

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

May 16-18, 2019

Bethany Lutheran Church and  
Bay de Noc Community College  
Escanaba, Michigan

**Theme: Equipping the Saints for Ministry**

**THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019**

(All times are Eastern)

2:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Registration	Bethany Lutheran Church
2:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Refreshments (hosted by members of Bethany)	Bethany Lutheran Church
3:30 p.m.	Synod Council Meeting	Bethany Lutheran Church
5:00 p.m.	Orientation for Voting Members	Bethany Lutheran Church
5:00 p.m.	Resolutions Committee Meeting	Bethany Lutheran Church
7:00 p.m.	Opening Worship Service	Bethany Lutheran Church

**FRIDAY, MAY 17**

7:00 - 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast at Immanuel Lutheran Church or on your own
7:00 – 8:15 a.m.	Registration at Bay de Noc Community College - Synod Assembly Office

8:30 a.m. **PLENARY I – Besse Theater, Bay de Noc Community College**

**HYMN AND WELCOME**

Bishop Finegan welcomed everyone to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She commented on the new space and thanked Bay de Noc Community College, Bethany Lutheran Church and the Delta Conference for their part in welcoming the NGLS to the Escanaba area. She introduced Rev. Melinda VanderSys, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Team, and asked her to make some additional announcements. Bishop Finegan then invited the Assembly to sing a hymn and welcomed Rev. Doug Norquist as accompanist on the piano.

**OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY**

Bishop Finegan invited the Assembly to join with her for the Opening of the Assembly.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Bishop Finegan introduced the head table: Rev. Douglas Johnson (Bethlehem, Florence), Synod Secretary; Karen Kolstad (Zion, Marinette) serving as Assembly Recording Secretary; Pam Long (Grace, South Range), Synod Vice President; and Rev. Gerald Anderson (Trinity, Rhinelander) serving as Assembly Parliamentarian.

Following these introductions, Bishop Finegan presented comments on the theme “Equipping the Saints for Ministry” as this is our second year of focusing on this theme.

INTRODUCTIONS  
(continued)

The following persons representing our partnerships were introduced to the Assembly by Bishop Finegan: Victoria Flood (ELCA Representative), Darrell Lancour (Northland Lutheran Retirement Community in Marinette, WI), Rev. Kerri Parker (Wisconsin Council of Churches), Kelsey Johnson (Lutheran Office for Public Policy of Wisconsin), Rev. Bucky Beach (Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan Tech in Houghton, MI and Assembly Chaplain for today.

CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Christine Harkness, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 8:30 a.m. May 17, 2019:

Registered Voting Members.....	219
Clergy (46 under call and 17 retired) .....	63
Lay Voting Members (57 male/99 female) .....	156
Registered Visitors .....	42
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS .....	261

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 1  
RULES AND  
ORDER FOR  
PROCEDURE

Bishop Finegan announced that it was time to move the adoption of the Rules and Order of Procedure for this Synod Assembly. She reminded the Assembly of Rule 6 on page 55 of the Pre-Assembly Report and read a portion of this rule.

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Doug Johnson, Synod Secretary, who read the resolution and reported that the Synod Council recommends adoption of Resolution Number 1, who has moved and seconded it.

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 2019 Assembly.

**SA19.05.01**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 2  
AGENDA AND  
PROGRAM

Bishop Finegan announced that it was now in order to move the adoption of the Assembly Agenda. Secretary Johnson read the resolution and reported that the Synod Council recommends adoption of Resolution Number 2, who has moved and seconded it.

RESOLVED, that the Agenda and Program as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2019 Assembly.

**SA19.05.02**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 WAS ADOPTED.

EXCUSED  
ABSENCES

Bishop Finegan read Synod Constitutional Provision S14.25 regarding required attendance at Synod Assemblies by rostered persons. The following rostered persons requested excused absences for the 2019 Assembly: Rev. Rich Likeness, Rev. Devon Barrix, Rev. John Shallow, Rev. Fran Strong, Rev. Paul Holmstrom, Rev. LaVonne Stephenson, Rev.

