

2013

# SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

JUNE 7-8, 2013

## PRELIMINARY REPORT

**COME**   
to the table

**JOHN 6:35**



**South Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.  
[www.sdsynod.org](http://www.sdsynod.org)

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\* Separate Documents available for download at [www.sdsynod.org/13assembly](http://www.sdsynod.org/13assembly).



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Spring 2013

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!"*  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Jan. 1, 1988, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was born. As you gather for your synod assembly, may our 25th anniversary year become the occasion to look back with gratitude to God and look to the future with hope in Christ. Our anniversary theme, "Always being made new," is God's promise in Christ Jesus.

How would you describe the past 25 years of life and service together as the ELCA? These words come to mind:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Continuity | We are a church deeply rooted in the faith that is shared with every generation. Our faith is the Holy Spirit's work through the gospel. It is formed and nourished in worship, strengthened through prayer and study, lived out in our varied daily callings and is often tested. We are a church rooted in Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, tradition and in the rich histories of congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.  |
| Change     | <p>How can we begin to summarize the pace of change these past 25 years? The capacity to be connected through technology is mind-boggling. The tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, gave us a sense of vulnerability and fear. The U.S. religious landscape is dominated by religious pluralism, the growth of "nones" – people with no religious affiliation – and perspectives on social, economic and political issues that are passionate and often polarizing.</p> <p>As the ELCA, we have grown in multiple ways and we continue to be transformed by the global body of Christ. We have six full communion partner churches and have adopted 11 social statements. The actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly on human sexuality brought joy and new possibilities for ministry for some and caused painful conflicts and separation for others. What began as a five-year initiative designed to encourage members, congregations and synods to become fluent in the language of Scripture, continues today as we are a "Book of Faith" church. We have created a constellation of worship resources with "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" as our core resource, accompanied by "Prayer Book for</p> |



Armed Services,” “Libro de Liturgia y Cántico,” “This Far by Faith” and the “Chinese Lutheran Book of Worship.”

## Challenges

There are challenges before us that could cause us to turn inward and become preoccupied with the future of the various parts of the ELCA. Among these are loss of baptized membership; congregations with decreasing resources; ELCA membership that is 95 percent white and where the median age of an ELCA member is about 16 years older than the U.S. population; and financial challenges facing ELCA-related ministries, institutions and agencies, including our seminaries. While these challenges are serious, within them we also find hope as they call us to renewed commitment to work together with imagination, passion and courage.

## Commitments

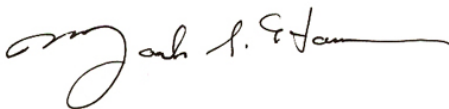
Anniversaries are wonderful opportunities to renew our commitments to one another as we proclaim Christ and engage in God’s mission for the life of the world. Together, let us be a church that:

- Supports all the baptized, as we live out our varied callings to be disciples of Jesus Christ in our daily lives;
- Serves the gospel – through vibrant new and renewed congregations;
- Gives a clear evangelical Lutheran witness to the gospel, building upon the strong foundation of the ongoing Lutheran Reformation;
- Prepares wise, courageous, imaginative and diverse evangelical leaders to serve in church and society;
- Deepens and extends our global and ecumenical partnerships as we serve God’s mission of restoring community and reconciling relationships;
- Welcomes all with radical hospitality, while confronting the barriers of attitudes and action that exclude people from full participation in church and society; and
- Grows generous and faithful stewards of God’s abundant gifts.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. For us, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom to boldly participate in God’s work in the world for our next 25 years together.

Thank you for your partnership, gifts and ministry in proclaiming God’s reconciliation in Christ. May the Holy Spirit bless you as we live and serve together, trusting in God’s baptismal promises.

In God’s grace,



Mark S. Hanson  
Presiding Bishop

**PROPOSED AGENDA**  
**Twenty-Sixth Annual Assembly of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA**  
**Sioux Falls, South Dakota**  
**June 6-8, 2013**

**Thursday, June 6**

- 2:00-3:00 p.m.      **Bishop Elections Committee Meeting** – OSLC Conference Room
- 4:00-6:00 p.m.      **Registration & Check-In** – OSLC Gathering Place
- 5:30-6:30 p.m.      **Appetizers and Fellowship** – OSLC Gathering Place
- 5:00-6:00 p.m.      **Churchwide Voting Members Meeting** – OSLC Friendship Room
- 6:30-7:30 p.m.      **Stories and Song with Dakota Road** – OSLC Celebrate Center

**Friday, June 7**

- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.      **Displays and Book Store Open** – OSLC Basement
- 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.      **Community Blood Bank BloodMobile Open** – Outside OSLC
- 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.      **Massages** – Sign up in OSLC Parish Nurse Area
- 8:00-10:00 a.m.      **Registration & Check-In** – OSLC Gathering Place
- 8:30 a.m.      **New Voting Member Orientation** – OSLC Celebrate Center
- 8:45 a.m.      **Elections Committee Meeting** – OSLC Conference Room
- 9:30 a.m.      **Worship Instructional Meeting** – OSLC Celebrate Center
- 10:15-11:30 a.m.      **OPENING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION** - OSLC Celebrate Center

**OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY**

Welcome & Introductions – **Bishop David B. Zellmer**  
Announcements and Table Prayer – **Rev. Bruce Williams**  
Greeting from Good Samaritan Society

- 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**  
Credentials Committee Report  
Voting Device Practice  
Adoption of Rules and Agenda  
Bible Study – **Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen**  
[Bishop Election Introduction – Rev. Rafael Malpica]  
[Distribute first ballot]  
[Explanation of the First Ballot] (5 min)  
[Credentials Committee Report]  
[First Ballot – 3/4 needed]  
State of the ELCA – **Rev. Rafael Malpica**  
Resolutions  
Announcements  
[Report of First Ballot Results]

- 2:15-2:45 p.m.      **BREAK** – Cookies and Bars from Across the Synod!
- 2:25 p.m.            **Resolutions Committee Meeting** – Conference Room
- 2:45-5:15 p.m.      **SECOND PLENARY SESSION** – OSLC Celebrate Center  
 Bible Study – **Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen**  
 Credentials Committee Report  
 Vice President and Secretary Nominee Speeches (3 minutes each)  
 Vice President and Secretary Elections  
 [Second Ballot – 3/4 needed]  
 Evangelical Outreach and Multicultural Committees Presentation  
 Nominating Committee Report  
 Synod Elections  
 Resolutions  
 World Hunger Presentation  
 Announcements
- 5:30-7:30 p.m.      **EVENING MEAL AND CELEBRATION** – OSLC  
 Table Prayer  
 Meal  
 [Report of Second Ballot Results]  
 Celebration of Ordination, Anniversaries Retirement  
 Celebration of New Pastors to SD Synod  
 Endowment Fund Presentation  
 Keynote Address – **Rev. Rafael Malpica**  
 Closing Prayer
- [Bishop Nominee Vitas will be posted at [www.sdsynod.org/13assembly](http://www.sdsynod.org/13assembly)]

## **Saturday, June 8**

- 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  
 [Report of Second Ballot]  
 Senator Stan Adelstein Presentation  
 Lutherans Outdoors Annual Meeting – **Rev. Layne Nelson, Executive Director**  
 Greeting from Augustana College  
 [Bishop Nominee Vitas Distributed]
- 10:00-10:15 a.m.      **BREAK** – Deadline for Bishop Nominee Questions
- 10:15-12:15 p.m.      **FOURTH PLENARY SESSION-** OSLC Celebrate Center  
 Bible Study – **Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen**  
 Credentials Committee Report  
 [Bishop Candidate Introductions and Speeches]  
 [Prayer and Conversation]  
 [Third Ballot – 2/3 needed]  
 Treasurer's Report / Presentation of 2014 Mission Plan – **Erik Gilbertson, Treasurer**  
 Portico Representative  
 [Prayer and Conversation]  
 [Bishop Candidate Question and Answer]  
 [Credentials Committee Report]  
 [Fourth Ballot – 60% needed]

Rosebud Presentation  
Resolutions  
Table Prayer and Announcements

12:15-1:00 p.m.

**Lunch and Mission Moments in Fellowship Hall**

1:00-3:30 PM

**FIFTH PLENARY SESSION-** OSLC Celebrate Center  
Bible Study – **Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen**  
State of the Synod – **Bishop David B. Zellmer**  
Lutheran Social Services in South Dakota – **Betty Oldenkamp, President**  
[Prayer and Conversation]  
[Credentials Committee Report]  
[Fifth Ballot – simple majority needed]  
Adoption of the 2014 Mission Plan – **Erik Gilbertson, Synod Treasurer**  
Resolutions  
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

# **SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS**

## **ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Bishop David B. Zellmer  
Rev. Erik Olson, Elk Point  
Rev. Justin Neugebauer, Summit  
Elliott Stephenson, Mitchell  
Kayla Koterwski, Sioux Falls  
Mallorie Hansmann, Sioux Falls  
Rev. Bill Tesch, Synod Staff  
Susan Marone, Synod Staff  
Kevin Stillson, Synod Staff

## **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Doug Hansen, Webster  
Brad Sanderson, Lake Preston  
Duane Anderson, Sioux Falls  
Rev. Dave Lund, Yankton  
Rev. Dan Ofstehage, Mobridge  
Jeanette Fink, Armour  
Rev. Craig Wexler, Hill City

## **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Rev. Kent Narum, Chair, Custer  
Rev. Trey Daum, Sioux Falls  
Rev. Kate Jerabek, Huron  
Jesse Fonkert, Glenham  
Travis Gerlach, Dimock  
Rev. Marcia Sylvester, Aberdeen  
Rev. Carla Nelson, Bersford/Akron  
Ron Konold, Sioux Falls  
Clarice Konold, Sioux Falls

## **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Joy Nelson, Watertown  
Rev. Dan Ofstehage, Mobridge  
Gary Johnson, Buffalo

## **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Brett Koenecke, Pierre

## **SYNOD STAFF**

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

## SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD STAFF

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<b>Vice Chair</b>	Steven Koenig (2014)		589-4474
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## **SOUTH DAKOTA REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**

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# SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD COMMITTEES

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[hannah.fleming01@usd.edu](mailto:hannah.fleming01@usd.edu)

Rev. Mindy Ehrke, Vice Chair \* (2016)  
PO Box 6 O: 236-5274  
Mt. Vernon SD 57363-0006 H: 236-5305  
[mehrke@santel.net](mailto:mehrke@santel.net)

### Bear Butte Conference

Penny Steinken (2013)  
305 St. Francis St O: 342-9404  
Rapid City SD 57701-5482 H: 348-4895  
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Pastor Jeff Rohr \* (2016)  
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## SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD COMMITTEES, continued

### Candidacy Committee

(Term Ends)

#### Prairie Coteau Conference

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Sisseton SD 57262-0129 H: 698-3025  
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#### Crossroads Conference

Rev. Donovan Salberg (2014)  
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#### Medary Conference

Rev. Elizabeth Pagnotta (2016)  
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Madison SD 57042-3031 H: 556-0050  
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#### Southeastern Conference

Orla Christiansen (2014)  
1027 Valley View Dr  
Vermillion SD 57069-3548 H: 624-6472  
[chrisjc0@vyn.midco.net](mailto:chrisjc0@vyn.midco.net)

#### Northern Plains Conference

Rev. Roger Noer (2015)  
6111 S Surreyhill Ct  
Sioux Falls SD 57108 H: 228-2029  
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#### At-Large

Rev. Susan Grinde (2011)  
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#### Prairie Rivers Conference

Rev. Duane Neugebauer (2014)  
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#### At-Large

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#### Bear Butte Conference

Rev. Will Olsen (2013)  
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#### At -Large

Rev. Janet Miller (2013)  
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## SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD COMMITTEES, continued

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Vacant (2013)

### Discipline Committee

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## SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD COMMITTEES, continued

### Discipline Committee continued

Paul Knecht (2018)  
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### Evangelical Outreach Committee

#### Prairie Coteau Conference

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#### Medary Conference

Rev. Hans Sacrison (2015)  
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#### Crossroads Conference

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#### Southeastern Conference

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Dr. Kevin Brown (2014)  
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#### Northern Plains Conference

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#### Prairie Rivers Conference

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**Crossroads Conference**

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**Southeastern Conference**

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**Northern Plains Conference**

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**Prairie Rivers Conference**

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**Bear Butte Conference**

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Rev. David Piper (2013)  
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## **Bishop's 2013 Annual Report to the South Dakota Synod**

The South Dakota Synod has had a wonderful year since we last met. Let me share some of the highlights.

We have been blessed by eleven seminarians being called to serve in our Synod. In a five-month period we had eleven ordinations for those pastors who had been invited into new leadership roles across South Dakota. I give thanks for the fine work of Susan Marone, AIM as she guided all of our seminarians and congregations throughout the call process. We had over 30 rostered leaders attend an energized First Call Retreat this past February at Joy Ranch. The energy and passion for ministry that are in these new rostered leaders is a gift to our Synod. This year we received three seminarians in the spring draft and two of those three have received calls as I write this. We are receiving a fourth seminarian from another Synod who we pray will be called to serve in South Dakota.

A year ago six of our largest churches were without senior pastors and today five of those six have called pastors to serve them. We have welcomed a total of seven pastors from across the church to come and serve in congregations across South Dakota.

For the first time since 2009 we experienced an increase in Mission Support. We ended our fiscal year with more mission support than in 2011. Your statements of support for 2013 were 4.8% higher than 2012, and the Mission Support that has come in to date is on track for meeting that higher goal. Thank you for your generosity in our shared ministry.

The highlight for me in 2012 was our ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Our teenagers had been invited by the Mayor and the people of New Orleans to return for a second Youth Gathering after our Gathering in 2009. For the first time ever, our young people were housed together in one hotel. They had five days to get to know one another, worship, work and play together. We were blessed by solid Lutheran preaching at our evening gatherings and by opportunities to serve the people of New Orleans. For me personally, the worship service that all 1400 of our South Dakotans attended on the opening day was an amazing experience. What a delight to worship together as we started our time in New Orleans!

By the time we gather in Assembly, we will have celebrated two new congregations being born in our Synod. Woyotan in Rapid City officially organized on April 14<sup>th</sup> of this year and WestSide Lutheran in Sioux Falls will do the same on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Both congregations have been blessed with outstanding leadership as they have become congregations of the ELCA. Pastor Bill Tesch our DEM has provided wise counsel and guidance through the years as these communities of faith have come together. Pastor David Piper and Jonathan Old Horse (a TEEM candidate) have done very fine work in finishing the organizing and development work at Woyotan and moving this community into becoming a congregation. At WestSide Lutheran, Pat and Roe Eidsness have been a blessing as this new community of faith has been gathered together and organized. Throughout this process, both communities have been supported and nurtured financially, spiritually and with shared leadership, from Churchwide, the Synod and from neighboring

Congregations. While these new congregations will continue to need our generous support, this step means that they are able to provide the leadership to gather the resources and guide the ministry. I give thanks for the ministries that have come together from this shared effort.

St James Lutheran in Leola and First English in Lennox have left the roster of the ELCA. St James has completed the needed work to become an independent congregation and their departure was granted by the South Dakota Synod Council. First English voted twice to disaffiliate with the ELCA and has since joined the NALC. Pastor Hugh Brewer who is serving First English refused to resign from the roster of the ELCA and I removed him from the roster for schismatic behavior.

I continue to thoroughly enjoy my week at Outlaw Ranch having opportunity to teach with the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen and spend time with my wife and all our grandchildren. I look forward to doing both those things again this summer. In January of this year I had an article in "Word and World", entitled "80,000 Seeds: Rural Families in the Midst of Change" ([tinyurl.com/wordandworld-zellmer](http://tinyurl.com/wordandworld-zellmer)). I wrote about the significant impact that changes in farming practice have had on our families, congregations and communities in South Dakota.

I want you all to know what a gift the people on the Synod staff are to you and me. They are dedicated, creative and hardworking as together we serve the people of the South Dakota Synod. Each one of our Synod staff has been a delight to work with and I give thanks for the gifts and passion that they bring to their service.

In our family we have welcomed a fifth grandchild, Christopher Nath. Pastor Chris Beasler and the good people of Trinity Lutheran in Mitchell were kind enough to let me have the honor and delight of baptizing my grandson. We are looking forward to welcoming a sixth grandchild as our youngest daughter is expecting in just a few days. I continue to give thanks for the love and support of my wife LaDonna, our four children, and their spouses and grandchildren. I could not fulfill this call without them.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as your bishop and for our shared ministry in Jesus name.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. David B. Zellmer".

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



## CONGREGATION ANNIVERSARIES and ROSTER CHANGES

### Anniversaries and Dedications

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Huron  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Flandreau  
Faith Lutheran Church, New Effington

#### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

First Lutheran Church, Wakonda

#### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

American Lutheran Church, Bison  
Indian Creek Lutheran Church, Meadow  
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Corsica  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Elk Point  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kimball

#### 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bryant  
Goodhue Lutheran Church, Florence  
First Lutheran Church, Mitchell

#### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

St Paul Lutheran Church, Elk Point

### Congregations Left ELCA

7/14/12	Vale Lutheran, Vale
2/24/13	First English Lutheran, Lennox

### Commissioning

2/3/13	Claire Meyer, AIM
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### Disability

3/22/13	Rev. Robin Wanner-Schaunaman
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### Installations

6/8/12	Rev. Jeanette, Clark, Sioux Falls, Pueblo de Dios
7/1/12	Rev. Steven Martens, Vermillion, Dalesburg Lutheran

8/5/12	Rev. Anthony Haglund, Sioux Falls, Holy Cross Lutheran
8/12/12	Rev. Kevin Bergeson, Aberdeen, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran
9/2/12	Rev. Cassandra Lamb, Rapid City, South Canyon Lutheran
9/9/12	Rev. Kent Stillson, Watertown, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
9/16/12	Rev. Nicholas Collins, Sioux Falls, Hope Lutheran
9/23/12	Rev. Jacquelyn Braun, Salem, Christ Lutheran
9/23/12	Rev. Jessica Daum, Tea, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran
9/23/12	Rev. Wayne Gallipo, Tea, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran
9/23/12	Rev. Andrew Nelson, Vermillion, University of South Dakota
9/30/12	Rev. Elizabeth Hoium, Sioux Falls, Peace Lutheran
9/30/12	Rev. Amy Martinell, Sioux Falls, Augustana Lutheran
11/18/12	Rev. James Steen, Renner, Renner Lutheran
12/2/12	Rev. Denise Broveak, Humboldt, St Paul Lutheran
12/9/12	Rev. Scott Hackler, Brandon, Brandon Lutheran
12/23/12	Rev. Katie Jerabek, Huron, Our Savior's Lutheran
2/3/13	Claire Meyer, AIM, Sinai, Sinai Lutheran
3/17/13	Rev. Stephan Sandness, Spearfish, Our Savior's Lutheran
4/21/13	Rev. Erika Lehmann, Dimock, St John Lutheran
5/5/13	Rev. Chris Anderson, Aberdeen, Scandinavia Lutheran
6/2/13	Rev. Marcia Brennan, Newell, First Lutheran

### **Leave from Call**

8/1/12	Rev. Ronald Brugger
9/1/12	Rev. Karen Matuska
9/3/12	Rev. Aaron Matson
10/1/12	Mary Hendricks Wilkens, AIM
12/31/12	Rev. Glen Enright
3/1/13	Rev. Daryl Schubert

### **Necrology**

9/18/12	Rev. Gerald Koehler
11/13/12	Rev. Dale Jenson

### **Ordinations**

5/22/12	Rev. Jeanette Clark
6/29/12	Rev. Nicholas Collins
7/8/12	Rev. Cassandra Lamb
7/13/12	Rev. Jacquelyn Braun
7/25/12	Rev. Elizabeth Hoium
8/18/12	Rev. Amy Martinell
9/09/12	Rev. Trey Daum
9/16/12	Rev. Jessica Daum
9/29/12	Rev. Denise Broveak
9/30/12	Rev. Amber Marten Bergeson
10/13/12	Rev. Katie Jerabek

**Removed from Roster**

3/22/13 Rev. Hugh Brewer  
3/22/13 Rev. Curtis Matson

**Retired**

7/1/12 Rev. Donald Clifford  
7/1/12 Rev. Gary Pabst  
7/31/12 Rev. David Astrup  
8/1/12 Rev. Stephen Lauricella  
10/1/12 Rev. Dennis Hansen  
12/1/12 Rev. Arthur Weitschat  
1/1/13 Rev. Dr. Karen Soli

**Transferred Into South Dakota**

5/27/12 Rev. Michael Mortvedt, 2E Rocky Mountain  
8/12/12 Rev. Kevin Bergeson, 3G Minneapolis Area  
9/23/12 Rev. Andrew Nelson, 3I SE Minnesota  
11/18/12 Rev. James Steen, 5E W Iowa  
12/9/12 Rev. Scott Hackler, 5A Metro Chicago  
3/17/13 Rev. Stephan Sandness, 5L La Crosse Area  
5/19/13 Rev. Marcia Brennan, 2A Sierra Pacific

**Transferred Out of South Dakota**

5/1/12 Rev. Leonard Halvorson, 5E Western Iowa  
6/1/12 Rev. Philip Larsen, 3D Northwestern MN  
6/1/12 Rev. Jerry Nuernberger, 8B SW Pennsylvania  
10/1/12 Rev. Timothy Robertson, 5A Metro Chicago  
10/1/12 Rev. Kathleen Soldwisch, 3F Southwestern MN  
12/15/12 Rev. Jason Burggraff, 3I Southeastern MN  
1/15/13 Rev. Patricia Lehrer, 4F TX-LA Gulf Coast  
1/21/13 Rev. Amy Eisenmann, 3B E North Dakota  
3/1/13 Rev. David Winterfeldt, 3F Southwestern MN  
3/19/13 Rev. John Degelau, 3H Saint Paul Area  
3/19/13 Rev. Leslie Svendsen, 3G Minneapolis Area

## **Annual Report of Pastor Bill Tesch to the 2013 South Dakota Synod Assembly**

It has been a joy to walk with you as we give expression to the Gospel of Jesus as Christians living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By far the most rewarding part of my work is the time I get to spend in Congregations, both our newest ones and those long-established, discerning together how God is calling us to be the church in these rapidly changing times. Below, I have provided a brief summary of my work for the preceding twelve months, and conclude with some reflections about our church.

**Renewal of Congregations:** “*Renewal*” in this context refers a process by which a congregation commits itself to a specific pathway leading to (1) a restoration of healthy functioning among leadership, (2) a deepened relationship with the neighbor whom God has called the congregation to serve, (3) an understanding of God’s purpose for the congregation, (4) the identification of the gifts that God has given for ministry, and (5) clear goals for living out God’s purpose. Congregations that commit to these processes find their faith deepened, and their confidence for reaching out enhanced. Most congregations will also show growth in worship attendance, giving, and engagement with the ministry beyond Sunday morning. The Evangelical Outreach Committee of the South Dakota synod set a goal that every congregation be engaged in a process of intentional renewal every seven years. A related goal is that at any one time, we would have 30 congregations in a renewal process. We can support four different processes for renewal: “Vibrant Faith in South Dakota,” “Transformational Ministry,” “Natural Church Development,” and a modified version of Transformational Ministry called “Listening for a Purpose.” We have 27 Congregations recently engaged in one of these processes:

- Vibrant Faith: 18 Congregations (all receive small grants from Synod and Church Wide)
- Transformational Ministry: 5 Congregations (2 receiving significant partnership support)
- Listening for a Purpose: 2 Congregations
- Natural Church Development: 2 Congregations

**New Congregations:** Two new congregations will be organized and officially recognized as new congregations of the ELCA: Woyatan Lutheran Church (organized on April 14), and WestSide Lutheran (organized on May 19). This step means that they are able to provide leadership and direction to their congregation through a locally elected council. It transfers their overall direction and leadership from me, the Bishop and the Synod Council to the local people. This is an important step, but it does NOT mean that the congregations will no longer need financial support from partner congregations, synod or churchwide. Our other new starts include: Community of Hope in Aberdeen (focused on reaching and serving with young adults), First Lutheran African Ministry in Sioux Falls (comprised primarily of Liberian and other West African immigrants), Pueblo de Dios in Sioux Falls (comprised of Latino immigrants), and the newest, the Young Adult Community at Rosebud.

**Stewardship and Mission Support:** The South Dakota Synod is blessed to have 20 trained “Steward Leaders,” 8 of whom are currently assisting congregations besides their own with their stewardship ministry. Our fall “Burgers with the Bishop” in which we focus on Mission Support and provide resources for interpreting the mission of our ELCA has been well received and the packets well utilized. I also organize Council Visits with the goals of deepening relationships between Synod Council and congregations and expressing gratitude for the mission support that congregations share. The council is visiting 1/3 of our congregations each year, so that every congregation is visited once every three years. Each year I have the joy of walking with several congregations through their annual stewardship response campaign, or I get to assist several more by connecting them with Steward Leaders or retired pastors who are trained to assist them. What a joy to see people responding to the Gospel with growing generosity! The annual “Big Read” is the product of our Stewardship/Mission Support Table: which is a team of Steward Leaders who to develop strategies for increasing stewardship and mission support.

**Evangelical Outreach and Multicultural Committees:** This is the first full year of the existence of these committees as full constitutional committees of the synod. They've each met 4 times and will become the focal point for leadership and oversight of all synodical missional and multi-ethnic ministries. It will take time for these new committees to get to their full potential, and they are already doing fine work.

**Other Synodical Work:** From time to time, as directed by the Bishop, I have the opportunity to assist congregations moving through times of transition or conflict. People are often surprised to learn that I find this work very rewarding. These are the times when I get to see the amazing resilience of our congregations. At no time is the Holy Spirit's work more evident than when congregations acknowledge their need for and begin to seek God's healing.

**Sabbatical:** The Bishop and Synod Council and the leadership at the Congregation and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA have graciously granted me a sabbatical. I will be gone June 15 – September 15. Most of my sabbatical will be spent seeking personal refreshment and renewal in God's creation and with friends and family. I will undertake one small project: research and written report/presentation on the function and importance of the "founding narrative" in the life of a congregation, especially congregations formed in the last 1-10 years. My hypothesis is that having a great story of how and why our congregation came to be will contribute greatly to the health of a new congregation.

**Closing Reflections: This is the most exciting time to be the church!** We still can't see exactly what the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will look, but these features are already evident:

- It will be smaller – and that's not bad! I have come to see the decreasing size of the church in North America as something God is doing. Smaller communities are evolving and emerging, and they are more about following Jesus than they are about "keeping this church going."
- The newly emerging church is more diverse, reflecting the fuller tapestry of God's children.
- The newly emerging church is focused: often on a particular need for reconciliation or on ministry with a particular audience.
- The newly emerging church is leveraging a convergence of philosophy, science and technology to witness to the Gospel in ways that are authentic and compelling for people of this age.
- The newly emerging church will not be clergy-centered. No longer will/can we depend on highly educated professionals to carry out the majority of the church's ministry. The office of Word and Sacrament does not also have to be the office of the chief executive of the congregation, and the smaller, more focused, more diverse church will increasingly force us to re-define how that office functions in the life of God's people.

Thank you again for your support and partnership. This work gets better each year. God has given us to each other for the sake of God's mission. What a blessing!

Respectfully,



Pastor Bill Tesch, DEM, Associate to the Bishop

**Synod Assembly Report, June 2013**  
**Submitted by Susan Marone, Associate to Bishop Zellmer**

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 rostered and lay leaders we have in our synod!

I am extremely grateful for the sabbatical I received in August 15-November 15<sup>th</sup>. I was able to attend and to complete my training for being a trainer for Emotional Intelligence, to travel to visit friends and family, and to spend time rejuvenating. I came back to ministry with a renewed sense of call and with new ideas for working with committees and congregations. I cannot say, "thank you" enough for this great gift! (If you don't believe me, just ask my husband!)

Returning from sabbatical was filled with congregational visits and conducting Parish Studies for congregations with Rostered Leader vacancies. In January, the Executive Staff traveled around the state with Chilli with the Bishop events.

One of the great joys of this work is working with newly ordained pastors! Newly ordained pastors of the SD Synod include:

Pastor Jeanette Clark  
Pastor Nicholas Collins  
Pastor Cassandra Lamb  
Pastor Jacquelyn Braun  
Pastor Elizabeth Hoium  
Pastor Amy Martinell  
Pastor Jessica Daum  
Pastor Trey Daum  
Pastor Denise Broveak  
Pastor Amber Marten Bergeson  
Pastor Katie Jerabek

We welcome the following out-of-state pastors to our synod:

Rev. Kevin Bergeson  
Rev. Andrew Nelson  
Rev. James Steen  
Rev. Scott Hacker  
Rev. Stepan Sandness  
Rev. Marcia Brennan  
Rev. Daniel DeBlock  
Rev. Michael Mortvedt  
Rev. Frank Phillip

Mobility in the SD Synod has begun to pick up as the economy has gotten better and folks who had hoped to retire can now afford to do so. Several of our larger congregations are now being served by a great group of senior pastors and our First Call folks have been wonderful! I would like to thank Pastor Patrick Hahn for his leadership as Chair of the Support to Ministries Committee, as well as Kristin Ostercamp and Mindy Erhke for their hard work on the much needed revisions to the Compensation Guidelines for our lay and rostered leaders.

I continue to enjoy working with the Candidacy Committee as we accompany 50 candidates in responding to a call to ministry in the ELCA. The annual Candidacy Retreat in April at Shalom Hills Farm in MN, was cancelled due to a winter storm and we missed our time with the candidates. Many “thanks” to Pastor Will Olsen, Lorna Wounded Head, and Chris Christenson, for their exceptional leadership for this committee!

I continue to grow and thrive in my call to synodical ministry and am grateful for my colleagues and the ministry of our team!

Peace,  
Susan Marone

**South Dakota ELCA Synod Assembly Report, 2013**  
**Pastor Karen Rupp, Director of Native American Ministries**

You all continue to bless our Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministry through your continued prayers, words of encouragement, generous hearts and hands. With grateful hearts we receive financial contributions and donations of quilts, new and gently used clothing, disposable diapers, and food and many other items for the community. Thank you!

We are also grateful for connections developed and grown through visitors coming here for cross-cultural learning from diverse geographic, denominational, educational arenas. Groups reserve their time to come and participate in building and strengthening bridges of relationship with the Lakota community and the calendar fills quickly. We are encouraging groups to consider participating through forming “long-distant” bridges, fundraising to provide materials, tools, and finances to pay members of the local community to perform much needed structural improvement projects.

Interest remains for the local Habitat for Humanity to become active once again. A meeting is scheduled at the PRRC in May to take the necessary steps to reform the unit which will provide opportunity to provide additional housing to the community and give us the opportunity to contribute our time and talents to this effort.

Seminary students continue to engage enthusiastically in our January cross-cultural immersion program. It is rewarding to build relationships as they meet their course requirements and then later on reconnect while on internship or first call arranging to bring groups from their congregations or to continue support from a distance. Lutheran Outdoors, Augustana College and SDSU Campus Ministry continue to offer opportunities for our young people as they come for summer programs and alternative spring and/or fall break and invite our young people to come to their campuses and programs.

Word and Sacrament ministry continues at St. John’s Episcopal Church in N. Oglala, Cohen Home, a residential facility for the elderly in Pine Ridge, Makasan Presbyterian Church and Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church. We seek to strengthen healthy ecumenical relationships. We are discerning avenues to provide additional worship opportunities to the community in response to several inquiries received. Once again I’ll attend the spring Dakota Presbytery meeting to share about our ministry at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center.

We are supporting the upcoming Taize event at Red Shirt Table by participating in planning and offering accommodations as we are able. Information about the event is shared at our gatherings and worship events.

We applied once again to be a Horizon Internship site. We haven’t received any information yet as to whether or not an intern has been assigned to our ministry. The Calvin Institute Worship Renewal Grant enabled us to provide support for our ecumenical partners through worship and prayer. We concluded the Calvin Institute Worship Renewal Grant program with a Prayer and Holy Spirit revival at Makasan Presbyterian Church and a story telling presentation the following week.

Young people from the community continue attend our Sanctuary young peoples’ afternoon program where we 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. Through generous donations from individuals and faith-based groups we provided Christmas gifts to over 250 young people and gift certificates to about 65 families. During the past year we served over 9,600 lunches to the hungry of the community. Thank you, South Canyon Lutheran Church in Rapid City, for continuing to assist with this program by donating food items for the lunch, Sanctuary meals and snacks.

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.

Please check our Face Book page, web page and newsletters for continuing updates. 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



## **South Dakota Youth Ministry Assembly Report**

This year is known as the “after the Youth Gathering Year” in all of the Synods in the ELCA. Last July the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering was held in New Orleans. Our Synod sent 1400 Young Adults and their Advisors’. Each person attending received a bright yellow tee shirt saying “South Dakota for the Saints: 1400 STRONG AND SERVING”. Once again the South Dakota Synod had the most people attending in all the 65 Synods! What a pleasure to serve a Synod that values their Youth and their Faith Development by sending them to participate in the Youth Gathering.

The people who work with Young Adults in the Synod’s congregations still come together on a monthly basis to talk, laugh, and share their “wisdoms” with each other. The Synod’s Youth Ministry Network has become stronger because of these committed people. We have been using the times that we meet together as a continuing education time by discussing the “Practice Discipleship” topics that come from the ELCA’s Continuing Ed. for Youth Workers whose ministry is working with the Young Adults in their communities. I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this important ministry in the South Dakota Synod.

Suzanne Hansen AIM

SD Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Proposed Budget  
02/01/2014 - 01/31/2015**

	<b>Adopted 2013</b>	<b>Revised 2013</b>	<b>Proposed 2014</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS</b>	<b>1,692,242</b>	<b>1,649,923</b>	<b>1,699,420</b>
<b>Program Ministry Income</b>			
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,001	45,001	45,001
Other Program Income	-	-	-
Woyatan Income (EOCM Grant)	12,000	-	-
<b>Other Income Streams</b>			
SD Synod Mission Support	40,550	69,268	60,000
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
Misc Income	-	8,750	8,750
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,848,293</b>	<b>1,831,442</b>	<b>1,871,671</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	<b>Adopted 2013</b>	<b>Revised 2013</b>	<b>Proposed 2014</b>
<b>CHURCHWIDE MISSION</b>			
Mission Support to ELCA	769,970	742,465	773,236
% of Mission Support	45.5%	45.0%	45.5%
<b>Region III</b>	<b>15,790</b>	<b>16,560</b>	<b>16,560</b>
<b>SHARED MINISTRIES</b>			
<b>South Dakota Sustained Ministries</b>			
Campus Ministry	120,082	119,140	121,928
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	48,410	48,410	54,410
Heartland Ephphatha	5,891	5,845	5,982
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605	3,605	3,605
<b>South Dakota Supported Ministries</b>			
SD Ministries Support	4,928	17,649	13,778
Luther Seminary	68,099	67,564	69,145
Lutheran Social Services	68,099	67,564	69,145
Lutherans Outdoors	33,963	33,696	34,485
Church Colleges	5,891	5,845	5,982
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
<b>Total Shared Ministries</b>	<b>375,522</b>	<b>385,872</b>	<b>395,014</b>

**Proposed Budget  
02/01/2014 - 01/31/2015**

	<b>Adopted 2013</b>	<b>Revised 2013</b>	<b>Proposed 2014</b>
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES</b>			
<b>Staff Leadership</b>			
Bishop	97,588	97,588	100,516
Associate Tesch	10,294	10,294	10,603
Associate Marone	74,735	74,735	76,977
Bishop/Associate Benefits	61,469	59,924	61,559
SDS Travel	49,500	42,815	38,698
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	9,485	20,800	20,800
<b>Program Ministries</b>			
Native American Ministry	74,821	75,798	78,084
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator	13,622	13,622	14,007
Companion Synod Coordinator	10,425	10,425	10,700
<b>Support Staff and Office</b>			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	134,431	134,003	137,483
Resource Center Supplies	250	250	250
Synod Office Expenses	57,884	60,442	60,859
Augustana College	19,233	19,233	19,233
<b>Synod Leadership</b>			
Synod Council	6,000	6,000	6,000
Support to Ministries Committee	6,000	6,000	6,000
Candidacy Committee	6,000	6,000	6,000
Electronic Communications	2,500	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
<b>Ministry Projects</b>			
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	-	-
<b>Outreach Ministries</b>			
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
<b>Contingency</b>	6,838	12,179	2,656
<b>Subtotal SD Synod Ministries</b>	<b>687,011</b>	<b>686,544</b>	<b>686,861</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,848,293</b>	<b>1,831,442</b>	<b>1,871,671</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**2013 REPORT TO SYNOD ASSEMBLIES**  
***Paul Baglyos, Coordinator for Missional Leadership, Region 3***

**FACE TO FACE FROM PLACE TO PLACE**

As a regional coordinator for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I am often asked, “How much do you travel?” Usually my quick answer to that question is, “A lot.” Out of curiosity, I recently made a tally: in calendar year 2012 I spent exactly 100 days outside the Twin Cities where my home (in Saint Paul) and my office (at Luther Seminary) are located. Most of my travel takes me into the seven synods of Region 3 beyond the Minneapolis Area Synod and the Saint Paul Area Synod (my “travel” in those two synods is local); additionally, I travel to other places in the ELCA where gatherings pertaining to my work take place.

The largest category of purpose for my travel is candidacy, which refers to the preparation of ministry leaders for our church. I work with the candidacy committees in each of the nine synods of Region 3, participating in their meetings, retreats and panel deliberations with individual candidates. I collaborate with synodical, churchwide and seminary leaders in matters of candidacy procedures, theological education, and the assignment of candidates for call to congregations. Candidacy is the principal work of all the regional coordinators, who serve as deployed staff of the ELCA in Congregational and Synodical Mission.

The work of regional coordinators requires travel because the church lives in face-to-face relationships. Ministry requires presence. While many tasks can be accomplished through distance-spanning technology, relationships within the body of Christ flourish best through embodied presence. Just as the ministry leaders of our church are expected to be present with the people they serve in our congregations and our synods, so also the preparation of our ministry leaders requires collaborative and interpersonal presence with candidates and with those who accompany them in preparation for call. My work as regional coordinator involves my own face-to-face relationships with candidates and with the dedicated synod staff, candidacy committee members, mentors and teachers who accompany them in their formation.

100 days of travel represents part of our church’s investment in the people who serve or prepare to serve as ministry leaders, and that investment is itself a ministry of the church.

## **ELCA Region 3 Archives Report to 2013 Synod Assemblies**

### **Introduction**

This year marks the *25<sup>th</sup> year of the ELCA and the 25<sup>th</sup> year 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 7 regular volunteers, part of the seminary “friends” group.

### **Use of the Region 3 Archives**

Our website ([www.luthersem.edu/archives](http://www.luthersem.edu/archives)) presence continues to contribute to high 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 “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 968 reference patrons in the past year with a variety of research interests. The majority (71%) 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 31 on-site congregational visits throughout the three states of Region 3.

+Daniels spoke at 17 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 470 linear feet of synod office records from the 9 offices. These included legal, financial, personnel and program files.

+Gathered an additional 289 congregational histories – collection now totals 6,015 histories.

+Received 507 biographical pieces for files on clergy and lay leadership – collection now totals 5,912 files.

+Additional 38 congregations filmed their valuable church records through the microfilming program.

+Collected 15 linear feet of mission photographs, films, papers and artifacts from retired China, Japan, South Africa, Madagascar and Alaska missionaries.

### **Outreach and Education**

+Daniels led workshops on congregational archives at 4 Region 3 synod assemblies in 2012. He also presented Archives services information at 2 fall theological conferences.

+Distributed over 700 copies of “Memory Work: A Guide for Congregational Archives and History” to congregations and individuals.

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

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

### **Professional Development**

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

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

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

*Respectfully submitted by Paul A. Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archivist and Luther Seminary Archivist, 2.1.13*

## 2012 Report from the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators for Region 3



The Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE) is an independent organization recognized by the ELCA. It was established as a non-profit organization in 2003. It is an organization created for those who serve in the areas of adult education, confirmation, or children's ministry and are interested in life long faith development. Volunteers, pastors, staff and other persons interested in Christian education are invited to join. For more information see the web site at

[www.faithfulteaching.org](http://www.faithfulteaching.org)

Why join the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators?

1. Sharing ideas with others is fun and we always learn from one another. You are not alone!
2. Sharing insights and resources with one another builds up the body of Christ.
3. Most congregations are in a budget crunch and do not have staff dedicated to Christian education. Belonging to LACE is a very cost effective way to get the resources and support that a congregation needs.
4. You will glean the benefits of receiving a monthly E-news containing resources, ideas and links to new online information about learning opportunities and faith formation.
5. You can share ideas and get ideas through the LACE Facebook group..

Remember: Your shoes would fall off if you didn't have laces. And if you forget to tie them, you could trip and fall! LACE is all about keeping us tied together so we can move forward together in His name. God rejoices when we live and work in community, not in isolation



Each year LACE recognizes an outstanding Christian educator. The recipient of the 2012 LACE Educator of the Year Award is Carole Joyce, a staff member of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Plainview, MN, near Rochester. Carole is an Associate in Ministry with a passion for passing on the faith. She has been blessed to learn, teach, and grow with children, youth, and adults in congregations for over 25 years. The award consists of a lovely plaque with the LACE logo and key biblical verse and a cash gift of \$300.

The National Board in 2012 consisted of Diane Shallue, Minnesota, president, Lorie Hughes, Montana, secretary; Char Leone, Washington, VP for Membership; Debbie Streicher, Virginia, VP for Communications; Rev. Cynthia Schnaath, Kansas, financial secretary; Teresa Kaldor, California, past-president; plus an elected representative from each of the nine regions in the ELCA. Carole Joyce of Rochester, MN was the Region 3 representative.

*Report submitted by Diane E. Shallue, past-president*

## **Annual Report: Association of Christian Churches of SD**

I wish to thank the SD ELCA Synod for its funding gift to the South Dakota Association of Christian Churches this year. These are the main activities ACCSD participated with or held in calendar year 2012

- We worked with multiple organizations 'educating' state legislators, asking them to convert about \$850,000 of unrebated sales tax money meant for low income people by application only, to food banks in SD. It will help fund this program for the next 4 years, and is providing real assistance statewide to thousands of hungry people.
- *Welcoming Them Home* presentations were organized by ACCSD and held in Rapid City, Pierre, and Sioux Falls. Military personnel and persons familiar with the needs of released incarcerated persons educated pastors and laity about needs of these two groups and how to better support them.
- A seminar attended by researcher Diana Butler Bass informed me about the changing dynamic of what it means to be 'spiritual but not religious.' Mainline church attendance continues to decrease; people have found other ways to find 'community' outside of church, and others may no longer find church relevant in these technological times. Churches, Denominations, and the Association need to consider other ways to conduct mission and ministry reaching out to all people in need of grace in a broken world, and providing hope and meaning for today. We need each other, and we need to listen to each other and seek new opportunities for service as demographics, culture, needs and thinking changes. In rural areas, there may need to be a joining together of more churches in order to have the membership base to support a pastor, in order to maintain a local faith community. We must dialogue together. Perhaps the Association can assist with facilitating discussions at the local level.

Thank you for supporting the ecumenical work of the SD Association of Christian Churches. Let us know if you have suggestions for our work.

Tom Hoy, Executive Director



**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 \$663 million and net assets of \$184 million at year-end 2012, 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 2012, investments by congregations, their members, and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$473 million, and loans for capital projects to more than 760 ELCA ministries totaled \$452 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 31, 2012:*

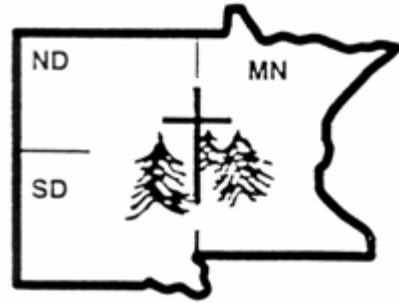
- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 230 individuals and 119 congregations and ministries, including the South Dakota Synod, totaled **\$9,239,600**.
- Six congregations and ministries were supported by **\$2,126,142** in Mission Investment Fund loans.

### *MIF representative for the South Dakota Synod:*

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



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



Executive Committee: Marv Nysetvold, Shetek, President  
Nick Johnson, Upper Missouri, Vice President  
Melissa Reinhart, Metigoshe, Secretary  
Linda Arnason, Metigoshe, Treasurer  
Jesse Klosterboer, Good Earth Village, MN Representative  
Nathan Clements, Badlands, ND Representative  
Rachel Nelson, Lutherans Outdoors in SD, SD Representative  
Tammie Sinibaldo, Coordinator

**Hear the Gospel! Celebrate God's Creation! Find Spiritual Renewal!**

## **2013 Annual Report of the ELCA Region 3 CAMPING NETWORK**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **South Dakota Synod Council**

Submitted by Gary Steuck, Vice President

Greetings from your Synod Council!

This past year we have continued to enjoy steady improvement in our financial situation. While we are not back into the situation that we were before the reaction from the 2009 Churchwide decision, we have gained a lot, and we praise God for the gains that He has blessed us with!

I am pleased to see a lot of JOY that has returned to the hearts and minds of our ELCA members. Continue to pray for each other, and your SD Synod, your Synod Council, and your Bishop David Zellmer.

As many of you know, I have resigned as your Synod Vice President, having served nearly seven years in that position. Attached you will find my resignation letter to Bishop Zellmer. It was truly a great honor to have served the SD Synod in that position, and I thank you for the privilege of working with many wonderful members, and a great group of Synod Leaders, especially Bishop Dave! He's a good one!

As I approach my 73rd birthday this October, and with two businesses still to run, I felt it was too tough, to ask my wonderful wife to run both of our businesses at times when I had to be away. So, may God bless you as you elect a new Synod Vice-President, and thanks again for allowing me to serve you for the past almost seven years.

Gary Steuck  
Former Synod Vice President

## **Gary Steuck Resignation Letter to Bishop Dave**

E-mailed February 21, 2013

Hi Bishop Dave!

As we have discussed in the past few months, I would like to resign my position as Vice President of the South Dakota Synod, as of March 24th, 2013. This should enable the best solution for putting my successor into position to assume the duties for the Synod, as soon as practical.

