

# SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL

# Women of the ELCA

VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER 1

Winter 2017



## PRESIDENT Glenda Ofstehage

How are you using these cold and snowy days of winter? Staying warm and finding ways to stay in

touch with family and friends, I hope! I've come out of retirement to fill in during a maternity leave for a few weeks, so find myself juggling meal planning, organ practice, and time to read and study along with responsibilities to my employer again. I have a renewed respect for the young women I interact with on campus—gifted young women, performing jobs that are challenging and demand a high level of dedication and accountability while finding time for children, friends, and personal growth. This has been a good experience for me as it has opened my eyes to some of the unrest and distress we are seeing in our world lately. Never have we needed to bring our Faith and or God into the places where our young people live and work more than today.

From time to time, I find myself looking back at the messages I learned in my confirmation and turn to Luther's Small Catechism for my devotions. I was a college student when I first studied this, but many are barely into their teens when they are exposed to it. It becomes more meaningful and helpful each time I return to it and I encourage everyone to get in touch with your early learning every now and then. Augsburg Fortress has published a wonderful resource to aid in this: *free indeed: Devotions for Lent 2017*. I encourage everyone to pick up a copy—perhaps your unit could pick up a few copies for interested women to use for Lenten devotions. Or perhaps you would like to form a small group to meet and discuss the devotions during Lent—maybe a half hour at a favorite coffee shop or in your own breakfast nook. We

always need to find ways to share our faith, especially with younger women who are most pressed for time but who may welcome a short-term commitment that fits into a busy day. I especially liked the devotion for March 8 on the Eighth Commandment. It reminds me of my years teaching elementary music classes in public school. The music teacher sees single child in grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> at least once a week. I found most classroom teachers were eager to share the "traits" of those in their classes. But it seemed the traits they were most eager to share were the negative ones and I didn't want my judgment clouded by hearing about them. I found that those children who had been told they "couldn't carry a tune in a pail" were usually destined to believe that and become monotones. The child who had repeatedly been told he or she was bad or a constant disruption, found ways to disrupt the class. I preferred to approach each child with the idea that they were singers and that their voice was important to the group and worthy to be heard. This devotion reminded me that we need to be careful how we respond to the voices we hear today who may be marching or protesting one issue or the other. We may certainly agree or disagree with any or all of these voices, but we can never deny the right to express these ideas. We need to remember this when trying to get women who are not involved in our units to participate more fully. They may not have time or interest in business meetings or quilting workshops or book groups. But they may have time for fifteen minutes of coffee and prayer on their way to work one morning a week. Or they may long to have someone more experienced who will listen to their thoughts on the issues we hear in the news today without judgment or argument.

In our last newsletter, our Mission Growth Chairwoman included a survey on how local units had addressed several social issues. I understand that there  
Continued.....

were very few responses to this survey. I hope that you will go back to that issue and return that survey to her. It can be found on the Synod Website, or I'm sure Margie would send you an electronic copy. I suspect many of these issues have not been discussed in our circles, but I wonder if some of these issues are not important to the women who don't participate and who might make time for a short-term discussion group related to some of these topics.

So sorry I ramble—I'm just hoping we all can be open to hearing new voices and ideas and to reaching out with respect and love to all women of our church and communities. Let's all "take up" a new spirit of hospitality and hope instead of "giving up" something for Lent this year!

See you in June!

In Christ, Glenda



## VICE PRESIDENT

**Nancy Rieke**

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus, and from His servant,

Nancy.

How weird does that sound? Formal, yet..... infinitely humbling to write.

The thing is, when we were chosen, we were chosen for one purpose and one purpose only: to bring God's grace and peace to His people.

In former days, we thought that meant through education. We went in as missionaries or teachers or doctors with our ideas of what was needed and we attempted to change people's lives, usually to make them more like ours. We have since learned that many times this hurt deeply those of other cultures by trivializing what they felt was important.

Today we embrace a different sort of mission: accompaniment. Accompaniment means to walk alongside another, giving each what they themselves ask for, and accepting the gifts they offer from their life experience. This means getting to know others, without judgement, and serving them in the needs they identify.