George Olson, Rev. Nancy Kauppi, Rev. Andrew Plocher, Rev. Allan Johnson, Rev. Dean Marin, Rev. Tom Wagner, Rev. George Candea-Kromm, Rev. Jon Magnuson, and Bishop Emeritus Thomas Skrenes.

ON LEAVE  
FROM CALL

Bishop Finegan also reported on other rostered persons. Pastors who are currently on Leave from Call are: Rev. Greg Mileski, Rev. Corinne Johnson, Rev. DJ Rasner, Rev. Joe Daiker, Rev. Bre Kinnunen and Rev. Terry Frankenstein.

REV. ERIK  
HESKIN

Bishop Finegan asked that the Assembly stand for the next announcement. She announced that “on Sunday morning, May 5, Rev. Erik Heskin passed to life eternal. Last week, May 8, we celebrated his life and gave thanks to God for all that he was, a partner in ministry and beloved by his family. Please continue to keep his family in your prayers. Peace be to the memory of Erik Douglas Heskin.”

NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Finegan announced that there are various positions to be elected at this assembly for the Synod Discipline Committee, as well as Synod Vice President, and Synod Secretary. Bishop Finegan called upon Secretary Doug Johnson to present the committee’s report. The nominees are listed on page 45-49 of the Pre-Assembly Report. The nominees are as follows:

Synod Discipline Committee–Clergy – 6-year term (2025)

Rev. Julie Belew, Rev. Mark Laatsch, Rev. Tom Otis, and Rev. Ann Gonyea (two positions)

No additional nominations were received from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy.

**SA19.05.03**

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

Synod Discipline Committee–Lay – 6-year term (2025)

Hayley Smith, Pamela Long, Douglas Tarkowski, and Dave Dagenais (two positions)

No additional nominations were received from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline Committee – Lay.

**SA19.05.04**

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

Synod Vice President – 4-year term

Chuck Thomas and Frank (Rick) Pink

No additional nominations were received from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Vice President.

**SA19.05.05**

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

Chuck Thomas and Rick Pink addressed the Assembly regarding their nomination for Synod Vice President.

Synod Secretary – 4-year term

Rev. Kay Richter

No additional nominations were received from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Rev. Kay Richter as Synod Vice President.

**SA19.05.06**

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED AND REV. KAY RICHTER WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD SECRETARY.

ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE

Bishop Finegan introduced the Elections Committee, chaired by Rev. Scott Ehle. They were recognized by the Assembly as they left to prepare ballots.

PAROCHIAL  
REPORTS  
AND  
PASTORS'  
REPORTS

Bishop Finegan reported that congregations are required, by their own constitutions, to submit an annual parochial report to the synod. She announced that as of Tuesday of this week, all congregations have submitted their reports!

Bishop Finegan also announced that every year, every pastor, rostered minister and licensed lay minister is expected to submit a pastor's report. She presented prizes to the first and second pastor to submit their reports as well as the pastor of the congregation to submit the first parochial report.

RESOLUTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Diane Srutowski, Chair of the Resolutions Committee. She also introduced the members of the committee who are assisted by Synod Secretary Doug Johnson. Bishop Finegan reported that at this time no additional resolutions have been submitted. Bishop Finegan read bylaw S711.60 and announced the deadline for resolutions is 1:00 p.m. today.

SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY  
PLANNING  
TEAM

Bishop Finegan introduced the Chair of the 2019 Synod Assembly Planning Team, Rev. Melinda VanderSys, who then introduced the rest of the team: Lucas Wickstrom, Rev. George Kaiser, Rev. Tom Otis, Pam Durbin and Synod Staff Louise Ingalls, Betsy Koski, Rev. Jim Duehring, and Bishop Katherine Finegan. The Assembly thanked them with their applause.