Thank you for the good working relationship that we have had, and for allowing me the pleasure of sitting by your side during our Synod Council and Synod Assembly meetings. You were very gracious to me and I appreciate the respect and kindness that were shown to me during these past 6 years.

While our Synod has had some tough times during these past four years, you showed great, capable and fair leadership to our members. Particularly, our church here in Mobridge, Trinity, was the beneficiary of your wisdom, firmness, and fairness, during our times of trouble and strife, which was absolutely perfect for what was needed. May God bless you for your handling that tough situation, and handling it very well!!

I also want to give you a mighty round of applause for how you handled the tough situation in Aberdeen! Another job, well done! I believe God's hand was upon you in both of these situations, and that our whole Synod has been blessed to have you as our Bishop.

I shall miss working with you and the whole Synod Council, but feel strongly that the time is right for me to step aside. So please accept this letter, and may God bless you as our Bishop, and bless our Synod as it continues to lead our fellow ELCA Lutherans in being a blessing back to God!

Sincerely,

Gary Steuck  
SD Synod Vice President

**Report of the Support to Ministries Committee to the 2013 South Dakota Synod Assembly**  
Pastor Patrick Hahn, Chairperson

The past year has been an exciting and busy time for the Support to Ministries Committee. The Synod has experienced a lot of rostered and lay leadership movement, long-term intentional ministry sites, ordinations, installations, and retirements. Through it all, one can certainly see the hand of the Spirit at work. Christ risen, Christ crucified continues to be proclaimed and lives are changed. People are fed and nourished in a multitude of ways. God is most definitely bringing making all things new in South Dakota.

The committee reviews congregations in transition, lifts up churches in prayer requesting the Spirit's guidance and direction, and discusses potential candidates to fill vacancies. Of particular note, the committee revised the Call Process Booklet for congregational use and completely re-wrote the South Dakota Synod Compensation Guidelines for Rostered and Lay Leaders. We have been very involved in the five sites of our Lutheran Campus Ministry providing and receiving insight and direction how we, together, can provide adequate and vital ministry to the future of our Church.

A special note of gratitude goes to the Bishop Dave and to Susan Maroni for their guidance, direction, expertise, and their oft needed humor. Nothing would get accomplished without all the preparation prior to our meetings and work after meetings without all the work provided by Crystal McCormack.

Pastor Patrick Hahn, Chairperson

## **Lutheran Campus Ministry Report to the 2013 South Dakota Synod**

Lutheran Campus Ministry is alive and thriving at our five sites in South Dakota. Our campus ministers are involved in a great many areas in their communities: worship, congregational support, service to local communities are just a few. Read their stories:

**University Lutheran Center at South Dakota State University, Brookings** have worshiped, celebrated a baptism, prepared and served meals, supported men incarcerated by worshiping at St. Dymas, welcomed youth from Pine ridge, hosted international students, talked theology, carved pumpkins, prepared a Thanksgiving feast and more. We are a place of grace where all are welcome. We are a safe place for students to come in every sense of the word. We take pride in training future church leaders. Seven peer ministers work in area of service, hospitality, outreach, worship, development and publicity. Since 1993 we are aware of 23 SDSU students who have gone to seminary, Lutheran Volunteer Corp, or Young Adults in Global Mission. Many more serve on church councils, minister as musicians, teachers and leaders in congregations. We are proud to be your church on campus. You can contact us at [bchell@hotmail.com](mailto:bchell@hotmail.com).

**Lutheran Campus Ministry at Black Hills State University, Spearfish**, in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, offers college students and young adults opportunities to worship, participate in service projects and build relationships through Christian fellowship. LCM.BHSU recently underwent a “Quadrennial Review.” In their final report, the ELCA review team noted that LCM.BHSU presents “great potential for missional experiments” and lauded the ministry for its partnership with area congregations, and its creation of the Adopt-A-Mom (AAM) Program – a mentoring student moms program. A dynamic board is in place at LCM.BHSU; a wonderfully wacky facility, “The Living Room,” offers a truly spiritual environment for worship; and, the organization’s first peer minister was hired in March. You can contact us at [lutheranbcm.bhsu@yahoo.com](mailto:lutheranbcm.bhsu@yahoo.com).

**Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern State University, Aberdeen** has many blessings to be thankful for as we wrap up this year and look to a new school year in fall 2013. Our most recent news is that we were nominated for most improved student organization at Northern and also won the award for best service project at NSU this year for our Grown Up Christmas List Day of Community Service. Some of our activities included a local retreat at Camp Nesodak in January, helping out with Make A Difference Day with our local Aberdeen churches, attending the Rachel Kurtz and Agape concert, and our Annual Celebration dinner. Our regular weekly activities included two different Bible study groups, Wednesday night worships, and free supper and fellowship on Friday evenings. Towards the end of the semester we have added some more social activities such as movie and game nights. Next year we begin with a fall retreat, a freshmen ice cream social, a Christian concert, and a service trip to Corpus Christy, Texas to work with trafficked and refugee children. We are also looking forward to more small group Bible studies and activities, more social events and a new spiritual mentorship program with our Campus Ministry Council members. You can contact us at [cic@norther.edu](mailto:cic@norther.edu).

**Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion**, began in August with a new campus pastor, Andy Nelson. We built our program on our Wednesday soup suppers and worship. In the spring we added a Thursday evening books study and Wednesday lunch-with-the-pastor. We participated in the SD Synod's big read, *Making Sense of the Cross*. Participating students brought excellent questions and insights to the great mystery at the center of our faith. Our worship incorporated elements of Taize worship as some of us prepared to join Taize's Pilgrimage of Trust at Pine Ridge over Memorial Weekend. Fellowship and service were a significant part of our life together. We served a free meal at the Welcome Table in Vermillion. LCM USD joined LCM SDSU for a spring break service/immersion trip to San Diego and Tijuana. Following more literally in the early disciples' footsteps, we had an end-of-year *fishing* party over on Lake Yankton, and during finals week we grilled a free meal for USD students. Next year we are piloting a scholarship program for USD students who plan to work at Lutheran camps in the summer. You can contact us at [pastor@luthercenter.org](mailto:pastor@luthercenter.org).

**Lutheran Campus Ministry at the South Dakota School of Mines, Rapid City**, this celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year in ministry. We now have our own facility on the edge of the campus. It has become a welcoming place for worship, meals, Bible Study, and fellowship. We have a great group of faith-filled students who like to share themselves with others through service opportunities in the community. They are eager to invite others to join us and we grow together in faith. We proclaim Christ who walks with us. We look forward to sharing our story with West River congregations. You can contact us at [ysteindal@hotmail.com](mailto:ysteindal@hotmail.com).

There are a number of ways you can support Lutheran Campus Ministry in South Dakota: first and foremost send us the names and email addresses of your congregation's students who are enrolled at one of our five campus ministry sites so we can invite them to be part of a caring community away from home, pray for us and our students, and support us financially. We are extremely dependent on your generous gifts.

Pastor Patrick Hahn, Chairperson  
South Dakota Synod Support to Ministries Committee

## **South Dakota Synod Candidacy Committee Report 2013**

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

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

The SD Synod has been blessed with money that has been given by individuals, organizations, endowments and foundations for scholarships for those in candidacy. The Candidacy Scholarship Committee this year awarded over \$160,000 in scholarships to 15 individuals on this journey to become rostered leaders in the ELCA.

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

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

**John Rasmussen, Chair**

## **Report Multicultural Committee - By Natanael Lizarazo, Chair**

Grace and peace from our Risen Lord, Jesus the Christ! With joy and thanksgiving, we present our report as South Dakota Synod Multicultural Committee. Our Committee represents all seven Conferences of our Synod and works in collaboration with our Synod's Evangelical Outreach Committee. This new structure facilitates greater participation as well as improved communication. And though geography is wide-spread, we are thankful for technology which allows us to participate in meetings without spending time in the road or significant financial resources. Still we have face-to-face meetings complemented by technology if necessary.

Current members are: Rev. Bill Schrubba, Sandra Rood, Rev. Daryl Schubert, Gayle Cole, Rev. Natanael Lizarazo, Daniel Gayetaye, Rev. Kwen Sanderson, Sheldon Engen, Rev. Tim Sersen, Connie Woehlhaff, Rev. Chris Baesler, Dennis Paulson, Rev. Kent Narum, Jonathon Old Horse, Rev. Karen Rupp, Rev. David Piper and Rev. Bill Tesch, Director of Evangelical Outreach.

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

As Multicultural Committee and to different degrees, we are fully engaged in addressing these tasks. Though we have a long way to go, we celebrate our feet are fully immersed in these baptismal ministry waters! God's work! Our hands! Our prayers and financial gifts! The ethnic specific ministries we currently accompany are: Lakota Retreat Center in Pine Ridge, Woyatan Lutheran Church in Rapid City, Intentional Young Adult Community in Rosebud, Pueblo de Dios in Augustana Lutheran Church (Sioux Falls) First Lutheran African Ministry (Sioux Falls). Bethel Fellowship, an Ethiopian ministry in Sioux Falls is no longer affiliated with our Synod.

Though there are different challenges in these ministries, these ministries are moving forward in proactive ways. At this Assembly, we rejoice with Woyatan Lutheran Church in becoming the newest congregation of our Synod! As we move forward in addressing our growing ethnic diversity, it is critically important that together as Synod we remain missionally focused in making these ministries visible, investing in leadership development, providing greater participation for people of color in our shared life, sharing our blessings and trusting that the One who calls us is faithful and will always provided everything needed. To God the glory!



## **Report of the Evangelical Outreach Committee**

Submitted by Rev. Jonathan Vehar

The Evangelical Outreach Committee was formally constituted by the 2012 Synod Assembly. The first year of the EOC's work has been one of excitement, full of all the possibilities that come with new beginnings; and overwhelming, as we seek to learn together the histories, gifts, struggles, and needs of the ministries that we help to oversee. The first task of the EOC was to divide our work into three distant focus areas: New Starts, Congregational Renewal, and Mission Partners.

New Starts: Helps to oversee and support congregations in development and identify possible areas for new congregations. One of the first major tasks will be to cultivate established congregations to serve as Mission Partnerships. Mission Partnership is a formal relationship between an established congregation and new congregations. Congregations share with each other: prayer, skills and man-power, equipment and money. They accompany one another in relationship that is mutually beneficial.

Renewals: Has set a goal that every congregation in the synod is engaged in a renewal process every 7 years. To assist in meeting this goal there is be an intentional effort to train leaders in a variety of approaches to renewal (coaching, Natural Church Development, Vibrant Faith, etc.) to meet the varying needs of our congregations. A focus will be made to make such resources available and affordable especially to smaller, rural congregations. The first training events will take place in the fall of 2013.

Mission Partners: Has a focus on developing the support network of new congregations, ethnic specific ministries, and emerging ministries through Mission Partnerships, Mission Boosters, and other resources that seek to connect congregations with the ministries of the synod. Current projects are reviving the Mission Boosters to address current needs, work to provide monthly a resource for bulletin or newsletter which highlights a synod mission partner, offer resources for a Mission Partner/Booster Sunday for Epiphany of 2014.

This is just a snapshot of the invigorating work of the Evangelical Outreach Committee in the first year. In many ways this year has been establishing deep roots and connections with our mission partner. We thank you for your work, and for considering how your congregation may become a partner with one of the many missions of the South Dakota Synod.

## Companion Synod Committee Report to Synod Assembly 2013

We are engaged with specific churches in the world through the Companion Synod Program. The 1989 Synod Assembly formalized the first relationship with our companion, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon. In 2000 the relationship was established with the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope in Nicaragua. These companion relationships enhance our feelings of connection to people beyond the US, and our feelings of being part of the Lutheran community in the world.

Trips to Nicaragua: Synod Group November, 2012 “Building the Church (Relationship)” ; Flandreau Baseball Trip January 2013; South Canyon, Rapid City, Congregation visit Jan-Feb 2013; Gloria Dei, Sioux Falls, Medical Trip February 2013; Companion Synod Committee trip Feb-Mar 2013. The finishing of the church at Somoto was funded by a SD congregation. We continued to fund the Cedro Galan “Green Project,” our missionary Mike Busbey’s work, the youth retreat, and other requests as they are made.

The Cameroon EELC/SD Synod Pastoral Exchange brought Sodea, Timothee to South Dakota for 3 months (Nov - Jan) working with the Gayville Parish and including some visits to other congregations, conference and synod meetings. Rev Ralph Egbert and Barbara Egbert worked in Cameroon for 3 months (Mar-May).

Designated money from congregations funds the programs of the Companion Synods. This year’s funding provided about \$64,000.00 to Cameroon Roofs, Train Up A Child, Bibles, Hospital at Garoua Boulai, visas, seminary scholarship and Pastoral Exchange costs. About \$14,500.00 funded our missionary to Nicaragua and about \$43,000.00 went to Cedro Galan Green Project, Youth Retreat, Somoto church building, a computer and elementary school needs.

Thanks to the many individuals and congregations who reach outside their own needs and make real the partnership with our companion churches. Please thank those individuals who have taken time to visit and get to know personally the people in our companion churches.

Cathy Larson Companion Synod Coordinator

Chuck Storm, Chair, Companion Synod Committee

## **South Dakota Synodical Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

### **Report to the South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2013**

In June 2012, I led my first Synodical Convention of the South Dakota Women of the ELCA. We met at Lutheran Memorial Church in Pierre, with 100 women in attendance. We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and honored our past presidents at our banquet.

Our Leadership Workshop was held July 27& 28 at New Home Lutheran in Mitchell.

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

During the year our women continue to tie quilts and assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief. Last year our SD women made over 8,000 quilts. We have been challenged by LWR to make 25 percent more this year to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There is also a great need for more quilts.

The Women of the SD Synod continue to support many ministries, both financially and with the giving of time and talent through the local congregation.

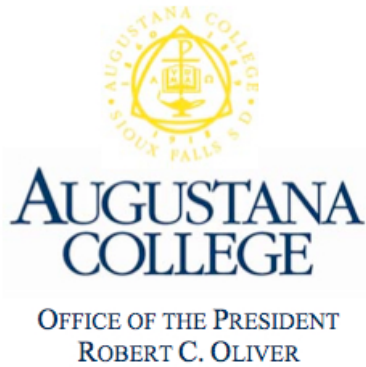
Our women, as they have since our beginning, continue to meet in Circles each month for fellowship, service, and participation in Bible study, using our national magazine Gather.

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

We held our Winter Board Meeting at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls on January 26, 2013. We will also hold our 2013 Convention at Our Savior's.

Women of the ELCA, SD Synod, is now on Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter. We also have a Blog. Be sure to LIKE the Facebook page, and FOLLOW the Pinterest page.

**Vivian Westgard, President**



Dear Assembly Members:

I often say that my official title is “president.” But, my unofficial title, and one that I prefer much more, is “storyteller.”

Ultimately, my job is to tell the Augustana story – to share the amazing things that happen on our campus and to describe the inspiring outcomes that we are lucky enough to help create. By telling the story, hopefully we can inspire others to support our mission of providing an education of enduring worth ... an education that helps our students chart their course.

I’m happy to tell you that even in her 152<sup>nd</sup> year, our Augustana continues to produce great stories to tell.

For the fall semester, our total student enrollment was 1,839. Our campus is home to students from 35 states. In September, we welcomed our largest-ever class of international students — 131 students from 42 countries.

For Interim-2013, 165 students traveled to 32 countries around the globe from New Zealand to India to Cuba, Greece, Thailand and others, studying everything from culture to religion to architecture.

Last summer, 69 students participated in scientific research projects on- and off-campus through the College’s Undergraduate Summer Research Program.

