



Gospel Seeds... February 2017

A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

Prayers Continue...

In early January Sherie Heine – assistant to the Bishop, Synod Assembly Manager and GIFTS Coordinator underwent heart bypass surgery. The surgery was unexpected but successful. After a too-long stay in the hospital (according to Sherie), we are thankful she is at home recovering.

Sherie is thankful for all of the prayers, cards, and texts she has received from people across the synod. Your words have helped in the process of recovery. We ask that you continue to pray for her – for healing and patience while she is on limited duty.

Synod staff are also thankful for all of the words of encouragement and support we have received. There have been many offers to help wherever possible – it is a gift to be part of such a community of believers. We will call upon people to help out from time to time – right now what we would ask more than anything is patience as we work to cover the bases of event planning, call process, GIFTS events, clergy coaching, congregational renewal and more.

At this point we are just thankful to God that Sherie is doing well, is engaging the rehab steps she needs and that in the not too distant future she will be able to return to staff. For all of that and much more we say thanks be to God!

Transitions...

Synod staff has undergone a transition. In the fall of 2014, our synod council approved an experiment to move from a part-time to full-time stewardship position. We had a hope that increased Mission Support would allow us to continue this position beyond the promised 2 years. Synod finances did not allow that and the decision was made in September to move back to a part-time position starting February 1. With that change, Rev. Lisa Ahlness has taken a call as Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross, Bismarck. We are thankful for Lisa's time on staff, that Lutheran Church of the Cross has been able to call an excellent pastor and that Lisa will continue to serve within this synod.

As of February 1st, Faith Simonieg will begin her work as Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Generosity. Faith had most recently worked as ELCA Gift Planner for Western ND. Previous to that, she

worked as Stewardship Coordinator and head of the Foundation at St. John Lutheran, Dickinson. Faith will continue to live in Dickinson. Faith's position is part-time. We look forward to our work together.

Martin and the Family Table...

The first Martin and the Family table event is officially scheduled. We will gather Sunday, February 26th at 3:00PM Concordia Lutheran, Crosby. This is an interactive event where you will get to learn about and practice family faith formation. That sounds very formal. What it means is: how do we help our kids think about faith and daily life? How do we as adults ask simple questions in the midst of our days which can lead to pondering faith in Christ?

Families will get some great resources, a chance to talk with others and practice. There will be food and childcare provided.

We are still working on an event in the Granville, Surrey, Towner, Rugby, Velva area for Saturday February 25th. Keep your eyes open as we will get more details out to you as soon as possible.

Synod Council to Meet...

Your synod council will be meeting February 10th and 11th at Christ Lutheran Church in Minot. You are always welcome to stop in and listen to the business before the council. If there is an item of business that you would like brought before council, please let synod staff or your conference representative know.

At this meeting the council will approve a 2018 Synod Budget to be brought to our synod assembly in June as well as adjust the 2017 budget. We will also talk about the need for leaders across our synod, stewardship, governance issues and what is happening in congregations across the synod.

Assembly Resolutions...

Congregations, conferences or groups of individuals who are interested in writing a resolution for synod assembly should be working on them now. The deadline for submitting resolutions is March 31, 2017. If you have questions, please call the synod office and we will point you toward resources.

God Bless!

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod



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God's work. Our hands.