TOOL TIME #1  
WORLD  
HUNGER

Bishop Finegan introduced the chair of the World Hunger Committee, Rev. Ellie Russey. She shared information about the offering, Pie Walk and other items relating to World Hunger. The offering for World Hunger was collected from the Assembly at this time.

NEW TO  
SYNOD

Bishop Finegan recognized those pastors who are new to the Northern Great Lakes Synod. They are: Rev. Stacy Pethke who serves at Trinity and Faith, Ishpeming; Rev. Jared Howard, serving at Faith, Calumet; Rev. Avery Carr who serves at First and Trinity, Iron River; Rev. Kellan Weyer, serving at Mission United, Pelkie; and Rev. Don Ludemann who served as interim pastor at Messiah, Marquette and has accepted the call to serve as pastor at Prince of Peace, Harvey. Bishop Finegan also welcomed the newly appointed Licensed Lay Minister, Michael Holman, serving Bethany, Negaunee and Emanuel, Skandia. The Assembly welcomed them with their applause.

INSTALLATIONS

Bishop Finegan announced the installations that were performed under the authority of the synod during May 2018 to May 2019:

8/12/2018	Rev. Linda Forray	Installed at St. James, Marinette, WI
10/28/2018	Rev. Soren Schmidt	Installed at Holy Trinity, Chassell, MI
4/14/2019	Rev. Andrew Plocher	Installed at Messiah, Marquette, MI

SEMINARIANS

Bishop Finegan also announced seminarians present at the Assembly: Kelly Ylitalo from First, Dollar Bay who is currently an intern at First, Gladstone; Micah Cavaleri, serving as LLM at First, Dollar Bay and Grace, South Range, and in the distance learning program at Wartburg Seminary; Sarah Sleeter from Calvary, Quinnesec who is providing pulpit supply while in the distance learning program at Wartburg Seminary; and Carolyn Lawrence of United, Crystal Falls who just finished her second year of seminary and recently received the 2019 Seminary Program of the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics. Carolyn will spend two weeks this summer in Germany and Poland studying the roles played by clergy in the Nazi state. Other seminarians who were not present are: Katelin Bingner of Messiah, Marquette; Pat Kempf of Christ the King, Escanaba and Melissa Salminen of Trinity, Ishpeming. The Assembly recognized all those mentioned with their applause

REPORT OF  
THE BISHOP

Bishop Finegan announced that her written report is on pages 3 to 6 of the Pre-Assembly Report. She presented highlights of that report to the Assembly and concluded with a prayer.

REPORT OF THE  
SYNOD VICE  
PRESIDENT

Bishop Finegan introduced Pam Long who presented her report as Synod Vice President. As part of her report, she introduced and thanked the members of the Synod Council. The Assembly thanked her for her work with their applause.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 7

Bishop Finegan introduced Resolution Number 7 on page 51 of the Pre-Assembly Report. The resolution was submitted by the Executive Committee and they recommend adoption.

RECOGNITION  
OF THE MINISTRY  
OF SYNOD VICE  
PRESIDENT,  
PAMELA LONG

WHEREAS, Pamela Long has served our Northern Great Lakes Synod as Vice President since 2015, and

WHEREAS, Pamela Long has served faithfully as Vice President of this Synod, chairing the Synod Council and its Synod Executive Committee with a smile and wise leadership, and

WHEREAS, Pamela Long has been a trusted confidant and counselor to two bishops over this four-year period, always bringing with her into every conversation a maturity of faith, and a Christian joy for her life of service, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod meeting in Assembly on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019 does hereby congratulate Pamela Long for her ministry in our midst, thanking God for her four years of Synod leadership as our Vice President, and

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

**S19.05.07**

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

Bishop Finegan presented a plaque to Pam and the Assembly stood and thanked her with their applause.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 8  
RECOGNITION  
OF THE MINISTRY  
OF SYNOD  
SECRETARY  
PASTOR DOUGLAS  
JOHNSON

Bishop Finegan introduced Resolution Number 8 on page 52 of the Pre-Assembly Report. The resolution was submitted by the Executive Committee and they recommend adoption.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Douglas Johnson has served our Northern Great Lakes Synod as Synod Secretary since 2007, and

