



WIND
Synod

Sweet Deal for the CAR

LENT DEVOTIONAL

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Welcome!

What is Sweet Deal for CAR?

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic is Western North Dakota Synod's companion church. This means we walk together in following Jesus.

Central African Republic (CAR) is one of the poorest countries in the world, facing many challenges. One of the ways we walk with the Lutheran church in CAR is by filling up M&M containers with quarters to raise money for important ministry in CAR, like schools, clean water projects, and peacemaking efforts. In this devotional, you can learn more about CAR as you join in on the sweet deal!

**Learn
More:**

<http://wndsynod.org/companion-synod/>

Week 1: ORANGE you wanting to learn about CAR?

Where is
Central African
Republic?

CAR is near the center of Africa, bordered by Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Who lives in
CAR?

CAR is home to about 4.5 million people, who live in cities, towns, villages, and out in the country.

Think about:

Do you know anyone from another country? Where are they from? Have you ever visited another country? What was it like?

Let's pray!

Dear God, thank you for all the people who live in CAR and for this chance to learn more about people who live in another place in your wonderful world. Amen.

Week 2: RED-y to learn more?

What's the history?

People have lived in the area of CAR for at least 10,000 years! The people governed themselves until 1885, when France colonized it. The people of CAR fought against colonization, gaining independence in 1960.

What languages do people speak?

The two official languages in CAR are French and Sango (an African language). But there are over 80 ethnic groups, each with its own language.



Think about:

What would it be like to have your country be taken over by another one? What would you do?

Let's pray!

Dear God, thank you for all the people in CAR who have worked for freedom over the years. Help make us partners with you to bring freedom to all people. Amen.

Week 3: **GREEN** is for growing things!

What's the weather like?

CAR has a tropical climate, with one rainy season (December - March) and a long, hot, dry season (April - November). Floods are common in CAR.

What kinds of things grow there?

Many people in CAR make their living by growing foods for themselves and other people. Some main crops include cassava (a root vegetable kind of like a potato) and peanuts.



Think about:

What would it be like to live in a tropical climate? What would be harder? What would be easier?

Let's pray!

Dear God, thank you for all the different kinds of plants and animals that live and grow in our world. Watch over the land, plants, animals, and people of CAR. Amen.

Week 4: YELLOW shows us God's light

What religion do people follow?

In CAR, about 90% of people are Christians, and about 10% are Muslims. Some people also follow African religions in addition to Christianity or Islam.

What about Lutherans?

The Lutheran church in CAR is growing a lot! People are doing God's work of healing and teaching people about God's love, just like here. Some of their most important work has been peacemaking during civil war.



Think about:

What is the most important work your church does?

Let's pray!

Dear God, we thank you for your faithful followers all around the world. Bless churches everywhere as they do your work. Amen.

Week 5: BLUE - Places of Sadness

What's life like right now in CAR?

Since 2012, people in CAR have experienced violence and danger from a civil war within their country between different groups that are fighting each other. Over one million people have had to flee their homes and villages because it's not safe for them there. That's 1 out of every 4 people who live in CAR!

The war has made it extra hard for kids to go to school, for people to work and grow food, and for people to get medical help when they are sick. Over two-thirds of all the medical centers in the country have been damaged or destroyed.

Think about:

What would it be like if you had to run away from your home? Where would you go? What would you do?

Let's pray!

Dear God, we pray for all those who are experiencing war. Bring them safety. Make us all peacemakers. Amen.

Week 6: **BROWN - Building up**

Who is working to make things better in CAR?

Many people that live in CAR are working for peace and to rebuild hospitals, schools, and daily life. The Lutheran Church in CAR is helping with a lot of this. Other people who are helping include government workers, neighboring countries, and the United Nations.

How can I help?

You can learn more about life in CAR, pray, ask your elected officials to work for peace around the world, and help raise money through Sweet Deal for CAR that goes directly to Lutheran churches there to help them in their work.



Think about:

Where do you work for peace in your life right now?

Let's pray!

Dear God, thank you for our friends in CAR. Help us walk together in following you and serving our neighbors. Amen.