



## ***Gospel Seeds – December 2019*** **A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff**

### **Thank You...**

One thing I notice across this synod is the generosity of the people here. You share your time, talents and money for the sake of ministry that makes a difference in people's lives. Thank-you for your sharing what God has first given you!

Schools are being built, young women are getting scholarships for college, devastation due to civil unrest is being repaired in the Central African Republic because you have supported "Sweet Deal for C.A.R." Thanks for your generosity. It is one way we help support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in C.A.R.

College students at Minot State have a place to grow in their faith because of your support. Some of you have welcomed these students into your congregations to hear of their faith and outreach. Others have taken soup to the every Tuesday gathering on Campus (350 people a week are being fed and nurtured through this ministry), still others share of financial resources to help keep this ministry operating. To all of you, I say thank you. Your financial support also allows the Western North Dakota Synod to share financial resources to support campus ministry at NDSU and UND. Now can we dream our way into ministry in Williston, Dickinson, Bismarck and Bottineau? Let's see where the Spirit leads.

Thank you to those of you who have financially supported the synod Endowment Funds. There are now over \$3 Million in assets. This past October we were able to capture almost \$100,000 in gains which will be used for seminary scholarships, seminary debt buy-down, mission outreach and staffing support to make these ministries happen. Thanks for your faithful generosity which helps make proclamation of the Good News of Jesus possible.

As we near the end of the year – know that the financial gifts you share are used wisely. There is still the possibility of making a gift to any of our three endowment funds with the possibility of qualifying for tax incentives. If you need more information, contact me or Faith Simonieg. We would love to help you continue to support Christ-centered ministries which are important to you.

Thanks again for your generosity!

### **Thank You Events...**

In January there will be a series of six Thank You events across the synod. It will be chance for me to thank you all for the past 11 ½ years of ministry as your Bishop. We will gather in Bismarck, Dickinson, Williston, Lignite, Minot and Rugby. Details are still being worked out on locations and times – so watch your email, the synod Facebook page, or our website for details.

Together, we will share some food, a chance to engage Scripture, talk about what we have learned together and most of all I will get a chance to say thanks for the wonderful ways you have blessed God's world here in Western North Dakota. I hope to see you at one of the events.

### **Tidbits...**

-Lutheran Social Services CEO Jessica Thomasson has accepted a position with the Human Services Department of the State of North Dakota. We thank Jessica for her leadership and wish her well.

-Synod Staff have had a great time this fall working with 7 congregations in setting Mission, Vision and Values. If you are interested in such work with your congregation, contact the office.

-Bread of Life in Minot has a new pastor – thanks be to God! The new pastor has not shared the news with his current congregation, so we will wait to share his name with you all.

-Shepherd's Table, previously known as Good Shepherd Lutheran in Williston has received word they have received a ministry grant from our Churchwide partners. Exciting ministry opportunities are beginning to happen thanks to lots of partners and God's faithfulness.

***Just a reminder – the Synod Office will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Staff will stop in to pick up mail and make deposits as congregations share mission support. Bishop Mark will be available for any questions that arise – call 701-629-9992.***

*God Bless All!*

Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod