor Peter Andersen

“From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” John 1:16

As anticipated, mission support receipts are lower than in 2009, but still above the amount budgeted. Designated gifts continue to be much higher due to the outpouring of support for Haiti Earthquake Relief. Opportunities abound to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, and we are thankful for the partnership we share with the congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

As of 4/30	2009	2010	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	1,005,571	932,017	-73,554	-7.3%
Amount Received	274,492	256,903	-17,589	-6.4%
Designated Gifts	46,971	78,747	+31,776	+67.6%



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Volume 23 - Issues 6 & 7

June-July 2010

ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR JUNE & JULY
2010

www.prayfaithfully.org

Devotions by Fortune Lake Camp Board Members and Staff

May 30 - June 5 / Pastor Bill Jacobson

June 6-12 / Tony Grayvold

June 13-19 / Pastor Art Weiss

June 20-26 / Pastor Art Weiss

June 27 - July 3 / Pastor Peter Andersen

July 4-10 / Ann Gonyea

July 11-17 / Herb Grenke

July 18-24 / Julie Beck

July 25-31 / Pastor Peter Warmanen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JUNE 2010

June 4 / World Hunger Meeting at United in Crystal Falls, 10:00 a.m. CT

June 6 / 80th Anniversary Celebration at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

June 8 / Campus Ministry Meeting at Good Shepherd in Houghton, 1:00 p.m. ET

June 19-20 / 100th Anniversary Celebration, Trinity, Brevort

June 23 / Youth Ministries Support Team at Fortune Lake, 10:00 a.m. CT

JULY 2010

July 5 / Synod Office Closed

July 6-10 / Leadership School at Finlandia University in Hancock

THANK YOU!

Answer the Call/NGLS Fund for Leaders

Dirk & Sue Manson
Kenneth & Christine Raisanen
Ann Christiansen
Bethany, Mohawk
Anonymous/Mohawk
Bethany, Negaunee
Jean Belkonen
William & Dorothy Lampinen
Dave & Linda Kantola
Bill Waara
E.J. Jacobsen
Martha Jukkala
Irene Ruohonen
David & Elaine Hendrickson
John Ritola
Bill Eddy
Bruce & Lorry LeBlanc
Terry & Jonette Cauvin
Anonymous/Copper Harbor
Jack & Sandi Siegmeier
Richard & Bonnie Harrer
First, Ewen
Grace, South Range
Trinity, Trout Creek
Christ the King, Escanaba
Rev. Jennifer Johnson Wrege & Marv Wrege
Rev. Devon & JoAnne Barrix
Our Saviour, Paynesville
Betty Kohrt
Marian Johnson
Don & Joan Johnson
Richard & Gloria LaFave
Trinity, Rhinelander
Lorye LaCanne
Zion, Manistique
Ruth Garn
Carl & Mary Nurmi
Laverne Texmunt
Patricia White
Margaret Staquet
Rev. Douglas & Marilyn Schoen
Dan & Donna Roetzer
Robert Nielsen
Andy Kveton
Robert Beyersdorf
Gary Gustafson
Betsy Framstad
Lloyd & Audrey Boettcher
George & Betty Bereza
Warren & Mary Ann Klitzke
Carol Sieth

Al & Lois Rasmussen
Ronald Nelson
Ray & Colleen Haulotte
Dorothy Demarce
Ivon & Don Butman
Axel & Barbara Anderson
Jim & Carol Walter
Ron & Rose Nelson
Duane & Helen Langlois
Victor Klumb
Mildred Fredholm
Ruth Thix
Ray & Vicki Schiller
Nancy McDonald
Rev. Tom & Ora Lindblad
John & Susan Kaitheiser
Mike Bellisle
Leona Webber
Ann Madsen
Arlene Hunter
Pearl Bradford
Judy Raygo
Mary Dionne
Donna Bayerl
Pete & Jeanne Anderson
Robert & Luann Robins
Robert Duchrow
Karen Fish
Sue Larsen
Patricia Harvey
Scott Peterson
Kathryn Ring
Mary Jane Anderson
Thomas & Barbara Thompson
Robert & Zelda Ahlborn
Gladys Bauer
Calvary, Minocqua/ Altar Guild
All Saints, Wakefield/Men in Mission
Jeff & Roberta Hautala
Dennis & Donna Ferson
Laura Olson
Rev. Nancy & David Kauppi
Reynold & Gail Tuzee
George & Mary Ann Karling
Joyce Peterson
John Breiten
Zion, St. Ignace
Wes & Jean Rautiola
Norman Hongisto
Julie Cox
Shirley Kuehl

THANK YOU!

