Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY
May 21-23, 2004
Gogebic Community College
Ironwood, Michigan

Theme: Stir Up Your Power: Renew Us!

Friday, May 21, 2004
2:30–10:00 p.m.  Prayer Chapel  Zion Lutheran Church
3:00-7:00 p.m.  Registration  Zion Lutheran Church
3:30 p.m.  Synod Council Meeting  Salem Lutheran Church
5:00 p.m.  Voting Member Orientation  Salem Lutheran Church
7:00 p.m.  Opening Eucharist  Zion Lutheran Church

8:35 p.m.  PLENARY I - Zion Lutheran Church

ORDER FOR OPENING  Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes welcomed everyone to the 17th Synod Assembly. The Assembly participated in the Order of Opening of Assembly.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  Bishop Skrenes introduced some of the guests present: Rev. Carm Aderman, Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and our keynote speaker; Rev. Fred Rajan, Executive Director of the ELCA Commission for Multicultural Ministries; Bishop H. Gerard Knoche, Bishop of the Delaware Maryland Synod, our ELCA Partner Synod and the preacher at the Sunday morning service; Rev. LeRoy Remmers from Wartburg Seminary.

Bishop Skrenes thanked the people of Zion Lutheran Church, Ironwood for hosting the service. Rev. Francis Strong, Pastor of Zion, Ironwood and Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee made some announcements.

Bishop Skrenes thanked the Worship Committee for their work in planning the Assembly worship services.

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.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1  Bishop Skrenes reported the Synod Council recommends adoption of Resolution Number 1, submitted by the Synod Council.
RESOLUTION NUMBER 1
(continued)

RESOLVED, that the Proposed Rules and Order of Procedure as printed in the Pre-Assembly Addendum be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2004 Assembly.

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

It was moved and seconded to amend the Rules and Order of Procedure. The amendment, if adopted, would amend the rule under the heading “Rules Governing Elections, Nominating Committee, #6 second paragraph to read: “All nominees will be asked to respond to the following question in thirty words or less: Why do you wish to serve as a (officer or in that position)?” Discussion followed. The vote for the amendment was 93 “yes” and 118 “no”.

The motion to amend the Resolution was defeated.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1 WAS ADOPTED.

SA04.05.01

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2

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 be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2004 Assembly.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 WAS ADOPTED.

SA04.05.02

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Shirley Price, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the following report as of 8:45 p.m., May 21, 2004:

Registered Voting Members ........................................ 95
Clergy (including those under call and retired) ............ 26
Lay Voting Members (30 male/39 female) ............... 69
Registered Visitors .................................................. 70
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS ............................ 165

This Credentials Committee Report will be reviewed for accuracy as the previous vote was not supported by this report.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bishop Skrenes called upon Rev. David Letscher, chair of the Nominating Committee, to represent their report as printed on Pages 90-108 of the Pre-Assembly Report. Also serving on the committee were: Louise Spickerman, Peter Suomela, Rev. Richard Grudt, Rev. Kim Beckmann, Robert Gottschalk, Dannette Viau, and Donna Oliver.

Bishop Skrenes thanked the committee for their work.
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

Nominations were presented for the following positions:

Churchwide Voting Member – Clergy:

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Churchwide Voting Member - Clergy.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female:
Wendy Aderman, Wanda Erickson, Karen Kolstad, Alice Leno, Betty Letscher, Marsha Schultz, Orice Walters, Ruth Warmanen. Ruth Archer and Cynthia Cowen were nominated from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Male:
Willard Kocsovsky, Daniel Laatsch, Gustav Petruske, Jr., Jeffrey Stoll, R. Peter Suomela. Glen Archer, Dave Eitland, Scott Kenney and Ron Staudinger were nominated from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Male.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Person of Color:
Adam Choong Chan, Judy Mattson.

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Churchwide Voting Member – Person of Color.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Synod Consultation Committee – Lay Female:
Phyllis DeLooff, Nancy Hatch, Shirley Price.

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Consultation Committee – Lay Female.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Lutheran Campus Ministry Board of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan – Lay Female:
Wendy Ehle, Janet Metsa.

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Lutheran Campus Ministry Board – Lay Female.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.
Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Virginia Eggert, chair of the Resolutions Committee. Rev. Eggert reported that at this time no additional resolutions have been submitted. Bishop Skrenes reminded the Assembly that all resolutions are due by 1:00 p.m. on Saturday to any committee member, Rev. Jonathan Schmidt, Synod Secretary or Rev. Jennifer Johnson Wregge, Assistant to the Bishop. Pastor Eggert also introduced the members of the committee and thanked them for their work.

