



Gospel Seeds... June 2015

A Monthly Update from the Western North Dakota Synod Office

God's Work...Our Hands...

There are a number of congregations and individuals in our synod who are dreaming about where God is calling them. Evidence are the number of creative grant requests which the synod executive committee received and approved.

These are the grants approved through the Western North Dakota Synod Mission Endowment Fund:

-Lebanon Lutheran, Amidon - received \$450 for a greeting card ministry for inmates at the New England Women's Correctional Center. The ministry grew out of the quilting ministry at the prison when an inmate said she seldom received mail.

-Metigoshe Lutheran - received \$1,500 to help support having an intern for the 2015 - 2016 academic year. One way to encourage seminary students to consider ministry in our synod is by exposing them to this place through internship.

-Trinity Lutheran on behalf of a group of Bismarck and Mandan churches received a \$1,000 grant. The money will be used to bring Shane Claiborne to Bismarck in November.

-Bread of Life, Minot received \$2,500 to help build a Pavilion next to their playground. Both are intended to be used to connect with people in their neighborhood.

One Synod Micro Grant was also reviewed and approved. Metigoshe Ministries received \$1,500 to help with the camp's gardening project, which is used to educate campers, provide fresh vegetables for meals and be shared through a local food pantry.

Different Funds... With Christ's Mission in mind...

There are two different sources of grant funds available through your synod. The first is a Micro-Grant Fund which can provide up to \$2,000 for a congregation engaging some sort of Christ Centered activity to reach out in their community. The funds available in this grant category are made possible through the Mission Support provided by congregations of the synod.

The Western North Dakota Synod Mission Endowment grants come through gains captured through the Endowment Fund. Grants will be awarded through this fund to projects which are aligned with the synod's mission strategy.

Grant applications are acted on three times each year - February, June and September.

At the direction of the synod executive committee - synod staff are drafting clearer definitions of each grant. Those definitions and new criteria will be discussed and possibly acted on at the September meeting of your synod council.

Seminary Support...

Supporting students from Western North Dakota who are in seminary is important. At our June synod council meeting about \$33,500 in scholarships will be awarded. I am thankful for each of the students who will receive support.

I am also thankful for all of you who have generously helped build this Endowment Fund. Your financial support is helping raise up new leaders for God's church.

Contact me if you would like more information on supporting seminary education, I would love to sit and chat.

Blessings - Bishop Mark Narum



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