

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 25, Issues 2 and 3

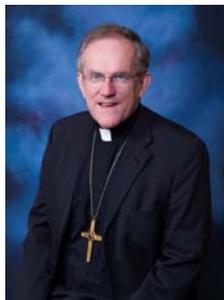
FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2012

LIFE TOGETHER

Synod Council Studies Devotional Classic

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes

tskrenes@nglsynod.org



For a year, our Synod Council has been reflecting on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic "Life Together." This hero of the German Confessing Church and the Resistance to the Nazis movement, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote this work in 1938. The book is based on his leadership of the "illegal" seminaries for the training of pastors in Pomerania. Published after his death, "Life Together" is read and studied throughout the world as a modern classic in Christian spirituality. Our Synod Council reflected on the book's five chapters and bring you here their summary:

Chapter 1 Community

Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. First, the Christian is the one who no longer seeks his salvation, his deliverance, his justification in himself, but in Jesus Christ alone. The goal of all Christian community is to encounter one another as bringers of the message of salvation. The serious Christian is likely to bring a very definite idea of what Christian life together should be. But God's grace shatters such dreams. The exclusion of the weak and insignificant, the seemingly useless people, from a Christian community may actually mean the exclusion of Christ; in the poor brother, Christ is knocking at the door.

Chapter 2 The Day with Others

Day's Beginning – Colossians 3:16 – "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Familiarizing ourselves with the Psalms and Scripture. Praying fills our lives with the wisdom of God. Reading the difficult Psalms (imprecatory) enlightens us that others God/Jesus have had challenges far beyond our own. Morning – we are alone with God. Day – we live and work with and in God's world. Evening – Christian family for fellowship.

Chapter 3 The Day Alone

Solitude and Silence: Each by itself has profound pitfalls and perils. The one who wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of words



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“Who can really be faithful in great things if he has not learned to be faithful in the things of daily life?”

THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

and feelings, and one who seeks solitude without fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self infatuation and despair. Silence is the simple stillness of the individual under the Word of God. There are three purposes for which the Christian needs a definite time when he can be alone during the day: scripture meditation, prayer and intercession. Who can really be faithful in great things if he has not learned to be faithful in the things of daily life? The strength of aloneness and the strength of fellowship is solely the strength of the Word of God, which is addressed to the individual in fellowship.

Chapter 4 Ministry

Let us speak to build up and not to tear down. We try to self-justify our thoughts and actions by comparing ourselves to others, and in so doing we condemn and judge others. We must not utter negative thoughts out loud in any other way but confession. Listening can be a greater service than speaking. He who no longer listens to neighbors will soon no longer listen to God. God grants us the gift of humility in order to truly listen, emptying ourselves so that we can receive our neighbors. Proclaiming Jesus as Lord is offering ourselves and our Lord to others in love and patience through our words and our actions. We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God, sharing God with others as God gives us opportunity.

Chapter 5 Confession and Communion

“The root of sin is pride.” Our pride leads us to conceal our sin from ourselves, others and God, thus separating us from God, ourselves, and each other. When we confess our sin to another, we are brought from darkness into light, from isolation into community and into intimacy with God. The ultimate symbol of the forgiveness of our sins, our fellowship with one another, and the grace of God, from whom no secrets are hid, is Holy Communion, life together.

“Life Together” invites to find ways to lean into God’s grace. This small book with just over 100 pages is full of wisdom and Christian insight. The Church in 2012 needs to further reflect on our life together as God’s people.

\$

DOLLARS AND CENTS

MISSION SUPPORT IN 2011

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2012

There is good news and bad news when it comes to Synod unrestricted income for 2011. Our 83 congregations pledge each year to do the work of God in our Synod and throughout the world. Fifty percent of unrestricted income is remitted to the Churchwide ELCA to do the work of world mission, new congregations



**GOOD
NEWS
AND BAD
NEWS
FOR 2011**

THOMAS A. SKRENES, BISHOP (CONTINUED)

and seminary education for this Church along with other important ministries. Another seven percent of income is expended to our Synod's Lutheran Campus Ministry sites at Northern Michigan University and Michigan Technological University and four percent of Synod income is shared by Wartburg Seminary and Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. The rest of congregational unrestricted income funds the work of our Synod here in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin.

The good news is that our congregations sent 99.9% of pledged dollars (\$822,800) in 2011. More good news includes the fact that 61 congregations met or exceeded 100% of their pledged amounts, with another 10 congregations exceeding 95%. Very good news indeed! Thanks be to God and thanks to our faithful congregations.

The more difficult news is that income for 2011 from our 83 congregations was 9% below last year's income. Indeed, since our peak financial year of 2007, the unrestricted income to the work of our Synod has decreased 23% or \$239,000. We are receiving almost exactly the income we received as a Synod in 1991, twenty years ago! Adjustments continue to be made in our Synod budget to reflect these new realities. Every area of Synod life has felt financial cuts as budget reductions continue. We are supporting Churchwide and Synod ministries less than at any time in twenty years along with reductions in Synod, both staff size and salaries.

It is such a privilege to support the work of God throughout the world. What a joy to help fund the next generation of pastors through our seminaries, the work of world missionaries, the building of new congregations and the support of our ministries in the Synod. On behalf of every ministry of this Church, thank you for your generosity. May we all grow in our giving! God has made us to be a generous people.

SYNOD COUNCIL MET IN JANUARY

The Northern Great Lakes Synod Council met on January 13 and 14 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Harvey. The Council is made up of twenty-one persons, two from each of our eight Conferences, the four Synod officers and a youth representative. At its meeting the Council:

+Received Pastor Greg Mileski (United in L'Anse) to replace Pastor Ron Strobel who has resigned from the Council.

+Formed a Committee to examine recommended constitutional amendments to the Synod constitution. The Committee will report to the Council at its March meeting.

+Reviewed the proposed changes in bylaws for Fortune Lake Camp which would allow non-ELCA congregations to become members of the Camp.

+Heard a presentation on the work of Lutheran Social Services.

+Issued a Letter of call to Pastor Tracy Polzin on behalf of Fortune Lake Bible Camp.

+Asked Bishop Skrenes to convene a small group to recommend a response to the Synod Assembly 2011 resolution that was referred to the Synod Council.

+Adopted small changes in the Personnel Policy for Synod employees.

+Heard reports from the Bishop on his work since September, including call process for a number of our congregations.

+Approved the creation of the Northern Lights Lutheran Parish (St. Paul's in Mass City; Siloa in Ontonagon and First of Winona) and the Shared Ministry Realignment of Calvary in Quinnesec and Bethany in Norway.

+Received the Financial Report from our Synod Treasurer Larry Pagel.

+Reviewed and acted upon recommendations from the Bishop for changes in the Roster of Ordained Ministers.

+Heard reports from the Companion Synod Committee, Hunger Committee and from the Women and Youth ministry work of this Synod.

+Adopted an Agenda and registration fees for the 2012 Synod Assembly.

+Adopted a Revised Investment Policy for the Endowment Fund.

+Heard a report from the Bishop on the trends in Synod life since 1988 and discussed our common future.

+Prayed together and concluded our study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Life Together."

TRANSITIONS

+Please welcome Pastor Katherine Finegan to our work in the Synod as Assistant to the Bishop. She finished her parish responsibilities in January and now joins our Synod staff on February 1. We are delighted to have Pastor Finegan working with us.

+Congratulations to Pastor Tracy Polzin who begins her work as Camp Director on February 1. Pastor Polzin comes to us from the parish in Racine, Wisconsin. She and her husband, Mike, have a daughter Lillianna. May God bless Pastor Polzin's ministry in our midst.

+Our Redeemer in Newberry has called Graduate Seminarian Jesse Brown to be their parish pastor. He was ordained in his home congregation in Sheridan, Wyoming on January 21. Pastor-elect Brown and his wife, Lyndsay, and their three daughters begin their life in our Synod in February.

+God bless the ministry of Pastor Daniel Durbin, a son of this Synod ordained at his home congregation, First Lutheran in Gladstone, on January 28. Pastor Durbin is one of many sons and daughters of First Lutheran who has recently or is currently studying for the ordained ministry. Pastor Durbin has been called to St. Mark Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect, Illinois. May God bless him as he serves the Risen Christ.

Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop

* * * * *

Thank You

Lutheran World Relief

Grace, Gwinn

Holy Trinity, Chassell

Our Redeemer, Newberry

Bethel, Ishpeming

Zion, Marinette

Calvary, Rapid River

Prince of Peace, Marquette

Calvary, Minocqua

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Grace, Gwinn

Immanuel, Negaunee

United, Crystal Falls

Holy Trinity, Chassell

Bethlehem, Florence

Mission United, Pelkie

Our Redeemer, Newberry

Malaria Net Project

Grace, Gwinn

Pioneer Lake, Conover

First, Gladstone

St. Paul, Mass City

Our Redeemer, Newberry

Bethany, Perkins

Zion, Manistique

Kisarawe

First, Gladstone

Rev. Robert & Deloris Langseth

Karl Langseth

Mission United, Pelkie

Zion, Manistique

Seminarian Support

Rev. Kevin Kaiser

Calvary, Minocqua

St. James, Rudyard

Bethany, Amasa

Emmanuel, Menominee

Richard & Evelyn Bjorklund

Our Redeemer, Newberry

Bethany, Perkins

Rev. Bonny Kinnunen

ELCA Disaster Fund

Immanuel, Negaunee

Grace, South Range

Bethel, Menominee

United, Crystal Falls

Holy Trinity, Chassell

Our Redeemer, Newberry

Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner

World Missionary Support

Trinity, Stambaugh

Trinity, Rhinelander

Pioneer Lake, Conover

Mission United, Pelkie

Immanuel, Escanaba

Bethel, Ishpeming

Lutheran World Relief

Salem, Ironwood

Faith, Calumet

Calvary, Rapid River

Zion, Marinette

Prince of Peace, Marquette

Mission Outreach

Zion, Ironwood

Bethany, Ishpeming

Skogman Scholarship Fund

Rev. James & Laura Wendt

Seven & Joni Peffers

Endowment Fund

Rev. Douglas & Elaine Johnson

Robert & Jean Sovey

Bishop's Discretionary

Bethany, Ishpeming

Tom & Joyce Dupras

Tanzania

Bishop Thomas & Luanne Skrenes

Kemppainen Scholarship Fund

Philip & Paula Kemppainen

Kemppainen Family



SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2012
May 20-21
(Sunday & Monday)
Northern Michigan
University
Marquette, Michigan
Registration material will
be available on line soon!



MARKED! EVENTS FOR SPRING 2012

Sunday, April 22 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Marinette, WI

Sunday, April 29 at First Lutheran Church, Iron River, MI

Junior High Youth Gathering

“GOD ROCKS!”

March 2-3, 2012

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

A Northern Great Lakes Synod Event in partnership with Fortune Lake

L.I.F.T. (Living in Faith Together)

Formerly Leadership School

July 9-13

This is a leadership building, faith-filled week for all high school students at

Finlandia University. Please pass along this information with the young people in your congregation!

Pastoral Vacancies and Interim Pastors

Bethel, Menominee - Pastor Lee Goodwin

Christ Parish, Ironwood - Pastor Peggy Rose

Bethel, Cedarville & Zion/Allenville - Pastor George Kaiser

Bethany, Norway & Calvary, Quinnesec - Pastor Douglas Johnson & Pastor Mike Laakko

Gloria Dei, Hancock - Pastor Peter Vorhes

Siloa, Ontonagon & St. Paul, Wainola - Pastor John Autio

Grace, Gwinn - Pastor Peter Andersen

Part-time

Bethany, Negaunee - Pastor Rell Spickerman

Faith, Rock - Pastor Jonathan Schmidt

First of Winona, Mass City - Pastor John Autio

St. Mark's, Marquette - Pastor Rell Spickerman

The calendar year ends with Mission Support receipts at 99.9% of pledges. Seventy-one congregations gave above 95% of their pledges. Many congregations gave over and above their commitment which helped the Synod to reach almost 100% of pledges. The faithful giving of all the Synod's congregations is deeply appreciated, and enables God's mission to go forward even in challenging times. We thank God for the ministry we share.

Please note: The Synod's fiscal year ends on Friday, February 10. We encourage everyone to have their January remittance to the Synod office by that day so that it can be included in the fiscal year. Thank you!
- Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper

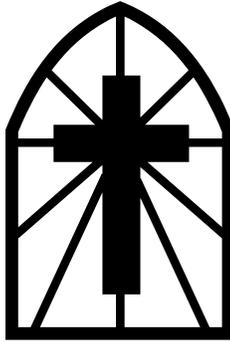
As of 12/31	2010	2011	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	932,017	823,634	-108,383	-11.6%
Amount Received	904,678	822,798	-81,880	-9%
Designated Gifts	251,124	244,742	-6,382	-2.5%



**NORTHERN GREAT LAKES
SYNOD**

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Volume 25 - Issues 2 & 3

February & March 2012

ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR FEBRUARY
2012 AND MARCH 2012

www.prayfaithfully.org

Jan. 29 - Feb. 4 / Pauline Kiltinen, Messiah, Marquette

Feb. 5-11 / Lynn Brown, Bethel, Cedarville

Feb. 12-18 / Members of Emmanuel, Menominee

Feb. 19-25 / Members of Three Lakes Academy

Feb. 26 - March 3 / Luanne Skrenes, Trinity, Ishpeming

March 4-10 / Pastor Bill Jacobson, All Saints, Wakefield

March 11-17 / Pastor David Van Kley, Messiah, Marquette

March 18-24 / Finlandia Campus Ministry



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2012

Feb. 2-3 / Mobility Conference in Madison, WI

Feb. 3-5 / Clergy Spouse Retreat in Appleton, WI

Feb. 9 / Campus Ministry meets at 6:30 p.m. (Location to be decided.)

Feb. 18 / World Hunger Committee meets at Messiah in Marquette at 10:00 a.m. ET

Feb. 18 / NGLS Endowment Committee at the Synod Office, 10:30 a.m. ET

Feb. 18 / Companion Synod Committee meets at Prince of Peace in Marquette at 2:00 p.m. ET

Feb. 19 / Leadership Support Committee meets at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls at 3:00 p.m. CT

Feb. 19-20 / Professional Leaders Event at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Feb. 26 / Pastor Jesse Brown Installation at Our Redeemer, Newberry at 3:00 p.m. ET

Feb. 29 – Mar. 6 / Conference of Bishops meet in Chicago



MARCH 2012

Mar. 2 / Youth Committee meeting at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp at 2 p.m.

Mar. 2 / Jr. High Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Mar. 6 / Synod Assembly Planning meets at the Synod Office at 11 a.m. ET

Mar. 7 / Worship Committee meets at the Synod Office at 10:00 a.m. ET

Mar. 8 / Resolution #10 Meeting at the Synod Office 11:00 a.m. ET

Mar. 9 / Finance Committee meets at the Synod Office, 11:00 a.m. ET

Mar. 16 / Executive Committee meets at the Synod Office, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. ET

Mar. 18-19 / Young Pastors Retreat at Four Seasons Resort in Pembine, WI

Mar. 22 / Stewardship Committee at First in Iron River at 12:30 p.m. CT

Mar. 23 / Mission Outreach meets at noon CT at Northland Lutheran Retirement Community - Marinette, WI

Mar. 23-24 / Synod Council meets at the Northland Lutheran Retirement Community in Marinette, WI at 4:00 p.m. CT

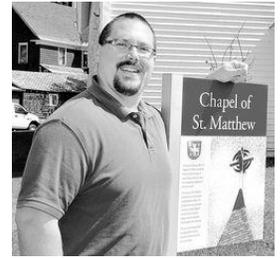
Mar. 30-31 / Men in Mission meeting in Chicago, IL



Campus to Congregation

February/March 2012

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"

Faith-Filled Curling

The sport of Curling.

The objective of Curling is to prep, deliver and clean the way for your rock to be closest to the center of 'home'. So that's what we do.

Finlandia Curling Club has been introduced to the sport. They've put on their sliders, delivered stones from the hack in their 3-point balanced position. They've released and let their teammates and their brooms sweep hard the way to pass the hogline and get our rock closest to the button in the house for a good end. All this while the skip gave directions and helped focus the team to correctly do their part and let the skip's words work through them.

Any of this sounding oddly familiar?

Campus Ministry here at Finlandia has found another interesting setting to reach out to those college students that seem lost in our shuffle. Oddly enough, yet eerily bringing up familiar words and phrases.

Christ, our skip, is always there for us. Giving us directions and is by our side and there at the end to say "Well done, good and faithful servant."

We are introduced and given time to figure it out with guided instructions. We grab hold of our solid rock and seek to center ourselves to deliver His message. We sweep a pathway to ensure we don't curl away too soon, and to be straight until we are gently tucked around those that guard us and we are safe and snug at home...on the button...the very center of where we should be.

A few newsletters ago I mentioned a book called "The Centered Life" by Jack Fortin. IT tells of 'centering' and not 'balancing' our live to find the true purpose, meaning and comfort. I wonder now if Jack was a curler. If not, I'm sure he'd approve of its 'message'.

What a wonderful way to be together and share in faith, fellowship and fun. Because of the sweeping, you don't even feel the chill in the air as you are filled with one another's presence and of a job well done.

