



## *Gospel Seeds...May 2011*

### A Monthly Update from the Western North Dakota Synod Office

#### God Out In Front...

One of the images from the Old Testament that I appreciate are the pillars of cloud and fire. You may remember them from the story of the exodus. They were a sign of God's presence, leading the Israelites in the wilderness – God is out front.

While there are no pillars leading the way for us, we too can be certain that God is out front, preparing the way for the ministry that God has in store for us. You see, God is on a mission that all people would know Jesus and have life abundant that comes through his death and resurrection.

With no visible pillars to follow, where do we go? How do we discern the ministry God is calling us to? The answer may surprise you – but how about planning on being involved in this year's synod assembly.

#### Pre-Assembly Workshop...

Would you like to learn more about this God who is on a mission? Join Rev. Ruben Duran for an afternoon of Bible Study and discussion. Rev. Duran will teach us, from scripture, about God's life-giving movement into the world. He will challenge us and equip us to move outside our comfort zone for the sake of living the Good News of Jesus within our neighborhoods and for the sake of our neighbors, always understanding that God is already out in front of us, preparing the way.

The pre-assembly workshop will take place at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bismarck** on **Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 1:30 to 4:30.

Rev. Duran has a passion for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. He works throughout this country on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

This workshop is open to all members of the congregation. Pack a carload of people and come learn more about living your faith, right where you already live, work and play.

#### What else to expect at Synod Assembly...

I encourage all congregations to send voting members to assembly. This is where you will get a chance to hear about the ministry we are engaged in together. At this year's assembly you will hear about missionary work taking place through:

- North Dakota Campus Ministry
- What is happening in our Companion Synod – the Central African Republic
- Stories from congregations around the synod about how God is leading them into their communities
- Lutheran Social Services, the social ministry arm of the synod, as they serve 1 out of every 10 people in our synod

We will be led in Bible Study by 4 of our newest pastors, Rev. J.T. Burk, Rev. Pauline Crowder, Rev. Renee Larson, and Rev. Craig Schweitzer. We will worship together, celebrate Holy Communion and be sent, back to our communities with the charge to carry the Good News to All!

#### Mission Fest:

Would you like to experience music from around the world, taste international foods, hear about some of the places that our church is at work around the world? Come Thursday, June 2 from 7 PM to 9:30PM to Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Bismarck. This Mission Fest gathering is meant to be fun, educational and a kick off for the synod's Mission Trust Fund. A silent auction will take place throughout the evening and during the synod assembly – with proceeds going toward the Mission and Ministry Trust Fund.

Friday evening at the Assembly Banquet a live auction will be held. Come and see what creative items will be offered.

#### Sweet Deal for CAR...

Remember to bring your M&M tubes to synod assembly along with the cash which has been collected. It will be a fun to hear the stories of congregational creativity used in this effort to support our companion synod, the Central African Republic.

God Bless

Mark Narum, Serving as Bishop



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.