WHEREAS, this Synod has shown confidence in the ability of Secretary Johnson by re-electing him in 2011 and 2015, and

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

WHEREAS, Pastor Johnson has been a trusted confidant and counselor, offering support and encouragement 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 the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019 does hereby congratulate Pastor Douglas Johnson 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, Elaine, for sharing Pastor Johnson with this Synod over these years, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Synod stand in appreciation to Pastor Johnson for his excellent witness to the Gospel of Christ by his 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 Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Florence, Wisconsin, where Secretary Douglas Johnson serves as pastor alongside First Presbyterian Church in Florence, Wisconsin.

**S19.05.08**

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

Bishop Finegan presented a plaque to Rev. Johnson and the Assembly stood and thanked him with their applause.

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Dr. Larry Pagel, Synod Treasurer, who presented his report as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report. The Assembly thanked him for his work with their applause.

FIRST  
BALLOT

Bishop Finegan thanked all those who have accepted nomination to various positions and offered themselves to serve. She called upon Rev. Bucky Beach, Chaplain of the Day and Lutheran Campus Minister, who offered a prayer. She then called upon Rev. Scott Ehle, Chair of the Elections Committee, to distribute the first ballot. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as possible.

SYNOD  
STAFF

Bishop Finegan then introduced Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Jim Duehring, and synod office staff, Betsy Koski and Louise Ingalls. Also introduced were Synod Missioners Rev. Doug Norquist (Pastor at Community Lutheran, Palmer and Suomi) and Rev. Matt Lamb (Pastor at St. James, Rudyard). The Assembly thanked all of them with their applause.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 9  
RECOGNITION  
OF THE MINISTRY  
AND SERVICE OF  
LOUISE INGALLS

Bishop Finegan introduced Resolution Number 8 on page 53 of the Pre-Assembly Report. The resolution was submitted by the Executive Committee and they recommend adoption.

WHEREAS, Louise Ingalls has served our Northern Great Lakes Synod as one of our Office Secretaries since 1995, and

WHEREAS, Louise Ingalls has served faithfully alongside our Synod Staff with a smile and a love for this Synod and Christ’s church, and

WHEREAS, Louise Ingalls has tended to the details and the behind-the-scenes work of every Synod Assembly while she has worked in the Synod Office, as well as many conferences and meetings, with care and attention to all of the important details, and

WHEREAS, Louise Ingalls has time and time again gone above and beyond in her work for this Synod to make sure things were taken care of and done properly always putting her best foot forward and serving with a laugh and a sparkle in her eye, and

WHEREAS, Louise Ingalls, later this year, plans to retire from her work as a Secretary in our Synod Office, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod meeting in Assembly on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019 does hereby congratulate Louise Ingalls for her ministry in our midst, thanking God for her 24 years of service to this Synod and the church of Jesus Christ, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Synod stand in appreciation to Louise Ingalls for her excellent witness to the Gospel of Christ and her faithful service.

**S19.05.09**

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

Bishop Finegan presented a plaque to Louise Ingalls and the Assembly stood and thanked her with their applause.

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Break – Refreshments and Displays

KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER

Bishop Finegan introduced Dwight Zscheile, Vice President of Innovation and Associate Professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He presented the keynote address.

CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Christine Harkness, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented this report as of 11:30 a.m. May 17, 2019:

Registered Voting Members.....	224
Clergy (47 under call and 18 retired) .....	65
Lay Voting Members (58 male/101 female).....	159
Registered Visitors .....	48
TOTAL REGISTERED PERSONS .....	272



ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Scott Ehle, Chair of the Elections Committee, who presented the following results for the first ballot:

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy:

Number of Ballots.....	208
Number of Invalid Ballots.....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	208
Needed to Elect.....	105
Mark Laatsch .....	74
Ann Gonyea .....	97
Julie Belew .....	139
Tom Otis .....	97

**S19.05.10**

REV. JULIE BELEW WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS  
SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – CLERGY

The names of Ann Gonyea and Tom Otis will appear on the second ballot.

