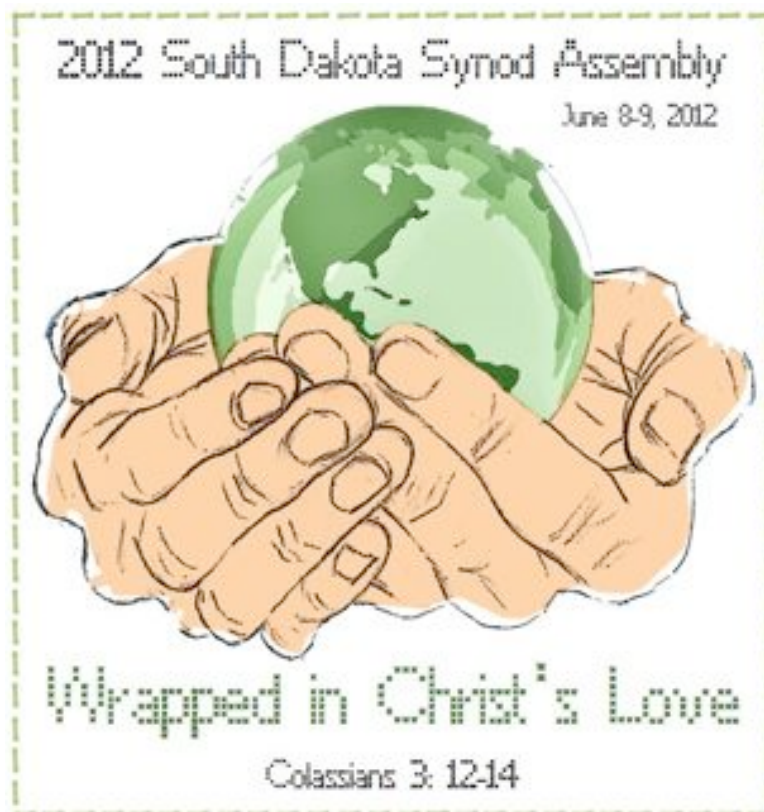


SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY
June 8-9, 2012
PRELIMINARY REPORT

“Wrapped in Christ’s Love”



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Augustana College
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Table of Contents

PART I – Bishop and Staff Reports

Report of Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson.....	4
Proposed Assembly Agenda	5-7
Synod Assembly Committee and Contributors	8
Synod Directory	
Synod staff	9
Executive Committee	9
Synod Council, Advisors & Audit Committee	10-11
South Dakota Representatives on Region III & Churchwide Boards	11
Committees: Support to Ministries, Candidacy, Consultation, and Discipline	12-14
Report of Bishop David B. Zellmer	15-16
Anniversaries, Dedications, Roster Changes (Retirements, Necrology, Resignations, Removal, Ordinations, Transfers, Installations)	17-19
Report of Director of Evangelical Mission – Rev. Bill Tesch	20
Report of Associate to the Bishop – Susan Marone, AIM	22
Report of Director of Native American Ministries – Rev. Karen Rupp	23
Report of Youth & Family Director – Suzanne Hansen, AIM	24
2013 Proposed Mission Plan	25-26

PART II – Regional, Synod Board & Committees

Region III – Rev. Dr. Paul Bagylos	27
Region III Archives – Paul A. Daniels	28
Lutheran Christian Association of Christian Educators	29
ELCA Mission Investment Fund – Paula Kitt	30
Synod Council - Gary Steuck, Vice President	31
Support to Ministries Committee – Rev. Lance Lindgren	32
Lutheran Campus Ministries – Rev. Lance Lindgren	33
Candidacy Committee – Rev. Elizabeth Johnson	34
Companion Synod Committee – Cathy Larson	35
Women of the ELCA – Vivian Westgard	36

PART III – Sustained and Supported Ministries of the SD Synod

Augustana College, Sioux Falls	37
Chapel in the Hills	38
Heartland Ephphatha	39
Lutheran Planned Giving in South Dakota	40
Lutheran Social Services	41
Luther Seminary	42
Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota	43-44
St. Dystmas Lutheran Congregations of South Dakota	45

PART IV – Reports, References & Nomination Information

Augsburg Fortress	46-47
Augustana College, Rock Island	48
Concordia College	49
Grand View University	50
Gustavus Adolphus College	51
St. Olaf College	52
Wartburg College	53
Rules of Parliamentary Procedures	54-58
Summary of Parliamentary Procedure	59
Synod Constitution Chapter 7 Synod Assembly	60-63
Synod Conference Map	64
Nomination Information	Separate Document
Report of Audit	Separate Document



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Spring 2012

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"
(Ephesians 6:23, NRSV).

As you gather in your assembly, you will share your experiences of being Christ's people in the world and your visions for the future of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Each of us has a unique story that describes how God is changing lives through the mission and ministry of this church. Together through our 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and numerous churchwide ministries, we are richly diverse and gifted by the Holy Spirit.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Luther described such faith as "so sure and certain that believers would stake their life on it a thousand times. ... Because of faith without compulsion, a person is glad and ready to receive everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything out of love and praise of God."

This faith comes to us through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

The members of First English Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio, wondered about their congregation's survival. They were ready to close their doors, but they made a decision to continue – to go all in. Through grants from ELCA churchwide ministries and support from other partners, this renewing congregation embraced their diverse community and began to grow. Pastor Bob Ward says, "We will take each other by the hand and see where God leads us. There is a sense of broadening and redefining what it means to be the church."

In 2011, a Lutheran from Liberia was one of three women to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Leymah Gbowee led a group of daring women who prayed, protested and brought an end to 15 years of civil war. Since then, the Lutheran Church in Liberia has flourished. Dr. Willie Roberts, medical director at Curran Hospital, says "The ELCA has been here all along. The missionaries that first came here, that started these things, came from the ELCA." Liberia is one of our 90 global church companions and partners supported by churchwide ministries and programs.

In Irving, Texas, members of the newly-formed Iglesia Luterana de Santa Maria de Guadalupe – with a membership of 300-400 – was forced to find a new place to meet. Members borrowed their own money and gave it to the congregation to buy land in cash. Through a loan with the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, the immigrant congregation is thriving and growing exponentially.

That's who we are together. We are part of a larger story that makes up the ELCA.

This year, your synod will be electing voting members for the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. I join you in prayer that the Holy Spirit continue to lift up leaders with passion for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and a vision for the mission to which God calls us in this richly diverse church.

Thank you for your leadership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you for your gifts and your ministry. God's blessings to you as you do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus' name throughout the world.

In God's grace,

Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop

**Twenty-Fifth Annual Assembly of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
June 7-9, 2012
Proposed Agenda**

Thursday, June 7

- 3:00-5:00 p.m. **Workshop with Jay Gamelin and Justin Rimbo** – Our Savior’s Lutheran
- 5:00-7:00 p.m. **Registration & Check-In** – OSLC Gathering Place
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. **Worship led by Jay Gamelin and Justin Rimbo** – OSLC Celebrate Center

Friday, June 8

- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Displays and Book Store Open** – OSLC Basement
- 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Community Blood Bank BloodMobile Open** – Outside OSLC
- 8:00-10:00 a.m. **Registration & Check-In** – OSLC Gathering Place
 Yarn Donations Collected for St. Dymas Knitting Ministry
 Prayer Shawls and Baptismal Blankets Collected for Congregations
- 8:30 a.m. **Orientations – New Voting Members** – OSLC Celebrate Center
 Youth Voting Members – Youth Room
- 8:45 a.m. **Elections Committee Meeting** – OSLC Celebrate Center
- 9:30 a.m. **Worship Instructional Meeting** – OSLC Sanctuary
- 10:15-11:30 a.m. **OPENING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION** - OSLC Sanctuary
- OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY**
 Welcome & Introductions – **Bishop David B. Zellmer**
 Announcements and Table Prayer – **Rev. Bruce Williams,**
 Our Savior’s, Sioux Falls
 Greeting from Good Samaritan Society – **Rev. Greg Wilcox**
- 11:30-12:30 a.m. **Lunch & Conference Caucuses**
- 12:30 p.m. **RESOLUTIONS DEADLINE**
- 12:30-2:15 p.m. **FIRST PLENARY SESSION** - OSLC Celebrate Center
 Introductions – **Bishop David B. Zellmer**
 Bible Study – **Rev. Bill Tesch, Director of Evangelical Mission**
 Voting Device Practice – **Bishop David B. Zellmer**
 Credentials Committee Report
 Adoption of Rules
 Adoption of Agenda

State of the ELCA – **Rev. Linda Norman, ELCA Treasurer**
Bishop Election Process Discussion – **Rev. Linda Norman**
Resolutions
Announcements

2:15-2:45 p.m. **BREAK** - Sponsored by Medary WELCA

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

2:45-5:30 p.m. **SECOND PLENARY SESSION** – OSLC Celebrate Center
Bible Study – **Rev. Becky Piper, Our Savior's, Hermosa**
State of the Synod – **Bishop David B. Zellmer**
Credentials Committee Report
Nominating Committee Report – **Rev. Lance Lindgren,**
Support to Ministries Chair

Elections
Resolutions
Base Commander Greeting
World Hunger Presentation – **Rev. Erika Lehmann**
Announcements

5:30-7:30 p.m. **EVENING MEAL AND CELEBRATION** – OSLC
Celebration of Ordination, Anniversaries Retirement
Celebration of New Pastors to SD Synod
Keynote Address – **Jay Gamelin**
Closing Prayer

Saturday, June 9

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. **Displays and Book Store Open** – OSLC Basement

6:45-8:00 a.m. **MISSION PRAYER BREAKFAST** – OSLC Gathering Place

8:15-9:15 a.m. **MORNING WORSHIP AND COMMUNION** - OSLC Celebrate Center

9:15-10:00 a.m. **THIRD PLENARY SESSION-** OSLC Celebrate Center
Announcements and Opening Prayer
Lutherans Outdoors Annual Meeting – **Rev. Layne Nelson, Exec. Director**
Greeting from Augustana College – **Rev. Ann Rosendale, Assoc. Campus Pr.**

10:00-10:30 a.m. **BREAK** - Sponsored by Augustana College

10:30-12:15 p.m. **FOURTH PLENARY SESSION-** OSLC Celebrate Center
Bible Study – **Rev. Lori Hope, St. Mark's, Sioux Falls**
Credentials Committee Report
Treasurer's Report / Presentation of 2013 Mission Plan – **Erik Gilbertson,**
Synod Treasurer

Resolutions
Table Prayer and Announcements

- 12:15-1:00 p.m. **LUNCH**
- 1:00-3:30 PM **FIFTH PLENARY SESSION-** OSLC Celebrate Center
Credentials Committee Report
Adoption of the 2013 Mission Plan – **Erik Gilbertson, Synod Treasurer**
ELCA Church Council Report
Resolutions
Bible Study – **Rev. Tony Haglund, Canton Lutheran, Canton**
Assembly Evaluations
- 3:30-4:00 p.m. **CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY** - OSLC Celebrate Center
- 4:00 p.m. **Synod Council Meeting** - OSLC Friendship Room

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Bishop David B. Zellmer
Rev. Laura Overbo, Volga
Rev. Erik Olson, Elk Point
Rev. Justin Neugebauer, Summit
Christy Kimball, Vermillion
Mallorie Hansmann, Sioux Falls
Rev. Bill Tesch, Synod Staff
Susan Marone, Synod Staff
Kevin Stillson, Synod Staff

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Michael Johnson, Watertown
Rev. Randy Koeller, De Smet
Rev. Hugh Brewer, Lennox
Rev. Velma Larson, Volin
Rev. Tammy Craker, Faulkton
Rev. David Piper, Hermosa

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Dennis Paulson, Chair
Nick Collins
Cassandra Lamb
Betsy Hoium
Others TBD

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Lois Borchardt, Sioux Falls
Kurt Osborne, Brookings
Marnie Dahle-Backer, Sioux Falls

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Scotland

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

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South Dakota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

May 10, 2012

It is hard to believe that this is my fifth report to the South Dakota Synod. Where has the time gone, and where did my brown hair go? It has been a busy year in the South Dakota Synod, so let's get to the report.

The Sunday after the 2011 Synod Assembly, I gathered approximately \$7,000 worth of diapers, formula, wipes and made a trip to Pierre, where I delivered them to Pierre Area Referral. I spent several days in Pierre/Ft Pierre delivering the bottled water that had already been sent and serving chili to National Guard troops and volunteers filling sandbags. It was heartwarming to see all the volunteers from across South Dakota and North Dakota (a number of people from Fargo and Grand Forks came down to work). Thank you for your donations and for volunteering throughout South Dakota during the floods of 2011.

