

**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

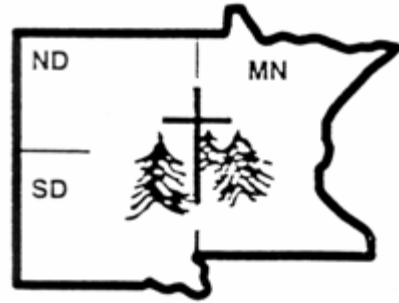
### *As of December 31, 2012:*

- 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**