

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
RULES AND
ORDER FOR
PROCEDURE

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.

SA04.05.01

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

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

SA04.05.02

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 WAS ADOPTED.

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:

Rev. Margaret Johnson, Rev. Nancy Kauppi, Rev. Fred Kinsey, Rev. David Letscher, Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey, Rev. Francis Strong, Rev. Peter Vorhes. Rev. Norman Peterson and Rev. Barbara Girod were nominated from the floor.

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

SA04.05.03

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.

SA04.05.04

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.

SA04.05.05

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.

SA04.05.06

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.

SA04.05.07

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.

SA04.05.08

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

RESOLUTIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

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 Wrege, Assistant to the Bishop. Pastor Eggert also introduced the members of the committee and thanked them for their work.

CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

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

Registered Voting Members	235
Clergy (including those under call and retired)	69
Lay Voting Members (75 male/91 female)	166
Registered Visitors	66
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS	301

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

LAY SCHOOL
FOR MISSION
GRADUATES

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 Weinkauff, 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.

ORDINATION
ANNIVERSARIES

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.

CLERGY
RETIREMENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND CLOSING
PRAYER

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.

RECEPTION

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

PRAYER AND
HYMN

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

THANKS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

INTRODUCTIONS

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.

EXCUSED
ABSENCES

The following rostered persons requested excused absences for the 2004 Assembly: Rev. Nancy Amacher, Rev. Mark Bangert, Rev. Bayard Beach, Rev. Timothy Bernard, Rev. Laurel Halvorson Bernard, Rev. Warren Geier, Rev. Kenneth Gibson, Rev. Allen Goodrich, Rev. Paul Holmstrom, Rev. Richard Hutton, Rev. Cori Johnson (Friday and Saturday), Rev. Peter Jonas, Rev. Mark Lerseth, Diaconal Minister Lori Liverance, Rev. Dean Marin, Rev. Leslie Niemi, Rev. George Olson, Rev. Olaf Rankinen, Rev. Mark Schahczenski, Rev. Clarence Schnorr, Rev. William Shepard, Bishop Emeritus Dale Skogman, Rev. Robert Sutherland, Rev. John Voelker, Rev. Ken West.

SYNOD
OFFICE
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; Sandy Parsons, Officer Manager; Louise Ingalls, Secretary; and Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Skrenes introduced the rostered persons new to our synod: Rev. Ralph Backman, Retired, Marinette; Rev. Kurt Bockoven, Sharon, Bessemer; Rev. Warren Geier, Bethany, Ishpeming; Rev. Len Gilley, Salem, Bark River; Rev. Barb Girod, Faith, Three Lakes; Rev. Cori Johnson, Concordia, Palmer and Our Saviour's, Negaunee; Rev. Nick Johannes, Beaver American, Pound and Porterfield, Porterfield; Carole Neitzel, Licensed Lay Minister, Our Redeemer, Champion, Rev. John West, St. Paul, Wainola and First of Winona, Mass City; Rev. Eugene Wickman, Grace, Pembine.

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
Rev. Francis Strong	85
Rev. Nancy Kauppi	43
Rev. Norm Peterson	29
Rev. Barb Girod	17
Rev. Fred Kinsey	61
Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey	36
Rev. Margaret Johnson	48
Rev. David Letscher	48
Rev. Peter Vorhes	99

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
Cindy Cowen	100
Ruth Archer	48
Wendy Aderman	27
Ruth Warmanen	95
Marsha Schultz	39
Karen Kolstad	74
Alice Leno	79
Orice Walters	94
Wanda Erickson	46
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.

ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT
(continued)

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

SA04.05.10

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

REPORT OF THE
SYNOD YOUTH
COORDINATOR

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.

ANNOUCEMENTS
AND RECESS

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.

1:30 p.m.

PLENARY III – Gogebic Community College

PRAYER
AND HYMN

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

CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

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

SECOND
BALLOT

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

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 3
CLERGY
COMPENSATION
GUIDELINES
FOR 2005

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.

SA04.05.11

RESOLUTION NUMBER 3 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 4
SYNOD COUNCIL

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)
Menominee Valley Conference (five)	Rev. Lee Goodwin (2007)
Delta Conference (six)	Dave Mason (2007)
Superior Central Conference (eight)	Rev. Warren Geier (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.

SA04.05.12

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 WAS ADOPTED.

ELCA
REPRESENTATIVE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYER
AND HYMN

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

**SUNDAY,
MAY 23, 2004**

Breakfast
Prayer Chapel

8:00 a.m.

PLENARY IV – Gogebic Community College

PRAYER
AND HYMN

Jean Mitchell, Synod Council member, offered a prayer and led the Assembly in a hymn.

WORLD HUNGER
OFFERING

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

CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

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.

ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

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

SA04.05.13

**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

ELECTIONS	Cindy Cowen	136
COMMITTEE	Ruth Warmanen	133
REPORT	Orice Walters	127
(continued)	Alice Leno	90
	Karen Kolstad	91
	Ruth Archer	54

SA04.05.14

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

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Male:

Number of Ballots	237
Number of Invalid Ballots	14
Number of Valid Ballots	223
Needed to Elect	112
Daniel Laatsch	123
Scott Kenney	110
R. Peter Suomela	96
Glen Archer	83

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
Shirley Price	150
Nancy Hatch	78

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:

ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT
(continued)

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy:	
Number of Ballots	200
Number of Invalid Ballots	0
Number of Valid Ballots	200
Needed to Elect	101
Rev. Francis Strong	138
Rev. Fred Kinsey	62

SA04.05.18

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

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Lay Male:	
Number of Ballots	200
Number of Invalid Ballots	7
Number of Valid Ballots	193
Needed to Elect	97
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
FISCAL YEAR
2005 BUDGET

Bishop Skrenes presented Resolution Number 6, Fiscal Year 2005 Budget. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2005 budget in the amount of \$1,567,526 as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report Addendum on pages 15-18 be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

SA04.05.21

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution Number 6.
RESOLUTION NUMBER 6 WAS ADOPTED.

ELCA
REPRESENTATIVE

Rev. Frederick Rajan, Executive Director of the Commission for Multicultural Ministries, spoke to the Assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The Assembly participated in a service of Eucharist.

CLOSING OF
ASSEMBLY

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Date

Rev. Jonathan Schmidt, Synod Secretary

Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary

Date

Orice Walters, Synod Vice President