Now, you say, I can sort of see how that type of mission can work in places like our companion synods of Cameroon or Nicaragua, but can this kind of ministry be effective in my church, in my community? Let's take a moment to think about that. What are the goals of your Women's organization? Who do you serve? Who do you want to reach? Who is not active? Who needs the most help?

"The harvest is plenty and the laborers are few," says our Lord. Accept the grace and peace that has been given you and then enter the world of those you are called to serve among. Get out of your comfort zone. Admire the babies. Cheer on the teenagers at their ball games or other activities. Volunteer to help with Sunday School or Confirmation. Offer all with whom you come in contact grace and peace from our Lord Jesus, and from His servant, you.



## SECRETARY

**Lynn Pohlman**

Greetings,

As busy as our lives are, it is important to keep connected. There are several ways to keep connected as Women of the ELCA.

Locally, we have W/ELCA and circle groups that meet. Many of these groups use the publication called Gather. The Gather magazine has a monthly bible study and articles that are tied to that bible study. A year's subscription is \$19.95. You can call 844-409-0576 for subscription information.

Living Lutheran is a publication (magazine) of the ELCA. (12 issues for \$19.95). You can call 800-328-4648 for subscription information. The e-digest of Living Lutheran is available from their website: [www.livinglutheran.org](http://www.livinglutheran.org). Living Lutheran is also on Facebook and Pinterest.

Another way to keep informed is the on-line magazine CAFE: [www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org) and find them on Facebook page: CAFÉ—Stirring the Spirit Within.

The Women of the ELCA has a website: [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) and on Facebook: Women of the ELCA. Women of the ELCA is also on Pinterest and on Twitter.

The South Dakota W/ELCA Newsletter is published four times a year. Our Editor, Lucille Birkholtz, does an exceptional job complying news articles and information for us. You can subscribe to this publication for \$5 a year. We are on Facebook: Women of the ELCA South Dakota Synod and on Pinterest: WomeoftheELCASoDak.

Remember to keep your W/ELCA unit and conference information up to date and share that information with us. You can send updated information to me and I will update our records.

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 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 sheets 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

## ***THANK YOU SO MUCH!***

### **DINA JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP**

Dear Ms. Glenda Ofstehage,

Thank you so much for your donations. Your gift has helped me continue my education at Augustana. I am currently a Senior Art and Anthropology major from Sioux Falls, SD. After I graduate in May, my plans include working at a local museum and eventually helping design exhibits. With this scholarship I will be able to complete my education at Augustana and continue on to fulfill my dream of designing great exhibits for museums. Thank you again for your support.

Best wishes,

Jada Arnott

**Hometown:** Sioux Falls, SD

**Major:** Anthropology; Art



## TRIENNIAL PROMOTER

Darla Tobin

Greetings!

The bus company has been chosen. The buses will leave Miller early on Thursday, July 13, 2017. The buses will return Sunday, July 16 using the same routes.

One bus will travel the South route to Minneapolis with stops in Mitchell and Sioux Falls and arrive in Minneapolis between 12:00-1:00 p.m.

The North Bus will leave Miller early and make stops in Faulkton, Redfield, Aberdeen, Webster, Summit and Watertown and then into Minneapolis to arrive between 12:00-1:00 p.m.

The cost of the bus trip for each passenger is \$125.00. I have several ladies names on my list, but would appreciate confirmation via email or phone call to assure a seat reservation. At this time we still have room for more ladies on both routes. I will have more details available for your Conference Presidents at your Spring Gatherings.

Have you checked out the Triennial website lately? There is still time to register. Register at **welcatg.org** or email: **women.elca@elca.org** for a registration packet. *The theme is "All Anew". Check out the website, [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org)*

The bus and hotel costs will be in addition to the registration. And where is it all happening? Minneapolis, MN. Land of Lutherans. 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.

