



Gospel Seeds... April 2009

A Monthly Update from the
Western North Dakota Synod Office

Assignments Made: I continue to be amazed at how our larger church works. In February I had the honor of being involved in the process of assigning those who will be graduating from seminary to regions of the church. The Western North Dakota Synod is one of nine synods in Region 3. Representatives from all 9 regions of our church worked for two days trying to match the needs of the church with the gifts of these men and women who will graduate from seminary this spring. It was a process surrounded by prayer, much discussion of the gifts of various candidates and the needs of communities around our church. In this process 44 candidates were assigned to Region 3.

In mid-March the Bishops of Region 3 gathered to assign candidates to the synod. Again I was moved by the prayerful and careful attention paid to the needs of the candidates and the needs of the church. In this process 6 candidates were assigned to the Western North Dakota Synod. 3 candidates were from Luther Seminary, 2 from Wartburg Seminary and 1 from Trinity Seminary. The day that the candidates were assigned I was able to talk with all six by phone. Since that time I have been at Luther and Wartburg Seminary to talk face to face with these men and women. I am excited by the gifts they possess and their passion for ministry. What I sense is they desire to serve God's kingdom. I pray that the Holy Spirit has been at work in this process and will continue to be at work in the months ahead as these candidates begin to talk with congregations in our synod.



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

Together: Last month in this newsletter I wrote how the congregations of our synod are not alone. There are 193 congregations that stand side by side to carry out ministry.

Some of our brothers and sisters are now hurting, the result of spring flooding. What can you and your congregation do to help? A special offering to Lutheran Disaster Response of North Dakota would be very helpful. LDR will work to help the most vulnerable recover from the damage. You could also gather a team of relief workers. In the coming weeks teams of volunteers will be needed in a number of communities in Western North Dakota and Eastern North Dakota to help with clean up.

Your time, talent and money are all needed to help people deal with after math of this spring flooding. Lending a helping hand, it's what we do as Christians.

Scholarship Sponsors Needed: Next year we will have about 20 students from Western North Dakota involved in seminary education. We are looking for congregations, women's groups, men's groups, or individuals who are willing to help provide scholarships for those students. Our goal would be to connect students with congregations, so that you can form a relationship with a student. Contact the synod office if you would like to help sponsor a scholarship.

Future Church Leaders: Do you know of someone who has gifts for ministry? The church is always in need of individuals who feel called to serve. You can help by keeping the person in prayer, talking with them about the gifts you recognize in them, encourage them to be in conversation with someone who can help them discern if God might be calling them to service in the church. Beth Anderson in the synod office is a great resource if you are discerning a call.

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western ND Synod ELCA