

Hey Bethesda Community!

I wanted to send out a word of encouragement and a challenge!

First the word of encouragement, we have 150 people either going with us to Minot or who have contributed in some way for this journey (and that isn't including the people praying for this trip who aren't going. Please keep praying!). I also don't want this to be about the numbers, but I am so excited about the diversity of the 150 people who are signing up to be apart of this! We have people of all ages, from all of our worship services, working together and being the body of Christ! This is so exciting!

Now the challenge! Last week Pastor Paul wrote a letter to the congregation about Mission Minot. Here is one paragraph from that letter:

May I also propose that another 'Cause' opportunity is before us! Do you have a friend you can't get to come to church? Well, what about getting church to your friend?! Maybe God's gospel path into your friend isn't going to be getting her through church building doors, but just at first through the door of your car, or a rented bus, and then the flood-soaked door of a house where she can work and talk, and watch the church being the church in a different setting! I would ask you right now to consider and pray, and then pick up the phone if God puts someone on your heart, and invite that friend along to Minot.

Now as you process that paragraph, I would like you to also think about the words of Jesus Christ when he says, "Now just as the Father has sent me, now I send you. (John 20:21). We often invite our friends to worship with us as the body of Christ at Bethesda hoping our friends will hear the Word and the Holy Spirit will win their hearts over. But we all know it can be hard for us to get our friends to come to a worship service and some of our friends are sick of "hearing it" from us.

So what can you do?

You can invite your friends to come with to Minot and help some people in need.

People are in different places in life and might not want to hear the gospel but they might be in a place to do a work of compassion. Our hope is that you can invite a friend, and even though they don't want to *hear* it they might be able to *see* the gospel lived out! Our ministry to the Minot community can start right here in Eau Claire as we look to the people that God has placed in our lives. I would like to plead with you to pray and ask God to bring someone with you to Minot.

Mission Minot is growing into a beautiful mission. We have had gloves donated, money given, blankets made, school supplies donated and much more. Thank you so much for owning this mission trip. Please continue to make this trip your own by inviting a family member, friend, or co-worker. I am anxious to see this mission blossom!

Brandon Pangman
Pastor of Community Life