*If you have questions, please email me at [dgto-ben@itctel.com](mailto:dgto-ben@itctel.com) or call me in the evening at 605-874-2951.*



## MEMBER AT LARGE

Arlene Bich

Dear Sisters in Christ,

You've probably heard some people say....that's one of the Mysteries of Life"..... I'd like to refer to the "Logos" of Life.....those designs we see at the top of stationary, on billboards, TV ads, corporate office buildings and the list goes on! So what are they? Logos are a graphic representation, a symbol OF or FOR an organization, that identifies the organization in a certain way. The logo, or trademark, becomes a way for people to relate to that organization and to know that for which it stands. In recent years the use of logos has become increasingly popular in the secular world.

But in our Christian world, the Cross, has long been our logo, our symbol since the first Christian Church...it is a remembrance of our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ. It is the sign of our beliefs and it let's everyone know where we stand!



For WELCA, we have our own Logo within our Lutheran Church. You've all seen it with the Cross, the water and the white lily! What does it mean? With the Cross, the Water, and the Lily, it identifies us as Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, as children of God, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of Grace, and Hope in eternal life! It is a

reminder of growth, beauty and vitality that rises out of that life-giving Baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the Church, to "Go, therefore, and make Disciples of all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (Mathew 28:19). Use of the WELCA logo is a sign of the Grace we receive from God which is His promise to us and a reminder to us to fulfill the Mission of making Disciples of all Nations. (We use the WELCA logo on the front cover of our handbook for our unit).

I'll mention yet another logo....that of the The Tenth Triennial of WELCA. I'm sure you've seen it. The theme for the Triennial is "All Anew- Renewal of Creation". The logo is made up of splashes of color and lines that honor the 4 elements....Earth, Water, Fire, and Air, as the colors spill outside the lines to create an uplifting symbol that is bright, bold, and vibrant. One of the theme verses is Psalms 104:30: "Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth".

I am looking forward to attending the Triennial, July 13-16, in Minneapolis. Let's learn more about how the Holy Spirit can change us and we can acknowledge and affirm reformation and transformation as we also celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and Martin Luther.

(Some information written above was obtained from the Women of the ELCA website).

### **How are you celebrating Bold Women's Day?**

Bold Women's Day is observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February. It celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Whether you live out your bold story of faith in the workplace, family or community, your faith compels you to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about being a disciple of Christ.

How is your congregation celebrating Bold Women's Day? Let us know by emailing us at

[Women.elca@elca.org](mailto:Women.elca@elca.org)

and put Bold Women's Day in the subject line.

## **Meet Marge Martens, coordinator of the South Eastern Conference**

My name is Marge Martens and I serve as the Coordinator of the SEConference Women in our Synod. My husband and I live north of Vermillion where Steve serves as pastor of Dalesburg and Brule Creek Lutheran Churches.

I work with an awesome group of officers here and we are busy planning for our spring event. This event will be held at Immanuel Lutheran in Elk Point on Saturday, April 29, 2017. We have a full day planned with business meeting, music, worship and special speaker guest. Iris Doolittle, is a woman from Nebraska who had a stroke 28 years ago when she was in her mid-twenties. She graduated from college as a concert pianist and this stroke affected her to play with both hands. She will tell her story about God has led her on this road to become the wife, mother and pianist she is today! Everyone is welcome to come and hear her story!

We will also be hosting the Synod Women's Convention in Yankton at Trinity Lutheran June 22-24, 2017. We are excited to welcome the women of the Synod to Yankton! More information will be coming about this event!

### **ELCA to create human trafficking worship resources**

Women of the ELCA participants have been doing anti-trafficking work for more than a decade, said Executive Director Linda Post Bushkofsky. "It's been a grassroots movement that spread across the churchwide organization." At the 2016 Churchwide Assembly last August in New Orleans, voting members approved a memorial (CA16.02.03k) "calling for a dedicated time of prayer to end human trafficking and to create resources to support congregations in this effort . . . including dedicated times of prayer each year, such as January 11, "Human Trafficking Awareness Day."

The assembly also asked the ELCA worship team to create worship resources surrounding the issue of human trafficking, including prayers and litanies. The worship team, in turn, asked Women of the ELCA to consult on those resources, Bushkofsky said.

Women of the ELCA continues to create resources (found at [welca.org/humantrafficking](http://welca.org/humantrafficking)) that equip people to tell the story of human trafficking and move into action against it, she said.



**MISSION GROWTH  
(JUSTICE)  
Margie Neugebauer**

Justice is the new and more correct term to use for mission growth. Justice and injustice are current hot topics in the nation and press. So here is a discussion of justice and charity quoted from *The Lutheran Handbook II*. © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

In the Bible, Jesus is most harsh with people who show no concern for those who are hungry, thirsty, without clothes, in prison, and sick. He tells his disciples, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me” (Matthew 25:45). Charity and justice are two sides of the same coin—they go together, but they are distinct from each other.

1. Charity typically includes personal interaction that results in relief. In the parable of the good Samaritan, the Samaritan provided temporary and immediate relief to someone who was in need. Jess said, “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:29-37)

2. Justice usually relates to acts that address unfair social, economic, or political systems. Moses did not ask Pharaoh for food or supplies for his people, though they certainly needed them. Instead, Moses challenged the oppressive system that imposed suffering and slave labor upon his people. Moses went to the Pharaoh and said, “Let my people go” (Exodus 7:16).

3. Apply a distinction of emphasis. Moses focused on the long-term need of his people rather than the immediate and pressing needs for food and medicine. The good Samaritan’s emphasis on charity was on the immediate relief of suffering. Moses’ emphasis on justice was directed at the root cause of social injustice. While charity addresses the symptoms that are the result of poverty, justice addresses the systems that lead to poverty.

4. Focus on charity in your daily and weekly life. In your local congregation, working at a food bank in your community or volunteering at the local women’s shelter is an important work of charity and an important aspect of a Christ-centered life.

5. Connect your experiences of charity with a wider perspective. Find ways to contribute to the elimination of structures that lead to hunger, poverty, or injustice. Consider becoming involved in legislative advocacy, or congregation-based community organizing as a way to address the systems that lead to such oppression. Be Aware

6. Lutherans tend toward excellence in charity but sometimes slow down a bit when it comes to justice, perhaps because they’re uncomfortable being people who rock the boat. This is neither historically nor theologically necessary, **as justice is a rudiment to the Lutheran heritage.**

7. Talk to your pastor or social concerns committee about the important connection and difference between charity and justice. Then find ways in your local congregation to get involved in both.

**MISSION COMMUNITY**

**Donna Vreugdenhil**

Greetings Sisters in Christ:

Happy New Year! As we look back over the last year and assess what we have accomplished (or didn't get done), hopefully we can say "well done". But do we really always get everything done that we wanted to get done? Sometimes the days and months just fly by and I wonder where the time went that I had those great ideas for projects but didn't make the time to follow through. Hopefully this isn't how our spiritual life goes. I know God has time for me as I feel his presence any times as I go about my daily life.

Now as we look forward to a new year and are given another chance to continue our faith trip. We can look forward to our conference Spring Gathering in April, the Synodical Convention in June, and the Triennial Gathering in July! These are just a few opportunities we will have to see old friends and meet new ones as we worship, sing, and praise God together.

Continued.....

What else do you have planned for the new year? Let's keep involved in community projects through church and community. Maybe it will be a fundraiser that will benefit a local project or mission work afar. Getting together to quilt or sew for kits is a way to meet socially and widen your group of friends of various ages. Then, of course, after the sewing and gathering items for kits, you have to gather to assemble and pack the kits to be sent! Even if you don't see the end results of your efforts; you can be assured that it had an impact on someone's life.

In the "Interchange" I saw an article on celebrating Bold Women's Day. Did you know it is observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February? It celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Whether you live out your bold story of faith in the workplace, family or community, your faith compels you to make a difference in the lives of others. You are not limited to that one day; it's all about being a disciple of Christ all the year through!