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay:

Number of Ballots.....	207
Number of Invalid Ballots.....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	207
Needed to Elect.....	104
Douglas Tarkowski .....	63
Dave Dagenais.....	108
Pamela Long.....	124
Hayley Smith.....	109

**S19.05.11**

PAMELA LONG AND HAYLEY SMITH WERE DECLARED  
ELECTED AS SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – LAY

Synod Vice President:

Number of Ballots.....	208
Number of Invalid Ballots.....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	208
Needed to Elect.....	105
Frank (Rick) Pink.....	39
Chuck Thomas.....	169

**S19.05.12**

CHUCK THOMAS WAS DECLARED ELECTED  
AS SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT

SECOND  
BALLOT

Bishop Finegan called upon Rev. Bucky Beach who offered a prayer. She then called upon the Elections Committee to distribute the second ballot. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Finegan called upon Rev. Melinda VanderSys who made a few announcements. The Assembly broke for lunch and will reconvene at 2:00 p.m.

12:15 – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch – on your own

2:00 p.m.

**PLENARY II – Besse Theater, Bay de Noc Community College**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Finegan welcomed everyone back after lunch and, after a few announcements, led the Assembly in a hymn. Rev. Bucky Beach offered a prayer.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Scott Ehle, Chair of the Elections Committee, who presented the following results for the second ballot:

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy:

Number of Ballots.....	202
Number of Invalid Ballots.....	0
Number of Valid Ballots.....	202
Needed to Elect.....	102
Tom Otis .....	100
Ann Gonyea .....	102

**S19.05.12**

**REV. ANN GONYEA WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – CLERGY**

Rev. Scott Ehle thanked all who served on the Elections Committee and the Assembly thanked them with their applause.

MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS

A motion was made and seconded to destroy all the ballots. Bishop Finegan also expressed thanks to Rev. Scott Ehle and the Elections Committee for their work.

**S19.05.13**

**THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.**

TOOL TIME #2 MISSION SUPPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, to discuss Mission Support in the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Philip Johnson, President of Finlandia University in Hancock, MI, to address the Assembly. She then introduced Sue Ellen Spotts of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service who also spoke to the Assembly.

SYNODICAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION

Bishop Finegan introduced Melzee Jacobson, President of the NGLS Synodical Women’s Organization. She presented her report to the Assembly.

TOOL TIME #3  
LUTHERAN  
CAMPUS MINISTRY

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Bucky Beach, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan Tech in Houghton. Rev. Beach gave a report on LCM in that area and elsewhere.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 3  
CLERGY  
COMPENSATION  
GUIDELINES

Bishop Finegan presented Resolution Number 3, submitted by the Synod Council. The Synod Council recommends adoption. Rev. Doug Johnson read the resolved.

RESOLVED, that the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2020 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.

**SA19.05.14**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 3 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 4  
SYNOD  
COUNCIL

Resolution Number 4, Synod Council, submitted by the Conferences, was presented by Bishop Finegan. The Synod Council recommends adoption. Rev. Doug Johnson explained the resolution and read the resolved portion.

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.

Iron-Gogebic-Ontonagon Conference (One)	Rev. Bill Jacobson (2022)
Copper Country Conference (Two)	Rev. Soren Schmidt (2022)
Menominee Valley Conference (Five)	Rev. Mark Laatsch (2022)
Delta Conference (Six)	Chuck Thomas (2022)
Superior Central Conference (Eight)	Melissa Salminen (2022)

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

**SA19.05.15**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 WAS ADOPTED.

LUTHERAN  
SOCIAL  
SERVICES

Bishop Finegan introduced Mr. Hector Colon, President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Mr. Colon presented his report on behalf of LSS.

FAITHFUL  
INNOVATIONS

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, to speak about the Faithful Innovations project in the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

3:15 – 3:55 p.m.

