

2014 REPORT TO SYNOD ASSEMBLIES
Paul Baglyos, Coordinator for Missional Leadership, ELCA Region 3

“Missional”?

The position to which I am called as deployed staff of the ELCA churchwide organization is “Coordinator for Missional Leadership, Region 3.” Each of the nine regions of the ELCA is served by a regional coordinator, all of whom share the word “missional” in their position titles. (Region 3 includes the nine ELCA synods in the three states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.)

The word “missional” raises hackles on some who hear it, because it sounds to them like a made-up word, a buzz-word currently in vogue among some in the ELCA and resisted by others who suspect that it imports an alien agenda. Despite any dis-reputation of the word, however, its current use in the ELCA aims toward a faithful response to God.

“Missional,” of course, is a tweak on the word “mission,” surely not alien to the church’s vocabulary. “Mission” shares the same linguistic lineage, and the same complex of meaning, as the English words “send,” “sending,” “sent,” and so forth, which occur many thousands of times in English translations of the Bible. In one key example, the risen Lord Jesus tells his disciples, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21, NRSV). The recurrent biblical theme of sending is recalled and represented whenever the church speaks about “mission,” and the current use of the tweaked variant “missional” is intended to focus attention specifically on that biblical theme.

The mission about which the church speaks whenever it uses that word is primarily *God’s* mission in and to the world, carried out by the sending of Jesus and by the sending of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus for his ministry as God’s Beloved. The Spirit, through the ministry of Jesus, gathers the church, God’s beloved community. God creates the church to be the body of Jesus in the world, which means that the church shares the ministry of Jesus as being *sent* into the world that God so loves.

Being both gathered and sent is the respirational dynamic by which the church lives. English language shares with Hebrew a close correlation between the words “spirit” and “breath”; the Bible testifies that God’s Spirit, God’s breath, is the life of all that lives. The church lives as the respiration – the re-spir(it)-ation – of God, who gathers and sends it.

The current emphasis upon the missional vocation of the church and the need for missional leaders is intended to help the church attend equally to God’s work of sending as to God’s work of gathering. The liturgy enacts God’s work in both respects, gathering the community amidst the world in order to send it once again into the world. Whether or not the word “missional” remains in vogue in the ELCA, the intention behind it pertains to God’s Spirit, God’s breath, as the very essence of the church’s life.

ELCA Region 3 Archives Report to 2014 Synod Assemblies

Introduction

This year marks the *26th year of the ELCA Region 3 Archives*. I continue in the archivist position half-time for the nine synods of Region 3 and half-time for Luther Seminary. This shared position continues to work well, with Luther providing space and access to the student worker pool and Region 3 providing the school a large and useful research collection. We also benefit from the much-needed help of 8 regular volunteers, (part of the seminary “friends” group) and technical support from the school’s IT office.

Use of the Region 3 Archives

Our website (www.luthersem.edu/archives) presence continues to increase use levels of both collections and services. Luther Seminary hosts the website and provides technical support for it. The site is regularly updated with new training material for congregational audiences as well as listings of the actual archival holdings. The website remains our “front door”, attracting a growing number of users from within, as well as beyond, the ELCA. In addition to the internet, researchers reach us via phone calls, mailed letters and personal visits.

+The Archives assisted a total of 971 reference patrons in the past year with a variety of research interests. The majority (69%) are congregational committees working on scanning projects, anniversary celebration planning, history writing and related questions. Other significant user groups include synod offices and church wide offices as well as individual researchers.

+Daniels worked on-site with all 9 synod offices, gathering permanently valuable office records and assisting with retention plans for each office. He visited each office at least 6 times during the year. These visits were coordinated with 34 on-site congregational visits throughout the three states of Region 3.

+Daniels spoke at 15 adult forums and study groups in congregations throughout the Region. The main focus of these presentations is the use of memory in the congregation. These sessions also provide an efficient venue to publicize the many congregational services available through the Region 3 Archives.

Collection Growth

+The Archives received 475 linear feet of synod office records from the 9 offices. These included legal, financial, personnel and program files.

