



Gospel Seeds... June 2014

A Monthly Update from the Western North Dakota Synod Office

Planning Time...

As May comes to an end and we move into June, activities around congregations change. Confirmation and Sunday School have wrapped up their year, graduations have been celebrated and vacations are on the horizon for many. Summer is a great time for planning.

What Bible Studies will you offer in the coming year? Now is the time to consider what might be of interest to your friends and neighbors. The synod office has a number of resources available for you to review. One is the Augsburg Adult Bible Study - which comes out quarterly. The study has a leader's and a participant's guide making it easy to access. The next three quarterly issues will focus on these topics: Sustaining Hope; Acts of Worship; God: The Holy Spirit.

In the office we also have a long list of DVD's of previous GIFTS presenters, we have copies of the David Lose books which are excellent study guides. There are also a number of Stewardship resources available to help your congregation engage in a holistic, year round understanding of stewardship.

A Time Away...

From late June through August Beth Anderson your synod ministry coordinator will be away on sabbatical. Beth will use her time to read around the topic of family ministry as well as get some personal renewal time. Sabbaticals are an excellent way to help our rostered leaders continue to grow in their ministry skills.

While on Sabbatical the rest of your synod staff will cover the tasks that Beth normally cares for such as walking with candidates discerning a call to ministry, helping congregations in the call process complete Ministry Site Profiles, providing E-News and a laundry list of other responsibilities.

A reminder, during the summer the synod office closes at Noon on Friday.

Congregational Closings...

This summer two congregations of the synod will officially close. Lesje of rural Souris will hold its final worship service at 1:00pm on Sunday, July 20th. Bethlehem Lutheran of Coulee will hold its closing worship at 2:00pm on Sunday, August 17th. I ask that you keep the members of these congregations in prayer as they celebrate the completion of their ministry.

The closing of a congregation is a serious matter which happens through deep conversation within the congregation. The decision to close is always the congregation's and never the decision of those outside the congregation (whether that is another church or synod staff). If your congregation is contemplating closing, I would ask that you contact synod staff, as we are available to help you with the process.

It is import that a congregation makes choices about the disposal of its assets and documents as these choices are for future generations. Call us and we will walk with your congregation.

Thanks...

I am writing this before the synod assembly has taken place, but you will probably read it after assembly. You need to know that to pull off the synod assembly it takes the work of lots of people, so here is an incomplete list of thanks:

- To the synod assembly planning team - you people are great.
- To the volunteers who helped with communion, ushering, registration and all the rest.
- To House of Prayer for setting up communion, Faith for hosting the Pre-Assembly Workshop, Lord of Life for hosting the Gala Dinner, Good Shepherd for offering rehearsal space.
- To Rev. Nadine Lehr & Rev Larry Giese for cooking the meal for the Gala Dinner, the volunteers from Lord of Life who served as kitchen helpers, rostered leaders who served as wait staff, and all participants who made this event successful.
- Synod Staff: Monroe, Beth, Lisa, Sherie, Paula & Faith - wow!

Blessings - Bishop Mark Narum



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God's work. Our hands.