

2016 SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

JUNE 3-4, 2016



PRELIMINARY REPORT



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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* Separate Documents available for download at www.sdsynod.org/16assembly.

PROPOSED AGENDA

2016 South Dakota Synod Assembly

June 2-4, 2016

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown

Thursday, June 2

4:30-6:00 p.m. **Open House Reception for Bishop Ngozo** - LCOOR Great Hall
4:30-6:00 p.m. **Early Registration** - LCOOR Gathering Area
7:00-9:00 p.m. **Jonathan Rundman Concert** - The Crossroads Bar and Grill (Goss Opera House)

Friday, June 3

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Displays and Book Store Open** - LCOOR Assembly A & B (Education Unit)
8:00-9:15 a.m. **Registration & Check-In** - LCOOR Gathering Area
8:30 a.m. **New Voting Member Orientation** - LCOOR Sanctuary
8:45 a.m. **Elections Committee Meeting** - LCOOR Conference Room
9:00 a.m. **Worship Instructional Meeting** - LCOOR Sanctuary

9:30-10:45 a.m. **OPENING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION** - LCOOR Sanctuary

10:45-11:30 a.m. **OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY** - LCOOR Sanctuary
Welcome & Introductions - Bishop David Zellmer
State of the ELCA - Rev. Ruben Duran, ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission
Greeting from Good Samaritan Society - Rev. Greg Wilcox
Greeting and Announcements - Rev. Kent Stillson, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
Table Prayer - Rev. Gary Westgard, Assembly Chaplain

11:30-12:30 a.m. **Lunch & Conference Caucuses**

12:30 p.m. **RESOLUTIONS DEADLINE**

12:30-2:15 p.m. **FIRST PLENARY SESSION** - LCOOR Sanctuary
Introductions and Announcements - Bishop David Zellmer
Credentials Committee Report
Voting Device Practice
Adoption of Rules and Agenda
State of the Synod - Bishop David Zellmer
Mission Interpreter Story
Resolutions - Rev David Lund, Resolutions Chair
Table Talk #1 - Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal, East Side, Sioux Falls
Treasurer's Report/Presentation of Mission Plan - Erik Gilbertson, Treasurer
Portico Representative - Terri Endres, DM, Portico Benefit Services
Announcements

2:15-3:00 p.m. **BREAK** – Sponsored by Prairie Rivers Conference

2:25 p.m. **Resolutions Committee Meeting** - LCOOR Conference Room

3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. **SECOND PLENARY SESSION** - LCOOR Sanctuary
Announcements - Carla Borchardt, Vice President
Bible Study - Rev. Jess Daum, Table of Grace, Harrisburg
Credentials Committee Report
Nominating Committee Report

Elections

Conversation with Churchwide - Rev. Ruben Duran, ELCA CSM

Table Talk #2 - Rev. Henrique Fleming, Woyatan, Rapid City

Compensation and Guidelines Conversation

Resolutions - Rev David Lund, Resolutions Chair

World Hunger Presentation - Rev. Erika Lehmann

Table Prayer - Rev. Gary Westgard, Assembly Chaplain

Meal Instructions and Announcements

5:30-7:30 p.m.

EVENING MEAL AND CELEBRATION - LCOOR Great Hall and Sanctuary
Meal

Celebration of Ordination, Anniversaries Retirement

Celebration of New Pastors to SD Synod

Celebration of Completion of Mission - Bellview Lutheran, Howard

Keynote Address - Rev. Kay Ressel, Pine Ridge Retreat Center

Closing Prayer - Rev. Gary Westgard, Assembly Chaplain

Announcements - Bishop David Zellmer

Saturday, June 4

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Mission Prayer Breakfast - LCOOR Great Hall

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Displays and Book Store Open - LCOOR Assembly A & B (Education Unit)

8:00 a.m.

Worship Instructional Meeting - LCOOR Sanctuary

8:15-9:30 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP AND COMMUNION - LCOOR Sanctuary

9:30-10:15 a.m.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION - LCOOR Sanctuary

Opening Prayer - Rev. Gary Westgard, Assembly Chaplain

Announcements - Bishop David Zellmer

Lutherans Outdoors Annual Meeting - Rev. Layne Nelson, Executive Director

10:15-10:45 a.m.

BREAK – Sponsored by Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota

10:45-12:00 p.m.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Mission Interpreter Story

Credentials Committee Report

Adoption of the Mission Plan

Conversation about Doctrine of Discovery

Resolutions - Rev David Lund, Resolutions Chair

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Lunch and Mission Moments

1:00-2:30 p.m.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION - LCOOR Sanctuary

Mission Interpreter Story

Bible Study – Rev. Bob Chell, St. Dymas, Sioux Falls

Table Talk #3 – Rev. Ruben Duran, ELCA CSM

Credentials Committee Report

Resolutions - Rev David Lund, Resolutions Chair

2:30-2:45 p.m.

CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY - LCOOR Sanctuary

3:00 p.m.

SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING - LCOOR Assembly C (Education Unit)

SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Bishop David B. Zellmer
Rev. Erik Olson, Elk Point
Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Scotland
Rev. Brian Wasmoen, Redfield
Rev. David Piper, Rapid City
Rev. Trey Daum, Sioux Falls
Kelsey Lyndoe, Sioux Falls
Robbyn Givens, Watertown
Rev. Bill Tesch, Synod Staff
Susan Marone, AIM, Synod Staff
Kevin Stillson, Synod Staff

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Ryan Gage, Chair
Rev. Jan FitzGibbons, Webster
Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, New Effington
Josh Knudsen, Artestian/Carthage/Iroquois
Kelsey Lyndoe, Sioux Falls
Seminarians assigned to SD

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Doug Hansen, Webster
Pastor Constanze Hagmaier, Madison
Pastor David Lund, Hartford
Nick Oyen, Vermillion
Pastor Tim Sersen, Aberdeen
Pastor Tammy Craker, Parkston
Pastor Wilbur Holz, Rapid City

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

TBA

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Scotland

SYNOD STAFF

Jim Schade, Stage Manager
Suzanne Hansen, Displays, Youth Voting Members
Rev. Natanael Lizarazo, Mission Prayer Breakfast
Kevin Stillson, Communications, Materials, Logistics
Lois Borchardt, Signage, Registration
Crystal McCormick, Registration

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Madison, SD 57042-2216
O: 605/256-2771
H: 605/427-9667
pastorconstanze@tlcmadison.com

Tami Sonne (2016)
39674 244th St
Mt. Vernon SD 57363-6203
H: 605/248-2571
tamison@santel.net

Kyle Boese (2020)
808 Cedar Dr
Harrisburg, SD 57032
H: 605/670-2955
kyle@elbo.net

Teresa Nygaard (2020)
PO Box 85
Davis, SD 57021-0085
H: 605-238-5822
tnygaard49@gmail.com

Paul Knecht (2018)
815 N Monroe Ave
Pierre SD 57501-2328
H: 605/224-8490

Evangelical Outreach Committee

Prairie Coteau Conference (1)

Rev. Carl Larson (2018)
American Evangelical Lutheran
PO Box 287
Milbank SD 57252-0287
O: 605-432-5566
alcpastor@itcmilbank.com

Julie Rude (2016)
1405 6th Ave NE
Watertown, SD 57201-2009
H: 605-886-2692
prairiespiritsd@hotmail.com

Medary Conference (2)

Rev. Rick Senner (2018)
PO Box 276
Howard SD 57349-0276
O: 605-772-5716
H: 605-772-4529
bbpastor@alliancecom.net

Melvin Johnson (2016)
19243 485th Ave
Astoria SD 57213
H: 605-832-3441
mbjohnso@itctel.com

Crossroads Conference (3)

Mara Stillson (2016)
2012 S Elmwood Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57105
H: 605-321-4557
mara@losd.org

Pastor Randy Gehring (2016)
Our Savior's Lutheran
909 W 33rd St
Sioux Falls SD 57105-4620
O: 605-336-2942
rgehring@oslchurch.com

Southeastern Conference (4)

Rev. Greg Myrmoe (2016)
Emmanuel Lutheran
101 S 5th St
Beresford SD 57004-2113
O: 605-763-2831
H: 605-271-0990
gregjanmyr@yahoo.com

Shadoe Hanson (2017)
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H: 605-999-6313
shadoe-hanson@hotmail.com

Northern Plains Conference (5)

Pastor Brian Wasmoen (2017)
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PO Box 16
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O: 605-472-2640
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pastor.osl@midconetwork.com

Austin Cope (2016)
202 N 10th St
Eureka SD 57437-2194
H: 605/284-2024
acopemss@yahoo.com

Prairie Rivers Conference (6)

Rev. John Paulson (2016)
Our Savior's Lutheran
PO Box 465
Wessington Springs SD 57382-0465
O: 605-539-9632
oursaviorslc@venturecomm.net

Bonny Hansen (2018)
Mitchell, SD
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O: 605-995-1233
bonnyh524@yahoo.com

Bear Butte Conference (7)

Henrique Fleming (2018)
Woyatan Lutheran
522 Anamosa St
Rapid City SD 57702
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henriquefl03@gmail.com

Margie Neugebauer (2018)
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mandon@midcstatesd.net

Appointed

Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen
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Rev. Becky Piper
Calvary Lutheran
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Rev. Jonathan Vehar
Zion American Lutheran
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Multicultural Ministry Committee

Prairie Coteau Conference (1)

Rev. Bill Schrub (2018)
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H: 605-698-311
wschrub@yahoo.com

Vacant

Medary Conference (2)

Pastor Herb Wounded Head (2018)
South Dakota State University
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Gayle Cole (2017)
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grdnspot@iw.net

Crossroads Conference (3)

Rev. Natanael Lizarazo (2016)
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Sioux Falls SD 57197
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H: 605-261-7450
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Daniel Gayetaye (2018)
FLC African Ministry
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Sioux Falls SD 57104-6308
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H: 605-271-1483
getgayetaye@yahoo.com

Southeastern Conference (4)

Rev. Kwen Sanderson (2016)
St. Dysmas
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Yankton SD 57078-3112
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H: 605-253-2007
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Ana Nesselhuf (2018)

Northern Plains Conference (5)

Rev. Tim Sersen (2016)
Good Shepherd Lutheran
1429 N Dakota St
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O: 605-229-0846
tim@goodshepherdaberdeen.org

Connie Woehlhaff (2016)
PO Box 181
Eureka, SD 57437-0181
H: 605/284-2769
woehlha@valleytel.net

Prairie Rivers Conference (6)

Rev. Chris Baesler (2016)
Trinity Lutheran
1400 E 2nd Ave
Mitchell SD 57301-3003
O: 605-996-5054
H: 605-271-9933
pastorchris@mitchelltelecom.net

Dennis Paulson (2016)
613 Minnesota Ave SW
Huron SD 57350-2257
H: 605-352-2257
paulson1944@hotmail.com

Bear Butte Conference (7)

Rev. Art Weitschat (2018)

PO Box 849
27877 Lariat Circle
Hot Springs SD 57747-0849
O: 605-488-0279
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Sarah Holz (2017)

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Rev. David Piper

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Rev. Daryl Schubert

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

– John 3:16

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

John 3:16, perhaps one of the most quoted passages in the New Testament, hangs on bed sheets in football stadiums; it is almost ubiquitous. It is also true. If God so loves the world, we should too. Lutherans show up – as Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and as The Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

We are church for the sake of the world.

In our congregations we address hunger and poverty through food pantries and community gardens, in health care clinics and job training programs. We foster unity among the children of God in relationship with our ecumenical and inter-religious partners. Together, with our companions in Central America, we are working with unaccompanied minors and the conditions in their countries of origin that force these children to flee. Through LWF, we support Syrian refugees in Jordan who are living in Za’atari camp, provide education and child protection assistance to Sudanese refugees, and offer specialty care at the Augusta Victoria Hospital for Palestinians.

We have surpassed our fundraising commitment to eradicate malaria and bring about lasting change. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* will emphasize ELCA World Hunger this year to support our comprehensive approach to solve challenges that perpetuate hunger and poverty. All of this good and hard, sometimes dangerous, work is the work we are able to do because we are church abiding in Christ – God’s beloved people gathered around word and sacrament.

We are church for the sake of the world.

In preparation for the 500th anniversary observance of the Reformation, I encourage you to visit ELCA500.org for more information and resources. One of the featured events for the 500th anniversary is the Grace Gathering in conjunction with the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Come experience a churchwide assembly, be centered in God’s word, participate in experiential learning, hear Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee, attend workshops to equip you in observing the 500th anniversary in your local ministry setting and much more! You can register today at ELCA.org/GraceGathering.

On Sept. 11, our country will be remembering the lives lost and the lives forever changed by the tragic events 15 years ago. The events affected all of us, and it will be an important moment for us to be together as a church and with all people of faith. Part of our “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday on Sept. 11 is a chance for us to show up as Lutherans, freed and renewed in Christ, to serve and love our neighbor.

We are church for the sake of the world.

As we gather in our assemblies, let us be a faithful witness to God's work in our local communities, across the country and around the world. I am hopeful that our time together in assembly will be an opportunity for us to get to know each other and come together as a church. This is a good time for us to talk about the priorities and future directions of the ELCA.

I will be leading a process endorsed by the ELCA Church Council and the Conference of Bishops to discern in faith the future of the ELCA. Through an initiative titled Called Forward Together in Christ, we'll be assessing where we are as God's people and working to understand what God has in store for us. I am inviting you to take part in a conversation about the future of this church. For more information or to get involved, visit ELCA.org/future.

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement. As I am out and about in my travels, I am reminded that no one of us does God's work alone, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a partner with you in that service. Thank you for your leadership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

God's blessings to you as you gather as the living body of Christ. May you be guided by the Spirit as you do God's will for God's people.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



2016 Report of the Bishop to The South Dakota Synod, ELCA

Deuteronomy 10:11

The Lord said to Moses, "Get up, go on your journey at the head of the people, that they may go in and occupy the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them."

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First, I know that I'm not Moses and I don't believe we are being invited to occupy a new land, but I do believe we are being invited into a future that is held by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, just as it was for those who have gone before us. Since we were last together I have caught glimpses of that future in my travels across South Dakota, and as I have traveled across this faith community that gathers together around the world, called the ELCA.

It was my privilege to worship with the fine people at St Paul, in Java, SD on their mission festival recent where, although small in number, they still have a passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with brothers and sisters around the world through their gifts and offerings.

My wife LaDonna and I rejoiced and worshiped with 30,000 young people in Detroit during the ELCA Youth Gathering last summer. It was heartwarming to work with kids from Custer Lutheran Fellowship, alongside young people from across America in cleaning up the yard of the oldest home in Detroit.

During my time in Atlanta at the Worship Jubilee last July, I was blessed by hearing fine preachers of the Gospel, multiple invitations to participate in glorious music, and witnessed worship leaders from across the church being renewed and energized. We had the privilege of listening to Mrs. Mary Harris Gurley, who sung at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's funeral. Though she was frail in body, she still had a voice that could fill the sanctuary with such sweet sounds.

I could see the old country that we were leaving behind and touch the future as we celebrated 25 years of being a faith community for the folks of The Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope in Nicaragua. I was honored to be invited to preach and then delighted to participate in multiple ordinations of pastors that will be serving the church in the future. The children told the history of the church through a play that they had written and performed for us. I so enjoyed our time in Nicaragua with Herman and Jeanette Fink; Carla Borchardt, our Vice President; Susan Marone, AIM; and the Rev. Natanael Lizarazo, our Companion Synod Coordinator. It was heartwarming to see how projects that we are participating in bear such fruit at Cedro Galan. We anticipate a future where we have a new mission coordinator in Nicaragua working with the synod office, the churches of the ELCA, and the Church of Faith and Hope.

I was invited by a group called Fair Witness to travel to Israel and spent eight days meeting Palestinian and Israeli leaders from various walks of life. From the twenty-three year old grandson of a Palestinian farmer born in a refugee camp in Bethlehem, to the founder of the Palestinian Stock Exchange, to the retired Colonel who directed the building of the wall, to a Major in the Israeli Defense Force, we listened to the voices of the those who can only hear their narrative of a future being thwarted by the narratives of those around them. We also heard the voices of those who everyday are striving to bring about a future where there is room for all those gathered into the Land we call Holy.

It was a joy to lead a group of twenty-four to Germany this past November as we explored the lives and ministries of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther, Cranach the Elder, Frederick the Great, Katherine von Boren and other key players of the Reformation. What I always appreciate about the Reformation is the confluence of many individuals who were striving to regain the centrality of Jesus Christ as the center of the church and what that meant for their life together.

We will continue that exploration of what the Reformation has meant and will mean for us, as we gather at our Synod Assembly this June. We will hear from the Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal, the Rev. Henrique Fleming, and the Rev. Ruben Duran exploring from what the future of the Reformation will mean for us, each from their own perspective. We have teams preparing materials that congregations and pastors will be able to use starting this fall. Our speakers for our Fall Theological events in 2016 and 2017 will also focus on the Reformation and its ongoing impact on our lives and communities of faith. I will be leading a group of those who are interested in September 2017 to Germany. We hope to conclude our observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on November 1, 2017 with a synod-wide worship service.

I want each of you to know how appreciative I have been of those Pastors, AIMs and congregational leaders that have faithful and adeptly served the church. However, they continue to retire from active leadership and we continue the need to replace them with leaders for now and the future. We just concluded our First Call retreat at Joy Ranch and I am encouraged by the faithfulness and ability of those who are arriving to serve in South Dakota. The work of recruitment, education, and support is not finished; the future of the church continues to unfold. Our campaign “Listen God is Calling, Never Be the Same” has been successful but it is not done. As part of the fulfillment of the campaign I will ask that the Synod Council approve the hiring of a full time recruiter, whose job it is to invite men and women into the process of becoming pastors for this church, yet this year.

We continue to explore and test new ways of providing pastoral leadership to the congregations of South Dakota. We have seven individuals in the Kairos program serving seven rural parishes across South Dakota as they are educated and trained at the Sioux Falls Seminary through the Luther House of Study.

As I finish this report, I do so on the day that I was privileged to baptize our eighth grandchild. We gathered with family and friends, surrounded by the good people of St. Mark’s Lutheran, Sioux Falls who are ably led by the Rev. Lori Hope. It was a celebration of the promises that our Lord and Savior made to that little girl and that He has made to us. The promises that death does not win, that life in Jesus Christ is possible because Christ offers it as a gift, and that no matter what, He will never stop loving her or us. I invite all of us to do what each of us can so that those who have not yet heard of Jesus might have the same gift of a faith community centered in Jesus Christ surrounding them.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. David B. Zellmer
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

CONGREGATION ANNIVERSARIES and ROSTER CHANGES

(as of 5/11/16)

Anniversaries and Dedications

125th Anniversary

Zion Lutheran Church, Garretson

100th Anniversary

First Lutheran Church, Claire City

Salem Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mud Butte

50th Anniversary

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Pierre

25th Anniversary

St Dysmas Of South Dakota Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls

Commissioning

05/30/2015

Tom Martin, AIM

Installations

05/17/2015

Christie Meier, AIM, Tea, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran

05/29/2015

Rev. Karen Ressel, Pine Ridge Retreat Center

05/30/2015

Tom Martin, AIM, Rapid City, Calvary Lutheran

06/21/2015

Maria Cabello-Salomon, TEEM, Sioux Falls, Pueblo de Dios

07/11/2015

Rev. Sami Wertz Johnson, Sioux Falls Our Savior's Lutheran

08/09/2015

Rev. Michael Mortvedt, Brookings, Ascension Lutheran

08/16/2015

Rev. Bryan Taffe, Willow Lake, Good Hope Lutheran

08/23/2015

Rev. Josh Johnson, Sioux Falls, Eastside Lutheran

08/30/2015

Rev. Warren Lahammer, Rapid City, Faith Lutheran

09/13/2015

Rev. Tera Lowe, Bison, American Lutheran

09/27/2015

Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Claire City, First Lutheran

10/11/2015

Rev. Lando Anderson, Hartford, Zion Lutheran

10/11/2015

Rev. Nicholas Collins, Sioux Falls, Holy Cross Lutheran

12/06/2015

Rev. Dr. James Fowler, Vermillion, Trinity Lutheran

12/13/2015

Rev. Cassandra Lamb, Warner, St John Lutheran

01/10/2016

Rev. Mindy Ehrke, Florence, Goodhue Lutheran

02/07/2016

Rev. Alan Blankenfeld, Colman, Colman Lutheran

02/14/2016

Rev. Henrique Fleming, Rapid City, Woyatan Lutheran

05/01/2016

Rev. Debora Grismer, Hermosa, Our Savior's Lutheran

Necrology

09/08/2015

Rev. Judeen Johnson

09/09/2015

Rev. Harold Verhulst

10/08/2015

Rev. Alden Hovda

10/18/2015

Rev. Noble Kile

12/11/2015 Rev. Marjorie Hershey
04/05/2016 Rev. Donald Niedringhaus

On Leave from Call

06/1/2015 Rev. Nancy Hong
07/11/2015 Rev. Janice Wiersma
12/1/2015 Rev. Katie Johnson
02/1/2016 Rev. Rhonda Hanisch
04/1/2016 Rev. George Ekeren-Moening

Ordinations

05/22/2015 Rev. Tera Lowe
05/23/2015 Rev. Karen Ressel
06/06/2015 Rev. Samantha Wertz Johnson
06/11/2015 Rev. Joshua Johnson
06/17/2015 Rev. Warren Lahammer
06/19/2015 Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett
06/20/2015 Rev. Bryan Taffe
09/11/2015 Rev. Lando Anderson
01/23/2016 Rev. Alan Blankenfeld

Resigned from Roster

03/05/2016 Rev. Daniel Ostercamp

Retired

07/01/2015 Rev. Francis Bunk
07/01/2015 Barbara Bunk, AIM
07/01/2015 Rev. Obed Nelson
09/01/2015 Rev. Karen Rupp
09/15/2015 Rev. Tryphine Schruba
01/01/2016 Rev. Glen Enright

Transferred Into South Dakota

05/17/2015 Rev. Peter Strommen, 3I SE Minnesota
12/06/2015 Rev. Dr. James Fowler, 4F TX-LA Gulf Coast

Transferred Out of South Dakota

09/01/2015 Alan Saatkamp, AIM, 4B Central States
09/21/2015 Rev. Adam Butler, 3F Southwestern MN
09/21/2015 Rev. Frank Philipp, 2E Rocky Mountain
12/13/2015 Rev. Andrew Nelson, 5E Western Iowa
12/15/2015 Rev. Laurie Jungling, 1F Montana
12/16/2015 Rev. Kristin Ostercamp, 3D Northwestern MN
02/01/2016 Rev. Dr Rolf Svano, 3I Southeastern MN
02/08/2016 Rev. Patrick Hahn, 9B North Carolina
02/16/2016 Rev. Charles Meyer, 5E Western Iowa
02/17/2016 Rev. Lyle Rossing, 2D Grand Canyon

**Report of Pastor Bill Tesch, Director For Evangelical Mission
2016 South Dakota Synod Assembly**

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...
2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Thank you for calling me to partner with the people and congregations of our synod these last eight and a half years. It has been such a gift to be a witness and to have a role in the ways that God is using us to reconcile the world through Jesus Christ. God's work of making a new creation among us was powerfully evident in 2015-16.

Growing in Faith Together (G.i.F.T.): This is our revised program of transformational ministry training. Through this new four-part training congregational teams learn to guide their congregation through a season of renewal. The results are that members deepen their followership of Jesus Christ and their relationships with each other and the wider community. Through tools intended to facilitate listening, the congregation reveals God's purpose for them in their time and place. They then design guiding principles and a plan to help the congregation move forward with renewed energy and greater focus. Sometimes congregations apply for and receive grants to fund their plans and to create greater accountability. This year we had our first cohort of five congregations complete the training. We will hope to have at least two cohorts undertake this training this year.

Ventures in Growing Stewards: This four-part training guides a team of leaders and the pastor toward implementing a holistic year-round plan for growing Christian stewards. The results are that congregations regain a faith perspective on this often-difficult area of ministry and almost always see greater and more joyful generosity. We now have had 20 congregations complete this training and our goal will be to have 15 more this year.

New Congregational Development: One of the greatest joys and also challenges of my work is accompanying our newest congregations and worshipping communities on your behalf. This year our newest congregations have seen important developments.

- *Pueblo de Dios* – the tireless work of Pastor Jeanette Clark and TEEM candidate Maria Caballo Salmon and the people of this ministry are bearing great fruit in growing worship attendance and growing disciples. 70+ children hear and experience God's love in the Logos program. Five key leaders have begun Christian leadership training through Agora – a partnership that provides training to immigrant ministries.
- *Woyatan* – Pastor Henrique Flemming has been called as the mission developer to this vital congregation, and a guiding coalition of leaders from the Rapid City area is coming together to plan the new retreat center or multi-cultural center made possible by our "Listen God is Calling" appeal.
- *First Lutheran African Ministry* – This ministry among West African immigrants continues to thrive. The next stage of their development will see Abraham Gayetaye beginning his seminary education to become their pastoral leader.
- *Table of Grace* is One of our newest church starts. Pastor Jess Daum has gathered a team of leaders and is reaching out to the community in the Harrisburg School District

in many creative and effective ways. The emerging congregation expects to have preview worship services this spring and begin worship next fall.

- *Church on the Street*: Rebel Hurd out of Peace Lutheran in Sioux Falls is leading this newest worshipping community of our synod. The plan is to share the word and celebrate the sacrament among people who struggle with homelessness right on the street where God is already at work among people who attempt to live in corners, boxes and alleys and shelters of the city of Sioux Falls. Congregation partners will gather with the emerging worshipping community and relationships will be formed across this socio-economic divide.

AN INVITATION -- Area Strategy Tables are a fruitful way for congregations who share a mission field or live in somewhat close proximity to come together, listen to God and each other and then imagine and plan the ways that God is calling them to work together. This has been effective this last year in a small rural community where three congregations wanted to strengthen their witness to their community and in our state's largest city where 17 congregations developed five initiatives including two new congregations, and addiction ministry, a social service ministry among Spanish speaking immigrants and an evangelism ministry. *What about you and your congregation?* What can you do together with area congregations that you could not do alone? Let's begin a journey of listening to God, each other and your surrounding community in order to discover your church's next faith adventure. Give me a call. I'd love to work with you on an Area Strategy Table designed just for your context.

Gratitude: I am grateful for the partnership I have with Bishop Zellmer, Susan Marone, all of our great synod staff, and all our churchwide partners. This work would not be possible without their collaboration and amazing competency.

Military Deployment: I have shared with Bishop Zellmer that I will likely be deployed in my role as a Chaplain for the South Dakota Air National Guard for 6 to 8 months in 2017 somewhere over seas. I crave your prayers during this time, especially for my family.

Thank you again for your partnership in the Gospel!

Soli Deo Gloria!



Pastor Bill Tesch

Synod Assembly Report, May 2016
Submitted by Susan Marone, MA, LPC, AIM
Associate to Bishop Zellmer

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

It continues to be a great honor and privilege to serve on the SD Synod Staff! I feel very blessed to be part of a talented, gifted and supportive team of colleagues and working with the many fine rostered and lay leaders of our synod!

This year was filled with congregational visits, conducting Parish Studies for congregations with Rostered Leader vacancies, and accompanying candidates in the candidacy process. One of the great joys of this work is working with newly called rostered leaders! Newly ordained pastors of the SD Synod include:

Pastor Tera Lowe, 3-pt, American/Indian Creek/Rosebud, Bison
Pastor Karen Ressel, Pine Ridge Retreat Center
Pastor Sami Wertz Johnson, Our Savior's Lutheran, Sioux Falls
Pastor Josh Johnson, East Side Lutheran, Sioux Falls
Pastor Warren Lahammer, Faith Lutheran, Rapid City
Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, 3-pt, First, Claire City/Faith, New Effington/Our Savior's, Veblen
Pastor Bryan Taffe, 4-pt, Prairie Star Lutheran Parish, Bryant/Vienna/Willow Lake
Pastor Lando Anderson, Zion Lutheran, Hartford
Pastor Alan Blankenfeld, Colman Lutheran, Colman/Midway Lutheran, Flandreau
Pastor Josh Knudsen, 3-pt, First, Artesian/Trinity, Carthage/Immanuel, Iroquois
Pastor Bob O'Connor, Gloria Dei, Sioux Falls

Commissioned as Associates in Ministry include: Tom Martin, AIM, Calvary Lutheran, Rapid City.

I continue to enjoy working with the Candidacy Committee as we accompany 43 candidates in responding to a call to ministry in the ELCA. The annual Candidacy Retreat was held in April and we had 34 attendees including the committee. We are piloting a new program called Kairos with Luther House of Study, Luther Seminary and Sioux Falls Seminary. Candidates have the opportunity to serve in their congregations as Synodically Authorized Ministers and continue their seminary education at the same time. We presently have 6 people enrolled in the program.

I had the exciting opportunity to serve as the keynote speaker for Fall Theological on the topic of "Emotional Intelligence." We then sponsored a 5 day workshop on the topic at Joy Ranch and 12 of our rostered leaders attended. I also spent 10 days in Germany in November on a "Luther" tour and thoroughly enjoyed the educational experience!

I continue to grow and thrive in my call to synodical ministry and am grateful for our ministry together!

Peace,
Susan Marone, MA, LPC, AIM



2016 Report Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries

Greetings from Pine Ridge,

The ministry at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center (PRRC) can be divided into two broad areas. The first is responding to a knock at the door from the people in the community. These threshold ministries can be thought of as projects. And the other is providing hospitality and cross cultural immersion between visiting teams and the people living in the community. This ministry focuses on relationships.

Threshold Ministries: Coffee & sandwiches, quilts & blankets, hygiene kits, and baby diapers & wipes. In addition, the after school Sanctuary Program for children provides a safe place to play and worship. We have challenged ourselves to discover ways to shift the focus from providing the material items to ways of helping folks find the ability to provide for themselves and their families. As a result, some exciting new ministries are emerging:

- The energy assistance program was expanded to include a matching fund. People in the community provided \$3,450 for themselves, and through the generosity of our funding partners, the program provided \$7500 to provide heat for 42 households that included 105 adults and 154 children. Our partner AMEND provided energy assistance for 10 of those households.
- Through a generous grant from Thrivent we have begun the Takoje Wachi Oyate (Grandchildren's Dance Society). Kelly and Susie Looking Horse are teaching traditional dance and drumming to the youth who come to the Sanctuary program. Everyone who is interested is invited to practice during Kids' Time and we will have ten children that will receive regalia and dance at three pow wows this summer.
- A new partnership with the SuAnne Big Crow Youth Center will be launching this summer. Planning is underway for our visiting teams to provide a day camp for the children in the community Monday through Friday during the summer vacation. (This partnership is also supported in part by the Thrivent grant.)
- Finding ways to provide gainful employment is critical to helping people in this community to learn life skills and support themselves and their families. We are currently employing two individuals to do the janitorial and general maintenance of our building. A Day Labor fund is in the planning phase and we are hoping that it will be up and running soon.

Immersion & Hospitality Ministries: Hosting visiting faith based and academic groups in cross cultural immersions. This ministry includes programming and presentations that strive to provide space for mutual conversation and greater understanding of each other. Although there is a service project element included, the focus is on creating healthy, mutually respectful relationships. We strive to address and break down barriers that are supported by negative stereotypes to open the door to deeper appreciation for each other.

Visiting groups attend worship at various local congregations and time is spent discussing the similarities of our faith traditions. Very often there is a blending of traditions and embracing the beauty of diversity in those traditions is part of our evening Talking Circles as well as other questions or concerns that may have been experienced during the day. These Talking Circles provide a time of open, honest dialog.

We have opened our facility to other groups to provide a meeting space for learning and healing. We are partnering with Thunder Valley to host a financial literacy training for the people of the Pine Ridge Village. A grief support group held their meetings this past winter in our building. We are hosting an Art Show during the weeks when we have visiting teams that have been very successful in creating healthier boundaries and conversations between the community and our visitors. We will continue to be open to opportunities to support local groups in their work and ministries.

As the new pastor and director of the Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries I have been invited to share the vision of this ministry in presentations and educational forums. I am forever grateful for these opportunities and your interest! Financial, material and prayerful support is provided by many individuals and congregations across the country who are partners in this ministry! Special thanks to my colleagues in the Bear Butte Conference, the Steering Committee, our Ecumenical Partners, Bill Tesch, Bishop Zellmer, the Synod Staff & Council for the words of encouragement, prayers, and support. We are truly servants together!

Mitakuye Oysin!

Rev. Karen Ressel (Pastor Kay)

Director of Native American Ministry, South Dakota Synod of the ELCA

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Synod Coordinator
Suzanne Hansen AIM

This year, 2016, is a year of looking ahead to what can be helpful to congregations in the South Dakota Synod in helping to continue to impress the importance of faith formation. The newest is the forming of a Children and Family Ministry Network that meets once a month to continue to connect with each other. Milestones Ministries is a topic that is continually talked about along with ideas about Sunday School and Bible School.

The ELCA Youth Gathering was held last July in Detroit and was a huge success. The South Dakota Synod had over 1,000 High School Youth attending. South Dakota Synod had the most Youth attending of all the 65 Synods. This year is a “tweener” year for the Youth, so attending the Lutheran Outdoors camps and mission trips are the focal point for the youth in South Dakota. It is important that we all keep in mind the great ministry that the young adults and the adults that help with the Youth Ministry do for this Synod in spreading the word of Jesus Christ in their words and service.

Thanks for all the support that is given by the South Dakota Synod.

Leadership & Mission Appeal South Dakota Synod ELCA

2016 Assembly Report

I was pleased to report to the 2015 assembly that with gifts received at the assembly the appeal reached \$600,000. As of the writing of this report, gifts to date have reached \$1,872,388 and more gifts are anticipated to be received before the assembly. My thanks for your generosity are expressed in the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians: “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy for all of you.” Thanks to God for your generous response.

The Leaders Gifts and Rostered Leaders Gift phases of the appeal are completed and work continues on the Major Gifts and Congregation Gifts phases. We are so grateful for all the volunteers who have assisted with the appeal. Over 165 volunteers have worked in leadership roles in the appeal and I am so grateful for their work. If we continue our efforts during this last year of the appeal we can certainly reach our basic goal and move closer to the stated over all need of \$4,000,000.

IS YOUR CONGREGATION INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL?

- Every congregation in the South Dakota Synod is invited to:
 1. Participate in the appeal
 2. Appoint a congregation appeal leader(s)
 3. Set a congregation goal for the appeal
- When your congregation has appointed the appeal leader, contact the appeal office so that materials and training can be provided for your appeal leader.

I rejoice every time I have the privilege of signing thank you letters for the hundreds of donors who have supported the appeal. Thanks again for your generous support.

If you would like more specific information about the appeal, contact the appeal office.

Rev. Robert Hansen, Appeal Director

2016 Report to Synod Assemblies
Paul Baglyos, Coordinator for Ministry Leadership, ELCA Region 3

Our Culture of Call

Lutheran Christians understand God’s call to public ministry leadership in the church to involve two essential dimensions: internal and external. The internal dimension of God’s call involves a person’s own discernment that “God is calling *me* to this.” The external dimension of God’s call involves the discernment of others regarding that person—“God is calling *you* to this.”

Raising up leaders for the church requires that the whole church participate in the external dimension of God’s call. Some of the most common stories people tell when they begin to prepare for ministry leadership in the church are stories about other people encouraging them to do so. “Have you ever thought about seminary? “You would make a good minister.” “I can see you as a leader in the church.” Those sorts of promptings from ministry leaders and other church members, from family and friends, are common to the stories of people who become ministers of Word and Sacrament or Word and Service in the church.

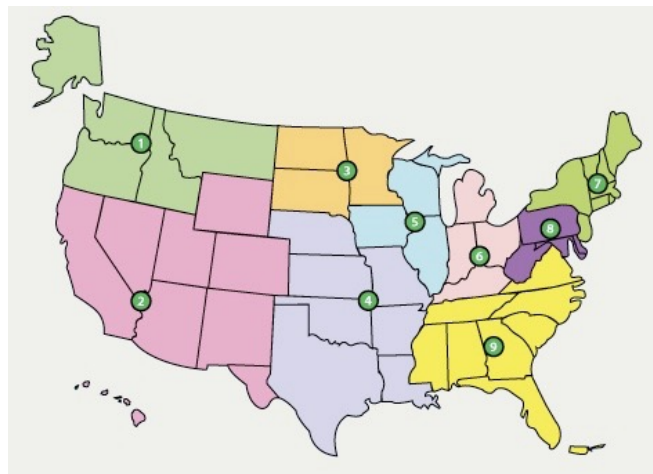
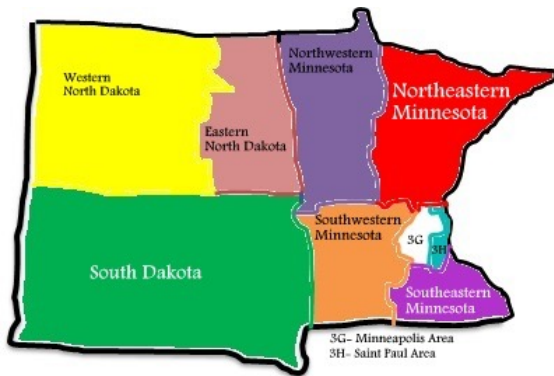
Evidence suggests that our shared participation in the external dimension of God’s call to ministry leadership is becoming less vigorous than it has been in the past, even the recent past. For example, over the twelve-year period from the 2004-2005 academic year to the current academic year (2015-2016) the total enrollment of students in Master of Divinity degree programs (the preparatory degree for pastors) at the eight seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has decreased from 1,252 to 735, or 41%. No single factor by itself accounts for that decrease, but it is reasonable to believe that one contributing factor is a neglected commitment to identify people with demonstrated gifts for ministry leadership and to encourage such people to step forward in preparation for leadership.

The ELCA’s Model Constitution for Congregations stipulates that one of the responsibilities of congregation councils is to “seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.” Congregation councils bear that responsibility in collaboration with all members of the church, all of whom participate in the external dimension of God’s call to ministry leadership.

Integral to this report, therefore, are these questions to all who will read it: How vigorously does your congregation attend to its responsibility to “seek out and encourage” gifted people to prepare for leadership as ministers of Word and Sacrament or Word and Service? How many members of your congregation have been or are enrolled in seminary to prepare for such leadership? Who are the people in your congregation that you can envision as effective ministry leaders, perhaps awaiting your encouragement and support to step forward in preparation?

The members of your synod who serve on your synod's candidacy committee work with the people who come forward from your congregations, your outdoor ministries, your campus ministries and other contexts of discernment and call to prepare for public ministry leadership in the ELCA. Your candidacy committees accompany those people in formation for leadership, helping them further to discern both their gifts and their growth areas pertaining to leadership, guiding them in their seminary programs, assessing their learning in field experience, and, when they are ready, approving them for ministry leadership in the ELCA under congregational call.

A major part of my work as Coordinator for Ministry Leadership in Region 3 of the ELCA is to work with each of the candidacy committees in the nine synods of our region. The map below on the left shows the territory of the nine synods of Region 3; the map below on the right shows the territory of the nine regions of the ELCA. I serve as deployed staff of the ELCA working in partnership with your synod's candidacy committee to coordinate its work with that of all other candidacy committees as together we attend to the formation of leaders for the ELCA.



The members of your synod who serve on your synod's candidacy committee engage their work with reverence and wisdom and grace. We are deeply grateful for all the people who come forward to prepare for ministry leadership in the ELCA, and deeply grateful to all of you who have helped to identify, encourage and support them.

To learn more about the work of your synod's candidacy committee and the people currently preparing for ministry leadership under the care of your synod's candidacy committee, speak with any member of the committee or with your bishop or bishop's associate responsible for candidacy. The work that we do together in the formation of leaders for the ELCA is made possible by the mission support your congregation gives to the synod and by the mission support your synod shares with the larger ELCA.

ELCA Region 3 Archives Report to 2016 Synod Assemblies

Introduction

This year marks the *28th year of the ELCA Region 3 Archives* program. The cooperative arrangement with Luther Seminary continues to work well. Paul Daniels serves as the Region 3 archivist half-time and for Luther Seminary half-time. Luther provides space for the large archives collection while also making available student workers and volunteers from the Friends organization (currently, 8 volunteers work in our office) to stretch the reach of both archives' programs. One of our other benefits includes support from the school's IT office.

Use of the Region 3 Archives

Our presence through our website (www.luthersem.edu/archives) continues to increase both our visibility and our patron use numbers. The site, hosted by Luther Seminary, is regularly updated with new training material for congregations interested in records care as well as providing inventories of the Region 3 Archives collections themselves. The website is our main "front door", attracting more researchers every year. We continue to support our patrons with phone calls, drop-in visits and traditional mail as well.

+The Archives assisted 923 reference patrons in the past year. Sixty-two percent are congregational committees working on scanning projects, anniversary planning, history writing and records care issues. Other significant user groups include synod staff, ELCA church wide personnel and individual students and researchers.

+Daniels worked on-site with all 9 synod offices, gathering permanently valuable office records for retention, including all candidacy records for each synod. He visited each synod office at least 6 times during the year. These visits were coordinated with 32 on-site congregational visits throughout North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, the Region 3 territory)

+Daniels spoke at 14 adult forums in congregations throughout the Region. The main theme of these talks was the use of memory and story in the life of the congregation, as well as to provide updates on the services available through the Region 3 Archives.

Collection Growth

+The Archives received 430 linear feet of synod records from the 9 offices. These materials included legal, financial, personnel and program files.

+Daniels gathered an additional 224 congregational histories - collection totals 6,725 history files.

+The Archives received 550 biographical pieces on clergy and lay leaders - collection totals 7,330 files.

+An additional 18 congregations scanned their valuable church records through the digitizing program.

Outreach and Education

+Daniels led workshops on congregational archives at 4 Region 3 synod assemblies in 2015. He also presented sessions at 2 fall theological conferences on Region 3 Archives service offerings.

+The Archives distributed an additional 455 copies of "Memory Work: A Guide for Congregational Archives and History" to congregations and individuals. It is also available electronically on the website.

+Daniels continues to promote the Iron Mountain storage space for sensitive types of synodical records, including materials on candidacy, disciplinary action and litigation.

Professional Development

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

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

+A former board member of the Lutheran Historical Conference, Daniels continues his support of this pan-Lutheran organization of archivists, historians, librarians and students.

Respectfully submitted, Paul A. Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archivist and Luther Seminary Archivist, 3.15.16



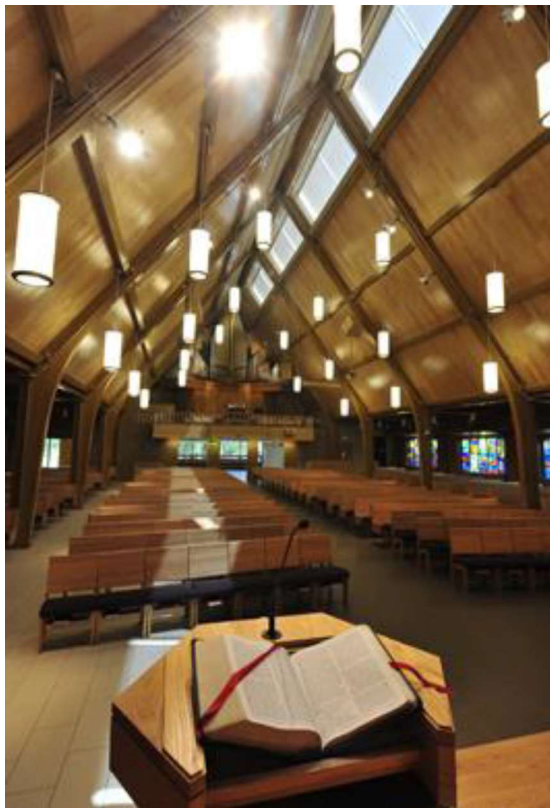
Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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

At year-end 2015, MIF had 830 loans outstanding, totaling \$492 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio 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.



At year-end 2015, MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$464 million. The Mission Investment Fund is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$663 million and net assets of \$194 million at year-end 2015, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 29 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

MIF Investments and Loans in the South Dakota Synod

As of December 31, 2015:

- 8 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$2,348,829, are at work throughout the synod.
- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 223 individuals, 102 congregations, 21 ministries and the synod totaled \$8,864,704.

MIF representative

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

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631
Tel: 877-886-3522 | Web: mif.elca.org

South Dakota Synod 2016 Vice President's Report

The vision of the South Dakota Synod is *that all may be filled*; nurtured in word and sacrament, God sends us to become a joyful sign of God's abundant blessing as we proclaim the good news of Jesus to every hungering soul, share compassion with all who suffer, and feed all whose bodies lack nourishment. The core values of the synod are prayer, human dignity, gratitude, the neighbor, and grace. The Synod Council as the board of directors of the synod and interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly has endeavored to live out the vision and values this past year. Highlights of Synod Council activities and actions include:

- Responded to encouragement from Bishop Eaton and a request from the Southern Black Hills text study group to begin conversations about racial justice. The Synod Council met at Pine Ridge in August. Pastors Natanael Lizarazo and Barbara Wangsness shared the history of the Pine Ridge ministry. Guest speaker Andrew Iron Shell presented information about the Thunder Development Corporation. The Council spent time in conversation about racism. The discussion continued at the October meeting when Pastor Herb Wounded Head shared experiences and perspectives from his life. Council members also listened to webcasts conducted by Bishop Eaton and William B. Horne II. This is an important topic that directly relates to the vision and values of the South Dakota Synod. Congregations are encouraged to begin, or continue, such conversations. Resources can be found at <http://www.elca.org/webcast>.
- Approved a congregation new start in partnership with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and issued a letter of call to Pastor Jessica Daum to serve as mission developer. This new church community, called Table of Grace, gathers in and around Harrisburg to build connections, share with others, and worship God.
- Approved a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC), Church on the Street, to provide ministry to the marginalized homeless community of Sioux Falls. This ministry serves in response to God's love to meet human needs, advocate dignity, stand with the poor and powerless, while proclaiming the Word through God's love, prayer, witness, and service. Rebel Hurd serves as the servant leader for this new community.
- Visited congregations to express appreciation for ongoing mission support to the synod and engage in conversation about ministry.
- Served as visitors to share information with other synod leaders about the Listen God is Calling appeal. As of March 2016, members of the Synod Council, Candidacy Committee, and Support to Ministries Committee have committed over \$200,000 to the appeal.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of joining Bishop Zellmer, Susan Marone, and Pastor Nate Lizarazo in representing the South Dakota Synod at the 25th anniversary celebration for our companion synod, the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope (ILFE) in Nicaragua.