+Gathered an additional 278 congregational histories – collection now totals 6,084 histories.

+Received 512 biographical pieces for files on clergy and lay leadership – collection now totals 6,124 files.

+Additional 15 congregations filmed their valuable church records through the new scanning program.

+Collected 18 linear feet of mission photographs, films, papers and artifacts from retired China, Japan, South Africa, Madagascar and Alaska missionaries.

Outreach and Education

+Daniels led workshops on congregational archives at 4 Region 3 synod assemblies in 2013. He also presented Archives services information at 2 fall theological conferences.

+Daniels recently completed meeting with all 9 synod councils in the Region during the past year to acquaint and update this key leadership group with the services and activities of the Region 3 Archives

+Distributed over 710 copies of “Memory Work: A Guide for Congregational Archives and History” to congregations and individuals.

+Continues off-site storage program for all Region 3 synods for professional and permanent care of sensitive files, including candidacy, camping staff, and financial records using Iron Mountain Co.

+Launched a new records scanning service for congregations to replace the long-running microfilming program. This new service of digitizing vital church records will begin in April 2013.

Professional Development

+Daniels is an active member of several professional archival organizations, including the Society of American Archivists, the Midwest Archives Conference and the Twin Cities Archives Roundtable.

+Daniels maintains his professional certification in the Academy of Certified Archivists.

+Daniels continues active participation in the Lutheran Historical Conference, a pan-Lutheran group of historians, archivists and librarians.

Respectfully submitted, Paul A. Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archivist and Luther Seminary Archivist, 3.10.14

The Association of Christian Churches of SD brings greetings and thanks to the SD ELCA Synod for its active membership and financial support this year. The association has appreciated the regular attendance and involvement of its representative, Rev. Lee Stadem, retired Lutheran pastor.

In the past year, our focus has been about educating legislators and others in the Affordable Care Act, (ACA) especially for supporting the passage of state law to cover persons at the 100-138 percentile of poverty. Although the legislature did not vote to extend benefits to this group of several thousand South Dakotans, we feel in time that this measure of equality and taking care of God's people will ultimately take place. The association partially funded grant writing done by the Community Action Program (CAP) to provide unbiased public information on the ACA as well as to train Navigators to work individually with beneficiaries.

Other activities have been about 'doing together as covenanted denominations what each individually could not do by itself.' We continue to advocate for the needs of the poor, the prisoner, and those who lack a voice especially as it relates to how the State budget is spent. We also consider how to best support the moral, ethical and equal treatment of all of God's people as the Gospel calls us to do.

It is my pleasure to serve the ELCA in the name of Christ.

Gratefully



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About the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF), a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, makes low-interest **loans** to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries for capital projects.

Established congregations use MIF loans to renovate, expand or relocate. New-start congregations rely on MIF loans to buy land and construct their first church buildings. ELCA-related ministries use MIF loans for a variety of capital projects.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a variety of **investments** for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. MIF investments offer adjustable- or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

The Mission Investment Fund is **financially strong and stable**, with a record of steady, controlled growth:

- With total assets of \$660 million and net assets of \$190 million at year-end 2013, MIF achieved a capital ratio of 28.8 percent, maintaining MIF's position in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.
- At year-end 2013, loans for capital projects for more than 780 ELCA congregations and ministries totaled \$464 million. MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$464 million.

Investments and Loans in the South Dakota Synod

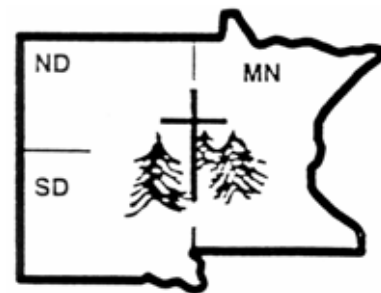
As of December 31, 2013:

- 7 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of **\$1,881,160**, are at work throughout the synod.
- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 231 individuals, 93 congregations, 31 ministries, and the South Dakota Synod totaled **\$9,259,599**.

MIF representative for the South Dakota Synod:

The Rev. Daniel B. Carlson, Regional Manager: Tel. (773) 682-2943; email: dan.carlson@elca.org

ELCA Region 3 Camping Network
8231 County Road 11 NE, Alexandria, MN 56308
Ph: 320-846-2431
www.r3campingnetwork.org



Executive Committee: Marv Nysetvold (Shetek) President
Nick Johnson (Upper Missouri), Vice President
Paul Hanson (Luther Crest), Treasurer
Mara Stillson (Lutherans Outdoors in SD), Secretary
Jake Hanson (Luther Crest), MN Representative
Linda Arnason (Metigoshe), ND Representative
Rachel Nelson (Lutherans Outdoors in SD), SD Representative

Hear the Gospel!

Celebrate God's Creation!

Find Spiritual Renewal!

2014 Annual Report of the ELCA Region 3 CAMPING NETWORK

The ELCA Region 3 Camping Network exists to support outdoor ministry professionals in Region 3 and its nine synods, and to serve the people and congregations working with them.

The ELCA Region 3 Camping Network is a grass roots network of ELCA-affiliated Bible camps serving congregations in Region 3. The network is sustained by the pledges of network camps, as well as synod contributions and other gifts. The Camping Network serves outdoor ministry and congregations in the following ways:

- **Recruiting**—Midwest recruiting fairs at colleges and universities are scheduled annually. Network camps participate in the fairs, as well as additional camps from across the country.
- **Communication**—The network website is www.r3campingnetwork.org. The website includes a listing of all participant camps, program ideas, job postings, a calendar of regional and national camp events, resources for camp staff and Summer Staff recruiting information. The network also sends out the *GRAPEVINE*, a biweekly e-newsletter reporting camp-submitted news and information.
- **Cooperative Ministry**—The network works to strengthen existing connections with campus ministry, seminaries and congregations.
- **Grants** – The network established annual grants for outdoor ministries to explore new ways to partner with congregations in the region.

Region 3 has a wealth of Bible camping opportunities, with more than 40 outdoor ministry sites serving congregations. Ways in which you can partner with outdoor ministries to enrich your congregation's ministry include:

- Designating a week or two of the summer camp schedule for your congregation to participate as a group.
- Offering day camp programs for children and youth during the summer.
- Making confirmation camp and retreat experiences an integral part of your confirmation program.
- Participating in wilderness, high adventure camp programs and mission trips.
- Offering Family Camp.
- Developing programs for older adults.
- Using camp staff to help plan and implement youth and adult programs.
- Encouraging youth and adults to work at camp as paid or volunteer staff.
- Supporting camps in prayer and financially.

There is a place for you! Whether you are a camper, a “work-weekend” volunteer or a financial supporter, you and your congregation can be part of this ministry that is living out the gospel of Christ and shaping leaders for the future!

South Dakota Synod Vice President's Report

It was a privilege to attend the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August. The theme for the Assembly was "Always Being Made New" which celebrated the 25th anniversary of the ELCA. It was an intense and exciting week centered around worship each day. The Assembly heard reports from churchwide officers, officials, units, and ecumenical partners; considered and acted upon proposals from synod assemblies; adopted amendments to the constitution and model constitutions; approved the budget; participated in Bible study; attended hearings on various topics; considered and acted upon a social statement on criminal justice; and approved the ELCA's Always Being Made New capital campaign. The highlight of the week for me was the election of a new secretary – Rev. Chris Boerger, and a new Presiding Bishop – Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, both of whom are gifted leaders. In addition, two members of the South Dakota Synod were elected to the Church Council, the governing board of the ELCA, Kayla Koterwski, Tea; and Reid Christopherson, Garretson. Both Kayla and Reid have great passion for the mission and ministry of all three expressions of the ELCA: churchwide (national), synod (state), and congregation (local). All of this and much more was accomplished in six short (sometimes long) days. It is interesting and inspiring to witness the work of the larger church. Together we accomplish much, always remembering it is God's work and our hands. I encourage members of the South Dakota Synod to consider serving as voting members to future Churchwide Assemblies.

