



Gospel Seeds...February 2011

A Monthly Update from the
Western North Dakota Synod Office

SweetDeal for CAR

How would you like to have fun, get a sweet treat and help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ? Keep reading because we have a great opportunity for your congregation!

Last year at about this time our synod hosted President Andre Golike of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic. Through his presentations we learned of the needs of the church, continued support for the Village Education Project, Motorcycles for pastors, support of missionaries and more.

You can help support those ministries through our "SweetDeal for CAR". The Synod Office has tubes of M&M Minis available. We encourage you to get enough for your people – share the sweets – then re-fill the tubes with quarters. This is an excellent project for Sunday Schools, congregations during Lent, youth groups or women's groups.

You are invited to bring your quarters with you to synod assembly – as we gather together this offering for the sake of ministry in Christ's name among our brothers and sisters in the Central African Republic.

Easter In The Central African Republic

Over Easter I will be traveling to the Central African Republic. While there I will get a chance to meet with President Andre Golike, our missionaries in the region Anne and Willie Lange as well as Rev. Deborah and Joseph Troester. Plans are to spend time learning more about the Village Education Project, the Women's Center, the Gallo Health Center and much more. My youngest son Tyler will be traveling with me. When we return, both of us will be available to share our stories about the ministries of CAR.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Jesus' First Sermon...

In the coming weeks we will be listening our way through much of the Sermon on the Mount during our Sunday worship services. In the book of Matthew, this is Jesus' first sermon and can be found in Chapters 5-7. I recently attended a lecture by Dr. Martha Stortz, a Professor at Augsburg College, Minneapolis. She says Martin Luther wrote a number of sermons on these chapters, spoken to help people consider what it means to live the Christian life. That was a particular concern of Luther's. Why? Because as he visited parishes around him, he was saddened by the lack of knowledge of the Bible and basic Christian teaching.

I invite you to spend the coming month reading and rereading the Sermon on the Mount. Get a good study Bible, read the foot-notes or go on-line to www.enterthebible.org and find your way to the book of Matthew. Drink from the rich words Jesus shared with his listeners over 2,000 years ago. Ponder what they might mean in your world. What does it mean to be salt or light? How is one who suffers, weeps, or hungers blessed? Spend time in these verses, letting the Word live.

Clergy Can Help Save Money for their congregation...

If 65% of our synod's clergy and spouses covered by ELCA insurance take a health survey by the end of March at www.elcabop.org, it will save our congregations money. Meeting the goal will result in a 2% reduction in premiums. Now is the time to take the survey!

Dry Bones Update...

"God has provided your congregation with everything it needs to do the ministry God has in mind for it," teaches Rev Bill Tesch, Director of Evangelical Mission for the South Dakota Synod. Five congregations in our synod have entered into an intentional process of seeking God's guidance through the Dry Bones initiative. Rev. Tesch's remarks remind us whose ministry this is and who supplies the tools and resources we need to enter into the ministry. I invite you to prayerfully consider what ministry God is calling your congregation to in Christ's name.

Epiphany Blessings

Mark Narum, Serving as Bishop