In July I invited folks from State and Federal Government, partners from other denominations, and those serving in different food pantries across South Dakota to meet in Brookings to discuss ways we can work together to feed the hungry in South Dakota. This conversation, and the three that followed, led to our forming a non-profit corporation called "Partners Against Hunger". Together we are working to end hunger in South Dakota.

We were delighted to welcome home Pastor Bill Tesch after completing his military Chaplains service in Kyrgyzstan. Pastor Bill continues to provide excellent leadership with our ethnic specific worshipping communities (and I give thanks to First Lutheran and East Side Lutheran Churches in Sioux Falls for hosting and supporting those communities). Bill has also been doing fine work with our new mission starts and in redevelopment work across the Synod.

In August and September, we had "Burgers with the Bishop" in six locations across the Synod. We had opportunity to share a Bible Study and have a conversation about stewarding our lives as children of God. In January and February we once again had "Chili with the Bishop" (also in six locations throughout the Synod) where we shared a Bible Study and had time to engage in conversation about planning for God's mission in the South Dakota Synod.

In early November, I was asked by former Governor Bill Janklow to serve as his pastor. It was a privilege and honor to do so. Special thanks to Pastor Heidi Binstock and the entire staff and members of Our Savior's Lutheran for opening their doors to the Janklow family and to people from across South Dakota who came to pay their respects. We simply could not have put together four services (two in Pierre and two at Our Saviors in Sioux Falls) without the excellent work of Jim Schade and Betty Oldenkamp, Rick Tupper and the crew from Augustana College, the Governor's Office, the South Dakota Highway Patrol and Miller Funeral Home.

During the March 2012 Synod Council Meeting, we approved an Ownership and Occupancy Agreement that had been negotiated with Rob Oliver, President of Augustana College, and the Augustana Board of Regents. As a part of that agreement, Augustana College retired the debt on the Synod Office expansion. Funds from the agreement also allowed us to retire the building debt on Woyatan Lutheran in Rapid City.

I have been asked to serve as one of two bishops on a Task Force to Review Social Statements for the ELCA. We are engaged in looking at how they are initiated, produced, passed and utilized by this church. We will be reporting our recommendations to the Conference of Bishops at their October meeting and to the Church Council at its November meeting. Please keep this work in your prayers.

Currently, six of the ten largest congregations in our Synod are in the call process for Senior Pastors. We have nine congregations actively receiving names and five with parish studies to be scheduled. We were assigned seven seminarians in March and we still had two from the fall assignment process. Susan Marone, Bill Tesch,

our Support to Ministry's committee and I have been working with congregations as they move through the call process. Susan and I have also been working with congregations that have had failed first votes to leave the ELCA. We continue to have requests for conversations around issues with the 2009 Sexuality Statement, but the number of requests are much fewer this year.

Vale Lutheran will have their second vote on July 20 and I assume it will pass. Their first vote was 15-1. We continue to wait to hear officially what St. James in Leola is going to do. Beaver Valley had a failed first vote and they are going through a discerning process of how they will proceed. Our Savior's in Huron also had a failed first vote and a portion of the congregation has split away and has formed a new NALC congregation. Our Savior's in Huron is currently in the call process.

We just completed three Boundaries Workshops, and it was a delight to have Pastor Linda Gunderson from the Southeast Synod of Minnesota leading us in those conversations. We will be offering a fourth workshop after the conclusion of the Fall Theological event held in Pierre in September.

The biggest event for me personally has been the opening of Joy Ranch. This summer all children and adults from across this Synod will have the opportunity to attend camp at Joy Ranch and have the same opportunities as my children had to ride a horse, worship outside, and swim in a lake. All that will happen because Joy Nelson had a dream and our Heavenly Father blessed that dream with countless volunteers, and hundreds of folks who have gifted it with donations of money, time and their talent. I invite you to use all of our Lutherans Outdoors camps in the South Dakota Synod. They are a gift and an integral part of our shared ministry.

Pastor Nyla Schoeld and Pastor Erika Lehmann have just returned from a trip to Cameroon, Africa. I asked them to serve as our official representatives at the first Ordination of Women for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon (ELCC). Pastor Nyla was also my official representative at a series of meeting with the mission partners and the ELCC. In both capacities we were well represented. Pastors Erika and Nyla were asked to participate in the service (which lasted six hours long) as three women and six men were ordained. To make it even more exciting, one of the men was Fulani and is only the second Fulani to be ordained into Word and Sacrament ministry.

On a personal note, LaDonna and I have had the most amazing year with our children. Our youngest son, Mike, graduated with his second degree in Business from USD and is now working for Daktronics. Sarah earned her Doctorate in Audiology this May. Joshua married Emily Minihan in March, and we are delighted to welcome her into our family. Our oldest daughter, Christina, and her husband, Jon, are expecting their third child this September. That will make five grandchildren we have the opportunity to spoil. I am truly blessed with a loving and supportive wife and family.

As we continue through 2012, we will be finishing the organizing work of "Partners Against Hunger" and moving into the work of feeding the hungry in South Dakota. I have been invited by Bishop Mark Narum, who serves Western North Dakota Synod, to participate in the development of a school for the preparation of pastors to serve in a senior pastor role for the work of the church. The bishops of Region 3 and Concordia College will start these conversations later in June.

We are blessed in the South Dakota Synod by fine pastors and rostered leaders, faithful leadership from congregational presidents, church council members, and by a Synod Staff that do their very best to serve all of you. I give thanks every day for Susan Marone, Pastor Bill Tesch, Jim Schade, Kurt Osborne, Lois Borchardt, Crystal McCormick, Kevin Stillson, Suzanne Hansen, and Cathy Larson as together we serve you, the people of the South Dakota Synod.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Bishop.



CONGREGATION ANNIVERSARIES and ROSTER CHANGES

Anniversaries and Dedications

25th Anniversary

Holy Cross Lutheran, Sioux Falls

50th Anniversary

Bethlehem Lutheran, Vienna

Atonement Lutheran, Rapid City

Ascension Lutheran, Brookings

Bethel Lutheran, Astoria

Good Shepherd Lutheran, Aberdeen

100th Anniversary

Our Savior Lutheran, Timber Lake

First English Lutheran, Lennox

125th Anniversary

Highlanda Lutheran, Langford

Lake Preston Lutheran, Lake Preston

Evangelical Lutheran, Langford

St James Lutheran, Leola

Trinity Lutheran, Madison

Congregations Left ELCA

5/15/11 Christ the King Lutheran, Yankton

7/10/11 Fron Lutheran, Roslyn

8/7/11 Lake City Lutheran, Britton

8/7/11 Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, Britton

8/14/11 First Lutheran Church, Britton

8/21/11 St. John Lutheran, Selby

9/25/11 Salem Emmanuel Lutheran, Long Lake

2/19/12 Hope Lutheran, Freeman

Commissioning

5/29/11 Alan Saatkamp, AIM

3/11/12 Allen Sasser-Ghoener, AIM

4/1/12 Katherine Eisele, AIM

Disability

12/4/11 Rev. Mary Anne Nelson-Loefke

Installations

5/22/11	Rev. Ryan Gage, Zion American Lutheran, Eureka
5/29/11	Alan Saatkamp, AIM, First Lutheran, Sioux Falls
7/10/11	Rev. Sarah Goldammer, Lutheran Memorial, Pierre
7/24/11	Rev. Tim Sersen, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Aberdeen
8/21/11	Rev. Rebecca Wold-Freeman, Spirit of Joy Lutheran, Sioux Falls
8/21/11	Rev. Ramona Hayes, Peace Evangelical Lutheran, Herreid; Pollock Lutheran, Pollock
8/21/11	Rev. Daniel Ofstehage, Trinity Lutheran, Mobridge
9/11/11	Rev. Chuck Meyer, Sinai Lutheran, Sinai; Lake Campbell Lutheran, Volga
9/25/11	Rev. Keith Garness, Good Hope Lutheran/Grace Lutheran, Willow Lake
10/9/11	Rev. Don Reiffenberger, Grace Lutheran, Parker; Bethany Lutheran, Hurley
10/23/11	Rev. Sheila Pohl, Wilmot Lutheran, Wilmot; Peever Lutheran, Peever
11/13/11	Rev. Chris Baesler, Trinity Lutheran, Mitchell
12/11/11	Rev. Rick Senner, Bethany Lutheran/Belleview Lutheran, Howard
12/18/11	Rev. Carl Larson, American Evangelical Lutheran, Milbank
2/12/12	Rev. Kevin Jensen, Nathanael Lutheran, Alcester
3/11/12	Allen Sasser-Goehner, AIM, South Canyon Lutheran, Rapid City
3/25/12	Rev. Dr. Mary Sacco, Benton Lutheran, Crooks; Willow Creek Lutheran, Dell Rapids
4/1/12	Katherine Eisele, AIM, Spirit of Joy Lutheran, Sioux Falls
4/25/11	Rev. Ann Rosendale, Augustana Campus Chapel, Sioux Falls

Leave from Call

6/1/11	Rev. Jerry Nuernberger
2/15/12	Rev. Sonja Nelson
4/14/12	Rev. Bob Ohnstad

Necrology

6/29/11	Rev. Robert Henriksen
9/10/11	Rev. Michael Fox
2/10/12	Rev. Dennis Napton
3/10/12	Rev. LeRoy Iseminger
3/14/12	Rev. Keith Odney

Ordinations

6/24/11	Rev. Ramona Hayes
7/10/11	Rev. Dana Lockhart
7/16/11	Rev. Daniel Ofstehage
7/30/11	Rev. Sheila Pohl
8/12/11	Rev. Donald Reiffenberger
9/2/11	Rev. Chuck Meyer

Removed from Roster

8/26/11 Rev. Dani Jo Ninke
10/7/11 Rev. Deb Hanna
10/12/11 Rev. William Nelson-Loefke

Resigned from Retired Roster

11/28/11 Rev. Paul Knudson

Resigned from Roster

9/21/11 Rev. Terrill Sorensen
8/8/11 Rev. Tom Christenson

Retired

5/1/11 Rev. Larry Jerke
6/20/11 Rev. Jeff Buettner
9/1/11 Rev. Al Goldammer
10/1/11 Rev. Mary Feistner
1/1/12 Dev. Don Mohr
2/1/12 Rev. Les Svendsen

Transferred Into South Dakota

7/10/11 Rev. Sarah Goldammer, North Dakota Synod (3B)
4/1/12 Rev. Steve Martens, Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)
5/27/12 Rev. Michael Mortvedt, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

Transferred Out of South Dakota

8/16/11 Rev. Brad Danielson, Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)
10/16/11 Rev. Kent Stillson, Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)
10/23/11 Rev. Andrea DeGroot Nesdahl, Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)
1/1/12 Rev. Erma Wolf, Western Iowa Synod (5E)
1/29/12 Rev. Jonathan Halvorson, Western North Dakota Synod (3A)
3/15/12 Rev. Rob Nedbalek, Montana Synod (1F)
5/1/12 Rev. Leonard Halvorson, Western Iowa Synod (5E)
6/1/12 Rev. Philip Larsen, Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

**Report of Pastor Bill Tesch,
Director of Evangelical Mission and Associate to Bishop Zellmer**

Dear Followers of our Brother Jesus,

May God's rich blessings of grace and truth be upon us as we gather at Assembly. It continues to be both a joy and an honor to serve as one of your staff for our South Dakota Synod. This year of serving in God's vineyard has been shorter than others and more productive. It was shorter due to my deployment as an Air Force Chaplain to Southwest Asia. It was more productive because of the astonishing way that God is answering our frequent prayer, "Thy kingdom come" as God calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies new and renewing congregations all across our synod.

As the Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) it is my role to pay attention to what God is up to and to find ways to join our hands in three areas of God's mission: (1) New Congregations, (2) Renewal of Congregations, and (3) Stewardship and Mission Support. As Associate to Bishop Zellmer, I am called to serve at the Bishop's pleasure in addressing those additional matters of synodical ministry that the Bishop deems needful of my attention. In the latter role I get involved in day to day business of synod ministry such as call process, candidacy, congregation conflict, office administration to the limited extent that I am able and that I am directed by the Bishop to do so. The remainder of this report will focus on the three main areas of God's Mission to which the DEM is called to give attention.

1) New Congregations:

- a. Two new congregations were launched in South Dakota since my last report to this Assembly: **Bethel Fellowship**, an Ethiopian Congregation meeting at East Side Lutheran in Sioux Falls – and **WestSide Lutheran**, meeting at the McCrossan Boys Ranch on the Northwest side of Sioux Falls. Both of these ministries are doing very well, but both are in need of your support with your prayers and financial gifts. If you get involved in any of our new starts you will discover that it is exciting to be a partner in starting a new church and also energizing for your congregation. **Rejoice Lutheran**, a new congregation that had been under development in Sioux Falls for 6 years, has ceased gathering as a distinct worshipping community. Some of the remaining members are gathering weekly at Peace Lutheran to discern their future together.
- b. Two new congregations are scheduled to begin this year: The Intentional Christian Community on the Rosebud Indian Reservation and New Hope Fellowship in Aberdeen. **The Intentional Christian Community at Rosebud** will be a community of Lutheran and Episcopal young adults living, working, praying and practicing hospitality together at the Bishop Hare Center in Mission, South Dakota. They will be continuing and adding a new dimension to the very excellent work of Dorothy Peterson who has served there for over 20 years. If you would like to know how you can participate in this creative new endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me. **New Hope Fellowship in Aberdeen** is a remnant group coming out of Holy Cross. They will engage with a Mission Developer (Amber Marten-Bergeson) to reach out to the newly growing community of Aberdeen with an invitation to hear the good news of Jesus in a new and relevant community of believers and seekers. These ministries are also in need of your prayer and financial support.
- c. A new preaching point or mission development in the **Northern Black Hills** is under prayerful consideration by leaders in that area. Please pray for this emerging opportunity and for the leaders' discernment.
- d. **Pueblo de Dios** in Sioux Falls is a new mission start targeting the large and growing Latino population in the Sioux Falls area. There are over 20,000 Latino people living within 14 minutes of the center of Sioux Falls. Studies estimate that over 80% are not part of any church. After the departure of the former mission developer, Pastor Jon Halvorson this last winter, the partners (three local congregations, the synod, and the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA) decided to restructure the work so that Pueblo de Dios would have its own full-time mission developer. Each of the partners is increasing their commitment to this ministry. More partners are needed to move this ministry forward. We are pleased to introduce Pastor Jeanette Clark, a gifted seminary graduate who has been called to lead this vital ministry.
- e. **Woyatan** in Rapid City continues to grow in its impact and outreach in the community. This multicultural ministry of mostly Lakota people includes other groups as well. Like Pueblo de Dios, it is likely that this ministry among our state's poorest people will always depend on assistance from generous partners.
- f. **First Lutheran African Ministry** in Sioux Falls continues to thrive and grow with nearly 170 people gathering weekly. This lively gathering of immigrants from West Africa is bringing the gospel to sojourners among us who came fleeing persecution. And, you guessed it; this ministry is also in need of your support.

- g. **Summary and Invitation:** As you can see above, you have many opportunities to participate in God’s mission to call and gather new communities of faith here in South Dakota. Congregations that provide prayer support, gifts of time and talent and financial support almost always discover that they are mutually blessed, often in great ways from their relationship to new churches.
- 2) **Renewal of Congregations:** Congregational renewal is an intentional process by which a congregation seeks to discern God’s unique purpose for them and then works to deepen their faith practices and to be re-rooted in their surrounding community. Congregations that commit to this process and who covenant with synod and churchwide are eligible for grants to help them to expand their ministry and move forward with confidence. We currently have 18 congregations receiving a total of \$79,388 a year. Grants range in size from \$30,000 down to \$1,750. The first few years of this work has been focused on increasing our capacity to accompany congregations on a journey of renewal. Through the work of our Evangelical Outreach Committee, the Rural Mission Strategy Table and the Sioux Falls area Renewal Team, we have greatly increased both our knowledge and our leadership capacity.
- a. **TM 2.0:** Transformational Ministry 2.0 is one of two pathways to renewal. Congregations commit to a journey that lasts several years. It begins with intensive training of leaders and focuses on taking God at God’s word when God promises to speak to us through the scripture and in community. We have 6 trainers and 12 coaches and a capacity to have up to 12 congregations at one time going through this process. We currently have 6 congregations in this process.
 - b. **Vibrant Faith in South Dakota:** Vibrant Faith in South Dakota is a strategic partnership with these well-known teachers and consultants. We’ve partnered with Vibrant Faith to both expand the range of services offered, and to make them more affordable to a single congregation. The services have been expanded to add to their already very excellent methods for deepening faith practice to also include more work in evangelism and outreach. The partnership with VF allows us to provide over \$12,000 of services to a congregation for only around \$4,000 spread over two years. We currently have nine congregations in this process and five more will be starting later this year.
- 3) **Stewardship and Mission Support:** Mission Support has been a challenging, but rewarding area of work. Due to a variety of factors, many congregations have reduced their mission support. Some, however, have increased significantly. We know that generous congregations are healthy congregations – in that order! Even in my short time in synodical ministry, I have been asked to consult with congregations who withdrew mission support, and then began to have problems related to clarity of purpose, conflict and decreased giving. God calls us to be in mission together as congregation, synod and churchwide. If you think that what I’ve written above about what God is doing in South Dakota is exciting, just think what God would do with a few more loaves and fishes! Here is how we accompany congregations in the areas of stewardship and mission support.
- a. **Stewardship Days (AKA “Burgers with the Bishop”)** This is the time when we provide resources for use in telling the story of what God is doing with your mission support and to have conversations about growing.
 - b. **Chili with the Bishop** This is a time when we listen and talk together of what God is doing and explore how God is calling us to give and share our gifts.
 - c. **Spring Stewardship Workshops** This is when we provide very practical tools for your stewardship ministry.
 - d. **Annual Visits** Our council and Steward Leaders visit about 75 congregations each year to thank them and to invite them to grow.
 - e. **Annual mailings** Each quarter and then in the fall/winter we communicate with you about mission support.
 - f. **Consulting and Coaching** Each year the Steward Leaders and I work with several individual congregations on annual response campaigns and on developing year-round strategies for stewardship teaching.

Thank you for your prayers, your support, your partnership and your friendship. This work would be impossibly hard without every single one of these treasured gifts. It is good to be in mission and ministry with you.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



Susan Marone, AIM, Associate to the Bishop Report to the South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2012

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

It continues to be an honor and great privilege to be part of the SD Synod Staff! I feel very blessed to be part of a talented, gifted and supportive team of colleagues, not only on the Synod Staff but also the many fine leaders we have in the South Dakota Synod.

The last several months have been filled with congregational visits conducting Parish Studies, Installing new pastors, meeting with church councils around many different kinds of issues, "Chilli and Burgers with the Bishop," and 3 Boundaries Workshops for Rostered Leaders, staff, and lay leaders.

First Call Theological Education was held the beginning at Joy Ranch of Lutheran Outdoors! 25 First Call rostered leaders attended the 2 and a half day retreat. Pastor Bruce Williams and his wife, Karyl, served as Chaplains for the retreat and we are grateful for their continued ministry in the SD Synod. A representative from Portico was present and facilitated a workshop on Healthy Leaders and shared the various benefits provided by the ELCA. Kurt Osborne and Jim Schade gave a workshop on Gift Planning and Stewardship.

The South Dakota Synod received one name, Amy Martinell from Luther Seminary in the August assignment of graduating seminarians. In the February draft we received the following seven candidates: Cassandra Lamb from Gettysburg Seminary, Jackie Braun from Luther House of Studies and Luther, Jeanette Clark, Jessica Daum, Trey Daum and Besty Hoium from Luther Seminary; and Nick Collins from Wartburg Seminary. We are excited about the possibilities for these folks and look forward to their ministry in South Dakota!

Due to retirements and movement nationwide, mobility in the South Dakota Synod has picked up a bit over this last year. I would like to thank Pastor Lance Lindgren for his leadership as Chair of the Support to Ministries Committee, as well as the members of the committee who continue to give of their time and talents to this synod.

With great joy the Candidacy Committee awarded over \$180,000 in scholarships as we continue to accompany over 40 candidates in responding to a call to ministry in the ELCA!! We hosted the annual Candidacy Retreat in April at Shalom Hills Farm in MN. Many "thanks" to Pastor Elizabeth Johnson for her leadership of this committee and to all committee members who accompany our candidates on their journey to serve this church!

I would like to thank the Synod Council for granting me a three month sabbatical from August 15-November 15! I will continue my education with 2 weeks of supervised training for Emotional Intelligence with Roy Oswald. I also will be attending a retreat for Servant Leaders in WI. I continue to grow and thrive in my call to synodical ministry and am grateful for my colleagues and the ministry of the church!

Peace,
Susan Marone

South Dakota ELCA Synod Assembly Report, 2012
Pastor Karen Rupp, Director of Native American Ministries, South Dakota Synod, ELCA

The Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministry at Pine Ridge Retreat Center is blessed in many ways. We receive encouragement and support through prayer and contributions sent our way from you as well as from the connections developed and grown through visitors coming to here for cross-cultural learning from diverse geographic, denominational and educational and economic arenas.

Our calendar fills quickly with groups from churches, schools, and individuals who come to learn and build bridges of relationship with the Lakota community. Strong interest is being expressed from community members for the local Habitat for Humanity to become active and will provide opportunity to help provide additional housing to the community as we contribute our time and talents to this effort.

The January Interim program for Seminary student cross-cultural requirements continues to be well attended and receives positive feedback. Our relationship with Lutheran Outdoors and Augustana College continues with summer programs and alternative spring breaks.

We continue to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to St. John's Episcopal Church in N. Oglala and Cohen Home, a residential facility for the elderly in Pine Ridge and participate in at Makasan Presbyterian Church and are pleased to be also strengthening our relationship with Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, looking to moving forward in developing good relationship.

We are approved once again to be a Horizon Internship site and our intern this year will be coming to us from the Lutheran Seminary in Chicago. Alicia Koon, a 2011 graduate of LTSS continues as a volunteer resident (we hope to finance a paid position.) Following a recent successful endorsement interview with her candidacy committee Alicia will continue with us and work toward eligibility to rostering in diaconal ministry. Alicia brings many gifts to our ministry and has been instrumental in executing the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship grant for worship renewal. Ecumenical programs have been held at Our Lady of the Sioux Catholic Church, St. Michael's Episcopal in Batesland, and Pine Ridge Presbyterian/Pine Ridge Retreat Center. The grant has enabled us to provide support for our ecumenical partners through worship and prayer. We're planning a revival with a theme of Prayer and Holy Spirit on Pentecost at Makasan Presbyterian Church with a retreat the next week on story telling and we'll evaluate our year and plan to continue after the grant.

The Sanctuary young peoples' afternoon program continues to host youth for play and worship activities. Over 100 local youth visit on a regular basis in age groups 7 and under, 8 and over and teen. Alicia works with the puppeteers and they've performed at each Worship Renewal Grant event.

Thanks to generous donations from individuals and churches, we provided Christmas gifts to over 250 young people and gift certificates to about 50 families. The lunch program provides sandwiches or soup to the hungry Monday through Saturday. South Canyon Lutheran Church in Rapid City continues to assist with this program by donating sandwich and snack foods. We feed anywhere from as low as 6 to as high as 185.

We continue to pray and work at healing and growing our partnership relations. I will be attending the spring Dakota Presbytery meeting to share about our ministry at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center. I become more optimistic that resolution is near.

The Multi-cultural committee continues to meet regularly for the work of supporting multi-cultural ministries, nurturing their growth, fostering educational opportunities and building healthy relationships.

I am very grateful to Bishop Zellmer, Synod Council members, Synod Staff, and our ministry partners, for ongoing prayer and financial support. Please know we keep on keeping you all in our prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Karen Rupp

Suzanne Hansen AIM, South Dakota Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator

Report to the South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2012

I am always excited to participate in the South Dakota Synod's ministry for Young Adults and the Youth Directors who share their lives. Within a few weeks The ELCA Youth Gathering will begin with 1400 attending from the South Dakota Synod! With 1400 attending, the South Dakota Synod has the most kids and adults taking part in The Youth Gathering. This is a great opportunity for the Young Adults of our Synod to Learn, Share their faith and have some fun in the City of New Orleans. I like to call this time a "Faithcation" for all who attend. I am also thankful to the Congregations of the Synod for the support given to the groups attending The Gathering.

I am also thankful for the Youth Directors who work among the young adults in the Congregations of our Synod. We have been meeting once a month either in person or with "Go To Meeting" on line conferencing. The Synod Youth Ministry Network has become stronger because of these committed people.

The Churchwide CSLYOP's (Council of Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents) was also attended by a Young Adult and Advisor in November this year at Carol-Joy Holling Camp in Nebraska. This is a ministry of faith formation, leadership development, and ministry development for youth who lead, and adults with whom they lead in the Synod's Youth Ministries. We will again be apart of this group that will meet in November.

**Proposed Budget
02/01/2013 - 01/31/2014**

	Adopted	Revised	Proposed
INCOME	2012	2012	2013
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	1,694,400	1,642,953	1,692,242
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,001	45,001	45,001
Other Program Income	100	-	-
Woyatan Income (EOCM Grant)	12,000	12,000	12,000
Other Income Streams			
SD Synod Mission Support	77,882	40,550	40,550
DEM Support Staff	15,000	15,000	15,000
Interest Income	13,500	13,500	13,500
SDS Transportation LLC Income	5,000	5,000	5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000	25,000	25,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,887,883	1,799,004	1,848,293
EXPENSES			
	Adopted	Revised	Proposed
CHURCHWIDE MISSION	2012	2012	2013
Mission Support to ELCA	762,480	731,114	769,970
% of Mission Support	45%	44.5%	45.5%
Region III	18,900	15,790	15,790
SHARED MINISTRIES			
South Dakota Sustained Ministries			
Campus Ministry	122,819	116,667	120,082
Lutheran Planned Giving	48,410	48,410	48,410
Heartland Ephphatha	6,026	5,724	5,891
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605	3,605	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	21,525	4,523	4,928
Luther Seminary	69,651	66,162	68,099
Lutheran Social Services	69,651	66,162	68,099
Lutherans Outdoors	34,737	32,997	33,963
Church Colleges	6,026	5,724	5,891
Flandreau Indian School Chaplaincy	13,522	13,522	13,522
Association of Christian Churches	2,000	2,000	2,000
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Expense from Mission Support	399,004	366,528	375,522

Proposed Budget
02/01/2013 - 01/31/2014

	Adopted 2012	Revised 2012	Proposed 2013
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES			
Staff Leadership			
Bishop	94,746	94,746	97,588
Associate Tesch	9,994	9,994	10,294
Associate Marone	72,558	72,558	74,735
Bishop/Associate Benefits	65,849	64,132	61,469
SDS Travel	39,500	49,500	49,500
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	12,800	9,970	9,485
DEM Travel	12,000	-	-
Program Ministries			
Native American Ministry	72,443	72,644	74,821
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator	13,248	13,248	13,622
Companion Synod Coordinator	10,158	10,158	10,425
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	135,102	130,742	134,431
Resource Center Supplies	1,000	250	250
Synod Office Expenses	61,801	57,301	57,884
Augustana College	21,000	21,000	19,233
Synod Leadership			
Synod Council	10,310	6,000	6,000
Support to Ministries Committee	12,900	6,000	6,000
Candidacy Committee	8,000	6,000	6,000
Electronic Communications	3,500	2,500	2,500
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700	1,700	1,700
Companion Synods Ministry	2,000	2,000	2,000
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,500
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000	2,000	2,000
Ministry Projects			
Stewardship Project	4,000	4,000	4,000
Congregational Initiative Grants	1,236	1,236	1,236
Continuing Education Projects	1,000	1,000	1,000
Rural Ministry Projects	500	500	500
Woyatan Program Expenses	12,000	12,000	12,000
Outreach Ministries			
Multicultural Center	15,000	15,000	15,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	4,000
Companion Synods	1,000	1,000	1,000
Contingency			
	4,654	12,893	6,838
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	707,499	685,572	687,011
Total Expense	1,887,883	1,799,004	1,848,293
Net Total	0	0	0

2012 REPORT TO SYNODS

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Baglyos
Coordinator for Missional Leadership
Region 3, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The sixty-five synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are clustered into nine regions for purposes of collaboration. Region 3 includes the nine ELCA synods in the three states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. Each region is served by a coordinator, who is a deployed staff member of our churchwide organization working within the churchwide unit for Congregational and Synodical Mission.

My formal position title, like that of my colleagues in the other eight regions, is “Coordinator for Missional Leadership.” So, how exactly do we “coordinate” “missional leadership,” and what exactly does that mean for the synods that we serve? A primary task of regional coordinators is to work with synodical candidacy committees and seminaries in the formation of candidates for ordination or commissioning or consecration as rostered leaders (pastors, associates in ministry, diaconal ministers and deaconesses) in the ELCA. Our work in this regard involves everything that happens in the leadership formation process of our church from the time a person first begins to discern God’s call to ministry leadership through the eventual assignment of that person to a particular synod for a call to ministry leadership by a congregation. The regional coordinators also work with the campus ministries of the ELCA, helping to identify and support the leaders who are called to serve in those ministries.

My work with candidacy and campus ministry involves extensive travel as I participate in candidacy committee meetings and candidacy retreats throughout the nine synods of our region and meet on site with the sixteen ELCA campus ministries of our region, as well as synodical or state campus ministry boards or committees. Besides my work in person and on site throughout the region, I also convene regular teleconference meetings among Region 3 campus ministry leaders, campus ministry board officers, bishops’ assistants and synodical support staff for purposes of collaboration and best-practices sharing. On the campus of Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where my office is located, I meet frequently with seminarians who are ministry candidates from our region (or from other regions), and collaborate with seminary staff, faculty and administrators in our common work on behalf of the ELCA.

Missional leadership in the ELCA, however, involves more than candidacy and campus ministry. As the Region 3 coordinator for missional leadership, I routinely convene teleconferences among our leaders in first-call theological education, our synodical Directors for Evangelical Mission, our synod communicators, synodical vice-presidents and ELCA Church Council members from Region 3 synods. Similarly, I participate in monthly conference calls among the Region 3 bishops. Much of what we do together is done in person at various times and places, including our annual retreat (each November) for Region 3 bishops and bishops’ assistants. I help to organize other in-person gatherings, such as an annual global mission consultation, world hunger consultation and candidacy consultation.

Regional coordinators also provide leadership for special missional projects or emphases, either at our own initiative or in response to the initiative of bishops or churchwide staff. In Region 3, I have convened occasional meetings and teleconferences pertaining to the ELCA’s Book of Faith Initiative, and more recently have become involved in churchwide work related to missional leadership centers and a new effort to address the leadership needs of the Hmong communities in the Twin Cities.

ELCA Region 3 Archives Report to 2012 Synod Assemblies

Introduction

This year marks the 24th year of operation of the Region 3 Archives. I continue in the archivist position half-time for the nine synods of Region 3 and half-time for Luther Seminary. This shared arrangement continues to work well, with Luther providing space and access to the student worker pool and Region 3 providing the school a large and useful research collection. We also benefit from the much-needed help of 8 regular volunteers, part of the seminary “friends” group.

Use of the Region 3 Archives

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

+The Archives assisted a total of 1,018 reference patrons in the past year with a variety of research interests. The majority (74%) are congregational committees working on microfilming/scanning projects, anniversary celebration planning, history writing and related questions. Other significant user groups include synod offices and church wide offices as well as individual researchers.

+Daniels worked on-site with all 9 synod offices, gathering permanently valuable office records and assisting with retention plans for each office. He visited each office at least 5 times during the year. These visits were coordinated with 32 on-site congregational visits throughout the three states of Region 3.

+Daniels spoke at 18 adult forums and study groups in congregations throughout the Region. The main focus of these presentations is the use of memory in the congregation. These sessions also provide an efficient venue to publicize the many congregational services available through the Region 3 Archives.

Collection Growth

+The Archives received 480 linear feet of synod office records from the 9 offices. These included legal, financial, personnel and program files.

+Gathered an additional 286 congregational histories – collection now totals 6,012 histories.

+Received 522 biographical pieces for files on clergy and lay leadership – collection now totals 5,828 files.

+Additional 41 congregations filmed their valuable church records through the Region 3 Archives microfilming program.

+Collected 17 linear feet of mission photographs, films, papers and artifacts from retired China, Japan, South Africa and Alaska missionaries.

Outreach and Education

+Daniels led workshops on congregational archives at 4 Region 3 synod assemblies in 2011. He also presented Archives services information at 2 fall theological conferences.

+Distributed over 715 copies of “Memory Work: A Guide for Congregational Archives and History”. Daniels plans a re-write of the manual in 2012 with special emphasis on care of electronic records in the congregation.

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

Professional Development

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted by Paul A. Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archivist and Luther Seminary Archivist, 2.1.12

2011 Report from the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators For Region 3



The Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE) is a non-profit independent organization recognized by the ELCA and established in 2003. Created by those passionate about life long faith formation, the members serve in the areas of adult education, confirmation, children and family ministry, and youth ministry. This dynamic network consists of staff, volunteers, pastors, and other persons interested in faith formation of people of all ages. LACE has members in 42 of the 66 synods of the ELCA. For more information

see the web site at www.faithfulteaching.org

LACE members receive a quarterly publication, a monthly E-news delivered through e-mail, discounts on training events, and opportunities for sharing resources and ideas. LACE consists of individual members, congregational memberships and chapters. Chapters offer workshops to improve the skills and knowledge of their members and of *other* Christian educators in the area. The FACEBOOK discussion group is open to anyone interested in sharing ideas and resources. The web site has a member only area as well as information and resources open to all.

Currently there are two LACE chapters in Region 3 – one in the Twin Cities and one in the SE Minnesota Synod. Please contact the LACE regional representative if you would like information about beginning a chapter in your area. Region 3 has 51 LACE members plus 20 paid memberships from Augsburg Fortress Publishers.

In 2011 LACE was supported through 200 paid memberships, six synodical grants of \$350 each from Southwestern MN Synod, Southeastern MN Synod, Metropolitan New York Synod, Montana Synod, Pacifica Synod, Metro-Washington Synod and a grant of \$5000 from the ELCA. Basic membership in LACE is \$50 per year with a discount for group memberships.

Each year LACE recognizes an outstanding Christian educator. The recipient of the 2010 LACE Educator of the Year Award is Kathy Paisely, Associate in Ministry, Sheridan Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. Kathy was chosen for her active leadership in her congregation for 35 years as a volunteer teacher, Sunday School coordinator and staff person in the area of education. In addition, Kathy is involved in adult Christian Education, developing programs for her congregation as well as the Nebraska Synod and is a Certified Spiritual Director. She is also Coordinator of her synod's Safeguarding God's Children initiative.

Submitted by acting Region 3 representative, Dr. Diane E. Shallue, who serves at University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis. dianes@ulch.org



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

About the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Through MIF, congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries may purchase a variety of **investments** that offer adjustable- or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

MIF uses these investments to make low-interest **loans** to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries. 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.

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

- With total assets of \$642 million and net assets of \$179 million at year-end 2011, MIF maintained a capital ratio of 27.9 percent—a ratio significantly greater than the capital required by regulators and the level maintained by most financial institutions.
- At year-end 2011, investments by congregations, their members, and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$463 million, and loans for capital projects to more than 760 ELCA ministries totaled \$446 million.
- Throughout its nearly 100-year history, MIF and its predecessors have always returned full principal and interest to investors.

Investments and Loans in the South Dakota Synod

As of December 30, 2011:

- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 226 individuals and 124 congregations and ministries, including the South Dakota Synod, totaled **\$9,939,666**.
- Nine congregations and ministries were supported by **\$3,054,971** in Mission Investment Fund loans.

MIF representative for the South Dakota Synod:

Paula Kitt, Regional Manager: Tel. (773) 682-2738; e-mail: paula.kitt@elca.org

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

South Dakota Synod Council
Submitted by Gary Steuck, Vice President

Greetings from your SD Synod Council!

Last year we reported to you that we had been put in a spot, and had to make tough decisions, because of shrinking revenues. This year, we have to report that while our budgets are much lower, we are still not receiving enough income to meet our budget. If the income does not improve, further trimming may be in order, and then you will be hearing about this in our Synod Assembly reports. Please pray for the SD Synod, and our budget challenges.

On the positive side, I believe that many of us have been successful in recapturing our JOY! Remember when I told you last year that over 30 years ago, I was attracted to the ELCA, because of the JOY that I saw in the lives and the eyes of many of the ELCA Members.

These past two or three years have been a real "punch in the gut", for many of us who love this church. We've lost a lot of friends, with whom we enjoyed "playing" church. This whole situation has dimmed the bright sparkle in our eyes, but for a lot of us, we have reclaimed our JOY, and our sparkle is back! We can't change our loss, but we have prayed and God has answered our prayers, and restored our joy!

God bless each of you as we all move together into the future, and see what exciting things that God has in store for us!

Report of the Support to Ministries Committee to the 2012 SD Synod Assembly Submitted by Rev. Lance Lindgren, Chair

The Support to Ministries Call Process

“A congregation calls a pastor/rostered leader. That is different from hiring one. We believe God is involved in bringing a congregation and a pastor/rostered leader together, and God is at work in that relationship. It is a relationship, not a business partnership. It is more like entering into a marriage contract than ‘getting help’ or ‘taking a job’.”

(from the Support to Ministries Call Process Handbook)

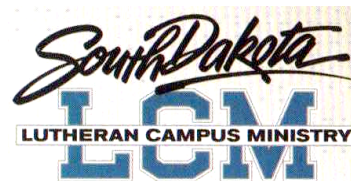
It has been a privilege to serve on the Support to Ministries Committee the past four years with a cadre of devoted, faithful, caring partners in Christ. Many thanks to the Conference Deans and lay representatives of each Conference; to Bishop Zellmer and his associates, Susan Marone and Bill Tesch for their advise and counsel, and encouragement to the Committee; and to Crystal McCormack for her dedicated support work with the Committee.

The Committee meets several times a year to lift up in prayer, and to discuss and decide on the call process status of congregations seeking pastors to serve them. In addition, the Conference Dean and Lay Representative assist with conducting ministry site studies of congregations within their Conference that are entering into the call process. The Committee also functions as the Synod Nominating Committee, generates the yearly recommended Synod Compensation Guidelines for clergy and lay staff, recommends additional courses of action concerning other special needs of pastors and congregations, and provides oversight and support of the Synod’s Campus Ministry sites.

You can be assured, with God’s help and guidance, the Support to Ministries Committee will continue carry out their assigned responsibilities in the best possible manner. Please keep the Support to Ministries Committee in your prayers as they continue to focus on the Synod’s Call Process, and for the congregations of our Synod in the call process, and for the Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Synod.

Rev. Lance Lindgren, Chair
(outgoing) Dean, Southeastern Conference

Lutheran Campus Ministry
2012 SD Synod Assembly Report
(edited from the annual report sent to congregations)



Thank you for your prayers and your ongoing support! Lutheran Campus Ministry gives back to congregations trained leaders: pastors, Sunday school teachers, musicians, council members and more. Perhaps there are faithful members of YOUR congregation who were nurtured by Lutheran Campus Ministry at one of the colleges in South Dakota. Therefore, Lutheran Campus Ministry can be regarded as an extension of your congregation on campus. The following are our five campus ministry sites across the state:

The Lutheran Campus Ministry at Black Hills State University, Spearfish, offers college students a number of options to worship, participate in service projects and build relationships through fellowship. Their Campus Pastor is **Kris Garlick**, 810 N. Yale Street, Spearfish, SD 57783, Tel: 605-695-4074; e-mail: lutherancm.bhsu@yahoo.com

Collegians in Christ's Service (or "CICS") at Northern State University, Aberdeen, invites students to "Come as a visitor, and stay as a friend!" Their Campus Pastor is **Ashely Geist Cusick**, Box 829, 1200 S. Jay Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401, Tel: 605-216-3925; e-mail: cic@northern.edu

The Lutheran Campus Ministry at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, mission is to **Gather**, to **Grow**, to **Give** to others on campus and in the wider community through service, and to prepare students to **Go** out into the larger world as faith-filled adults. Their Campus Pastor is **Yvonne Steindal, AIM**, 402 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, Tel: 605-593-6165; e-mail: www.sdsmtlcm.org

The University Lutheran Center at South Dakota State University, Brookings, welcomes members of Synod congregations through worship, service, fellowship and learning. Their Campus Pastor is **Rev. Bob Chell**, 1404 8th Street, Brookings, SD 57006-1613, Tel: 605-692-4880; e-mail: www.sdsulutheran.org

The Luther Center at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, focuses on ministry with students on the USD campus, and are impacted by the Luther Center's presence. Their Campus Pastor is **Sonja Nelson, AIM**, 723 E. Cherry Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2404, Tel: 605-624-2836; e-mail: sonja_lyn@hotmail.com

Campus ministry is the "seed corn" of the church and it's promise for the future thanks to your generous and faithful support. If your congregation is not already doing so, please consider providing regular monetary support to Lutheran Campus Ministry in the Synod, especially to the Luther Center at USD. Your support will enable campus ministry to move forward in their calling to provide the best possible ministry to its students. The Campus Ministries also seek your invitation to share their story in your local congregation. You may contact any one of the persons listed above. ***Also, please send names and contact information of students from your congregation to them!***

Rev. Lance Lindgren
Chair, Support to Ministries Committee
South Dakota Synod

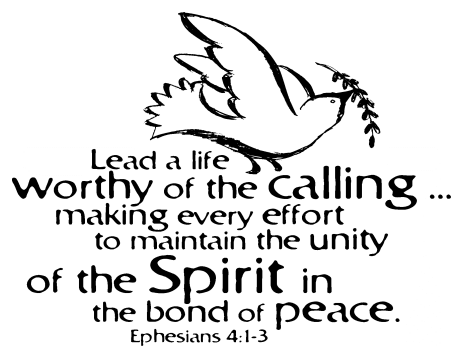
"You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last..." ~ John 15:16

South Dakota Synod Candidacy Report 2012

John 15:16 was the focus verse of last year's Lutheran Outdoors camping ministry. **The truth of God being the author of our lives...well, we all need daily reminding and affirmation of such remarkable reality.** So as we Candidacy Committee members journey in faith with those whom the Holy Spirit is currently raising up for leadership in the Church, we, too, are humbled by the Spirit's calling, gathering, enlightening and making holy.

"Candidacy" is the process of preparation and formation leading to the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament, and also the Word and Service ministries of consecrated diaconal minister, consecrated deaconess, and commissioned associate in ministry. To be sure, we as a Church continue to have high expectations of our leaders.

We as a Committee wish to thank you for your role in encouraging and equipping children of God to serve as rostered leaders in your Church. The Spirit calls those who are needed. The Spirit is calling, indeed!



We as a South Dakota Synod continue to walk with the highest number of candidates per any synod in the ELCA. As you saw in late April's Synod E-news, we also get to gift an extraordinarily gracious amount of ELCA seminary scholarships, all South Dakota monies. THANK YOU for your prayers and your gifts.

Repeating from other reports of mine, and also from the perspective of once being a candidate myself, serving within Candidacy is an exciting opportunity to witness not only the needs of the Church, but also, how God provides for the needs of the Church. **Also, it is vitally important for someone preparing for public ministry to know that he or she does not walk alone.**

I pause here to express my thanks to the Committee and Synod staff. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to serve with such a group as I have these two terms. Truly, I am thankful for the wealth of friendship, discussion, diversity, vision, prayer, devotion, dedication, insight, faith and unity in Spirit shared.

In God's Service,

Pastor Elizabeth Johnson, outgoing Chair

~ serving with the people of Emmanuel Lutheran, Groton

With questions about Candidacy, please contact

Susan Marone, AIM, Assistant to the Bishop

605/274-4022

smarone@sdsynod.org

or Crystal McCormick,

Candidacy and Mobility Office Coordinator

605/274-4024

cmccormick@sdsynod.org

Also, your conference's committee member(s). A number of resources are available on the Synod website to get you started. If you are a current candidate with the South Dakota Synod, we also have important dates and information. **SHALOM**

Companion Synod Committee and Coordinator Report to Synod Assembly 2012

The Companion Synod Committee wishes to encourage all congregations to hold a Companion Synod Sunday on or around Reformation Sunday. Whether your congregation is very involved or not, there might be members who know very little about the relationship between the South Dakota Synod and our Nicaraguan and Cameroonian partners in ministry. This would be a time to share information and have special prayers for our Companion Churches.

South Dakota Synod and the ELCA have two joint placement missionaries serving in our companion churches. Christian Lehmann has been teaching English to students attending the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon sponsored high/jr high school this year, as a self-funded missionary. His term of service ends with the school year in May. Mike Busbey is serving with the Lutheran Church, Faith and Hope, in Nicaragua working with their projects and our visiting groups. His stipend is provided by our synod and his term of service will extend to 2013.

This year seven people traveled to Cameroon. Four went on the well-guided tour with Jim and Karen Noss, former missionaries to Cameroon. These travelers were from Gloria Dei, SF; Our Savior's, Corsica, and American Lutheran, DeSmet. Three women traveled to Cameroon in May to attend the ordination of the first women pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon. Two former missionary kids were in that group. Pastors from First Lutheran in Brookings and West Prairie Lutheran, rural Lennox, were there to celebrate the ordination of Cameroonian women. One of the women was from MN.

Trips to Nicaragua included Chuck Storm and Herman Fink, members of our committee, to view the Cedro Galan Project. A baseball equipment distribution trip was organized by Craig Severtson of Flandreau. Michael Busbey, SD Synod sponsored missionary, helped with their village baseball clinics. Gloria Dei of Sioux Falls once again took a medical team to Nicaragua and served record numbers of people in need of medical service and eyeglasses.

We have a new pastoral exchange program beginning this year which will bring a pastor from Cameroon to SD to spend three months with a South Dakota parish. Then the SD pastor, who has hosted here, will spend an equal time in Cameroon in the parish setting there. The travel, health insurance and family support costs for the Cameroonian pastor will be raised in SD.

Thanks to all who have given of time, talents and funds to support projects in our companion synods. Special thanks to those who give time to serve on the Companion Synod Committee.

Chuck Storm, chair, Companion Synod Committee

Cathy Larson, Companion Synod Coordinator

South Dakota Synodical Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Report to the South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2012

In June, 2011, I was elected president of the South Dakota Synodical Women, which made me a delegate to the 8th Triennial Convention, a national gathering of the Women of the ELCA meeting in Spokane, Washington last July. We dealt with memorials on climate change, human trafficking, modeling God's love (to our sisters who have left the ELCA), gender justice, and world hunger. The Synodical Women also sponsored a booth to tell the story of Joy Ranch.

A Leadership Workshop was held at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Pierre, July 29 and 30, to train our Conference officers.

Last August Lutherans Outdoors held their annual quilt auction and women of our synod made beautiful quilts, thereby giving financial support to our camping ministry in South Dakota.

We went back to Pierre in January for our Winter Board meeting. The Synodical officers and the seven Conference Coordinators met to plan our Synodical Convention which will be held in Pierre June 15-16, 2012.

The women of our Synod are active in the various expressions of our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our South Dakota Synod, our seven Conferences, and in 212 Units in ELCA congregations in our state.

Our women, as they have since our beginning, continue to meet in Circles each month to participate in Bible study, using our national magazine Gather.

And we continue to work. Our congregational Units still tie quilts and assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief. We still collect medical supplies, assemble hospice kits, newborn kits and other life enhancing and life saving goods, and along with monetary gifts, these are sent to Global Health Ministries. We still give support to the ministry at Pine Ridge. These are just a few of the things we do.

One of the larger projects of the Synodical Women is the raising of funds for the Joy Ranch kitchen.

This year, 2012, is the 25th anniversary as the Women of the ELCA. We will celebrate when we gather in Pierre next June.

Vivian Westgard, President



AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
ROBERT C. OLIVER

Fiscal Year 2010-11 Report

Augustana's 2010-11 fiscal year closed on July 31, 2011 with very good news. During the year:

- The College endowment grew to \$56 million – the highest it has ever been
- Unrestricted annual giving closed at \$856,000 – the second highest level ever
- The \$120 million Momentum Augustana Campaign surpassed the halfway point
- Total cash gifts received topped \$7.8 million

Take a look at this snapshot of our 2010-11 record and you'll see why the entire Augustana community is so excited about future possibilities:

- Last summer, more than 80 Augustana students participated in scientific research through programs administered by the College and local/regional medical and health care institutions. This number far exceeds available opportunities at peer colleges and universities.
- Students applying for medical school continued to be accepted at double the national average, and Augustana nursing students scored well above the national average on their licensing exams.
- First-to-second year retention hit an all-time high, the number of international students was higher than ever, and the number of overseas learning experiences for students has never been greater.
- In 2010-11, Augustana ranked 1st in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference for the combined efforts of our men's and women's teams. It gets better. Of 302 NCAA Division-II institutions, Augustana ranked 3rd nationally in overall athletic success and 1st among the top 10 in student-athlete academic performance.

Many inputs led to these amazing results: highly motivated students, first-rate faculty, strong administration and support teams, a fully engaged board of trustees, and the generous financial support of our alumni and friends!

Thank you and God bless you.

Robert C. Oliver
President, Augustana College

Chapel In The Hills



May 14, 2012

South Dakota Synod of the ELCA,

Welcome and may the grace of God be with you.

As we begin another year here at the Chapel, we, like many organizations find ourselves in a time of transition. As our volunteers become older, illness and schedules preclude them from volunteering or at least spending as much time as in years passed. We, like many churches are looking for new and younger people to fill the ranks of volunteers. Here at the Chapel it requires 60 to 70 dedicated people each season to greet visitors and help run our gift shop.

Financially we have identified a number of projects that need to be funded for the long term operation of the Chapel. We have ongoing weatherproofing for the Chapel itself (\$16,000 + this year and then every 4 to 5 years thereafter.) Our restroom facilities are in need of replacement to make them handicap accessible as well as easier to maintain. Our Bride's room needs to be replaced with clean comfortable facilities for Brides to dress and prepare. We continue to raise funds to build a Labyrinth on the property for all to use as another opportunity for God to touch peoples souls while here.

As a non-profit corporation much of our funding depends on the generosity of donors. Both donors who visit each year (last year in excess of 20,000) and donors who wish to support the long term goal of making this beautiful and unique church available to South Dakotans and people from all over the world for generations to come.

This past week I had the opportunity to show the Chapel off to a group of exchange students from all over the world. In fact this past year we had people visit from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 51 foreign countries. Many of these visitors express the joy of finding a place where they can feel God touch them and revel in his creation.

Weddings are an important part of what we do at the Chapel. 110 couples were joined this past year in marriage. As one Pastor told us recently He married a couple here in the summer and later that year they came to the church he was serving for an advent service because they remembered him from their wedding. These are the stories that are often related to our volunteers and the reason we feel it is so important to continue to sow the seed of God's word to all who come to the Chapel.

We are working hard with the local ELCA churches in Rapid City and surrounding communities to build stronger ties to the Chapel in the Hills. We hope to draw more volunteers, and Pastors to help this special ministry of the South Dakota Synod. We are expanding the Evening services from Memorial Day thru Labor Day this year. We have had many visitors who were hoping to join us in worship but services had not started. It seemed the right thing do to make worship more available.

We are trying to reach out to the community with special events. We will begin a story time each week after school ends so that families can come and enjoy hearing Bible stories, Scandinavian folktales, stories of trolls, and learn about our Native American culture on the steps behind the Chapel building. We celebrated Memorial Day and will celebrate Midsummers eve with the Sons of Norway Lodge in Rapid City.

We ask that the churches of the South Dakota Synod keep us in their prayers. It is our hope that if you are in the Black Hills you will take a little time to visit and see what wonders the hand of God has created. The Chapel in the Hills offers a unique evangelism opportunity in South Dakota and we are thankful for all you do to support us.

info@chapel-in-the-hills.org 3788 Chapel Lane, Rapid City, SD 57701 (605) 342-8182 www.chapel-in-the-hills.org



HEARTLAND EPHPHATHA PEACE LUTHERAN ANNUAL REPORT • 2011

This has been an exciting year for our ministry. But it's not always the deaf who are being ministered to. Our members have extended a hand of service, worshipped our God, reached out to the community all in the name of Jesus!

Service

Our goal is to do group service projects at least once each quarter. Our small group of deaf members have served



Preparing a taco meal

making food. We served the meal for the variety show and prepared a lenten meal. In December we made homemade Christmas cookies and candy and delivered them personally to deaf friends in nursing homes or those who have trouble with mobility. We also served by helping with the Necessities for Neighbors distribution.

Worship

We continue to broadcast our worship sermons in ASL to the world through our video podcasts at www.DeafFaith.com. We have also completed Bible studies on Miracles and we started a men's group for Bible study.



Outreach

We made a special effort to visit other churches in the area this year. We spread the mission of HEM to several churches.

Thanks to all of our members who made this effort to spread our mission to "Be Open" to the word and deeds of God in our life.

Business

We faced a year of budget cutbacks with a positive attitude and a will to serve and minister to those who are Deaf and hard of hearing. We always supplement our budget each year by doing fundraisers. This year we had another dodgeball tournament as a fundraiser. We also helped at Pizza Ranch for a fundraiser. We are also focused on raising money to host our upcoming bi-annual ELDA conference next summer.

Goals

Most of our focus this year will be on planning a wonderful ELDA conference. We hope to invite over 100 people to Sioux Falls for worship, service, learning and fellowship. Our theme for this conference is "Love in Action". We would love the support of Peace Lutheran Church in any way possible for our big event this summer.

God's Peace, Jason & Sarah Andera



Cookies made for a service project



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	Heartland Ephphatha, Sioux Falls, SD
Bethany Lutheran Home, Sioux Falls, SD	Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
Bethany Meadows Brandon, SD	Lutheran Campus Ministry
Bethel Lutheran Home, Madison, SD	Lutheran Social Services of SD
Bethesda Home, Beresford, SD	Lutherans Outdoors in SD
Bethesda Home of Aberdeen ,SD	Prison Congregations of America
Chapel in the Hills, Rapid City, SD	Shetek Lutheran Ministries, Slayton, MN
ELCA Foundation, Chicago, IL	South Dakota Synod, Sioux Falls, SD
Good Samaritan Society, 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.

Materials are available free of charge to congregations to personalize and use for establishing and promoting their endowment funds and planned giving programs. These materials are also available to be downloaded from the LPG web site, www.lpgsd.org which allows them to be personalized for your congregation. You can contact Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota by calling 1-800-653-9520 or Jim Schade at schade@augie.edu or Kurt Osborne at osborne@augie.edu.

Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota

Touching People's Lives More than 55,000 Times

Making a Difference For Individuals— Susie Found Safety, Warmth & Healing Through LSS

Sixteen year-old Susie ran away from home in the dead of winter. To make matters worse, she straddled her one-year-old baby girl on her hip and carried a simple bag with nothing more than enough food and diapers for one day and one clothing change.

While the South Dakota Department of Social Services conducted an investigation, Susie found warmth and safety at LSS New Beginnings Center, a residential group care facility for children and youth. Her daughter found comfort and safety in a nearby LSS foster home.

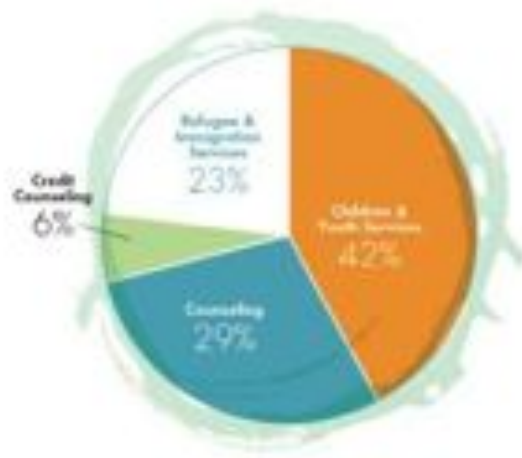
The investigation found that Susie had been molested and raped repeatedly by her biological father. Motivated with nothing more than to protect her daughter, she felt no other option than to run away with her daughter.

For young adults like Susie, LSS serves youth through psychiatric and intensive residential treatment, group residential care, foster care and family-based counseling. New Beginnings is one of three LSS centers that provide treatment and care for youth who have been physically and sexually abused, neglected and abandoned. LSS serves youth who have emotional, behavioral and addiction problems as well as youth who have experienced violence and trauma.

Susie not only found safety, she began to work through the necessary steps to heal. She found guidance, learned coping strategies and felt compassionate support through various therapeutic groups as well as individual therapy.

Through support, guidance and structure at New Beginnings, Susie was able to complete her program successfully in spite of her past experiences. She recently joined her daughter in the same foster home and continues to make progress toward her parenting and education goals.

How Your Gift Served in 2011



2011 Highlights

LSS responded after the Missouri River flooded hundreds of homes. Through the Volunteer Service Center, 1,600 volunteers documented 13,900 hours of work.

Through the Emergency Homeowner's Loan Program, LSS helped homeowners who were late on their mortgage payments, unemployed or working fewer hours with interest-free loans to help pay their past due amount and a portion of their mortgage payments.

The LSS Refugee & Immigration Center began offering video and audio remote interpreting, through high-speed internet for a user-friendly, effective experience when face to face interpreting is not available.

The Sioux Empire United Way selected LSS to launch USucceed—designed for volunteers to mentor high school students who have a number of risk indicators for dropping out. The mentor will help the student tackle issues related to living independently, finding a job and completing school.

Safety and security features in the living spaces at Canyon Hills Center in Spearfish have been completed.



Lutheran Social Services
Strengthening Individuals, Families and Communities

Luther Seminary's 2012 report to the
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD



Together we are called to prepare leaders for the 21st century church

The South Dakota Synod and Luther Seminary are called by God to prepare servant leaders who can carry out the charge Jesus gave all of his disciples—share the good news!

Students from the South Dakota Area Synod are involved in inspiring ministries. Among them is Kelsey Plummer, a Master of Arts student from Messiah New Hope Lutheran in Sioux Falls, S.D. Plummer is passionate about ministry to children, especially children who are sick or physically disabled. “The church is the first place that should provide support and acceptance to children, and their families, who are in this kind of crisis.”

At Luther Seminary, students like Plummer receive an education anchored in the following as they prepare for ministry:

BIBLICAL—First and foremost, students are called to listen carefully and attentively to God’s work of law and gospel in Scripture.

CONFESSIONAL—Students reading of Scripture and practice of ministry is shaped by the Lutheran confessional writings and the ecumenical creeds and faith they affirm.

MISSIONAL—Future church leaders are prepared for the distinct opportunities and challenges of guiding the church in the 21st century mission field, both across the street and around the world.

While holding fast to the traditions of our faith, we also recognize that the world is rapidly changing. Luther Seminary is committed to teach and model adaptive leadership for the purpose of preparing leaders to share the good news of the gospel message in new and relevant ways. Today Luther Seminary is exploring how it can equip servant leaders to be even more effective and productive ministers of the church.

Partnering with you in our call to prepare leaders for ministry

As we move forward, Luther Seminary must listen, especially to synod leaders and local congregations, in order to support changing leadership needs across the church. To do this, we will engage in discussions about how we can use Luther Seminary’s resources to best respond to the training and nurturing of leaders called to serve in God’s world. We thank you for your partnership in these conversations.

Pax,
Richard H. Bliese,
President, Luther Seminary

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Synodical and churchwide support accounted for eight percent of Luther Seminary’s 2009-10 budget.

During the fiscal year 2010-11, the South Dakota Synod provided direct financial support of \$60,600.

STUDENTS

Thank you for sending and teaching Luther Seminary students.

- There are 24 students from your synod enrolled at Luther Seminary
- Three interns are serving in your synod.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers from the South Dakota Synod include Duane Sander on the Board of Directors and The Rev. Patricia Lehrer on the Alumni/ae Council.

SEMINARY FINANCES AND PROGRAMS

- 40% of Luther’s income comes from private gifts and grants.
- 65% of Luther’s expenses go to student instruction and institutional support.

More detail at
www.luthersem.edu/annualreport

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.



CAMP



where Faith becomes Life...

Take a glimpse at your Camps & Retreat Centers

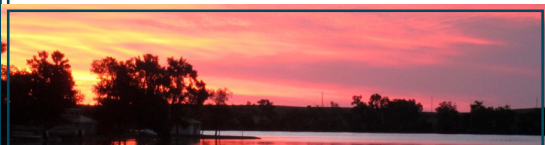
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WELCOME TO THE BRAND NEW OLD WEST



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BEACH, BEAUTIFUL BEACH!



OUTLAW RANCH

WELCOME CENTER DEDICATION



MAINTENANCE
SHOP
BUILT



Many Sites



Many Seasons



Many Experiences



**In 2011 LO
served 10,766
people,
7,104 at
retreats
and 3,662 at
summer camp.**



Mark your calendars

NeSoDak

(605) 947-4440 nesodak@losd.org
70th Celebration & Worship
Sunday, July 8, 11am

Klein Ranch

(605) 273-4441 nesodak@losd.org
Camp Begins
Sunday, June 10

Outlaw Ranch

(605) 673-3044 outlaw@losd.org
Outlaw Worship & Dedication of Maintenance Shop
Date Pending
Work Day
Saturday, June 2
Outlaw Fundraiser with Brulé
Saturday, August 11, Rapid City Main Street Square, 7pm

Atlantic Mountain Ranch

(605) 673-3017 amr@losd.org
Camp Begins
Sunday, June 10

Joy Ranch

(605) 886-4622 joyranch@losd.org
Grand Opening
Saturday, June 2, 1pm
Inaugural Summer Camp Programs Begin
Sunday, June 10
Quilt Auction
Saturday, August 25

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up-to-date LO news & pictures.**

WWW.LOSD.org

O

Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota

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

info@losd.org • 800-888-1464 • WWW.LOSD.org

ST. DYSMAS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Greetings from your two brother congregations of the South Dakota Synod, one located at SD State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, served by Pastor Marlin Wangsness, and the other located at Mike Durfee State Penitentiary in Springfield, SD. is served by Pastor Kwen Sanderson.

A huge thank you is given to the SD Synod and all who took part in the decision to make St. Dysmas a featured ministry for our Assembly in June!

St. Dysmas exists to be a Gospel presence in the two largest penitentiaries in S.D. We are truly A "MISSION FIELD IN OUR OWN BACK YARD." St. Paul tells us that faith comes by hearing. In order to be heard the Gospel must have a voice and a presence. This is what St. Dysmas provides for the 90% of the inmates who have not had a relationship with Jesus Christ prior to coming into the prison system.

We are also a ministry of, and to, the congregations and individuals in SD and our neighboring states. When individuals attend our worship services they come away with a renewed appreciation for their own faith journey. In Sioux Falls 25 visitors are allowed to attend worship every Thursday. At Springfield that number is 12. Total visitors for St. Dysmas in Sioux Falls was 866 for 2011. Truly the ministry of St. Dysmas extends beyond the prison walls!

A couple of comments on the state of the ministry.

- For the fiscal year 2011 expenses for St. Dysmas were \$187,207; income equaled \$201,363 (\$8000 of the income was pledged for 2012 but received in 2011). This is the SECOND year in a row that, when fully staffed, yearly income matched yearly expenses! THANK YOU to all: Churches, WELCAs, and individuals who made this happen! You don't know how exciting it was to "get over the hump"!
- Please continue to remember us! Expenses averaged out over the year are about \$16,000/month!
- Average attendance by inmates in Sioux Falls was 56.5 in 2009; 62.7 in 2010; in 2011 it was 88.8. Thus far in 2012 it is 93.6. Attendance in Springfield is about 56 per worship service.
- Yarn. Two things: First, bring yarn to the Synod Assembly at Our Saviors during the hours of Registration (8-12:00 Friday). A truck from the prison will then come and pick up the yarn. Wouldn't it be great to see 200 or more bags of yarn all piled up ready to be picked up! Secondly, thank you to all who have so diligently raised and delivered yarn over the course of the year. Last year over 2500 stocking caps were made and donated to the needy in our city and state. Currently, 14-16 men are kept employed in the prison because of your work. Please do not grow weary in well doing.....this is a forever project.
- Wood. Some of you have donated wood that keeps the toy makers employed. Thank you as well! Toys, like hats, are donated by the prison to the needy. Wood must be at least 2x4 and at least 6 inches long and in good shape. Any kind is OK.
- Thank you to all the churches that opened their doors and welcomed me. In 2011 I was in 29 parishes (34 churches), was at 63 worship services, and had ten other speaking engagements. In most of these parishes I was privileged to preach. Thank you! If you are planning a mission Sunday please consider St. Dysmas. Currently the fall schedule is pretty open. **Please call our office 605-338-1735 to schedule Pastor Wangsness.**

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve in this important and needed ministry!

In Christ,

Pastor Marlin Wangsness



Spring 2012

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry:

It gives me great pleasure to share with you some of the exciting things happening at your ministry of publishing, Augsburg Fortress. Here are five things that you might not know about our work:

1. We have three divisions: [Augsburg Fortress](#) focusing on creation of group use faith formation, worship and music resources for congregations (mostly [ELCA](#) and [ELCIC](#)); [sparkhouse](#), focusing on creation of group use faith formation resources for the ELCA and other mainline denominations; and, [Fortress Press](#), focusing on publishing text and reference materials for colleges, universities, seminaries and individual readers in the areas of religion and theology.
2. Augsburg Fortress is a leader in the creation of content delivered via digital media:
We have offered web-based subscriptions since 2005. These include [Sundaysandseasons.com](#), [Herewestandconfirmation.org](#), [Akaloo](#) intergenerational Sunday School, [Spark Sunday School](#), and by the time you read this letter, [Prelude Music Planner](#).

-
3. New faith formation resources coming in 2012:

[Spark Summer](#) (for kids summer programming)

[re:form Ancestors New Testament](#) (for high school and young adult Bible study)

[Holy Moly!](#) (Sunday School for preschool-grade 4)

[Connect!](#) (Sunday School for grades 5 & 6 coming this summer from [sparkhouse](#))

[Go Make Disciples: An Invitation to Baptismal Living](#) (catechumenate resource guide)

[Animate!](#) (ecumenical introduction to Christianity resource coming this summer from [sparkhouse](#) especially geared to younger adults)

4. We offer a number of free resources to help your ministries:

- b. Download the time-honored Little Red Book to your favorite digital device at www.augsburgfortress.org/redbook
- c. Test our videos in your congregation with our sample faith formation videos on two YouTube channels, one for [Augsburg Fortress](#) and one for [sparkhouse](#)
- d. You can watch interviews with a wide range of authors are on our [Fortress Press YouTube channel](#).
- e. We offer a number of [free webinars](#) every week on a wide range of topics related to faith formation and worship. These are open not only to your congregational staff members, but also volunteers.
- f. There is a [free music planning resource](#) available on the Augsburg Fortress website.
- g. A number of our [Book of Faith](#) Bible study resources have free downloadable worship helps to integrate Bible study and worship in your congregation.

5. If you want to stay in touch with us, there are a number of ways to do so!

- a. You may sign up for our [free eNewsletters](#) & eUpdates
- b. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and/or YouTube. A comprehensive list of our [social media sites](#) is on our website. We'd love to have you "friend" or "follow" us!
- c. You can read my occasional posts about the ministry of publishing on my [One Mission blog](#).
- d. All across the ELCA, we have designated Augsburg Fortress & sparkhouse Congregational Resource Representatives assigned by zip code. They would love to hear from you as you are looking for dynamic faith formation, worship and music resources. You can reach [find the representative](#) serving your congregation on our website.
- e. Or, I am always happy to hear from you, too. You can reach me at beth.lewis@augsburgfortress.org or follow me [@bethalewis](#) on Twitter.
- f. If you have an interest in being one of our creative partners as a writer or visual artist, you can find out how to [submit your samples](#) for our editors' review on our website.

I hope that you have a blessed and inspiring synod assembly! Please don't hesitate to let us know how we may assist you!

Blessings,
Beth A Lewis, President & CEO
Augsburg Fortress

2012 Report to the ELCA Synod Assemblies

In 2011, Augustana College implemented its strategic plan, *Authentically Augustana—Part 2: Affirm our Mission, Assure our Future and Assess our Results*, following a nine-month planning process with input from members of the faculty and administration, student body and Board of Trustees. The plan has three sections: *Affirm our Mission*, which describes achievements of the 2005 *Authentically Augustana* strategic plan and establishes the context for a new plan; *Assure our Future*, which outlines eight strategic imperatives for the college, and strategies we will undertake; and *Assess our Results*, with tactics for measuring and monitoring our continued effectiveness and new successes.

Affirm, Assure and Assess is a responsive and realistic direction for the college. Each of the plan's eight imperatives addresses a contemporary risk and the strategies we will undertake to strengthen the position of Augustana College:

1. Prepare our students to stand out

- Improve mentoring and advising to ensure all students participate in high-impact learning
- Develop a reflective e-portfolio system documenting high-impact learning experiences

2. Innovate recruitment and retention

- Increase recruitment and retention of multicultural students consistent with core market trends
- Sustain share in primary market by strengthening our reputation in the Chicago area

3. Enhance our campus

- Fund and finish renovation and restoration of Old Main, and fund and build a Center for Student Life to adjoin the Thomas Tredway Library (*both projects summer 2012–August 2013*)
- Reserve resources in operating budget to help fund capital enhancements
- Finalize and implement a Five-year Capital Improvement Plan

4. Optimize, support and diversify our workforce

- Optimize our workforce to balance educational goals with financial resources
- Build accountability into efforts to improve diversity among our applicant pools and workforce

5. Strengthen shared governance, leadership and communication

- Foster a culture of alignment through which all campus stakeholders are aware of and pursue common goals as defined by an outcome-oriented measure of institutional effectiveness and mission fulfillment
- Foster open communications among all college constituencies

6. Celebrate and strengthen our surroundings

- Promote the commercial vitality of our neighborhood, the Quad Cities and the region

7. Improve our financial viability

- Balance tuition and discount rate to make Augustana affordable for all socioeconomic groups while providing sufficient resources for a strong program
- Build the college endowment to enhance its margin of excellence

8. Advance Augustana's reputation

- Pursue high-profile recognition for Augustana students and faculty, and capitalize on existing traditions of success
- Strengthen and integrate our abilities to gather and share information on graduates' successes

Affirm, Assure and Assess relies upon organizational alignment and shared belief in the fundamental promise of the college's mission. The plan aligns our work at a time when all must be actively engaged in ensuring the success of Augustana College for another 150 years.

Steven C. Bahls, President

Thank You

Concordia College is grateful for the deep, historic, and vibrant relationship it shares with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. **Thank you** for upholding this valued partnership by commending the College to students, by offering ongoing prayers, and by extending abundant gifts which encourage and sustain our mutual work in the world with you!

New President

In July 2011, the Concordia community welcomed and celebrated the arrival of its newly elected president, **Dr. William J. Craft**, together with his spouse, **Anne**. During his most recent ten years of work within Lutheran higher education, Dr. Craft served as academic dean at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. With formal inauguration on April 28, 2012, Dr. Craft officially becomes the eleventh president in the history of Concordia College.

Enrollment

2,772 students representing 38 states and 36 countries currently attend Concordia from a variety of cultural backgrounds and faith traditions – all welcome realities! 62% are female, 38% are male, and 56% are students with Lutheran Affiliation.

Notable

Concordia offers 61 study majors, including 18 honors majors, as well as 12 pre-professional programs. The student-faculty ration of 13:1 enables faculty to develop individual relationships with students, going beyond the coursework to provide mentoring and guidance.

Concordia is a model among U.S. colleges for global learning, distinguished by a study abroad program that ranks overall among the **top 15 in the nation**. Concordia Language Villages provide world-renowned, one-of-a-kind, language and cultural immersion education experiences in 15 languages to 11,000 participants annually.

Concordia ranks in the **top 12 percent nationally** among all colleges for number of graduates who obtained research doctorates.

One third of students participate in music, inclusive of 19 major music ensembles.

Over 800 student/athletes participate in 22 different varsity sports.

Leadership and Research

The new facility for the **Offutt School of Business** will open during the 2012-13 academic year. Innovative curriculum will emphasize global understanding, entrepreneurship, ethics and leadership.

A President's **Sustainability Council** was created and a Coordinator was been hired as benefit to the College and to the world.

New majors in Chinese and multimedia journalism are underway. **New minors** in neuroscience chemistry and vaccinology are underway. A **religion major with a new faith and leadership concentration** will be offered beginning the 2012-13 academic year. The purpose of this concentration will be to prepare a new generation of leaders for the church in faith-based organizations engaged in service to the world.

The **Forum on Faith and Life** was created and a director hired. The Forum serves as a premier and robust theological resource for the campus community, the church community and the global community. The Forum facilitates transformative conversations about issues of human ultimacy. At the Association of American Colleges and Universities this January, Dr. Eboo Patel (Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core) recognized Concordia publicly as a vanguard institution for interfaith cooperation and programming.

Being Responsibly Engaged in the World

During initial months of leadership, President Craft has engaged faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the College in a process of intentional listening and conversation. Emerging from these sessions is a vision of Concordia as a college where students experience learning for their whole self, for their whole life, for the whole world.

Office of Vocation and Church Leadership

901 S 8th Street, Moorhead, MN 56562

Ph: 218.299.3146



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings on behalf of President Kent Henning, our faculty, staff, students and alumni! Here are some highlights of recent additions or enhancements to the campus:

Another Record Enrollment at Grand View, 31% Increase in Residential Students

Grand View University announced a 6.8% increase in full-time enrollment this year – to 1,801 students. The total number of students is now 2,229. This is another record year for the university in both full-time and total enrollment, as well as Grand View's largest freshmen class in history. Grand View is also an increasingly residential campus with a record-breaking number of students living on campus. All campus housing facilities are full, with 801 students living on campus, a 31% increase over last year. To accommodate the growing enrollment demand, work on a new four-story residence building began last spring. The new apartment-style building was completed in the summer and is at capacity, housing 232 students.

According to Grand View president Kent Henning, "We'll continue to look at investment in new student-centered facilities, especially housing, to accommodate our expanding residential population. As we enroll even more out-of-state and international students, the demand will increase further. Students want to engage fully in campus life and be part of community, because it's integral to their education and growth as citizens."

Grand View Named to the 2010 Presidential Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) honored Grand View University as a leader among institutions of higher education for their support of volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. The university was named to the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for engaging its students, faculty and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community.

Grand View encourages its students to get involved through various campus and community service projects. Recent projects include Meals from the Heartland, Woodrow Wilson Week, as well as academic service learning projects. A total of 851 institutions applied for the 2010 Honor Roll, a nine percent increase over last year, a sign of the growing interest by colleges and universities in highlighting their efforts to engage students in making a difference in the community.

Grand View's Nurses Student Association Receives Stellar Chapter Award

Grand View University's Nurses Student Association (NSA) is among the top student nursing organizations in the nation, according to the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA). Grand View's NSA was one of five school chapters to receive NSNA's Stellar School Chapter designation. Grand View's Faculty Advisor Carolyn Pauling and eight Grand View nursing students accepted the Stellar Chapter Award at the NSNA Annual Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. Launched in 2010, the Stellar School Chapter Program recognizes NSNA school chapters for their ongoing involvement in NSNA and their commitment to professional development.

Grand View Recognized with NAIA Champions of Character Five Star Award

Grand View University Athletics has again been recognized with the *Champions of Character* Five Star Award announced by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The Association, which boasts a proud reputation as an arena that promotes competitive athletics, academic excellence and character values simultaneously, recognized 220 colleges and universities and 23 conferences with the Champions of Character Five Star Award. Institutions were measured based on a demonstrated commitment to Champions of Character and earned points in each of the following categories: character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Institutions earned points based on exceptional student-athlete grade point averages and by obtaining zero ejections during competition throughout the course of the academic year.

The Center for Renewal Continues

The Center for Renewal, an outreach ministry of the University, continues its mission of renewing the saints and the church so that the light of Christ can be more brightly reflected in the world. In addition to events and services, the Center has also been doing a lot of work on how congregations can support and encourage ministry in daily life. For more information and a schedule of programs, go to www.renewingchurch.org.

If you have not visited Grand View University, or have not visited us for some time, we extend a special invitation for you to come for a visit sometime soon! Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for the Colleges of the ELCA.

God's Peace and Joy,

The Grand View University Campus Community
1200 Grandview Avenue / Des Moines, IA 50316
1-800-444-6083 / www.grandview.edu

• **ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2011** •

Greetings to you from your colleagues in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! As we celebrate the 150th year of Gustavus, it is with deep gratitude that we celebrate our identity as a College of the Lutheran Church. Through the years our approach to the college and church relational bond has always been marked by two characteristics: a desire to form authentic relationships and the commitment to being engaged as a servant-leader. For this reason we established the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. Thank you to the many of you who have made good use of our ministry partnership. It is our joy to offer ourselves in service to you and the community you serve.

This year has been marked by numerous historic achievements. In the fall we were thrilled to welcome the largest incoming class of students in the history of Gustavus. In an effort to increase faith support and programming we have expanded our chaplains staffing from a two- to a three-chaplain format and created a campus ministries team. At homecoming, Gustavus officially kicked off celebrations for our 150th year, the Sesquicentennial. The Warren and Donna Beck Academic Hall, a 125,000 square foot, LEED certified new academic building was dedicated in October. Dr. Greg Aune was named the Jon and Anita Thomsen Young Distinguished Endowed Chair in Music. In 2011, the Gustavus Center for Servant Leadership was formally launched, offering increased programming for students, staff, alumni and congregation partners. To learn more about the new Center please visit: www.gustavus.edu/servantleadership.

We are proud of our heritage as a College of the Lutheran Church. We will continue to provide countless resources to members of our Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. This Association is important as the place where official governing boards of the College are elected each April. Within this Association, key relationships are formed that help us maintain and grow this connection. We continue to provide and offer an ever-expanding menu of resources to congregations. To access a full listing of resources we offer for congregations please visit www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations.

MARK YOUR 2012 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Gustavus Association of Congregations 2012 Convention—APRIL 21, 2012**
The theme for the 2012 gathering will be “*Celebrating 150 Years of Faith at Gustavus.*” Bishop Mark Hanson, the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will bring the keynote address. The schedule includes an afternoon food packing event with Feed My Starving Children.
- **Student Leadership Day—also APRIL 21, 2012.** We invite your youth ministry leader to take advantage of an excellent opportunity to bring 5 to 10 key student leaders for an upbeat student leadership development event. Tiger McLuen of Youth Leadership will bring the keynote address in an event that will also feature live music and small group discussions.
- **MAYDAY! Peace Conference—MAY 2, 2012** “*Multicultural Sweden*”
- **Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 2-3, 2012** “*Our Global Ocean*”
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel—NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 2, 2012**

For more information about these events and the resources we offer congregations, please contact Church Relations in the Center for Servant Leadership (507-933-7001) or visit us on-line at: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations.

Thank you for your partnership and prayers!



Rev. Grady St. Dennis
Director for Church Relations

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

| DIRECT 507-933-7001 | FAX 507-933-6337 | church-relations@gustavus.edu
800 West College Avenue | St. Peter, Minnesota 56082-1498 | 507-933-8000 | gustavus.edu



ELCA Synod Assemblies 2012

Greetings from St. Olaf College!

Since 1874, St. Olaf College has educated students in an academic community shaped by its commitment to the Lutheran tradition. At St. Olaf, students work closely with dedicated faculty who challenge them to grow in mind, body, and spirit. St. Olaf has always seen its vital connection to the Lutheran tradition as enhancing its standing as one of the leading liberal arts colleges in the United States.

Like its predecessors, this year's entering class brings outstanding academic talent to campus. The class' average academic grade point average in high school was 3.65. The median ACT composite score was 29, and the median combined SAT score was 1330. Fifteen percent of the students identify themselves as having a multi-cultural heritage, and 15% are in the first generation of their families to attend college. The class includes a record number of international students. 45% of this year's incoming students who indicated their religious affiliation identified themselves as Lutheran.

In both the curriculum and the co-curriculum, St. Olaf students 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. In addition, all students take an ethics course in which they analyze ethical issues from a variety of perspectives.

This year, we are seeking a new College Pastor to serve the St. Olaf Student Congregation and the St. Olaf community. The Rev. Ann Svennungsen is serving now as our Interim College Pastor after the retirement of the Rev. Bruce Benson, who was the College Pastor at St. Olaf from 1981-2011.

We look forward to welcoming you to visit St. Olaf -- either in person or on-line. Come to campus to join us at concerts, lectures, conferences, or summer camps. Or, visit the St. Olaf website at www.stolaf.edu to join in streamed events on-line. During the academic year, daily Chapel and Sunday morning worship services are held at Boe Memorial Chapel and streamed on-line at <http://www.stolaf.edu/church/chapel>.

We thank you for your prayers and support, we encourage you to send students to St. Olaf, and we wish you well.

David R. Anderson '74
President



2011 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.

Students at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, engage in a four-year, liberal arts, residential, college experience where faith and learning inspire life-long leadership and service to God's world.

Wartburg is committed to nurturing a community of learning supported by deep roots of intellectual curiosity and compassionate action. A diverse student body and faculty bring a rich variety of ideas and experiences to this enterprise. In the 2011-12 academic year, Wartburg enrolled 125 international students from 49 countries and 204 U.S. students of color. These students comprise 18.4 percent of the student body, making Wartburg one of the most diverse small-college campuses in Iowa. Enrollment remains strong with 1,805 students and includes residents of 29 U.S. states.

The college welcomed seven new faculty members, filling open positions in Mathematics/Computer Science, English, Engineering, English Education, Music, Sociology, and Religion/Philosophy (Ethics Chair). New faces on campus include Dr. Daniel Kaplunas, conductor of the Wartburg Community Symphony; Dr. Jennifer McBride, Assistant Professor of Religion and Regents Chair in Ethics; and Gail Sexton, new coordinator of church relations and faith community outreach, a position now finding its home in the Center for Community Engagement. Bishop James Arends, La Crosse Area Synod, became the newest member of the Board of Regents, filling a three-year term of office.

In February 2011, Wartburg celebrated the arts and worship at an Epiphany Vespers event, Shine Like the Sun. John Ylvisaker, composer and hymn writer; the Rev. Paul Oman, artist; and the Rev. Phil Blom, preacher, joined the Wartburg Choir under the direction of Dr. Lee Nelson and the Chapel Choir under the direction of Dr. Karen Black to capture the light and hope of Epiphany. Music, storytelling, and art spoke of the light of Christ's work in our world to a packed house in the Wartburg Chapel.

A diverse series of convocation speakers inspired campus dialogue, including Dr. David Ratke, chair of the school of humanities and social sciences at Lenoir-Rhyne University and Wilhelm Löhe scholar; Dr. Amy Nolan, associate professor of English at Wartburg, who spoke on the graphic novel genre; Dr. Surekha Rao, president of the Academy of the Social Sciences in the School of Business and Economics at Indiana University Northwest, who spoke on "Understanding the Potential Impact of India's Economic, Political, and Business Environment"; Dr. Paula Survilla, Slife Professor in Humanities, who spoke on "Audente fortuna iuvat: Reimagining the Humanities from Legacy to Cultural Nexus"; and Luis Argueta, director of the documentary "abUSed: The Postville Raid," who discussed the ongoing impact of the May 2008 immigration raid in Postville, Iowa.

Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry spearheaded a successful Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack, which assembled over 197,000 meals and educated more than 940 Wartburg and community volunteers about world hunger needs. The annual junior high church youth event in November involved malaria education and a hands-on "Blankets of Love" project. Fifty student groups constructed and prayed over 'tie blankets' for each of the children who reside at Lutheran Services of Iowa's Beloit, Iowa's residential facility.

The Wartburg Choir was invited to sing at the White House on Dec. 17, 2011, and subsequently received an invitation to provide prelude and service music that same day for the annual Bethlehem Service at the National Cathedral. The service was part of a simulcast between the National Cathedral and Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem coordinated by the clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Episcopal diocese of Jerusalem of the Anglican Church and their Washington D.C. counterparts. The Rev. Dr. Munib Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan, delivered the sermon. Bishop Younan received an honorary degree from Wartburg in 2001. The Rev. Fred Strickert, Wartburg professor emeritus of religion, is an assistant to Younan.

These highlights provide only a few snapshots of Wartburg College life this past year. The ongoing picture is rich with opportunity and promise as students, staff, and faculty provide a mentoring community that encourages dialog, integrative learning, and encouragement for all to listen to their lives and the world in ways that offer hope to all.

Darrel D. Colson
President

Rev. Ramona S. Bouzard
Dean of the Chapel

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 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 appeal 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.
- S7.11.10. 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 presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in cooperation with the Synod Council.
- S7.13.** Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod.
- S7.13.10. 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, 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		+ 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.

S7.22.

Retired ordained 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.

S7.23.

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. 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 worshipping 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 worshipping 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.** 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**
- Credentials Committee**
- S7.40.10. Prior to the Synod Assembly, the Bishop shall select 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.
- Election Committee**
- S7.40.20. 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.
- Resolutions Committee**
- S7.40.30. 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.
- S7.40.31. The committee shall elect its own leadership.
- S7.40.32. 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.

S7.40.33. 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 delegates 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