The Synod Council is the board of directors of the synod and serves as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. The Synod Council met three times throughout the past year. The Council heard reports from synod staff and partnership ministries; attended to roster matters; approved changes to continuing resolutions to the Synod Constitution and Bylaws; authorized a feasibility study for a synod capital campaign; appointed members of the St. Dymas associate council; and revised the current fiscal year budget and adopted a proposed budget to be approved by the 2014 Synod Assembly. The Synod Council also reappointed Erik Gilbertson as treasurer. The ability to take this action is provided for in articles +S8.41 and +8.51 of the Synod Constitution. There is a great learning curve with this key position and Mr. Gilbertson has served the synod ably and well over the four years of his first term. The Council looks forward to continued partnership with him.

I would like to extend a special word of appreciation to outgoing members of the Synod Council: Duane Abata, Verdelle Anderson, Steve Koenig, Kayla Koterwski, Pastor Siri Beckmen Sorenson, Pastor Kevin Jensen, and Pastor Holly Slater.

Thank you to Bishop Zellmer, Pastor Bill Tesch, Susan Marone, Suzanne Hansen, Cathy Larson, Pastor Karen Rupp, Crystal McCormick, Lois Borchardt, Kevin Stillson, Jim Schade, and Kurt Osborne for their dedication, commitment, and passion for the ongoing work of the South Dakota Synod.

Thank you also, to the members and congregations of the South Dakota Synod. Through your partnership in ministry and mission support, we are able to accomplish much more together than we could separately. Through our combined efforts we are living out the Synod's vision "That All May be Filled".

I am excited about the continued journey God has in store for us and look forward to walking it with you.

Canady Boncarant

Report of the Support to Ministries Committee to the 2014 South Dakota Synod Assembly
Pastor Patrick Hahn, Chairperson

All one has to do is glance at the *Synod Transitions* in the Synod E-News to see there is a tremendous amount of movement in the South Dakota Synod. We currently have a large number of congregations seeking rostered leaders. With this movement bring a lot of excitement, possibilities, hope, and a bit of anxiety. Through it all we can be confident the Spirit moves in and through us to bring joy, life, and light into a dark world.

This year we have experienced an increase in retirements and one of our smallest groups of first call candidates assigned to the South Dakota Synod. These two issues combined make the call process a little more difficult.

Your committee works diligently seeking to offer candidates to calling congregations with the right skill sets. We continued to refine the South Dakota Synod Compensations Guidelines for Rostered and Lay Leaders.

If you know colleagues, past pastors, or friends who are rostered leaders outside of the South Dakota Synod, encourage them to prayerfully consider being open to pursuing a call in our synod. God is doing great things in our state through us and we can expect more exiting ministry opportunities in the future.

Behind the scenes Crystal McCormick and Susan Morone do the day to day work of the Support to Ministries Committee. Their dedication and inspiring work make candidacy possible in the South Dakota Synod. They deserve our thanks

Lutheran Campus Ministry in South Dakota 2013-2014

This past year has been a year of change for Lutheran Campus Ministry at **South Dakota State University**. Long-time campus pastor, Bob Chell, accepted a call to St. Dymas. The Board of Directors called Pastor Herb Wounded Head to be the new campus minister. Pastor Herb is no stranger to SDSU. He was very active in the campus ministry program during when he was a student on campus. This is just one example of how our campus ministries lay the ground work for future pastors.

Ministry at the Luther Center at **University of South Dakota** centered on Kingdom of God as a present reality for our lives and the world. A variety of guests shared how God's Kingdom broke in their lives during worship opportunities throughout the year. During SDU's homecoming Dakota Days, Lutheran Campus Ministry sponsored a float called "Yotes Tackle Hunger" to collect food and donations to support the Vermillion Food Panty. Students were involved in other community activities: serving meals at the Welcome Table, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, supporting prisoners by attending worship at the prison in Springfield. All these activities celebrated what God is up to in the SDU community and the world.

2013-2014 was a time of transition for campus ministry in West River at **Black Hills State University** and **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology**. Both campus ministers at these sites accepted calls to congregations. Volunteers and Boards of Directors continued campus ministry at both sites. SDSM&T celebrated 25 years of ministry in Rapid City. Hilary Satrang served as interim. BHSU continued their Mom's group to assist moms and single parents to continue their education. The Boards of Directors of SDSM&T and BHSU are pursuing partnering to continue Lutheran Campus Ministry at Spearfish and Rapid City.

Collegians in Christ's Service (CICS) at **Northern State University** continue to be very active in serving in the local Aberdeen community. Bible study and service is the core of ministry at NSU. Their service continues after graduation. Seven students traveled to Texas to work at the Bekencamp Children's Shelter in Corpus Christi. This shelter provides support and assistance to children who have traveled, been trafficked, or were smuggled across the boarder into the US. CICS will provide VBS activities for the children and share the message that Jesus loves them—no matter what.

Lutheran Campus Ministry to students and staff at our South Dakota universities would not be possible without your prayers and financial support. We thank you for your prayers and generous support. If you have not considered supporting your area Lutheran Campus Ministry site, please prayerfully consider doing so. You can find addresses, names and emails for Campus Ministry at the Synod's website, www.sdsynod.org/where-we-serve/locally/campus-ministry/ .

If a family member, church member, or friend attends or is planning to attend one of our South Dakota universities, encourage them to give Lutheran Campus Ministry their contact information. They can submit contact information at the above link.

South Dakota Synod Candidacy Report 2014

The South Dakota Synod is blessed with forty-nine candidates that seek to become rostered leaders in the ELCA. As these candidates make this journey to become leaders in our church, there are 15 individuals from throughout the SD Synod, both pastors and lay people that walk with the candidates on their journey. The individuals walking with the candidates are members of the SD Synod Candidacy Committee.

Candidates for rostered leadership in the ELCA pass three mileposts: applicant for entrance, endorsement, and finally approval for leadership in the ELCA. The Candidacy Committee meets to discuss with the candidates the process of candidacy and major steps in candidacy. A relator from the Candidacy Committee is assigned to each candidate to walk with them on their journey to become a rostered leader in the ELCA.

The SD Synod has been blessed with money that has been given by individuals, organizations, endowments and foundations for scholarships for those in candidacy. The Candidacy Scholarship Committee this year awarded \$120,000 in scholarships to 18 individuals on this journey to become rostered leaders in the ELCA.

As members of the SD Synod, we play an important role in talking with and encouraging individuals that have the qualities to become rostered leaders in the ELCA. As Paul writes in Romans chapter 12 of the different gifts of Christian service, we are called to lift up those with gifts to become leaders in our church.

If you have any questions about candidacy, please contact [Susan Marone, AIM](#), Associate to the Bishop, smarone@sdsynod.org, phone: 605/274-4022; or [Crystal McCormick](#), Candidacy and Mobility Office Coordinator, cmccormick@augie.edu, phone: 605/274-4024. Or click on: <http://www.sdsynod.org/candidacy>

2014 Report Multicultural Committee - By Natanael Lizarazo, Chair

We greet you brothers and sisters gathered for our 2014 Synod Assembly. As Multicultural Committee, we work toward making reality God's will for us to be become the colorful and ethnically diverse church God intends us to be! Even as we work, we also pray for the Holy Spirit to blow throughout our congregations so that faithful to God's mission we love all people regardless of color, nationality or language as the Sunday school song reminds us: "red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in his sight." Despite real challenges, our work engages growing opportunities to be God's multicultural church for the fast-changing world of today. From Africa, Latin America, Pine Ridge, Sioux Falls and Rapid City, God is being praised with new and beautiful language and cultural accents these days!

Our Committee represents all Conferences of our Synod and works in collaboration with our Synod's Evangelical Outreach Committee. This structure facilitates greater participation and communication. And though geography is wide-spread, we are thankful for technology which allows us to participate in meetings without spending time in the road or significant financial resources. Still we have face-to-face meetings complemented by technology if necessary.

Current Multicultural Committee members are: Rev. Bill Schruba, Rev. Daryl Schubert, Gayle Cole, Rev. Natanael Lizarazo, Daniel Gayetaye, Rev. Kwen Sanderson, Sheldon Engen, Rev. Tim Sersen, Connie Woehlhaff, Rev. Chris Baesler, Dennis Paulson, Rev. Kent Narum, Sarah, Holz, Rev. Karen Rupp, Rev. Herb Wounded Hear, Rev. David Piper, Jim Bishop, and Rev. Bill Tesch, Director of Evangelical Outreach.

Our core tasks are: (1) advise the Evangelical Outreach Committee on matters related to the oversight and funding of ethnic specific ministries (2) develop strategies to help us become a more multicultural church (3) advocate with and for ethnic communities at every level of ministry and leadership in our Synod, and to stand in solidarity with people who experience injustice (4) teach the people of our Synod how to listen and interact with different cultures, so that there may be a mutual blessing (5) encourage congregations and leaders who are involved in multicultural ministry (6) seek generous giving and participation from churches, individuals, and organizations toward the cause of multicultural ministry.

Though we have a long way to go, our feet are already immersed in these baptismal ministry waters! Ministries we currently accompany and support are: Lakota Retreat Center (Pine Ridge), Woyatan Lutheran Church (Rapid City), Intentional Young Adult Community (Rosebud), Pueblo de Dios (Sioux Falls) First Lutheran African Ministry (Sioux Falls). These ministries are moving forward in proactive ways despite unique challenges. As we move forward in addressing our growing diversity, it is critically important that together as South Dakota Synod and ELCA we find ways to fund these ministries, make them visible, invest in leadership development and provide participation for people of color in our decision-making as Synod. We pray for this to happen trusting that God who calls us is always faithful and will provide everything needed.

Report of the Evangelical Outreach Committee

The Evangelical Outreach Committee offers oversight, support, and advocacy on behalf of new starts, congregations under renewal, and ethnic specific congregations that are supported by the South Dakota Synod. This work is carried out in partnership with the Multi-Cultural Committee, and through three working groups; New starts, Renewals, and Mission Partners.

New Starts: Helps to oversee and support congregations in development and identify possible areas for new congregations. Current new start congregations include First Lutheran African Ministry (Sioux Falls), Pueblo de Dios (Sioux Falls), WestSide Lutheran (Sioux Falls), Community of Hope (Aberdeen), Intentional Christian Community (Rosebud), and Woyatan Lutheran (Rapid City). Each of these new starts represents exciting possibilities as new and emerging ministry needs develop as a result urban sprawl and growing ethnic diversity. The EOC encourages each congregation of our synod to connect with an emerging ministry as a Mission Partner. Mission Partner relationships are one valuable way to deepen the connection between the joint ministries of our synod.

Renewals: The EOC has again affirmed the goal that every congregation in the synod is engaged in a renewal process every 7 years. To assist in meeting this goal there is be an intentional effort to train leaders in a variety of approaches to renewal (coaching, Natural Church Development, Vibrant Faith, etc.) to meet the varying needs of our congregations. A focus will be made to make such resources available and affordable especially to smaller, rural congregations. A variety of resources are available to help congregations, no matter their size or locations, in a renewal and visioning process.

Mission Partners: Beginning with the 2013 Synod Assembly, the EOC has made a concerted effort to strengthen the financial support of our mission congregations through Mission Partners and Mission Boosters. Check the Synod web site for bulletin inserts about each of our Mission Partners.

This report is only a snapshot of part of the being done on behalf of the SD Synod, and pales in comparison to the transformative ministries that happen each and every day across South Dakota. If you want a true sense of the many ways that at is at God through our joint ministries, simply visit any of our new starts, renewal congregations, or multi-cultural worshipping communities.

2014 Report from the Companion Synod Committee and Coordinator

The ministry of any congregation is enriched by reaching out to the world. The Companion Synod Committee encourages congregations and their members to engage with Nicaragua and Cameroon, our designated companions. The South Dakota Synod continues to be enriched by the relationships with our companion Churches.

