



Gospel Seeds... September 2015

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

God's Work. Our Hands.

God is at work in our communities, schools, and homes – through hands that look just like yours. Once again, our church will celebrate “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday, September 13th. Don’t worry if that date does not work for your congregation; you can choose another date. The point is this is an excellent way to live out our faith in Jesus.

We would love to see pictures of how your congregation celebrates this event. Send a story, as well, so we can include it in the Synod eNews.

News Flash....

Speaking of eNews, we would love to add you to our email list for this weekly update of activities within your synod. Through eNews, you will get first word about ministry events, continuing education events, vacancies within congregations, and much more. To be added to the list either email the synod office at: info@wndsynod.org or call the office at 701-223-5312.

Rural Ministry Gathering...

What are the keys to a healthy multi-point parish? That is the central question which will be addressed at a Rural Ministry Conference sponsored by the Western and Eastern ND Synods. The event will happen October 31st from 9:30 to 3:00 at First Lutheran, Rugby. Dr. Alvin Luedke from Luther Seminary will lead the event. Watch for registration information coming soon.

Synod Council...

Your Synod Council meets September 18th & 19th at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Bismarck. Included in the business will be conversations around Strategic Missional Priorities, Portico Benefits for Synod staff,

Compensation Guideline Booklets, and more. If you questions or items of business you would like addressed, please let me know.

Portico Update...

Congregational leaders have probably heard by now about the increase in healthcare premium rates through Portico. Rising insurance premiums is an issue across this country. We have scheduled three meetings in September so congregational leaders can talk with Terri Endres our Regional Portico Representative. She will be able to explain the increase, talk about options for congregations, and answer other questions. These gatherings will take place:

September 9th – 7:00PM First Lutheran, Bismarck

September 10th – 7:00PM Bread of Life, Minot

September 11th – Noon – First Lutheran, Williston (lunch provided)

We encourage congregational leaders, finance committees, church treasurers, and rostered leaders to attend these meetings.

Spiritual Renewal Retreat

October is Pastor’s Appreciation Month – I want to expand that to Rostered Leader Month. A time to say “thanks” to these leaders for all they do. This Synod is blessed to have an incredible group of men and women who serve; I am honored to work beside them as they work to focus our attention toward living lives of deep faith in the risen Christ.

One way you could show your appreciation for your rostered leader is by registering them for the Spiritual Renewal Retreat that will take place January 22nd -24th. The cost is \$140 for an individual, \$280 for a couple, and there will be a small additional fee for kids. This retreat will be about rest, renewal, and some time thinking about dependable strengths.

We encourage congregations to cover the cost of this event understanding that it is not vacation time. If you have questions, please call the Synod office.

Blessings - Bishop Mark Narum



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