I would like to extend a special word of appreciation to outgoing members of the Synod Council: LuAnn Denke, Bear Butte; Alex Jensen, Crossroads; Pastor Jan FitzGibbon, Prairie Coteau; Christy Kimball, Southeastern; and Brody Danielsen and Haleigh Johnson, Youth.

Thank you to Bishop David Zellmer, Pastor Bill Tesch, Susan Marone, AIM, Suzanne Hansen, AIM, Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, Pastor Karen Ressel, Crystal McCormick, Lois Borchardt, Kevin Stillson, Jim Schade, Kurt Osborne, Pastor Bob Hansen, and Marilyn Green for their commitment and passion for the ongoing work of the synod.

God's blessings to you as we continue to live out the vision *that all may be filled*.

Candace Boncler

Report of the Support to Ministries Committee
2016 South Dakota Synod Assembly
Pastor David Schoeld, Chairperson

The Support to Ministries Committee (STM) continues to work to connect pastors seeking a call with congregations seeking a pastor. This continues to be a struggle as there are currently more calls than there are pastors available for those calls. It gets even a little more rough when you factor in congregational needs with pastoral gifts – will it be a good fit? Will both pastor and congregation find life and joy as together they work to share God’s love and grace with community and world?

Last year I talked about the changes that are coming for our ministry sites – and for pastoral ministry in general: changing call processes, heavier debt load due to seminary expenses, changing pastoral education processes; reduced number attending seminary. These are concerns you’ve likely heard addressed by the synod, the bishop, your pastor, or any number of articles in magazines or online.

In the face of these changes, you should be proud to be a part of the South Dakota Synod, and the good work that the synod office has been putting into creating a system to help pastors deal with education, costs, and placement. They are seeking unique and creative ways to address the concerns that the church on the prairie (and in the cities, too) face. But no matter how effective they are, without the encouragement and support of the people and congregations of the South Dakota Synod, speaking with and to those with skills to help lead this church in its mission, we’ll fall short.

At the risk of repetition, I’ll reiterate what was in this report last year, I’ll repeat: “...it is the congregational members and pastors who have the best ability to change this. Do you know a pastor who might like a change? Have you promoted the synod resources and direction – feeding the hungry, physically and spiritually, as well as our “Listen God Is Calling” appeal to keep pastors on the prairie? Your words, your invitation, may be just what’s needed.”

I am thankful for the prayerful support of the STM Committee for each other and the congregations of South Dakota in the midst of change; their familiarity with, and concern for, congregations throughout the synod as they ask difficult questions and deal with difficult situations; their joyful conversation and uplifting spirit in the midst of ministry.

Thank you also to Susan Marone, AIM (Associate to the Bishop), the Rev. David Zellmer, (Bishop), and Crystal McCormick, (Candidacy and Mobility Office Coordinator) for direction, encouragement, and support.

Thank you, also, to the congregations of the synod for your prayerful support and concerns.

In Christ’s Service,
David

Campus Ministry - Collegians In Christ's Service (CICS) at Northern State University

Ashley Geist-Cusick, Director

Greetings from Northern State! It has been a year filled with many blessings here at NSU and I am honored to share some of the highlights from our year with you below.

Our Service Learning trip to Texas was again, a highlight of our year. The trip included nine student members and two leaders serving at the Bokencamp Children's Shelter for unaccompanied migrant youth from Central and South America.

Our group had the opportunity to share in praise music, crafts, Bible stories, and praying with these amazing youth. We also learned a great deal about immigration and had the opportunity to provide encouragement and support to the staff at the Bokencamp shelter. We also served at the Food Bank of South Texas by packing food boxes and at Metro Ministries by helping clean in their medical clinic, organizing donations, cleaning and organizing in the women's shelter, and conducting an evening of crafts and Bible stories at the shelter for women and children. Every one of our participants also led devotions during the trip.



While in Texas the students also visited several learning locations including the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay, the Art Museum of South Texas, the Texas State Aquarium, and Malaquite Beach National Park.



Each student who has been on these trips has said that they are life changing! We thank our supporters including all of our local personal donors & ELCA congregations, Support to Ministries and the Northern Plains Conference for making these trips a reality for our NSU students. These learning experiences would not be possible without the generosity of many, and we are thankful for this support!

Above: Students at the Bokencamp Shelter: Cody Folden, Alicia Lorig, Brandon Vockrodt, Olivia Forman, Cody Klein, Megan Vockrodt, and Charles Sersen.

Above Right: Brandon Vockrodt of Pierre visits the Gulf of Mexico at Malaquite Beach, National Park.

Other Highlights Include.....

- Celebrating the graduations of nine senior members.
- Winning the NSU award for Service Project of the Year for the third year in a row and were nominated for outstanding senior, outstanding student leader, outstanding freshman, outstanding advisor, and outstanding program.

-10 of our students plus our leader attending the Peer Ministry Training workshop with Lyle Gienger presented at Bethlehem Lutheran in October.

- Donating over 52 hours of service to the Aberdeen community between our Fall Food Drive and the Christmas Day of Service which included Christmas caroling at nursing homes, making blankets, and more, all in one day.

-Conducting a campus wide donation for toiletry items for our local women's shelter this Christmas

-Worshipping, learning & having fun with Wednesday worship, three Bible Studies per week, and a fun social event on most Fridays. We have also welcomed four faculty & staff guest speakers from the NSU community at our weekly services and many of our local ELCA pastors.

-Collaborating with other NSU ministries for a welcome back picnic in the fall and a Christian music night on campus.



At left, top: CICS Peer Ministry team, Director and members attend Peer Ministry Training in October.

At left, lower: CICS group photo of students attending the Annual Celebration Gala in 2015.

Below, right: Group from the 2015 Spring Retreat to camp Nesodak near Waubay, SD. We welcomed CICS Board President, Pastor Liz Dieseth from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Aberdeen as a guest presenter.



Last spring brought us another successful Annual Celebration Gala which helps to send our students on Service Learning trips and to spread the message of Campus Ministry at NSU.

The gala included conversation between students, board members, parents and donors, a slideshow presentation of the year's activities, recognition of our graduating seniors, a silent auction, and an evening of fellowship complete with dinner and dancing.

Funds raised at the gala were used to defray expenses for our Service Learning trip in 2015 to Corpus Christi, Texas.

This March also brought another successful gala night where we raised funds to defray costs for this spring's trip to Washington, D.C. along with other regular activities like weekly worship and Java with Jesus Bible study & discussion. Last Friday 6 students participated in our new, local mini faith retreat that was a huge success!

Campus Ministry Report

The Luther Center at USD, Vermillion SD

The Fall semester began with a bit of a slow start with Pastor Andy leaving. The call process hasn't yet been quite fruitful, and the discussion began on hiring an interim director. The students all decided that if the Luther Center's focus was on creating leaders for the future of the church, we might as well get started. I have been acting as the interim director for a full semester now, and it has been a great experience. Most of the students asked to chip in and utilize our talents in order to keep the Luther Center functioning without delay. So far, our activities include :

Organizing worship services for middle school children and their families, worshipping at St. Dymas in Springfield SD, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, as well as several community building events. Most prominent of the activities would be our Wednesday meals and Worship, Monday tea'ology (drink tea and talk Jesus), And LC @ OLC (church outside the walls). We have awarded a scholarship for a graduate student who is going on a trip to Guatemala to fit and equip immobile persons for wheelchairs. However, I myself have the most appreciation for your support to us, for I am being exposed most directly to life in ministry. Because of this opportunity and your support , I now have greater knowledge and appreciation for what the church is and how it operates.

We have made an intentional effort to practice the art of asking questions and seeking answers both in the text and in daily life. The question we are exploring now is "Where do we encounter Christ?". It has overwhelmingly allowed us to observe that Christ can be found just about everywhere our eyes can see, our ears can hear, or hearts can feel.

The beginning of the spring semester was very energetic, as the students had a more confident voice in the ministry setting. The music talent has flourished, as we have utilized music from all over the spectrum, bringing in pop music, classic rock music, camp songs, and hymns from the blue book. The students also seem to have taken quite the interest in service. Much like the fall semester, we have another student taking interest in service in the country of Guatemala. This time we awarded the same scholarship for the student, but she will be more focused on assisting in environmental sustainability measures. We continue the same type of events, Teaology, LC @ OLC, and both of these programs allow for time, and conversation spent on the gospel and ministry in this day and age.

During the lent season, the students have had a chance to hear some of the area pastors speak, as we had a "round robin" scenario. For the students to become more aware of different voices in the rural setting, this was the perfect experience.

We have also introduced some of our musicians to local churches to play special music, and this was also great exposure to see the different settings in which God's word takes place. We have continued to ask the question "where do we encounter Christ?" and it seems that the only place he is not, is in the tomb!(Easter sermon).

We have a lot to look forward to as a majority of the students will be returning next year (two are graduating). We are also very hopeful that the call process is advancing, and that we might get back into full swing. Thank you once again for all of the support, and your part in keeping campus ministry alive!

Submitted by Shadoe Hanson

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY

The second academic year of the cooperative ministry agreement between the Lutheran Campus Ministries at BHSU and SDSMT has been filled with blessings and challenges. At BHSU, this year we had a great group of students who were active at both of our weekly gatherings on Mondays and Wednesdays. The students loved getting to know congregational members over the meals, and getting to have in-depth conversations about faith and life. In partnership with the students from LCM at SDSMT, we were able to volunteer together and serve a community meal at Thanksgiving, and joined in fellowship through hiking and exploring the Black Hills. The Adopt-A-Mom program continues to serve student mothers on our campus, and this summer, six active participant families will be attending family camp at Outlaw Ranch. We look forward to next year, when we plan to expand programming to include more students and opportunities for service. Thank you for your generous support of LCM at BHSU!

Rachel Nelson
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Black Hills State University
The Living Room
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LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

The second academic year of the cooperative ministry agreement between the Lutheran Campus Ministries at BHSU and SDSMT has been filled with blessings and challenges. At SDSM&T we continue to enjoy weekly worship on Sundays, Bible study on Tuesdays and fellowship over lunch on Thursdays. We have been active on campus stocking the food shelf, assisting with the MLK day of service, delivering Thanksgiving baskets to families in need, and joining in fellowship with the Mines Buddies program. In partnership with the students from LCM at BHSU, we were able to volunteer together and serve a community meal at Thanksgiving, and joined in fellowship through hiking and exploring the Black Hills. We look forward to next year, when we plan to expand programming to include more students and opportunities for service. Thank you for your generous support of LCM at SDSM&T!

Rachel Nelson
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South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
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605.641.7661

South Dakota Synod Candidacy Report 2016

The South Dakota Synod is blessed with 46 individuals, or 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 in 2015 awarded \$184,565.80 in scholarships to 21 individuals on this journey to become rostered leaders in the ELCA.

The Candidacy Committee feels that God is truly calling us to join with our member congregations in the South Dakota Synod to give out of our abundance to the “Listen God is Calling Campaign”. This provides all of us the opportunity to invest in leadership development for the church for future generations by providing our financial support for a future generation of new pastors and rostered leaders. Please prayerfully consider your gift or an additional gift to the “Listen God is Calling Campaign.”

All of us as members of congregations of the SD Synod, are called to play an important role in talking with and encouraging individuals that have the qualities to become new pastors and 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.

Finally, continue to pray for your pastors, rostered leaders, Synod Staff and members of the Synod Committees to continue God’s work being done in this world with our hands.

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

Report Multicultural Committee 2016 - By Natanael Lizarazo, Chair

As Synod's Multicultural Committee, it is our joy and responsibility to provide leadership for ethnic-specific ministries. Given the fast demographic changes taking place in South Dakota, mission opportunities abound for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with new immigrants, refugees and ethnically-specific communities. God is always inviting us to embrace the amazing diversity which we see reflected in gas stations, grocery stores and in every aspect of daily life.

Our Committee represents all seven conferences and works in collaboration with the Evangelical Outreach Committee. This facilitates greater participation and fluid communication. Though geography is wide-spread, the use of technology allows us to participate in meetings without spending traveling time or significant financial resources. Face-to-face meetings do take place as well. Current members are Rev. Bill Schrub, Rev. Daryl Schubert, Gayle Cole, Rev. Natanael Lizarazo, Daniel Gayetaye, Rev. Kwen Sanderson, Sheldon Engen, Rev. Tim Sersen, Connie Woehlhoff, Rev. Chris Baesler, Dennis Paulson, Rev. Karen Ressel, Sarah Holz, Rev. David Piper, Rev. Herb Wounded Head, Rev. Art Weitschat, Jim Bishop and Rev. Bill Tesch.

Our core responsibilities are: (1) advise the Evangelical Outreach Committee on matters related to the oversight/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 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.

The ethnic specific ministries we accompany are: Lakota Retreat Center in 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 keep moving forward in proactive ways. Significant highlights we celebrate include a very positive ministry review of Pueblo de Dios, the calling of Pastor Henrique Fleming to serve Woyatan Lutheran Church and of Abraham Gayetaye as spiritual leader of First Lutheran African Ministry.

As we address our growing ethnic diversity, it is critically important we make these ministries visible, invest in leadership development and provide greater participation for people of color in our shared life. Alongside five other synods in the region, we have entered into a relationship with Agora, a multicultural network housed at Luther Seminary in St Paul MN. Through Agora we completed two different training courses at Pueblo de Dios and one at First Lutheran African Ministry. On behalf of our Synod's Multicultural Committee, we joyfully invite you to support these ethnic-specific ministries with your ongoing prayers and financial resources.

Evangelical Outreach Committee Report to the Synod Assembly 2016

The Evangelical Outreach Committee, in coordination with the Multi-cultural Committee of our synod works with these ministries in South Dakota:

1. Pueblo de Dios, Sioux Falls
2. African Ministry at First Lutheran, Sioux Falls
3. Native American ministries:
 - a. Woyatan, Rapid City
 - b. Pine Ridge
 - c. Wopila House

The committee helps these ministries with their funding, supporting their pastoral leadership, and encouraging them in their ministry.

The committee works also to develop or redevelop outreach ministries through staffing, funding and other support. Current developing or redeveloping congregations are:

1. Westside Lutheran, Sioux Falls
2. First Lutheran, Newell
3. A congregation being developed at Harrisburg
4. "Church on the Street," A new ministry among the homeless in downtown Sioux Falls.

We also work to promote renewal in congregations and have done so by sponsoring GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) events for congregations and a retreat for rural pastors during the year.

The Committee offered scholarships this year to its members and Synod leaders interested in learning more about developing "House Churches" to attend an event regarding various models of this innovative yet historic approach for building God's Church.

**Report to SD Synod Assembly 2016 - by Natanael Lizarazo,
Coordinator Companion Synods**

"For the rendering of this service supplies the needs of the saints and overflows in many thanksgivings to God". 2 Cor. 9:12. Overflowing generosity! Ministering to the saints! Thanksgivings to God! These realities do inspire our mission relationships with The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon and The Lutheran Church of Faith & Hope of Nicaragua.

With the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon we facilitate communication, collaborative relationships and shared work with our ELCA Global Mission Unit and with other mission companions in the United States and Canada. Our Synod is part of the Cameroon Network which just met in April at our Synod's offices to share experiences and coordinate ongoing mission efforts. At this Assembly we celebrate the presence of Bishop Ruben Ngozo and the unique opportunity we have to review with him our mission priorities. Bishop Ngozo will preach in three congregations, speak at our Mission Prayer Breakfast, preach at our Assembly closing worship and share the mission of the Lutheran Church of Cameroon in other ministry settings.

