

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL

Women of the ELCA

VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER 2

Spring 2017



PRESIDENT Glenda Ofstehage

Spring has Sprung and the days are getting impossibly busy, it seems.

Time to clean up our shrubbery and flower beds to see what is springing

up to give us another season of color in our yard! I keep churning in my mind ideas for a prayer labyrinth to go in the back of my property. Sewing quilted finger labyrinths for the Triennial Gathering while at the council of presidents in Chicago recently reminded me that this is something I've wanted to do for some time. One of these days I'll recruit all five sons to come for a weekend and install something like that!

I recently read something (exactly what escapes my memory just now) that called me to do a study on "intentional living". I was reminded that it is important for us to be intentional and purposeful in all we do and say. I discovered a few ideas that I think are critical for all of us to think about in our work with the Women of the ELCA. *"The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established. Proverbs 19:21*

When we plan events or even the very existence of our WELCA units, how often do we just put a date to whatever it was we did last year at this time without considering who or who not participated in that event last year? If no one other than the handful of "regulars" was there, why was that? Was this an event that has run its course? Did we not invite anyone new? Is there a similar but different event that we might think about that would have more appeal to the "younger", "older", "newer", "busier", "different" women in our community and church? Who participated in the planning of this event? Are there others in our church community on whom we might call for planning and fresh outlook? Are we willing to let go of the reins and let others plan even at the risk of doing something not particularly appealing to us? Are we willing to risk failing completely and starting over next year with something completely new?

How "intentional" are we in the words we choose when working with others to plan such events? Do we make an effort to avoid placing blame or talking in "we and they" types of terms? How often do we think of something we've said or done and later wish that we'd kept that horse in the barn?

At the council of presidents, we were told that we need to be more intentional and purposeful about the use of funds within our local units. Are we hoarding a large bank balance, waiting for a "rainy day" or just the right project? Could these funds be put to good use NOW by adding to a scholarship fund for Lutheran women, a building project in a deprived community, assisting women in newly established WELCA units with funds to attend conventions and conferences that help them see the work of women in the church? We need to always be thoughtful and creative in using our resources. I have heard that many units lately reserve a share of the quilts they make for more local concerns—Abbott House in Mitchell, shelters for women and children seeking protection or the homeless. This is being "intentional" and thoughtful—seeing a need and doing what we can to meet that need where we are. This is not to say that we do not need to be concerned about global needs, but only that we need to think about all we do and act in a purposeful way and not act from habit or because that is what "we've always done"—always being aware that God's will in the end prevail. Thanks be to God!

The theme verse of our upcoming Women of the ELCA Synodical convention also calls us to be intentional in all we do: *"whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters..."* We'll spend our time looking at the life and contributions to the Reformation of Katie Luther. I believe she is a fine example of intentionally doing all one does as unto the Lord. Join us for a couple of days in Yankton while we share, encourage, and grow together! And please, please, please, be "intentional" about inviting someone to accompany you to grow with and be encouraged by the women of our church!

Wishing you JOY in all you do.

Glenda



VICE PRESIDENT

Nancy Rieke

Take a moment to think for minute...as far back as you can. Where did you first learn about Jesus? Who first taught you? What are your first memories of or about Jesus?

One of my first memories is of a Christmas Eve midnight service. I remember my mom stayed home with my baby brother, and just my dad and grandpa and grandma and I went to church. I felt very important - very grown-up - but as we got out of the car, I was frightened. Even though my daddy held my hand tightly, it was so cold and dark and scary. The bare trees waved in the wind and the snow swirled around us, but as we walked up the steps to the church, the doors opened and light poured out. Here was warmth, with candles burning and people laughing. I remember thinking, this is where Jesus is!

As I got older, of course, I learned more and more about Jesus and found out he doesn't just live in church at all, but in our hearts. One of the hearts I saw God living in most clearly growing up, was that of my Grandma Rogge. She didn't talk about Him much, but she showed me how she loved Him by her actions. Every morning, she and Grandpa read their Bible and their Christ in our Home devotions before breakfast. She bowed her head before every meal and never willingly missed worship. Grandma dearly loved 'circle' and her sewing machine always had fabric waiting to be sewn into quilts and tied to send overseas with LWR.

The funny thing is, she never made me do any of these things....yet I wanted to, especially when I was with her. I figured that if Grandma loved Jesus so much to want to do all this for Him, He must be really something! And He really is!

All the time I thought I was finding Him, He had already found me, and had put wonderful people like my Mom and Dad and Grandmas and Grandpas in my life to help me get to know Him better. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as "like the wind" (John 3:8). This Holy Wind blows God's love all around us, in and through the people that love us, and through us too, for other people. That's how God works - and how God has always worked.

God is working through each of us, in our homes, in our jobs, and our churches, and for that I thank you. You are indeed faithful witnesses. But now I'm asking you to consider: is He calling you to be Holy Wind as part of a SD Synod WELCA committee? We have been blessed to have all of those officers and committee members who are eligible for a second two-year term agree to nominations, but we need two of you to fill places on the nominating committee. The women chosen need to be Spirit-filled and well connected, with open and discerning minds. Will you answer this call? Please, contact me for more information.

May God bless each and every one of you with overflowing hearts, to be God's wind in the world!



