



Gospel Seeds - May 2019

A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

Assembly Registration Open Now!!!

It is that time of year again and synod staff can hardly wait to welcome you to this year's Western North Dakota Synod Assembly. Go online now and register the voting members from your congregation. What will you experience at assembly:

-a chance to worship with over 300 other Lutheran Christians – lead by incredible musicians as we gather to praise God, ponder God's Word and celebrate Holy Communion.

-an opportunity to hear about incredible ministry happening across this church to help people come to know and love Jesus

-time to let your imagination run wild, wondering how the Holy Spirit might be calling each of us to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ, in very ordinary ways on a daily basis

-a chance to hear what is happening in other congregations across our synod

-time to engage Bible passages around images of the Kingdom of God

Every congregation can bring two lay voting members and as many guests as they like. Larger congregations are allotted more voting members based on the size of the congregation. To determine how many voting members your congregation can bring check the registration website or call the synod office.

Pre-Assembly Workshop...

If you are coming to Minot for Assembly we encourage you to come a day early to be involved in ***Kingdom Dreams***, the pre-assembly workshop. Registration for pre-assembly opens at 9:30AM and the event begins at 10:00AM. Rev. Phil Hirsch, the Executive Director of the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit, will talk with us about the Lutheran perspective on Jesus' words, "...thy Kingdom come..." I will lead conversation around various Old and New Testament text which do not mention God's Kingdom but might be a glimpse of God's Kingdom or Reign here on earth.

There will also be 5 workshops to choose from – each providing a *Kingdom glimpse* right here in Western North Dakota. The cost of registration will include lunch. This event is happening at the Grand Hotel in Minot and costs \$25 per person which includes lunch.

Gala...

Our Annual Mission Gala will happen once again at Christ Lutheran in Minot. Different congregations will be in charge of the different courses. You will experience great fellowship, excellent food, a bit of entertainment and a lively auction. All of this is to benefit the Western North Dakota Synod Mission Endowment Fund. This fund helps provide grants and financial support to strategic mission priorities across the synod.

There are a limited number of auction tickets available. Get yours now! Tickets cost \$30 per person.

Other News...

Pastor Renee Johnson and Pastor Charles Johnson were officially installed at Dakota Prairie Parish (Amidon, Bowman and Rhame) at the end of March. It is great to welcome them back to Western North Dakota.

Bethany Haberstroh will be ordained on Sunday May 5th at St. John Lutheran, Carson and installed that same day to serve the Horizon Parish (Flasher, Carson, Bethesda).

Pastor Lee Herberg who served First Lutheran in Mandan has retired. We wish him God's speed.

A discernment event for high school students is being held at Camp of the Cross on May 31 – June 1. Check the synod webpage for more information.

Sabbatical...

I will be away on sabbatical this summer from mid-June to mid-August. While away I will not be answering email or synod phone calls. We are blessed with an excellent staff who will be able to help with any needs (as they always do).

God Bless All! See you at Assembly.

Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.