Shirley Price, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the following corrected report as of 8:45 p.m., May 21, 2004:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Voting Members</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy (including those under call and retired)</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Voting Members (75 male/91 female)</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Visitors</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The previous votes on Resolution Number 1 (including the proposed amendment) and Resolution Number 2 are now supported by this report.

Rev. David Echelbarger, Dean of the Lay School for Mission, was introduced by Bishop Skrenes. Bishop Skrenes also introduced the other three campus coordinators: Rev. Jonathan Schmidt, Rev. Mary Weinkauf, and Rev. Peter Jonas. Pastor Echelbarger made comments about the Lay School for Mission and the four coordinators presented the diplomas. The graduates received a standing ovation from the Assembly.

Bishop Skrenes introduced the following clergy with ordination anniversaries: Rev. David Echelbarger (25 years); Rev. Christine Thomas-Echelbarger (25 years); Rev. Gerald Rossow (25 years); Rev. John Linna (40 years); Rev. Rell Spickerman (40 years) and his spouse, Louise; Rev. D.C. Kalweit (50 years) and his spouse, Nancy; Rev. Ingmar Levin (50 years); Rev. Les Niemi (50 years); Rev. Waldemar Framstad (55 years); Rev. Kenneth Farb (65 years). Some of the above spoke to the Assembly.

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Duane Priebe who is celebrating his retirement at this Assembly. Rev. Priebe addressed the Assembly.

Rev. Francis Strong, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, gave some announcements and a closing prayer. The Assembly is now in recess until Saturday morning.
A reception sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans honoring Lay School for Mission graduates, clergy celebrating anniversaries of ordination and retiring clergy was held in the lower level of Zion Lutheran Church.

**SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2004**

Breakfast – on your own or at Salem Lutheran Church (Tanzanian Library benefit)
Registration – Gogebic Community College
Prayer Chapel

**PLENARY II – Gogebic Community College**

Synod Council member Daniel Laatsch led the Assembly in prayer, followed by a hymn.

Bishop Skrenes thanked Rev. Rell Spickerman and the people at Salem Lutheran Church for sponsoring the breakfast this morning. Rev. Francis Strong made several announcements as Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee.

Bishop Skrenes introduced the following guests at our Assembly: Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches; Rev. Sue Moline Larson, Executive Director for the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin; Rev. Catherine Malotky, Board of Pensions representative; Mark Quade, ELCA Congregational Ministries-Stewardship.


Bishop Skrenes introduced and thanked the synod office staff: Rev. Jennifer Johnson Wreg, Assistant to the Bishop; Wendy Black, Synod Youth Coordinator; Roger Knuth, Synod Planned Giving Counselor; Sandy Parsons, Officer Manager; Louise Ingalls, Secretary; and Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper.
INTRODUCTIONS


Also introduced were seminarians and others who are in the process for future ministry in our synod: Scott Williams, Barry Levine, Rev. Lynn Hubbard, John Ahola, Devon Barrix, Jeff Bonn, Donald (DJ) Rasner, and Daniel Sorensen (associate member of a synod congregation). Intern Beth Anderson, serving at Bethany, Escanaba, was also introduced. It was also announced that two synod seminarians are nearing the end of their preparation for the ordained ministry, Angela Freeman and Peter Warmanen.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Shirley Price, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the following report as of 8:00 a.m., May 22, 2004:

- Registered Voting Members ........................................ 252
- Clergy (including those under call and retired) ................. 71
- Lay Voting Members (81 male/100 female) ..................... 181
- Registered Visitors .................................................... 80
- TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS .................................. 332

FIRST BALLOT FOR ALL POSITIONS

Ballots for the first ballot were distributed and cast. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as the ballots have been tallied.

OFFERING OF QUARTERS

The offering of quarters for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal was collected.