SECRETARY

Lynn Pohlman

HOST A TREE PLANTING!

Welcome Spring! After spring's arrival in March, we have Earth Day and Arbor Day in April. There are numerous ways to recognize these days. Did you know, across the country, Lutherans are working together to plant 500 trees in their synods as part of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation? You can find information about this observance from the Lutherans Restoring Creation website: Here is the link: www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org.

On this web site you will be able to read about the Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission. They celebrate the importance of embracing "**care for creation**" The following is their vision statement: "**We believe that being earthkeepers is foundational to our Christian vocation and should be integral to the full life and mission of the ELCA.**"

In the Lutherans Restoring Creation **Memo to planning groups for the 2017 Observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation they share:** "Ecological justice for Earth community is not an add-on, not one more cause, not just for those who happen to be interested in it. Rather, caring for creation is an essential dimension of our love of God and of our love of all of our neighbors in Earth community. Ecological justice is integral to our faith."

LRC provides resources for celebration, study and worship on their web site. On the LRC web site, you will find stories, an events page, eco-theology links, advocacy and much more!

Hopefully this article will plant “seeds” of ideas and ways to become an earthkeeper and care for our Earth community.

Blessings, Lynn Pohlman



TREASURER

Kathy Thompson

Greetings ladies of the SD Women of the ELCA.

Think of us this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mercies. 1 Corinthians 4:1

February 1, 2017 we start our new fiscal year. I would like to thank all unit treasurers for your remittances that help support our local organization and also churchwide. I am working on the forms that show what your unit has remitted this past year and will be sending them to unit treasurers asking that you check against your records to see that everything has been recorded correctly.

Reminder to all unit treasurers: When remitting your unit offerings to me, please fill out Form A and include it with your check. All checks should be made out to “SD Women of the ELCA” and mailed to me. If your unit has a new treasurer taking over, please send that information to me so I can update my records. Many units have done so already and I thank you for this information.

I have been working with motels in the Yankton area to block rooms for the convention. I will be putting this information out later to the Conference Coordinators to announce to you at your Spring Gatherings and also the information will be in the Spring Newsletter along with the registration forms for convention.

I recently received from churchwide some FAQ sheets in reference to “the financial relationship between congregational unit and congregation.”; “what is an active unit?”; “all about Thankofferings.”

I will have copies of this sheet at the Synodical Convention in June, unless you request a copy sooner, then I will send to you.

Wishing you a good 2017 fiscal year with the Women of the ELCA as we work together in His name and service to others. Looking forward to seeing you in June at Yankton for the Synodical Convention for the SD Women of the ELCA.

Your Sister in Christ, Kathy Thompson, Treasurer

MISSION COMMUNITY

Donna Vreugdenhil

Greetings Sisters in Christ,

Happy Spring! Spring: a new awakening, new life, baby animals, trees budding, grasses emerging, new plants, Lent, Easter! Oh, what a joyous time of year!

Other things to look forward to are your Conference Spring Gatherings, the Synodical Women's Convention in Yankton in June and, the Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis in July. These will be wonderful opportunities to gather as a community of women to share your faith, meet new friends, renew old friendships, worship, sing, and praise God together. These gatherings could be a community project to invite someone to go with you. Reach out--- Act Boldly!

A “Bold” woman who used her stewardship to help others in her community was Martin Luther's dear wife, Katie. Her good work and thoughtful stewardship made Martin's work easier as he ministered to others. Katie's Fund, a special fund named after Katie Luther, supports women in leadership development, living theology and global connections. One of Katie's Fund's projects was sending a dozen young women to the Holy Land on a journey with Global Mission and Young Adult Ministry program. It changed their lives as they returned and shared with others how much they had learned. Think of all the opportunities that can be opened to others when we support Katie's Fund endowment. Just as Katie was a bold woman and wise steward, let us be good stewards by finding a balance between ministering to others and taking care of our own ministry.

Act Boldly! Donna Vreugdenhil
Mission Community



MISSION ACTION

Janice Anderson

“I can do all things thru Christ who gives me Strength”

Philippians 4:13

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Today the column will be brief because I plan to share Mission Action news, updates, and LWR kits and quilt information at the Conference Spring Gathering and Synodical Convention.

I encourage seasoned and newly elected Mission Action officers and visitors to attend the Mission Action leaders training! “All Anew” bold activities are planned. Bring your ideas, your input is important, we learn from each other!

My gratitude to all of you for your generous ministry! Thank you Mission Action Officers for the amazing Mission Action reports!

Have a Blessed Easter, Jan



TODAY’S DREAM TOMORROW’S REALITY Racial Justice Advocates

Margie Neugebauer

A study from the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ

We, in the ELCA, have a wonderful opportunity before us to help shape the next Social Statement that the ELCA is developing for publication in 2019. Currently the Task Force that is shaping this social statement has published and distributed this study document, *“Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement.”*

I urge you to organize a study group on this document. Engage your pastor in this study and push him/her to become involved in this process and recruit other people to become involved also. Participants in this study need not be Lutheran, in fact, the Task Force is soliciting anyone to become involved. They welcome non-Lutheran participation.