Curling has found a home with me (I almost feel a book coming) as I delve further into the sport, bring others in to partake and realize with faithful imagination—the interesting correlation to words and ideals imparted to me in my faith. So many similarities.

I encourage you, brothers and sister, to seek out new ways and forms of fellowship and find where Christ allows you to work in new ways to share faith, invite others...maybe even *gasp* evangelize a little.

God is calling—pointing the way. Deliver his message and make straight the path to bring it safely home. Amen.

Check out our Curling progress at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Finlandia-Curling-Club/182886258424816>



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Campus Ministry Events Calendar

We are "Walking Together" with you!!

ALL ARE WELCOME :-)

Recurring Spring 2012 Events:

Sundays Keweenaw Friends & Rugged Cross Church usage

Mondays 12:30-1:00 pm Student-led Chapels

Tuesdays 10-10:10am Prayer & Song
5:30pm alternating between Ministry Meeting and Bible Study

Wednesdays 12:30-1:00 pm Chapel with Communion

Thursdays 10-10:10am Communion & Lord's Prayer

Fridays (every other) 8:00-9:00 pm TGIF (next events: Feb. 24, Mar. 16, 30)

Related Spring Activities:

Feb. 16-19 Youth Trip Fundraiser

Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday Service

Mar. 4-9 Alt. Spring Break to Minnesota

Mar. 9-11 Midwest Curling Championship

Mar. 22-25 Republic Youth trip

Check the Finlandia e-newsletter, Finlandia website and 'Finlandia Campus Ministry' on Facebook for more info. (many more activities will be announced in electronic format)

Finals Week Care Packages: Bringing Family to Campus

Care packages have been growingly successful. Last semester we topped over 120 care packages. It's been a blessing to bring family and friends into the life of a studying student. Letting them be reminded of all those that are cheering them on and praying for them. As we continue the success, please look to give to your student or as an 'ambassador of faith' to others. Here's some simple information. (Look for more info soon on facebook "Finlandia Campus Ministry" and other venues)

Final Exam week can be a stressful time for a student, and they can quickly find themselves overloaded and pressured. During this time, many students often do not get the nourishment needed to do their best, and they don't take as much time to 'breathe'. *Let a student know* that you're thinking of them during finals week by sending a Finals Week Care Package prepared by Finlandia's Campus Ministry. Each Care Package costs \$15. Along with an encouraging and personal note from you, each care package contains the following: a combination of healthy and fun snacks, 'home baked' items, drinks, candy, quick meals, a special gift and other items - all designed to help relax a student so they can focus on their tasks.



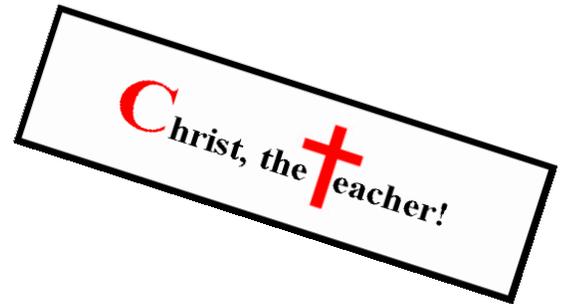
You may also wish to send an anonymous package to a student who otherwise may not receive a package. It will have an anonymous encouraging note. Bless others. Be a blessing.

Any questions or comments? Contact Soren Schmidt, University Chaplain at: soren.schmidt@finlandia.edu or (906) 487-7239.

Visit our Website: www.finlandia.edu

Northern Great Lakes Synod 2012 Assembly

Messiah Lutheran Church and
Northern Michigan University
Marquette, Michigan
May 20 - 21 2012



Daniel J. Lehmann will be our Keynote Speaker and ELCA Representative. He has been editor of *The Lutheran*, magazine of the ELCA, for more than six years. He was elected by Church Council of the ELCA to a four-year term of office in 2005 and again in 2009. As editor, he is solely responsible for the content of the magazine. He is the first lay person to hold the position.

From 1974-1976, Lehmann worked for the *Marquette Mining Journal*. He has been blessed with a wife of 41 years, two children and seven grandchildren.



Pre-Assembly Workshops

There will be workshops offered on Sunday afternoon.
More details will be available soon.



Opening Worship

Sunday Evening at 6:30 p.m. ET, Synod Assembly will officially start with an opening worship service at Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette. During the service we will:

- Install Pastor Katherine Finegan as Assistant to the Bishop
- Recognize Clergy celebrating ordination anniversaries or Retirements
- Recognize Lay School Graduates

A Reception

honoring the Clergy and Lay School Graduates
will follow Plenary 1 in Magnuson Hall of Messiah

Quarters for Hunger

will be collected on
Monday morning



Don't Forget to Register For Synod Assembly

Registration and payment will be online only this year!

Go to www.nglsynod.org/assembly to register and pay. If you do not have access to a computer, please see your pastor for help.

Early registration for voters is \$125.00

Late registration for voters is \$140.00

Visitor registration is \$25.00

Monday's Mission Prayer Breakfast is \$7.00 (must be paid same time as the registration fees)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

FEBRUARY 2012

Young adults: new opportunity for service

The Young Adults in Global Mission program is offering Madagascar as a new country program for 2012! In addition to Madagascar, opportunities abound for service in nine other countries around the world. This volunteer program is open to young people between the ages of 19-29. Final application deadline is March 1. Learn more at www.elca.org/yagm.

Lutherans invite students to help end malaria

The ELCA Malaria Campaign will provide new opportunities for college and university students attending Lutheran schools and ELCA campus ministries to engage in the global fight against malaria. See www.elca.org/malaria/grants for more information and application materials. Read this story and more at www.elca.org/news (click on News Releases in the left-hand column).

Indonesia: We go to live with the people to realize the love of Jesus

Lutherans in Indonesia are celebrating their 150th anniversary. Learn more about a unique institution in their church, a deaconess training school at the southern end of scenic Lake Toba in the crater of an ancient volcano. Hear the students sing and how they are taught in a two-minute video at www.elca.org/companionvoices.

Stories of Faith in Action: free resource for Epiphany and annual meetings

This booklet is full of dynamic stories of how God is changing lives around the world through the mission and ministry of the ELCA. This is a very useful resource for the Epiphany season and for congregational meetings. To order, call 800-638-3522 or order online at www.elca.org/resources. Search for ELCAMA1008. The resource is free; you only pay for shipping.

Global "placeMAPS": Lenten dinner resource

Is your congregation hosting Lenten dinners this year? Consider lending a global flavor to your meal by ordering ELCA Missionary Sponsorship placeMAPS. Add crayons to your table for young and old to enjoy while coloring, remembering and praying for your missionary. Request yours at missionarysponsorship@elca.org.

Tanzania: Overnight, the people were filled with hope

Dr. Mark Jacobson, ELCA missionary, reports on the graduation of the first class of Assistant Medical Officers from the Arusha Medical Center in Tanzania and the difference they make in providing health care across the country. Read the entire story at www.elca.org/handinhand; click either the copy-ready bulletin insert or the Winter 2011-12 issue of the Hand in Hand newsletter.

Tanzania: you're in the family now

Kristopher and Rebecca Hartwig helped develop a program for terminally ill people in Tanzania. Hear their reflections on global mission service in a short video at <http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand>.

Sponsors needed for missionary in Nigeria

You can be a sponsor for the Rev. Lancelot Themba and Kwena Mkhabela, ELCA missionaries in Nigeria, where Themba serves as regional representative for theological education and evangelism in western Africa. Sponsors from Oregon, Montana, Colorado, Northern Texas, Northern Louisiana and the Minneapolis area are especially welcomed to minimize their travel time and maximize their effectiveness while on home assignment. For more information, write missionarysponsorship@elca.org or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2657.

Lutherans in the Holy Land

Learn more about the vibrant ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Go to www.elca.org/peacenotwalls, scroll down to the bottom, and click the link for the "New ELCJHL Facebook Page". While you're there, check out the link above it to the Christmas photos.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This annual event in the global ecumenical movement will be observed Jan. 18-25, 2012, in the northern hemisphere. Worship resources and materials for your use are available at www.elca.org/ecumenical.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days: scholarships available

A limited number of partial scholarships are available for companion synod committee members interested in attending Ecumenical Advocacy Days' 10th annual gathering, March 23-26, 2012, in Washington, D.C. See www.elca.org/companionadvocating.

Ethiopia: seeking management instructor

Teach management classes at the Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa. A master's degree in management is required; prior teaching experience helpful. For more information, visit www.elca.org/globalserve/search and enter keyword "Ethiopia."

In our prayers

God of love, enliven the churches of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Reveal your love and hope in ways that renew worship and proclamation of the gospel anew. (This prayer for January 29 is available along with daily prayers from around the globe at www.elca.org/prayerventures.)

