

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
May 18-20, 2007  
Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan

**Theme: One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Hope!**

**FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007**

2:00 p.m.	Registration	Messiah Lutheran Church
2:30 p.m.	Synod Council Meeting	Messiah Lutheran Church
4:30 p.m.	Voting Member Orientation	Messiah Lutheran Church
5:00 p.m.	Resolutions Committee	Messiah Lutheran Church
	Elections Committee	Messiah Lutheran Church
7:00 pm.	Opening Worship	St. Peter's Cathedral
8:30 p.m.	Reception	St. Peter's Cathedral

**SATURDAY, MAY 19**

7:00 – 8:15 a.m.	<b>Northern Michigan University</b>
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m.	Prayer Chapel
	Morning Worship

8:30 a.m.

**ORDER FOR OPENING**

**PLENARY I – Great Lakes Rooms, NMU**

The Assembly participated in the Order of Opening of Assembly.

**INTRODUCTIONS,  
GREETINGS AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes welcomed everyone to the 20th Synod Assembly.

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. David Van Dam, Executive Presbyter of the Presbyterian Church. In thankfulness for his worship leadership Bishop Skrenes presented Rev. Van Dam with a gift.

Also introduced by Bishop Skrenes were Christine Jackson-Skelton, ELCA Churchwide Representative; Steve Olson, Rick Kochis and Rev. Gary Grindeland from Lutheran Social Services; Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches; and Deborah Simonson Smith from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. It was also announced that Augsburg Fortress and the Third World Shoppe were also with us this year.

Bishop Skrenes asked Rev. Virginia Eggert, Pastor of Faith, Ishpeming and Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, to introduce her committee and make some announcements.

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. George Kaiser, Sacristan, and Rev. Katherine Finnegan, Chair of the Worship Committee and thanked them and the committee for their ministry in planning last evening's worship service. Bishop Skrenes thanked Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for sponsoring the reception. Thanks were also expressed to Virginia Paulson for organizing the servers for the event.

INTRODUCTION OF SYNOD OFFICERS

Bishop Skrenes introduced the Synod Officers: Orice Walters, Vice President; Rev. Jonathan Schmidt, Secretary; and Rev. Stephen Cowen, Treasurer. He also introduced Assembly Recording Secretary Karen Kolstad and Assembly Parliamentarian Rev. Douglas Johnson.

Bishop Skrenes introduced Jill Lempke, Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented the following report as of 8:45 a.m., May 19, 2007:

Registered Voting Members .....	259
Clergy (including those under call and retired) .....	71
Lay Voting Members (82 male/106 female).....	188
Registered Visitors.....	67
<b>TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS .....</b>	<b>326</b>

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1 RULES AND ORDER FOR PROCEDURE

Bishop Skrenes reported the Synod Council recommends adoption of Resolution Number 1, submitted by the Synod Council.

RESOLVED, that the Proposed Rules and Order of Procedure as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2007 Assembly.

A correction on page 101 was noted – second paragraph of Number 6 should read “fifty” words rather than “thirty” words.

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt the resolution. Discussion followed.

**SA07.05.01**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 1 WAS ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 AGENDA AND PROGRAM

Bishop Skrenes reported the Synod Council recommends adoption of Resolution Number 2, submitted by the Synod Council.

RESOLVED, that the Agenda and Program as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report Part I be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2007 Assembly.

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt the resolution.

**SA07.05.02**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 WAS ADOPTED.**

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Sherry Ide, Chair of the Nominating Committee, was introduced by Bishop Skrenes and asked to present their report as found on pages 90-94 of the Pre-Assembly Report. Ms. Ide also introduced the other members of the committee. Bishop Skrenes thanked the committee for their work.

Nominations were presented for the following positions:

Synod Vice President – Lay Male or Lay Female:  
Pauline Kiltinen and Daniel Laatsch.

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Vice President.

