



Gospel Seeds

Sweet Deal for CAR...

You have the ability to make a difference in the lives of people and eat some sweet treats at the same time! Once again we are encouraging congregations to join us in the Sweet Deal for CAR – a way to fund ministry within the Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic.

Last year our synod was able to share \$36,500 with our ministry partners in the CAR. Those funds helped provide for the Village Education Project, scholarships for young people to go to college and funds to help the church recover from the civil unrest which has been happening in the country the last several years.

It is not too late to get involved in this years Sweet Deal program. Just stop by the synod office or Bread of Life Lutheran in Minot to pick up boxes of Mini M&M's. Each tube of M&M tube holds \$14 worth of quarters (or a neatly folded \$50 dollar bill). This is a great way to help support the ministry of our companion church.

Lutheran Campus Ministry...

A decision was made in December to disband the North Dakota Campus Ministry Coordinating Committee. In the past this committee oversaw the funding of the three campus ministries in the state. It was decided that the two synods in our state will now be responsible

for the campus ministries in their respective synods.

In Western North Dakota this means we will continue to support Lutheran Campus Ministry at Minot State. It could also mean creating new campus ministry partnerships in the synod. For example, a group of people are currently wondering about a ministry at Bismarck State. The synod council has also defined the ministry of Heart River Bridges of Hope as a Campus Ministry – since the ministry engages the youth of the correctional center.

If your congregation or Women's group has financially supported ND Campus Ministry in the past we hope that you will consider shifting those funds to Western North Dakota Campus Ministry Fund. These funds will be used only for campus ministry.

Next GIFTS event – Dr. Eric Barretto – “A People for God’s Name” Believing and Belonging in Luke-Acts
Christ Lutheran Church in Minot — April 21 @ 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Reminder – Synod Assembly Resolutions...

Remember – the deadline for submitting Synod Assembly Resolutions is March 31, 2018. If you have questions please contact Faith Simoneig, synod staff person who relates to the Reference and Counsel Committee.

Highlights of Synod Council Meeting...

Your Synod Council met February 9th and 10th at Christ Lutheran in Minot. Below are some of the highlights:
 -heard that Mission Support from congregations was \$1.13M in

fiscal 2017, council members expressed deep gratitude for the partnership and generosity of people and congregations across Western North Dakota.

-refined the Synod’s 2018 budget and set a proposed 2019 budget which will be presented to synod assembly this summer -approved sending to synod assembly Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines that includes a 2% increase (based on the 2018 Cost of Living Adjustment). Synod budget calls for no raises for synod staff, however offers the possibility of an end of year bonus if synod finances allow

-spent time talking about Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton being at this year’s synod assembly and how to structure her time in the synod for the sake of mutual learning

-set in place a mechanism to receive funds from congregations and individuals to support Campus Ministry. This comes in light of the disbanding of the ND Campus Ministry Coordinating Committee. Actions were taken to ensure that any funds from individuals, congregations or women’s groups designated for campus ministry can be used only to support those ministries

-spent time in conversation around issues of Stewardship and Faith Formation-seeking guidance on how synod staff can best support congregations and leaders in these areas.

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