Last fall your pastor received a hard copy of this study. It has a green cover. However, all the sessions and materials are online, so are available to a wide range of audiences. There are seven modules in the study. You may do one, two, or more of the modules. Each module includes a report form to send your observations and comments to the Task Force. The reports need to be sent in by August 31, 2017.

It is important for us to send our comments to the Task Force. All of these comments will be taken into consideration when the Task Force actually writes the Social Statement. The Task Force also held Listening Posts in 2015 and 2016 to begin the process of gathering information and data to be used in the formation of the Social Statement. The ELCA has completed many social statements over the years that guide policies and decisions of churchwide, local congregations, and individual members. Other denominations use these social statements to learn what the ELCA thinks about particular topics.

The study modules include:

1. Why do we need to talk together?
2. What problems do women face, and what does justice require?
3. How is sexism personal, and how are we the body of Christ together?
4. What does economic sexism look like, and how can we seek equity for all?
5. How can we address violence against women and girls?
6. Why do words and images for God matter?
7. How do we challenge the misuse of Scripture against women and girls?

I have power points that explain the process and the purpose of social statements. Contact me for more information.

Given the current climate of dis-respect for women in our country and abroad, this study is timely and informative. It will address the issue of misrepresentation of Scripture to discriminate against women and girls. It will make our voices heard that sexual assault, domestic violence, rape, wage discrepancies, lack of child care for working women, and violence against women is not ok and is not supported by the Bible or Jesus.



TRIENNIAL PROMOTER

Darla Tobin



Greetings!

The WELCA Triennial time is getting closer and the place couldn't be closer to us. Minneapolis, Land of the Lutherans, is the place to be on July 13-16, 2017 with your friends in the WELCA. There is still time to register for this BIG event and you don't have to worry about transportation as there is still room on both buses for you to join us. Register at welcatg.org or email women@elca.org for a registration packet or call 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730. The bus and hotel costs will be in addition to the registration.

There will be two buses to take the great Lutheran women of South Dakota and their friends to the 10th Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis. We have made a few changes to our trip itinerary where we hope will be more convenient for all. We have added a stop at Kimball to the South bus. The South bus will begin travel from Miller to Minneapolis with stops in KIMBALL, Mitchell, Sioux Falls and a possible stop in Minnesota to pick up ladies with arrival in Minneapolis between 12:00-1:00 p.m. The North Bus will start in Miller and travel to the intersection of Hwy 45 and 212 (5 miles east of Faulkton), Ipswich, Aberdeen, Groton, Webster, Summit, Watertown and then into Minneapolis.

The cost of the bus trip for each passenger is \$125.00. Checks can be made to SD WELCA and mailed to Darla Toben 47906 171st St. Clear Lake SD 57226 to secure your seat.

The buses will return Sunday, July 16 using the same routes. While this is an official event of Women of the ELCA, all women in the church are invited to attend. One need not be a participant in Women of the ELCA. In fact, we invite all our ecumenical partners to attend as well, so share this invitation.

For those attending the Triennial, the South Dakota delegation will be getting together on a day and time to be determined in Minneapolis to have a group picture taken. Cont.....



MEMBER AT LARGE

Connie Bickett

Lesson Learned

This past week was the State Wrestling Tournament in Rapid City for youth. My 9 year old grandson Brennon, has wrestled for the past 4 years and placed every year. He has received 1st place the last two years. Do I sound like a bragging grandma? I hope so.

This year the kids on their team had an eye opening experience. One of the boys was diagnosed with Lukemia, just after the season started. They all got behind "Ben" and had fund raisers, special events, and they all cut their hair in MoHawk hair cuts with Ben's initials in the back.

On Sunday morning when Brennon got off the podium after receiving his medal, he turned to his mom and said " Mom I'm giving my medal to Ben." And I'm having it engraved "Wrestling for Ben" "Cause mom he's been through a lot."

Well you think the tears didn't flow when Grandma heard this story. I was so proud of him and the young man he has become.

Some times our children and Grandchildren surprise us. He has always been a very kind child and looking out for others.

There have been papers and TV stations asking for this story and I'm sure he will do some but he wanted it to be about Ben and not him.

My Bible Verse today was 1st Corinthians 2:12 "We didn't learn this by reading books or going to school; we learned it from God, who taught us person-to-person through Christ.

Lesson learned by all.

See you in Yankton this summer.

If you have questions, please email me at dgto-ben@itctel.com or call me in the evening at

605-874-2951. The theme is "All Anew". Keep checking out the website, www.welcatg.org. There are many ministries to participate in while at the Triennial such as Offerings, Quilt kits, Days for Girls Kits, Gift Cars, Hygiene items, clothing drive, and volunteers are still needed as well. Check these opportunities out.



MEMBER AT LARGE

Arlene Bich

Dear Sisters in Christ....my focus this month is that "Prayer, is a Powerful Tool in the Life of Christians!

When we pray, we ask for many things, for Good Health, Restoration of Health, Guidance for ourselves and in service to others, Thankfulness for all of these, plus for all of our Blessings, for Forgiveness, for Strength, for Home, Safety, with God's watchful eye over and upon us at all times!

There are many Bible Verses that reference Prayer: Mathew 21:22; "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in Prayer". Phillipians 4:6; "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". Ephesians 6:18; "And pray in the spirit, on all occasions, with all kinds of prayer and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for the Saints". Colossians 4:2; "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" and one of my favorites, is Thessalonians 5: 17 "Pray without ceasing" which is one of the shortest verses in the Bible and one I remember learning as a very young girl!

A Life Experience: In this first 3 months of the year, my husband and I have experienced some difficult challenging times. I think I might fall into this last category of "Praying without Ceasing". Let me tell you about it: In the wee hours of the morning on Martin Luther King Day, we had a break-in/theft in our home. We did not hear anything (not that I'm a sound sleeper, but that night I was). The criminals broke into our garage, left a mess, proceeded from the garage door into the kitchen area, just 20 or so feet from where we slept, and went down the steps to the lower level..No damage done, in garage or below but several items taken. We believe that God's protective hand was with us, protecting us from confronting the thieves, which could have had much worse results! Thank you God! I had knee replacement surgery in February, and my husband had back surgery in March, 3 weeks later. We only last week received word that DNA samples from the break-in will prove guilt for one Thief. It has been a long process and still not over. We now know what it means to have been "violated".

We are now experiencing the Healing Hand of God with our physical bodies. What exactly does "Praying without Ceasing" mean? We aren't in a "head bowed, eyes closed, kneeling position" all day long. Paul, in Thessalonians, didn't seem to be referring to non-stop talking, but rather to an attitude of being "God conscious", that we carry with us at all times, every waking moment, a God consciousness, that God is with us in our thoughts and actions. We feel secure in depending on God's unending Grace! I'll remember what I learned as a child, "Pray without Ceasing". God intervened and Protected us!



MISSION GROWTH (JUSTICE)

Margie Neugebauer

Because of some questions that have arisen, I did some checking on our WELCA constitution.

ARTICLE III—PARTICIPATION

***SECTION 1. Composition**

This unit shall be composed of those women who participate in activities that indicate a commitment to the purpose of Women of the ELCA.

***SECTION 2. Participation**

Participation in this unit shall be open to all women in the(se) congregation(s) and other women who subscribe to the purpose.

***SECTION 3. Congregational Membership**

Women elected to leadership in this unit and elected as voting members to a convention of the synodical women's organization shall be participants in this unit and voting members of the ELCA.

These questions pertain to who and how women can belong to a WELCA unit. So this is what these Constitutional Sections mean:

1) Any woman who subscribes to the WELCA Purpose Statement can be a member of a WELCA unit. She does not have to be Lutheran, but must subscribe to the Purpose Statement.

2) Any woman who is elected to a leadership position in a unit should be a member of a unit and a voting member of the ELCA.

3) Participation is open to all women in an ELCA congregation.

4) WELCA is not an auxiliary of the church. WELCA is a separately organized and operated organization. But WELCA units must be affiliated with an ELCA congregation.

5) If a congregation is closing down; women of that congregation may still continue to be a WELCA unit. However, they must affiliate with another ELCA congregation. That is not necessarily becoming a member of the church, just that the WELCA unit affiliates with the WELCA unit of that church. In small towns, women of the community could all participate in a WELCA unit. Quilters could be members of the unit, if they subscribe to the Purpose Statement.

I would suggest units limit business meetings and concentrate more on education, Bible study, and service projects.

If you know of a group of women whose church has left the ELCA, but the women want to remain a WELCA unit, please let me know. We can help facilitate that movement.

If you need help navigating these constitutional requirements, please call or email me.

Reminder

First, a loud and happy **Thank you** to all the Unit Secretaries that have submitted the names and address information of your unit officers to your Conference secretaries. This information is recorded in a data base at churchwide. It is critical to keep this data base current. Our Editor, Lucille Birkholtz, uses this address information when sending out the South Dakota Synodical W/ELCA newsletter.

Second, if you have not submitted your updated information, please send the names and addresses of your Unit Officers to your Conference Secretaries. Our Medary Conference secretary, Deb Gulbranson, has completed the updates for Medary Conference. Thank you, Deb!

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Blessings,
Lynn Pohlman

I AM RETIRING!!!

By Lucille Birkholtz

I am retiring from the job of Synodical WELCA newsletter editor on July 1. I have been in this position for 10 years, time for new insights and ideas. I have really enjoyed this time and cherish all of the people I have met and worked with. If you are interested, please contact the President, Glenda Ofstehage (ofsteglen@gmail.com).

I was asked to write what the job detail is..... At this time, the newsletter has been formatted and printed from Microsoft Publisher software, it is part of the Microsoft Office package. There have been 4 newsletters a year and the Convention booklet printed each year. At this time, I send out approx. 325 paper copies, 200+ e-mail copies and a copy to the Synod office to be put on line on the Synod website. I have been using a Publisher from Clark up until Jan. 1, 2017, at this time he sold his business to Creative Printing in Huron. (Actually the newsletter had been printed and mailed from Creative Printing for a couple of years as the two publishers were working together.) We do have a mailing permit with the US post office for bulk mailing for printed material, so we don't have to pay the full 1st class rate. (this permit has a minimum number of 200.) The newsletters and addresses are all e-mailed to the printer and he takes it from there. The only time that I have to visit his business is to pickup up the convention booklets which aren't mailed.

Questions have come up.....can we do less hard copy mailing? I have mailed hard copies to all unit presidents, all conference officers, and Synodical officers, and those who paid \$5 a year to receive them. The mailing list is given to me by the Synod WELCA Secretary after the new officers for the year are sent to her. Yes, we can mail fewer copies and do more e-mail but will the Presidents make a copy that can be shared with her officers? This is very important. There are several presidents who don't have computers w/internet so they need the hard copy. Possibly we could go to 3 newsletters a year instead of 4. We could cut out the mission partners, but they like to get information to the ladies through the newsletter, where else would we read their information??? There are several ways to look at this.....

As you can see, I still have interest in this and am very willing to help anyone who would like to take it over. You can write or call me if you have questions. E-mail: Lmbirk@itctel.com or phone 605-625-3765. Thanks you for the privilege of being your newsletter editor for 10 years!!
Lucille Birkholtz



BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Cathy Brechtelsbauer

If Our Low-income Neighbors Ever Needed Our Voices, it's Now!

There will likely be opportunities at the Spring Gatherings to stick up for low-income neighbors by writing a letter to Congress. Handwritten letters, sent with prayers, can have a loaves-and-fishes effect! Phone calls helpful at times, especially if you wouldn't get around to writing a letter! When the news tells of disturbing action in Congress, phone calls to defend vulnerable people can help. Call to leave messages:
 Senator John Thune 202-224-2321 or toll-free: 866-850-3855

Senator Mike Rounds 202-224-5842 or toll-free: 844-875-5268

Rep. Kristi Noem 202-225-2801 or toll-free: 855-225-2801

We're asking Congress to defend very people that President Trump had said would be his priority -- people who have been left behind by today's economy or live in distressed urban or rural communities. Unfortunately, his budget and the House Budget Committee propose horrifying cuts to low-income programs. OMB Director Mick Mulvaney said he is just cutting "programs that don't work"! But these programs are helping South Dakotans, in some cases - helping people survive! Consider heat assistance (LIHEAP). It helps about 21,794 South Dakota households, including many poor seniors, pay for heat in winter. There's no way churches or our state would replace that \$18 million for heating bills! Cuts to low-income programs in one or the other or both budgets include:

- Job training
- Pell grants
- Economic development funding for both cities and rural areas
- Housing assistance
- Heating assistance (eliminates)
- Weatherization assistance (eliminates)

- WIC
- Legal services (eliminates)
- K-12 education
- Food stamps (SNAP)
- Healthcare
- Foreign assistance that reduces poverty and hunger

These cuts to low-income programs are unprecedented and appalling! This is not what we voted for. Please stay vigilant and persistent. Please be a voice to defend the marginalized and vulnerable. Jesus always did.

Thanks,

Cathy Brechtelsbauer, volunteer, SD Coordinator for Bread for the World

605-335-6222, ryebread@breadrising.org,
www.bread.org

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PRISON CONGREGATIONS

Mary Mortenson, Director



Growth

By Julie Thomas, Administrative Asst.

Prison Congregations of America recently welcomed two new pastors to serve in prisons in Montana and Wisconsin. Rev. Ric Beals will be the pastor of The Cross Road in the Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby, Montana. We are excited to welcome the Cross Road, which is one of three new prison congregations in development that are sponsored by the Presbyterian Church – USA!

Pastor Mark Thompson has been called as a mission developer to begin the Breaking the Chains Congregation inside the Felmers Chaney Correctional Center in Milwaukee. Please keep these two men, along with their congregations, in your prayers.

PCA Director Mary Mortenson is available for speaking opportunities – WELCA programs, mission events or pulpit supply. An easy and fun way to contribute to PCA is to allow her and her husband, Jack, to do pulpit supply, and give the honorarium to PCA. Contact Mary at 605-321-0509 or mary@prisoncongregations.org.



TREASURER

Kathy Thompson

Greetings Sisters in Christ;

We have just gone through Lent and are approaching Easter. Blessings to each of you.

Our convention will be here before you know it. The Synodical Convention will be June 23-24 in Yankton at Trinity Lutheran Church. All information and the registration form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thursday Activities: We will have registration at Trinity Lutheran Church from 2 to 4 p.m. The church address is 403 Broadway Ave (Hwy 81). A vesper service has been planned for 9 p.m. on Thursday evening.

Registration: Convention registration is \$40, except Conference officers, that is \$20. Please find the registration form in this newsletter and share with others in your unit. The SWO Poster is also included in this newsletter, so please post it at your church. It would be great to have a good attendance to share in the worship services, attend the awareness sessions and hear His Word shared in the Bible Study. Voting members must register by June 6th, also non-voting members are asked to pre-register, so we can let the ladies know how many will be in attendance for their meal planning. However, we will still accept Non-voting member registration only at the door. Each church can have 1(one) Voting member, but there is no limit on Non-voting members that can attend. Registration will be from 2 to 4 pm on Thursday afternoon at Trinity Lutheran Church and again starting at 8 am of Friday.

Lodging: Rooms have been blocked at the Travelodge, 1603 E. Hwy 50 and also at Holiday Inn Express, 2607 Broadway Ave. To make your reservations at Travelodge, the number is (605)665-6510 and say you are with the "SD Women of the ELCA".

The Holiday Inn Express number is (605)665-3177 and say you are with the "SD Women of the ELCA". Travelodge rates are based on how many are sharing the room. Double occupancy \$67.59 per night; 3 people \$73.00 per night; 4 persons \$78.00 per night. Holiday Inn Express, there are rooms with 2 queen beds and a sleeper couch for \$155 per night plus taxes; or King bed and a sleeper couch for \$150 per night plus taxes. Cut-off date to get rooms at quote prices are good until May 22.

Silent Auction: Proceeds will go ½ to each: Dina Johnson Scholarship Endowment and Answer the Call (Listen God is Calling). Basket items, baked goods, wall hangings were favorites last year. Any craft item or home canned goods, homemade candy, etc are welcome.

Love offering: The Yankton Contact Center is the recipient this year. Items needed are: personal care items (toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, etc.) items that cannot be purchased with food stamps.

Offerings: The SWO Convention offering (50% to churchwide; 50% to Synodical); Silent offering ½ to each Dina Johnson scholarship fund; Listen God is Calling.

Leadership workshop: These will be held Saturday morning starting at 10 am. If you do not have a conference officer from you conference, please pick information for them from the respective Synodical member.

Thank you to Alpha Behrns, Myla Kneeland and Tressa Schmidt for auditing the financial records for this past fiscal year of the Synodical Treasurers books. Kathy Thompson, Synodical Treasurer

PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING.....

SD WELCA SYNODICAL
CONVENTION

Trinity Lutheran Church
Yankton, June 23-24

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

30th Annual Convention



“KATIE LUTHER: NURTURING THE REFORMATION”

*“Whatever your task, put yourself into it, as done for the Lord and not
your masters.” Colossians 3:23*

June 23-24, 2017

Trinity Lutheran Church

403 Broadway Ave.

Yankton, SD

See your W/ELCA President for information

REGISTRATION FORM

SD Women of the ELCA 30th Synodical Women's Convention

Trinity Lutheran Church
403 Broadway Ave.
Yankton, SD

“KATIE LUTHER: NURTURING THE REFORMATION

Please circle one: Voting Member Non-voting Member Conference Officer

Name: _____ Telephone _____

(please print)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

e-mail: _____

Congregation: _____ Conference: _____

Registration fee: \$40.00 (\$20 for Conference Officers)

Please make checks payable to: SD Women of the ELCA

+++++Please return the top portion with your registration fee+++++

Voting member and Conference officers: Registration postmarked no later that June 6,2017:

Non-voting member: Pre-registration requested

Mail registration form and fee to: Questions? Contact Kathy
Kathy Thompson, Synodical Treasurer (605)938-4592 (H)
404 3rd St. Wilmot, SD 57279

****Conventions voting members will receive a confirmation letter with convention schedule information
7-10 days before convention

Registration starting at 8:00 Friday morning at Trinity Lutheran

Offerings:

SWO CONVENTION: ½ CHURCHWIDE; 1/2 CONVENTION EXPENSE.

LOVE OFFERING: Yankton Conact Center

Silent Auction: ½ Dina Johnson Scholarship Endowment; 1/2 Answer the Call(Listen God is Calling)

UNIT PRESIDENTS: Please make a copy for each woman in your unit .

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

Linda Jensen

Thanks to all the WELCA units and quilting groups that have given quilts, other in-kind gifts, and financial gifts to us for those served by LSS. Please prayerfully keep LSS in mind as you discuss your benevolence giving for this year. Here are some updates on LSS around the state:

News on Refugee Resettlement: LSS has a strong tradition of providing resettlement services. It has been a priority for LSS as early as 1948 following WWII, and we will continue to honor that tradition. LSS believes that our faith calls us to welcome the stranger, to love our neighbor, and have compassion for those who have lost everything. Refugee resettlement embodies the spirit of Matthew 25:35.

The recent Presidential Executive Order and subsequent judicial actions leave a great deal of uncertainty about the future of refugee resettlement in the United States, as well as the future of LSS resettlement services in South Dakota. LSS remains committed to supporting refugees who are already in South Dakota. Each week, nearly 400 refugees and immigrants walk through our doors to learn English and to study for their citizenship exam. Last year, LSS helped more than 200 refugees prepare for and successfully maintain employment.

LSS is already making reductions in our staffing and operational costs in response to the reduction in federal funding to support newly arriving refugees. We need your help to sustain services for the refugees who are currently in South Dakota. For more information or to give a gift, please contact Linda Jensen.

Statewide: Contact your LSS staff rep for information on how you can help LSS through Thrivent Action Teams! Each Thrivent member can apply for two Action Teams each year, for a total of \$500. We have been blessed with many Action Team gifts recently, but there are still a number of needs--- a food drive for young adults transitioning to living on their own, books and games for youth, bedding, school & art supplies, auction items for events, and socks and underwear are just a few of the items.

Southeast Region: Brookings Area Benefit Event:

We hope you will join us at our annual LSS fundraising event at McCrory Gardens Education & Visitor Center in Brookings on Saturday, April 22 at 6 p.m. A pledge or contribution to support LSS programs in the area will be requested. The event includes a wonderful meal, fellowship, and information about LSS, including an opportunity to visit with LSS staff. Reservations are requested. Contact Linda Jensen for more information, to reserve tickets or if you'd like to volunteer as a Table Host.