Projects which continue in **Cameroon** are the Roofs for Congregations, Train up a Child, support for the Hospitals of Garoua Boulai and Ngaoundere, Women Sewing Project and Seminary Scholarships at Meiganga. Improving housing facilities for students at the Seminary in Meiganga is also possibility **These projects do require a commitment of over \$120,000 per year.**

Milestones related to the Lutheran Church of Faith & Hope of Nicaragua (**ILFE by its acronym in Spanish**) included ILFE's 25th Anniversary which Bishop Zellmer and others from our Synod were honored to attend last July. While in Nicaragua we reviewed our shared mission priorities: Green Project of Cedro Galan, Facilities at Cedro Galan, Synod's missionary, elementary schools, synod's pastor to teach/preach during Reformation week, youth exchanges and the Women Training Center in Masaya. **These projects require a commitment of about \$90,000 per year.**

A timely project in Nicaragua right now is improving the facilities at Cedro Galan, the national training center for ILFE, expected to be done by August. Improvements include upgrading bathroom, kitchen, dining and sleeping facilities. The cost is U\$50,000 of which we have raised \$20,000. We are inviting congregations and its ministry organizations to consider mission gifts ranging from \$500 -\$1,500. For a visit or additional information, contact Pastor Natanael or a member of our Companion Synods Committee at companion-synod@sdsynod.org or at 605-261-7450. A description of this project along with photos can be found at our Synod's website.

As we move forward, it is vitally important to realize the huge impact these relationships have for the mission we share. It is also critically important to commit ourselves to ongoing prayer, visits and sharing of financial resources. Whether our gifts go for Cameroon or Nicaragua, they glorify God! Specific descriptions of these projects can be found in our Synod's webpage. **Thank you people of God in the South Dakota Synod for your ongoing mission generosity!**

South Dakota Synodical Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Report to the South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2016

The 28th Annual Synodical Convention of the South Dakota Women of the ELCA was held June 26-27 at Faith Lutheran, Rapid City. There were 86 registered attendees. The theme was “Be Transformed” and the theme verse was Romans 12:1-2—“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Our pre-convention event included a chuck wagon dinner and entertainment at Fort Hayes and the Lighting Ceremony at Mount Rushmore. We thank the women at Faith Lutheran for a delightful convention experience. The 2016 convention is scheduled for First Lutheran in Mitchell June 24 & 25, 2016. The theme is “Daughters of the King”. We plan to celebrate our sisterhood in Christ and our place as beloved daughters in the Kingdom of God. We invite all women of all ages to join us.

Planning is underway for many women from the South Dakota Synodical organization to attend the 10th Triennial Convention and Gathering in Minneapolis in July, 2017. Eight voting members from our synod will be selected at the convention in Mitchell and our Triennial Coordinator, Darla Toben, is working on arranging bus transportation for those interested in attending the Gathering. This event will likely never be any closer for us than this, so we hope to have many participating. Work is underway in cooperation with churchwide to bring a woman from one or both of our companion synods (Cameroon and Nicaragua) to the States to attend the Triennial Gathering and visit the conferences within our synod during the summer of 2017.

Women of the South Dakota Synod continue to reach out in service with quilts and kits sent to Lutheran World Relief, gifts to local food pantries, support for persons in crises, and to “the church, the society, and the world.” (Purpose statement of the Women of the ELCA) I commend the women of our synod for the creative and thoughtful ways that they serve in their communities, becoming the hands, feet, and heart of the church in action.

Women of the ELCA provide quilts and other handmade items for the annual Lutherans Outdoors quilt auctions, providing support for the young campers in our synod. Local women continue to meet for Bible study—many using the Gather magazine published by the churchwide organization. This year we have focused attention on bringing the Dina Johnson Scholarship up to the amount required to be fully endowed, thus insuring that this scholarship to an Augustana University student can continue to be awarded.

We welcome the women of the Wyotan community in Rapid City who have recently formed a unit of Women of the ELCA. We look forward to formally greeting them at our convention in Mitchell in June.

Our goal is to continue to work creatively and think “outside the box” to reach women of all ages and vocations to become an active part of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to bring new ideas, new hope, new joy into our work together.

Glenda Ofstehage, President

The State of South Dakota

Helping Members be Wise with Money and Live Generously

As a membership organization of Christians, we have 49,083 members in the State of South Dakota who are our owners. Our purpose is to serve our members and society by guiding both to be wise with money and live generously. We believe that all we have is a gift from God and that generosity is an expression of faith. We succeed when our members, their families and their communities thrive.

Statewide Member Involvement - 2015

Our members don't just raise money. They raise people up by building homes, serving food, assisting a neighbor in need and more. And because we're a membership organization, members often get together just to have fun.

- 144,077 members and others participated in Thrivent Action Team and other member activities in the State of South Dakota resulting in 294,448 volunteer hours. Funds raised through these local activities total \$5,013,536 which was combined with \$639,510 from Thrivent to increase the impact.
- 1,197 people were involved, along with the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity program, in building 4 homes and repairing another 6 in the State of South Dakota which impacted 28 individuals.
 - 8,019 members in the State of South Dakota directed \$1,308,363 in Choice Dollars to 1,156 enrolled churches and organizations.

National Impact - 2015

- \$2 billion paid out to member families/beneficiaries through insurance and annuity benefits.
- \$187.4 billion life insurance in force, ready to help when needed.
- \$203.9 million in total outreach with \$100.3 million provided by Thrivent and additional \$103.6 million raised and donated by members and supporters.
- 313,700 Thrivent members directed \$54.3 million Thrivent Choice Dollars to 29,196 enrolled churches, schools, social ministries and other nonprofits.

Support from the Thrivent Financial Foundation - 2015

The Thrivent Financial Foundation provides grants to Christian and other nonprofit groups nationwide. The Foundation awarded more than \$8.6 million in 2015, of which \$4 million was from employee matched gifts.

For more information, please visit <http://www.thrivent.com> or <http://www.thriventbuilds.com> or <http://www.thriventfoundation.com>



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Augustana University:

Founded in 1860, Augustana is a selective, comprehensive university affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. With 53 majors, 41 minors and 15 pre-professional programs for undergraduates, along with graduate degree and continuing education programs, we are committed to enriching lives and fostering development by combining a foundation in the liberal arts with professional skill and advanced study.

AU serves more than 1,800 students from 30 states and 38 countries. Most are part of our residential community and call our 100-acre campus home. Our graduate and continuing education programs serve students online and during times that are convenient for adult learners.

Today is an exciting time at Augustana. Recent highlights from AU include:

- The development and execution of *Horizons 2019: The Strategic Plan for Augustana*, a compass that is helping us transform and grow the institution within the vastly competitive and ever-changing world of higher education.
- The addition of new centers and offices to help us better serve the needs of students and our community, including our new Student Success Center, the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education, and the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- The anticipated completion of the Froiland Science Complex, our new \$35 million, 125,000-square-foot science facility, the largest and most complex building endeavor in our 156-year history. Phase one of the project (open now) features a 41,000-square-foot new addition to our existing science center. Our students are now benefiting from its active learning classrooms, multi-use classatories, a state-of-the-art nursing simulation lab, and glass-enclosed laboratories that truly put science on display for the entire campus – and our community. Phase two (open this summer) features a complete renovation of our existing science facility.
- The introduction of *Horizons 2019: The Campaign for Augustana University*, our new fundraising campaign designed to enhance campus life, enrich teaching and learning, and provide for the campus community through increased annual and long-term investments. From a facilities standpoint, the campaign includes significant goals for a new Student Activities Center, along with major renovations to the Morrison Commons and the Humanities Center.
- An NCAA DII National Championship for our men's basketball team; international tours for our performing and visual arts students; the receipt of a major research grant from the National Institutes of Health; a growing number of outreach, volunteerism and ministry initiatives; and continued recognition from national ranking agencies such as U.S. News, Forbes, the Princeton Review and Washington Monthly.

We thank God for all the blessings he has given to Augustana University over the past year and we continue to offer our prayers for the important ministry of the South Dakota Synod.

For Augustana University,

Rob Oliver
President



2016 Annual Report to the SD Synod, ELCA

Chapel in the Hills

3788 Chapel Lane

Rapid City, SD 57702

(605) 342-8281

info@chapel-in-the-hills.org

The Chapel in the Hills is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed to maintain and operate the Chapel in the Hills. We are considered a Special Partnership Ministry of the South Dakota Synod. The Chapel and grounds are open to visitors from May 1st to September 30th and during special programs and services the remainder of the year.

Each year we welcome visitors from all over the United States and the world. The Chapel offers a quiet retreat from the hustle and bustle of vacation and offers a place for tourists and locals alike to slow down, relax, and enjoy Christ's presence in a peaceful setting. The Chapel fills a unique niche in the Synod's evangelism through its ministry to visitors, while sharing our Lutheran heritage and traditions.

The Chapel in the Hills continues to host numerous weddings, vow renewals, and other special services throughout the year. Evening worship services are held throughout the summer, continuing the tradition that began when the Chapel was the home of the *Lutheran Vespers* radio program. In addition, we continue to seek ways to extend our mission to the local community and beyond.

During the past few years, we have played host to various youth and adult volunteer groups, helping with general maintenance of the Chapel property. As a non-profit corporation, we would not be able to function without our volunteers. We have a very dedicated staff of volunteers who work in our gift shop and serve as hosts for our visitors throughout the summer. In addition, many local Black Hills clergy serve by leading the evening worship services and officiating many of the weddings. We are expanding our outreach this year by inviting clergy from all over the Synod and country to serve as guest pastors. The response has been very positive, and we are looking forward to these pastors sharing their ministry with us. If you should ever feel a call to serve as a volunteer in the gift shop, on a maintenance project, or as a visiting pastor, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Adequate funding is always a concern—and goal—of the Chapel in the Hills board of directors. We are beginning the process of some long-term strategic planning on how best we can provide a secure, permanent source of funding for the maintenance and operation of the Chapel. If anyone would like to be involved in this process, or has some ideas or suggestions as to how best to accomplish this goal, please get in touch with us. We appreciate all input from you, our Synod partners.

As we look to 2019 and the approach of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Chapel in the Hills, we ask for your continued prayers and support of this unique ministry in South Dakota. Come visit us when you are in the Black Hills. Discover the peace you will find on your visit, and then share the news of this special place with others!

In Christ's Love,

Brian & Joyce Kringen, Managers

2016 ELCA annual report: The Good Samaritan Society

As the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of senior services and housing, The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society has always sought to create environments where people are loved, valued and at peace.

The Good Samaritan Society was founded in 1922 and opened its first care center in 1923 in Arthur, N.D. Today, the Good Samaritan Society operates in 24 states at more than 240 locations; its headquarters is in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The organization continues to evolve to meet the needs and desires of customers, staff members and communities it serves and is dedicated to supporting well-being through innovative products and services for older adults and their families.

In 2015, the Good Samaritan Society:

- Established a new executive leadership team consisting of David J. Horazdovsky, president and CEO; Tom Syverson, executive vice president/chief operating officer; Grant Tribble, executive vice president/chief financial officer; Bergen Peterson, executive vice president/chief administrative officer; and Walter Woods, president of the Good Samaritan Foundation.
- Awarded grants totaling \$100,000 through its Social Accountability program. The grants help Society locations meet community needs through donations to food banks, transportation programs for seniors and other projects.
- Organized a mission trip to Colombia, one of three locations the Society supports through its Project Outreach program. The mission team visited several sites, including a senior center sponsored by the Good Samaritan Society.
- Expanded its mission to more home-based clients in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona with the purchase of two large home care companies. These acquisitions brought nearly 2,500 new staff members to the Good Samaritan Society.
- Furthered its work to provide monitoring and well-being assistance to clients in their own homes through a grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. Also, the Society started redesigning its website (www.good-sam.com) to provide resources to informal caregivers as part of the grant. While this work is focused on southern Minnesota, the resources will be available to caregivers anywhere.
- Continued work renovating and expanding its National Campus in Sioux Falls. When completed in mid-2016, the campus will house 600+ staff who assist Good Samaritan locations across the country.
- Began work on a prototype memory care assisted living building on its Prairie Creek campus in Sioux Falls. Also, continued expansion on its St. Martins Village campus in northwest Rapid City to provide additional service options to the Black Hills area.

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries is the Deaf Ministry for the South Dakota Synod that is housed at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. We make worship, Bible study, fellowship activities, service projects and any other kind of church activity accessible to those who are deaf and hard of hearing. This year we continued to bring the good news to our group inside and outside of the church.

We also continue to offer free American Sign Language classes at Peace Lutheran Church. This year we have provided sign language classes to more people than ever. One of our deaf members, Angela Koterwski, teaches three different levels of ASL.

Each year we highlight our ministry in October with a Deaf Awareness Sunday. This year we assembled a "Sign Choir" with members of our group combined with members of Augustana. We also invited a deaf minister from California, Don Rosenkjar, to give the children's sermon and lead a special Bible study in American Sign Language.

Another goal for our ministry is to reach out and do regular service projects. We volunteered at Necessities for Neighbors as well as other service opportunities. Our members also serve on national deaf associations volunteering their time.

Our goals for next year include taking a trip to the ELDA national conference in Minneapolis as well as exploring other mission opportunities. If you have any interest in any of our activities please contact our directors Jason and Sarah Andera (Jason.andra@gmail.com; sarahandra@yahoo.com). We are grateful for the partnership we share with Peace Lutheran Church.

God's Peace.

Lutheran Planned Giving in South Dakota

Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota (LPG of SD) was formed in May of 2003 with the following mission:

We will help people of God make lifetime financial gifts to the South Dakota ministries who are members of Lutheran Planned giving and create a rising tide of financial support for all ELCA ministries.

Lutheran Planned Giving partner ministries are:

Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD	Bethel Lutheran Home, Madison
Bethesda Home of Aberdeen, SD	ELCA Foundation, Chicago IL
Heartland Ephphatha, Sioux Falls, SD	Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
Lutheran Campus Ministry	Lutheran Social Services of SD
Lutherans Outdoors in SD	Prison Congregations of America
St. Dymas, Sioux Falls, SD	South Dakota Synod, Sioux Falls, SD

Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota is available to assist congregations in establishing and growing mission endowment funds with an emphasis on supporting and enhancing all the ministries of the church both locally and worldwide through bequests and other planned gifts. They can provide educational information to congregations, and their members through seminars on the importance of wills, estate and charitable gift planning.

Kurt Osborne and Jim Schade are available to your congregation as a gift in itself with free no-obligation information seminars regarding the gift planning strategies. Congregation members will be able to come and hear information, ask questions, and set up personal one-on-one visits with LPG staff concerning the stewardship of their assets. At those visits members will discuss their intent, the options and the most helpful strategies regarding gift planning. We also are able to offer suggestions for other advisors to contact in order to bring additional expertise to best accomplish those wishes.

Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota is now offering Interactive Planned Giving Websites to the congregations of the SD Synod!

GiftLegacy's planned giving websites use your organization's branding and include motivating donor stories of giving, regularly updated articles, an online Wills Planner, personal gift illustrations, Advisor information and more. Request a personal demonstration and view of the power of the GiftLegacy system! These features and more are made possible to your congregation through a partnership of Lutheran Planned Giving and Crescendo Gift Planning services.

Weekly E-newsletters

GiftLegacy provides the GiftLegacy E-newsletter for donors, and the GiftLaw E-newsletter for financial professionals. Each E-newsletter contains your branding, and includes timely articles, impactful stories and multiple links directing readers to your website. You may personalize the e-newsletter for the most impact. These features and more are available for \$250.00 per year. This fee is payable to Crescendo.

To look online at the resources available, please visit www.lpgsd.org.

To arrange for a demonstration, or for more information, please contact Kurt Osborne kosborne@sdsynod.org 605 940-7524, or Jim Schade jschade@sdsynod.org 605 940-2363.

Touching People's Lives 50,700 Times Last Year

Lutheran Social Services
of South Dakota



Making A Difference

As a friend of LSS, your support makes a difference. It couldn't be more clear than with 22 year-old Curt, a client of New Alternatives, LSS Independent Living Services for young adults.

