



Gospel Seeds...

Registration is Open April 1st!!!

You are invited to register for Synod Assembly June 1-3 at the Grand Hotel, Minot. Assembly registration will open April 1st. Our theme for this year's assembly: **Always Renewing: One Lord – One Faith – One Baptism.** This theme will help us focus on the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.

Each congregation is allowed at least two voting members - more depending on the size of the congregation. However, we encourage congregations to bring as many visitors as they would like. The point being, we want as many people as possible to experience this faith-filled time together.

We are blessed to have with us this year Rev. Dr. Sam Giere from Wartburg Seminary. Sam will lead the Pre-Assembly workshop on Thursday, June 1st. He will help us all dive deeply into Martin Luther's central tenants and how this can be a gift today. He will also be our Bible Study leader during Assembly.

Mission Gala Tickets soon on sale!

A limited number of tickets will be available beginning April 1st for a seat at our Annual Mission Gala. The cost of the ticket is \$30. The event is being held at Christ Lutheran Church's Augustana Hall.

You will be treated to an excellent meal complete with appetizers, entrée' and dessert. There will also be the opportunity to bid on Silent Auction items – which will be sold to the highest bidder that evening, as well as, bid on a limited number of live auction items.

All proceeds from this great evening benefit the Western North Dakota Mission Endowment Fund.

Assembly Resolutions & Rules:

The Synod's Website: WNDSynod.org is the best place for you to keep up with the latest Assembly information. Through that site, you are able to find the Rules of the Assembly, the Resolutions which will be presented, biographies of those who will be speaking at Assembly and much more. If you have questions, know that synod staff is available to help you - just call or email us.

Annual Report of Endowment Fund

Did you know that in 2016 congregations and individuals donated over \$69,000 to the Ministry Endowment Fund? And that in the same time period, the Ministry Endowment Fund was able to give twelve individuals scholarships and helped nine rostered leaders with debt buy-down?

Did you know that in the same time frame over \$118,000 was gifted to the Mission Endowment Fund and that seven grants were dispersed? All of this has happened because of faithful and faith-filled people across our synod.

An annual report is now available on the synod website under the Resources tab. Please share this information widely as we continue to work to let people know how their generosity is having a positive impact across this synod.

Proposal to add third Endowment Fund

Currently, the synod has a Ministry Endowment Fund which

provides scholarships and debt buy-down for rostered leaders. There is also a Mission Endowment Fund which provides seed money for creative, Christ-centered ministry within the synod. The 2017 Synod Assembly will hear and decide on a proposal to add a third endowment fund tentatively named the Accompaniment Fund.

So, what would this third fund do? Think of it this way, Ministry Fund grants provide support to raise up leaders for God's church including congregations here on the prairie. The Mission Fund distributes grants to congregations as they renew their Christ-centered mission and ministry. However, in order for these endowment funds and grants be effective, it takes human resources behind the scenes. For the Ministry Fund grants to be effective, synod staff members must spend time accompanying people as they discern a call to ministry and then walk with them through the seminary process. Mission Fund grants make a difference in our synod because congregations are accompanied by synod staff in teaching, listening, and asking questions about the congregation's dream for expanding ministry.

The Accompaniment Fund will provide the resources necessary to fund the synod staff time required of the mission and ministry work in our synod. It is a way to look to the future by providing a consistent stream of revenue. The full case statement is part of the 2017 Synod Assembly materials.

God Bless!

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod

