

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL Women of the ELCA

Thursday, June 20 Pre-Convention Activities

(at Zion Lutheran Church, 1721 South Main St., Aberdeen)

- 3-5 PM Register at Zion Lutheran Church;
Purchase Box Lunch for Storybook Land Picnic \$8
- 3-5 PM Free time: Visit Storybook Land,
visit Dacotah Prairie Museum, register silent auction items
- 4:30 PM Trolley available to transport from Zion to Storybook Land
- 5:30 PM Picnic at Storybook Land
- 7:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer Vespers at Zion**
- 8:30 PM Visit or return to hotel

Friday, June 21

- 8-9 AM Register, enter silent auction items, visit silent auction
- 8:45-9 AM Hymn Sing
- 9-9:30 AM Opening of Convention, Introductions
- 9:30-10 AM Devotions, Laurel Vogl
- 10-10:15 AM Break (Coffee, visit displays and silent auction)
- 10:15-10:45 Messages from Synodical Board
- 10:45-noon Business meeting
- 12-1:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00-1:15 PM Hymn Sing
- 1:15-1:40 PM LWR Bus Trip, Jan Anderson; Q&A; announcements
- 1:45-2:30 PM Awareness session
- 2:45-3:30 PM Awareness session
- 3:45-4:30 PM Awareness session
- 4:30-5:30 PM Visit vendors, refresh silent auction bids
- 5:30 PM Silent Auction closes
- 6 PM Banquet Speaker Churchwide Representative Laura Krueger
Installation of officers, Commissioning of voting members
and alternates to 2020 Triennial Convention
- 7 PM Special music and visiting afterwards

Saturday, June 22

- 8:30 AM Hymn sing
- 8:45 AM Devotion
- 9 AM Love Offering Thank You
- 9:15 AM Recognize Incoming and Outgoing Officers
- 9:30 AM Invitation to 2020 Convention: Cheryl Lundeen, Crossroads
- 9:45-10 AM Break
- 10-10:45 AM What's Happening and Q&A with Bishop David Zellmer
- 10:45-11 AM Break or wrap up
- 11-noon Worship with Holy Communion (convention offerings rec'd)

Go in peace; serve the Lord!!

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL CONVENTION

32nd Annual SD Synodical Women's Convention

Zion Lutheran
Church

1721 South Main St.
Aberdeen, SD

June 20-22, 2019

*“Embracing
Our Neighbors”*

*“Speak out; judge
righteously;
defend the rights
of the poor and
needy.*

—Proverbs 31:9

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Registration Fee: \$50

Convention Offering:

50% to SD W/ELCA; 50% to Churchwide WELCA

Special Offering will be taken Friday evening during the banquet for the Campaign for Hope-LLS.

Love Offering: Salvation Army, supporting: Flood Disaster Relief in South Dakota and Feed the Kids which provides lunches for kids; bring cash donations or 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.

Silent Auction: LSS Capital Campaign

Displays: Please visit the displays set up by Ministry Outreaches of our church during breaks from proceedings:

- Sharing the Dream
- ELCA Disabilities Ministry
- Lutheran Planned Giving
- Questions Kids Ask About God
- Spirit of Faith Church
- Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota
- South Dakota Synodical Women of the ELCA
- Racial Justice
- Woyatan Community Reentry Services
- Bethany Lutheran Foundation

PURPOSE STATEMENT

“As a community of women,
 created in the image of God
 called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,
 and empowered by the Holy Spirit
 We commit ourselves to
 grow in faith
 to affirm our gifts,
 and support one another in callings
 engage in ministry and action
 and promote healing and wholeness
 in the church, the society,
 and the world.”

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Credentials Committee

Verdelle Anderson, Medary Conference
 Kathy Heffernan, Northern Plains Conference

Resolutions Committee

TBD

Convention Nurse

TBD

Parliamentarian

TBD

Newsletter Editor

Lilah Gillis

Nominating Committee/Elections Committee

Hannah Fleming, Synodical Vice President
 Verdelle Anderson, Medary Conference
 Annette Johnson, Bear Butte Conference
 Diane Bryan, Bear Butte Conference
 Sheila Aaker, Crossroads Conference

Minutes Committee

Karen Jensen
 Lori Tendler, Crossroads Conference
 Lilah Gillis

AWARENESS PRESENTERS

Each session is offered three times: 1:45-2:30 PM; 2:45-3:30 PM; and 3:45-4:30 PM.

Nicholas Breining *Children and Young Adults Moving from Trauma to Resiliency at Pine Ridge*

The children/young adult programming that is evolving at the Retreat Center takes into consideration the historical and ongoing trauma that exists among the Lakota people.



We share the story and spirit of Jesus in a culturally appropriate manner and help connect them to traditional Lakota spirituality by partnering with cultural guides .

Nicholas has nearly a decade of experience in human services related fields. He has training in trust-based relational intervention for children, strengths-based service delivery, youth mental health first aid and trauma informed care techniques. He has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in psychology.

Pastor Rhonda Wellsandt-Zell, *How the Holy Spirit Formed Spirit of Faith*

Pastor Rhonda's first career was teaching, and in the last 20 years has been bi-vocational as a substitute teacher and pastor. She has served in various interim ministries, and also as a called pastor at Resurrection Lutheran in Pierre; American Lutheran in Huron, Wolsey and Bonilla Presbyterian; Forestburg Lutheran, Bethany Lutheran, United Methodist churches in Forestburg/Woonsocket, Spirit of Faith in Woonsocket and Trinity Lutheran in Mitchell.



She will talk about how the Holy Spirit led three congregations, ELCA and United Methodist, to let go of two original buildings and build a new ministry and building together.

Laura Krueger, Churchwide Representative Executive Board Member, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Laura Krueger was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves as parliamentarian and on the budget and finance committee.

Laura has been actively involved in Women of the ELCA since its beginnings in 1987, serving on a transition team to help congregational units with the merger of three Lutheran denominations. She served in congregational units, conference committees and synodical boards in Upstate New York and in the Grand Canyon synod. Before being elected to the executive board, she served two terms as president of Grand Canyon Synod Synodical Women's Organization (2D).



A resident of Avondale, Ariz., Laura is a member of Alleluia Lutheran Church in Phoenix. She has served as Christian education director at Alleluia and Zion Lutheran, New Hartford, New York. Laura leads children's sermons regularly and has led adult forum and Bible study series. Laura currently sings in the choir, serves as worship cantor, and leads Alleluia's Mission Team, including a community Diaper Closet housed in the church.

Laura began her career in business, and found her passion in education. She is director of admissions and records at a local community college.

Laura is married to Jim, a retired electrical engineer. They have three grown sons David and twins Jon and Chris. They have two grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading and crocheting. Her most recent crochet projects include making small Amigurumi animals (Japanese of art of knitting or crocheting) that are used in the NICU units at the local hospital to help newborns remember the scents of their moms.

South Dakota Synodical Women of the ELCA Report to the South Dakota Synod Assembly 2019

The 30th Annual Synodical Convention of the South Dakota Women of the ELCA was held June 29-30 at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, South Dakota with pre-convention events and vespers service at American Lutheran Church in Milbank. There were over 100 registered attendees. We extend congratulations and sincere thanks to our hostesses from the Prairie Couteau conference for their work in providing a wonderful convention experience.

The theme was “Discover God’s Peace” with Psalm 96:11-12—“Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord!” The setting was perfect for “discovering God’s peace.”

The 2019 convention at Zion Lutheran in Aberdeen is June 21-22, 2019. Pre-Convention events and a vespers service begin June 20. The convention theme is “Embracing Our Neighbors”—leaning into our purpose statement “to promote healing and wholeness...” There we will elect voting members to represent us at the Triennial Convention in Phoenix and consider a revised synodical women’s constitution. We invite women of all ages to join us.

It is not too early to begin planning to attend the 11th Triennial Gathering and Convention in Phoenix in July 2020. Over 100 women from the South Dakota Synod attended the 10th Triennial in Minneapolis, and I am certain any of them would recommend the experience.

Three voting members from our synod will be selected at the convention in Aberdeen. This is several voting members less than previously, due to lower numbers of active units within our synod. We continue to remind you that that “bar” for being considered an active unit is quite low—primarily that you have a contact person in your congregation who can relay information from your synodical leaders, provide opportunity for women of your congregation to gather for Bible

study, and send some sort of offering to the synodical/churchwide Women of the ELCA. Please contact a member of the synodical board for more information. We hope for a greater representation for the 2023 Triennial Convention.

Women of the South Dakota Synod continue to serve 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 you for the creative and thoughtful ways you serve your communities, becoming the hands, feet, and heart of the church in action.

We provide quilts and other handmade items for the annual Lutherans Outdoors quilt auctions, supporting young campers in our synod. Local women meet for Bible study. The Dina Johnson Scholarship is awarded yearly to an Augustana University woman student.

We have focused attention this year on several issues from the Triennial Convention:

1. Affirm the need for clean and potable water and be encouraged to act upon it by raising awareness and/or offering tangible support to the people of Flint, Michigan
2. Support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by stating clearly that we condemn all forms of corporal punishment of children
3. Women of the ELCA recognize domestic abuse and violence as a serious issue in our communities and our churches and resolve to educate themselves about the signs of domestic abuse and violence and the services available in the community. A list of ways of addressing this issue is available on the churchwide website.
4. Women of the ELCA will work to end human trafficking and support its victims. January 11 - February 4, 2018 was established as a time of prayer to end human trafficking.

Resources and ideas for accomplishing these



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

February 2019

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

All Anew! This theme still brings a rush of energy through my body. My passion for this organization runs deep and I'm excited to see what the future holds for the Women of the ELCA. How about you? Can you vision the future? Can you see your daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, niece enjoying the fellowship and mission that we recite in our purpose statement?

During this time together, I'd like to invite you to reflect on the future. Why is the Women of the ELCA important to you? Would you miss this organization if it were to disappear tomorrow? What would you miss? Times are changing, but we don't have to let that affect our mission and purpose! Imagine what we can do as a community of women today, tomorrow, next year, in the next 50 years! Let's leave a legacy. We can become All Anew every day!

It is my prayer that your synodical convention will inspire and challenge you in ways you may never have considered. When you return to your congregational unit please share all that you learned and experienced and invite those who could not attend to your next event. My representative who is attending your convention is there to listen to your joys and concerns, and to engage in everything you have planned. Please make a special point to meet with her and talk with her and let her know if there is something we can do to assist you in your ministry.

You are bold and faithful women and it is an honor to carry out the ministry of the Women of the ELCA with you. My prayer to you is that you continue to serve and mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Peace and blessings to you <><

Lisa Plorin
President, 2017-2020 Triennium
Women of the ELCA

8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

800-638-3522, ext. 2730
773-380-2730
fax: 773-380-2419
www.womenoftheelca.org

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL WOMEN OF THE ELCA 31ST ANNUAL CONVENTION MINUTES

The Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, SD

June 29, 2018

Theme: “Discover God’s Peace”

Theme Verse: “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it, let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord!” - Psalm 96:11-12

Theme Song: Let us be inspired by the beauty of this place and the fellowship we share to “make a joyful noise” and use our voices to worship and praise our God!

Convention Goal: To foster joy and enthusiasm in our relationships with God and others.

Business Meeting

Prayer by President Glenda Ofstehage

Welcome by President Glenda Ofstehage

Business meeting convened by President Glenda Ofstehage at 11:25

President Glenda introduced our parliamentarian, Marilyn Abraham

President Glenda introduced the Credentials Committee: Kathy Thompson, chair;
members: Dee Ann Sanderson, Karen Jensen

W/ELCA Purpose Statement recited by those in attendance.

Report of Credentials Committee – Kathy Thompson

46 voting members

58 non-voting members

4 Synodical officers

5 Guests

4 Synodical board members

117 Total present

Motion by Darlene Jervick, second by Dee Ann Sanderson to accept the Credentials Committee Report. Motion passed.

Introduction of South Dakota Synodical Board Members

Glenda Ofstehage, President, (present); Nancy Rieke, Vice President (present)

Lynn Pohlman, Secretary (present); Kathy Thomsen, Treasurer (present)

Janice Anderson, Stewardship/Mission Action (excused);

Donna Vreugdenhil, Discipleship/ Mission Community (present);

Margie Neugebauer, Justice/ Mission Growth (present);

Connie Bickett, Member at Large (present); Arlene Bich, Member at Large (present);

Parliamentarian, Marilyn Abraham (present)

Introduction of Churchwide Representative, Anissa Canova

Appointment of Convention Business Committees:

Credentials Committee: Dee Ann Sanderson, Karen Jensen; Chairperson-Kathy Thomsen

Resolutions Committee: Edna Anderson, Kathy Heffernan

Convention Nurse: Vicki Persson

Parliamentarian: Marilyn Abraham

Newsletter Editor: Lilah Gillis

Nominating Committee/Elections Committee: Nancy Rieke, Synodical VP & Convener of Committee, Verdelle Anderson, Annette Johnson, Joan Ernst, Gretchen Tweet

Minutes Committee: Lynn Pohlman, Annette Johnson, Lilah Gillis

Adoption of convention agenda: Motion by Janet Mattison; Second by Darla Toben to accept the printed convention agenda. Voice vote. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report: Lynn introduced the Minutes committee: Annette Johnson and Lilah Gillis. Motion by Sharon Ekstrum. Second by Judy Hunt to approve the 2017 W/ELCA Synodical Convention minutes as printed in the convention booklet. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Thompson presented the Audit report and the treasurer's report. The report is also printed in the convention book. Total assets: \$ 28796.76. Total Endowment Funds: \$157,323.69.

Motion by Barb Kromer to approve the treasurer's report. Second by Pam Seefeldt. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

Kathy Thompson presented the proposed 2019 budget. Motion by Judy Carlson, second by Margie Neugebauer to adopt the budget. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

Elections – Report of the Nominating Committee – Nancy Rieke

President Glenda asked for the report from the nominating committee and the roll call of delegates. Roll call taken. 54 voting members. (includes Synodical board)

Nancy presented the list of positions and candidates:

Vice President – Hannah Fleming

Treasurer – Darla Toben

Member at Large – Cheryl Lundeen

Nominating Committee – Diane Bryan

Nancy called for nominations from the floor.

Two nominations from the floor:

Nominating Committee - Sheila Aaker

Member at Large – Laurel Vogl

Joyce Vasgaard motioned to accept the ballot and that nominations cease. Janet Mattison second. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

Marilyn Abraham made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot. Karen Jensen second. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business –

Confirm amount of Pledge for Center For New Americans – Motion by Kathy Heffernan to set a pledge of \$75,000. Second by Marilyn Abraham. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

Other New business

Candidates for Voting Member to 2020 Triennial Convention to be voted on at 2019 Synodical Convention. President Glenda asked that this information is shared with units.

Disbursement of Funds:

Motion by Marilyn Abraham to distribute \$1,500 to LSS Center for New Americans and \$1,500 to W/ELCA Churchwide, to be used where needed. Second by Janet Mattison. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

President Glenda adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM

Meeting Reconvened at 1:15pm

Glenda asked for a vote for the position of Secretary

Cynthia Wall made a motion to nominate Lynn Pohlman, seconded by Darla Toben. No nominations from the floor. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

Margie Neugebauer made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot, second by Kathy Thomsen. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

President Glenda adjourned the meeting at 1:21pm

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Pohlman
South Dakota Synodical W/ELCA Secretary

.....
February 16, 2019

Board of Directors
South Dakota Synod Women's Organization
Women of the ELCA

To whom it may concern,

Alpha Behrnes, Barb Kromer and Kathy Mathiason have reviewed the financial records from February 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019.

Our reviews consisted of reconciling cash received with deposits recorded in the bank statement, and verifying vouchers paid with check copies and the checkbook register. There were a couple of discrepancies which were brought to the attention of the current treasurer, and they have been clarified to our satisfaction. She will make the necessary changes.

The accounting is in good order. We appreciate the manual record of activity as well as this is a check and balance tool.

It was a pleasure to review the financials for you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of us.

Called to Serve,

Alpha Behrnes
Barb Kromer
Kathy Mathiason

Alpha Behrnes, Barb Kromer, Kathy Mathiason

**SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL WOMENS ORGANIZATION
WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JANUARY 31, 2019
BY KATHY THOMPSON**

ASSETS**CURRENT ASSETS:**

Cash in Bank—First State Bank	\$32,372.11	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$32,372.11

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$0.00	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$28,984.26	
Year to date increase/(decrease)	\$3,387.85	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET		\$32,372.11

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Dina Johnson Scholarship Fund (Augustana)	
ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust FLIM	
ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust Income Account	
TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS	

**SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL WOMENS ORGANIZATION
WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2019**

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS**YEAR TO DATE****CASH RECEIPTS:**

Congregational Units	\$ 22,576.62
Conference gatherings	5,102.55
SWO Convention	4,830.00
SWO Convention registration	10,355.00
Newsletters	155.00
Other Designated receipts	7,484.07
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	\$ 50,503.24

CASH DISBURSEMENTS**SWO PROGRAM:**

Board and committees	\$1,198.15
Newsletters	1,829.97
TOTAL BOARD AND COMMITTEES	\$3,028.12

EVENTS

SWO Convention	\$9,982.97
Winter Board Meeting	1,253.03
Conference Officers Workshop	956.47
TOTAL EVENTS	\$15,192.47

CHURCHWIDE

Regular Offering (65%)	\$14,972.56
½ Convention Offering	2,233.50
Conference Gathering Offering (65%)	2,997.84
Insurance	137.00
LWR Project Comfort	50.00
Missionary Support	63.30
World Hunger	151.86
Where Needed Most	1,900.00
TOTAL CHURCHWIDE	\$22,506.06

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD

Campus Ministries	\$334.95
Lutheran Social Services	1,916.00
Womens Center Cameroon	273.49
TOTAL SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD	\$2,524.44

OTHER:

Dina Johnson Endowment	\$1,293.38
Love Offering	1,176.00
Lutheran Outdoors – All Camps	100.00
St. Dysmas	534.96
Listen God is Calling (Former ATC)	659.96
Synod Assembly Display	100.00
TOTAL OTHER	\$3,864.30

TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS **\$47,115.39**

INCREASE (DECREASE) NET ASSETS **\$3,387.85**

ASSETS AT BEGINING OF YEAR **\$28,984.26**

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR **\$32,372.11**

CONGREGATION UNIT OFFERINGS FOR YEAR ENDING 1/31/19

CONFERENCE I	Prairie Coteau	\$ 4,571.58
CONFERENCE II	Medary	4,143.72
CONFERENCE III	Crossroads	7,098.04
CONFERENCE IV	Southeastern	1,483.92
CONFERENCE V	Northern Plains	3,091.30
CONFERENCE VII	Prairie Rivers	1,589.62
CONFERENCE VIII	Bear Butte	598.44
TOTAL CONFERENCE OFFERINGS		\$22,576.62

Respectfully submitted
Darla Tolén, Treasurer

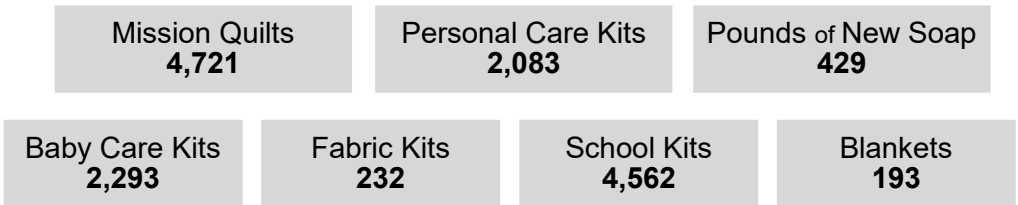
2018 south dakota synod WOMEN OF THE ELCA

missions accomplished

TOTAL WELCA DOLLARS



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SUPPORT



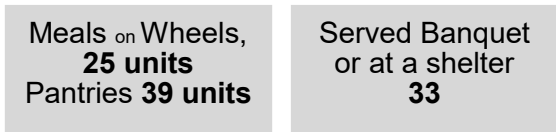
GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES SUPPORT



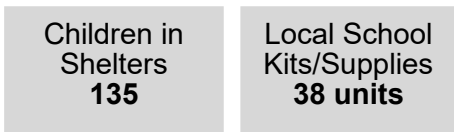
QUILTS OTHER THAN LWR



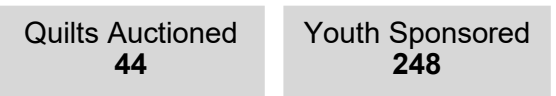
SUPPORT TO THE HUNGRY



SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN



CAMPING SUPPORT



SAMPLE BALLOT

PRESIDENT: Vote for one

Margene Thompson

Margie Neugebauer

Secretary: vote for one

Janet Ehrmann Lustig

Director for

Stewardship:

vote for one

Director for Justice:

vote for one

Director for

Discipleship:

vote for one

Vicki Persson

Nominating

Committee:

Vote for two

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS GIVING!

Submitted by Janice Anderson, Synodical Mission Action Officer

VITAE FOR SYNODICAL OFFICERS

President: Margene Thompson, 39141 240th St. Letcher SD 57359, Tel. 605-248-2444 or 605-770-8311; amthompson@santel.net, Prairie Rivers Conference. Member of Storla Lutheran Church, Letcher SD. Currently: W/ELCA Unit secretary, PR W/ELCA Conference VP; Storla church president; PR Conference Assembly secretary. Past: Synodical board as secretary and VP; PR W/ELCA Conference president and secretary. Various offices in our local Unit. I have attended 3 Triennials, twice as a voting member. I love my church and the part women play in spreading the Good News to all people. As a team member, I am open to and respect the ideas of others.

President: Margie Neugebauer 24651 Whitetail Ridge Road Hermosa, SD 57744 Tel. # 303.590.4403. It is ironic that in my first gig as a “pastor’s wife,” I resisted being automatically designated as the ALCW Adviser. Since then I have held offices in ALCW and W/ELCA at the local, conference and synodical levels: unit president, mission growth, parliamentarian, nominating and constitution committees. I have led Bible studies, spoken at conference, SWO events, and attended the All Anew Triennial. I have also been president of Jaycee Women, Runner’s Club, Business and Professional Women, and the SD Advocacy Network for Women. My faith has been strengthened through Bible studies and my relationships with women in ND and SD have been enriched. My call to ministry came in the form of being an advocate for women, racial justice, and TDTR. I strongly believe in the Purpose Statement of WELCA, with “empowered by the Holy Spirit” as my motto. I look forward to the challenge of bringing transformational change to the SD SWO and our local units. I live with my retired husband in the Black Hills and we have 2 sons, daughter-in-law, and 4 grandsons.

Secretary: Janet Ehrmann Lustig, 1403 Milwaukee St Rapid City, SD 57701 Tel. 818 571 2594 Bear Butte Conference. Actively involved in Woyatan unit since it started about 4 years ago. I have served as unit secretary for 3 years. Being a part of our WELCA have taught me to meet needs of homeless and housing & food insecure people that walk through our doors. Through our unit, I have worked with our re-entry clients to put together hygiene and baby care kits. We pretty well oversee the kitchen and make sure meals on Sundays are prepared as again we may be feeding the hungry. I would like to encourage all Lutheran women (WELCA women) to reach out to our sisters (and brothers) to show the world what God’s work and our hands can do. I think as synodical secretary, my focus is to stay committed to my duties, work with the team of leaders to promote our WELCA mission and just be who God wants me to be.

Director for Stewardship:

Director for Justice:

Director for Discipleship: Vicki Persson, My address is 38896 268th Street Corsica, SD 57328 Tel. # cell 605-999-2946 landline 605-732-4605. Prairie River Conference. I am married, have four children and 2 grandsons. My husband and I are retired and live on the farm in rural Stickney, SD. We attend St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stickney and are both active members. I have held offices in Women of the ELCA at the local, conference, and Synodical levels. My hobbies include reading and gardening. At the present time I am secretary for Prairie Rivers Conference. My third grandson is due July 2 in Sioux Falls, and I am excited.

We pray for safe travels as we leave, ready to nurture our own congregations.

VITAE for Triennial Nominees

Darla Toben: Age 60 47906 171st St. Clear Lake SD 57226 Tel. # H (605) 874 2951 C (605) 880 3506, Email: dgtoben@jtctel.com

Conference: Medary St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clear Lake. Previous voting member.

Experience: Current Synodical Treasurer, current Unit President current Conference Nominating Committee member, former Conference Unit Coordinator, Vice Coordinator, Nominating Committee member, and past Unit Treasurer. **Why:** I enjoyed previous triennial and learning how our organization works. I want to share what I learn at the triennial with our state and local units. I also want to grow in my personal faith.

Sheryn Ekstrum Age 79, 25705 362nd Ave, Kimball SD 57355 Tel. # (605) 778 6903, Email: sheryn@midstatesd.net. **Conference:** Prairie Rivers, Kimball Protestant Parish, Previous voting member. **Experience:** Synodical President, Director Mission Action; Conference President and Mission Action Director; Unit President, Mission Growth and Mission Action Director; Woman-to-Woman travel to Cameroon; Sunday School Superintendent for 25 years. **Why:** I want to be updated on the latest actions of the Churchwide W/ELCA. I want to associate with women from other states and hear what they do.

Connie Matzner Age 54 26420 385th Ave Stickney, SD 57375 Tel. # (605) 732 4370. Email: matzp@midstatesd.net. **Conference:** Prairie Rivers, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stickney. Previous convention voting member. **Experience:** conference board secretary (2009-2013), served as local unit treasurer, currently serve as mission growth, and work group chair; I helped with quilting and Lutheran World Relief kits. **Why:** I enjoy attending synodical, conference, and triennial gatherings. I want to learn more about W/ELCA and share that knowledge with my local, conference, synod.

Lori Tendler: Age: 65, 2004 Austin Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105; Tel # (605) 335 8841; 605 323 8009; **Conference:** Crossroads; Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD. First Time Voting Member. **Experience:** Former Vice President, President, Advisor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church; Treasurer of Crossroads Conference since 2017. **Why:** As women of the ELCA, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, and support one another in our calling to serve our church, community, and needs of the world. I want to be a part of our mission of today to promote the importance of justice and freedom for all.

Joyce Vasgaard: Age 66, 28746 42nd Ave, Centerville, SD 57014; Tel. # (605) 359 0386; Email: joycevasgaard@iw.net. **Conference:** Southeastern, Scandia Lutheran, Centerville SD. First Time Voting Member. **Experience:** Vice Chairman, circle chairman, Bible Study leader, alter guild. Conference Vice coordinator, Nominating chairman. **Why:** 1 Colossians 3:17 tells me to honor Christ in all I do. I want to be a voting member so Christ, thru my voice is heard. We as women can make a difference to spread God's Word, improve lives, and embrace others across the world.

Shirley K. Dref: Age 83 260 N. Dakota Ave Corsica SD 57328 (605) 946 5646 Email: mgdrefs@siouxvalley.net **Conference:** Prairie Rivers, First Time Voting member. **Experience:** Active member of the women's group of my church since I moved to South Dakota 1960 when I married a South Dakota farmer. I have held various offices including president and many years as secretary. I served one term on our conference as an officer. **Why:** I believe that the women from SD are strong and I want to be a part of that. I want to be able to vote for the women of South Dakota. I have never attended triennial; as a people person, I want to interact with a lot of other women.

Kathy Heffernan: Age: 61 Address: 35338 153rd St., Faulkton, SD 57438. Tel. # (605) 450 8782; **Conference:** Northern Plains, Zion WELCA, Aberdeen, SD. First Time voting member **Experience:** past active member of Pollock WELCA, Pollock, SD, Unit vice President at Our Savior, Faulkton, SD. Northern Plains Conference Coordinator (2 terms), Nominating Committee (current), SD Synodical Secretary (2 terms), Nominating Committee (2 terms), Advisor to the Northern Plains Conference. I attended my first Triennial Convention in 2017, currently registered to attend the 11th Triennial in Phoenix in 2020. **Why:** I care about the present and future direction of our Church body and W/ELCA in the need for barrier-free churches. I want to share my gifts of compassion and leadership in discussing the continuing task of awareness of human trafficking.

Hannah Fleming: Age 49, 2408 Central Blvd, Rapid City SD 57702. Tel. # (605) 630 1034. Person of color, **Conference:** Bear Butte, Congregation: Calvary Lutheran Church, Previous Convention as voting member. **Experience:** Actively involved in W/ELCA groups; assisted in organizing Woyatan Lutheran Church Women’s unit, served as unit president. Current South Dakota Synodical Vice President (1st term, first year). **Why:** I had a wonderful time interacting with other ELCA women at the All Anew Triennial in Minneapolis and want to experience that and more again. I want to continue learning, participating, and encouraging other women in promoting our WELCA mission.

Sheri Boy: Age 59 624 Haley Dr. Whitewood, SD 57793 Telephone Number (605) 645-9828. Email chocolateinsd@hotmail.com **Conference:** Bear Butte conference- Grace Lutheran Church, Sturgis. First Time Voting Member (delegate) **Experience:** attended 2017 Convention in Minneapolis, former President for Grace Lutheran WELCA. **Why:** To strengthen my understanding and involvement in the WELCA; how to get more involved if not on a board.

Donna Crook: Age 64 511 E 6th Avenue; 605 460 2493; Email: littlecrook@yahoo.com; **Conference:** Northern Plains, Redfield, SD; first time voting member; **Experience:** actively involved with church W/ELCA, former president and secretary of church WELCA board; served as vice president for Northern Plains Conference. **Why:** I had a great time at the last triennial and would like to experience that again but this time as a voting member. As a people person, I would like to interact with other Christian women.

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 goals are available at welca.org or from any synodical board member.

Despite dwindling membership and participation in the Women of the ELCA organization, we will creatively work together and to encourage women of all ages to find ways to serve and grow through the activities of the Women of the ELCA.

I encourage you to attend at least one conference or convention, synodical or churchwide, or other event each year. These are eye-opening and provide a women’s perspective on the life and work of the church. I find them energizing for the day-to-day local activities. We continue to pray for women of all ages and vocations to become an active part of the Women of the ELCA and to bring new ideas, new hope, new joy into our work together.

Glenda Ofstehage, President

<i>thank you!</i>	<p>to the Organizational Team from Zion Lutheran: Carmel Heyd, April Nehlich, Kathy Job, Wanda Wageman, Norma Miller, Elsie Geffre, Lois Sollie, Millie Suchomel and Pat Ackerson.</p>
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2018-19 Synod Officers

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