

Gospel Seeds... July 2009



A Monthly Update from the Western North Dakota Synod Office

Welcome!

June and July will be spent doing lots of welcoming. June 17th Ethyl Mae Nelson, Associate in Ministry, was installed at the Noonan Parish. Ethyl moved here from Washington.

June 28th Michon Weingartner will be ordained in Osseo, WI and installed on July 15th as the new pastor at Augustana in Minot. June 29th Renita Eidenschink will be ordained in St. Paul, MN. She will be installed later this summer as pastor of the Prairie Lutheran parish. June 30th Robert Garton will be ordained in Lincoln, NE. He will be installed later this summer at Concordia Lutheran in Crosby. On July 13 Nathan Mugass will be ordained at Evanger Lutheran, rural Kenmare. Nathan has been called to serve the people of Zion Lutheran in Minot.

In early July we will welcome Rev. Mike and Rev. Kari Pancoast to Western North Dakota. The Pancoast's will be serving at First Lutheran in Minot. They are moving here from Northwest Wisconsin.

We will welcome to our synod Rev. John Syvertson in mid-July. John is moving from Jamestown to Bethlehem Lutheran, Bowbells and Nazareth Lutheran, Kenmare.

Grenora/Zahl will welcome an intern from Trinity Seminary in Columbus, OH later this summer. First Lutheran in Williston will also be welcoming an intern from Luther Seminary.

Call committees continue to work at Peace Lutheran, Lincoln, Horizon Parish of Flasher, Carson and Bethesda, Good Shepherd, Bismarck, Shepherd of the Prairie Parish, Williston, First Lutheran Williston, Hope Lutheran of Surrey and Minot State Campus Ministry, Minot.

God has blessed us with these new rostered leaders. We invite you to lift up in prayer those who are being ordained, especially on their ordination day. We invite you to come to the services of installation. It is one of the ways we build connections within our synod.

Dry Bones:

Why does your church exist? Do you wonder what ministry God may have placed in your midst? Are you wondering how your congregation might better live the Good News of Jesus in your community? If so, “*Dry Bones*” may be for you. We are looking for 6 to 8 congregations who are interested in digging deep into their congregation. Together we will study scripture, worship and learn how to ask the right questions in the congregation and community which might lead to life giving ministry.

We begin with a 3 day retreat October 16-18. The cost is \$350 per congregation. Want to learn more? Call or e-mail me. Now is the time to commit to this process!

Synod Office Reconfiguration:

Work is underway in the Bismarck office to reconfigure our space. Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota is in need of more space, so an agreement has been reached to give up some of the space we currently rent. The next time you are in Bismarck stop in and take a look at the changes.

Beth is also at work transferring our video library of “Lutherans on the Prairie” and GIFTS events to DVD. This will not only save space in the office it will save the deteriorating videos.

Great News!

Jan Zook has announced that she will be staying on staff for several years. This is wonderful news. Jan has been a blessing to the congregations that she has worked with through the Calling of a pastor. She will continue her work as synod assembly organizer and GIFTS program coordinator.

An Overlooked Thank-YOU:

I am not sure how we did it, but in the synod assembly wrap up that was sent to all congregations and rostered leaders we forgot to thank the most inspiring group that came to synod assembly – our camp staff. Thank you for your music, your stories, and your ministry!

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western ND Synod ELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.