Look forward to an event filled new year with Christ guiding you in all you do. Act Boldly!!!  
In His Service,  
Donna Vreugdenhil  
Mission Community



**MISSION ACTION  
(Stewardship)  
Janice Anderson**

## **MISSION ACTION CHALLENGES US – “A YEAR OF KITS WITH LWR”**

We are challenged in 2017 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, LWR is inviting Lutherans and all who want to make a difference worldwide to join us in a year of making

**Kits of Care** for those in need. Since 1945, you have generously made a difference sending more than \$661 million worth of quilts & kits around the world.

REMINDER: follow general kit assembly guidelines.

**SCHOOL KITS AND PERSONAL CARE KITS**, new items only, sending top-quality items shows the greatest care and respect for the dignity of the recipient.

**BABY CARE KITS**, do not add or leave out any listed items. All items should be new and in good condition. Gently used, clean (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Sizes 6-24 months, varying the sizes of clothing items, makes the items more useful as baby grows. **NO** onesies, cut off bottom and serge. No feet on sleepers, cut feet off and serge.

**LWR QUILTS**: Please donate only size 60”X 80” quilts. Use **STURDY** fabric, cotton, twill, denim, corduroy, polyester knits, upholstery and drapery samples and fleece.

**NO** donated items with any religious symbols, messages, or congregations name, no camouflage items. Visit [lwr.org/kits](http://lwr.org/kits) for resources, ideas, and tips to make your quilting or kit making project a success!

*ATTENTION MISSION ACTION CONFERENCE OFFICERS AND UNIT MISSION ACTION OFFICERS:  
Unit officers send Missions Accomplished report to your Conference Mission Action Officer by January 31, 2017.  
Conference Mission Action officers send me conference report by March 1, 2017.*

**Please contact me if you have questions pertaining to Missions Accomplished reports or LWR projects. Phone 605-529-5387 or [pjand@alliancecom.net](mailto:pjand@alliancecom.net)**

**Martin Luther said that “a Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all.” Thank you for following that call to turn ordinary items into extraordinary gifts and helping LWR transform lives around the world!**



## MEMBER AT LARGE Connie Bickett

New Years Greetings from a cool, cloudy and foggy eastern South Dakota.

As I pondered what to write about this “winter” season, I thought about “Ice Fishing”. My husband, brothers and nephews all find enjoyment in “Ice Fishing”.

Then I thought about some of the sermons that we have been having and how we are all to be “fishers of men and women”. We know we can’t just bring out the nets and pull people in, but a warm “welcome” and invitation would be a great start.

As many of you know in rural South Dakota we could all enjoy “filling our buckets” and our “pews” in church with new people. That is where we all come in as “fishermen”. We need to cast our lines and invite people to come and join us for worship, Bible Study, or possibly a fun day of quilting and coffee hour. Our Spring Gathering is always a great place to bring a friend.

No is not a big word, but when a “yes” comes through you will feel that you have been rewarded. Matthew 4:19 “I will make you fish for people”

God’s peace to all and enjoy your time fishing.

## MULTIPLE MEANINGS: LEARNING FROM OTHER INTERPRETATIONS

At the Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, Minn., July 13-16, **Mark Allen Powell** will lead a workshop that examines how well-known Bible stories are understood in Africa, Russia, Latin America and the United States. Participants will reflect on how the Bible speaks differently to people in different contexts. These studies will be explored in more detail in the January through April 2017 Bible study of [Gather magazine](#). Powell is professor of New Testament, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio.

## Meet Diane Bryan, coordinator of the Bear Butte Conference



My name is Diane Lee Bryan. I live in Spearfish SD. I am the coordinator for Bear Butte Conference.

I was born and raised near Minot, ND, graduated from Minot State University, taught high school math in ND schools. I have been active in church since 12 years old playing piano and organ, serving on local and conference (cluster) W/ELCA boards in ND as well as SD. I love promoting camps and retreats as I became more active because of What a great place to meet fellow Christians.

I plan on attending the tenth triennial in Minneapolis with about 7 others from Spearfish. (Maybe more) My first triennial was 21 years ago also in Minneapolis. I am anxious to attend, meet friends, and become inspired.