Answer the Call/NGLS Fund for Leaders

Marsha Vistich
Julie Hautala
Bertha Johnson
Earl Maki
Corrine Lake
Gerry & Kathy Wiita
Anonymous, Wakefield
Trinity, Trout Creek
Grace, Gwinn
Dale Minzloff
Darwin Peterson
Ann Buscher
Rev. George & Ruth Olson
Zion, Marinette
Donald & Judy Limberg
William Tipple
Peter & Mary Thielen
Bethany, Covington
Bill & Mary Davis
Barbara Niemi
Michael & Jennifer Broadway
Ruth Matthews
Anonymous, Messiah, Marquette
Steffany Martti
Brian A. Martti
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Johnson
Alan Mattila
David & Delphine Warlin
Elaine Heliste
Marie Oja
Danie & Sharon Walther
Joan Dupras
Jim & Joan Miller
Arlene Warlin
Rev. Katherine & David Finegan
Larry & Bonnie Mattson
Janet Frenure
Mildred Alatalo
Wilma Du Moulin
Erna Letz
Wanda Matila
Sandy Travis
Charles & Faye Mattila
Mary Ann Saless
Clarence & Alice Johnson
William & Margaret Stratman
Alice Seefurth
Roy & Veronica Kempainen
Rev. Ralph Backman
Don & Marcy Rankinen
Rev. Warren Geier

Judy Mattila
James & Kathryn Chapman
Evelyn Nadeau
Bethel, Menominee
Revs. Jonathan & Jean Schmidt
Sharon, Bessemer
Susan Feldhauser
Gerald & Kathleen Godec
Betty Hartman
Viola Lane
Mark Paulsen
Edith Prosen
St. Mark's, Marquette
Holy Cross, Baraga
Trinity, Ishpeming
Harlan & Orice Walters
Al & Kathy Goman
Cory & Angela Borchardt
Ben & Jackie Lehto
John & Inga Fleming
Christina Aho
Harry Ziniel
Scott & Trisha Young
Robert & JoAnne Friberg
Nancy Dewey
Diane Theis
Bishop Thomas & Luanne Skrenes
Loralee Springer
Bethlehem, Florence
Dennis & Mary Vertanen
Rev. Jim & Gisele Duehring
Ralph Peterson
Ron & Bev Raisanen
Kay Reader
Sally Wiitanen
Connie & Faye Williams
Sue Britton
Jim & Chris Johnson
Jim & Ely Reetz
Prince of Peace, Marquette

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Pastor David Van Kley

Messiah Lutheran Church, Marquette, MI

Another Father's Day comes and goes. Sometimes, it's a bit of a struggle for me to remember to get out the cards on time to my Dad and Arlene's Dad. They both live far away; we see them only once or twice a year. It's too easy for me to forget about them! But I am grateful for the gifts I've received from both of my fathers.

During my lifetime, the role of fathering has changed a good deal! The generation preceding understood fathering to be about provision: providing money to run the household and providing discipline to keep children from straying too far from the "straight and narrow." The emphasis was not on cultivating relationships with children. Most of the day-to-day tasks that go along with parenting fell to mothers, who were unencumbered by working outside the home.

The newest generation of fathers is different. Women have asserted their rights in society --- thankfully so --- and have assumed leadership roles in the workplace. Usually, if there are two parents living in a household, both Mom and Dad work outside the home. More than ever before, parenting tasks are shared. Just the other day, Arlene and I had dinner at the home of a young family. As we ate and talked around the table, it was interesting for me to see how the youngest child went to her Dad for help with her food and with using the bathroom. I rejoiced to see the tenderness between them, a tenderness that would have been unusual when I was growing up.

Notwithstanding these changes, mothers still do more than their share of parenting! Often, a mother works full time and still does the lion's share of the housekeeping and child care. Sadly, fathers still abandon their wives and children for the sake of alcohol, work, and extra-marital affairs. Mothers do this, too, of course, but not nearly so often as fathers. We fathers still have a ways to go!

Perhaps because a father's loving attention is more unusual than a mother's, this attention is disproportionately important to children. The words you say as a Dad, the time you take to be with your children, the things you teach by example are critical to the well being of your kids. This is especially true of faith formation. Statistics show that when a father actually attends worship at a church with his family, it is **much** more likely that his daughters and sons will follow suit when they grow up! It's important to take your child fishing or golfing; it's important to sit on the bleachers at her or his Little League game. But what is more important? That the child learns to hit a golf ball or that he/she learns to trust God and love others? Being a father involves making wise choices, sometimes counter-cultural choices!

