



Gospel Seeds...

Amazing Generosity!

There are times I am humbled by the generosity and compassion of congregations in this synod. For years, Our Savior, Reeder has supported a seminary student. Synod staff helped connect the congregation and the student; for four years, they formed a relationship. It is about prayer and financial support. For the past four years, this congregation has been walking with Kim Gifford. Each year Kim would get a financial gift from the congregation to help cover seminary expenses. During this time, Kim has visited the congregation to preach.

In mid-June, Kim was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and will now serve the people of Hope Lutheran, Surrey. Members of Our Savior called and asked if they could drive up from Reeder and help serve the lunch following the ordination – what an incredible gift!

Their compassion and generosity did not stop there. They have also made a gift to both the Mission Endowment Fund and Ministry Endowment Fund in Kim's honor – I am humbled.

Within a couple of weeks, synod staff will provide Our Savior with the name of another seminary student and a new relationship will begin to be built. Nearly this entire time, Our Savior has been (and continues to be) without a called pastor of their own. Thanks for your faithfulness.

Important Conversations...

In mid-June, we had the pleasure of hosting Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in the Western North Dakota Synod. During a whirlwind tour, we held a number of round table conversations. This visit was in part a follow-up to the Dakota Access Pipeline Protests of last fall, but also a way to talk openly about rural life and rural ministry issues.

Thank you to Lord of Life Lutheran, Bismarck; Bethel Lutheran, New Town; Barb and Dustin Roise (members of Bethlehem Lutheran, Ross); and the White Earth/McGregor Lutheran Parish for taking time to gather people for conversation.

What we witnessed was honest, open conversation where people were respectful of divergent viewpoints. This was another step on our journey of finding ways to go deeper in conversation in hopes of building relationships.

Stay tuned – there will be many more ways and opportunities for these conversations to continue.

Synod Assembly...

It was a joy to gather with over 300 Western ND Synod Lutherans for our annual Assembly at the beginning of June. Together, we studied scripture, sang, celebrated and talked about life and faith here in Western North Dakota.

A complete wrap-up of all the action is available on our synod website – take a look.

Next year's Assembly will be June 1 -2 at the Ramkota in Bismarck. Please mark your calendars now. We can't wait to see you there!

You are invited to a Festival Worship with Holy Communion, October 29, 2017 at the Bismarck Event Center to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Worship will begin at 11:00AM.

Prayers, please...

For Susan Peterson and family as they grieve the death of her husband/their father and grandfather, Rev. Bruce Peterson. At the time of his death, Pastor Bruce was serving the people of Our Redeemer's, New England and Zion, Regent. May God be your strength.

For all who have been invited to serve as Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) around the world. We include in those prayers Kristian Aardahl (Faith, Bismarck); Krista Mathistad (Bethany, Minot) and Molly Haagenon (Gloria Dei, Williston). May God bless them as they venture off for this year of service.

For people who are discerning a call to ministry - whether as a pastor or as a deacon. May God's Holy Spirit provide guidance in this time of wondering.

For those congregations who are in the call process. For patience, wisdom and the willingness of members to step forward to help where they can so ministry and mission continues.

For rain. Much of our synod continues to need moisture for crops and pastures.

Rev. Mark Narum
Serving as Bishop of the
Western North Dakota Synod