On January 21 the Bear Butte Board met in Hermosa, SD to plan for Spring Gathering to be held on April 22nd at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hermosa. The theme is: "Simple And Joyful".

My favorite bible verse is Philippians 4:13--"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I encourage you to read Philippians to feel the theme of rejoicing.





TODAY'S DREAM
TOMORROW'S REALITY
Racial Justice Advocates
Margie Neugebauer

Perceptions of Reality in the White Privilege and Black/Native Worlds

Table with 2 columns: Perception (e.g., Whites smoking weed, Blacks/natives smoking weed) and Reality (e.g., hippies, thugs, poor, lazy).

A tweet from Reality Wives with the addition of Native Americans to the chart.

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This chart is a comparison of how many non-people of color view the same situation but with different lenses than people of color. The white perception comes from our dominant established institutionalized systems. The Black and Native perception is their reality. The difference is also called racism. You may not believe that you are racist. However, our guiding principle for Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality states that we all are part of the racism in the US because we are born into our colonial establishment of the social, economic, political, governmental, and financial systems.

So what will you do to move our society from injustice to justice?

Dialog with me for suggestions and comments. View the video, "The House We All Live In", part of the PBS series "Race-The Power-Of-An-Illusion". Check PBS and You Tube online to get "the rest of the story".



**MISSION INTERPRETA-  
TION COORDINATOR  
ELCA, SD SYNOD**

Teresa Nygaard

In Acts 4, Peter and John were challenged by the rulers, elders and scribes assembled in Jerusalem. Having seen the man who the disciples had healed, the leaders asked “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Peter being filled with the Holy Spirit responded “let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth”. The council recognized that a notable sign had been done through these two disciples of Jesus. Yet to keep this miracle from spreading, the council ordered Peter and John not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. The two responded, “We cannot help from declaring what we have seen and heard.”

Just like Peter and John, your congregation is called to lift up the stories of how Jesus is at work in your midst. Why? Because we are called to make disciples of all people by sharing what has been done through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, both in the past and in the present. One way to do this is by collecting and sharing the stories. In many places this is called *mission interpretation*. Having a plan in your congregation about when, where and how to share these stories can help those who believe and those yet to believe see the power of Christ.

### **What is Mission Interpretation?**

**Vision:** To declare how God is at work in and through our faith family while spreading the message of Christ in our community and beyond.

**Guiding Principles:** We are called to...live among God’s faithful people, hear the word of God and share the Lord’s Supper, serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in the world.

**Desired Outcomes:** To help grow in relationship with Jesus Christ by sharing stories about using time, talents and resources to do God’s work. Strengthen the congregation to embody and declare God’s work with equality and justice in the community, domestically and globally. Invite people to grow in their response and support for congregational, synodical and church-wide ministries, including giving of time, talents, resources and Mission Support.

***Is God calling you to be His disciple to share the news of what God is doing in the world? Do you (or someone you know) have a desire to share God’s work? Is God tugging at your heart saying “come work with Me to spread the Good News?” Do you want to bring God’s hope to an uncertain world by sharing stories of what we do together to do God’s work in the world?***

**Please** contact me to find out more. There is training and support as we gather a network of disciples to explain how mission support is used to accomplish God’s work in the world. And remember, God is always with each of us always.

Teresa Nygaard, Mission Interpretation Coordinator,  
SD Synod, ELCA

[tnygaard49@gmail.com](mailto:tnygaard49@gmail.com) 605-661-6866

### **Looking for some extra Bible study resources?**

*Gather* is excited to offer a selection of past Bible study lessons for sale online. “In Good Company: Biblical Women” is a nine-session Bible study that explores the stories of biblical women in both the Old and New Testaments. You can purchase a digital download of the entire series or purchase one or more individual lessons by going to [resources.elca.org/Products-Women.html](http://resources.elca.org/Products-Women.html). Be sure to check back for more studies in the coming months!



## BREAD FOR THE WORLD

### Cathy Brechtelsbauer

#### 1. The **South Dakota Legislature's** decisions often impact hunger. But as

I write this, few bills have been submitted that would help low-income people. State legislators could be helpful by supporting the Housing Opportunity Fund, Medicaid expansion, an Early Childhood Council, childcare assistance, more eligibility for unemployment benefits, untaxing groceries, sick leave, welcoming refugees, and the initiative rights of voters. Of course, drug testing only for low-income assistance is discriminatory and demeaning. We learn from Jesus' example how to treat people who are put down by society. We love. We help. We work to improve their lot and reputation.

Also as I write this, I am hoping you are planning to come to "Bread Day" in Pierre on Feb. 2. 10am-2:30pm. For more info: Pastor Mindy Ehrke 605-261-9032.

2. The **Federal budget and policies** are the "elephant in the room." They will have profound impact on our state. If food stamps (SNAP) or Medicaid are cut or put into block grants, the deprivation of the poorest citizens could show up in glaring ways and overwhelm our private and church efforts to alleviate hunger and suffering. With past block grants, fewer people who need the assistance actually get it. It's important to keep calling when there's such 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

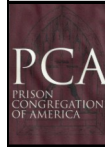
Rep. Kristi Noem 202-225-2801 or toll-free: 855-225-2801

Let's speak up 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](mailto:ryebread@breadrising.org), [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

## PRISON CONGREGATIONS

Mary Mortenson, Director



### Rachel Kurtz to Sing for Prison Congregations of America in October

Mark your calendars for October 21, 2017 when Prison Congregations of America will host a concert by Rachel Kurtz. The concert will take the place of our annual Partners at the Cross banquet which is the major fundraiser for PCA each year. If your children have gone to ELCA national youth gatherings in recent years, they will know Rachel's music well. But she's not just for kids – Rachel has a powerful voice and sings gospel and old church hymns with a powerful voice.

Rachel Kurtz is an incredible singer/songwriter from Minneapolis, with a beautiful voice and an amazing story. Rachel shares personal testimonies of tragedy and triumph with a vulnerability that captivates her audience. She has performed at the last three ELCA Youth Gatherings and has had the opportunity to travel to Africa, Germany and India with her music ministry. Her song "Make A Difference," unveiled at the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering, has become a widespread sensation sung by praise bands, youth groups, and school choirs from coast to coast. She has a strong desire to make a difference in the world through her music and a passion for global justice.

**PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING.....**

## WELCA TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

**Minneapolis, July 13-17, 2017**

## 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 LSS serves. Please prayerfully keep LSS in mind as you discuss your benevolence giving for this year. Here are some updates on LSS around the state:

**Statewide:** Contact your LSS staff rep to get 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:** Join Us for the 22nd Annual **Taste of Cultures Dinner and Silent Auction Event!** It will be held Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm at The District in Sioux Falls. There will be food from around the world, a silent auction, live music and cultural dancing. Regular admission tickets are \$40 each, and there are a limited number of VIP tickets available for \$80. Tickets are available online. For ticket information call Kristyne Walth, Volunteer Coordinator, LSS Center for New Americans at 605-731-2009.

**Brookings Area Benefit Event:** We hope you will save the date and 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 Benefit Event:** Come join the fun at the Northeast Benefit Event on Saturday, April 29th at The Ward Hotel, downtown 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 - Dueling Pianos. 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](mailto:Liesl.Hovel@LssSD.org)

- Silent Auction begins at 5:00 p.m. Dinner/Event begins at 6:00 p.m.
- Doors open for Dueling Duo - Dueling Pianos at 7:30 p.m.
- Dueling Duo - Dueling Pianos Show is from 8:00-12:00 a.m.
- Benefit Dinner Only: 8 per table \$12/ ticket
- Dueling Duo - Dueling Pianos Show Only: \$20/ticket
- Benefit Dinner and Dueling Pianos Package: \$30/ticket

**West River Benefit Event:** We hope to see you on April 9 at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn @ 5PM. There is no charge to attend the event, but reservations are required. A pledge or contribution to support LSS services in the area will be requested. Contact Jessica Lillebo at 791-6769 to RSVP or host a table. We are also looking for Silent Auction items; we love pre-packaged baskets and quilts!

