



Gospel Seeds

A Monthly Update from the Synod

Dwelling...

As a synod, we have entered into a pilot project with Luther Seminary called *Leadership for Faithful Innovation*. Seven congregations have agreed to dig deeply into this process, to see what we can learn through Bible Study, Prayer, Deep Listening and Holy Experimenting where God might be leading the church. This is a faith-filled process, with deep and honest conversation. I wonder what God might be up to through it?

Much of what we have engaged with in the process so far is nothing new – it relies deeply on Bible Study and Prayer. We have been engaging a familiar tool – Dwelling in the Word. A practice of reading a scripture text, spending a time in silence, listening to the same text again followed by a time of silence. Those present are invited to talk about what stuck out to them in the text, what surprised them in the text and what questions the text raised.

I am amazed at the insights people share through this process. This process honors the fact that no matter your age, no matter your level of Biblical knowledge, no matter your educational level or anything else – God’s Word speaks to us. I have been blessed through this process.

Something new we have been introduced to is a process called Dwelling in the World. This process holds scripture in one hand and our personal calendar in the other. The questions are a bit

different – it might include a question like, “When has God used you to provide comfort to another?” or “When has God used someone else to provide comfort to you?”

Dwelling in the World helps us be on the lookout for God at work in our lives and in our world. It is about mindfulness – helping us realize that by the power of the Holy Spirit, God is still at work in the world.

I am not certain how this three-year process will unfold. At same time I am certain that as we grow in faith and awareness of God’s presence congregations will be strengthened.

Western ND LYO –

Ramada Inn – Bismarck

October 18-20 – Register now! Hope to see you there.

GIFTS – October 6, 2018

“The Gospel of Luke” Lectionary Year C

***Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben,
Wartburg Theological Seminary
First Lutheran Church, Minot***

Synod Council

Your Synod Council met September 14-15 in Bismarck. Here are some of the work they engaged:

-entered into a discussion around the question, “When you think of the work of our interdependent church – congregation, synod and churchwide – what activities/functions are best done by each partner?” This conversation was meant to help me as I prepare for a similar conversation at this fall’s Conference of Bishops meeting.

-had conversation with Sunitha Mortha, ELCA Global Mission about Cultural Competence and decided to move forward with

further conversation and action planning around this topic as a council.

-discussed healthcare coverage for synod staff. Decided to allow staff to work together to set the level – either Gold+ or Silver A. At the same time encouraged congregations to have their rostered leaders look closely at Silver A as it may provide long term benefits.

-spent time in conversation around shared ministries or the possibilities of shared operations with the Eastern North Dakota Synod

-heard an update from two strategic mission partners, Heart River Bridges of Hope and Lutheran Campus Ministry, Bismarck.

“Dishin’ With the Bish”...

We are in the process of planning our Annual “Dishin’ with the Bish” events. We work hard to move these gatherings around the synod – hoping to engage as many people as possible. These are times of Bible study, conversation and good food. (At least in previous years, the food we cooked was good!) Following are the locations and times:

Sunday, October 21st

5:30 PM St. John, Dickinson

Monday, October 22nd

10:00 AM Christ, Lignite
5:30 PM Peace, Burlington

Tuesday, October 3rd

10:00 AM New Hope, Upham
5:30 PM St. Paul, Garrison

Wednesday, October 24th

10:00 AM Faith, Bismarck

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod

