



Gospel Seeds... January 2012

A Monthly Update from the
Western North Dakota Synod Office

Pennies...

Are you looking for a new tradition to start in your home? One that helps provide food to food pantries across this country and grants for sustainable agricultural projects around the world? Then I've got a suggestion for you. Put a "God's Global Barnyard" barn on your kitchen counter.

My family and I started this tradition last year. For around 11 months we dropped spare pocket change into the barn. What we learned is those pennies, nickels and dimes added up, \$45 in all. I gave the check to Monroe in the synod office and asked that the money go on to ELCA World Hunger.

We have a new barn on our counter now – not many coins in it yet, but by late this year we will have another gift to help fight hunger around the world. If you would like a barn for yourself or a stack of them for your congregation, give Beth a call in the synod office. We have several hundred in stock.

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry..." Matthew 25:37

Sweet Deal for CAR

"So Bishop, why aren't you dropping quarters in your barn?" Good question. Because I am saving them for C.A.R. Once again the synod office will have M&M tubes available to congregations as a ministry support project for the Central African Republic. C.A.R. is our companion synod, a connection we have to pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ, while at the same time helping provide financial support for their church. This support is necessary because C.A.R. is one of the poorest countries in the world. They are rich in evangelical outreach however, working to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who have not heard.

Last year you will remember the "Sweet Deal" project helped build a school, put a roof on a church and provided school scholarships. We hope your congregation will be involved again – one way to live out our faith for the sake of our neighbors.



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

Calling all builders...

We are in need of people willing to volunteer their construction skills in the coming year – the possibilities are almost endless where skills are needed. Possible sites include:

*Peace Lutheran, Burlington – plans are being drawn up for an addition to their building. Plans are being made to involve ELCA Mission Builders in this project – what will be needed are construction laborers to carry out the work.

*Living Water Lutheran, Mandan – has undertaken a capitol campaign to build a church. The congregation already owns land. The new building would be located in South Mandan – in a growth area. The congregation is also in conversation with Mission Builders.

*Minot Re-Build – Lutheran Disaster Response will coordinate the rebuilding of homes in the Greater Minot Area. Their efforts will be focused on the most vulnerable – the elderly, those with disabilities, etc.

With any of these projects, if you can volunteer a day, a week or more please call the synod office, we will keep a list of names of individuals interested in helping with these projects. This is a hands on way to be involved in living out our faith in Jesus the Risen Christ!

On the Road...

Over the past month synod staff have been involved with Living Water Lutheran, Mandan; English Lutheran, Hazen; First Lutheran, Williston; First Lutheran, Rugby; Concordia Lutheran, Crosby; Christ Lutheran, Minot; Calvary, Lemmon; Zion, Elgin; Gloria Dei, Williston; pastor's gathering Greater Minot Area; pastor's gathering Greater Williston Area; First Lutheran, Harvey; and Peace Lutheran, Lincoln. This is a part of our efforts to be synod together – the People of God, doing ministry in Christ's name.

We thank you for your Mission Support (also known as Benevolence), those offerings of money allow us to be out among our churches dreaming about ministry in Christ's name.

God Bless, Mark Narum – Serving as Bishop