



A Word of Welcome...

If you stop by the synod office at the right time you will see a new face. We are glad to welcome Matthew Nygard as our new Financial Specialist. Matthew began training in mid-April. He will be responsible for working with Accounting Solutions in Minot to track Mission Support shared with the synod, pay expenses and work to share Mission Support with the partner ministries we support.

Matthew is husband to Dina, dad to three kids, member of Faith Lutheran, Bismarck. He is also a former ELCA Missionary to Cameron, a graduate of Concordia College and has an MBA from the University of Mary.

Matthew will work part-time. We continue to work on what that schedule looks like. This staff move continues our re-organization of our office functions so that we can best use the financial gifts which are shared with us.

LYO Leadership Shifting...

About six months ago we began dreaming about providing support for those who work with Faith Formation in congregations within our synod. We had begun to notice that more congregations are hiring lay staff to engage this ministry. We began to brainstorm ways synod staff could mentor and provide connections to these leaders.

Beth Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Faith Formation and Communication will be developing a network to

provide support to these congregational staffers. She plans to use both face to face gatherings and technology like "Zoom" to meet virtually.

To make room for this work Beth will step down as coordinator of the synod's LYO program – she will continue to relate to the group. We are glad to announce that Ashley Tangen Greenwood has agreed to take on the coordination of LYO. Welcome Ashley – we are sharing your gifts with the synod.

A huge word of thanks for the Mission Support you are sharing with the synod – together we are lifting-up new leaders, growing faith, sending missionaries and helping congregations define and engage in ministry. Your generosity is a blessing!
Registration Open!

Synod Assembly Registration is now open. Plan to join us for a faith building event. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be with us beginning with the Pre-Assembly Workshop which is scheduled for Thursday, May 31st. The Pre-Assembly Workshop will be an opportunity to engage in conversation around where our church is now and to consider where God might be calling us into the future. On Thursday morning Bishop Eaton will be the featured presenter. Following lunch there will be a series of workshops offered to help those present build their skills.

Lord of Life Lutheran will once again host the Mission Gala on Thursday evening, May 31st. On the menu will be grilled steak or chicken. The congregation's chefs are planning the meal now. You will be treated to a live

auction and a silent auction as well. All proceeds of this night benefit the Western North Dakota Mission Endowment Fund.

Assembly begins with worship on Friday morning, June 1 at 8:30AM in the Ramkota Ballroom. Remember each congregation can bring at least two voting members (based on size some congregations are allowed more, check the assembly webpage for more information). Your congregation may also bring as many visitors as you like but make sure that you pre-register them so that there is food available.

A Good Read...

I was gifted with a copy of "The Scattering" by Dwight L. Dubois. On a never-ending plane trip to Chicago (boy let me tell you do I have stories to tell) I was able to read almost all of the book.

DuBois main premise is that the church does a good job of gathering people together, but we have work to do in recognizing that as the people in the pews scatter to the world they have incredible opportunities to be the body of Christ for the sake of others.

This very Lutheran-centric read draws us back to an understanding that in baptism all followers of Christ are joined to the body of Christ and gifted with abilities to serve others. However, we have not done a good job of helping people understand and live into this way of living. DuBois has a sense that engaging in such work could change the world. I commend this book to you.

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