Global Links shares highlights from ELCA.org, LivingLutheran.com and other churchwide websites of ELCA ministry and connections in other countries.



A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

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

Prayer Calendar – February 2012

1	Pray for Pastor Katherine Finegan as she begins her work as Assistant to the Bishop of the NGLS.
2	Pray for those attending the Region 5 Mobility Event as they discern God's calling.
3	Pray for the clergy spouses from our synod and the synods in Wisconsin attending the Clergy Spouse Retreat in Appleton WI these days.
4	Pray for Pastor Steve Gauger and the members of Calvary, Rapid River as they celebrate 18 years of ministry together this month.
5	Pray for seminarian Tina St. Aubin (Wartburg) as she celebrates her birthday this day.
6	Pray for the members of Divinity, Towson MD (Rev Chris Chantelau), First, Gray Manor MD (Rev Bill Wallace), and Grace, Westminster MD (Revs Dave Helfrich & Matt Fuhrman).
7	Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – <i>Pastor Chrysande & Bud Hendrick and Pastor Peter & Marilyn Andersen.</i>
8	Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – <i>Elizabeth Peterson & Helen Rankinen.</i>
9	Pray for the members of Jerusalem, Baltimore MD (Rev Bill Lundgren), Messiah, Sykesville MD (Rev Liz Senft), Our Saviour, Lansdowne MD (Revs Bill Gohl & Hank Brown), and St John, Creagerstown MD (Rev Joan Copeland).
10	Pray for Pastor Doug Norquist , his wife Shirley , and the members of Community Lutheran, Palmer/Suomi.
11	Pray for those attending the Winter Wonderland Retreat at Fortune Lake Camp these days.
12	Pray for Pastor Steve Solberg (Immanuel, Negaunee) as he celebrates his 23rd anniversary of ordination this day.
13	Pray for our Sunday schools and Christian Education programs throughout the church that our young people may grow in their faith and know Jesus.
14	Pray for our Synod Staff who meet this day – <i>Bishop Tom Skrenes, Assistant Pastor Katherine Finegan, Kay Benedict, Louise Ingalls, & Betsy Koski.</i> Pray also for Pastor Chrys Hendrick (retired) as she celebrates her 13th anniversary of ordination this day.
15	Pray for Pastor Jim Wendt , his wife Laura & their children , and the members of Our Savior's, Marinette.
16	Pray for the members of Ukonga Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Rev Andrew Kinghomella) and their NGLS Companion Congregation, Calvary, Rapid River (Rev Stephen Gauger).
17	Pray for Pastor Judy Kincaid , her husband Kenny Mullens & their children , and the members of Immanuel, Escanaba.

18	Pray for the members of the Endowment Committee and Companion Synod Committee both meeting this day.
19	Pray for the members of the Leadership Support Committee who meet this day. Pray also for those attending the Professional Leaders Event at Fortune Lake these days, and for presenter Dr. Ray Pickett . Pray also for Pastor Christopher Johnson (Christ the King, Escanaba) as he celebrates his 1 st anniversary of ordination this day.
20	Pray for the members of Salem, Ironwood – who are now a part of the Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood – as they celebrate the 125th anniversary of the congregation .
21	Pray for the members of St John & St Mark, Myersville MD (Revs David Howell & Jurgen Hilke), St Luke, Cumberland MD (Rev Steve Yelovich), and St Paul, Lutherville MD (Rev Mark Huffman) .
22	 Pray for all the faithful as we begin our pilgrimage to the cross , that with eyes fixed on the cross we may be drawn into God's embrace and filled with the gifts of life.
23	Pray for Pastor Barb Girod (Faith, Three Lakes WI) as she celebrates her 25th anniversary of ordination this day.
24	Pray for campus ministry at Finlandia University, Michigan Technological University, Northern Michigan University, and Bay College .
25	Pray for the members of Grace, Gwinn and Interim Pastor Peter Andersen as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
26	Pray for winter activities and the fellowship created in our congregations.
27	Pray for the Synod Executive Committee who meets this day.
28	Pray for the members of St Paul, Conococheague MD (pastor), St Peter, Beards MD (pastor), Trinity, Deer Park MD (Rev Kathy Rohrbah), and Trinity, Hagerstown MD (Rev Quentin Fleming) .
29	Pray for Bishop Thomas Skrenes and his colleagues as they gather for the Conference of Bishops these next days.

"We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our partner synod relationship."



A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

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Prayer Calendar – March 2012

1	Pray for Pastor Bonny Kinnunen and the members of First, Iron River as they celebrate 6 years of ministry together .
2	Pray for those young people and their mentors attending, and the staff participating in the Jr. High Retreat at Fortune Lake Camp these days.
3	Pray for Pastor Bill Jacobson , his wife Melzee , and the members of All Saints, Wakefield .
4	Pray for the members of Calvary, Mt Airy MD (Rev Roger Rinker), Elias, Emmitsburg MD (Rev Jon Greenstone), First English, Baltimore MD (Rev Don Burggraf), and Harmony Community, Harmony MD (pastor) .
5	Pray for Bishop Tom Skrenes , his wife Luanne & their family , and the members of the Northern Great Lakes Synod .
6	Pray for the members of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee who meet this day.
7	Pray for the members of the Worship Committee who meet this day.
8	Pray for the Synod Staff who meet this day – <i>Bishop Tom Skrenes, Assistant Pastor Katherine Finegan, Kay Benedict, Louise Ingalls, Betsy Koski</i> .
9	Pray for the members of the Finance Committee who meet this day. Pray also for the members of Immanuel, Escanaba and Pastor Judy Kincaid , as they celebrate the 124th anniversary of the congregation this day.
10	Pray for seminarians who await assignments to synods and calls to congregations.
11	Pray for those attending the Second Sunday Folk Dance at Fortune Lake Camp.
12	Pray for Pastor Jean Schmidt , her husband Jonathan & daughter Rebecca , and the members of Bethany, Perkins . Pray also for Pastor Chad Anderson (Beaver, Pound & Porterfield, Porterfield) as he celebrates his 1st anniversary of ordination this day.
13	Pray for the members of Grace, Easton MD & St Paul, Cordova MD (Revs John & Amy Godshall-Miller), Jerusalem, Westminster MD (Rev Stacey Marsh) and Messiah English, Canto MD (Rev Lee Hudson) .
14	Pray for annual meetings recently concluded that ministries will go forward, renewed and centered on Jesus Christ, lead by the Holy Spirit.
15	Pray for the members of Magogoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Rev Patrick Duge) and their NGLS companion congregation Christ the King, Escanaba (Rev Chris Johnson) .
16	Pray for Pastor Dorothy Lindstrom , her husband Duane , and the members of Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner WI .
17	Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors – <i>Marlys Roberts & Margaret Roth</i> .

18	Pray for those attending the Fortune Lake Camp Annual Meeting this day as they conduct business and get to know the new Camp Director, Pastor Tracy Polzin .
19	Pray for those pastors attending the Young Pastor's Retreat in Pembine these days.
20	Pray for the members of Mt Joy, Gettysburg PA & St Paul, Harney MD (Rev Faye Snyder), Our Shepherd, Severna Park MD (Rev Earl Janssen), and Second English, Baltimore MD (Rev Gerry Rickel) .
21	Pray for our retired clergy and their spouses – <i>Pastor Dean & Marie Marin and Pastor Eleanor & Jim Russey</i> .
22	Pray for the Lay School Campuses across our Synod who meet faithfully to learn of God's word and the mission and ministry of the church – for the students learning and the instructors teaching.
23	Pray for the members of the Synod Council who meet these days in Marinette.
24	Pray for the members of Bethany, Republic and Interim Pastor Doug Norquist as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy .
25	Pray for prayer ministries – those who write devotions and those whose lives are touched by them.
26	Pray for Pastor Bucky Beach , his wife Julie , and the members of Good Shepherd, Houghton .
27	Pray for Diane Srutowski, LLM and the members of Trinity, Stonington as they celebrate 1 year of ministry together this day.
28	Pray for Pastor Jeremy Winter (Trinity, Brevort & Zion, St Ignace) as he celebrates his 2nd anniversary of ordination this day.
29	Pray for the members of St John, Cumberland MD (Rev Mark Dill), St Luke, Dundalk, MD (Rev Vicki Hamel), St Mark, Sabillasville MD (Rev Janet Comings), St Peter, Ocean City MD (Revs Harry Wolpert & James Davis), and Trinity, Joppa MD (Revs Paul Austin & Chuck Lashley) .
30	Pray for those attending the Men in Mission gathering these days.
31	Pray for the members of Zion, St. Ignace and Pastor Jeremy Winter as they celebrate the 105th anniversary of the congregation this day.

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