Despite a still-challenged economy, 98 percent of our recent graduates reported accepting a job related to their major or chosen field. In addition, 28 percent are enrolled in, or are planning to enroll in, graduate school.

Augustana is ranked fourth among NCAA Division II schools and 28th amongst 1,066 active NCAA member schools in the NCSA Athletic Recruiting power rankings, an assessment of the academic and athletic standards of all NCAA athletic programs across the country. Augustana is the only school listed in the overall top 100 from South Dakota or North Dakota. Fewer than six percent of colleges and universities earned a spot in the NCSA top 100 for 2012, Augustana is in this elite class.

We’re proud to say that all our hard work is being recognized. We’re ranked among “America’s Top Colleges” by *Forbes*, *Washington Monthly*, *The Princeton Review* and *US News*.

Augustana’s 2011 fiscal year closed on July 31, 2012, with promising advancements:

- Annual giving closed at \$1.4 million, inclusive of gifts to the Augustana Fund, the Center for Western Studies, Augustana Library Associates, the Performing and Visual Arts Fund and the Athletic Club.
- The \$120 million Momentum Augustana Campaign, the largest fundraising effort in the history of the College, made significant strides, most notably a \$20 million challenge grant from Sanford Health in support of our science project.

Today is, indeed, an extraordinary time at Augustana. I’m proud to tell you we’re making a difference in the lives of our students, recording breakthroughs in our scientific and social research, enriching the hearts and minds of thousands through the performing and visual arts, and forging strong connections in our community.

This fall alone, we announced plans for a new \$30 million science facility, the largest building project in our 152-year history, brought home athletic championships, climbed in influential national rankings and strengthened our connections abroad.

We are honored, humbled and grateful for your generosity and we remain hopeful that you will continue to think prayerfully about ways in which you can continue to support the important mission and vision of our Augustana.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you and God bless you.

Robert C. Oliver  
President, Augustana College

May 6, 2013

## **Report to the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA**

submitted by Craig Lewis, Manager

The Chapel in the Hills is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed to maintain and operate the Chapel in the Hills. It is considered a Special Ministry of the Synod and the Chapel is an ELCA church building. The Chapel and grounds are open to visitors from May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> and during special programs and services during the remainder of the year.

We have no Pastor or Congregation. We may have no congregation but it is our belief that our congregation is the world. Since becoming Manager we have had visitors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico each of the past two years. People from 51 foreign countries visited in 2011 and 48 countries in 2013. We see between 25,000 and 30,000 visitors each year.

The Chapel receives no major funding from local, state, or national church organizations. We receive no funding from government of any kind. All of our support is generated through donations we receive, weddings preformed, and sales in our gift shop. Our funding allows us to remain open but does not build our endowment fund or cover major repairs.

We see the Chapel in the Hills as a seed planting organization. We plant the seed of the Gospel in each visitor and wedding party coming to the Chapel. We educate and demonstrate the Norwegian heritage that is such a part of the Black Hills. We bring history alive and put it on a level visitors can touch, see and participate in. Our hope is to create a place where living history and living church can take place together. This past year the Chapel was nominated and accepted for placement on the National Register of Historic Places

Local Lutheran Pastors help with services and weddings here at Chapel in the Hills. We will again begin Vesper services on Memorial Day and end them on Labor Day. Services are daily at 7:30 pm and last about ½ hour. We will host 100 to 120 weddings from April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup>. This past year we offered a Memorial Day service, Advent service, and Easter Vigil service and these will become annual events. We are a working church that wants to bring all believers together in an inspiring setting.

The Board of Directors has identified a number of major projects that need to be accomplished at the Chapel and are working to develop funding for them. Our first priority is to build a new restroom facility that will house handicap accessible restrooms, a Bride's room for wedding preparations and a meeting room to hold classes and allow church and community groups a place to get together. We are looking to raise \$100,000 before we begin construction.

There is a need to replace our 44 year old organ. All members of the Board agree we want to replace it with an electronic church organ similar to the one we presently have. This past year we began rebuilding our 40 year old sprinkler system spending over \$10,000 to upgrade valves and a number of sprinkler heads. This project will continue as money allows and will require an additional \$10,000 to complete.

The Board has agreed to develop a fund raising program to increase our endowment fund to a level that will guarantee a long future for the Chapel in the Hills and insure monies for future major projects. It is our hope that we can strengthen our ties with local ELCA Lutheran churches, churches throughout the state and country as well as individuals who believe in planting seeds, preserving our Norwegian and Scandinavian heritage and preserving a piece of Black Hills history.

# The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society

**“Walking boldly into the future”** describes the Good Samaritan Society’s journey as it continues to transform its programs and services by leading the way to support well-being for the people we serve.

But, we are not alone “walking boldly into the future,” we are **“walking boldly into the future with faith.”** How comforting it is to know that we have a God who guides and protects the Society and those we serve along with staff, volunteers and families. We are also blessed by the support of our donors.

How have we walked “boldly into the future” this past year? We have framed our mission work around:

**Obligation** (mission: to share God’s love in word in deed)

**Opportunity** (strategic direction: to lead the way in supporting well being. . . at your place or ours)

**Outcome** (vision: to create an environment where people are loved, valued and at peace)

It is from this foundation that we serve people and their ever-growing diverse need of services wherever they call home.

The Society has developed a strategic business plan to provide a road map for our work. This important document includes outcomes and aspirations related to the important initiatives of the Society and exists to ensure mission and financial success for the future of the Society.

Our organization must always be aware of emerging trends, challenges and opportunities. The future cannot always be known. The Society, however, is confident of its direction and willing to lead the way in providing new and innovative programs and services for all those we serve.

We are blessed by God to have this opportunity. As we **“walk boldly into the future in faith,”** we do so with the love and the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus.

## 2012 Revenues and Percent of Total

Rehabilitation/skilled care	\$757,324,044	79.68%
Assisted Living	\$64,643,685	6.80%
Senior Housing with Services	\$88,477,100	9.31%
Home Health	\$30,229,463	3.18%
Affordable Housing	\$9,818,506	1.03%
Total Revenue	\$950,492,798	
Total Assets (Total Liabilities and Equity)	\$1,618,398,066	

Heartland Ephphatha is a group of people committed to spreading the word of Christ throughout the Deaf and hard of hearing community in South Dakota.

### **ELDA Conference.**

First of all thank you to all who donated their time, talent and money to our ministry to help us host the national conference this summer. Thanks to you our conference was a success.

Over sixty people attended from nine states. Our theme was “Love in Action”. We had several workshops to learn different ways to help work with other people in this country and around the world. We went to “Kids Against Hunger” to pack meals. This was an awesome experience for all involved. We learned about different mission trips that several deaf people from the ELDA attended. They showed how they can make a difference in the lives of people in our own country as well as the lives of people all over the world. The experience that people had at Peace Lutheran Church during our worship services will be remembered. We had so many positive comments on how welcoming our church was to them.

### **Service**

Our goal is to do group service projects at least once each quarter. Our small group of deaf members have served the hungry at the Banquet in downtown Sioux Falls this year. We also served by helping with the Necessities for Neighbors distribution. Many deaf members participated in two Kids Against Hunger packs. We also helped a deaf lady move into a new apartment. People from our group are always ready to help.

### **Worship**

We continue to broadcast our worship sermons in ASL to the world through our video podcasts at [www.DeafFaith.com](http://www.DeafFaith.com). This year our Bible studies have followed the Narrative Lectionary.

### **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 fund-raisers. This year our fundraisers were aimed at supplementing our needed funds for the ELDA conference.

### **Goals**

Now that our ELDA conference planning is behind us we plan on re-focusing our efforts on service and outreach to a shrinking deaf population in Sioux Falls. We plan to study ways we can either provide or supplement services for the deaf and to see where our long-term goals for our ministry take us.

God’s Peace, Jason & Sarah Andera  
Directors for Heartland Ephphatha

## **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 in 2012/2013 were:

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
ELCA Foundation, Chicago, IL	Shetek Lutheran Ministries, Slayton, MN
Good Samaritan Society, Sioux Falls, SD	South Dakota Synod, Sioux Falls, SD

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

Kurt Osborne and Jim Schade are available to your congregation as a gift in itself with no cost, 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. All conversations are confidential and the donor determines when, or if, any communication is shared with others.

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](http://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](mailto:schade@augie.edu) or Kurt Osborne at [osborne@augie.edu](mailto:osborne@augie.edu).



# Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota

## Touching People's Lives More than 57,000 Times

**Whatever you did for one of the least  
of these brothers & sisters of mine —  
You did for me.**

*Matthew 25:40*

Suzie was removed from her parents care when she was four years old because she was neglected and abused. There also were numerous allegations toward her biological father for physical and sexual abuse. Suzie's parents' rights were terminated immediately and she shuffled from one placement to another.

Her anger and aggression had progressed to the level where she began to self-harm. Extended family support was sporadic, ranging from interaction every day to as little as once a month.

After five different residential placements and two failed adoption attempts, she came to LSS Summit Oaks Residential Services for Children & Youth.

While at Summit Oaks, an intensive psychiatric residential treatment center, Suzie learned to maintain healthy relationships with peers and family. She learned to reduce and control her physical outbursts. And, she learned to verbalize her feelings and her frustrations instead of self-harming or aggression.

Since being discharged from Summit Oaks, Suzie was welcomed home by her aunt and uncle and started attending public school. She found safety and belonging in her new environment, started making friends, engaged in school activities, and continued growing in her maturity.

### **Peterson Joins LSS As Vice-President of Resource Development**

Bill Peterson joined the LSS Executive Team as Vice President of Resource Development. Peterson is responsible for all resource development activities including annual fundraising, major gift campaigns, corporate sponsorships, planned giving and communication efforts.

## **2012 Highlights**

Nearly 6,000 people were served through counseling services, 53% served had incomes below \$30,000 (25% below \$10,000). Economic conditions continue to make access to behavioral health care even more challenging.

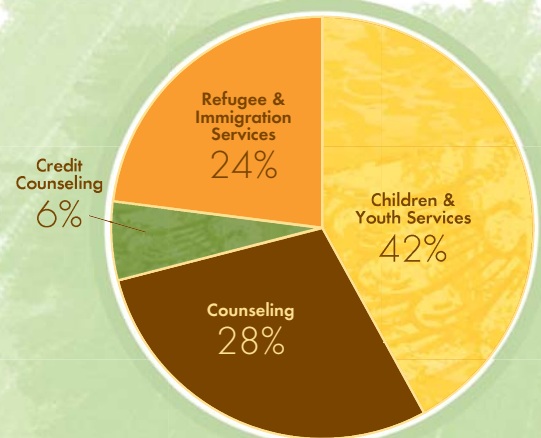
Last year, Consumer Credit Counseling Service served more than 8,000 individuals through financial counseling and nearly 5,000 individuals through financial education and debt management programs.

LSS Fatherhood & Families program added a new element to help fathers inside state correctional facilities. In cooperation with the Department of Corrections, LSS has created an intensive workplace readiness development curriculum for newly released fathers to help them become employed.

Because of a generous donor, a kitchen remodel was completed at Canyon Hills Center in Spearfish with an addition of a walk-in cooler/freezer. This enables LSS to reduce overall food costs, ease preparation and storage, and enables LSS to meet the updated National School Lunch Program requirements.

Follow LSS through our Blog, Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Just go to the LSS website for links to various social media: [www.LssSD.org](http://www.LssSD.org)

## **How Your Gift Serves**



**Lutheran Social Services**  
Strengthening Individuals, Families and Communities

# Luther Seminary's 2012-2013 academic year report to the SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD



## A lasting commitment to educating church leaders

In recent months we've experienced many changes at Luther Seminary. But our mission remains the same: to educate leaders for Christian communities.

As you likely know, President Rick Bliese resigned in mid-December. On Jan. 1, I moved from my position as Director of Contextual Learning at the seminary to accept the call to serve as interim president.

### Changes at Luther Seminary

The seminary's finances are the catalyst behind recent leadership changes. In simple terms, over the past few years, we have been spending well beyond our means. The money has been spent on excellent things, such as personnel, programs and innovative missional work. Unfortunately, our revenues did not support the expenses. We are now in the midst of making hard decisions as we look to the long-term health and financial sustainability of the seminary.

### Moving Forward with Hope

In the midst of these hard realities, there is hope. Our institutional structure will surely change, but our mission to prepare leaders for Christian communities is still essential. We are just starting to experience a clergy shortage. At the February ELCA assignment for first-call pastors, there were 220 requests for pastors and only 139 candidates to fill those requests. The church's call for well-equipped future leaders is stronger than ever.

To that end, a lot is happening on campus. In mid-February, we hosted 46 very talented future leaders for Scholarship Weekend, held Feb. 17-18. These prospective students applied for our best scholarships. We spent those two days getting to know each other. I was impressed with the commitment and caliber of these young people. In them, I see the future of the church!

For the last year, our outstanding faculty has been working to reconstruct a curriculum that will shape theological education so that future leaders can address the changing needs of the world. I am proud of our faculty, who are continuing this work in the midst of all the other uncertainties and challenges.

### Humble Gratitude

I believe God is blessing us with what we need as we address our current challenges. Our entire community—faculty, staff, students and boards—are engaged in the process of creating our future. We give thanks for your prayers, support and continued commitment to our mission.

In hope,  
Rick Foss, Interim President

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Synodical and churchwide support accounted for just under 8 percent of Luther Seminary's 2011-12 budget.

**During the fiscal year 2011-12, the South Dakota Synod provided direct financial support of \$63,740.**

### CURRENT STUDENTS

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

- There are 25 students from your synod enrolled at Luther Seminary.
- There are four interns serving in your synod.

### SEMINARY FINANCES

- Of Luther's operating income, 36 percent comes from private gifts and grants.
- Of Luther's operating expenses, 61 percent goes toward student instruction and institutional support.

### FACULTY ROSTER ED in SYNOD

Frederick Gaiser

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

Roald Eidsness

*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.*

2481 Como Ave. + St. Paul, Minn 55108 + [www.luthersem.edu](http://www.luthersem.edu)

GC1008-13K

 **LUTHER SEMINARY**  
*moved by the promise*





# LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

## FAITH TAKES TIME AWAY

Dear Partners in Mission,

Outdoor ministry in South Dakota is moving forward to meet people with the love of Christ!

One year ago at our Lutherans Outdoors Annual Meeting, I shared with you that in the world of church and outdoor ministry, "the ground is moving beneath our feet". Today I share with you that your SD camps are actively taking steps forward to exceed expectations and meet God's people where they are in their lives; and as a trusted colleague of mine has told me, people are in different places today.

THANK YOU for your support of camps! Together we are reaching more and more people with the love of Christ. So, let me extend an invitation to YOU...to experience Christ's love in community and creation at Lutherans Outdoors THIS YEAR!



Rev. Layne Nelson  
Executive Director

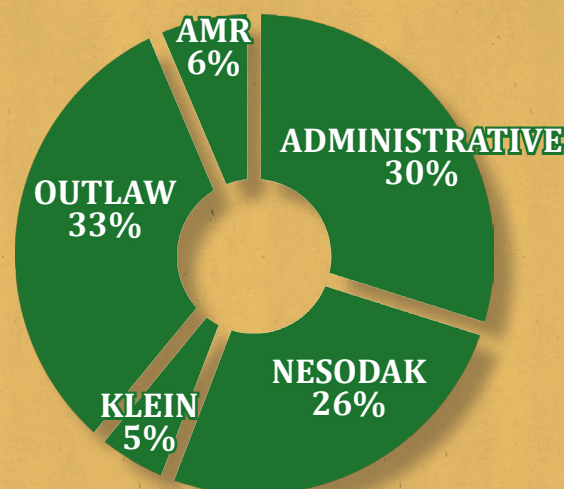
# GOD IS RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW!

