

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL Women of the ELCA

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER 2

Spring 2019



President

Glenda Ofstehage

...Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:9

“Embracing Our Neighbors,” the theme for the June 2019 convention of the South Dakota Women of the ELCA, calls us to look around us, actually “see” our neighbors, and to speak out when their rights are not being protected, their needs not being met, and to embrace them as our neighbors and sisters. This is a big order, a strong calling, and a way of living that will strengthen our resolve to “promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.” Plan to attend the convention to learn, grow, and participate in fellowship that will expand the “neighborhood” in which we see ourselves and energize us to do the work we are called to do.

This issue of our synodical newsletter includes the registration form for the June 21 & 22 convention. (And don’t forget to plan to attend the pre-convention events on June 20 as well!) Please submit these EARLY. There will be deadlines for voting members to the South Dakota Synod Convention and nominees to be voting members to the 2020 Triennial Convention in Phoenix. These deadlines are ones to which we must adhere so pre-convention materials can be sent to voting members and nominees for the Triennial can be vetted by the nominating committee.

We cannot accept nominees for the Triennial from the floor at the synodical convention, so be sure to submit them before the deadline. I can’t state often enough how important it is that each unit submit a name as nominee to attend this convention. We need to fill all the positions and have an alternate for each person who is elected. One voting member from our delegation must be a “woman of color or a woman for whom English is not a first language” and one must be a “woman for whom this is the first Triennial Convention attended as a voting member.” Your new president or her representative will also attend as leader of the South Dakota Synod’s delegation. Of course, if your new president is a woman of color or first-time attendee, she can complete that requirement for our delegation.

All expenses for the convention are paid for voting members. There are “Early Bird” rates in effect now so I’d encourage registration during 2019. Can you or your unit or conference provide funds for attendee scholarship assistance? We hope the Synodical Women will be able to provide some assistance for all who attend. We don’t want cost to be the deciding factor for anyone who would like to attend. If you have questions, please contact me or Hannah Fleming (contact info on page 11).

I hope you are all looking forward to conference Spring Gatherings soon. This winter has made me reclusive, I fear, but the promise of attending anything with the word “SPRING” in its title is keeping me going.

My daughter, Ellen, lives independently in Vermillion with support from SESDAC (who support adults with developmental disabilities). One evening each week we take her to dinner, bring her to our home to prepare a meal, or let her cook for us at her

SPRING continued on p.2

apartment. Since March 1, she greets us with, “April is next! I’ll be 29!” Her birthday is April 22, so she is very much into counting the days. Lately “April is next!” has become my mantra as well, and not because I’m looking for a birthday!

With Easter being so late, we are likely going to have a lot of Spring Gatherings on the same weekend—I already have plans to attend two of them on April 27—but please let us know if there is information you’d like or if you are meeting on any day but the 27th and would like me to attend. I surely could try!

I attended my last “Conference of Presidents” in Chicago on Feb. 22-24. While we were there, the theme for the 2020 Triennial Gathering was announced—“Just Love”! I thought it a testimony to the nudging of the Holy Spirit that our Synodical

Convention’s theme feeds into the concept of loving justly so well.

The Women of the ELCA website for triennial information will have information on speakers, themes, and materials for purchase with the logos on them. Please check there often to keep up on what we have to come. The theme for the conference in Chicago was “Child of God.” I think we can find ways to identify ourselves as children of God, but the materials with which we were presented helped me open my eyes to see our neighbors as equally beloved children of our loving God. I’m looking forward to seeing you all in Aberdeen, June 20-22, to explore this concept together!

*God’s Peace,
Glenda*



Vice President Hannah Fleming

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life and have it
abundantly (John 10:10).*

The chilly days of Winter are just about over! Winter seems to last forever, but like other seasons, it eventually comes to an end. Spring usually brings us milder temperatures and we don’t have to layer up so much. It is a season of hope and new life. Spring brings forth the early blooming of beautiful flowers that brighten our day. Plants that were dead during winter come back to life in Spring! Life keeps happening.

The new life of Spring reminds me of God’s gracious love for us. Jesus said, “....I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly....” (John 10:10). Let us embrace the new life and excitement of Spring but embrace our Good Shepherd even more because he gives us abundant new life through His death and resurrection.

Nominee Search

As we prayerfully search for four nominees to fill the positions of President, Secretary, Discipleship, and Stewardship, I hope you prayerfully consider our requests when we call you. If you are willing to serve, please contact me or other members of the nomination committee. We hope to have our nominees by the end of April.

Triennial Voting Member Application

Please apply to be a voting member (formerly delegate) to the 11th Triennial Convention in Phoenix, Arizona on July 14-16, 2020. I am sending out the applications to various conferences to share with their units or WELCA groups.

A voting member will be a part of the planning for Women of the ELCA in the future! We are allotted (3) voting members plus our president. We have very specific rules to abide by. For example, we should have one woman of color or has primary language other than English, (1) first time voting member and (1) other. Please consider applying as this is a positive, life-changing experience.

The voting will take place at our annual Synodical Convention in June @ Aberdeen, SD. We are encouraged to have at least 10 applicants. Thanks, as you prayerfully consider applying.

Stay Blessed. Hannah Fleming

Application for Voting Member (previously delegate)
to the Eleventh Triennial Convention
July 14-16, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona

Note: Only one (1) person per unit! The nominating committee has very strict rules to abide by.

Name: _____ Age _____

Address _____

Person of color or whose primary language is not English: Yes ___ No ___

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Conference/Unit/City _____

First Time Voting Member(delegate) ___ Previous Convention as voting member ___

Experience in Women of the ELCA:

Why I want to serve as a voting member for SD:

Applications will be available at conference Spring Gatherings or use from newsletter.

Please send completed application by May 1, 2019 to

Hannah Fleming
2408 Central Blvd
Rapid City SD 57702
Email: moneahn.fleming@gmail.com

Voting will occur at the Synod Convention in Aberdeen, June 2019.

Cut out or copy this application form.



Treasurer Darla Toben

Greetings,

The calendar states we are now in the season of Spring; however, as I write my article, I am still seeing a lot of snow and snow piles yet to melt. However, we know we will soon have sunshine, melting, and a drying season so that the ground can again be prepared to plant the seed. This also reminds us to be patient.

Kathy Thompson, past Treasurer, and I have made the transitions complete and I thank all of you who have been sending your synodical offerings to me. Some of you have also sent me your \$5.00 for the newsletter subscription renewals so you will continue to receive a copy in your mailbox. If you have any questions, please reach out to me via email dgtoben@itctel.com or phone 605-880-3506 (cell).

As you will note from other articles within the newsletter, we are working on the details for the SD Synodical Women's Convention in Aberdeen, June 20-22, 2019.

Thursday Activities: Registration will be held at Zion Lutheran Church at 1721 South Main Street in Aberdeen from 2-5 PM. There will be a Vespers Service at Zion Lutheran Church at 8 p.m.

There is also a picnic event being planned at Wylie Park at Storybook Land. A box lunch can be purchased for \$8.00 at registration time to join in the fun. You won't want to miss this event!

Anchors of Faith Bookstore will be on site for your shopping of Christian books, gifts and other wonderful items.

Registration: Convention registration is \$50. Please find the registration form in this newsletter and share with others in your Unit. The SWO Poster is also included in the newsletter, so please post this at your church. It would be great to have

a good attendance to share in the worship services, and attend the breakout sessions. Voting members must register by June 1st. Non-voting members are asked to pre-register, so we can let the ladies know an estimate of how many will be in attendance for their meal planning. However, we will still accept registration at the door for Non-voting members only. Each church can have 1 (one) Voting member, but there is no limit on Non-voting members that can attend. Registration will be from 2-5 PM Thursday afternoon at Zion Lutheran Church and again at 8 AM Friday.

Lodging options include:

- Best Western Ramkota Hotel (605-229-4040)
1400 8th Ave NW, \$99.00 + tax per night
- Quality Inn (605-226-0097) 2923 6th Ave SE
\$89.00 + tax
- Super 8 East (605-229-5005) 2405 6th Ave SE
\$79.88 + tax.

All three hotels offer a complimentary continental breakfast. Cut off date for all hotels is May 20th, 2019. State that you are with the "SD Synodical Women's Convention" when calling for your reservation. I encourage you to bring others from your unit/church to join you. Aberdeen has a lot to offer to enjoy with families.

Silent Auction: Proceeds going to the LSS Capital Campaign. Basket items, needlework, craft items or home canned goods, homemade candies, etc, are welcomed.

Love Offering: A Love offering will be collected for the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army has two projects they will be collecting for: **Feed the Kids**, a program to provide lunches for kids, and **Flood Disaster Relief in South Dakota** thru cash donations. **Feed the Kids** would also welcome donations of granola bars, cookies, snack mix, animal crackers, pudding cups, Rice Krispie Bars, juice boxes, potato chips, snack crackers, fruit or applesauce cups, sandwich-sized zipper bags and plastic spoons.

Offerings: The SWO convention offering (50% to churchwide, 50% to Synodical); Friday evening offering to Campaign for Hope-LLS. Silent Auction proceeds will be given to LSS Capital Campaign.

Darla



Secretary

Karen Jensen

Job 12:13 "With God are wisdom and might; He has counsel and understanding."

Last week as I was down with the "crud" that has made its way around to affect many persons, I had plenty of time to think about what was wanted and needed to be done. However, I didn't feel up to doing any of it. That self-talk began, just like in

Lauren Daigle's song "You Say": *I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough.* Feelings of guilt that I wasn't getting anything done, even though I was ill.

Not sure why it is that a person feels that way, what makes us feel we must do it all. We all need to remember when feeling this way, we can lay what we need to at His feet. He is our strength when we feel weak. When stressors and burdens of the day get us down, our focus should not go inward toward ourselves, but outward to God, who is our refuge and our strength. (Psalm 46:1)

There are so many verses in the Bible that tell us to trust in the Lord, and not have anxiety. So when times are tough, let's keep in mind what the Bible tells us over and over, as in Luther's Small Catechism: This is most certainly true.



Director for Stewardship (Mission Action)

Janice Anderson

Have you thought about why you are involved in the WELCA? Is it for inspiration and learning through Bible studies and programs? For the opportunity to serve God's people with others in ways we couldn't do alone? Is it a way of living out your faith?

For me, it is all of these things. I have been active in WELCA since the 60's, because for me it has been

one of the most active parts of the congregations! Attending Conference Gatherings, Synodical Conventions and the Triennials have been inspirational and fun!

A special thank you to Conference and Synodical Mission Action officers for the amazing Mission Action Accomplished reports! I am overwhelmed with the generosity of the congregations!

The 2018 and 2019 Synodical bus tours to Lutheran World Relief, Chanhassen Dinner Theatre and Global Health Ministries had in 2018, 54 participants came home enthused and inspired. This year 53 gals and guys have registered.

Visit LWR.org/kits for resources, ideas, and tips to make your quilting or kit making projects a success.

Only 2 Spots Left for the Bus Tour to Minneapolis

Thursday and Friday, July 25-26, 2019

Tours of Lutheran World Relief Headquarters and Global Health Ministries plus "Mamma Mia" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater.

Cost: \$225, double occupancy. \$50 deposit due at registration.

Balance due by June 1.



Includes motor coach transportation from Sioux Falls, Brookings or Watertown; lunches Thursday and Friday; dinner theater Thursday; 1 night lodging at Hampton Inn with breakfast & 2 tours.

To register, contact Jan Anderson, 409 Kringen Ave., Baltic, SD 57003
605-529-5387 or 605-496-2459 Make checks payable to Jan Anderson.

REGISTRATION FORM**SD Women of the ELCA 32nd Synodical Women's Convention**

Zion Lutheran Church
1732 South Main Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Please **CIRCLE one**: Voting member Non-Voting member

Name _____ Telephone _____
(PLEASE Print)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Congregation _____ Conference _____

Registration Fee: \$50 (includes meals and registration) Lodging options:

- Best Western Ramkota Hotel (605-229-4040), 1400 8th Ave NW, \$99.00 + tax per night
- Quality Inn (605-226-0097) 2923 6th Ave SE, \$89.00 + tax
- Super 8 East (605-229-5005) 2405 6th Ave SE, \$79.88 + tax.

All three hotels offer a complimentary continental breakfast. Cut off date for all hotels is May 20th, 2019.
State that you are with the "SD Synodical Women's Convention" when calling for your reservation

Please make checks payable to: *SD Women of the ELCA*

Do you have any special Dietary or Accessibility needs? _____

*****PLEASE RETURN TOP PORTION WITH YOUR REGISTRATION*****

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 1, 2019

Mail registration form and fee to:

Darla Toben
47906 171st St.

Clear Lake, SD 57226

+++++Voting members will receive a confirmation letter with convention schedule information
7-10 days before the convention+++++

Registration 2-5 p.m. Thursday, June 20th or 8 a.m. Friday June 21st at Zion Lutheran Church

Offerings

SWO Convention: 1/2 to Churchwide, 1/2 to Synod

Love Offering: Salvation Army "Feed the Kids"

Cash Offering: Salvation Army Flood Disaster Relief in South Dakota

Silent Auction LSS Capital Campaign

Questions? Contact: Darla Toben at 605-880-3506

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

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL

32ND Annual Convention



“Embracing Our Neighbors”

“Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights
of the oppressed and needy.”

Proverbs 31:9

June 21-22, 2019

Zion Lutheran Church

1732 South Main St.

Aberdeen, SD 57401

See your W/ELCA UNIT President for information



Director for Discipleship (Mission Community)

Donna Vreugdenhil

Greetings:

Welcome Spring! Hopefully by the time this comes out we will be having warmer temperatures and the snow will have decreased (notice I didn't say it would be gone!). I really like spring with Easter and all the new life that comes with it, from baby animals to the emergence of new growth from the ground. Rejoice!

I am getting more comfortable being called Director of Discipleship instead of Mission Community. How are you doing with the name changes?

The following is an excerpt from churchwide on the duties of Discipleship: "Discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Disciples are followers of Jesus who are

intent on carrying out the Great Commission and the Great Command. Women of the ELCA participants are active disciples in many ways. They practice the seven marks of discipleship: praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. Whether making quilts and health and school kits for LWR, studying the Bible together or assisting in worship, they grow in faith and share what they've learned with friends and neighbors."

July 14-19, 2020, is the 11th Triennial Convention and Gathering in Phoenix, AZ. At the last Triennial our Synodical was short one voting member (delegate) because we did not have enough nominations submitted. Let's not let this happen again. We want to be represented and have our voice heard! Each church/unit is eligible to have one nomination as a voting member to the Triennial. We will select voting members and alternates at the SD Synodical in June at Zion Lutheran in Aberdeen. Encourage someone from your church/unit to fill out the nomination form on page 3 of this newsletter.

Act Boldly! Keep up the good work and keep reaching out!



Member at Large Laurel Vogl

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. - Luke 4:1-13

We are in the midst of the 40 days of Lent. This is a time for us to meditate, to contemplate our mortality, our sins, our pride, our failings, all that led to Jesus being crucified on Good Friday.

In the Gospel above, Jesus is led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. For 40 days he has nothing to eat. The devil tempts a hungry Jesus, saying "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus resists.

On the surface, turning a stone into bread

doesn't seem like that big of a deal. Jesus is hungry; it's not hurting anyone, so why not? This is the insidious nature of temptation. Temptations, by definition, are hard to ignore or resist. They may even seem logical and harmless like turning a stone into bread when you haven't eaten for a month. But Jesus saw straight to the heart of the issue. The devil was not concerned that Jesus had enough to eat. The devil was trying to get Jesus to perform a miracle the way the devil wanted it performed, rather than performing a miracle as God wishes. The devil was trying to define who Jesus is under the devil's own terms.

Just as the devil continued to tempt Jesus, so too are we tempted on a regular basis. Our temptations may not be as large as this. Our temptations are more basic to our every day lives. We are tempted to act in certain ways to gain acceptance, even when those ways are harmful to others or ourselves. We let others tell us how to behave, what to do, who to spend time with, or who to avoid. We let others define our own worth in our jobs, in our families, even in our own

VOGL continued on p.9



Director for Justice (Mission Growth)

Margie Neugebauer

“Visibility is the key to getting new women.”

New entry points into Women of the ELCA are necessary to build the organization, the director of intergenerational programs told leaders in Chicago, Feb. 22-24. “How many of you say, ‘How do we get more *young* women involved?’” Elizabeth McBride asked at the Women of the ELCA’s annual Conference of Presidents (COP). That’s not the question you should be asking, said McBride, who is also editor of the online magazine for young adult women, [Café](#). “You should be asking, ‘How do we get more *new* women involved?’ We don’t have an age issue; we have an access-to-entry issue,” McBride said. She suggested moving ministries like quilting, book clubs and service events outside the church. “Move your event for human trafficking to include your local youth group or a campus ministry near you if you have one,” she suggested. “Visibility is access.” *WELCA Blog* 2/27/2019

Four Big Questions to Ponder and Answer:

1. When have you had an experience of the Holy Spirit?

VOGL, continued from p.8

bodies. It can be all too easy to be tempted to believe we are worth less than others. That we are not talented enough, rich enough, smart enough, that our bodies are not the right shape or size, or too plain or not pretty enough. We let others tell us who we should be and what is the “right” or “wrong” way to live. We let the world define our identities, which is an insidious temptation because it can be so hard to realize when we do it.

Letting others define who you are distracts you from who you really are: a child of God. Through our baptisms we were called by name: “You, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.” This was

2. What’s unique about us/our group or circle/our organization now?
3. What is God calling us to do or to be in the future?
4. What gets in the way of our going there? What are some things we do now that don’t help us toward the future God is calling us to?

Again I am quoting from WELCA Daily Grace 2/21/19, which was originally printed in another WELCA Blog on 9/18/2018. Written by Audrey Riley from the CW staff.

Women and Justice Social Statement

In April the social statement on women and justice will be available on the ELCA website. This statement will be voted on at the churchwide assembly in August. The title of the document is ***“Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action.”*** Again I urge you to study this document, engage your pastor, and let the CW assembly delegates know your wishes regarding this document and the Call to Action!

SD Synodical Leadership Training is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location is still being worked on. The articles and questions listed above will be on the agenda. So think creatively and bring new ideas.

Be thinking about how we can support and participate in the **50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women** that will happen in 2020.

said over you during your baptism. Your identity is not in this world but in God. You are a child of God.

Jesus did not fall for the temptation to let the devil define him. During his 40 days he was tempted, but held firm to his identity in God. During these 40 days of Lent I challenge you, in the face of every temptation telling you who you are or should be, to remind yourself that you are a child of God. Your worth is defined by God who came down in the form of Jesus to live, teach, heal, love, and die on the cross for us. Then on Easter morning, celebrate anew your identity as a child of God, marked with the cross of Christ in your baptism, and given the promise of eternal life with God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Prison Congregations of America

Renae Griggs,
Executive Director

Transition

Isaiah Chapter 43 is a container for the power of God's passion for Israel and offers words of comfort for us all as we read about the Almighty's protection over us and His immeasurable love for us. Those, He says, who are precious in His sight. Of course, the promise in verse two carries us through the most difficult times:

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned or scorched, nor will the flame kindle upon you."

Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

Then we get to the middle of that same chapter. God moves from coddling us to calling us forth to transform our believing into boldness, to transfigure words of comfort into acts of confidence, and to transition from the predictability of the familiar to absolute faith in the utter unknown. God said, in verses 18 and 19, *"Do not earnestly remember the former things; neither consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive and know it and will you not give heed to it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

It's no secret that human beings resist change. Even positive change is challenging. Yet in these passages God is grabbing us by the shoulders and saying, "Listen! The life I have given you is not stagnant! All that I created is in a constant state of change! Can't you see that! Why are you worried? I AM is with you! It is in me that you live and MOVE and have your being! I have promised you that the rivers I bring to the desert will not overwhelm

you. Let go of the former things and let me take you into the new."

As our hearts and minds contemplate the wilderness journey of Lent, the days preceding the earth-shattering, destiny-changing, veil-splitting death-unto-life transition of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I'm reminded that God's urgent beckoning in Isaiah is echoed from the mouth of Jesus to the disciples who are pushing back on the imminent change He is joyfully sharing with them. He tells them that as He dies in the flesh He will live again transformed, returning to the Father so that anything they ask in His name, believing, He will grant them.

Woo Hoo!

Not so much. The disciples don't want their lives with Jesus to be interrupted, even though Jesus explains that the Holy Spirit will come in His stead enabling those who believe to do what He has done, and even greater things! Jesus goes to great lengths to lay out for the disciples the magnitude of what is about to take place and the glory that will come from it, and yet...the disciples are stuck in what their lives with Jesus have been like to that point, unable to let go of what they have known to venture into the unknown, in faith, believing what Jesus said - that it will be even better.

The truth is no one is eager to experience pain. And when we focus on the loss that often comes with change, it is excruciatingly painful. The disciples, even in their lack of understanding, could sense this journey into the new jack swing was going to hurt. And hurt a lot. Perhaps they believed, beyond their ability to bear it. So blinded by their backward glances, and paralyzed by the fear of their perceived limitations, they tried to desperately cling to the familiar – even to the point of trying to talk Jesus out of His destiny on behalf of the world. Imagine if they had been successful.

Finally, Jesus tells them, "I give you my peace. Not as the world gives you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me tell you I am going away and I am

coming back to you. If you really loved Me, you would have been glad, because I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater and mightier than I am.” (*John 14:27 amp*)

Contrast that exchange with the gospel account of Mary’s “alabaster flask of very precious perfume” that she poured over Jesus at the protest of the men in the room who were enraged by the wasteful use of what could have been sold at a high price to benefit the poor.

Yet Jesus praises her. Why? Because she saw the bigger picture and was all in. I’m sure Mary was equally upset at the thought of Jesus suffering and dying, but she seemed to understand that the “why” behind the “what” was of paramount importance. So much so that not only had she come to accept what needed to happen, but she committed herself to honoring it.

Jesus said of her in Matthew’s telling that her deed was noble, and that she had done so to prepare Him for His burial. He added in 26:13 that “...wherever this good news is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will be told also, in memory of her.”

Yes, indeed, the transition from death unto life can be a blistering one. But in so many ways God has expressed the necessity of change. Not the least of which is how the winter season in its absence of color and seemingly relentless, life ravaging subzero temperatures gives way to the explosion of vibrant hues, new growth, and flowering blossoms of splendor. So how do we faithfully leave the past behind and walk boldly into the uncertain greater thing God is calling us to?

We can certainly follow Mary’s lead and look beyond ourselves to the greater good, accepting that life means change whether we like it or not. We can see in what Mary did that when we have a heart after God our primary desire becomes to honor the path He is leading us into, refusing to cower in fear or lament what might have been. And we can remind ourselves of the galvanizing perspective laid out in Hebrews chapters 11 and 12. Chapter 11, of course, being the honor roll of the heroes and heroines of faith. Following that impressive roster,

chapter 12 reveals the pages in the playbook that will enable us to move through transitions, even the most difficult ones, without becoming weary or faint hearted.

Doing a New Thing

As the new Executive Director of Prison Congregations of America (PCA), it would be much easier for me to simply carry on with the familiar. But if so, I would have to turn a deaf ear to God’s voice that is beckoning, “Behold! I am doing a new thing!” This time of transition at PCA is an opportunity for us to open our eyes to a bigger picture, to be bold in honoring the call to greater greatness, though the path is uncertain, and to allow God to show Himself mighty in bringing newness of life out of the sometimes painfully uncomfortable cold blasts of change.

I believe with all of my heart that the vision God gave His beloved, Pastor Ed Nesselhuf, is about to explode with the kind of growth and vibrant blossoming that only the breath of God can bring about. Our times call for us as followers of Christ to let go of our fears and grab onto our Savior’s Hand as He leads us along the course that is set before us, which may be very different than what we had imagined.