Break – Refreshments and Displays

KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER

Bishop Finegan again introduced Dwight Zscheile, Vice President of Innovation and Associate Professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He presented his

second address to the Assembly. He was presented a gift basket from the Synod at the conclusion of his address. The Assembly thanked him with their applause.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND PRAYER

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Melinda VanderSys who made a few announcements. Rev. Bucky Beach then closed the session with prayer. Assembly will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow.

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Banquet and Program – Terrace Bay Inn, Escanaba

LAY SCHOOL  
FOR MISSION  
GRADUATES

During the banquet, Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Warren Geier, Dean of the Lay School for Mission. He presented awards to Donna Ahlberg and Matt Johnson, who graduated from the Lay School for Mission. The Assembly recognized these graduates with their applause.

BIG BEAR AND  
BREAD BASKET  
AWARDS

Bishop Finegan then introduced Rev. Ellie Russey, Chair of the World Hunger Committee who presented two Big Bear Awards – Bethel, Menominee for their “I Care” ministry and Bethany, Escanaba for their U.P. State Fair booth. Rev. Russey also presented the Bread Basket Award to Kathy Peterson and Jonelle Berger from Zion, Manistique. The Assembly recognized these award winners with their applause.

CONGREGATION  
ANNIVERSARIES

Bishop Finegan announced that three congregations are celebrating anniversaries this year: Prince of Peace, Marquette – 50 years; Emanuel, Skandia – 125 years and Mission United, Pelkie – 125 years. Representatives from these congregations came forward to receive their certificates. The Assembly recognized these anniversaries with their applause.

ORDINATION  
ANNIVERSARIES  
AND RETIREMENT

Bishop Finegan then recognized the following clergy and rostered leaders celebrating ordination anniversaries:

- Lenora (Nora) Tahtinen – 25 years as Minister of Word and Service
- Rev. Maxine Gray – 25 years
- Rev. Paul Raappana – 50 years (he addressed the Assembly)
- Rev. Rell Spickerman – 55 years (with spouse, Louise. He addressed the Assembly.)
- Rev. Ingmar Levin – 65 years (he addressed the Assembly)
- Rev. Leslie Niemi – 65 years (unable to be present)

The following clergy are celebrating retirement since the last Synod Assembly:

- Rev. Micheal Laakko (present with his spouse, Denise. He addressed the Assembly.)

Biographical information for the anniversaries and retirement is included in the Pre-Assembly Report on pages 61-65.

DECEASED  
CLERGY

Bishop Finegan announced that the Rev. Norman Lund passed away since our last Assembly. His information is found on page 66 of the Pre-Assembly Report.

8:30 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer – First, Gladstone

**SATURDAY, MAY 18**

7:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Breakfast at First, Gladstone or on your own

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration at Bay de Noc Community College - Synod Assembly Office

8:30 a.m.

**PLENARY III – Besse Theater, Bay de Noc Community College**

OPENING  
PRAYER

Bishop Finegan introduced Karen Anne Hanson, Licensed Lay Minister and Chaplain at Northland Lutheran Retirement Community in Marinette, Wisconsin. Karen Anne offered an opening prayer.

CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO LWR LAYETTES

Bishop Finegan then announced that Bishop Emeritus Dale Skogman has knit over 3,000 baby sweaters and hats for Lutheran World Relief layettes! The Assembly thanked him for his efforts with their applause.

WORLD HUNGER  
OFFERING TOTAL

It was announced by Bishop Finegan that the offering for World Hunger totals \$35,358.97. Donations are still being accepted for this offering.

TOOL TIME #4  
FORTUNE LAKE  
LUTHERAN CAMP

Bishop Finegan introduced Amanda Rasner, new Camp Director at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Amanda updated the Assembly on camp happenings and she was thanked with their applause.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 5  
AMENDED  
FISCAL YEAR  
2019 BUDGET

Bishop Finegan announced that it was time to deal with the budget resolutions and introduced Dr. Larry Pagel, Synod Treasurer. Bishop Finegan presented Resolution Number 5 and Dr. Pagel read it. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the amended Fiscal Year 2019 budget in the amount of \$1,275,517 as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt Resolution Number 5.

