

# SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL Women of the ELCA

VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER 3

Summer 2017



**PRESIDENT**  
Glenda Ofstehage

*Come, Come, Come,  
Holy Spirit, Come!*

*Come, Come, Come, Holy Spirit, Come!*

Ever get a song stuck in your mind to the point that you set your pace on your morning walk by its rhythm and you pull every other melody you hum throughout the day into its key? Since attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA in Minneapolis recently, “Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come!” has accompanied my walk in this world day and night. What joy it was to hear the voices of over 3,000 women calling for the Holy Spirit’s presence in our gathering together! I was thrilled to see so many of our South Dakota women sharing in these jam-packed days of fellowship, learning, and joy! It is my hope that, even though it is not nearly as close as Minneapolis, there will be as many of you participating in the gathering in Phoenix in 2020. It is not too early to start planning.

While the convention was a valuable learning experience for the voting members, it was more importantly a commissioning for us to bring back those things we learned and call our synodical women to action. We voted to affirm the ELCA’s repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and to encourage leaders at all levels of the organization to inform themselves about this statement and how to reduce the negative impact of Doctrine of Discovery and its consequences for Native people in North America, using resources to be developed by the ELCA Domestic Mission unit; and to encourage all synodical women’s organizations to develop relationships with American Indians and/or Alaskan Native ministries within or near their synods. I’m sure at some point we will be asked to report on our efforts in this area, so please keep me informed of any

specific projects or programs you might pursue related to this area.

There was a lot of time spent in discussion of the memorials asking us to support the Today’s Dream Tomorrow’s Reality (TDTR) network. There were two memorials presented, which had been combined into one for our consideration. After much deliberation, it was determined that the memorial needed to be returned to the executive board for revision. It was not returned to the floor for further consideration, so no decision was made. Nevertheless, I do want to emphasize this issue and encourage all units to look at the many materials that are available to address these issues. We in the South Dakota Synod are blessed to have a trained TDTR team member in our Mission Growth Secretary, Margie Neugebauer, who is ready and willing to share her training with all of us. PLEASE use this valuable resource in your units or conference gatherings. Be creative and visit with Margie to find what resources would be most helpful to you or to arrange for her to come and offer training. Be creative—is there a community organization or group of young people who would benefit from learning more about how to respond to a society that is increasingly diverse? We don’t have to limit our programming to those who come to our circles once a month. Make use of the many resources that have been provided us through churchwide and the TDTR training network.

Action was taken on a number of other issues, too much to report here. But, please browse the website at [WELCA.com](http://WELCA.com) for all the actions of the Triennial Convention. Next year’s convention is none too soon to begin looking at resolutions we should be bringing forth to the next convention in 2020. Our world is changing far too rapidly for us to sit back and not speak up when we see injustice, prejudice, or abuse. Some of these memorials include a resolution for synodical presidents to report to the council of presidents the actions taken in their synods to address these issues, so please keep me in the loop if you offer special programming or come across a resource you think I should know about.

I came away from Minneapolis with a shopping list of things I want to share with you, but will try to conserve my enthusiasm for later months. Suffice it to say that I'm going to be bugging you all to provide a nominee from EACH UNIT when electing voting members for 2020 in Phoenix. We didn't have enough alternates this year to replace members who were elected, and thus were short one voting member at the convention. There needs to be one alternate for every voting member elected, so we need more nominations in 2019 when these are elected. Begin now to look at your neighbor and see who would be a good choice for this interesting and enlightening experience.

This is long, I know, but I can't close without thanking the women from Trinity in Yankton for a wonderful convention experience in June! We were greatly impressed with your energy and preparation. Thank you, thank you!

Welcome to our new newsletter editor, Lilah Gillis! We look forward to working with you, Lilah. Come, Come, Come Holy Spirit, Come! Thanks be to God!



## VICE PRESIDENT

Nancy Rieke

I hope you're having a terrific summer!

Mine has been one of the best ever. My husband Tedd and I were blessed to participate in a tour of Martin Luther's Germany in June. It was so meaningful to see the places Luther called home, and most especially for me, to see the Black Cloister – where he and Katie lived and raised their family in Wittenberg. Walking the streets and exploring the city where so much of the Reformation began was truly amazing.

I'd like to challenge each of you, in this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Luther's 95 thesis, to rediscover exactly what makes you a Lutheran, and what makes a Lutheran unique in the world. Many resources to learn more about Martin, Katie and the Reformation are available through the synod, through Augsburg, and through the ELCA and WELCA websites. If you haven't discovered it yet, Luther House of Study, located at Augustana, has created a very interesting and informative series of short videos available for personal or group use at: <https://www.lutherhouseofstudy.org/home>. You may also feel free to contact me for help planning your special programs!

God be with you!  
Nancy



## SECRETARY

Lynn Pohlman

Reading is like a scavenger hunt. I will read a book, and the author will mention a favorite poem or philosopher or favorite author, and I will have to find that poem or work or book. Some of my recent reading has a common thread: Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela, the late president of South Africa and Nobel Peace Prize winner, has inspired many individuals. Mandela Day, (his birthday) is celebrated on July 18. I recently read an article about Nelson Mandela that included several of his quotes that reflect his spirit.

- 1) "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
- 2) "I like friends who have independent minds because they tend to make you see problems from all angles."
- 3) "A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of."
- 4) "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."
- 5) "It always seems impossible until it's done."

Next on my scavenger hunt are people and books that Nelson Mandela has recommended in his writings... Here's to the next adventure!

Blessings,

Lynn



Ladies hone their line dancing skills at the Convention June 22-24 at Trinity Lutheran, Yankton.



## TREASURER

Kathy Thompson

*Think of us this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mercies.*

*1 Corinthians 4:1*

The convention is over, and the ladies of Trinity Lutheran in Yankton were very well organized and had a wonderful turn out to celebrate in His house and with our sisters in Christ. The convention was very informational, and the Bell Choir that performed at the Banquet was just out of this world, I could have listened to them all night; it was truly a relaxing and wonderful convention.

The generosity of the ladies in attendance and the units that have sent offerings were outstanding. The Silent Auction total was \$992.00; Love offering for Yankton Contact Center was \$325.00 and some checks were made out directly to the Center for a total Love Offering of \$375.00, plus paper products and several other items; Convention offering what was taken on Friday morning and what units had remitted in the mail totaled \$4,358.00; the Friday Night special speaker offering was \$917.05. The silent auction was divided between the Dina Johnson Scholarship Endowment and Listen God is Calling (former ATC), each receiving \$496.00.

Wishing each of you a good summer, as gathering in the garden products and the flowers that adorn the flower gardens reminding us how dependent we are to what our Father gives us to sustain us to do his work.

God's blessing as you continue in His work and study His Word in you local Units. It will soon be time for Fall Retreats and Officers Workshop. Plan to attend your Conference meetings and share the information with your local unit members.

Next year's Synodical Convention will be a little different, as all rooms will be booked through me and all pertinent information will be on the registration form in the Spring Newsletter, just making it aware now there will be a change in registration for the 2018 Synodical Convention of the W/ELCA at the Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, SD.

*Kathy Thompson*



Trinity's Bell Choir performs from the former organ loft at the 2017 Convention in Yankton. The 12 to 15 member choir plays up to 3 octaves in bells and chimes. They were accompanied by Stephanie Serck on the synthesizer for "Hallelujah."

## *Thank You!*

I would like to thank all of you for the past 10 years of doing your newsletter. I did enjoy it and thought it was a honor to work with all of you. I made so many new friends and learned a lot!!!

Thank you for the gift I was given at the convention; it was appreciated. It will be different next year to be able to sit and enjoy the speakers without being concerned about gathering information for the newsletter!!!

Sincerely,

*Lucille*

## **Triennial Report:**

2017 Triennial was a blast of God's blessings! Being a part of WELCA provides an opportunity for a place of belonging, friendship, genuine love, and hope! The larger body offered me a diverse experience of love, learning, and fun. I had the blessing of engaging with other Christian sisters. My take-away? Say goodbye to nice for good; be intentional about sharing God's LOVE! Thank you South Dakota WELCA!

*Hannah Fleming*

*See more Triennial reports on page 6*



## MISSION GROWTH (JUSTICE)

Margie Neugebauer

What an exciting two months to participate in the Synodical Gathering in Yankton and then to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis. Two inspiring events!

### Women and Justice

I was pleased with the attendance at the Awareness Sessions on Women and Justice during our Synodical Gathering. There was good discussion and good questions raised. I encourage all women to get involved with this issue and this particular study, *Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement*. (<http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice/Faith-Sexism-Justice>) The deadline for responding to this particular study is August 31, so this newsletter may not reach you in time for this deadline. However, you could still study this issue. There will be more opportunities to respond to this issue; I will keep you informed.

### Mary's Pence ([www.maryspence.org](http://www.maryspence.org))

Mary's Pence invests in justice for women—literally. In the investment world, “angel investors” are those who provide the first financial backing for entrepreneurs and their fledgling companies. That title seems doubly appropriate for St. Paul-based Mary's Pence, an organization formed by women of faith to fund women's economic development projects in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Our own Sharing the Dream in Vermillion would fit into this category. “When women succeed, the whole community succeeds and that can lead to social change.” Katherine Wojtan

One of Sharing the Dream's ([www.sharingthedream.org](http://www.sharingthedream.org)) lead employees spoke at the Synodical Gathering and they had a huge display at the Triennial. This is a project that fits into the category of “giving a hand up.” Promoting sustainable fair trade and weaving a tapestry of opportunity in Guatemala. Their Mission Statement: Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala is a volunteer-based fair trade organization that works to reduce poverty in Guatemala through collaborative partnerships with Guatemalans. Check out their website for more info

and samples of the goods the Guatemalan people make and sell through Sharing the Dream.

### Sex Trafficking

Ending Human Trafficking will be an emphasis in this year from now till February 2018. At Triennial I saw “Dreamcatcher”, a documentary about a former Chicago prostitute, Brenda Myers-Powell who is co-founder and executive director of a charitable organization that helps women and teenage girls leave the sex industry and break the cycle of abuse and exploitation. Churchwide WELCA has been supporting this organization for several years. Especially exciting was that Brenda Myers-Powell and Stephanie Daniels-Wilson, founders of the organization were present at the showing and we got to meet them and ask questions.

If you have not utilized the WELCA Resource “*Understanding and Responding to Human Trafficking*”, (<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/UnderstandingAndRespondingToTrafficking.pdf>) please download this resource from the WELCA webpage and gain an understanding of this form of modern-day slavery. This resource will list several ways your church can become involved and support ending human trafficking. My husband returned home from Pastors Conference and informed me that SD is #2 in the nation for human trafficking. The Sturgis Rally, hunting season, and the reservations are prime targets for human trafficking to be engaged in. I will have more info and resources in SD for the fall leadership events.



Synodical officers elected at the 30th annual Synodical Convention are (from left): Nancy Giddings, National WELCA representative, Glenda Ofstehage, President; Janice Anderson, Member at Large; Kathy Thompson, Treasurer; Donna Vreugdenhil, Mission Community; Lynn Pohlmann, Secretary; Margie Neugebauer, Mission Growth (Justice); and Joan Ernst, Nominating Committee.