**SA07.05.03**

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.**

REPORT OF THE  
NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE  
(continued)  
**SA07.05.04**

Synod Secretary – Clergy or Lay  
Susan H. Anderson and Rev. Doug Johnson  
No additional nominations were received from the floor.  
It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Secretary.  
**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.**

**SA07.05.05**

Synod Treasurer – Clergy or Lay  
Rev. Stephen Cowen  
No additional nominations were received from the floor.  
It was moved and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous  
ballot for Rev. Stephen Cowen.  
**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.**

**SA07.05.06**

Synod Discipline Committee (6-year term) – Clergy  
Rev. Maxine Gray, Rev. David Hueter, Rev. Philip Johnson and Rev.  
Penny Olson.  
No additional nominations were received from the floor.  
It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline  
Committee (6-year term).  
**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.**

**SA07.05.07**

Synod Discipline Committee (2-year term) – Clergy  
Rev. John Autio and Rev. Devon Barrix  
It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline  
Committee (2-year term).  
**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.**

Bishop Skrenes announced that the first ballot for all positions will take  
place later this morning. The Assembly thanked the committee for their  
work with applause.

RESOLUTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Scott Williams, Chair of the Resolutions  
Committee. Rev. Williams reported that at this time no additional  
resolutions have been submitted. He read a portion of the Rules Governing  
Resolutions” from the Pre-Assembly Report. Bishop Skrenes reminded  
the Assembly that all resolutions are due by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday to Rev.  
Williams, Rev. Jonathan Schmidt, Synod Secretary or Rev. Jennifer  
Johnson Wrege, Assistant to the Bishop.

INTRODUCTION  
OF SYNOD  
STAFF

Bishop Skrenes introduced and thanked the synod office staff: Rev.  
Jennifer Johnson Wrege, Assistant to the Bishop; Wendy Black, Synod  
Youth Coordinator; Roger Knuth, Synod Planned Giving Counselor; Kay  
Benedict, Officer Manager; Louise Ingalls, Secretary; and Betsy Koski,  
Bookkeeper. The Assembly thanked the staff with their applause.

WORLD HUNGER  
AWARDS AND  
OFFERING OF  
QUARTERS

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. John Kuziej, Chair of the Synod Hunger  
Committee. Rev. Kuziej presented the “Big Bear” award to Faith, Rock,  
for their efforts in starting a food pantry. A new “Bread Basket” award  
was presented to Don and Jo Schutt of Zion, Marinette for their creative

fund raising efforts with “Zion’s Global Barnyard.” The offering of quarters was received for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Gary Grindeland, Vice President of Church and Community Relations for Lutheran Social Services, presented the Bible study. Bishop Skrenes gave Pastor Grindeland a gift at the conclusion of the study.

EXCUSED  
ABSENCES

Bishop Skrenes read Synod Bylaw S14.21 regarding required attendance at Synod Assemblies by rostered persons. The following rostered persons requested excused absences for the 2007 Assembly: Bishop Emeritus Harry Andersen, Rev. Mark Bangert, Rev. Julie Bynog Summers, Rev. David Echelbarger, Rev. Christine Thomas-Echelbarger, Rev. Lee Goodwin, Rev. Paul Holmstrom, Rev. David Jensen, Rev. Margaret Johnson, Rev. Philip Johnson, Rev. D.C. Kalweit, Rev. Rudolph Kemppainen, Rev. Keith Kolstad, Rev. Robert Langseth, Rev. Leon Linquist, Rev. Susan Odegard, Rev. George Olson, Rev. LaVonne Stephenson, Bishop Emeritus Dale Skogman, Rev. Robert Sutherland, Associate in Ministry Arlene Rajala, Associate in Ministry Nora Tahtinen, Susan Vairus and Licensed Lay Minister Carol Neitzel.

ONE LORD, ONE FAITH,  
ONE BAPTISM,  
ONE HOPE

Bishop Skrenes reminded the Assembly that our theme is one of ecumenism. He stated that our ecumenical hope is a reality in many of our places across this synod. Specifically highlighted were the following congregations: Bethlehem, Florence who share their pastor, Rev. Doug Johnson, with the Presbyterian Church; Faith, White Pine who experienced a devastating fire and have been worshiping at the Methodist Church; and Ascension and Calvary, Minocqua whose youth ministry program includes the local Catholic, Methodist and Episcopalian churches.

GREETINGS

Rev. Paul Weber, First Vice President of the Northern Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and Senior Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran, Marquette, brought greetings to the Assembly on behalf of the Missouri Synod.

TREASURER REPORT

Rev. Stephen Cowen, Synod Treasurer, presented his report.

KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER

Rev. George Fupe, Assistant Bishop of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania gave the keynote address. Following the address, Bishop Skrenes presented Rev. Fupe and his spouse, Elizabeth, with a gift.

CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Jill Lempke, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the following report as of 11:00 a.m., May 19, 2007:

Registered Voting Members .....	262
Clergy (including those under call and retired) .....	73
Lay Voting Members (82 male/107 female).....	189
Registered Visitors.....	69
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS .....	331

FIRST BALLOT  
FOR ALL  
POSITIONS

Bishop Skrenes offered a prayer and then asked that the Elections Committee, chaired by Rev. Bonny Kinnunen, distribute the first ballot for all positions. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as the ballots have been tallied.

ROSTERED  
PERSONS NEW  
TO SYNOD

Bishop Skrenes announced that the following rostered persons are new to the Northern Great Lakes Synod since the last Assembly: Rev. Dean Peterson (retired); Rev. Marlin Snyder (retired) serving as Interim at Bethany, Covington and Trinity, Trout Creek; Rev. James Chinery, First, Iron Mountain; Rev. Gerald Anderson, Sharon, Bessemer; Rev. Maxine Gray, Calvary, Minocqua; Rev. Christian Muellerleille, Christ Parish, Ironwood.

SEMINARIANS  
AND INTERN

The following seminarians were also introduced by Bishop Skrenes: David Johnson from Concordia, Palmer studying at Luther Seminary; John Ahola from Gloria Dei, Hancock studying at Luther Seminary; Lori Hunter from Prince of Peace, Eagle River who is an Associate in Ministry candidate; and Jean Schmidt from First, Gladstone who is a TEEM candidate for ordained ministry. Also introduced was Intern Nicholas Hopman serving at First, Dollar Bay who is from the Southwest Minnesota Synod.

REPORT OF  
THE BISHOP

Bishop Skrenes presented his Bishop's report as printed on pages 8-14 of the Pre-Assembly Report. He highlighted several items from his report with a PowerPoint presentation.

REPORT OF THE  
VICE PRESIDENT

Orice Walters, Synod Vice President, presented her report to the Assembly. As part of her report, Orice introduced the members of the Synod Council and thanked them for their ministry to the Synod.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 5  
RECOGNITION  
OF THE MINISTRY  
OF SYNOD VICE  
PRESIDENT  
ORICE WALTERS

Resolution Number 5, Recognition of the Ministry of Synod Vice President Orice Walters, submitted by the Synod Executive Committee, was presented by Bishop Skrenes. Synod Council recommends adoption.

WHEREAS, Orice Walters has served our Northern Great Lakes Synod as Vice President since 1999, and

WHEREAS, this Synod has shown confidence in the ability of Vice President Walters by re-electing her in 2003, and

WHEREAS, Orice Walters has served faithfully as Vice President of this Synod, chairing the Synod Council and its Synod Executive Committee, bringing a wit and smile to her wise leadership, and

WHEREAS, Orice Walters has been a trusted confidant and counselor to our bishop over this eight year period, always bringing with her into every conversation a maturity of faith, a warmth of personality, and a Christian joy for her life to her service, therefore be it

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 5  
(continued)

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod meeting in Assembly on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May does hereby congratulate Orice Walters for her ministry in our midst, thanking God for her eight years of Synod leadership, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod does hereby thank her husband, Harlan, and their family for sharing Orice with this Synod over these years, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Synod stand in appreciation to Vice President Walters for her excellent witness to the Gospel of Christ by this faithful service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our Bishop is hereby asked to present this resolution at this Assembly and at the congregation of First Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain, Michigan, where Vice President Orice Walters has served and continues to serve faithfully in many capacities.

**SA07.05.08**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 5 WAS ADOPTED.

The Assembly thanked Vice President Walters with their applause. Bishop Skrenes presented Orice with gifts on behalf of a grateful Synod.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND LUNCH

Rev. Virginia Eggert, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, gave some announcements. The Tanzanian Choir sang our grace for lunch. The Assembly is now in recess until this afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

**PLENARY II – Great Lakes Rooms, NMU**

OFFERING  
TOTALS

Bishop Skrenes announced that last evening’s offering totaled \$2,000. It will be divided equally between Lutheran Social Services and Catholic Charities. The World Hunger offering total is \$11,069.05 but more money is still coming in.

CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Jill Lempke, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the following report as of 1:30 p.m., May 19, 2007:

Registered Voting Members .....	264
Clergy (including those under call and retired) .....	74
Lay Voting Members (82 male/108 female).....	190
Registered Visitors.....	69
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS .....	333

ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Rev. Bonny Kinnunen, Chair of the Elections Committee, reported the following results on the first ballot:

Synod Vice President:	
Number of Ballots.....	242
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0

Number of Valid Ballots.....242  
Needed to Elect.....122

Pauline Kiltinen .....162  
Daniel Laatsch .....80

**SA07.05.09**

PAULINE KILTINEN WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT.

Synod Secretary:

Number of Ballots.....241  
Number of Invalid Ballots .....0  
Number of Valid Ballots.....241  
Needed to Elect.....121

Susan H. Anderson.....110  
Rev. Doug Johnson .....131

**SA07.05.10**

REV. DOUG JOHNSON WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD SECRETARY.

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (6-year term):

Number of Ballots.....242  
Number of Invalid Ballots .....0  
Number of Valid Ballots.....242  
Needed to Elect.....122

Rev. David Hueter .....154  
Rev. Philip Johnson .....96  
Rev. Penny Olson.....119  
Rev. Maxine Gray.....77

**SA07.05.11**

REV. DAVID HUETER WAS DECLARED ELECTED SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – CLERGY.

The names of Rev. Penny Olson and Rev. Philip Johnson will appear on the second ballot.

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (2-year term):

Number of Ballots.....260  
Number of Invalid Ballots .....3  
Number of Valid Ballots.....257  
Needed to Elect.....128

Rev. John Autio .....88  
Rev. Devon Barrix .....130

**SA07.05.12**

REV. DEVON BARRIX WAS DECLARED ELECTED SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – CLERGY.

SECOND  
BALLOT

Bishop Skrenes offered a prayer and then asked that the Elections Committee to distribute the second ballot for the Synod Discipline Committee (6-year term). An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as the ballots have been tallied.

CROSS  
PROJECT

Rev. William Shepard, Bethel, Menominee, presented a brief report about his video project entitled "Every Cross has a Story to Tell."

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 3  
CLERGY  
COMPENSATION  
GUIDELINES  
FOR 2008

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 3, submitted by the Clergy Compensation Task Force. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2008 as approved by the Synod Council hereby be adopted and recommended to this Synod's congregations.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

**SA07.05.13**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 3 WAS ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 4  
SYNOD  
COUNCIL

Resolution Number 4, Synod Council, submitted by the Conferences, was presented by Bishop Skrenes. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

WHEREAS, the synod constitution and bylaws provide for the election of the Synod Council by the Synod Assembly (\$10.01. and following bylaws); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following persons nominated by the conferences be hereby elected to Synod Council with terms expiring at the conclusion of the Synod Assembly in the year indicated herein.

IGO Conference (One)	Jeannette Kuziej (2010)
Copper Country Conference (Two)	Pastor Peter Vorhes (2010)
Menominee Valley Conference (Five)	Pastor Lee Goodwin (2010)
Delta Conference (Six)	Jean Sovey (2009)
	Dave Mason (2010)
Three Lakes Conference (Seven)	Pastor Katheryn King (2008)
Evergreen Conference (Eight)	Pastor Warren Geier (2010)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following youth nominated by the Synod Council be hereby elected to the Synod Council with terms expiring at the conclusion of the Synod Assembly in the year indicated herein.

One position open –

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

**SA07.05.14**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 WAS ADOPTED.**



RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 6  
RECOGNITION  
OF THE MINISTRY  
OF SYNOD  
SECRETARY  
PASTOR  
JONATHAN M.  
SCHMIDT

Resolution Number 6, Recognition of the Ministry of Synod Secretary, Pastor Jonathan M. Schmidt, submitted by the Synod Executive Committee, was presented by Bishop Skrenes. Synod Council recommends adoption.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Jonathan M. Schmidt has served our Northern Great Lakes Synod as Secretary since 1995, and

WHEREAS, this Synod has shown confidence in the ability of Secretary Schmidt by re-electing him in 1999 and 2003, and

WHEREAS, Pastor Schmidt has served faithfully as Secretary of this Synod, its Synod Council and as a member of the Synod Executive Committee demonstrating time and time again wisdom, insight and pastoral guidance in synodical and congregational affairs, and

WHEREAS, Pastor Schmidt has been a trusted confidant and counselor to two sitting bishops and two vice presidents over this twelve year period, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod meeting in Assembly on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May does hereby congratulate Pastor Jonathan M. Schmidt for his ministry in our midst, thanking God for his twelve years of service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod does hereby thank his wife, Jean, and their daughter, Rebecca, for sharing Pastor Schmidt with this Synod over these years, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Synod stand in appreciation to Pastor Schmidt for his excellent witness to the Gospel of Christ by this faithful service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our Bishop is hereby asked to present this resolution at this Assembly and at the congregation, First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, Michigan, where Secretary Jonathan Schmidt serves as pastor.

**SA07.05.15**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 6 WAS ADOPTED.**

The Assembly thanked Pastor Schmidt and his family with their applause. Bishop Skrenes presented him with gifts on behalf of a grateful Synod.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Skrenes called upon Pastor Virginia Eggert, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, to give some announcements about the forums this afternoon.

2:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Forums and Workshops – Northern Michigan University

7:00 p.m.

Great Lakes Rooms - Northern Michigan University

LAY SCHOOL  
FOR MISSION  
GRADUATES

Bishop Skrenes announced the recognition of this year's Lay School for Mission graduates. The Lay School for Mission meets on five campuses around the synod: Immanuel, Negaunee; Zion, St. Ignace; Finlandia University, Hancock; Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner; and First, Gladstone. Rev. David Echelbarger, Immanuel, Negaunee, serves as the Dean of the Lay School for Mission. The other campus coordinators were introduced by Bishop Skrenes: Rev. Jonathan Schmidt, First, Gladstone; Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey, Zion, St. Ignace and Trinity, Brevort; Rev. Jimalee Jones at Finlandia; and Rev. Mary Weinkauf at Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner. Rev. Jonathan Schmidt made comments about the Lay School for Mission and presented the diplomas. The Assembly congratulated the graduates with their applause.

ROSTERED  
PERSONS  
CELEBRATING  
ANNIVERSARIES

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Francis Strong who is celebrating 25 years of ordained ministry.

Bishop Skrenes introduced the following clergy celebrating 40 years of ordained ministry: Rev. George Kaiser; Rev. Dean Marin; and Rev. Kenneth Nelson. Pastor Kaiser spoke to the Assembly at this time. Rev. Nelson was unable to attend the Assembly.

Bishop Emeritus Harry Andersen is celebrating 55 years of ordained ministry but was unable to attend the Assembly.

RETIREMENTS

Bishop Skrenes again introduced Rev. Dean Marin (and his spouse, Marie) who retired since our last Assembly. Rev. Marin addressed the Assembly. Rev. Leon Linquist also retired this year but was unable to attend the Assembly.

DEATHS

Bishop Skrenes announced that two clergy died in 2007. Pastor Henry Kangas, who was to celebrate 60 years of ordained ministry, died in April. Rev. Al Goodrich, serving at Bethany, Mohawk, died in February of a heart attack.

CONGREGATIONAL  
ANNIVERSARIES

Rev. Nancy Kauppi, Chair of the Mission Partner Committee, announced the following congregational anniversaries:

First Lutheran , Trenary – 50 years  
Our Saviour's, Ewen -100 years  
Zion, Allenville – 100 years  
Zion, St. Ignace – 100 years

CONCERT AND  
RECEPTION

The evening continued with a concert from the Tanzanian Choir, followed by a reception in honor of the Tanzanian Choir, Lay School for Mission Graduates, clergy celebrating anniversaries of ordination, retiring clergy and Synod officers retiring from office.

**SUNDAY, MAY 20**

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration – Messiah Lutheran Church

8:30 a.m.

Eucharist – Messiah Lutheran Church

10:15 a.m.

**PLENARY III – Great Lakes Rooms, NMU**

**CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

Jill Lempke, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the following report as of 8:30 a.m., May 20, 2007:

Registered Voting Members .....	264
Clergy (including those under call and retired) .....	74
Lay Voting Members (82 male/108 female).....	190
Registered Visitors.....	69
<b>TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS .....</b>	<b>333</b>

**ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

Tom White, a member of the Elections Committee, reported the following results on the second ballot:

**Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (6-year term):**

Number of Ballots.....	237
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	237
Needed to Elect.....	119

Rev. Penny Olson.....192

Rev. Philip Johnson .....45

**SA07.05.16**

**REV. PENNY OLSON WAS DECLARED ELECTED  
SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – CLERGY.**

**CORRECTED  
ELECTION  
RESULTS**

Synod Secretary Jonathan Schmidt announced the following corrected results for the previously reported election:

**Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy (2-year term):**

Number of Ballots.....	241
Number of Invalid Ballots .....	3
Number of Valid Ballots.....	238
Needed to Elect.....	120

Rev. John Autio .....88

Rev. Devon Barrix .....150

**DESTRUCTION  
OF BALLOTS**

A motion was made and seconded to destroy the ballots from the elections. Bishop Skrenes thanked the Elections Committee for their work.

**SA07.05.17**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

NGLS WOMEN  
OF THE ELCA  
REPORT

Dolores Bardon, President of the Synodical Women's Organization, presented their report. She also introduced the board members for the organization.

EARTH KEEPER  
PRESENTATION

Carl Lundquist presented a report on the interfaith group "Earth Keepers," a non-profit conservation organization. Rev. Jon Magnuson of Marquette is also actively involved with this group.

REPORT OF  
THE ELCA

Christina Jackson-Skelton, Treasurer, presented the report of the ELCA. Bishop Skrenes presented her with a gift after her presentation.

SYNOD YOUTH  
REPORT

Wendy Black, Synod Youth Coordinator, presented her report to the Assembly.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 8  
AMENDED  
FISCAL  
YEAR 2007  
BUDGET

Synod Treasurer Rev. Stephen Cowen presented Resolution Number 8, Amended Fiscal Year 2007 Budget. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the amended Fiscal Year 2007 budget in the amount of \$1,991,487.00 be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution Number 8.

**SA07.05.18**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 8 WAS ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 9  
FISCAL  
YEAR 2008  
BUDGET

Synod Treasurer Rev. Stephen Cowen presented Resolution Number 9, Fiscal Year 2008 Budget. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2008 budget in the amount of \$1,558,834.00 be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to add \$400 to the budget to provide for a luncheon in each conference to discuss the next phase in the human sexuality study. The motion was defeated.

**SA07.05.19**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 9 WAS ADOPTED.**

Bishop Skrenes and the Assembly thanked Treasurer Cowen for his work.

LUTHERAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES

Steve Olson of Lutheran Social Services gave a brief presentation on the ministry of the organization.

DELTA CONFERENCE  
AT U.P. STATE FAIR

Rev. Jonathan Schmidt, First, Gladstone, gave an announcement about the Delta Conference display table at the U.P. State Fair.

RESOLUTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Rev. Scott Williams, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, indicated that no additional resolutions have been received by the committee. The Assembly thanked the committee for their work.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 7  
IMPROVEMENTS  
IN THE PENSION  
DISABILITY  
PLAN

Resolution Number 7, Improvements in the Pension Disability Plan, submitted by Salem Lutheran, Bark River, Michigan, was presented by Bishop Skrenes. Synod Council recommends adoption.

WHEREAS, congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and congregations of all the synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America make a monthly contribution to the Board of Pensions for the Disability Benefit program; and

WHEREAS, each congregation with clergy “under call” expects to receive certain financial benefits for their person(s) “under call” and for relief of other financial obligations for Health Insurance Benefits and Pension Benefits when a medical disability would occur, and

WHEREAS, the Northern Great Lakes Synod has clergy “under call” who have exceeded the “full retirement age” as defined by Social Security, and other synods also have clergy “under call” who have reached this same benchmark in their life passage; indeed there are 392 pastors under call in this Church who, because they have exceeded the Social Security full retirement age, are not under this benefit even as their congregations are paying for it, and

WHEREAS, the clergy shortage within the Church will only increase the number of pastors who are over 65 years of age and still serving under call, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod meeting in Assembly does hereby memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to require the Board of Pensions to amend the disability benefit program for this church to provide a Temporary Total Disability Benefit to those workers of the church “under call” equal to the current benefit, but not to exceed a predetermined time limit such as six months from the onset of the disability.

Discussion followed. It was moved and seconded to amend the RESOLVED portion resolution to read:

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod meeting in Assembly does hereby memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to require the Board of Pensions to amend the disability benefit program for this church to provide to those workers of the church “under call” who have passed “full benefit retirement age” a Temporary Total Disability Benefit equal to the current benefit, but not to exceed a predetermined time limit such as six months from the onset of the disability.

**SA07.05.20**

THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 7 WAS ADOPTED.

**SA07.05.21**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 7 WAS ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

PRESENTATION  
OF GIFTS TO  
REV. FUPE

Bishop Skrenes presented Rev. George Fupe and his wife, Elizabeth, with a gift of the vestments he had worn for the Assembly worship services. The Assembly thanked Rev. Fupe and Elizabeth for their presence with their applause and a standing ovation.

OFFERING  
TOTAL

Bishop Skrenes announced that total offerings received thus far for the Tanzanian Choir visit totaled \$2,565.

HYMN AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Assembly sang a final hymn and Bishop Skrenes thanked Rev. Mary Weinkauf for her services as pianist for the Assembly. Rev. Virginia Eggert, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, gave some final announcements.

ORDER FOR  
CLOSING AND  
ADJOURNMENT

Bishop Skrenes led the Assembly in the Order for Closing of Assembly. The Twentieth Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was declared adjourned at approximately 12:25 p.m.

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Date

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Rev. Douglas Johnson, Synod Secretary

Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary

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Pauline Kiltinen, Synod Vice President