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Jimalee Jones, Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran in Hancock, Michigan, presented the Bible Study.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Thomas Skrenes presented some of the highlights of his printed report to the Assembly.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Bishop Skrenes introduced Orice Walters, Synod Vice President, to present her report. As part of her report, the Synod Council members were introduced and thanked for their ministry. The Synod Council also presented Bishop Skrenes and Rev. Jennifer Johnson Wrege with gifts of appreciation for their ministries.
BUDGET PRESENTATION

Bishop Skrenes introduced Rev. Stephen Cowen, Synod Treasurer, to present the budget information.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rev. Carm Aderman, Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, presented the keynote address.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Joel Wight Hoogheem, Chair of the Elections Committee, announced the following results of the first ballot:

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy:

- Number of Ballots: 242
- Number of Invalid Ballots: 3
- Number of Valid Ballots: 239
- Needed to Elect: 120

1. Rev. Francis Strong: 85
2. Rev. Nancy Kauppi: 43
3. Rev. Norm Peterson: 29
4. Rev. Barb Girod: 17
5. Rev. Fred Kinsey: 61
6. Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey: 36
7. Rev. Margaret Johnson: 48
8. Rev. David Letscher: 48

There was no election. The names of Rev. Peter Vorhes, Rev. Francis Strong, Rev. Fred Kinsey, Rev. Margaret Johnson and Rev. David Letscher will be included on the second ballot.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Female:

- Number of Ballots: 242
- Number of Invalid Ballots: 5
- Number of Valid Ballots: 237
- Needed to Elect: 119

1. Cindy Cowen: 100
2. Ruth Archer: 48
3. Wendy Aderman: 27
4. Ruth Warmanen: 95
5. Marsha Schultz: 39
6. Karen Kolstad: 74
7. Alice Leno: 79
8. Orice Walters: 94
9. Wanda Erickson: 46
10. Betty Letscher: 46
ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

There was no election. The names of: Cindy Cowen, Ruth Warmanen, Orice Walters, Alice Leno, Karen Kolstad, and Ruth Archer will be included on the second ballot.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Male:
Number of Ballots .................................................. 242
Number of Invalid Ballots ....................................... 15
Number of Valid Ballots ....................................... 227
Needed to Elect ..................................................... 114

Dave Eitland ............................................................... 37
Daniel Laatsch ......................................................... 75
Ron Staudinger .......................................................... 22
Glen Archer ............................................................... 53
Scott Kenney ............................................................. 73
Jeffrey R. Stoll ............................................................ 42
Gustav Petruske, Jr. ...................................................... 26
Willard Kocsovsky ..................................................... 32
R. Peter Suomela ....................................................... 73

There was no election. The names of: Daniel Laatsch, Scott Kenney, R. Peter Suomela, and Glen Archer will be included on the second ballot.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Person of Color:
Number of Ballots .................................................. 242
Number of Invalid Ballots ....................................... 6
Number of Valid Ballots ....................................... 236
Needed to Elect ..................................................... 119

Judy Mattson ............................................................. 178
Adam Choong Chan .................................................... 58

SA04.05.09

JUDY MATTSON WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER – PERSON OF COLOR

Synod Consultation Committee – Lay Female:
Number of Ballots .................................................. 242
Number of Invalid Ballots ....................................... 9
Number of Valid Ballots ....................................... 233
Needed to Elect ..................................................... 117

Shirley Price ............................................................. 108
Phyllis DeLoof ......................................................... 59
Nancy Hatch ............................................................ 66

There was no election. The names of Shirley Price and Nancy Hatch will be included on the second ballot.
Lutheran Campus Ministry Board of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan – Lay Female:

Number of Ballots ....................................................... 242
Number of Invalid Ballots ............................................. 11
Number of Valid Ballots .............................................. 231
Needed to Elect ........................................................ 116
Janet Metsa ................................................................. 110
Wendy Ehle ................................................................. 121

WENDY EHLE WAS DECLARE ELECTED
AS LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
BOARD OF WISCONSIN AND
UPPER MICHIGAN – LAY FEMALE

Bishop Skrenes introduced Wendy Black, Synod Youth Coordinator, who presented her report. She also introduced members of the Synod’s Lutheran Youth Organization who led the Assembly in worship.

Rev. Francis Strong, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, gave some announcements and a prayer. The Assembly is in recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

PLENARY III – Gogebic Community College

Synod Council member Doris Peterson led the Assembly in a prayer following by a hymn.

Shirley Price, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the following report as of 1:30 p.m., May 22, 2004:

Registered Voting Members ........................................ 254
Clergy (including those under call and retired) ............... 71
Lay Voting Members (82 male/101 female) ................. 183
Registered Visitors .................................................. 82
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS .......................... 336

Ballots for the second ballot were distributed and cast. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as the ballots have been tallied.

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

RESOLVED, that the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2005 as approved by the Synod Council hereby be adopted and recommended to this Synod’s congregations.
It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt the resolution. Discussion followed.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 3 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 was adopted.

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 4. Synod Council recommends approval.

WHEREAS, the synod constitution and bylaws provide for the election of the Synod Council by the Synod Assembly (S10.01. and following bylaws); therefore be it

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

- IGO Conference (one) Jennette Kuziej (2007)
- Copper Country Conference (two) (2007)
- Four Rivers Conference (four) Rev. Doug Johnson (2006)
- Delta Conference (six) Dave Mason (2007)

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.

Two positions open – no nominees.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 WAS ADOPTED.

Rev. Frederick Rajan, Executive Director of the Commission for Multicultural Ministries, presented the report from the ELCA.

Rev. Fran Strong, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, made several announcements related to the forums this afternoon.

Barb Maines, Synod Council member, offered a prayer and led the Assembly in a hymn. The Assembly is in recess until tomorrow morning.

Breakfast
Prayer Chapel

PLENARY IV – Gogebic Community College
Jean Mitchell, Synod Council member, offered a prayer and led the Assembly in a hymn.

Bishop Skrenes reported that the World Hunger offering is $10,334.

Shirley Price, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the following report as of 8:00 a.m., May 23, 2004:

Registered Voting Members ....................................... 255
Clergy (including those under call and retired) ............... 72
Lay Voting Members (82 male/101 female) ................... 183
Registered Visitors ......................................................... 83
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS .................................... 338

Bishop Skrenes thanked Shirley and the other members of the Credentials Committee for their work.

Rev. Joel Wight Hoogheem, Chair of the Elections Committee, announced the following results of the second ballot:

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy:
Number of Ballots ....................................................... 237
Number of Invalid Ballots ............................................ 3
Number of Valid Ballots ............................................. 234
Needed to Elect ......................................................... 118

Rev. Peter Vorhes ....................................................... 137
Rev. Francis Strong .................................................... 110
Rev. Fred Kinsey ....................................................... 76
Rev. Margaret Johnson ................................................. 90
Rev. David Letscher ................................................... 45

REV. PETER VORHES WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER- CLERGY

The names of Rev. Francis Strong and Rev. Fred Kinsey will be included on the third ballot. Rev. Margaret Johnson was later declared ineligible because Daniel Laatsch was elected as Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Male on the second ballot and they are from the same congregation.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Female:
Number of Ballots ....................................................... 237
Number of Invalid Ballots .......................................... 2
Number of Valid Ballots ............................................. 235
Needed to Elect ......................................................... 118
### SA04.05.14

**CINDY COWEN, RUTH WARMANEN AND ORICE WALTERS WERE DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS – LAY FEMALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Votes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Cowen</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Warmanen</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orice Walters</td>
<td>127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Leno</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Kolstad</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>Ruth Archer</td>
<td>54</td>
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</table>

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Male:

- **Number of Ballots**: 237
- **Number of Invalid Ballots**: 14
- **Number of Valid Ballots**: 223
- **Needed to Elect**: 112

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Laatsch</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Kenney</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Peter Suomela</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Archer</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SA04.05.15

**DANIEL LAATSCH WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER – LAY MALE**

The names of R. Peter Suomela and Glen Archer will appear on the third ballot. Scott Kenney was declared ineligible as Ruth Warmanen was elected on the second ballot and they are from the same congregation.

Synod Consultation Committee – Lay Female:

- **Number of Ballots**: 237
- **Number of Invalid Ballots**: 9
- **Number of Valid Ballots**: 228
- **Needed to Elect**: 115

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Shirley Price</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Hatch</td>
<td>78</td>
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### SA04.05.16

**SHIRLEY PRICE WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – LAY FEMALE**

### THIRD BALLOT

Ballots for the third ballot were distributed and cast. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as the ballots have been tallied.
RESOLUTION NUMBER 7
BENEVOLENCE COMMITMENT TO 55%

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 7, submitted by Bethany Lutheran Church, Escanaba, Michigan. Synod Council recommends defeat of this resolution.