Liesl Hovel, Northeast Regional Director 605-262-6301 or [Liesl.Hovel@LssSD.org](mailto:Liesl.Hovel@LssSD.org)  
 Jessica Lillebo, Western Regional Director 605-791-6769 or 1-800-260-1439 or [Jessica.Lillebo@LssSD.org](mailto: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](mailto:Linda.Jensen@LssSD.org)  
 Jamie Lennon, Development Director 605-444-7502 direct | 800-568-2401 ext. 7502 or [Jamie.Lennon@LssSD.org](mailto:Jamie.Lennon@LssSD.org)



**LUTHERANS  
OUTDOORS  
Mara Stillson**

**LOSD Bible Study Theme 2017 -  
"For YOU"**

*"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will FOR YOU who belong to Christ Jesus." - I Thessalonians 5:16-18 NLT*

Theme overview:

"You are here. And you matter! God Loves you and wills for you to experience a life of Joy, Prayer, and Thankfulness in all the circumstances you may face. Our lives are to be lived in relationship with God and others. God has brought you to this place and together we will learn how God's LOVE is - FOR YOU!"

Join us at your LO camps this summer to learn more about the amazing gift of God's love in Jesus Christ. See you this summer!



**Lutherans Outdoors QUILT AUCTION  
Save the Date!**

September 10th, 2017  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls  
We can't wait to see you there!



Remember, you can use Thrivent Action Team grants to help pay for the quilt materials! Call the LO Office (800-888-1464) for more info.



## 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 the pages.*

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

Bette Poppen	Gwenda Koch
Anita Stevenson	Marilyn Strand
Louise Jones	Ruby Cutts
Mabel Graves	Lorna Harsted
Beverly Alexander	Leanne Anderson
Alice Anderson	Lorraine Anderson
Doris Gross	Alma Holm
Rita Korbal	Ardith McFarland
Janice Moore	Arlene Smedsrud
Cleo Sorenson	Gretchen Tweet
Delores Whitmyre	

**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](mailto: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.

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Cynthia Wall, 34414 245<sup>th</sup> St., Chamberlain, SD 57325 PH: 234-6957 [Fourwalls1@midstatesd.net](mailto:Fourwalls1@midstatesd.net)

**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](mailto:blueroosterchick@hotmail.com)

### GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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

**Please remember, all addresses MUST be your mailing address, some of you have 2 addresses, a physical address (street or 911) but I have to have your mailing address to insure that your newsletter is delivered.**

## 2016-17 Synod Officers

**FACEBOOK GURU;** Erika Lehmann, PH: 605-338-4737  
E-mail: [elehmann@santel.net](mailto:elehmann@santel.net)

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

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Nancy Rieke, 501 S. Lois Lane Dr., Colman, SD 57017, PH: 320 321-3100, Email: [nancy\\_rieke@yahoo.com](mailto:nancy_rieke@yahoo.com) , 2<sup>nd</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year (Prairie Rivers advisor)

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

**TREASURER:** Kathy Thompson, 404 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Wilmot, SD 57279-2223, PH: 938-4592, Cell: 605 520-8289, Email: [kdthompson8289@gmail.com](mailto:kdthompson8289@gmail.com) , 2<sup>nd</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:pjand@alliancecom.net) , 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:margeneugebauer@gmail.com) Filled unexpired 1st term, 2nd year, up for election next year. (Bear Butte Advisor)

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

**MEMBER AT LARGE:** Connie Bickett, 22032, 444<sup>th</sup> Ave., Oldham, SD 57051, PH: 482-8639, Cell: 605 270-9967, E-mail: [conniebickett@alliancecom.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:margeneugebauer@gmail.com)

### Dates to Remember

**June 23-24,** Synodical Convention at Trinity in Yankton (June 22, pre-Convention Happenings)

**July 13-16, 2017** Tenth Triennial, Minneapolis, MN,

### 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](mailto:LMBirk@itctel.com)



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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**