**SA19.05.16**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 5 WAS ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 6  
FISCAL YEAR  
2020 BUDGET

Bishop Finegan presented Resolution Number 6, Fiscal Year 2020 Budget and Dr. Pagel read it. The Synod Council recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2020 budget in the amount of \$1,237,825 as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council to adopt Resolution Number 6.

**SA19.05.17**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 6 WAS ADOPTED.**

Bishop Finegan expressed thanks to Synod Treasurer Dr. Larry Pagel and Synod Bookkeeper Betsy Koski for their work. The assembly thanked them with their applause.

**TOOL TIME #5  
PLANNED  
GIVING AND  
ENDOWMENT**

Bishop Finegan gave information about the NGLS Endowment Fund and asked the Assembly to review the brochure in their packets. She then introduced Cindy Halvorsen, Planned Giving Coordinator for Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, who addressed the Assembly.

**RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 10  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND  
DISTRIBUTION**

Bishop Finegan introduced Resolution Number 10, Endowment Fund Distribution, submitted by the Endowment Fund Board. It comes to the Assembly with a recommendation of adoption by the Resolutions Committee. Synod Secretary Rev. Doug Johnson read the resolution.

WHEREAS, the Endowment Fund of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, since its inception in 1989 has relied upon the development work of the synod staff and the Endowment Fund Board; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Foundation, Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin and the Northern Great Lakes Synod have together employed a full-time Planned Giving Counselor since 2003 to work in the six synods of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the synod Endowment Fund continues to benefit from a trained and experienced professional development person who assists members of this church with their charitable planning, wherein the fund grows as do the grants made by it annually to the ministries of the Northern Great Lakes Synod; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Bylaws S11.01.61.i require that before any disbursement of the perpetual fund principal, the recommendation of both the Endowment Fund Board and the Synod Council be secured, such recommendation occurring; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Northern Great Lakes Synod approve the disbursement of not more than \$20,000 per year, for three years, a total disbursement of \$60,000 in Endowment Fund principal pursuant to S11.01.61.i for the expenses of a development person to represent the Northern Great Lakes Synod Endowment Fund.

The resolution is considered moved and seconded by the Resolutions Committee. Discussion followed.

**SA19.05.18**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 10 WAS ADOPTED.**

**ELCA  
REPORT**

Bishop Finegan introduced Victoria Flood, ELCA Representative. She presented the ELCA Report to the Assembly. After her report, she was presented with a gift basket. The Assembly thanked her with their applause.

**RESOLUTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

Synod Secretary Rev. Doug Johnson presented the report of the Resolutions Committee. Rev. Johnson reported that one resolution was submitted prior to the deadline. He read that portion of the Synod Bylaws relating to the new resolution and explained that the resolution will not be brought to the Assembly because it did not meet the criteria.

**FINAL  
COMMENTS  
AND  
THANKS**

Bishop Finegan presented her summary comments about being equipped for ministry. She also thanked Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary, Rev. Doug Johnson, Synod Secretary, Rev. Gerald Anderson, Parliamentarian, and Pam Long, Synod Vice President. She also thanked Rev. Melinda VanderSys, the staff and the Synod Assembly Planning Team for their work preparing and executing this Assembly. The Assembly thanked these people with their applause.

Rev. Doug Johnson thanked Bishop Finegan for doing a great job in her second Assembly. The Assembly thanked her with their applause.

Bishop Finegan then called upon Rev. Douglas Johnson, Secretary of the Synod to announce the next Synod Assembly. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod will be May 14-16, 2020 at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan.

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service followed by Order for Closing of the Assembly. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was declared adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

12:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Lunch on site and workshops

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. Douglas Johnson, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Long, Vice President

Approved by the Synod Executive Committee per S11.01.11.f