



## ***Gospel Seeds***

### ***A Monthly Update from the Synod***

#### **A world turned upside down...**

As we enter the final month of the year, I invite you to begin reading the Gospel of Luke as part of your devotional reading. Luke is the Gospel we will hear in worship most weeks for the next 12 months.

While you read, look for examples of ordinary people being used for extraordinary purposes. For example, an elderly couple, barren all of their lives are told they will have a child. Another example, a very young woman is told she will have a child,

*“...therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.” (Luke 1:35)*

Ordinary people called by God to change the world.

We believe that God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, continues to work in the world. Ordinary people, with ordinary lives are living their faith every day! What about you? How is God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, calling you to serve? In what ways might the work of your hands, head and heart turn the world upside down for the sake of others?

The Gospel of Luke is a testimony that God works through ordinary people. Enjoy some time just reading that story and let it bless you.

#### **We Did It!! Thank you!!**

We are excited to announce because of your generosity, we have surpassed the \$20,000, “Walking With You” Annual Appeal goal!!

As of November 15, \$20,820 has been contributed. **Thank you!**

From Bowman to Ray, Tioga, and Williston, over to Bottineau, down to Hettinger and back up to Underwood—a significant amount of synod staff time this fall was spent on the road meeting with congregations in transition and people in the midst of discernment.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, a special dinner was held with time for prayer and conversation for those in discernment about where they may be called to serve their church. This dinner was attended by 4 young adults with their parents, youth director and/or pastors. Because of your generous contributions to the WND Synod Annual Appeal, this important work that God has for us can continue.

As it can be with any challenge, it sometimes feels like climbing a snow-covered mountain without the right equipment. And just when you think you cannot take another step forward, you discover you are not alone and that feeling of support propels you forward. As a synod, we are walking together on this journey of call to serve the church and bring the good news to the world. We are grateful for every gift received, no matter the size and will continue to receive gifts to the appeal until the end of the year. Gifts to general synod mission support will continue to be received from congregations and individuals.

#### **Planning for the future...**

As we approach the end of the year, just a quick reminder, gifts of \$5,000 or more to one of the three synod endowment funds can be of significant tax advantage to you. If you have questions call the synod office. Your gifts help provide scholarships for seminarians, funding for creative, Christ centered ministries or can help ensure there

are people walk with future ministry candidates.

#### **Call Process Updates...**

-Rev Renee Johnson and Rev Charles Johnson have accepted calls to the Dakota Lutheran Parish and will begin serving Amidon, Bowman as well as Bethany & First of Rhame.

-Deacon Jodi Lorenz has accepted a call to serve the people of Augustana, Underwood and Birka, Washburn.

-Rev. Sandy Anderson resigned her call to First and Trinity of Tioga

-Rev. Gary Erdmann has begun his work as Intentional Interim Minister at Trinity, Bismarck.

#### **Candidacy Committee News...**

Your synod candidacy committee has approved two people for ordination. Bethany Haberstroh who has been serving the Horizon Parish (Flasher, Carson, Bethesda) as a TEEM candidate will soon move into the interview process with the parish for call. Mike Olson who has been serving White Earth and McGreggor as a TEEM candidate has already been interviewed for call and soon a vote will take place.

We are excited about the gifts of these two candidates. They will serve the Gospel well in the years to come.

If you know of someone who you believe has the gifts for ministry begin praying for them now. Let them know what you see in them. Finally, encourage them to reach out to synod staff we would love to have a conversation with them about ministry possibilities.

**Rev. Mark Narum**  
Serving as Bishop of the



