



A MESSAGE FROM FAITH SIMONIEG

November 2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Our lives and our world were turned upside down this year due to COVID-19. It seems we could wake up every day with something new to fear. There are serious challenges facing our world: a pandemic, politics, economic hardships, fires, and hurricanes. It is no wonder that our nerves are frayed.

Is there an opportunity hidden in this crisis? Reading in Matthew 5:14-16, the disciples do not just carry the light – they *are* the light of the world in the same way as Jesus' life and salvation. As members of Christ's body, we too are meant to shine the light of the gospel in a darkened world.

How can we *Be the Light*, as we reach out and engage with people – to be the light and bring out the God-colors in the world?

Peter Soli, trainer, and coach at Dialogue Works, suggests three areas for opportunity:

- Congregations will focus on what is most important in their life together,
- New leaders will show up, established leaders will do new things and responsibilities will be clarified,
- The question of how we are Church together grows in importance.

Starting in March of this year, the methods your synod staff adopted to approach ministry were unlike anything we experienced before. We had to adapt and adopt new digital tools and resources for ministry. Gathering face-to-face with lively interactions or deep discussions has been disrupted.

The Western North Dakota Synod Annual Appeal effort will focus on funding the staffing resources necessary to adopt new methods of seeking, identifying, and inviting future leaders for the church during this time of using creative ways and technology to meet people.

Thank you for trusting us, for trusting God to lead us forward to new places and new people in the coming year. Knowing God's promise to us, we pray that God will help you bring people to His Table.

To make your gift to the annual appeal you may give online at wndsynod.org. You may also send checks payable to WND Synod, with "Annual Appeal" in the memo line, to: WND Synod, PO BOX 370, Bismarck, ND 58502

Thank you, too, for your continued generosity to Mission Support, we appreciate all that you do for the sake of the Gospel always and especially during this time. Every gift makes a difference to ministry, as an individual or as a congregation.

If your congregation has not contributed Mission Support for a year or longer, or maybe you have not been consistent with sharing Mission Support with the synod each month, now is a great time to start with even \$25 or \$35 a month. That \$300 or \$400 *will* make a difference and will allow the Western North Dakota Synod staff to sustain the resources we provide.

Please reach out to me by phone at 701-226-5865 or via email at faith@wndsynod.org. God called me to serve on the synod staff as a resource on stewardship, so I would love to talk with you!

Peace be with you,
Faith Simonieg,
Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Generosity

Upcoming Events

<http://wndsynod.org/events>

Nov. 1 – Installation of Bishop Craig Schweitzer at Good Shepherd in Bismarck. Join the celebration by livestream at 4:00pm.

Nov. 12 – Professional Boundaries Workshop – Online Event open to Rostered Leaders, Synodically Authorized Ministers, Church Staff