



Gospel Seeds - September 2019 **A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff**

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly

Our Synod's fifteen voting members gathered in Milwaukee with others from across our church under the theme of "***We Are Church***". Together, the nearly 1000 - member Assembly, guests, and visitors worshipped and tended to the business of our church body. A summary of action is available on the ELCA website. [2019 Assembly Summary](#)

Look for reflections from your Churchwide Assembly Voting Members in upcoming Synod eNews. Each will have the opportunity to share their thoughts, impressions, take-aways, etc. from their time at Assembly in Milwaukee.

Bismarck Lutheran Social Service Building and Office Renovation...

The renovation is nearly completed! We give thanks for all the volunteers that shared of their time and talents in giving the building, and our office space a facelift! We look forward to you stopping by to take a peek at the updates!

Western ND Synod LYO Gathering

October 17th – 19th, our Synod's youth will gather at the Grand Hotel in Minot. This annual event is: "Inspire by Youth. Planned by Youth. Led by Youth." This year's guest speaker and musician is Rachel Kurtz. [Registration](#) is now open and needs to be submitted by October 1st.

You can find more information – including draft schedules and forms – on the Synod website. Questions? Don't hesitate to contact us!

Upcoming GIFTS Events

We're in the midst of finalizing the upcoming year's GIFTS events, and information will be shared on the Synod's website and in upcoming editions of eNews. We'll welcome Rev. Paul Hoffman (author of "Faith Forming Faith") this fall to lead an event focusing on adult catechesis. The spring event (March 27th & 28th) will be led by Dr. Terri Elton (Luther Seminary); this event will also include a Friday night Youth GIFTS event. The winter event is yet to be finalized.

We give thanks for the 131 years of mission and ministry of ***Bethany Lutheran Church (Rugby)***. They celebrated a Service of Leave-Taking/Holy Closure on August 25th. The congregation previously voted to merge with First Lutheran (Rugby).

Synod Listening Events

As we prepare for the election of a Bishop in June of 2020, a number of Synod Listening events will be held in a variety of locations across our Synod. These events will be facilitated by our Churchwide Partners and all members of our Western ND Synod ELCA congregations are invited to attend. The events will be held October 25th – 27th. The times and locations will be available in the next Gospel Seeds, upcoming eNews, and on the Synod website.

What are we reading?

A couple of resources your Synod Staff has come across that you may find helpful...

To Bless the Space Between Us – John O'Donohue - A collection of poetic blessings for a variety of times, spaces, and places.... Transitions, thresholds, and the ordinary of our lives.

Glory Happening – Finding the Divine in Everyday Places – Kailin B. Curtice - "Accept the invitation – invest in the glory that surrounds you! Open your eyes to the Kingdom as it comes through stories and prayers..."

Just a few reminders...

Western ND Synod Rostered Ministers Gathering (Medora) - Your leaders will be gathered in Medora September 8th – 10th with Rev. Brad Roth as the guest presenter.

Western ND Synod Council will meet in October prior to the Synod Listening Events.

Thank You! Each and all of you for your partnership in the mission and ministry we share!

Blessings all,
Your Synod Staff