Northeast Region Benefit Event: Come join the fun at the Northeast Benefit Event on Saturday, April 29 at 5 p.m. at The Ward Plaza Downtown Event Center in Aberdeen! A pledge or contribution to support LSS services in the area will be requested. The event includes a meal, a silent auction and a show by Dueling Duo – Pianos with Dan Witte. Reservations are required. If you'd like to donate a Silent Auction Basket or item, or want to reserve tickets, contact Liesl Hovel at 605-262-6301 or Liesl.Hovel@LssSD.org

Western Region: Tours are available for LSS facilities in Rapid City and Spearfish; just contact Jessica Lillebo to set them up! Let her know if you want her to check on meeting room availability if you'd like to have a business meeting or Bible Study on site.

Liesl Hovel, Northeast Regional Director 605-262-6301 or Liesl.Hovel@LssSD.org

Jessica Lillebo, Western Regional Director 605-791-6769 or 1-800-260-1439 or Jessica.Lillebo@LssSD.org
Linda Jensen, Church Relations and Planned Giving Development Officer 605-444-7536 or 1-800-568-2401 ext. 7536 or Linda.Jensen@LssSD.org

Jamie Lennon, Development Director 605-444-7502 direct | 800-568-2401 ext. 7502 or [Ja-mie.Lennon@LssSD.org](mailto:Jamie.Lennon@LssSD.org)

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 30TH SYNODICAL WOMEN'S CONVENTION !!

June 23-24, 2017

Trinity Lutheran Church

403 Broadway Ave.

Yankton, SD



LUTHERANS OUTDOORS Mara Stillson

2017 Quilt Auction - Save The Date!

**Lutherans Outdoors Quilt Auction
September 10th, 2017
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Sioux Falls, SD**

Mark your calendars now, and be sure to attend our annual fundraiser. Quilts and other beautifully crafted items from wonderful supporters will be up for auction with the proceeds to benefit the four camps of Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota. Your attendance and bidding at the event will ensure mission in ministry at NeSoDak, Joy Ranch, Klein Ranch and Outlaw Ranch. Please tell your friends and neighbors to join us for this fun event. More details to come.

2016 Quilt Auction moves and grooves, brings in over \$34,000

The 27th Annual Quilt Auction was action packed, raising \$34,258 at Our Savior's Lutheran in Sioux Falls on October 15th, 2016. While pheasant hunting was on some folks' minds, 126 quilts and wooden items were up for sale. The addition of a silent auction, table runners and ticket auction for some items interested others. "Having it at Our Savior's was a real plus," says Sandy Cheney, Auction Coordinator, "we had many folks stop to look before and after church services, it brought in a whole new group to see the beautiful work of the LO Quilters. A BIG THANK YOU to our many, many volunteers for all the hours and help to make this day happen."



NeSoDak 75th Anniversary Celebration

Join us to celebrate 75 years of outdoor ministry at NeSoDak Bible Camp.

The celebration will take place at NeSoDak July 21st-23rd, 2017.

Join us for a weekend of camp activities, live music, and great food! You can register by emailing nesodak@losd.org.



We are on the Web

Women of the ELCA, South Dakota Synod is now found on [facebook](#), [Pinterest](#), [Twitter](#) and we even have a [blog](#)! Be sure to *LIKE* the facebook page, and *FOLLOW* the Pinterest page.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Women-of-the-ELCA-South-Dakota-Synod/380032715367147>

Pinterest page: <http://pinterest.com/womenelcasd/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WomenELCASoDak>

Blog: <http://womenoftheelcasd.wordpress.com/>

Do you have time to help with the Women of the ELCA South Dakota Synod blog, facebook, Twitter or Pinterest pages? If so, contact Erika Lehmann at elehmann@santel.net or send a message though any of the pages.

Newsletter subscriptions that are expired or will be after this issue.

Gladys Beck	Ruby Cutts
Marcene Hanson	Doris Gross
Alma Holmes	Gwenda Koch
Verna Nelson	Lorraine Rye
Anita Stevenson	Marilyn Strand
Gretchen Tweet	

ANYONE can receive a copy of this newsletter by e-mail at no charge. Please send your name and e-mail address to Lmbirk@itctel.com. This will be in PDF format so that you can open it if you have PDF, which I will instruct you in downloading a free copy when I send the newsletter out. You can also find this newsletter on the internet at: <http://www.sdsynod.org/> At the top of the page, position your cursor on 'Congregations & organizations', then click on WELCA on the drop down menu. When this page comes up, click on the SD Synod WELCA newsletter.

CONFERENCE COORDINATORS

Prairie Coteau: Cindy Hofland, 44473 107th Street, Veblen, SD 57270 Phone 605-738-2374 E-mail: hofland@tnics.com
Spring Gathering April 22 Revillo Community Center

Medary: Darla Toben, 47906 171st., Clear Lake, SD 57226 PH: 605-874-2951 E-mail: dgtooben@itctel.com
Spring Gathering, April 22 at St. John's, Madison

Crossroads: Marlys Lueth, 25935 459th Ave. Humboldt, SD 57035 PH: 363-3285
E-mail: dmlueth@SVTV.com
Spring Gathering, April 29 at Tea Lutheran.