This year nineteen people traveled to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon in three different groups. Bishop Dave and a group of pastors attended the installation of Bishop Ngozo and the rededication of the hospital in Garoua Boulai. A group from Trinity Lutheran in Mitchell went for roof building. Two South Dakotans joined a group from ND and MN. Visitors from Cameroon: Drs Solofo and Joely were guests of SD Synod for a month after last year's assembly. No visa was granted so we missed hosting Bishop Ngozo.

Eight groups from SD Synod traveled to Nicaragua. Trips were Milbank youth in June/July; St. Mark's, SF, plus Pastor Jeanette from Pueblo de Dios for Reformation; Flandreau baseball trip in January; Rapid City congregations well/water trip in Feb; Gloria Dei, SF, medical trip in Feb; two synod trips in late Feb and March for companionship and dedication of the church in Somoto; and Pollack youth trip in May/June. With the Church in Nicaragua Mike Busbey welcomed and assisted all these groups. We are grateful for the travelers, for hosts and for our missionary, Mike. Mike Busbey was in our synod in September and we hope to host Bishop Victoria at Synod Assembly.

Cameroon partnership resulted in a call for funding 25 roofs to complete churches where walls have been built by village congregations. Congregations and individuals responded, and as of May 1 \$106,500. has been forwarded to build roofs in Cameroon. Completed are roofs for Bengue-Tiko, Bounou, Mbakana, Mbitom, Mborgene, Limbe, Medif. . . . A large roof in Garoua Boulai is also being reconstructed. SD Synod supported other projects in Cameroon \$68,800. Quick fund-raising provided for electrical and X-ray at the Garoua Boulai hospital, other funds for Train Up a Child and scholarships.

Projects and missionary support funds to our relationship with Nicaragua totaled \$54,300. A roof for the "historic housing" building at Cedro Galan was funded. Other contributions were for schools, the Green Project and missionary to Nicaragua. We know that trip participants provided other funds toward Nicaragua projects while they were there.

Thanks to all who participate in our Companion Synod Committee, contribute to Companion Synod projects and trips, and support the relationships we have with Lutheran Christians far and near. A special thanks to those who have traveled to make personal contact with our companions.

Cathy Larson Companion Synod Coordinator

Chuck Storm, Chair, Companion Synod Committee

South Dakota Synodical Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Report to the South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2014

In June 2013, our 26th Annual Synodical Convention of the South Dakota Women of the ELCA was held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. There were 115 in attendance. Our theme was "Strengthened by God," based on Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

We worshiped at St. Dymas, our ELCA congregation behind prison walls, and our keynote speaker, Gloria Gurwell, represented Prison Congregations of America.

During our Convention Banquet we celebrated reaching our goal of \$200,000 for the Joy Ranch Kitchen. Joy Nelson was present and gave each woman a white rose as a thank you. Great job ladies!!

Our Leadership Workshop, training for the Conference officers, was held at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Pierre, August 2-3.

In late August, Lutherans Outdoors held their annual Quilt Auction at Joy Ranch. The women of our Synod made beautiful quilts and other items, thereby giving financial support to our camping ministry in South Dakota.

The Women of the SD Synod continue to support many ministries, both financially and with the giving of time and talent through the local congregation. Last year our Synod women made over 8000 quilts (and many kits and other items) for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations. LWR gave us a challenge, to make 25% more quilts this year to celebrate our 25th anniversary. The results will be announced at our convention in June. But I think we did it.

Our women, as they have since our beginning, continue to meet in Circles each month for fellowship, service, and participation in Bible study, using our national magazine, Gather.

We held our Winter Board Meeting at First Lutheran Church in Brookings on January 11, 2014. It had to be postponed from January 4, due to bad weather. Our 2014 Convention will be held in Brookings at First Lutheran, June 20-21.

Women of the ELCA, SD Synod, is on Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter. We also have a Blog. Check it out.

Vivian Westgard, President