I ask for your continued support as we climb aboard this adventure with the Holy Spirit, and look forward to keeping you informed as each exciting chapter unfolds.

God has entrusted PCA with what I believe is one of the most important missions in the world today, and that is... ***to walk out the gospel of God’s grace with men and women in prison and those released to freedom by helping to build robust, sustainable communities of faith that offer continuity of pastoral care and supportive fellowship with welcoming brothers and sisters in Christ.***

I do hope you’ll come along for the ride!



Member at Large

Cheryl Lundeen

Hello Spring, Good Bye Winter!

Hopefully many of you subscribe to “Gather” magazine. The April issue featured an article about eggs that caught my attention. It was the RED eggs that made me take a second look. Do you remember dying Easter eggs with your children/grandchildren? I’m sure they were not a vivid red. There is quite the story about these red dyed eggs!

Eggs have been a sign of spring and new life for centuries. Eggs continue to be important today for

us as Christians – a plain, simple egg of any size can represent each of our lives – we can be simple and plain or highly decorated and festive. But each one can break forth and tell the story of the resurrection and new life. Let it happen, because we know in our heart that God loves us and raised his only Son to save us. We continue to be the eggs that break forth from our shells to share the message we carry inside of us. It’s a great article on the symbolism and history of eggs (as well as a recipe for making “red eggs”).

Spring Gatherings at all the conference levels are being held soon. Be sure to attend, if you can, to hear the message and see what is happening in your area with Women of the ELCA and how you, too, can be involved and sharing the Word. The Synodical Conference in June in Aberdeen is another worthy event to plan on attending! Take time to feed your faith, learn something new and meet new friends.



Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota

Kathy McHenry,
Executive Director

Lessons From Mom

When I sit down at the piano for Sunday morning worship, or spend a few hours at the sewing machine on a snowy afternoon, it’s because of Mom. The lessons and experiences gained as children were gifts to my sisters and me from both of our parents, but it was Mom who listened to those tortuous 30 minutes of daily piano practice and stood over the Singer, patiently teaching us to gather a set-in sleeve, how to hand stitch an invisible hem, and the value of a good seam ripper.

There aren’t as many teaching and learning opportunities once children become adults – I still call Mom for a recipe on occasion, but sometimes, she’s the one who calls me for advice. My sons don’t call for advice very often, either – maybe at tax time or when making a major purchase.

I think about the day when there will be no more lessons, and about what my sons will say they learned from me. I hope faith and generosity are on that list.

My estate plan offers one last opportunity to teach, an opportunity I don’t want to miss. A Christian preamble speaks directly to my family about love and faith and gratitude. My will allows me to make gifts to ministry that aren’t possible today. Just the fact that I’ve taken the time to establish an estate plan tells my children I love them and don’t want them to struggle with finding accounts, determining gifts and guessing what might be my final wishes. I don’t want that process to create arguments and sever relationships.

Do you have an estate plan? Has it been updated to reflect your current family situation? What will your family learn from this final lesson? Will they recognize the importance of your life’s legacy of faith and support to the ministries that mean so much to you? If you have lesson plans to do and need some help, call me – we’re here to help!

Kathy McHenry
(605) 274-5030 or kmchenry@sdsynod.org

Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota



Jamie Lennon,
Development Director

During the last issue I noted the temperate winter weather. Oh boy did that change. Since then, I have been sulking and wondering if — not when — winter will ever end...a feeling compounded when I asked Siri on my iPhone “When does winter end?” Her response: “March 18, 2020.” Surely a glitch....right?

Hopefully, by now the first touches of spring are being felt and the early showers, snow and flooding have not left lasting damage. As we continue through Lent we do so in sure and certain hope of the resurrection, and spring. Siri has no authority over God’s plan here.

Statewide: We would love to join you for one of your upcoming meetings to share in fellowship and offer an update of how your support impacts over 48,000 lives throughout South Dakota. Please reach out to one of our Development Directors who would be happy to come out and visit with your unit.

On April 4, at noon, Jamie Lennon and Mohamed Ahmed will be joining ladies from First Lutheran in Sioux Falls to provide an update on LSS and the Campaign for Hope. We’d love you to join us. Can’t join us? We’d love to come visit you at your congregation.

Upcoming Events:

- **Taste of Cultures:** April 13, at The District in Sioux Falls. Features cultural food and entertainment. Tickets \$40 each; VIP tickets \$80. Visit www.LssSD.org or call Jamie Lennon, 605-444-7502 or text TOC19 to 51555.
- **Hope Grows in the Northeast:** April 27 at The Dakota Event Center (The DEC)! Meal, silent auction and a Comic Magician show featuring Jared Sherlock. Reservations required. To donate a Silent Auction Basket or item or reserve tickets, contact Liesl Hovel at 605-262-6301 or Liesl.Hovel@LssSD.org
- **Hope Grows in the Brookings Area:** May 18 in McCrory Gardens. Contact Jamie Lennon at 605-444-7502 or email Jamie.Lennon@LssSD.org for more details.
- **Hope Grows in the Black Hills:** May 5, 5PM Wine Pull (purchase a cork that corresponds to a bottle of wine valued at \$15-50), silent auction, client speaker. No cost to attend, but reservations are required. Contact Jessica at 605-791-6769.



Lutherans Outdoors

Mara Stillson

Join us for upcoming Events and Retreats:

[Outlaw Ranch: Women's Retreat](#), Pastor Heidi Binstock, Resource Leader, April 5-7

[Joy Ranch: Chef Night](#), April 16

[Outlaw Ranch: Elementary Adventure Day](#), April 28

[Joy Ranch: Chef Night](#), May 7

NeSoDak: Bluegrass at the Brewery, May 11

[Joy Ranch: Chef Night](#), May 21

Information available at losd.org/events-retreats

Get the LO Down on Camp Happenings

Listen to the monthly LO podcast *The LO Down*. Each episode will give you a glimpse into the happenings and history of Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota. Guests and topics will connect you with the camp world and always leave you wanting to hear “s’more.” Available where you subscribe to podcasts and at losd.org/lo-down.

Your Input Matters

As a congregational owner of Lutheran Outdoors camps, we’re interested in partnering with you on our goals for mission in ministry together. We greatly value your input and feedback.

Visit surveymonkey.com/r/losd to complete our survey. The survey will stay open until April 25th and findings will be shared at the LO Annual Meeting at the SD Synod Assembly.



Bread for the World

Cathy Brechtelsbauer
Volunteer SD Coordinator

I remember back once when I was pregnant, public radio was reading Laura Wilder's *The Long Winter*, serialized, 10 or 15 minutes a day. In the segment one day when I was driving, the parents did not know how they would feed their children the next day. It was a new thought to me, so frightening that I had to pull off the road and cry.

Our spring gatherings and circle meetings are great occasions to participate in Bread for the World's 2019 Offering of Letters, "*Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow*." It empowers us to urge Congress to ramp up critical nutrition programs worldwide that have proven effective.

Nutrition programs for pregnant women and young children are highly cost effective. Congress should boost funding for programs proven effective in reducing hunger long-term.

I have made a one-page flier to aid in writing these letters to Congress. Please email or call me for it. I would love to email it to you.

Is this sort of advocacy appropriate in churches? You bet. This is not about a candidate or party. It's about a moral (and practical) issue. Jesus himself often confronted government leaders who had not lived up to God's expectation to care for the poor. In particular, as Christians and citizens, especially in a democracy, we have both privilege and responsibility to use our influence on behalf of people in need. As John Wesley said, "Any good that I can do, let me do it while I can."

"The church is called to be at the place of intersection between faith and public life. I think Martin Luther was pretty clear on that." -Rev. Justin Grimm, St. Paul Area Synod

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



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Send Address Changes to Lilah Gillis,
1202 E. 15th St., Yankton, SD, 57078;
Phone/text: 605-660-8418
E-mail: mlgillis92@gmail.com

We are on the Web

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

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

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

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

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

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

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