When I think of my life, I have been most blessed to become a Christian. Next to that great privilege are three wonderful roles I've been called upon to fill: son, husband, and father. I'm still learning how to do them well --- and I rejoice in the opportunities I'm given daily. I hope you do, too! Happy Father's Day!

(SECOND IN A THREE PART SERIES)

“Using all the Tools”

*By Pastor Tom Wagner
(Retired Pastor, serving in Ironwood, Michigan)*

Public speaking involves all the communications tools a person can marshal to make a point. Preaching is unique in that the preacher must speak to the same people about the same subject (God’s Word) every week for years at a time! That’s a tall order. It demands of the preacher every ounce of energy and skill. It is difficult to write about auditory skills. I would rather show you! But this is our task, so here goes.

Pitch is the raising or lowering of the sound of the voice as speaking or singing take place. Generally in preaching we need to say high things high and low things low. It just makes sense. The real issue for our discussion is to be aware that pitch is an issue. Watch for pitch patterns. They are deadly. If you want to see how **not** to do it, watch any presidential speech critically! Because they speak so much in public, politicians fall prey to horrible pitch patterns. They usually drop their voices at the end of sentences in a rhythm that would put almost anyone to sleep. Again, the value of pre-recording and practice enters in.

Rate is how quickly we say the words in succession. Again in general, we should say quick things quickly and slow things slowly. Patterns are a problem here too. Listen to yourself. Remember you are about God’s work here. It is important! Do it with great care and skill.

Volume is how loud we speak. It is not just in order to be heard. Higher and lower volume has huge effect on meaning. It controls the attention of the listener. You can wake them up with loudness and even get special notice by speaking more quietly for short sentences at the right time.

Intensity is the most difficult to understand. It is like when you “*whisper loudly*”. This is a very powerful tool of emphasis to be used when you really want to make a point. Usually that point is an INTENSE one!

Gestures are more than what we do with our hands. They include our body posture, head movement and all that is communicated through our body position. Here again there is a huge danger of developing repetitive patterns that will hypnotize the listeners. If you can make a video recording of a sermon and then play it back to yourself on fast forward you will quickly see your gesture patterns. Those gestures need to be practiced! They need to be timed perfectly with the point they emphasize.

A word about the **setting**. Our Lutheran church architectural tradition does us no favors. In the pre-reformation church the pulpit was in the center of the nave so that the preacher could be heard and seen. Wouldn’t that be nice! Many of our churches have so many obstacles

between the preacher and the listeners it is no wonder so many Lutherans sleep during the sermon and our membership dwindles. We have pulpits elevated 10 ft. above the congregation with a firm wall built around as if to keep the message from getting out! Then they are stuffed back in a corner behind several steps so that the preacher is in another room while trying to effect a congregation seated ever so humbly in the **back pews** as far away as possible. It is as if they are saying, "I dare you to get that Gospel to affect me!" I understand that most preachers need the security of the pulpit. There are more and less effective ways to use it. Ask the people to move forward. Then tell them moving will help you with your preaching. Point out how disheartening it is to preach over a half dozen empty pews. Ask them to **help** with the sermon. Preaching outside of the pulpit is more effective and also has its limits. Eye contact is better and the message is closer to the ear of the listener. Line of sight can be a problem and the old "we never did it that way before" problem is present. Of course, if you are out of the pulpit, you are threatening to be effective and they may not be used to that! *Listeners may actually have to consider changing their behavior because of what the Gospel says!!* Imagine that!

Pastor Tom Wagner is a 36-year veteran of parish preaching. He is degreed in communications and public address from the University of Wisconsin and in homiletics and pastoral care from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C. This article is the second of three in a series on effective preaching.



