



Gospel Seeds... November 2011

A Monthly Update from the
Western North Dakota Synod Office

Wow!!!

As I write this I am sitting at the Western ND Synod LYO Convention in Minot. We are blessed by a group of young faithful people who are trying to figure out what God wants of them.

During this event they spent time in Bible Study, Worship, conversation, prayer and pizza eating. They spent an afternoon helping restore the zoo following flood damage. Another group helped clean Peace Lutheran in Burlington as the congregation prepares to return to worship in their church

These youth also connected with the ELCA Malaria Initiative, raising over \$600 to help fight this disease. They are challenging youth across the synod to rise up, raise money and help save lives.

We celebrate as Brooke Lietzke, St. John in Dickinson, becomes LYO President. These young people are the church – thanks be to God for their faith and faithfulness.

Time for a Bowl of Chili...

Synod staff will again be out on the road cooking chili and chicken noodle soup and you are invited for food, fellowship, Bible Study and information. For the month of November here are the locations:

Beach	November 1 st
Reeder	November 2 nd
Hazen	November 3 rd
Zion, Ashley	– November 29 th
First, Rugby	– November 30 th
Zion, Mohall	– December 1 st

Serving starts at 5:30PM at each location. We will enter into Bible Study at 6:15PM

Conference Meetings:

Upper Missouri: Nov 12, 9:30 AM registration, 10:00 start
West Prairie/Turtle Mountain: Nov 13, 2:30 registration, 3:00 start

It's Time to Talk...

I encourage you to begin a conversation in your congregation to define why your congregation exists, what God is calling it to, and how you will get there...

Why are you here for God's sake?

At the churchwide assembly a person stood at the mic and asked the question this way, "Why is your congregation taking up precious space on God's good earth?"

A simple way to ask the question would be to say, "If your congregation disappeared what would your community miss?"

Some Examples:

- they would miss our daycare
- there would be no food pantry
- we provide meals to shut-ins and new moms

What does scripture have to say:

John 13 – Jesus washes the disciples feet

Luke 22: 14-20 Jesus shares Holy Communion

Matthew 28:19-20 Great Commission - preach and teach

Where in Jesus' name are we going?

If you are unsure if there is anything the community would miss, then maybe it is time to begin to study scripture together exploring why God created the church and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance in identifying opportunities to live the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving your neighbor.

Read some "Journey Stories":

Luke 24:13ff – Road to Emmaus

Exodus – a difficult journey, hardship and complaining

Jonah – called by God to a journey we may not want

Acts- journeys that lead to thousands of new Christians

How do we seek the Spirit's guidance to get there?

If you have a hunch about the ministry that God is calling you to, then think about the steps it will take to get from where you are now to that new place.

Nehemiah – see how Nehemiah sets out a plan to rebuild the wall
All along the way keep talking with members of the congregation. Be in prayer, and ask God to guide!

God Bless...

Mark Narum, serving as Bishop



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.