## LUTHERAN PLANNED GIVING OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Kathy McHenry

### Getting Started: 4.5 Ways to Work Together

Thank you for helping to make my first week as director of Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota such a terrific one. Your hospitality and sweet fellowship at the 2017 WELCA State Convention were inspiring and very much appreciated! As I shared with you, I'm hoping that you take advantage of all that LPGSD offers, and that our partnership creates blessings for generations to come. Here are 4.5 ways for us to work together:

1. Planning your annual calendar? I'd love to visit and share a short, informational program for your monthly WELCA meeting. The topic might be Managing Finances on Your Own, Estate Planning 101, Painless Generosity, or Creating a Spirit of Giving through an endowment fund in your congregation. If you have another suggestion, let me know – we'll make it happen!

2. Wherever you're located, may I join you for worship, share a few words and a laugh or two? I can keep it short with a temple talk, or offer a message regarding stewardship and encouragement to take advantage of opportunities to make a difference through your legacy and God's many blessings.

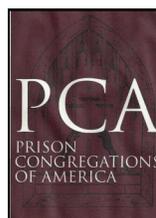
3. Perhaps your group would like to host a congregational or community workshop as a service project, providing information about tax savings, estate planning or transitioning a farm/ranch to the next generation.

4. Can I meet you for coffee or give you a call? When you don't know where to start or are in the midst of a process that doesn't make sense, let me be a resource. Sometimes, a one-on-one conversation is most appropriate.

4.5 If you've read about a strategy but aren't sure how it might work for you, we can provide easy-to-understand literature, or create personalized calculations and graphs tailored to your specific situation. (This is just half the work. When your plan is complete and the documents signed, then we've done the whole job.)

I look forward to witnessing the fruits of your labor as you reorganize and reenergize this fall. Your faith and service do not go unnoticed. You are powerhouses of energy that God uses in your congregation, your community and around the world. Please take these words as encouragement, and allow me to join you on the journey wherever possible!

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith. Galatians 6:9-10 (The Message)



## PRISON CONGREGATIONS

Julie Thomas

### Partners at the Cross: The Music of Rachel Kurtz

In just three short months, PCA will host Rachel Kurtz as the headliner for its annual Partners at the Cross fundraising event.

Minneapolis-based singer/songwriter, Rachel Kurtz, is a remarkable vocalist with a magnetic stage presence.

Raising awareness for world hunger, hurricane relief, and multi-cultural

reconciliation, Kurtz's powerhouse voice and heartfelt performances have been electrifying crowds in Atlanta's Georgia Dome, New Orleans' Superdome, Texas' Alamo Dome, and hundreds of other concert venues from coast to coast. If you'd like to hear her sing, check out her website at [www.rachelkurtz.com](http://www.rachelkurtz.com), or listen here on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lrkg1KGtLoA>.

On top of all of this, Rachel gets prison ministry!!!! Since our first conversation last year, she has already done a concert in one prison and is scheduled to do another at St. Dymas in October.

Mark your calendars for October 21, 2017 when Prison Congregations of America will host *Partners at the Cross: The Music of Rachel Kurtz*. The concert will be at 7:00pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 909 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> St., Sioux Falls. Tickets are \$25 and are on sale now. Please come enjoy this special evening with us!





## MEMBER AT LARGE

Arlene Bich

### THOUGHTS FROM THE WELCA TRIENNIAL

It is difficult to state in just one sentence, what a person takes from a Gathering of 3,500 Women of the ELCA. The Convention was one of inspiring speakers, enjoyable fellowship with women throughout the nation, educational sessions on the work of National, Global ELC women, and exhibits of interest, but it was the featured speakers who presented the challenging issues of our times. My favorite speaker was Leymah Gbowee, a Nobel Peace Prize winner from Liberia who at a young age in the 1990's, assembled thousands of women who prayed in the streets and hallways of Government offices to try to end the use and abuse of women and girls. This eventually led to the end of a Civil War and the downfall of the country's President. Her question in her speech? "With whom is God asking us to align today? In whose corner are we being called to stand? What is our passion? Can we be Bold? God planted us where we are planted!"

To paraphrase Leymah and her thoughts... we need to find "our corner" or where we decide to align and to involve others in the process of serving in our corner in the area where we are, and then to passionately act on that cause. From Leymah: "We may be helping the people in Africa and not be helping people in our own back yards"!! It may be a new cause or concern, or may be one that already exists. When you (or we) decide on our corner, our passion, God and the Holy Spirit will be with us. To me this means that regardless of age, we can seek out our corner, our passion where we are planted and do what we can do in a compassionate and loving way in service, as Christ did for all. This may be near home, across the State, the Nation, or the World. Leymah continues to work throughout Liberia in many ways, and through her Foundation.

Further thoughts... I thoroughly enjoyed the Triennial and being with my First Lutheran Sisters and others across the State of SD. We need to keep "tooting" our horn and tell others in our congregations about the wonderful experiences we had, and we need more "tooters" to keep playing the same "notes," that WELCA does so many good deeds, locally, state-wide, nationally, and globally!

## TRIENNIAL ROUNDUP

Edna Anderson



South Dakota voting members attending the Triennial were: (front) Doris Stowe and Carie Knutson; (back) Hannah Fleming, Glenda Ofstehage, Edna Anderson, Sheryn Ekstrum and Donna Vreugdenhil.



Carie Knutson, Lisa Plorin (newly elected WELCA president) Doris Stowe, Edna Anderson.



Above: Edna Anderson enjoyed looking at the many quilts brought to the Gathering.



Right: Edna Anderson with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.



## TRIENNIAL PROMOTER

Darla Toben

Greetings!

The Triennial was amazing in Minneapolis! There were over 100 ladies from South Dakota that attended and we attempted a picture of our group, sorry we missed some of you for the picture.

While at the gathering, we enjoyed listening to Bishop Eaton at the opening day worship service, and our closing worship service with Rev. Angela T Khabebe from Waukesha, WI left us with a lot of enthusiasm on our return home and feeling All Anew. There were many wonderful speakers, workshops and servant events we attended.

It was a joy for me to bring by daughters and granddaughters to this remarkable event for them to see the many ways the ladies of the WELCA make a difference in so many lives in our country and abroad. There was a lot of visiting on the buses and great information shared. I loved the thought of the new things that will be happening in our home churches after this trip.

Thank you to the ladies who traveled on the buses. We had 57 ladies from South Dakota on the two buses and we had a great time. A special thank you to Cynthia Wall from Chamberlain who helped out with the bus responsibilities on the South Bus. Thank you also to Kathy Hefferman who helped me get organized with the North bus. All of you bus riders were a pleasure to work with.

Continue to check out all the pictures of the event on the WELCA website. You might see yourself in a picture! Here is the address. [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org). I pray that all of you enjoy the rest of your summer doing God's work in your churches and community. I am looking forward to the Eleventh Triennial in 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona!

*Darla Toben*

## TRIENNIAL ROUNDUP

Sheryn Ekstrum

The Tenth Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA in Minneapolis was attended by 3,322 women. (1,322 were first timers) They came from every state and 12 countries. Over 300 have already registered for the Eleventh Triennial to be held in Phoenix, July 14-16, 2020.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, our ELCA Bishop, preached at the closing business meeting of the convention on Thursday. She is delightful! Seven of us from SD were included in the 302 voting delegates who were present: President Glenda Ofstehage, Edna Anderson, Sheryn Ekstrum, Hannah Fleming, Carie Knutson, Doris Stowe and Donna Vreugdenhil. One delegate did not attend.

Highlights for me were: the powerful speakers, the National Lutheran Choir, a brunch buffet cruise on Lake Minnetonka, morning prayer, an organ recital, the "Dreamcatcher" documentary about a former Chicago prostitute, and the Quilt Challenge where the contestant took a 40 inch square and interpreted the gathering theme.

Things to remember:

- Talk about our faith in our homes
- The Bible opens the very heart of God
- We should not judge other people's prayers
- There will be a 1,000 pastor shortage by 2020, and
- 500,000 refugees who have come to the US the past 75 years.

I've attended 8 of the 10 Triennial Conventions and have registered for the next one in 2020. Praise the Lord for such wonderful opportunities. Thanks be to God.

Sheryn Ekstrum, Kimball



## TODAY'S DREAM TOMORROW'S REALITY

Racial Justice Advocate  
Margie Neugebauer

It was a privilege to hear Kelly Fryer, author of the summer Gather Bible study. I was impressed with her honesty and forthrightness in tackling the social justice issues in our country currently. If you have not studied this summer Bible study, please do so. It has important guidelines for us as Christians.

I will list the main points of Kelly's presentations to us at Triennial. There is much more that could be said, but there isn't enough room in this newsletter. Go to the [www.womenofheelca.org](http://www.womenofheelca.org) website and blog to see and hear more of the Triennial's events and offerings.

### All Things Anew

*Matthew 12:14* – We are daughters of a trouble maker! The Pharisees were lay folk and should have been friends with Jesus. But Jesus was a revivalist! That's when the trouble began.

God is the boss of the temple – of everything.

*Matthew 12:9-12* – God is on a mission – to love, save, and bless the world. Nothing gets in the way of God's mission.

Where are you, church? God will make things new. *Micah 6:8* – ...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and walk kindly with your God.

The planet has never needed holy trouble makers more.

*Matthew 12:6* – something greater than the temple is here. Remember this is God's gig – and let that set you free.

1. Romans 13 – Don't you dare disengage. Hold your leaders accountable.
2. Romans 13:11-12 – Get woke. Research shows us that nobody sleeps better than white people. Go home and change you – open your eyes.
3. I Samuel 17 – Decide to be good, rather than nice. Nice avoids controversy; Good does what matters.
4. Always take the side of the marginalized. This is where God can always be found.
5. Amplify the voices that have not been heard – those are the folks who God stands with.
6. Philemon 1:1-3 – Never forget who you are.

What do you want to be remembered for?

7. Where are you being called to be a trouble-maker?? Are you ready??

I invite your thoughts on how you/we/WELCA can be holy trouble-makers.



## MISSION COMMUNITY

Donna Vreugdenhil

Greetings, Sisters in Christ:

Oh, what a wonderful time I had at the Triennial Convention and Gathering! This was definitely a community of women from all over the United States and a few other countries who gathered to share their faith and fellowship. The worship sessions and music were awesome, very upbeat and inspirational.

As a voting member, I spent the first part of the week going to business meetings where we elected officers, considered amendments and memorials, and approved a budget.

From Thursday evening until Sunday noon was known as "The Gathering," where we worshiped, listened to inspiring speakers, attended informational workshops, participated in servant events, and visited the vendors in the exhibit hall.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, you will have to wait until July of 2020 for the next Triennial Gathering which will be in Phoenix, AZ. Until then, be involved in your local unit, conference, and synodical unit where you are sure to meet women that have many of the same interests of faith that you have. That's why we call it "Community"!

*Donna Vreugdenhil*

### **Reminder for Fall Conference Meetings**

**Unit Secretaries** - please submit the names and address information of your unit officers to your Conference secretaries. This information is recorded in a database at churchwide. It is critical to keep this database current. Our Editor, Lilah Gillis, uses this address information when sending out the South Dakota Synodical W/ELCA newsletter.

**Conference Secretaries** – please send me the information you receive from your unit secretaries. After your fall conferences, please send the updated list of your conference officers.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you, unit and conference secretaries, for all your work in keeping these files current.

Blessings,  
Lynn Pohlman



The Trinity Convention planners “supervise” the men rolling tableware for the Friday Banquet. Pictured are (from left): Kyle Repp (facing away), Susan Repp, Wendell Mortensen, chef extraordinaire, Terri Tschetter, Jan Schiferl, Lilah Gillis, Rev. Bill Loeffke, and Neil Bowes. Opening a window in the background is indispensable custodian Ed Highland.



Nancy Giddings leads a coloring session promoting the Triennial at the Synodical Convention in Yankton.



The Sharing the Dream display was a popular shopping spot at the Convention.

## LUTHERANS OUTDOORS

Gayle Wisnewski

### You are Invited!

The Lutherans Outdoors Quilts (and More) Auction starts at 1 p.m. Sept. 10, 2017, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.

Join us for the 28th Annual Quilts (and More) Auction to benefit your camps in South Dakota. Check out the quilts at: [www.losd.org/events-retreats/quiltviewing.html](http://www.losd.org/events-retreats/quiltviewing.html)

This is LO’s biggest fundraiser for the camps, to assist in keeping the price affordable for people of all abilities to come to camp. Plan to Attend; All are Welcome!

Summer seems like it just began and yet the camps are already planning for Fall Activities. Here is a sample you may be interested in:

- \*Buffalo Round Up at Outlaw Ranch, Sept. 25-30
- \*Chef Nights at Joy Ranch begin Sept. 19
- \*NeSoDak has Fall Quilting Weekend Oct. 12-15

If a group from your church or conference would like to plan a retreat, to learn archery, ride horses, or fish, or just relax in God’s creation, contact one of the camps to set up a time. Many other opportunities are available at your camps, please check the LO website for more.

### How can you support LOSD?

Beyond sending monetary gifts and quilts, we need you and your group. You can support the camps by sending your kids to Outlaw Ranch, NeSoDak, Joy Ranch and Klein Ranch, attend events at camp, and PRAY for each and every one of the camps of Lutherans Outdoors. Thank you very much for all you do!



Campfire worship at NeSoDak, complete with a beautiful sunset.

## 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](mailto:elehmann@santel.net) or send a message though any of*

### Don't miss an issue!

Please send your \$5 annual subscription to Kathy Thompson: 404 3rd St., Wilmot, SD 57279-2223.  
*Or sign up for a free newsletter by e-mail.*

Gladys Beck	Ruby Cutts	Doris Gross
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Phyllis Leonhardt	Ardith McFarland	Janice Moore
Verna Nelson	Lorraine Rye	Anita Stevenson
Marilyn Strand	Gretchen Tweet	

## Save a tree and read the newsletter for free!

**ANYONE** can receive a copy of this newsletter by e-mail at no charge. Please send your name and e-mail address to [mlgil-lis92@gmail.com](mailto:mlgil-lis92@gmail.com). I will send it in PDF format.

You can also find this newsletter on the internet at: [www.sdsynod.org](http://www.sdsynod.org)

At the top of the page, click on "Where We Serve" and choose "Women of the ELCA" from the drop down menu. When this page comes up, click on "Read the SD Synod WELCA newsletter."



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### **Pre-register for the 11th Triennial Gathering**

Those attending the Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis can [pre-register for the Eleventh Triennial Gathering](#) in Phoenix, Ariz., at the special pre-registration price of \$245. The gathering will be held July 16-19, 2020. Payment in full is required at the time of registration. Registration is not refundable, but is fully transferable and can only be used for the Eleventh Triennial Gathering, which will be held July 16-19, 2020, in Phoenix, Ariz.

## 2016-17 Synod Officers

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## Dates to Remember

**Bear Butte Fall Retreat & Workshop**, Sept. 8 & 9 at Outlaw Ranch

**Quilt Auction** Sept. 10 at Our Savior's Lutheran in Sioux Falls.

**Prairie Couteau Fall Retreat** Sept 16 at Ne-So-Dak Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

**Synodical Board Winter Meeting**, October 19 at Grace Lutheran, Watertown

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention** of South Dakota Synodical Women of the ELCA ,June 28 & 29 with pre-convention activity on June 27, Prairie Couteau Conference Hosts.

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

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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 Lilah Gillis,  
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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**