WHEREAS, the congregation of Bethany Lutheran Church, Escanaba, Michigan at its Annual Congregational Meeting, held on Sunday, January 25, 2004, voted unanimously to memorialize the Northern Great Lakes Synod to return our benevolent commitment to the National ELCA to the 55% level of giving. This would return our commitment to the national church from the current 52% level to the previous 55% level, and,

WHEREAS, Bethany and other congregations have reduced staffing and cut local programs, in order to pay Synod Benevolence in total (or the committed amount). Such decisions have never been easy for the ministry of Bethany, but we see and believe that it is extremely important that we sustain our partnership with the Synod and the National Church. We firmly believe the Synod should take a bold leadership role in benevolence commitment, just as they encourage congregations to do so. We need to find other ways to balance our budgets, recognizing that they are sometimes painful. Bethany, two years ago, cut the internship program from our local budget in order to maintain our synod benevolence, even increasing it that year. Such a decision was painful, but our broader mission as part of the broader church was more important than just what happens locally.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Northern Great Lakes Synod remit 55% of unrestricted congregational income to the churchwide expenses of the ELCA.

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

THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NUMBER 7 WAS DEFEATED.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 8
MEMORIAL TO THE ELCA REGARDING LICENSED LAY MINISTERS AND WEDDINGS

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 8, submitted by the Licensed Lay Ministry Advisory Committee. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has recognized the need for lay persons, under the supervision of the bishop of a synod, to render pastoral services in instances where ordained clergy are not otherwise available, and
RESOLUTION NUMBER 8 (continued)

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has interpreted 7.61.01 of the ELCA Constitution to preclude individuals licensed for ministry from officiating at marriages, and

WHEREAS, an individual licensed for ministry has had the opportunity for previous pastoral contact through the ministry of the congregation with the individuals seeking marriage, and

WHEREAS, in small town and rural settings weddings are a natural extension of pastoral ministry, touching not only the lives of the couple, but the community as a whole, and

WHEREAS, since in isolated rural communities where ordained clergy are not available, an individual licensed for ministry may be the only pastoral presence available, thereby effectively eliminating the ministry opportunity that occurs at a wedding and its preparation if individuals licensed for ministry are precluded from officiating at marriages, and

WHEREAS, the state governments of both Michigan and Wisconsin permit marriages by individuals authorized by their church bodies regardless of their status as ordained or laity, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Great Lakes Synod, gathered in assembly, memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to amend its documents and its understanding of Licensed Lay Ministry to authorize Licensed Lay Ministers, serving under the appointment of the synodical bishop in congregational settings where an ordained pastor is not under call, to solemnize weddings in the congregation in which they serve, subject to the laws of the state in which the community is located.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 8 WAS ADOPTED.

SA04.05.17

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Rev. Carm Aderman, Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, presented her second keynote address.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION
Bishop Skrenes introduced Cam Martin, President of the Northern Great Lakes Synod Women's Organization, to present her report.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
Rev. Joel Wight Hoogheem, Chair of the Elections Committee, announced the following results of the third ballot:
SA04.05.18

REV. FRANCIS STRONG WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER – CLERGY

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Male:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Ballots</th>
<th>Number of Invalid Ballots</th>
<th>Number of Valid Ballots</th>
<th>Needed to Elect</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
<td>193</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

R. Peter Suomela ..................................................... 117
Glen Archer ...................................................................... 76

SA04.05.19

R. PETER SUOMELA WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER – LAY MALE.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 5 AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2004 BUDGET

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 5, Amended Fiscal Year 2004 Budget. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the amended Fiscal Year 2004 budget in the amount of $1,553,176 as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report Addendum on pages 15-18 be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

SA04.05.20

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution Number 5.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 5 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 6 WAS ADOPTED.
Rev. Frederick Rajan, Executive Director of the Commission for Multicultural Ministries, spoke to the Assembly.

Bishop Skrenes called upon the Synod Assembly Planning Committee for any last announcements. The Assembly thanked them for their work with their applause.

Bishop Skrenes spoke on congregational stewardship asking voting members to advocate for increased financial mission support.

Rev. Jon Magnuson made a special announcement regarding the Environmental Protection Agency.

Bishop Skrenes also expressed thanks from the Third World Shoppe for the support from the Assembly members.

The Assembly participated in a service of Eucharist.

Bishop Skrenes led the Assembly in the Order for Closing of Assembly.

The Seventeenth Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was declared adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

________________________________________________
Rev. Jonathan Schmidt, Synod Secretary
Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary

________________________________________________
Orice Walters, Synod Vice President