In 2012 LO served  
19,427 people,  
15,790 at Retreats  
and 2,248 at  
Summer Camp  
and 1,389  
at Day  
Camps.

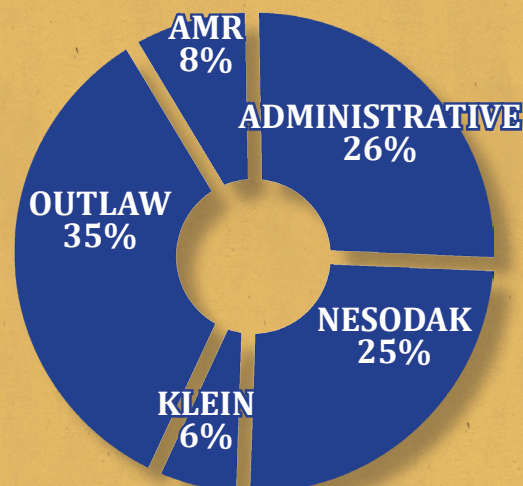


### 2012 FINANCIAL STATEMENT\*

REVENUE - \$1,610,498



EXPENSES - \$1,601,897



*\*As of print date numbers are unaudited. Does not include depreciation (\$173,652), in-kind Gifts (\$253,069), nor Joy Ranch, capital campaign income and expense. As of January 31, 2013 the balance in the Lutherans Outdoors endowment is \$741,945.*

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





# TAKE TIME AWAY CONNECT GROW BE RENEWED



**WE HAVE OVER 1,000 LIKES ON FACEBOOK  
HAVE YOU LIKED US YET?**



**ARE YOU ON OUR EMAIL LIST?**



**DO YOU FOLLOW LO CAMPS ON TWITTER?**

**GO ONLINE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LO  
NEWS & PICTURES.**

## www.LOSD.org



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### ATLANTIC MOUNTAIN RANCH

605-673-4040  
amr@losd.org

**50th Celebration Weekend**  
Friday, July 5 -  
Sunday, July 7, 2013

**LO Quilt Auction**  
Sunday, August 25, 2013  
*Auction begins at 1pm*  
Quilt Viewing and Events  
begin August 22nd

### JOY RANCH

605-886-4622  
joyranch@losd.org

### KLEIN RANCH

605-947-4440  
nesodak@losd.org

**40th Celebration Weekend**  
June 21 - 23, 2013

**Sunday Worship**  
June 2nd - August 18, 11am

### NESO DAK

605-947-4440  
nesodak@losd.org

### OUTLAW RANCH

605-673-4040  
outlaw@losd.org

**Work Day**  
Saturday, June 2, 2013  
**Outlaw Rendezvous with Reza**  
Saturday, June 29, 2013  
Rapid City Main Street Square,  
7:30pm



**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., served by Pastor Kwen Sanderson.

As many of you know, Dysmas is the name given to one of the criminals who was crucified next to Jesus. He defended Jesus when the other (tradition gives him the name of Gestas) ridiculed Jesus. Dysmas then asked Jesus: "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied: "Today you will be with me in paradise." Dysmas became a saved, accepted person. Not just a convicted criminal who was getting what he deserved.

This year the Acts of the Apostles is one of the highlighted passages for our Sunday worship readings. It is not a comfortable book. It is an exciting book as the rapid progress of the church is described. It is inspiring to see the dedication of so many people as they responded to the Holy Spirit's leading. Paul, Peter, Barnabas, Stephen, Philip, Cornelius, Lydia, Timothy....the list goes on. They are truly inspiring. But....the book of Acts isn't really about what they did. It is about what God did through them. God is the author of the mission. The Holy Spirit is really what the book is about.

So, we gather every year in synod assembly and ask ourselves what did God do last year? What has God been doing among us? Even more important: What **IS** God doing not only among us, but through us? How is he reminding us that he is the author of the mission and we are merely swept along by the power of the vision he gives.

One can (and should) look at statistics. In 2009 average attendance of inmates was 56. In 2013 average attendance was 101. In Springfield that attendance was nearly 70. In both Sioux Falls and Springfield 52 Thursday worship services were held (Holy Communion is served at all worship services). Once again, we had, in Sioux Falls, nearly 900 outside worship visitors. Weekly Bible Study and Choir practices are held. Half of my call is as Pastor/Developer for St. Dysmas and as part of those duties I was privileged to be in 29 parishes, 35 churches, with 11 other speaking engagements. Financially, St. Dysmas ended 2013 with an income that met expenses. Truly the Spirit has been moving not only within the walls of our penitentiaries with among the churches and individuals of South Dakota who have been moved to support his ministry of grace and hope.

2013 will be a year of transition for St. Dysmas. Toward the end of the year I will be retiring as pastor in Sioux Falls after 5 years of ministry here. Jaki Thoms, our Office Manager, will also be leaving to pursue full-time employment opportunities. Change is rarely easy. Yet, we are reminded that God is the one who directs the mission and he will continue to do that. Please pray for the ministry of St. Dysmas that God will move to bring together a new team that he will use to carry the mission forward.

Thank you to all who, by your prayers, contributions, worship attendance, and witness, have made this piece of God's mission such an exciting thing to be part of!

In Christ,  
Pastor Marlin Wangsness



Dear 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 a few things you might not know about us:

1. We have three divisions: [Augsburg Fortress](#) creating group use faith formation, worship and music resources for congregations; [sparkhouse](#), creating group use faith formation resources for the ELCA and other mainline denominations; and, [Fortress Press](#), focusing on text and reference materials in the areas of religion and theology.
2. Our most exciting new resource for 2013 is [Prelude Music Planner](#), a web-based subscription resource for church musicians! Here are a few features:
  - *Prelude* allows church musicians to create music plans easily in just a few clicks. Quickly browse hundreds of pieces based on lectionary days, keywords, skill level and more.
  - Download new music in *Prelude's* multi-publisher library. Preview sheet music and listen to audio before purchasing, and organize your church's existing music library.Augsburg Fortress is offering free 14-day trials for *Prelude Music Planner* and free webinars for an overview and questions & answers. <http://Preludemusicplanner.org>.
3. In 2012 we launched two new Sunday school resources for kids: [Holy Moly!](#) (Sunday school for preschool-grade 4) and [Connect!](#) (Sunday school for "tweens" in grades 5 & 6). New content has been added in 2013 for both of these faith formation resources for kids. Samples of the print learner & leader resources and videos are available at [wearesparkhouse.org](#).
4. We have launched innovative print & video based confirmation and youth resources. These include: [re:form](#); [re:form Traditions](#) (with versions for Lutheran, Reformed & Methodist traditions); and [re:form Ancestors](#) (Old Testament & New Testament). Samples of the print learner & leader resources and videos are available at [wearesparkhouse.org](#).
5. [animate.faith](#) is our first ecumenical introduction to Christianity resource from sparkhouse. Published in August 2012, it is being used in traditional small groups as well as non-traditional faith formation settings. In August 2013, a second resource will be published, [animate.bible](#). See [wearesparkhouse.org](#) for samples!
6. In November 2012, [Fortress Press](#) announced a new brand at the AAR/SBL (teaching theologians) conference. We expect to publish more books (both print & digital formats) over the next few years in three primary areas: Fortress Education (textbooks); Fortress Academic (monographs); and Fortress Reference. You can learn more about our Fortress Press publishing plans at [fortresspress.com](#).

Thank you for your interest in and continuing support of your ministry of publishing! Please check our websites and don't hesitate to contact our Customer Care team at 800-328-4648 or your assigned [Congregational Resource Representative](#).

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

*Beth A Lewis, President & CEO*  
[ceo@augsbουργfortress.org](mailto:ceo@augsbουργfortress.org)  
[@bethalewis](#)

PO Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209 • Toll-free: 800-328-4648 • Web: [augsbουργfortress.org](http://augsbουργfortress.org)





Personal greetings to your Assembly Delegation and through you, to the members of your congregations.

I am nearing completion of my first year among you, as President of Carthage College. Among my earliest impressions of this strong and vibrant institution is its identity through 166 years as a Lutheran-related college. I seek to assure you that this identity shall be respected, preserved and strengthened. A small, private college deserves and needs a distinction, a specific reason to help it stand out among a throng of other excellent educational institutions. Carthage is church-related and we want to celebrate that fact.

We have moved this year to revive the popular Torchbearer relationship with congregations to improve our mutual dialogue, and I invite each one to respond to our liaison, The Rev. Dr. Carl Johnson when he calls with an invitation. Also, I seek your support and advice. Visit the campus so that we can meet as our schedules permit. Arrange a campus tour or write to me with your greeting or concerns: [president@carthage.edu](mailto:president@carthage.edu). You might also look at the Carthage website, [www.carthage.edu](http://www.carthage.edu), where you can take virtual tours and enjoy a variety of videos.

Now, celebrate with me the status of your college:

- At near-capacity, 2,546 full-time and 617 part-time students this year are being served by 149 full-time and 169 part-time faculty. Approximately 30% of our students are Lutheran, and 50% are Catholic. This past fall, students moved into the 6th and final dormitory in our new Oaks subdivision, a former Kenosha public park facing beautiful Lake Michigan. They enjoy the new Campbell student union, a state-of-the-art facility named after 25 year president, F. Gregory Campbell and his wife, Barbara. This spring, our students, plus teams from Kenosha and Racine, will begin to enjoy our new baseball field and stadium, dedicated in honor of widely known sports director, Augie Schmidt.
- Carthage extends far beyond our 80 acre arboretum campus. Annually over 500 students study across the United States and around the world, from Central America to Europe to Central and Eastern Asia. International students join Target Language Experts from 7 countries as they live among, teach, and bring cultural diversity to the campus community. In support of such diversity and inclusiveness, our Chapel ministries have enabled Jewish holiday observances and shared Ash Wednesday services and study projects with Catholic ministries. Intentional admissions recruitment is directed at racial and ethnic variety.
- Financially, Carthage remains strong, with endowment at an all-time high in spite of recent crises. This marks the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of operating surpluses. Our facilities are being maintained, with over \$3.5 million spent this past year on repair, improvements and off-campus parking facilities. Significant capital additions are in the planning stage, including a welcome center and a performing arts center. In the spring of 2014 we will begin construction of a new science building with state-of-the-art teaching and laboratory facilities.

So, I invite you to pray with us, that we may be dutiful servants of the Lord. And celebrate with us the faithful and effective service of those who give their lives and careers to your college, Carthage.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Woodward, President

## **Greetings**

Concordia rejoices in its historic identity as a liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A college, therefore, that prepares students to be globally aware, intellectually capable, ethically grounded, religiously fluent, compassionately guided, and justice-oriented for benefit of the common good.

## **Inauguration**

On April 28, 2012, Concordia formally inaugurated Dr. William J. Craft to serve as the College's eleventh president. Public observance included an Inaugural Chapel service of worship, an Inaugural Seminar – *"The Liberal Arts in a Golden Age,"* and an introduction to the College's new theological resource, The Forum on Faith and Life. Within his inaugural address, President Craft remarked, *"Concordia College is a communal act of faith – in learning, in beauty, and in the love of God."*

## **Strategic Plan**

In October, the Board of Regents formally adopted a five-year strategic plan presented by the President, *"Whole Self, Whole Life, Whole World:" The Plan for Concordia College, 2012 – 2015.*

The document may be viewed online at <http://www.cord.edu/About/president1.php>.

## **Enrollment**

2,573 undergraduate students, representing 34 states and 35 countries, currently attend Concordia. These students come from a variety of cultural backgrounds and faith traditions. 62% are female, 38% are male, and 57% claim Lutheran affiliation. Student-faculty ratio is 12.6 to 1.

## **Offutt School of Business**

Repurposing construction of the Grant Center was completed, on-time, and opened for classes in January, 2013. The Offutt School of Business is rooted in the liberal arts and inspired by best practices in undergraduate business curriculum, inclusive of: leadership development, ethical decision-making, entrepreneurial ingenuity, global competencies, and responsible citizenship.

## **Theological Leadership**

The *"Whole Self"* section of *"The Plan for Concordia College"* articulates the College's aim to be the leader among ELCA colleges in mutual ministry, faith and leadership formation, vocational exploration and discernment among students, spiritual development, and inter-faith conversation, and service for the sake of the church and the world. To achieve this aim, the College has invested significant resource into creation of a collaborative network of faculty and staff. This network includes: The Dove Center for Faith and Learning; The Forum on Faith and Life; The Lorentzen Center for Faith and Work; The Department of Religion's Faith and Leadership Concentration within Major; The Office of Ministry - pastoral; and The Office of Vocation and Church Leadership.

## **Vocation and Ministry**

Concordia remains at forefront among undergraduate institutions preparing students for theological study at seminaries, leading to eventual rostered leadership within the church. In 2012, Concordia graduates accounted for 11 of the ELCA's 57 Young Adults in Global Mission, tops among all schools. ELCA Lutheran Outdoor Ministries benefited from 53 Concordia students serving on summer staffs, coast-to-coast. The newly created Faith and Leadership concentration within Religion Major, together with The Forum on Faith and Life, have classes at full capacity – preparing students for service, leadership, and religious fluency in a variety of life and ministry contexts. Furthermore, pastoral staff and faculty at Concordia offered glad presence at multiple ELCA Synod Assemblies, ELCA Theological Conferences, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, and Lutheran Social Ministry settings in order to provide worship leadership, chaplaincy, preaching, keynote presentation, and consultation.

## **Grateful**

Thank you for commending Concordia to students, for prayerful support, and for an abundance of gifts which encourage and sustain our mutual work in the world. Soli Deo Gloria.

**Tom Schlotterback, Office of Vocation and Church Leadership**

901 South 8<sup>th</sup> 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:

**Grand View Awarded Grant for Vocation Initiative**

Grand View has been awarded a \$50,000 grant, funded by NetVUE (the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education), the Council of Independent Colleges, and the Lilly Endowment, to help us implement our vocation initiative.

The grant will be used as follows: Evolving from more than a decade of reflection and exploration by the campus community on its Lutheran identity, Grand View University is infusing the concepts and practices of vocational exploration into a new core curriculum, across campus, and among our alumni and off-campus constituency. The grant from NetVUE comes at a perfect time as we seek to place vocation at the center of what we are doing academically. The grant will be used for four principal endeavors: to provide extensive pedagogical development so that faculty will be ready to effectively guide vocation exploration with students; to develop an innovative vocation capstone within the curriculum; to initiate an annual campus-wide signature event that highlights the vocation outcome; and to claim our logo as being representative of the centrality of vocation in all that we are and do.

**Grand View Students Shine at Iowa College Media Awards**

Grand View University's KDPS radio station was named 2012 Radio Station of the Year and The Grand Views was named 2012 Newspaper of the Year at the Iowa College Media Association annual convention last week in Des Moines. The annual competition is judged by media professionals and features newspapers, radio stations, television stations and online outlets from colleges and universities across the state. Grand View University's radio station won Radio Station of the Year for the fourth year in a row at the Iowa College Media Awards. Grand View's KDPS radio, at 88.1 FM, has been named best in the state every year the award has been handed out. Grand View students won 15 of the 29 honors given in the radio categories. The Grand Views has won three of the past four years. Grand View communication students won more than 30 awards, including 13 first-place finishes.

**Grand View Wins Third Straight MCC Commissioner's Cup**

The Midwest Collegiate Conference has announced that Grand View University has won the Commissioner's Cup trophy for the 2011-12 athletic season. The Commissioner's Cup honors all-around athletic excellence among MCC member schools. It is awarded to the institution with the highest cumulative score as determined by a rating system that includes points awarded at the end of the regular season of each championship sport sponsored by the MCC. The Vikings dominated championships across the MCC in the 2011-12 athletic season, winning regular season crowns in women's cross country, men's soccer, volleyball and women's basketball, tying for regular season championships in baseball and women's soccer, and also sweeping the men's and women's indoor and outdoor track & field as well as men's and women's golf titles. In addition to its Midwest Collegiate Conference achievements, in 2011-12, the Vikings also won the Mid-States Football Association (MSFA) Midwest League title and qualified for the NAIA Playoffs for the first time, won the Cliff Keen National Wrestling Duals, the NAIA Wrestling Central Qualifier, NAIA National Wrestling Championship, had two national individual wrestling champions, and qualified for the national tournament in men's and women's bowling for the first time.

**Grand View Receives Hometown Hero Award**

Grand View University has been recognized for its commitment to the community, Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Des Moines Area Sports Commission through various acts of generosity, volunteerism, visitor services, donations and partnerships with Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau/Des Moines Area Sports Commission staff, clients and partners. Grand View received the Hometown Hero award. GV has won numerous awards including the MCC Commissioner's Cup, 13 of 18 possible conference championships and the Five Star Champions of Character award.

**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](http://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](http://www.grandview.edu)

**• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2012 •**

Greetings to you from your colleagues in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! With excitement we are pleased to announce that during this year Gustavus made the appointment of Dr. Marcia J. Bunge to the Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Studies. In announcing her appointment President Jack R. Ohle said, “Dr. Bunge has the energy, enthusiasm, and character to advance the Lutheran tradition in the classroom and in public forums, and has strong interest in relating to faculty, congregations, and the larger Church. Her work as the Bernhardson Chair is critical to helping Gustavus articulate what it means to be a church-related liberal arts college today.” Dr. Bunge, who is currently serving as professor of humanities and theology at Christ College, the Honors College of Valparaiso University, and will officially begin her duties at Gustavus on January 1, 2013.

In September 2011, at the Opening Dinner of the Gustavus Sesquicentennial, the College kicked off a comprehensive fundraising effort, *Campaign Gustavus*. The campaign began with just over \$71 million in total commitments. We are proud to announce that during 2012 *Campaign Gustavus* reached a significant milestone. Thanks to the generosity and vision of many alumni and friends of the College, the *Campaign* has reached \$100 million in gifts and commitments toward the *Campaign's* goal of \$150 million.

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](http://www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations). 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.

**MARK YOUR 2013 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**• Annual Gustavus Faith Conference — APRIL 20, 2013**

The theme for the 2013 conference will be “*Road to the Reformation: Deepening our Lutheran Theological Roots.*”

Dr. Martin E. Marty, professor emeritus in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago will speak on the question, “*What Do Lutherans Have to Offer the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?*” The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, study secretary for the Department of Theology and Public Witness of the Lutheran World Federation will bring a second keynote address on the topic, “*Lutheranism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: African Perspectives.*” The Gustavus Faith Conference is open to the public.

**• Student Leadership Day—also APRIL 20, 2013**, a separate event and great opportunity for congregations to bring 5 to 10 key student leaders for this upbeat student leadership development event that features live music and small group discussion time. Tiger McLuen of Youth Leadership will bring the keynote address.

**• MAYDAY! Peace Conference—MAY 1, 2013**

**• Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 1-2, 2013** “*The Universe at Its Limits*”

**• Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 6-8, 2013**

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](http://www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations). Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Rev. Grady St. Dennis  
College Chaplain/Director for Church Relations

**MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT**

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Church Relations | DIRECT 507-933-7001 | FAX 507-933-6337 | [church-relations@gustavus.edu](mailto:church-relations@gustavus.edu)  
800 West College Avenue | St. Peter, Minnesota 56082-1498 | 507-933-8000 | [gustavus.edu](http://gustavus.edu)



## ELCA Synod Assemblies 2013

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 academic grade point average in high school was 3.64. The median ACT composite score was 29, and the median combined SAT score was 1310. Fifteen percent of the students identify themselves as having a multi-cultural heritage, and 5.5% are international students. 43% 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. The Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career provides programs and services to assist students as they discern their vocations and prepare for their careers during their four years at St. Olaf.

The Martin E. Marty Professor of Religion and the Academy for 2013-14 is the Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock '62. Dr. Jodock holds the MDiv degree from Luther Seminary and the PhD from Yale University. He founded the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding at Muhlenberg College and most recently served as the Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Professor of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College. Dr. Jodock is the author of numerous articles and books, including *The Church's Bible: Its Contemporary Authority* (Fortress, 1989). He is the co-editor of *Covenantal Conversations: Christians in Dialogue with Jews and Judaism* (Fortress, 2008).

In September 2012, the Rev. Dr. Matthew Marohl was installed as St. Olaf's College Pastor. Pastor Marohl, who previously served ELCA congregations in Illinois and Iowa, serves as pastor to the St. Olaf Student Congregation and chaplain to the St. Olaf community.

I invite you to visit St. Olaf in one of two ways. Come to campus to join us at concerts, lectures, conferences, or summer camps. Or, visit the St. Olaf website at [www.stolaf.edu](http://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 encourage you to send students to St. Olaf, and we thank you for your prayers and support.

David R. Anderson '74  
President



## 2012 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.*

“Living our learning; claiming our calling; transforming tomorrow” are key elements of the college’s strategic plan, moving the college forward as it fulfills and expands its historic mission as a college of the church.

The past year has witnessed a host of accomplishments that highlight the effectiveness and strength of the Wartburg College mission:

- A total of 368 students made more than 480 presentations at the college’s first annual Research, Internship, and Creative Endeavor Day (RICE), a daylong focus on student learning through research, internships, performance, and creative expression.
- The faculty voted unanimously to establish a new major, Peace and Justice Studies. This interdisciplinary program prepares students for vocations in organizations that seek to establish peace and justice among individuals, communities, and nations.
- The Class of 2012 set records for study abroad (53%) and liberal arts majors (52%).
- Under the direction of Gail Sexton, coordinator of church relations and faith community outreach, congregational and community partnerships have grown dramatically. Students are serving in volunteer work, internships, research projects, and job shadowing in congregations and congregational outreach.
- The college received \$1.5 million for the Social Work program, including gifts from O. Jay and Pat Tomson to establish Wartburg’s first Distinguished Chair in Social Work and Jack and Sarah Salzwedel to establish the Slife Institute for Social Work Consultation, Research and Training, named in honor of Sarah’s parents, the late Harry and Polly Slife. Harry Slife was a former member and president of the Wartburg Board of Regents.
- Dr. Mark Biermann began his work as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.
- Dr. Kunihiro Terasawa filled the new world religions position in the religion and philosophy department.
- A newly formed Mission Effectiveness Committee oversees the work of the strategic plan, aimed at fostering a “culture of collaboration and transparency,” reviewing best practices and improving quality.
- The women’s indoor and outdoor track and field teams and the wrestling team won national Division III championships. Coach Marcus Newsom was recognized for the sixth time as U.S. Track Coaches Association Division III indoor women’s Coach of the Year. Under his leadership Wartburg has won 10 straight indoor women’s conference championship/conference invitational titles. The wrestling team won its 20th consecutive conference title on the way to its ninth national championship.
- Through the work of Kelsey Nulph, ’14, Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry partnered with the ELCA Malaria Initiative to help support a year-long Wartburg Malaria Initiative aimed at education and fund-raising. By January 2013, the effort had raised more than \$24,000. The Wartburg Malaria Initiative’s work includes a dozen campus departments, more than 600 student volunteers, and the Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA. The initiative culminates on March 16, 2013, with a benefit concert featuring alumni and student bands. All gifts will be matched by the Sorenson family, whose generosity has made the initiative possible on all levels.
- Creative leadership from the communication arts department and the President’s Office resulted in a partnership with Deutsche Welle broadcasting in Bonn, Germany. The shared work includes satellite feeds, internships, and a variety of other initiatives.
- The annual Graven Award was given to Dr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, director of research and evaluation at the ELCA churchwide offices and author of *Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of the Mainline Churches*.
- Two Wartburg alums, 64 Wartburg students, and 17 faculty/staff initiated leadership roles to promote awareness and raise funds to build three fresh water wells in Ethiopia through Water to Thrive.

Wartburg College continues to find focus in a mission that is vibrantly alive and transformative for the entire college community. Faculty and staff find challenge and nurture in their work with students, and students find themselves on a quest to become alumni recognized for creative contributions to church, their communities, and the world.

Darrel D. Colson  
President

Rev. Ramona S. Bouzard  
Dean of the Chapel

# 2013 BALLOT

## **Consultation Committee:**

(Six year term, without consecutive re-election)

### **1 Lay Vacancy**

1. Patrick Mikkonen, Mount Vernon

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Discipline Committee:**

(Six year term, without consecutive re-election)

### **2 Clergy Vacancies**

1. Rev. Bob Hansen, Christ Lutheran, Hartford

2. Rev. Constanze Hagmaier, Trinity Lutheran, Madison

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Synod Council Youth Representative:**

(Two year term)

### **1 Vacancy**

1. Matthew Johnson, Gloria Dei, Sioux Falls

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Lutheran Social Services Board of Directors:**

(Three year term, with no more than three consecutive re-elections)

### **Four Vacancies**

1. Prairie Rivers – James Tharp, Huron (1<sup>st</sup> term)

2. Prairie Coteau – Rev. Carl Larson,  
American Lutheran, Milbank (1<sup>st</sup> term)

3. Medary – Barb Fishback, Brookings (3rd term)

4. Bear Butte – Mary Minton, Rapid City (3rd term)



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

Dear South Dakota Synod voting members,

The task of electing our Synod's Bishop is an important one. Included in your Assembly materials is the "Process for Electing a Bishop" from the South Dakota Synod Constitution. It is included so that you can be familiar with the process before you come and for referral once we engage the process at Assembly.

There has been much conversation leading up to this election; please refer to [www.sdsynod.org/bishopelection](http://www.sdsynod.org/bishopelection) on the synod website to find more information on the Bishop Election and the communications and processes that have been happening leading up to Assembly time. This information on the website includes the vita for Bishop David Zellmer. Although most Conferences identified potential nominees for the office of Bishop, at this time, none of those nominees except for the current Bishop, David Zellmer, have chosen to be included in the pre-assembly consideration. It is important to note that because no one is actually a nominee until the first ballot of the Assembly, there is also no official withdrawal process until the Assembly and any ordained pastor in the ELCA, including those named at Conference Assemblies, can still be nominated on that first ballot of the Assembly.

Finally, the prayer below is offered:

*Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the church to lead us into all truth. Bless with the Spirit's grace and presence the people of the South Dakota Synod as we prepare to elect a bishop. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may manifest your glory and prepare for the way of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

God's Blessings, Bishop Election Committee

Pastor Dwight Stensgaard, Chair  
Pastor Heidi Binstock  
John Rasmussen



**South Dakota Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## **Process for Electing a Bishop**

### **From Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions**

### **August 2012**

**S9.04.** The Bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The process of nomination and election shall be as provided in the bylaws.

**S9.04.01** The Bishop shall be elected by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

**S9.04.02** Other election matters, such as the process of identifying potential nominees leading to the election of a bishop, and the rules of procedure for the election of a bishop shall be specified in the continuing resolutions of the South Dakota Synod Constitution, as approved by the Synod Assembly one (1) year prior to the assembly at which a bishop is to be elected.

**S9.04.A12** Process of Identifying Potential Nominees Leading to the Election of a Bishop:

1. An incumbent bishop shall announce to the Synod Council whether he or she is willing to serve a subsequent term. Such announcement shall take place no later than the Synod Council meeting in November prior to the Synod Assembly during which a bishop is to be elected.
2. The processes for identifying potential nominees for Bishop and election of a Bishop shall apply for all elections of a Bishop.
3. The Synod Council shall arrange for a synod study to be completed six months prior to the beginning of the election process. The synod study and any strategic planning adopted by the Synod Council shall be distributed to rostered members and congregations of the synod six months prior to the election, providing guidance throughout this synod as potential nominees for bishop are identified.

4. At the assembly of each conference prior to the election of a bishop, held no later than 75 days prior to Synod Assembly, the voting members will be asked to consider a set of topics developed by the Synod Council designed to clarify the vision for this synod's mission, the issues they deem important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. The secretary of each conference shall provide minutes of this discussion to the secretary of the synod for use by the Synod Council.
5. At the same conference assembly, the voting members will be asked to identify currently rostered ELCA pastors whom the voting members believe have gifts desirable in a bishop. Identified pastors do not need to be members of the conference or of the South Dakota Synod. All ELCA pastors are encouraged to give permission to be considered in the discernment process.
6. After all voting members have had opportunity to identify potential nominees possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the voting members will, at the same assembly, engage in a process of their own determination to select up to three potential nominees, the names of whom are to be forwarded to the synod for inclusion among the potential nominees for the office of bishop.
7. The dean of each conference will contact the individuals selected by the conference to confirm their willingness to have their names included with those selected by all the conferences as possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these individuals reaffirm their willingness to be so identified, the dean will facilitate their completion of a biographical information form developed by the Synod Council. The potential nominees are to submit these completed forms to the secretary of the synod within ten days of the conference assembly.
8. The secretary of the synod will post on the synod website 45 days before the Synod Assembly begins the names and biographical information of the potential nominees for the office of bishop selected by the conferences. Other information also may be posted.
9. While these individuals are identified as potential nominees for the office of bishop, the South Dakota Synod will continue to use the ecclesiastical ballot in which the name of any ELCA ordained minister may be placed in nomination on the first ballot. Any person identified as a potential nominee must still be nominated on the first ballot by a voting member at the assembly.
10. The Synod Assembly will adopt Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop based upon the ecclesiastical ballot as required by the South Dakota Synod Constitution.

**S9.04.B12** Rules for the Procedure for the Election of a Bishop



1. In accordance with the South Dakota Synod Constitution, the election of a bishop shall be by ecclesiastical ballot. There shall be no spoken nominations from the floor.
2. Any ordained minister in the ELCA is eligible for nomination for bishop. A valid ballot is to contain the nominee's full name as found in the clergy roster. All registered voting members of the South Dakota Synod Assembly shall be eligible to cast a ballot.
3. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the first ballot shall be necessary for the election of a bishop.
4. If no election occurs, the first ballot is the nominating ballot. This ballot becomes the total slate of nominees.
5. Clergy who are nominated on the nominating ballot and desire that their name be retained on subsequent ballots shall submit a complete biographical form to the secretary of the synod. This may be done electronically for candidates not present.
6. Clergy nominated on the first ballot shall have the right to withdraw their names from subsequent ballots before the casting of the second ballot. A form requesting the name to be withdrawn must be secured from the synod secretary and must be returned to the secretary of the synod by (insert time and day). This may be done electronically for candidates not present.
7. On the second and all subsequent ballots, the order of listing of the nominees on the ballot shall be from the greatest number of ballots cast to the least. Ties shall be listed alphabetically. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election.
8. Following the report of the second ballot, biographical data for the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot shall be distributed to all voting members.
9. Before the casting of the third ballot, the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot shall be invited to the stage and be introduced by name to the members of the assembly. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each individual introduction. After time has been allotted for all voting members to read the biographical information of the seven nominees (plus ties) will be invited to address the assembly on a subject of their own choosing, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly, the individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to speak on her or his behalf. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot. There shall be

no applause before, during, or after individual speeches; only after all have spoken is there to be such affirmation. There shall be ten minutes' time allotted after these speeches for voting members to engage in prayer, reflection on the speeches, and informal conversation with other voting members before the third ballot is cast.

10. Two-thirds of the vote shall be necessary for election on the third ballot.
11. Prior to the fourth ballot for synod bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question- and-answer period. The period shall be moderated by the designated presider for the election process. The same six questions shall be asked of each of the nominees. Only one nominee shall be in the assembly room at a time. The order that the nominees shall appear on stage to answer the questions shall be determined by the draw of name. Each nominee shall have a maximum of two minutes to respond to each question. If any nominee is not present at the assembly, that individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to answer on her or his behalf. A time keeper will indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allotted time and when the allotted time has ended.

Questions to be asked shall be determined by a committee appointed by the Synod Council. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly may submit questions in a sealed envelope to the secretary of the synod, or the secretary's designee (list date, day, and time certain for the deadline). The time for the question-and-answer period shall be a maximum of 45 minutes. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each answer; only after the question-and-answer period has come to an end is there to be such affirmation.

12. Prior to the casting of the fourth ballot, there will be time for prayer, reflection on the speeches, and informal conversation with other voting members. Sixty percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the fourth ballot.
13. On ballots after the fourth ballot, the ballots shall be limited to the two nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes cast.
14. On all subsequent ballots a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election.
15. The results of each ballot shall be printed, distributed, and announced to the assembly.

**S9.04.10.** The process of the nomination and election of the Synod Bishop shall be supervised by the Bishop Elections Committee which shall consist of three persons appointed by the Synod Council. The Bishop Elections Committee shall have final authority for all matters pertaining to the election.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

### NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD

1. Name: Darcie Bien
2. Current Position: Publications Secretary & Sunday School Administrator at Ascension
3. Congregation Membership: Ascension Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD
4. Date and Year of Birth: 4/7/70
5. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):
  - B.A. Business Administration & Accounting, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, 1992
6. List up to five (5) current or past synodical or churchwide activities that would inform your service as vice president of this synod.
  - Board Member, Lutherans Outdoors in SD; 4/2006 - 6/2013;  
Past President
7. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as vice president of this synod.
  - Board Member, Brookings Foundation
  - Leader and member of various PTA and school related committees
  - WELCA member, Youth Group leader at Ascension
8. What gifts would you bring to the office of vice president of this synod?  
(1000 characters maximum)

My gifts include organization, financial understanding, faithfulness, dedication & loyalty. I have a genuine concern for the church and its people. Through my work with the Lutherans Outdoors in SD Board of Directors I have been able to network with members of the SD Synod from around the state

9. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1000 characters maximum)

I've heard it said that, "Our faith is one generation away from extinction." In our culture of declining Christianity and declining participation in ELCA congregations, in particular, it is becoming increasingly challenging to pass on our faith in Christ to the next generation and raise up future leaders in the church. Reaching beyond our walls to youth and young families, meeting basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) of our neighbors, providing opportunities for

leadership and service to our youth and adults alike, and creating cross-generational opportunities for people to share their faith stories are all ways we can intentionally spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and show God's love to others. Funding a budget that supports those aforementioned programs is a secondary challenge and one in which we rely greatly on faith!

10. Describe your leadership style. (1000 characters maximum)

I am a leader who leads by example. I work with many volunteers, and my job is to recruit the right people, motivate and train them to do their work, and thank them for their service. In times of conflict, I generally understand both sides of an issue and enjoy the discussion that leads to consensus (or not). I am not afraid to "agree to disagree," and will support decisions made by the larger body.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

### NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD

1. Name: Carla Borchardt
2. Current Position: Director of Professional Nursing Practice, Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center, Sioux Falls (1997-present)
3. Congregation Membership: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls
4. Date and Year of Birth: 11/07/61
5. Previous Positions:
  - Unit Supervisor, Staff RN, Avera McKennan (1987-1997)
  - RN, Hendrick Medical Center, Abilene, TX (1984-1987)
6. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):
  - Enrolled in Doctor of Nursing Practice program, American Sentinel University (graduate 2015)
  - MS, Healthcare Administration, University of South Dakota (2001)
  - BA, Nursing, Augustana College (1984)
7. List up to five (5) current or past synodical or churchwide activities that would inform your service as vice president of this synod.
  - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls: President, yearly Nicaragua Medical Mission trips (coordinator and participant)
  - South Dakota Synod: Secretary, Strategic Planning Task Force, Churchwide Assembly voting member
8. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as vice president of this synod.
  - Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota volunteer
  - Junior Achievement classroom volunteer
  - Feed My Starving Children
  - Food to You Mobile Food Pantry, Sioux Falls
9. What gifts would you bring to the office of vice president of this synod? (1000 characters maximum)
  - Grounded in the knowledge that I am a Child of God and have been marked with the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit through my baptism.
  - A passion for the church, the work of the church and the inter-relatedness of

- congregations, the synod and ELCA.
- A desire to make a positive difference in people's lives.
- Organized and detail oriented, with the ability to also see the big picture.
- The ability to solicit and listen to differing perspectives and facilitate discussion leading to common understanding.
- Serve in leadership roles in the church and professional organizations. Over 15 years of leadership experience in the health care setting, working with people from various backgrounds, professions and viewpoints.
- The ability to coordinate and manage complex projects to successful completion.

10. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1000 characters maximum)

There is much to celebrate in our synod – over 50 new rostered leaders have entered the ministry in the last five years, youth are actively engaged in varied ministry and service opportunities, and there is a revitalized sense of energy around faith practices.

- Moving past the turmoil and divisiveness of the past four years -- addressed by focusing on the many opportunities for mission and ministry
- Decreasing population in some areas -- addressed by seeking out ways to creatively share resources and best practices for ministry including use of technology
- Continued economic uncertainty -- addressed by fostering relationships with church related and secular partners such as Lutheran Social Services and Feeding South Dakota
- Finding ways to share the Good News and meet the needs of the unchurched and those who have left the church -- addressed by actively listening to each other

11. Describe your leadership style. (1000 characters maximum)

I believe in servant leadership. Those affected by decisions should be involved in the discussion and decision making process. I strive to ensure the opportunity for all voices and perspectives to be heard in a respectful manner leading to better understanding and solutions. I do not micro-manage, believing if clear goals are set and the right people are involved, the best decision will be made. I seek out information and make decisions based on data rather than emotion. While my primary leadership style is decision making by consensus, I am able to act decisively in critical situations.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

### NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD

1. Name: Susan Leddy
2. Congregation Membership: American Lutheran Church
3. Dates and Year of Birth: 1-21-64
4. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):
  - SDSU 1991-1993 - Master of Science Degree in Nursing
  - SDSU 1982-1987 - Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing
5. List up to five (5) current or past synodical or churchwide activities that would inform your service as secretary of this synod.
  - Board member of Lutheran Outdoors - 2007-2013
  - Task Force to develop strategic plan for the synod – 2012
  - Served on local church council - 1993-1996
  - Medical Mission trip to Nicaragua - February 2013
6. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as secretary of this synod.
  - President of the Grant County Heart Board
  - Board member of the Milbank High School Education Foundation
  - Committee member on Dean's Development Council College of Nursing SDSU
  - Leading youth from American Lutheran Church to Nicaragua for a mission trip-summer 2013
7. What gifts would you bring to the office of secretary of this synod?  
(1000 characters maximum)
  - Relationship development - I like to develop new relationships and engage with others. I have a dynamic outgoing personality and look forward to new situations and challenges. I like to network with people and develop relationships that facilitate growth for others. Making connections and utilizing resources from others is a great asset.
  - Decision making - I use critical thinking skills to process information and then make the best decision for the situation. I work as a family nurse practitioner in a rural health clinic that I am the sole provider for the past 18 years. We are 25 miles from the closest emergency room. This job has strengthened my ability to make decisions and helped me grow. It has taught me to make difficult decisions, utilize all resources available, and communicate. I have taken these experiences and use them for everything that I am involved with.
  - Passionate - I have passion for my church and the members that I worship with. I take that passion with me everyday to my job, my family, and community. I volunteer locally in the community and the church because of this passion.

- Prepared - I read all materials ahead of scheduled meetings and come fully prepared to discuss and take action if necessary.
8. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1000 characters maximum)

I believe the principle challenge facing the synod is declining church attendance and membership. One of the contributing factors influencing this is that young adults and families are noticeably absent in church on Sundays. Connecting with young families and understanding their needs should be a priority of the synod.

Another major factor impacting attendance is that rural congregations are losing members due to declining population and advanced ages of the members. As these demographic changes shrink these congregations, finding pastors to serve them is going to become more difficult than it already is. In many areas, reversing these demographic changes is probably impossible, so the challenge for the synod is finding innovative ways to help these congregations effectively serve their shrinking congregations.

9. Describe your leadership style. (1000 characters maximum)

My leadership style is a team member working to empower others. I have read the book, "The Corporate Person" by Harold Everson for my role on the Lutheran Outdoors Board. He states, "Without the board, you're not the board". I am one person serving in a group and rely on the opinions and values of those serving with me. Trust, communication, integrity, and clear understanding of functions are essential elements for a highly functioning organization. Empowering other board members strengthens the core of the board and allows for higher functioning and productivity.



BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD

1. Name: Sara Greff Dannen

2. Current Position: General Counsel

3. Congregation Membership: Gloria Dei

4. Date and Year of Birth: 10/11/75

5. Previous Positions:

- General Counsel, Advanced Asset Alliance, 2012
- Corporate Counsel, Northwestern Energy, 2008
- Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith, 2006

6. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):

- Juris Doctorate, University of South Dakota, 2001
- BS, Major Economics, University of South Dakota, 1998
- High School, TF Riggs, Pierre, South Dakota, 1994

7. List up to five (5) current or past synodical or churchwide activities that would inform your service as secretary of this synod.

- Constitution Committee
- President, Lutheran Memorial, Pierre
- Vice President, Lutheran Memorial, Pierre
- Secretary, Lutheran Memorial, Pierre

8. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as secretary of this synod.

- Judge for Teen Court
- Teen Court Board
- State Bar in-house counsel committee member
- Various community projects volunteer
- Vietnam Memorial Dedication Committee Member

9. What gifts would you bring to the office of secretary of this synod?

I bring many gifts to the Office of Secretary. I bring experience from being a secretary of a congregation. I bring dedication and devotion. I bring a desire to improve the ELCA and the drive to do the job.

10. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it?

The principal challenge we face in the next 6 years is unity. The Synod is only as strong as its weakest members and it is incumbent upon all of us to rally around, support, and uplift every Synod Member this year, next year, and in the next 6 years.

11. Describe your leadership style.

I try and lead first through example. The best leaders have paved the way by setting a standard to which others can look to as the customary way. I also believe in open and honest communications between yourself and others.

# 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.)

- I.01 a. Resolutions may be submitted to the Resolutions Committee by the Synod Council, Conference Councils or Assemblies, Synod Boards and Task Force Committees, the Regional Center for Mission Coordinating Council, Congregations of the Synod, Synod Auxiliaries, other ELCA Synod Assemblies, the Synod Bishop, Conference Caucuses, the Resolutions Committee, or corresponding Churchwide Expression of the ELCA. Resolutions from individuals must gain the approval of one of the above groups before their resolution will be considered. Every resolution shall have a specified source. The source of a resolution is the chair or designee of the entity submitting the resolution.

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

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

## Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

### South Dakota Synod, ELCA (continued)

- c. The order for presentation of resolutions shall be determined by the Chair of the Resolutions Committee, the Bishop, and Chair of the Synod Council. At the beginning of each plenary session the Assembly is to be informed of the intended schedule of all pending resolutions and may take action to change the order of presentation of resolutions.
- d. All resolutions or amendments dealing with one issue shall be presented together to the Assembly prior to action moved on any single resolution.
- e. As resolutions are received at the Synod Office, they should be edited for form and grammar by a committee appointed by the Bishop.

- 1.02 Resolutions shall include a title reflecting the content of the resolution, its origin, and a number assigned by the Committee.
- 1.03 The Committee, in consultation with the source of the resolution, may edit and revise each resolution for clarity and consistency.
- 1.04 The Committee must present each resolution substantially as it is received but may propose amendments. The sources of resolutions should be informed of Resolutions Committee recommendations prior to plenary presentation. Consultation with source of resolution is required in the case of substantive amendments prior to plenary presentation.
- 1.05 The Committee may also draft such resolutions it deems necessary or is directed by the Assembly.
- 1.06 The Committee shall forward each resolution to the Assembly with one of the following recommendations:
  - 1.06.01 **Do Pass**  
"Do Pass" indicates the Committee's approval of the resolution and places it on the floor of the Assembly. No further motion or second is needed.
  - 1.06.02 **Do Pass as Amended**  
"Do Pass as Amended" indicates the Committee's approval of the Resolution modified by the Committee's amendment(s) and places the Resolution and the Committee's amendment(s) on the floor without further motion or second. Both Resolution and amendment(s) are considered together.
  - 1.06.03 **No Recommendation**  
"No Recommendation" indicates the Committee's inability or unwillingness to make a common recommendation. For the Resolution to be considered, it must be moved and seconded from the floor of the Assembly.
  - 1.06.04 **Commit to Committee**  
"Commit to Committee" places a motion on the floor of the Assembly to refer the Resolution to one of the Synod Boards or Committees.

## Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

### South Dakota Synod, ELCA (continued)

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

#### Amendments

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

#### Procedural Motions

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

## Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

### South Dakota Synod, ELCA (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Speaking by Voting Members**

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

**Amendment of Rules**

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

# PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES SUMMARY

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



the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.

- +S6.06.** References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church – congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization – as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God’s mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

## **Chapter 7. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

- +S7.01.** This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly’s own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- +S7.11.** A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least biennially.
- S7.11.01.** The Synod Assembly of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall meet annually.
- S7.12.** Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.
  - b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the Synod Council after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S7.13.** Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod.
- S7.13.01.** Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be published in official publications established by this Synod or mailed to the ordained ministers, Associates in Ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers, under call, on the official lay rosters of this synod and congregations, not less than 90 days before the meeting of the Assembly.
- S7.14.** One-half of members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- +S7.21.** The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows:
- a. All ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.

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

S7.21.A07

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

<b>* Baptized Member Increments</b>	<b>** Lay Voting Members</b>	<b>+ 16-21 Year Old Member</b>	<b>+ Person of Color and/or Non-English Origin</b>	<b>Maximum Total Lay Voting Members</b>
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, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod may serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly if they are elected by their congregations and if the 60 percent minimum representation of lay persons required by +S7.21. is satisfied.
- All retired ordained ministers, all ordained ministers on leave from call, all associates in ministry on leave from call or retired, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call or retired, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call or retired, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.23** The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.
- S7.24.** Ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the roster of ordained ministers of this synod. Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- +S7.25.** Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of authorized mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered congregations and authorized 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.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant an ordained minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ordained minister's service in a congregation of this church.
- S7.28.** Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under +S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.
- +S7.31.** Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.
- S7.32.** The Synod Rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall govern the procedure of the Synod Assembly.

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

**S7.40. Committees of the Synod Assembly**

S7.40.10. **Credentials Committee**

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

S7.40.20. **Election Committee**

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

S7.40.30. **Resolutions Committee**

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

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

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

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

**S7.50. Conference Caucus**

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

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

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

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

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

**Chapter 8. OFFICERS**

**+S8.01.** The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

**S8.10. Bishop**

**+S8.11.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a pastor who is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**+S8.12.** As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who shall:

