



## *Gospel Seeds... August 2009*

A Monthly Update from the  
Western North Dakota Synod Office

### A Time of Prayer:

In a few short days people from across Christ's church will gather in Minneapolis for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. For many this is an anxious time, issues of human sexuality will be discussed and voted upon.

13 people from Western North Dakota will go as voting members of this assembly. There will be a number of others who will be in attendance as visitors. I ask that you keep all of us and Christ's church in prayer.

Following the assembly I am available to come and talk with congregations. Call me and we will set up a time of fellowship and conversation.

### There is more to this assembly:

While sexuality discussions will claim the spotlight there will be much more that will happen in Minneapolis. You can follow the events through the ELCA website at [elca.org](http://elca.org).

Participants will gather each day around God's Word and Holy Communion. Voting members will consider a Full Communion Agreement with the United Methodist Church. We will hear updates on the world of Global Missions and Evangelical Outreach.

### Unity in Christ:

Rostered leaders of the church received an e-letter from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. In the letter he reminded us that unity does not come from decisions made at a churchwide assembly, "...because God unites us to Jesus Christ in Baptism we are also united to each other in one body that transcends any other difference." If you would like to read the entire text of the letter talk with your pastor or contact the synod office.

### Congrats & Welcome!

- To Pastor Jake and Trisha DeBoer who were married in May. At the same time we are excited to welcome Trisha as an intern to First and Living Waters in Mandan. (I forgot the intern part last month, sorry)
- To Michon Weingartner, Renita Eidenschink, Rob Garton and Nathan Mugaas on their ordinations. Michon will serve the people of Augustana in Minot. Renita will serve the people of Prairie Lutheran Parish, Stanley. Rob will serve the people of Concordia, Crosby. Nathan will serve the people of Zion, Minot.
- To Rev. John Syvertson as he begins an interim call to Nazareth at Kenmare and Bethlehem at Bowbells. As a part of this ministry John will be working with the congregations on forming a parish.
- To Michael and Kari Pancoast who begin their calls to First Lutheran Church in Minot.

### Walking faithfully with New First Call Pastors:

With help from our synod Vice President elect, Sheri Heine, the Western North Dakota Synod is beginning a mentoring program for our new First Call Pastors. This synod has been gifted by God with a number of seasoned pastors who will make great mentors. Mentoring is intended to support the healthy formation of new leaders.

Thank-You: At the end of this month Synod Vice President Nancy Montgomery will complete her term. Nancy has been a faithful leader in our synod. She has helped to faithfully steward our ministry together. Thanks Nancy for your work!

### Dry Bones:

Jesus calls us to, "Go...and make disciples..." What does that mean in Western North Dakota? How does a congregation work to become a Christ centered, vibrant, mission outpost? Join the conversation and explore these topics and more.

There is still room for your congregation to join the "Dry Bones" movement. Contact the synod office for more information. God is on a mission!



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

*Rev. Mark Narum*

*Serving as Bishop of the Western ND Synod ELCA*