A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

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Prayer Calendar - June 2010

1	Pray for Pastor Norman Peterson and the members of Immanuel, Rhinelander as they celebrate 30 years of ministry together . Pray for Pastor Norman Lund (retired) as he celebrates his 59th anniversary of ordination . Pray for the members of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee who meet this day.
2	Pray for the members of St James, Marinette and Darrell Diers, LLM as they celebrate the 92nd anniversary of the congregation .
3	Pray for Pastor Jonathan Schmidt and the members of First Lutheran, Gladstone as they celebrate the 121st anniversary of the congregation this day.
4	Pray for Pastor Francis Strong (Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood) as he celebrates his 28th anniversary of ordination this day. Pray also for the members of the World Hunger Committee who meet this day.
5	Pray for Pastor Kenneth Michaelis (Northland Lutheran Retirement Community) as he celebrates his 44th anniversary of ordination this day.
6	Pray for those attending and those participating in the Fortune Lake Camp 80th Anniversary Worship & Banquet . Pray also for Pastor Peter Andersen (retired) as he celebrates his 39th anniversary of ordination ; and Pastor Peter Vorhese (Faith, Calumet) as he celebrates his 34th anniversary of ordination .
7	Pray for Pastor Warren Geier (Bethany, Ishpeming) as he celebrates his 14th anniversary of ordination . Pray also for those attending the staff training at Fortune Lake Camp .
8	Pray for our Synod Staff who meet this day – <i>Bishop Tom Skrenes, Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Jennie Johnson Wrege, Kay Benedict, Louise Ingalls, Betsy Koski, & Roger Knuth.</i>
9	Pray for those attending the Good News Awards events this day.
10	Pray for the members of Abiding Savior, Columbia MD (pastor), Christ, Hagerstown MD (pastor), Emmanuel, Pasadena MD (Rev Bob Stevens), & Good Shepherd, Bel Air MD (Revs Ken Omer & Eric Evers) .
11	Pray for Pastor Timothy Bernard (Messiah/St Mark's, Marquette) as he celebrates the anniversary of his ordination this day.
12	Pray for Pastor Karlo Keljo (retired) as he celebrates his 64th anniversary of ordination this day. Pray also for the life of Pastor John Linna that is celebrated in a memorial service this day in Crystal Falls.
13	Pray for Pastor Scott Williams and the members of United, L'Anse as they celebrate 6 years of ministry together this day. Pray also for those attending Victory Camp at Fortune Lake Camp this week.
14	Pray for Pastor Lee Goodwin (NGLS Sabbath Project) as he celebrates his 29th anniversary of ordination this day.

15	Pray for Pastor Len Gilley & the members of Salem, Bark River as they celebrate 7 years of ministry together this day.
16	Pray for the members of Holy Comforter, Baltimore MD (Rev David Eisenhuth), Keysville, Keymar MD (pastor), Mt Tabor, Clear Spring MD (pastor) & Prince of Peace, Rosedale MD (pastor).
17	Pray for the members of Kimara Lutheran Church (Rev Elisha Mdomi), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS companion congregation Calvary, Minocqua (Rev Maxine Gray).
18	Pray for Pastor Leon Lindquist (retired) as he celebrates his 49th anniversary of ordination this day.
19	Pray for the members of Our Redeemer, Newberry and Pastor LaVonne Stephenson as they celebrate the 44th anniversary of the congregation. Pray for Pastor Rudy Kempainen (retired) as he celebrates his 55th anniversary of ordination this day.
20	Pray for the members of Good Shepherd, Houghton and Pastor Bucky Beach as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the congregation. Pray also for the members of Trinity, Brevort and Pastor Jeremy Winter as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the congregation this weekend. Pray for Dads too!
21	Pray for those attending Women & Kids Week at Fortune Lake Camp this week.
22	Pray for Pastor Ted Koehl (retired) as he celebrates his 14th anniversary of ordination.
23	Pray for Pastor Steve Gauger (Calvary, Rapid River) as he celebrates his 21st anniversary of ordination this month.
24	Pray for the members of St Abraham's, Beckleysville MD (pastor), St John, Hagerstown MD (Rev Ed Heim), St Luke, New Windsor MD (Rev Anne Durboraw), & St Martin, Annapolis MD (Revs Gerald Miller & Jens Bargmann).
25	Pray for Pastor Dean Marin (retired) as he celebrates his 43rd anniversary of ordination this day.
26	Pray for Pastor Laurel Halvorsen-Bernard (on leave from call) as she celebrates her anniversary of ordination this day.
27	Pray for our spouses of deceased pastors – <i>Lavina Goodrich</i> and <i>Ruth Groth</i> . Pray also for retired clergy and their spouses – <i>Pastor Mary Weinkauff</i> and <i>Pastor Tom & Susan Wickstrom</i> .
28	Pray for Pastor Lauri Maki (Bethel, Ishpeming) as he celebrates his 29th anniversary of ordination.
29	Pray for Pastor David VanKley and the members of Messiah/St Mark, Marquette as they celebrate 2 years of ministry together this day. Pray also for our Synod Staff who meet this day.
30	Pray for the members of St Paul, Curtis Bay MD (Rev Doug Strachan), St Paul, Rockdale MD (pastor), St Stephen, Baltimore MD (Rev Dick Goodlin), & Trinity, Taneytown MD (Rev Nicholas Brie).



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Prayer Calendar - July 2010

1	Pray for Pastor Keith Kolstad (Zion, Marinette) as he continues on Sabbatical serving the people in Tanzania . Pray for his wife Karen as she travels to Tanzania to join him this month.
2	Pray for the ministry of Shepherd of the Sea in Copper Harbor and Pastor Lloyd Luedeman as they welcome summer residents and visitors.
3	Pray for those attending the All Staff Alumni Reunion at Fortune Lake Camp these days.
4	 Pray for our nation as we celebrate independence this day. Ask for God's guidance that our nation may be both faithful and humble.
5	Pray for the members of All Saints, Baltimore MD (Rev Jeff Corson), Christ, Inner Harbor MD (Revs John Sabatelli, Kristin Dubsky, Duke Fries), and Epiphany, Baltimore MD (Rev Keith Hardy).
6	Pray for those attending Youth Leadership School at Finlandia University these days.
7	Pray for the counselors and those attending Mini Camp, Family Camp, LYLE, and Day Camp at Fortune Lake these days.
8	Pray for Pastor Nicholas Johannes (Porterfield & Beaver American) as he begins retirement .
9	Pray for Pastor Changjwok Nyikako and the members of First, Ewen, Our Saviour, Paynesville, and Trinity, Trout Creek.
10	Pray for the members of Kijichi Lutheran Church (Rev Heriel Mfinanga), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregation, First, Gladstone (Rev Jonathan Schmidt).
11	Pray for the Summer Ministry at the Jacobsville Chapel.
12	Pray for the members of Good Shepherd, Dundalk MD (Rev Vicki Hamel), Holy Communion, Fallston MD (pastor), Lazarus, North Carroll MD (pastor), and Mt Tabor, Keymar MD (Rev Jim Russell).
13	Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – <i>Pastor Donald & Edwina Wandersee</i> and <i>Pastor Clarence & Pearl Schnorr</i> .
14	Pray for Bishop Tom Skrenes , his wife Luanne and their sons as they travel to Tanzania this month.
15	Pray for those attending the NGLS Candidacy Committee meeting at Fortune Lake.
16	Pray for Pastor Scott Williams (United, L'Anse) as he celebrates his 6th anniversary of ordination this day.
17	Pray for Pastor Barry Levine (Faith, Sault Ste Marie) as he celebrates his 6th anniversary of ordination this day.

18	Pray for Campground Ministries around the Synod.
19	Pray for those representatives from the NGLS attending the Rethinking Stewardship event in Minnesota these days.
20	Pray for the members of Redeemer, Damascus MD (Revs Ray Scheck & John Bromhal), St Andrew, Baltimore MD (Rev Kevin Guillory), and St Luke, Parkville MD (Rev Lisa Arrington).
21	Pray for Pastor John West (St Paul's, First & Wainola) as he begins retirement .
22	Pray for the spouses of our deceased pastors – <i>Toini Heikkinen</i> and <i>Selma Karjala</i> .
23	 Pray for the counselors and those attending Venturer, Vagabond, and Villager Camp at Fortune Lake these weeks.
24	Pray for those children attending and the adult and youth leaders who will experience Vacation Bible School across our synod this summer.
25	Pray for the members of Bethany, Negaunee and Interim Pastor Marcia Solberg as they continue in a pastoral vacancy .
26	Pray for Pastor Peter Gunderson (Finlandia University) as he celebrates his 29th anniversary of ordination this day.
27	Pray for the members of St Luke, Point of Rocks MD & St Mark, Adamstown MD & St Matthew, Frederick MD (Rev Marina Flores), St Paul, Upperco MD (Rev Melvina Stricklin), and St Stephen, Wilmington DE (Rev Matt Hummel).
28	Pray for Pastor Katherine Finegan (Bethany, Republic) as she celebrates her 8th anniversary of ordination this day.
29	Pray for the members of United, Crystal Falls and Pastor Michael Laakko as they celebrate the 43rd anniversary of the congregation .
30	Pray for Pastor David Jensen , his wife Annmarie , and the members of Ascension, Minocqua .
31	Pray for Pastor Gene Wickman , his wife Carol , and the members of Grace, Pembine .