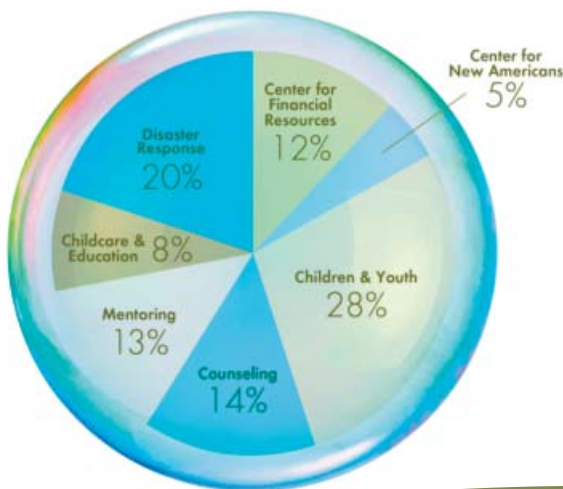
Curt suffers from a chronic mental illness called schizophrenia. Although symptoms of schizophrenia may vary, Curt sees, hears and interacts with people around him who aren't really there, yet the voices and images have the full impact of an actual experience.

Less than a year ago, Curt was homeless, living on the streets, sleeping and eating where he could. He tried to fill out job applications, but the voices in his head interfered with his thoughts. Although he sought help and tried different medications, it wasn't enough.

Now, in a safe place to live, Curt is learning life skills to be successful. He is working on his GED, is successfully employed, and is learning to manage his disease. In his own words, "They don't criticize what is going on in my head and they always steer me in the right direction. I am proud of myself".

Curt is one of the thousands of people LSS serves. Others may have been a member of your family, a neighbor, or someone in your parish or community utilizing one of the many services LSS provides. Together, we have made a difference.

How Your Gift Serves



A Ministry of Presence

As a ministry of presence, we see some of the deepest, darkest pain with our clients. We are present for those we serve with comfort and guidance as they continue their journey of healing and learning to cope. It is with great pride that we touched the lives of those we serve 50,700 times last year. But it's not about the number. It is about the impact that we have had on those we serve. As a premier human service agency, we work toward bringing new life to people of all ages, families of all kinds and communities of all sizes.

Residential outcomes continue to be positive; 61 percent of the children served returned home to family or a relative. This outcome is impressive considering LSS treats some of the most intensive needs in the state.

More than 85 percent of refugees resettled in Sioux Falls and 89 percent in Huron obtained full-time employment within eight months of arrival.

Through the LSS USucceed Mentoring Program, 98 percent of the students were on track to graduate with their high school class, and 86 percent had a realistic plan after graduation.

Close to 90 percent of the clients enrolled in debt management plans successfully completed their plans and goals through the LSS Center for Financial Resources.

Respect is a core value of LSS. According to LSS client survey results, more than 96 percent of our clients felt they were treated with respect and 98 percent said they would return for services.

Follow LSS through our blog, Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Just go to the LSS website for links to various social media: www.LssSD.org

Arise Youth Center • Adoption Services • Better Together
Center for Financial Resources • Center for New Americans
Childcare & Education • Counseling Services
Detention Alternatives • Disaster Response
Fatherhood & Re-Entry Services • Foster Care • Kinship
Mentoring Services • Pregnancy Counseling
New Alternatives Independent Living Services
Residential Services for Children & Youth

Luther Seminary's 2016 report to the South Dakota Synod

Becoming a catalyst for transforming theological education

"We have this treasure in clay jars so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."
—2 Corinthians 4:7

This verse is an important reminder as Luther Seminary wrestles with and contemplates the changing face of ministry. We're in a time where the path is not necessarily clear. As God's world changes around us, so do the needs of the church. As a seminary responsible for educating leaders for this church, we know we need to be more than just responsive. We need to light the way, carve a path, make disciples. We need to become a catalyst for transforming theological education. We aren't there yet, but we're working to see the way forward. This passage in 2 Corinthians reminds us that we can't do this hard and worthy work by our own power. This is God's church, God's mission and God's seminary.

- **God's world is changing. And so are we.** Our mission is to educate leaders for Christian communities. This mission is more relevant than ever, and the future is calling us to new things. And people need to hear the gospel. Yet we can't just do everything the way we've always done it.
- **We are excited about the future.** Nearly 600 students are taking classes this spring. This includes both on-campus and online learners, who are being educated to serve in churches, nonprofits, schools and other important ministries. We will also welcome more than 4,500 church leaders this year to our lifelong learning classes and conferences. Both pastors and lay leaders rely on Luther Seminary's continuing education offerings to stay refreshed and enthused in their ministry.
- **Learning in context continues to play an essential role in preparing students to serve in God's world.** Given the ever-changing dynamics of ministry, our contextual learning group continues to find unique opportunities for students to apply their learning—both in the Twin Cities and around the world. They're practicing ministry while receiving guidance from important mentors, which is critical to the formation of these students.

As we strive to become a catalyst for transforming theological education, we hope you'll continue to pray with and for us. Thank you for your continued support of our mission to educate your future church leaders.

Robin Steinke, President

Luther Seminary educates leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

In your synod

Students

Thank you for sending and supporting the education of Luther Seminary students.

- There are 20 students from your synod enrolled at Luther Seminary.
- There are no interns serving in your synod.

Board of Directors

Roald Eidsness

Alumni

There are 231 Luther Seminary alumni living in the South Dakota Synod.

Seminary Finances

Financial Support in FY 2014-15

- Synodical and churchwide support accounted for 8 percent of Luther Seminary's budget.
- The South Dakota Synod provided direct financial support of \$154,652.
- Of Luther's operating income, 57 percent came from private gifts and grants.
- Of Luther's operating expenses, 55 percent went toward student instruction and institutional support.

Welcomes all to explore & experience Christ's love in community and creation.



In 2015, the camps and year-round retreat centers of LOSD served 16,945 people through summer programs and year-round retreats.

Your SD camps have been blessed. We have reached a place of retiring all capital and operational debt, the facilities are continuing to improve in both quality and comfort, programming is expanding and we are reaching more and more people with the LOve of Christ. For your partnership and hard work is this process, I say THANK YOU.

I also want to ask you for your financial support for our annual fund. This ministry does not happen without your gifts. Your partnership is needed now more than ever as we connect with more and more people.

And please... pray for your camps in church, and at home.

I hope to see YOU at one of your SD camps this year.



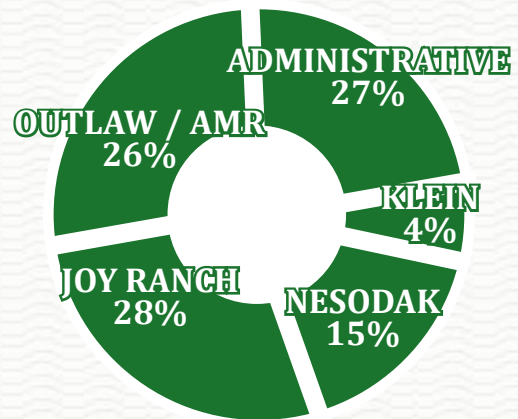
Layne D. Nelson

Rev. Layne Nelson | Executive Director

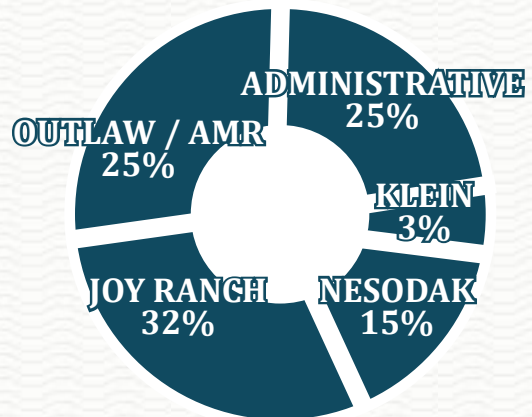
2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT*

A full financial report from the auditor, Thurman, Comes & Foley, is available in the Lutherans Outdoors in SD Inc. administrative office. Please call 605-274-5326

REVENUE - \$2,541,755



EXPENSES - \$2,691,397



*As of print date numbers are unaudited. Includes in-kind gifts (\$140,704), does not include depreciation (\$558,375), capital campaign income and expense. As of January 31, 2016 the balance in the Lutherans Outdoors endowment is \$1,328,390.



OUTLAW RANCH



JOY RANCH



NESODAK



KLEIN RANCH

St. Dysmas
Annual Report
SD Synod Assembly 2016

We want to thank you for the generous and crucial support you have provided St. Dysmas this past year. Our congregations at the SD State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield are flourishing thanks to you.

When your congregation members visit St. Dysmas you are a living sign of God's grace. Many, if not most of the men, do not receive visits and your presence is a sign they are remembered and valued. We began our 25th anniversary a year ago when Bishop David Zellmer preached at our anniversary celebration. We concluded our anniversary year celebration on Ascension Day, May 5, when former Bishop Andrea DeGroot Nesdahl provided the sermon. During the year we enjoyed and honored special guests each month. We are honored and humbled to receive part of this year's synod assembly offering.

We invite you to visit our web page: www.stdysmas.com where you can:

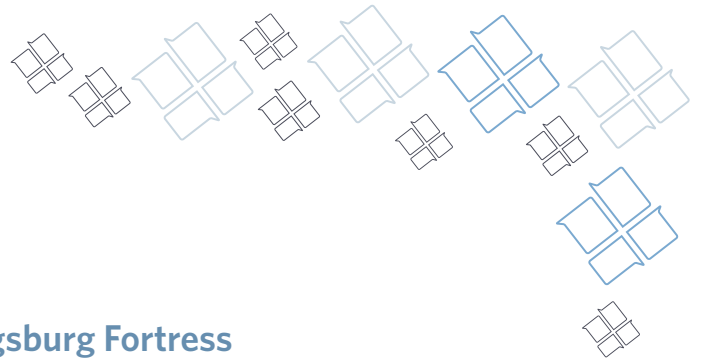
- listen to a public radio interview with the inside church council at SD State Penitentiary
- view our nine minute video, Amazing Grace, an interview with two of our members
 - read our newsletters
 - find the recipe for fudge given to inmates at Christmas
 - read requirements for Christmas cards made by Sunday school students
 - download forms necessary to visit
 - make a one time or ongoing gift to support St. Dysmas

If you would like Pastor Bob Chell to visit your congregation and share the St. Dysmas story please contact him at pbob@stdysmas.com or by calling (605) 338-1735.

If you have yarn to donate you may contact him or drop it off at East Side Lutheran in Sioux Falls. (1300 East 10th St.) We owe a special thanks to East Side Lutheran who provide us office space at no cost and are generous in every possible way in supporting our ministry.

We give thanks to God for the generous and faithful support of SD congregations and individuals. Our ministry has grown and flourished with God's guidance and your support.

St. Dysmas
www.stdysmas.com
(605) 338-1735
1300 E. 10th St.
Sioux Falls SD 571103



Ten Things You Might Not Know about Augsburg Fortress

Spring 2016

1. We publish a number of innovative print and video faith formation curricula. Congregations using the Revised Common Lectionary find Whirl to be a perfect fit for connecting education to worship throughout the church year. And, in 2016, we will launch Whirl Classroom for congregations wanting to focus on key Bible stories and themes! wearesparkhouse.org
2. Sunday school planning has never been easier than with Sparkhouse Online, our web-based subscription resource for our children's faith formation resources. Your congregation may subscribe to one curriculum, several, or all with this innovative online resource. wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS
3. In 2016, we're introducing Frolic—early childhood resources designed to help support the youngest children in your congregation. Stay connected with families through a monthly newsletter that features faith development content for the first three years of a child's life. Frolic also includes a nursery guide, parent classes, board books and picture books, the Frolic First Bible, music CDs, and more. sample.wearesparkhouse.org/frolic
4. Last summer, we launched Collaborate Lutheran Confirmation, a curriculum that invites students to ask their toughest questions and work together to find answers. Pastors, youth directors, and confirmands are reporting back with delightful success stories! wearesparkhouse.org/teens/collaborate/lutheran
5. We know that many young families want their children to know the stories of the Bible and have a vibrant Christian faith life, but they don't always find the time for church or Sunday school. Sparkhouse Family is our newest venture to help young families integrate faith with their busy home lives. sparkhouse.org
6. A popular new series from Fortress Press is *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works: Reader's Edition*. The Bonhoeffer Works content in a more accessible and affordable format for use in small groups or by individual readers. fortresspress.com/dbw
7. *Reformation 500 Sourcebook: Anniversary Resources for Congregations* (June 2016) will provide many resources to assist congregations in observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. We also have several new Reformation resources for adults and children. reformation500.instapage.com and lutheranreformation500.org
8. As communities of faith reach out to ecumenical and interfaith neighbors, two new books provide excellent guidance: *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith: A Lutheran Perspective on Faith Traditions in America*, Revised Edition and *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West*.
9. We offer free webinars every week on a variety of topics related to congregational life. gatherlearnlead.org
10. Want to learn more? Sign up for our free eNewsletters at:
augsburgfortress.org
wearesparkhouse.org
fortresspress.com

Carthage College 2016 Report

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is an honor to be writing you on behalf of Carthage College and to be able to share with you about the mission and ministry happening on our campus. I have been in the role of Campus Pastor for a little over two years and assumed the role of Director of Congregational Relations in July of 2015. Since arriving we have established the Center for Faith and Spirituality (CFS) around the theme of “Hey, What’s your story?” with the goal of encouraging the students at Carthage to explore their own faith journey stories and to listen and learn from the stories of others. Chapel continues to be on Tuesday and this year marked the second year of both Interfaith Lunch on Thursdays and a Protestant worship service at 4pm on Sunday. The biggest change this academic year for the CFS is the addition of a student ministry leadership staff. We have paid student staff working in the areas of music, service, Lutheran Student Movement, Open Table (Wednesday night ministry), Roman Catholics at Carthage, Better Together (interfaith), Resident Hall Ambassadors, CUMBYA (Carthage Undergrads Making Big Youth Activities), and Public Relations. Student to student ministry is already making a difference as students become more comfortable exploring their faith and learning about the faith of others.

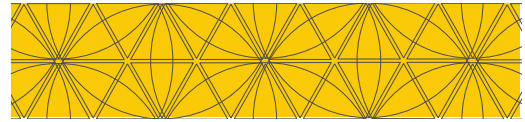
In my role as Director of Congregational Relations, I have been meeting with pastors in the Greater Milwaukee Synod and sharing what is happening at Carthage. It is wonderful to have the GMS Synod Assembly back on campus and I look forward to visiting other synods over the next several years. Part of my responsibility in this role is leading the committee working on our celebration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses. We are looking forward to reflecting on the Lutheran heritage of the college and to what it means to be a Lutheran in the 21st Century under the theme: Here I Stand.

There are many things to celebration at the Center for Faith and Spirituality and throughout the campus. Here are a few other highlights:

- ❖ 43 Million Dollar Science Center opened on September 9, 2015. Special features include technology-enhanced active learning classroom, a planetarium, an outdoor classroom just feet from Lake Michigan and interactive study space for students right outside faculty offices, so learning continues outside of class.
- ❖ Five students awarded Fulbright Fellowships and are now working towards international understand in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, India and Germany.
- ❖ Bachelor of Science in Nursing accepted its first class of students this year with 23 prospective nursing majors. Male students make up more than one-third of the class.
- ❖ Carthage has a record incoming class with approximately 840 students from 19 U.S. states and five foreign countries.
- ❖ Carthage is awarded \$349K grant for internship funding over three years which will provide nearly 200 new, paid internships.
- ❖ Carthage ranks 4th in the nation in study aboard opportunities. During January and June hundreds of Carthage students travel around the world to learn during these short term study aboard programs. Countries traveled too include: Germany, India, South Africa, Costa Rica, Honduras, France and more.
- ❖ Lady Red Volleyball team makes it to NCAA Final Four. It is a great group of young ladies who are a class act on and off the court.

Please keep Carthage in your prayers as we continue to strive towards helping a new generation find their callings in this world.

In Christ, Pastor Kara F. Baylor



Spring 2016

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It's an interesting — and challenging — time to be the church. Ministry leaders are learning to navigate the changing culture by holding on to the best of the past while finding ways to be creative, nimble, and resilient. This is just as true for Portico.

As we navigate the changing landscape, we are guided by two core values: stewardship and collaboration. For us, that means caring wisely for all we are entrusted to manage — time, money, our employees, and the well-being of those we serve — so leaders can access important benefits and resources, today and in retirement. Here are a few ways we're putting those values into practice:

We spend and invest with care. In these times of rising health care costs and tight church budgets, we work hard to follow a lean, carefully managed spending plan with a goal of keeping costs low. As 2015 investment markets dramatically rose and fell, our active investment management strategy and strategic asset allocations helped improve retirement fund returns in an otherwise disappointing year.

We seek opportunities to provide the best health care value. The past two years brought, in some instances, double-digit percentage increases for those employers sponsoring members in the ELCA Health Plan. Although this was in line with nationwide averages, we realize for congregations this is an unsustainable trend. We are committed to keeping administrative expenses below 12% of our health care budget, and are aggressively working with our vendor partners to find new savings opportunities.

We tap technology to reach our leaders more efficiently. By converting our popular pre-retirement seminar into a series of three webinars, we were able to complement the rich educational experience of our in-person seminars with the convenience and cost-effectiveness of online learning. We are also developing new webinars designed to help younger leaders establish a strong financial foundation.

We've raised the bar on top-notch customer service. Our members receive more than just a friendly voice when they call Portico's Customer Care Center. As a BenchmarkPortal-certified 2015 "Center of Excellence," we were recognized as one of the top call centers in the nation in both cost- and quality-related metrics.

We invest in our leaders. Because the future health of our church depends on the health of its leaders, we are leading the ELCA in calling for a wellness reformation — a renewed commitment to well-being that comes from healthy lifestyle choices, reduced health risks, and lower health care costs — for members, congregations, and the ELCA Health Plan. We are encouraging our congregations and church organizations to put the 'we' in wellness by joining in conversation with their pastors and professional staff about creating a culture that supports healthy lifestyles.

Portico is committed to providing a cost-effective, comprehensive benefit program that helps our church's leaders stay nimble, resilient, and confident in these interesting, challenging times.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Thiemann".

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann
President and CEO



ELCA Synod Assemblies 2016

Greetings from St. Olaf College!

Since 1874, St. Olaf College has provided a distinctive education grounded in academic rigor, residential learning, global engagement, and our vibrant Lutheran faith tradition. Students work closely with dedicated faculty who challenge them to grow in mind, body, and spirit. In both the curriculum and the co-curriculum, they explore theological issues and are challenged to choose their vocations in light of this exploration. All St. Olaf students take two religion courses, one focusing on the Bible and the other on Christian theology, as well as a third course introducing Christian and other ethical systems. The Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career assists students in discerning their vocations and preparing for their careers during their four years at St. Olaf.

Over the past year, the college has welcomed several new colleagues to key leadership positions. In May 2015, Jean Strohm Parish '88 was appointed director of college relations for music organizations, bringing more than 25 years of experience in performing arts administration, including her most recent position as general manager of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. In September 2015, Ryan Bowles became St. Olaf's first full-time Athletic Director following several years as associate athletic director for administration at the University of Maryland, where he oversaw 11 varsity sports and managed Maryland's transition from the Atlantic Coast Conference to the Big Ten. Leslie Moore '77 returned to her alma mater in November 2015 to serve as director of the Piper Center, adding to her richly-varied portfolio of professional experiences ranging from faculty member at Yale University to partner and general counsel for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in Australia.

St. Olaf has also had a lively year of visioning and engagement. In May 2015, the Board of Regents approved an updated [strategic plan](#) for the college intended to expand and enrich student engagement in high-impact educational practices and residential life, deepen professional development for college employees, enhance internal and external communication practices, and strengthen fiscal sustainability. The current academic year has also included a campus-wide conversation about the college mission statement, now almost thirty years old and ready for revisions that will update the expression of the college's ongoing commitments to excellence in the liberal arts, global engagement, and vibrant community springing from its Lutheran tradition. Finally, the college is in the final stages of planning the upcoming St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts, scheduled for July 18-22, 2016 (stolaf.edu/cwta/).

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Olaf. Come to campus to join us at concerts, lectures, conferences, or summer camps. You can also visit the St. Olaf multimedia website (stolaf.edu/multimedia/) to join in a wide variety of live and archived streamed events, including daily Chapel and Sunday morning worship services during the academic year, the weekly Sing for Joy radio program, and vocal and instrumental concerts and recitals. We encourage you to send students to St. Olaf, we thank you for your prayers and support, and we offer you ours as well.

David R. Anderson '74
President



2015 Annual Report to the Synods

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

In our daily work to educate young people, Wartburg College strives to live its distinctive mission in bold, new contexts. Our calling is to challenge and nurture students of tomorrow, who come to us from many places, desires, and aspirations.

Enrollment

Like so many sister schools in the region, our most recent incoming classes have been smaller than those we welcomed in the late '90s and early 2000s. Fall 2015 enrollment at Wartburg was 1,537; international students and U.S. students of color total 19 percent. Because so much of our operating revenue comes from tuition, room, and board, we've had to undergo a careful and serious budget review process, and deploy new admissions strategies to build larger applicant pools.

Transforming Tomorrow Campaign

Wartburg's \$75 million comprehensive campaign, publicly launched in 2014, has been enthusiastically received by alumni, parents, and friends. Nearing the total goal a year early, the campaign features three components:

- **People:** Wartburg has awarded new or additional scholarships to more than 120 students, representing \$335,000 in additional aid. Two sizeable estate gifts have created new scholarships for science and education students.
- **Places:** Wartburg broke ground in February 2016 on an \$8 million renovation of Clinton Hall that will create an innovative living and learning environment for students. Fueled by several major gifts, the project includes major interior updates and new academic and social spaces. Other significant gifts have made possible the Knief Outdoor Athletics Pavilion, a new lacrosse field, and a first-of-its kind virtual acoustic system in Neumann Auditorium.
- **Programs:** Generous gifts have enabled the College to elevate the Gerald R. Kleinfeld Distinguished Professorship in German History to an Endowed Chair, create the Baldwin Leadership Fellows program, and establish a German Institute to provide organization and focus for the college's wealth of Germany related programs and relationships.

New Academic Programs

- This past fall, Wartburg launched new programs in actuarial science, neuroscience, criminal justice, and a "4+1" program with Iowa State University to enable students to earn a master's degree in industrial engineering in five years. The College will inaugurate its first master's-level program in music therapy in Fall 2017.
- A new Des Moines internship program will provide another compelling learning opportunity in an urban environment, building on the success of the Wartburg West program in Denver, CO.

Commitment to Vocation and Mentoring

- The College was recently awarded a \$10,000 NetVUE Professional Development Award from the Council of Independent Colleges to fund a one-year initiative to equip faculty and staff to help students explore their vocation.
- The 2015 Graven Award, an annual award for vocation and daily life, was awarded to Yale University's Dr. Elijah Anderson, an award-winning author and one of the nation's leading urban ethnographers and cultural theorists.

Recognition

- Wartburg is Iowa's first private institution – and only the ninth in the nation – to earn a Gold rating from the leading authority on sustainability in higher education.
- Campus Compact named student Jenna Manders of Dubuque, IA, a Newman Civic Fellow for her contributions to community and civic engagement.
- Senior Mullohoji Juraev, a native of Tajikistan, was among the 2015 winners of a \$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grant to improve learning conditions at a public school in his home country.
- Senior Kwabena Owusu-Amoah of Ghana was awarded a \$6,000 Clinton Foundation Resolution Grant to expand the use of a software app that aims to reduce maternal mortality rates in Ghana.

Many Blessings

We are blessed to work with gifted students who are committed to changing the world. Thank you for encouraging your students to join Wartburg's historic tradition as they share their gifts to enrich our community of learning.

Dr. Darrel D. Colson, President

**Proposed Budget
02/01/2017 - 01/31/2018**

	Adopted 2016	Revised 2016	Proposed 2017
INCOME			
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	1,807,051	1,745,878	1,774,680
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	88,441	88,441	88,441
Other Income Streams			
SD Synod Mission Support	44,568	49,205	49,205
DEM Support Staff	15,000	11,000	10,000
Interest Income	7,500	7,500	7,500
SDS Transportation LLC Income	5,000	10,554	10,554
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000	25,000	25,000
Misc Income	-	503	503
TOTAL INCOME	1,992,560	1,938,081	1,965,883
EXPENSES			
	Adopted 2016	Revised 2016	Proposed 2017
CHURCHWIDE MISSION			
Mission Support to ELCA	813,173	785,645	798,606
% of Mission Support	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
Region III	15,380	15,850	15,850
SHARED MINISTRIES			
South Dakota Sustained Ministries			
Campus Ministry	128,317	124,399	126,395
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	63,028	63,028	63,028
Heartland Ephphatha	6,296	6,103	6,201
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605	3,605	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	20,056	22,142	22,142
Luther Seminary	72,769	70,547	71,679
Lutheran Social Services	72,769	70,547	71,679
Lutherans Outdoors	36,292	35,184	35,748
Church Colleges	6,296	6,103	6,201
Association of Christian Churches	1	1	1
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Total Shared Ministries	410,461	402,691	407,711

**Proposed Budget
02/01/2017 - 01/31/2018**

	Adopted 2016	Revised 2016	Proposed 2017
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES			
Staff Leadership			
Bishop	108,084	108,088	111,331
Associate Tesch	12,373	12,373	12,744
Associate Marone	81,665	80,665	83,085
Bishop/Associate Benefits	69,500	73,170	75,215
SDS Travel	44,566	35,553	35,201
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	18,800	18,800	18,800
Program Ministries			
Native American Ministry	129,428	116,411	118,323
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator	14,811	14,811	15,231
Companion Synod Coordinator	11,276	11,276	11,577
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	139,318	140,555	144,750
Resource Center Supplies	250	250	250
Synod Office Expenses	58,623	54,560	55,070
Augustana College	19,233	19,689	19,689
Synod Leadership			
Synod Council	5,500	5,500	5,500
Support to Ministries Committee	3,500	3,500	3,500
Candidacy Committee	7,000	5,500	5,500
Electronic Communications	2,500	1,500	1,500
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700	1,700	1,700
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	500	500	500
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,500
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000	2,000	2,000
Ministry Projects			
Stewardship Project	1,000	1,000	1,000
Continuing Education Projects	250	250	250
Outreach Ministries			
Multicultural Center/Woyatan	15,000	15,000	15,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	4,000
Companion Synods	500	500	500
Contingency			
	669	5,244	-
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	753,546	733,895	743,716
Total Expense	1,992,560	1,938,081	1,965,883
Net Total	0	0	0

Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

South Dakota Synod, ELCA

Introduction

- 0.01 The purpose of any system of parliamentary procedure is to provide a structure within which a deliberative body may conduct its business with the greatest degree of efficiency consistent with full and free debate. These rules of order have been prepared for use in the Synod Assembly of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA. They reflect generally accepted principles of parliamentary law and procedure, simplified, and modified for their specific purpose.
- 0.02 The presiding officer of the Assembly should be identified as the President of the Assembly, and should be addressed as Mr. President or Madam President.

Motions and Resolutions

- 1.00 There are two kinds of motions that may come to the floor of the Assembly. *Substantive* motions propose actions that determine the policy and program of the Synod. These are usually presented in the form of **resolutions**. Only one substantive motion may be on the floor at a time. *Procedural* motions determine the procedures the Assembly follows in dealing with substantive motions and in conducting its business.

(To illustrate, motions to amend, to substitute, to table, to adjourn or recess and so on are procedural motions. A procedural motion may be made while there is a substantive motion on the floor. Although only one procedural motion may be on the floor at a time, one procedural motion may displace another. For example, a motion to refer a substantive motion may be displaced by a motion to adjourn, a point of order, or a call for the orders of the day. Some procedural motions may interrupt the actions of the Assembly in order to change its direction.)

- 1.01 a. Resolutions may be submitted to the Resolutions Committee by the Synod Council, Conference Councils or Assemblies, Synod Boards and Task Force Committees, the Regional Center for Mission Coordinating Council, Congregations of the Synod, Synod Auxiliaries, other ELCA Synod Assemblies, the Synod Bishop, Conference Caucuses, the Resolutions Committee, or corresponding Churchwide Expression of the ELCA. Resolutions from individuals must gain the approval of one of the above groups before their resolution will be considered. Every resolution shall have a specified source. The source of a resolution is the chair or designee of the entity submitting the resolution.

When sources of resolutions know that their resolutions may be controversial or pertaining to sensitive issues, the sources are encouraged to arrange for a meeting with the Resolutions Committee. These arrangements for a meeting should be made with the committee chairperson prior to the convening of the Assembly.

- b. The Resolutions Committee, by direction of the Bishop shall meet early enough to complete preliminary work prior to the beginning of the meeting of the Assembly to allow time during the meeting of the Assembly:
- 1) for consultation with sources.
 - 2) to deal with resolutions submitted during that meeting.

Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

South Dakota Synod, ELCA (continued)

- c. The order for presentation of resolutions shall be determined by the Chair of the Resolutions Committee, the Bishop, and Chair of the Synod Council. At the beginning of each plenary session the Assembly is to be informed of the intended schedule of all pending resolutions and may take action to change the order of presentation of resolutions.
 - d. All resolutions or amendments dealing with one issue shall be presented together to the Assembly prior to action moved on any single resolution.
 - e. As resolutions are received at the Synod Office, they should be edited for form and grammar by a committee appointed by the Bishop.
- 1.02 Resolutions shall include a title reflecting the content of the resolution, its origin, and a number assigned by the Committee.
- 1.03 The Committee, in consultation with the source of the resolution, may edit and revise each resolution for clarity and consistency.
- 1.04 The Committee must present each resolution substantially as it is received but may propose amendments. The sources of resolutions should be informed of Resolutions Committee recommendations prior to plenary presentation. Consultation with source of resolution is required in the case of substantive amendments prior to plenary presentation.
- 1.05 The Committee may also draft such resolutions it deems necessary or is directed by the Assembly.
- 1.06 The Committee shall forward each resolution to the Assembly with one of the following recommendations:
- 1.06.01 **Do Pass**
"Do Pass" indicates the Committee's approval of the resolution and places it on the floor of the Assembly. No further motion or second is needed.
 - 1.06.02 **Do Pass as Amended**
"Do Pass as Amended" indicates the Committee's approval of the Resolution modified by the Committee's amendment(s) and places the Resolution and the Committee's amendment(s) on the floor without further motion or second. Both Resolution and amendment(s) are considered together.
 - 1.06.03 **No Recommendation**
"No Recommendation" indicates the Committee's inability or unwillingness to make a common recommendation. For the Resolution to be considered, it must be moved and seconded from the floor of the Assembly.
 - 1.06.04 **Commit to Committee**
"Commit to Committee" places a motion on the floor of the Assembly to refer the Resolution to one of the Synod Boards or Committees.

Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

South Dakota Synod, ELCA (continued)

- 1.06.05 **Do Not Pass**
"Do Not Pass" indicates the Committee's recommendation not to pass the Resolution. For the Resolution to be considered, it must be moved and seconded from the floor of the Assembly.
- 1.07 A resolution is presented to the Assembly by a representative of the Committee with its recommendation.

Amendments

- 2.00 Amendments may alter or even reverse the purpose or effect of the original Resolution.
- 2.01 A Resolution may be amended by "striking" or "deleting" parts of it, "inserting" or "adding" material, or by both. Any voting member may make an amendment. A second is required. The President may require the voting member making the substantive amendment to provide a written copy of the amendment to the Secretary of the Assembly before a vote is taken on the amendment.
- 2.02 Amendments may be made to a resolution, to previous amendments, or in some cases to procedural motions. Each amendment is considered in order, and at each point, passing an amendment modifies the next stage of the matter.
- 2.03 When an amendment is moved, made and seconded, the amendment becomes the primary substantive motion on the floor and is the subject of discussion. When discussion on the amendment is complete, the Assembly votes whether to change the original resolution (Yes) or not (No). If the amendment passes, then the question is on the amended resolution.
- 2.04 Resolutions, amendments, and other actions require a simple majority to pass unless specifically noted.

Procedural Motions

- 3.00 Certain motions may be made and acted upon while there is a substantive motion on the floor. A procedural motion may be on the floor at the same time as a substantive motion and may be displaced by further procedural motions. Those motions permitted by these rules in order of precedence are as follows-
- 3.01 **"I move we adjourn."** This motion cannot interrupt a speaker. It requires a second. It is not debatable. Requires a majority vote to pass. When there is no further business, the President may declare the Assembly adjourned without a motion.
- 3.02 **"I move we recess for _____ minutes, or until _____."**
This motion may not interrupt a speaker. It requires a second. It may be amended. It is not debatable. It requires a majority vote to pass. The President may declare a recess without a motion.
- 3.03 **"I call for the orders of the day."** This motion may interrupt a speaker. It does not require a second. It is not debatable, and it requires no vote. It enables the Assembly to return to its Agenda and time schedule. The President may invoke the Orders of the Day without a motion.

Rules of Parliamentary Procedure South Dakota Synod, ELCA (continued)

- 3.04 **"I rise to make a point of order."** May interrupt a speaker. Does not require a second. It is not debatable. It requires no vote because the President rules. The President may rule on points of order without a call for a ruling.
- 3.05 **"I appeal the decision of the President."** May interrupt a speaker and does not require recognition by the President. Requires a second. The President may indicate the reasons for the ruling and the appellant or may state his or her objection. No further debate is allowed. Requires a majority to pass. A tie will sustain the President.
- 3.06 **"I call for a division of the Assembly."** This provides for a vote by standing. It may interrupt a speaker. It may be requested by any voting member and is required if 50 voting members support it. It is not debatable. The President may request a division if uncertain of the result of a voice vote.
- 3.07 **"I call for the division of the question."** This requires the resolution to be divided into its separate parts. It may not interrupt a speaker. It requires a second. It is not debatable. It requires a majority.
- 3.08 **"I move that nominations be closed."** May not interrupt a speaker. Requires a second. It is not debatable. Because it restricts discussion, it requires a two-thirds majority to pass. If further nominations are not forthcoming, the President may declare nominations closed.
- 3.09 **"I move that we suspend the rules and...."** It may not interrupt a speaker. Requires a second. It is not debatable. Because it delays the discussion of the issue on the floor, it requires a two-thirds majority to pass. The only rules that may be suspended are the parliamentary rules.

The following motions have no order of precedence or rank among themselves.

- 3.10 **"I move to lay _____ on the table."** Requires a second. It is not debatable. It requires a majority to pass. If the motion is passed, the matter that is tabled is no longer under consideration until the Assembly votes to take it from the table. (See 3.13).
- 3.11 **"I move that we proceed to vote on the resolution before us,"** or **"I move the previous question."** It may not interrupt a speaker (calls of "Question" are out of order). Requires a second. Because it forces debate to an end and restricts full and free discussion, it requires a two-thirds majority to pass. If there are no more speakers and it is clear that discussion is finished, the President may proceed to call for the vote. One may not make this motion at the end of a speech on the motion on the floor.
- 3.12 **"I move that we refer ... to...."** It cannot interrupt a speaker. This motion requires a second. It is debatable. It requires a majority vote to pass.

The following motions are in order whenever there is no other business on the floor.

- 3.13 **"I move we take _____ from the table."** It requires a second. It is not debatable. It requires a majority vote to pass. This motion reverses the action of 3.10.
- 3.14 **"I move we reconsider...."** This motion asks that a previous action be reopened for further discussion and another vote. It may interrupt a speaker. It requires a second. The proposer of the motion must have voted on the winning side in the previous action. It is debatable. It requires a majority vote to pass.

Rules of Parliamentary Procedure
South Dakota Synod, ELCA (continued)

Speaking by Voting Members

- 4.00 When a voting member wishes to speak on a matter before the Assembly, the following procedure should be followed.
- a. Go to a microphone.
 - b. Wait to be recognized.
 - c. State your name and position (voting member, advisory).
 - d. Make your comments – 2 minute limit
 - e. If you have motions to make, make them. If you make a substantive amendment or one that is long or involved, you must provide a written copy of the motion to the Secretary of the Assembly before the vote is taken if requested by the President.
- 4.1 The proposer of a motion has first opportunity to speak on the motion, if it is debatable.
- 4.2 The President will seek to facilitate open and balanced discussion.

Amendment of Rules

- 5.00 These rules may be amended at a Synod Assembly by a Resolution approved by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Assembly.

**PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES
SUMMARY**

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS:	YOU SAY THIS:	Interrupt Speaker	2nd Needed	Debatable	Can It Be Amended	Vote Required	Can It Be Reconsidered
<i>I. RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED BY THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: RC = Resolutions Committee, VM = Voting Member of the Assembly</i>							
Recommended "Do Pass"	RC: " I move adoption."	No	No	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
"Do Pass as Amended"	RC: " I move adoption as amended."	No	No	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
"No Recommendation"	VM: "I move adoption of # ____."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
"Commit to Committee"	RC: "I move we refer # ____ to ____."	No	No	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
"Do Not Pass"	VM: "I move adoption of # ____."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
To Amend a Resolution/Motion:	VM: "I move to amend the motion by (deleting) (adding)."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
<i>II. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS INTRODUCED BY VOTING MEMBERS FROM THE FLOOR:</i>							
To Adjourn the Meeting:	"I move that we adjourn."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
To Recess the Meeting:	"I move that we recess (for)(until) ____."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
To Return to the Agenda:	"I call for the orders of the day."	Yes	No	No	No	None	No
To Protest a Breach of Rules:	"I rise to make a point of order."	No	No	No	No	Chair rules	No
To Object to Ruling of the Chair:	"I appeal the decision of the Chair."	Yes	Yes	Chair only	No	Majority	Yes
To Verify a Voice Vote:	"I call for a division of the assembly."	Yes	50	No	No	None	No
To Vote on Separating the Parts of the Motion:	"I call for the division of the question."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	Yes
To Close Nominations:	"I move that nominations be closed."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority	No
To Suspend Rules Temporarily:	" I move that we suspend the rules and ____ so that ____."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority	No
To Suspend Consideration of a Motion Temporarily:	"I move to lay # ____ on the table."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
To End Debate and Amendments:	"I move the previous question."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority	No
To Refer a Resolution:	"I move that we refer # ____ to ____."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
To Consider a Tabled Motion:	"I move we take # ____ from the table."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
To Reconsider a Previous Action:	"I move we reconsider (action)."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
To Request Information:	"Point of information."	Yes	No	No	No	None	No

Chapter 7. SYNOD ASSEMBLY

+S7.01. This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly's own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

+S7.11. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least biennially.

S7.11.01. The Synod Assembly of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall meet annually.

S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.

a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.

b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the Synod Council after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S7.13. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod.

S7.13.01. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be published in official publications established by this Synod or mailed to the ordained ministers, Associates in Ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers, under call, on the official lay rosters of this synod and congregations, not less than 90 days before the meeting of the Assembly.

S7.14. One-half of members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

+S7.21. The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows:

- a. All ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- b. All associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers, under call, on the official lay rosters of this synod shall have both voice and vote as lay voting members in the Synod Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item +S7.21.c.
- c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional members from each congregation normally shall be equally divided between male and female.
- d. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.

S7.21.A07

Any congregation of this synod which elects a 16-21 year old as a voting member shall be granted one additional voting member. Any congregation of this synod which elects a person of color and/or a person whose primary language is other than English as a voting member shall also be granted one additional voting member. The number of lay voting members per congregation is determined by the following scale:

* Baptized Member Increments	** Lay Voting Members	+ 16-21 Year Old Member	+ Person of Color and/or Non-English Origin	Maximum Total Lay Voting Members
0– 500	2	1	1	4
501 – 1000	3	1	1	5
1001 – 1500	4	1	1	6
1501 – 2000	5	1	1	7
2001 – 2500	6	1	1	8
2501 – 3000	7	1	1	9
3001 – 3500	8	1	1	10
3501 – 4000	9	1	1	11
4001 – 4500	10	1	1	12
4501 – 5000	11	1	1	13

**Figures used are the published baptized membership totals from the most recent South Dakota Synod Handbook. **Goal of a balance of female/male voting members.*

S7.21.B02

Ordained Ministers from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of called or contracted service in a congregation of this synod, in accord with ELCA churchwide bylaw 8.72.12.

- S7.21.C02 ELCA pastors serving as interim pastors, under contract to a congregation of this synod, shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of contracted service in a congregation of this synod.*
- S7.21.D02 Licensed Lay Ministers certified by the South Dakota Synod, under contract to a congregation of this synod, shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of contracted service in a congregation of this synod.*
- +7.21.01.** Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the next regular Synod Assembly.
- S7.22.** Retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod may serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly if they are elected by their congregations and if the 60 percent minimum representation of lay persons required by +S7.21. is satisfied.
- All retired ordained ministers, all ordained ministers on leave from call, all associates in ministry on leave from call or retired, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call or retired, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call or retired, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.23** The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.
- S7.24.** Ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the roster of ordained ministers of this synod. Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- +S7.25.** Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of authorized mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered congregations and authorized worshiping communities of this synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with +S7.21. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.
- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant an ordained minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and

vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ordained minister's service in a congregation of this church.

S7.28. Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under +S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.

+S7.31. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.

S7.32. The Synod Rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall govern the procedure of the Synod Assembly.

S7.33. "*Ex-officio*" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

S7.40. Committees of the Synod Assembly

S7.40.10. **Credentials Committee**

S7.40.11. Prior to the Synod Assembly, the Synod Bishop shall appoint three persons to act as a Credentials Committee. This committee shall report when requested on the number of voting members, visitors, advisors, and others in attendance.

S7.40.20. **Election Committee**

S7.40.21. Prior to the Synod Assembly, the Synod Bishop shall appoint three ordained ministers and three laypersons to an Election Committee to supervise elections and announce the results to the Synod Assembly.

S7.40.30. **Resolutions Committee**

S7.40.31. Each conference shall elect one representative to a Resolutions Committee. The Synod Bishop shall appoint two representatives at large, and shall designate the convener of the committee. In the case of a vacancy, the Synod Bishop will appoint a replacement.

S7.40.32. The committee shall elect its own leadership.

S7.40.33. The committee shall receive all resolutions, prepare them, and make recommendations on them in accordance with the Synod Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for transmission to the Synod Assembly.

S7.40.34. The committee shall draft such resolutions as it is instructed to draft by the Synod Assembly, and may draft others it deems necessary.

S7.50. Conference Caucus

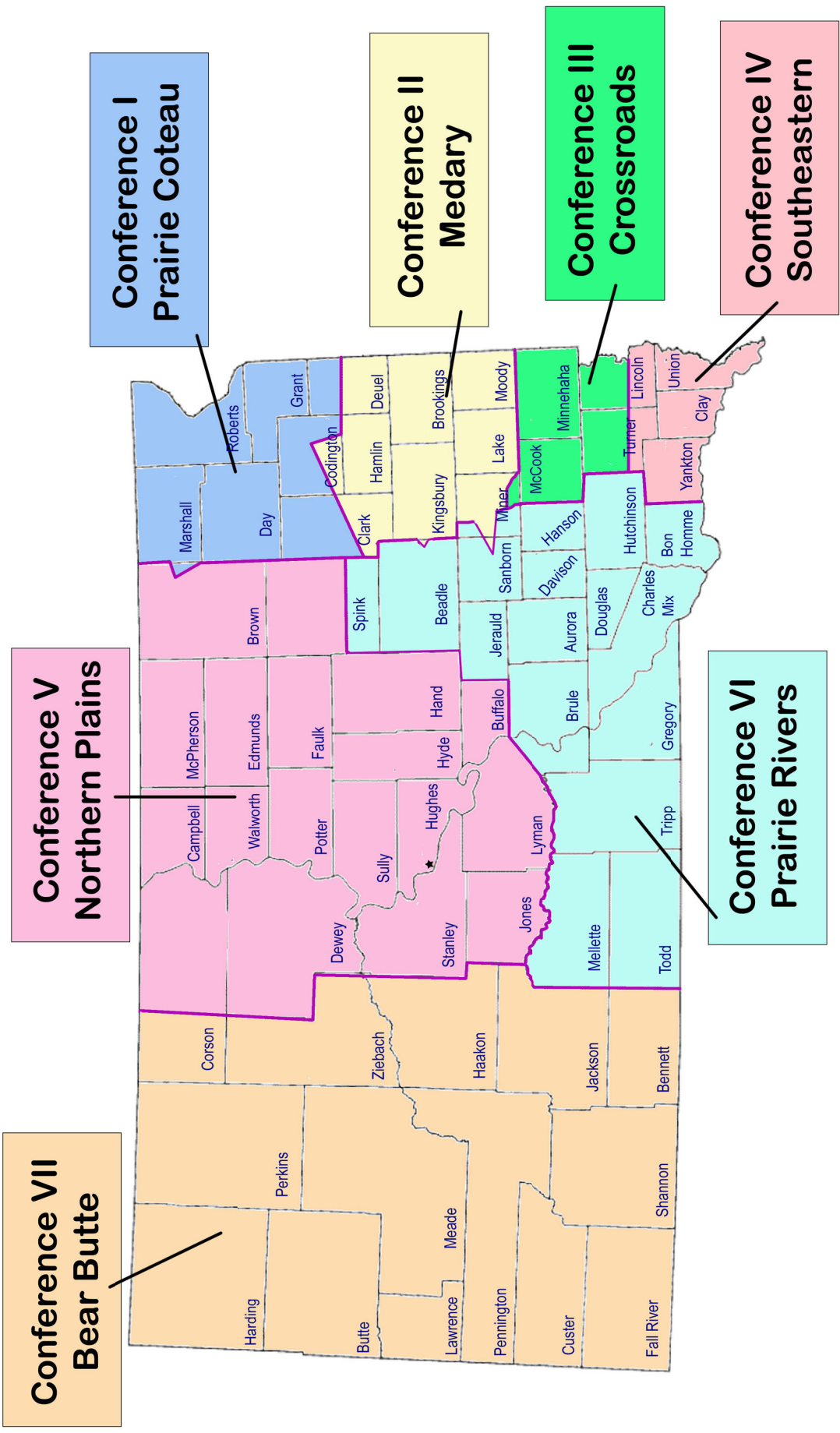
S7.50.10. The members of the Synod Assembly from each conference shall constitute the conference caucus.

S7.50.11. The caucus may draft resolutions for submission to the Resolutions Committee.

S7.50.12. The caucus may discuss resolutions, and transact such other business as the voting members determine.

S7.50.13. The caucus shall meet at the call of the Bishop, the President of the Conference or the request of 15 percent of the voting members of the conference.

S7.50.14. The officers of the conference shall serve as the leadership of the caucus.



South Dakota Synod Conference Map