



Gospel Seeds... June 2009

**A Monthly Update from the
Western North Dakota Synod Office**

Synod Assembly:

Mission will be the underlying theme of our Synod Assembly this year. We are a people who have been claimed by God through baptismal water, forgiven through Christ's death on the cross, sent into a world hungering for God's grace. As we gather you will hear about our ministry together. Your comments will help set the direction for our future work.

I am looking forward to being able to worship with you, study the Holy Bible with you, listen to stories of faith in action and debate important issues that are before our church. If you have not registered yet for the assembly, please do. Your church needs your voice, your involvement and your leadership.

There are a number of important resolutions that will be brought forward to the assembly. Those resolutions have been mailed to each congregation with instructions to copy them for the voting members who will be attending the assembly. All voting members are encouraged to get copies of those resolutions and study them prior to our gathering.

We will also spend time discussing the Proposed Statement on Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust, as well as the Report on Rostering. You can find a link to those documents on the Western North Dakota Website (wndsynod.org).

Book of Faith:

Our pre-assembly workshop is meant to help us dig into God's Word. Dr. Sarah Henrich, a professor from Luther Seminary will lead the workshop entitled "Engaging Lutheran in the Book of Faith." The event begins Thursday June 4, at 1:30. This event will take place at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1821 West 9th Avenue in Williston.

June is also the time that the women of our church will be gathering for their annual convention. This year's event will take place June 19-20 at the Grand International Inn, Minot. The theme is "Angels Among Us". If you have not registered yet you can find registration forms on the Synod Website under the "Events" category.

A Barn in the Church! :

In a recent visit to Trinity Lutheran and First Lutheran Churches of Tioga I was surprised to see a toy barnyard set up in each sanctuary. The lay out included a child's toy size hip roof barn, fences and a good assortment of barnyard animals. As I visited with members I learned this is one of their Hunger Projects. The congregations are involved in the ELCA's God's Global Barnyard. Through the project animals can be purchased to help people around the world. These animals provide food, fiber and a source of sustainable income.

The congregations gather funds in a variety of ways. Each time they have enough money to purchase a new animal through God's Global Barnyard they also put a small plastic animal in their farmyard. It is a wonderful visual representation of how the congregations are helping to fight hunger.

Camping Season...

As you receive this edition of Gospel Seeds summer staff will be arriving at the 4 Bible camps of Western North Dakota. These young men and women arrive ready for hard work, long hours and the joy of telling the Good News of Jesus Christ to the campers (both young and old) who will arrive this summer. Please keep these staff members in your prayers. Pray that they would be able to boldly proclaim God's love and that they are sustained for their daily work.

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western ND Synod ELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Women of the ELCA: