



Gospel Seeds... February 2010

A Monthly Update from the Western North Dakota Synod Office

Our Church at Work: Servants in Christ's Name:

I don't know anyone from Haiti, but my heart aches. As a synod our prayers continue to be with Renee Splichal-Larson, one of our Western North Dakota Synod Seminarians, who along with her husband Ben was in Haiti at the time of the earthquake. Ben died in the tragedy.

Within hours of the earthquake your church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was at work helping survivors. Within 24 hours your church had pledged \$250,000 for relief efforts. As of January 19th that amount has grown as ELCA congregations have collected almost \$2 million. How are those funds being used? Below is a statement from an ELCA news release:

Funds sent to the ELCA are being channeled through three partner organizations for earthquake relief in Haiti, said Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director, ELCA Global Mission, Recipients include:

- + *The Lutheran World Federation, Geneva, working through Action by Churches Together to provide shelter for people left homeless by the earthquake*
- + *Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore, providing material aid such as hygiene kits and materials to be used to care for babies*
- + *Church World Service, New York, for construction of temporary water systems and distribution of water purification materials*

At the same time work is being done by ELCA members and with ELCA funds to help provide care for people being evacuated from Haiti to South Florida. This is your church at work.

When you donate through the ELCA know that 100% of the money goes directly to relief efforts for victims of this tragedy. No funds are taken for administration.

What can we do? Continue to pray for the victims and the relief workers. If you have not made a financial donation, consider giving one. Continue to listen; eventually there will be a call for volunteers to go to Haiti for a rebuilding effort. Remember this is God's Work, with Our Hands.

What has your synod staff been up to:

Jan Zook- has been making final preparations for the visit of Pres. André Golike of the Central African Republic. (President is comparable to bishop).

February 6: Global Mission Event, 2-4 PM CST, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Bismarck.

February 7: Worship services (8 & 10:30 AM MST) and Adult forum (9:15) with Pres. Golike, St. John Lutheran, Dickinson.

February 8: Presentation and Conversation with Pres. Golike, 6 PM CST, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Williston

February 9: Worship and Fellowship with Pres. Golike, 2 PM CST, First Lutheran Church, Minot.

Jan has also brought together the January 29-30 GIFTS event with Dr. Mons Tieg, made a Thank-You visit to Zion Lutheran Church in Minot, worked with the First Call Theological Retreat at Camp Metigoshe, and visited the Beach Lutheran Parish as they begin the Call Process.

Beth Anderson- has been at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary with a couple of our TEEM Candidates as they prepare for ordained ministry. She met with the synod LYO Board for a weekend retreat as they plan this fall's LYO event. Beth has also been sifting through pastoral mobility papers, looking for pastoral candidates to fill current openings in our synod.

Monroe Madson – has been at work wrapping up your synod's financial year (which ends January 31st), while at the same time working on the budget for 2011 which will be brought to the synod assembly this June.

Lisa Ahlness- helped with some of the worship services for rostered leaders and church staffs which were held in January. She has also been providing pastoral care for some of our rostered leaders dealing with health issues.

What about me? This month I have had the pleasure of visiting 9 different congregations to talk about issues of sexuality and this church. I had the chance to preach at worship services for rostered leaders, am in conversation for two ordination services that will take place in the synod and helped with the retreat for our first call pastors who are in their first three years of ministry, and preached at two of the synod's parishes. Thanks for letting us be your partners in ministry.

God Bless

Mark Narum – Serving as Bishop



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