



Gospel Seeds... March 2009

A Monthly Update from the
Western North Dakota Synod Office

What's Up: As I write this there are a number of tasks that are being worked on by your synod staff.

- *Monroe is at work wrapping up our fiscal year. You were able to fund at Level One our joint ministry at Churchwide, ND Lutheran Campus Ministry and Luther Seminary.
- *Beth is getting to know our Western ND students who are in Seminary. She has been in contact with them by e-mail and is now in the process of making phone calls as we do the work of forming solid supporting relationships with those students.
- *Jan is coming off her work organizing the 20th anniversary celebration of the GIFTS program. It was a great event. She is also focusing on Synod Assembly Planning and spending time working with several congregations in the call process.
- *I am preparing for the Spring Assignment Process. Approximately 300 students will graduate from seminary this year. We are looking forward to welcoming some of them to Western ND. I am also working with several congregations in the call process.

Welcome Rev Lisa Ahlness: It is a joy to announce the addition of Rev Lisa Ahlness to the synod staff. Lisa will serve as Assistant to the Bishop on a part-time basis of about 30 hours per month. Lisa is originally from Bowman. Her responsibilities will include working with congregations in the southern portion of the synod who are in the call process. She will also be the staff working with the Reference and Council Committee. Lisa will continue in her call to serve the people of Grace Lutheran at Driscoll.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Seminary Assignments! I was able to represent our region at the Seminary Assignment process February 17th & 18th in Chicago. During this event there were about 300 seminarians assigned to the 9 regions of our church. Region 3, which we are part of, received 44 candidates. On March 5th those students will be assigned to the 9 synods of our region. I will keep you posted on the process.

"Faith Filled" Learning Events:

- *Walk Through the Bible: As part of our Synod's work on the "Book of Faith Initiative" two of these workshops will be held: March 14th in Minot or March 28th in Bismarck. Check the Synod Web Page for more information.
- *GIFTS – April 17 & 18, Zion Lutheran, Minot . At the End of the World: Where Community Begins. God places us in unique communities. How can we faithfully live into God's mission?
- *Theology on the Prairie: April 19-21, Camp of the Cross. Dr. Gil Waldkoenig from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg will be presenting "Christ & Wilderness: Being Church in Challenging Times".

Prayers: Please keep in prayer:

- Pastor Roger Deiterle at the death of his mother
- Pastor Curt Hanson at the death of his father
- Pastor Jeff Giles as he battles leukemia and Jennae as she does the hard work of walking by his side.

Bone Marrow Registry Drive-Bismarck:

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Medcenter One's Outpatient Building, at the Medstaff Conference Room #2. You can also come to Faith Lutheran Church (1402 East Ave C) from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Procedure: A mouth swab
Age limit to be on registry: 18 to 60 years of age

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western ND Synod ELCA