



**Gospel Seeds -
June 2018**

**A Monthly Update from
Western ND Synod Staff**

Imagine That...

Again and again I am amazed by Bible Stories – where God unexpectedly shows up. An Ethiopian eunuch traveling a dusty road encounters a follower of the risen Christ and is baptized. God showed up! The Chosen People are enslaved in Egypt – they cry out through prayer and Moses is called to lead them out of Bondage. God Showed UP! A baby is born – angels announce it – shepherds give witness – Immanuel, God With Us has arrived. Indeed, God Showed Up.

God shows up when we least expect it, catching us up by surprise. I invite you to be on the look-out for God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who by the power of the Holy Spirit shows up, offering grace, peace and forgiveness.

God shows up and uses people just like you and me to be the Good News in our communities and neighborhoods, counties and congregations. How has God gifted you? How might those gifts be used for the sake of serving others that they may come to know God's redeeming love through Jesus Christ?

Brothers and sisters in Christ we have been given incredible gifts. With limitless imagination we are invited to dream and pray, wonder and ponder how God might use each of us. You are exactly what is needed for the Gospel to continue to spread.

Sabbatical Time...

A sabbatical is a time of rest, rejuvenation with some learning added into the mix. Synod policy provides a sabbatical every 5 years for Executive Staff. Beth Anderson will be on sabbatical this summer from June 19th through August 10th.

We honor the sabbatical time by not contacting Beth during her time away. Other synod staff will step in to provide support to our congregations and groups, just let us know what you need.

Thanks be to God!!!

We celebrate with Kayla Hill and Annie Langseth as they graduate from seminary this spring. Both are candidates of the Western North Dakota Synod. May God Bless them as they enter into Word and Sacrament ministry.

Considering Your Calling...

Do you have questions about your vocational calling? Are you wondering if Rostered Leadership in the ELCA should be a consideration for you? Or is the call to explore ways to serve faithfully in your current callings? The Western North Dakota Synod Candidacy Committee will meet June 15th and 16th. Friday evening June 15th the committee will host a discernment dinner at 6:30PM at the synod office.

You are invited to come with your questions, your uncertainties and just talk with others who are in discernment. Bring a friend, a pastor or a mentor with you if you would like. Just come, as you are and explore where God might be calling you.

GIFTS Committee to Engage in Strategic Visioning...

For almost 30 years Western North Dakota has been blessed to have an excellent lay ministry academy known as GIFTS (Growing In Faith To Serve).

Over the years the program has shifted as the needs of participants and congregations have shifted. This summer a group of people will gather to once again wonder what God is calling GIFTS to be in this particular time.

We invite you to pray for the leadership of the GIFTS Program. Know that raising up lay leaders for congregations is essential to the future of our synod's ministry.

Staff on the move...

What have synod staff been up to in the last month or so?

-Faith Simoneig has worked with Zion, Towner, Metigoshe Lutheran, met with Pastor Dorothy Williams at Killdeer as well as Pastor Michael HarriSon with the Prairie Hope Parish. Faith also hosted a Live- Streamed event in Dickinson and is providing scholarships to a couple of conferences – contact her for more information.

-Beth Anderson has met with the LYO board, been deep into organizing Synod Assembly and Candidacy Committee, as well as to a meeting of the Luther Seminary Alumni council.

-Sherie Heine had lunch with Minot State President Steve Shirley, Vice President Kevin Harmon and Campus Minister Anna Dykeman to say thanks for the partnership in ministry. Sherie also represented the synod at ground-breaking ceremonies at First Lutheran and Bread of Life in Minot, as well as meeting with several of the conference pastor's groups.

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

