



Gospel Seeds... January 2010

A Monthly Update from the
Western North Dakota Synod Office

Can we fill a barnyard?

Most of us never have to worry whether there will be food available for our next meal. Around the world that is a deep concern for many. Our church has a long history of working to provide food for the hungry, safe, clean drinking water and the development of skills to help people become self-sufficient.

One of the programs aimed at feeding people over the long run is *God's Global Barnyard*. Through this effort individuals or congregations can purchase livestock that will be given to people around the world. A cow or goat provides milk, offspring, manure to fertilize gardens, in short these animals provide hope. The gift of chickens provides eggs to eat or sell, the ability to grow a flock and have meat.

At this year's synod assembly we want to see if we can fill a barnyard with animals. Each congregation of our synod is invited to begin collecting coins to go toward this mission project. Sunday school kids could decorate jars to be taken home to collect coins or to be placed in the Narthex of the church so worshippers can drop off their pennies, nickels and dimes. Congregations can use this to teach about world hunger and the work our church is doing to feed the hungry.

You can learn more about God's Global Barnyard at elca.org/hunger/barnyard. As you dig around the web-site you can also learn more about the ELCA World Hunger program. Here are a couple of fun facts:

- one chick costs a dollar -one pig costs \$30
- one goat costs \$50 -one cow costs \$500

Again, here is the question: Together can we fill a barnyard? We are 192 congregations. We are here on the prairie to Worship God and Serve our neighbor. If we bring the coins from all the nooks and crannies of our synod, we can make a difference for those who are hungry.



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

Worship Services of Holy Communion & Prayers for Healing

For many in our churches these past few months have been difficult. There has been deep and intense conversation concerning human sexuality. Some people in our synod grieve the changes and some are silently celebrating the changes our church has made. Regardless, it has meant increased stress for many of our leaders, church staffs and the families of rostered leaders.

Part of the role of the Bishop is to be pastor to the pastors and the churches of the synod. I am inviting all of our rostered leaders, church staffs and family members to a time of worship with Holy Communion and prayers for healing. It is God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power of the Holy Spirit sustains us.

January 12	9:30AM CST	Good Shepherd, Williston
	1:30PM MST	Peace Lutheran, Dickinson
January 13	10:00AM CST	Augustans Lutheran, Minot
January 14	2:00PM CST	House of Prayer, Bismarck

Your Church at Work:

Jan Zook was part of a Regional Global Mission Gathering to talk about world hunger and our companion synod work. She shared this story from the event:

Laura Thompson, who grew up at First Lutheran, Fargo, recently returned from a year in India as a ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission. In India, she worked with a group of young girls in an orphanage tutoring students. One day Laura wanted to treat the girls with candy. She asked one of the older girls to show her where the market was. While there, she told the girl to choose a candy bar for herself for helping her find the way to the market. Laura chose a "KitKat" candy bar for herself and savored every bite on the way back to the orphanage – it tasted so good and reminded her of home. Her companion didn't eat her candy bar. Laura wondered why? She informed her she would share it with all the girls at the orphanage. Laura explained she had bought hard candy for everyone. And yet this girl chose to take her candy bar back and cut it into 14 pieces to share with all the girls. Laura asked us, "What do we willingly share and what do we reluctantly give?"

We'll share more on this event in the next issue.

God Bless,
Mark Narum – Serving as Bishop