Southeastern: Marge Martens, 46487 306th St, Centerville, SD 57014 PH: 605-351-7869
E-mail: Crazywienerdoglad2@gmail.com
Spring Gathering April 29 at Immanuel Elk Point

Northern Plains: Kathy Heffernan, 35338 153rd St., Wecota, SD 57438 PH: 324-3638
E-mail: Heffernan@venturecomm.net
Spring Gathering, April 22, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mobridge

Prairie Rivers: Lois Storm, 39885 273rd St, Corsica, SD 57329 PH:605-928-3035 cell: 933-1243
E-mail: thestormfamily@hotmail.com
Carolyn Goldhammer, 27014 399th Ave, Corsica, SD 57328 PH:999-3506
Spring Gathering,

Bear Butte: Diane Lee Bryan, 1014 S. 35th St., Spearfish, SD 57783 PH:605-717-0505 cell: 701 870-2020
E-mail: blueroosterchick@hotmail.com
Spring Gathering, April 22 in Hermosa, SD.

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

<http://www.ghm.org>
7831 Hickory Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432

2016-17 Synod Officers

PRESIDENT: Glenda Ofstehage 2921 Petersen Road, Vermilion, SD 57069, PH: 624-9717, Cell: 605 677-9025, Email ofsteglen@gmail.com , 1st term, 2nd year, (Southeastern Advisor)

VICE-PRESIDENT: Nancy Rieke, 501 S. Lois Lane Dr., Colman, SD 57017, PH: 320 321-3100, Email: nancy_riek@yahoo.com , 2nd term, 1st year (Prairie Rivers advisor)

SECRETARY: Lynn Pohlman, 20631 Maitland Road, Lead, SD 57754 PH:605-578-1673 E-mail: pohlman.lynn@gmail.com 1st term, 1st year

TREASURER: Kathy Thompson, 404 3rd St, Wilmot, SD 57279-2223, PH: 938-4592, Cell: 605 520-8289, Email: kdthompson8289@gmail.com , 2nd term, 1st year, (Prairie Coteau, advisor)

MISSION ACTION-(Stewardship): Janice Anderson, 409 Kringen Ave., Baltic, SD 57003, PH: 529-5387, Cell: 605 496-2459, Email: pjand@alliancecom.net , 1st term, 2nd year (Northern Plains advisor)

MISSION GROWTH-(Justice): Margie Neugebauer, 24651 White Tail Ridge Rd., Hermosa, SD 57735 PH:303-590-4403 E-mail: margeneugebauer@gmail.com Filled unexpired 1st term, 2nd year, up for election next year. (Bear Butte Advisor)

MISSION COMMUNITY-(Discipleship): Donna Vreugdenhil, 38664 267th St., Stickney, SD 57375, PH: 732-4651, Email: dlvreugdenhil@yahoo.com , 1st term, 2nd year (Prairie Rivers Advisor)

MEMBER AT LARGE: Connie Bickett, 22032, 444th Ave., Oldham, SD 57051, PH: 482-8639, Cell: 605 270-9967, E-mail: conniebickett@alliancecom.net, 2nd term, 1st year, (Medary Advisor)

MEMBER AT LARGE: Arlene Bich, 2908 S. Orchard Ave., Sioux Falls 57103, PH: 275-6891, Cell: 605 491-0635, E-mail: a2hbich@gmail.com, 2nd term, 1st year, (Crossroads advisor)

LITERACY CHAIRPERSON: Sally Hillner, 505 Minnesota Dr., Brookings, SD 57006 PH:605-692-5590 E-mail: sallyh@brookings.net

RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES: TODAY'S DREAM TOMORROW'S REALITY -
Margene Thompson: 39141 240th St., Letcher SD 57359 E-mail: amthompson@santel.net PH:605-248-2444
Margie Neugebauer, 24651 White Tail Ridge Rd., Hermosa, SD 57735 PH:303-590-4403 E-mail: margeneugebauer@gmail.com

FACEBOOK GURU; Erika Lehmann, PH: 605-338-4737
 E-mail: elehmann@santel.net

Dates to Remember

April Conference Spring Gatherings
June 23-24, Synodical Convention at Trinity in Yankton (June 22, pre-Convention Happenings)
July 13-16, 2017 Tenth Triennial, Minneapolis, MN,
July 21-23, 75th Anniversary of NESODAK Bible Camp
Sept. 10 Quilt Auction at Our Savior's Lutheran in Sioux Falls.

PASS IT ON!!

This SD Synodical Newsletter is published to inform Women of the ELCA of the SD Synodical happenings, activities and opportunities with the Synod. The newsletter is published four times a year: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

Please share this newsletter with your congregational unit officers:

President _____ Vice President _____
 Secretary _____ Treasurer _____
 Mission Growth _____ Mission Action _____
 Mission Community _____

Anyone can subscribe to this newsletter for \$5 per year. You will receive four issues.

Name _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Make your check payable to SD Women of the ELCA and mail it with the above information to:

Kathy Thompson, 404 3rd St., Wilmot, SD 57279

Send Address changes to Lucille Birkholtz, 42341 193rd St., Willow Lake, SD 57278
 PH: & Fax: 605-625-3765
 E-mail: LMBirk@itctel.com



South Dakota Synodical

Lucille Birkholtz, Editor

42341 193rd St.

Willow Lake, SD 57278

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED