

2015 SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

MAY 29-30, 2015



PRELIMINARY REPORT



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

Table of Contents

PART I – General Information

Proposed Assembly Agenda	4-5
Synod Assembly Committee and Contributors	6
Synod Directory	
Synod staff	7
Executive Committee	8
Synod Council	9-10
Representatives on Region III & Churchwide Boards	11
Committees: Support to Ministries, Candidacy, Audit, Consultation, Discipline Evangelical Outreach, and Multicultural	12-21

Part II – Bishop and Staff Reports

Report of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton	22-23
Report of Bishop David B. Zellmer	24
Anniversaries, Dedications, Roster Changes (Retirements, Necrology, Resignations, Removal, Ordinations, Transfers, Installations)	25-27
Report of Director of Evangelical Mission – Rev. Bill Tesch	28-29
Report of Associate to the Bishop – Susan Marone, AIM	30
Report of Director of Native American Ministries – Rev. Karen Rupp	31
Report of Youth & Family Director – Suzanne Hansen, AIM	32

PART III – Regional, Synod Board & Committees

Region III – Rev. Dr. Paul Bagylos	33
Region III Archives – Paul A. Daniels	34
ELCA Mission Investment Fund – Rev. Daniel Carlson	35
Region 3 Camping Network	36
Synod Council – Carla Borchardt, Vice President	37
Support to Ministries Committee – Rev. David Schoeld	38
Lutheran Campus Ministries – Clark Hanson.....	39
Candidacy Committee – John Rasmussen	40
Multicultrural Committee – Rev. Natanael Lizarazo	41
Evangelical Outreach Committee – Rev. Becky Piper	42
Companion Synod Committee – Rev. Natanael Lizarazo	43
Women of the ELCA – Vivian Westgard	44
South Dakota Thrivent Financial	45

PART IV – Sustained and Supported Ministries of the SD Synod

Augustana College, Sioux Falls	46
Chapel in the Hills	47
Good Samaritan Society	48
Heartland Ephphatha	49
Lutheran Planned Giving in South Dakota	50
Lutheran Social Services	51
Luther Seminary	52
Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota	53
St. Dymas Lutheran Congregations of South Dakota	54

PART V – Other Reports

Augsburg Fortress	55
Cathage College.....	56-57
Flandreau Indian School.....	58
Portico Benefit Services	59-61
St. Olaf College	62
Wartburg College	63

PART VI – References

2016 Proposed Mission Plan	64-65
Rules of Parliamentary Procedures	66-70
Summary of Parliamentary Procedure	71
Synod Constitution Chapter 7 Synod Assembly	72-75
Synod Conference Map	76
2015 Ballot	Separate Document *
Report of 2014 Audit	Separate Document *
Proposed 2016 Compensation Guidelines	Separate Document *
Resolutions Packet	Separate Document *

* Separate Documents available for download at www.sdsynod.org/15assembly.

2015 South Dakota Synod Assembly
May 28-30, 2015
Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapid City

Thursday, May 28

2:30-5:00 p.m. Worship Workshop with Jay Beech - Calvary Lutheran
4:00-6:00 p.m. Early Registration - Calvary Lutheran
6:00 p.m. Downtown Concert and Activities - Parking at Trinity Lutheran

Friday, May 29

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Displays and Book Store Open
8:00-9:15 a.m. Registration & Check-In
8:30 a.m. New Voting Member Orientation
8:45 a.m. Elections Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m. Worship Instructional Meeting

9:30-10:45 a.m. **Opening Worship With Holy Communion**

10:45-11:30 a.m. **Opening Of The Assembly**
Welcome & Introductions
State of the ELCA
Greeting from Good Samaritan Society
Announcements and Table Prayer

11:30-12:30 a.m. Lunch & Conference Caucuses

12:30 p.m. Resolutions Deadline

12:30-2:15 p.m. **First Plenary Session**
Introductions and Announcements
Credentials Committee Report
Voting Device Practice
Adoption of Rules
Adoption of Agenda
State of the Synod
Mission Interpreter Story
Resolutions
Treasurer's Report/Presentation of Mission Plan
Announcements

2:15-3:00 p.m. Break – Sponsored by Northern Plains Conference

2:25 p.m. Resolutions Committee Meeting

- 3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. **Second Plenary Session**
 Announcements
 Bible Study
 “Listen God Is Calling” Appeal
 Nominating Committee Report
 Elections
 Renewal Ministry
 World Hunger Presentation
 Bible Study
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. **Evening Meal And Celebration**
 Table Prayer
 Meal
 Celebration of Ordination, Anniversaries Retirement
 Celebration of New Pastors to SD Synod
 Celebrating St. Dymas’ 25 Years
 Keynote Address - Rev. Dr. Robin Steinke
 Closing Prayer

Saturday, May 30

- 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Displays and Book Store Open
- 7:00-8:00 a.m. Mission Prayer Breakfast
- 8:15-9:15 a.m. **Morning Worship And Communion**
- 9:15-10:15 a.m. **Third Plenary Session**
 Announcements and Opening Prayer
 Lutherans Outdoors Annual Meeting
- 10:15-10:45 a.m. Break – Sponsored by Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota
- 10:45-11:45 p.m. **Fourth Plenary Session**
 Mission Interpreter Story
 Credentials Committee Report
 Adoption of the Mission Plan
 Resolutions
- 11:45-12:00 p.m. Closing Of The Assembly
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch To-go
 Synod Council Meeting

SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Bishop David B. Zellmer
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Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Scotland
Rev. Brian Wasmoen, Redfield
Rev. David Piper, Rapid City
Tom Martin, Rapid City
Rev. Bill Tesch, Synod Staff
Susan Marone, AIM, Synod Staff
Kevin Stillson, Synod Staff

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Cassandra Lamb, Chair, Rapid City
Rev. Jeff Otterman, Belle Fourche
Rev. Janet Miller, Watertown
Seminarists assigned to SD

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Nick Oyen, Beresford
Rev. David Lund, Hartford
Doug Hansen, Webster
Rev. Michael Johnson, Flandreau
Rev. Galen Sylvester, Aberdeen
Rev. Craig Wexler, Hill City
Rev. Katie Jerabek, Huron

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Pastor Jonathan Steiner, Rapid City
Pastor David Piper, Rapid City

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Margie Neugebauer (2015)

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Bear Butte Conference (7)

Rev. Becky Piper (2015)

Calvary Lutheran
5311 Sheridan Lake Rd
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Vacant (2015)

Appointed

Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen (2016)

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Multicultural Ministry Committee

Prairie Coteau Conference (1)

Rev. Bill Schruba (2015)

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Vacant

Medary Conference (2)

Rev. Daryl Schubert (2015)

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Gayle Cole (2016)

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Crossroads Conference (3)

Rev. Natanael Lizarazo (2016)

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Southeastern Conference (4)

Rev. Kwen Sanderson (2016)

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Sheldon Engen (2015)

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Northern Plains Conference (5)

Rev. Tim Sersen (2015)

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Connie Woehlhaff (2016)

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Prairie Rivers Conference (6)

Rev. Chris Baesler (2014)

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Dennis Paulson (2014)

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Bear Butte Conference (7)

Rev. Arthur Art Weitschat (2015)

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Appointed

Rev. Karen Rupp (2013)

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Rev. Herb Wounded Head III (2016)

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Spring 2015

“Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be; let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand’ring heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.”

– Evangelical Lutheran Worship 807, verse 3

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are church. As members in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are found by and abiding in Christ; we are God’s beloved people gathered around word and sacrament. Every week you gather in your congregations to hear God’s word and to share in the Lord’s Supper, to know Christ crucified and Christ risen. My hope and prayer is that through our spiritual practices and our worship we are drawn closer to and are more aware of the love of God shown through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

As we gather in Christ’s name at our synod assemblies, I invite you to pray, with me, for one another and the work we do together across this church. Remembering the words of the apostle Paul: “So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).

In my international travels earlier this year, it became clear to me that the ELCA is part of the body of Christ that spans the globe and the centuries. When we consider issues such as the ecclesiology of a global church, or a unified Word and Service roster, or ministry to and with same-gender families, it is never, nor can it ever be, a conversation just among us.

This past fall, we entered the season of celebrating five years of our full communion partnership with the United Methodist Church. In late May, we join our Catholic sisters and brothers in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue, which over the years has produced 11 substantial reports. We continue our work in strengthening all of our ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships.

We also are accompanying our brothers and sisters globally. We have visited with unaccompanied migrant children and families fleeing their homes in the Northern Triangle countries of Central America. Companions in the region have shared about their struggles, root causes of this migration and avenues for ELCA response. ELCA members, synod bishops and churchwide staff have borne witness to and talked about ELCA plans for strategic engagement.

Through The Lutheran World Federation, we work with refugees and internally displaced people in Syria, Cameroon, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Kenya, Jordan, Ukraine, Iraq and many other places. We have made significant progress in controlling malaria and treating Ebola. We are developing a social statement on the social issue of women and justice. These are just a few of the ways that we are church for the sake of the world.

This summer brings two wonderful events. Both the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit and the Worship Jubilee in Atlanta will give us an opportunity to ask: How is God calling the church

today, and what does God's work mean for our service to our community and the world? These events will be a time for rich conversation, faith formation and renewal of worship for the sake of the gospel and for the life of the world.

Good progress continues to be made on the ELCA's observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Two communication platforms recently debuted: www.ELCA500.org and the "ELCA Reformation 500" Facebook page. The theme for the 500th anniversary observance is "Freed and Renewed in Christ," with the tagline, "500 Years of God's Grace in Action." This will also be the theme for the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. You are invited to come to the "Grace Gathering" in New Orleans, which will be held concurrently with the Churchwide Assembly on its last four days, Aug. 10-13, 2016. The goals of the Grace Gathering are for personal renewal in faith, to be equipped for meaningful observances of the 500th anniversary, and to increase the number of ELCA members who will take part in service-learning activities in New Orleans as part of the Churchwide Assembly. Please come!

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA is off to a good start with more than \$48.4 million in generous gifts and commitments toward the campaign priorities. This year we are seeking support for new and renewed congregations in *The Campaign for the ELCA*. The impact of the campaign will go far beyond the nearly \$200 million goal. It will establish a strong culture of stewardship in which this church will be well-positioned to do God's work in Jesus' name throughout the world for decades to come. Thank you for your support and prayers for this good work.

This coming Sept. 13, we will continue our tradition of a dedicated day of service. "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

God's blessings to you as you meet, discern, pray, vote, worship and sing together. This is a wonderful church, and I am honored to serve in it with you. Thank you for your faithful witness to the gospel.

God's peace,



Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



It has been a year of significant transitions both for me personally and for our South Dakota Synod. This past fall my father, The Rev. Bruce Zellmer passed away and so now both of my parents are no longer with us. Dad lived a wonderful life, rich in opportunity to serve our Lord as a parish pastor, a CPE Supervisor, a hospital chaplain and as a husband and father. I miss him and mom but also give thanks for the love and blessings that both of them bestowed on my family and I.

As a Synod, we reached our goal of raising money for 25 Church Roofs in Cameroon. The money has been sent and roofs are going up. Thank you to all the congregations that participated in meeting this challenge. In addition, the money that was raised from South Dakota to rebuild and expand the hospital in Garou Bouli has had an unintended benefit. Because of the violence in the Central African Republic (Cameroon's neighbor to the east), 250,000 refugees have come across the border. Without the expanded hospital, we would have had an even greater humanitarian crisis. Thank you to the individuals and congregations that worked to make it happen.

The most impactful transition that is effecting out congregations is the retirements of our pastors. During the recession retirements stopped but in the past 18 months retirements have started to happen early and many of them are leaving our state because of family. We have normally had 5 to 9 first call openings but recently we had 21 first call openings. The Holy Spirit has been doing its work, people and congregations have been answering the call to ministry. We are in the process of beginning 6 TEEM candidates who will serve congregations as they go to school. In this year's spring assignment we received 7 names of individuals who are coming to serve. That however still leaves 9 congregations where we do not have a name to send them.

This shortfall leads me into the importance of our mission campaign "Listen God is Calling" Never be the Same. It is primarily about the invitation, recruitment, development support and retention of leaders for the church in South Dakota. Your participation in the campaign will impact the future of the Church in significant ways.

Items for the future. At this assembly we will be electing people for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. It will be our first assembly in our new triennial schedule. September 13, 2015 has been designated as "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday. This summer I will be attending our Youth Gathering in Detroit with 1100 young people from across South Dakota. Later in July, I will be participating in the 25th Anniversary of our companion synod "Church of Faith & Hope" in Nicaragua.

I continue to be richly blessed by the love and support of my wife LaDonna, our children and grandchildren. You and I are well served by the Synod staff that works everyday to support the ministry of the congregations of the South Dakota Synod.

Thank you for your proclamation of the Good News in Jesus Christ and for making disciples to follow Jesus. Thank you as well for the opportunity and privilege of serving as your Bishop.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop David B Zellmer
South Dakota Synod, ELCA

CONGREGATION ANNIVERSARIES and ROSTER CHANGES

Anniversaries and Dedications

125th Anniversary

Kennebec Lutheran Church, Kennebec
Good Hope Lutheran Church, Willow Lake

100th Anniversary

Christ Lutheran Church, Salem

75th Anniversary

Grace Lutheran Church, Parker

50th Anniversary

Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wessington Springs

Commissioning

09/15/2014 Penny Steinken, AIM

Installations

06/08/2014	Rev. Michael Johnson, Flandreau, Our Savior's Lutheran
06/08/2014	Rev. Heidi Kvanli, Mitchell, First Lutheran
06/08/2014	Rev. Dr. Lonny Kvanli, Mitchell, First Lutheran
07/01/2014	Rev. Margie Hershey, Piedmont, Piedmont Valley Lutheran
07/27/2014	Rev. Trisha Boese, Harrisburg, Shalom Lutheran
07/27/2014	Rev. Lisa Heffernan, Chamberlain, Trinity Lutheran
08/24/2014	Rev. Durk Thompson, Arlington, Trinity Lutheran
09/07/2014	Rev. Daniel Nelson, Brandon, Brandon Lutheran
09/14/2014	Rev. Heidi Binstock, Sioux Falls, WestSide Lutheran
09/15/2014	Penny Steinken, AIM, Rapid City, Trinity Lutheran
10/15/2014	Rev. Rhia Strohm, Aberdeen, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran
01/25/2015	Rev. Katherine Olson, Sioux Falls, First Lutheran
08/03/2014	Rev. David Piper, Rapid City, Calvary Lutheran
08/31/2014	Rev. Arlyn Rusche, Lyman County Parish
09/14/2014	Rev. Daniel Nelson, Brandon, Brandon Lutheran/Split Rock
09/28/2014	Rev. Becky Senner, Zion, Canova, Bridgewater/Immanuel Lutheran
10/15/2014	Rev. Rhia Strohm, Aberdeen, Bethlehem Lutheran
10/19/2014	Rev. Jonathan Steiner, Rapid City, Atonement Lutheran
11/09/2014	Rev. Dwight Stensgaard, Sioux Falls, Gloria Dei Lutheran
12/07/2014	Rev. Janet Miller, Watertown, Grace Lutheran
12/14/2014	Rev. David Lund, Hartford, Christ Lutheran
02/28/2015	Rev. Becky Piper, Rapid City, Calvary Lutheran
04/19/2015	Rev. Erin Heidelberger, Zion, Aberdeen Lutheran
04/26/2015	Rev. Chris Strohm, Bristol, Bethesda Lutheran/Butler, Butler Lutheran
05/17/2015	Rev. Peter Strommen, Sioux Falls, First Lutheran

Leave from Call

06/11/2014	Alan Saatkamp, AIM
08/01/2014	Rev. Amber Marten Bergeson
10/27/2014	Rev. Deborah Grismer

Necrology

05/04/2014	Rev. Arthur Olsen
06/21/2014	Rev. Burnell Lund
06/28/2014	Rev. N Fred Hallstrom
09/05/2014	Rev. Donald Sneen
11/30/2014	Rev. Bruce Zellmer
04/10/2015	Rev. LeeRoy Eikanger

Ordinations

06/07/2014	Daniel Nelson
06/21/2014	Arlyn Rusche
06/28/2014	Lisa Heffernan
07/26/2014	Jonathan Steiner
08/24/2014	Durk Thompson
10/15/2014	Rhia Strohm
04/18/2015	Chris Strohm

Removed from Roster

10/13/2014	Rev. Jacalyn Griffin
02/15/2015	Sonja Nelson, AIM

Retired

05/01/2014	Rev. Carroll Marohl
06/01/2014	Pat Eidsness, AIM
09/01/2014	Rev. Lance Lindgren
01/01/2015	Rev. David Larson
02/01/2015	Rev. David Peterson
03/01/2015	Rev. Barbara Wangsness
03/01/2015	Rev. Linda Jorgensen
05/01/2015	Rev. Gary Anderson

Transferred Into South Dakota

06/08/2014	Rev. Michael Johnson
06/03/2014	Rev. Charles Berdahl
03/24/2015	Christie Meier, AIM
01/25/2015	Rev. Katherine Olson

Transferred Out of South Dakota

04/02/2014	Rev. David Astrup, 3D NW MN
05/01/2014	Rev. Anne-Marie Maldoon, 2E Rocky Mountain
05/05/2014	Rev. Molly Sasser-Goehner, 1F Montana
08/16/2014	Rev. Kent Narum, 1D E WA-ID
08/24/2014	Rev. Dana Lockhart, 6C Indiana-Kentucky
09/16/2014	Rev. Kirstin Kellaher, 5H NW Synod of WI
10/01/2014	Allen Sasser-Goehner, AIM, 1F Montana
10/10/2014	Rev. Wanda McNeill, 5B Northern IL
11/14/2014	Rev. Joann Conroy, 3H Saint Paul Area
12/01/2014	Rev. Rebecca Freeman, 3I Southeastern MN

2015 Report of Pastor Bill Tesch, Director for Evangelical Mission

In Acts 10, God comes to the Apostle Peter while he is praying/meditating and commands him to break a biblical rule – to kill and eat “unclean” animals. When Peter awakens, people are at the door pleading with him to come and share the news about Jesus with the worst kind of gentile sinner – a Roman! Peter’s slowness of mind is well documented in the Gospels, but in Acts his brain functions better. He immediately realizes that God has called to him to step outside his comfort zone and attempt something previously thought impossible, ill-advised - even forbidden! God is still doing that. This document is largely the report of that activity: how God through prayer has called people of the SD Synod to attempt new and previously inconceivable endeavors so that more people will hear and believe the gospel.

- 1) The Sioux Falls Area Mission Strategy Table: People have been gathering, dwelling in the word, listening to each other and praying in an effort to discern God’s will. Here is what is emerging:
 - a. A Ministry to Solve the Disease of Addiction in our congregations and community. This is in partnership with “Face it Together.” The outcome will be a set of deliverable services and products that will be modeled in the SF area but which can be transported anywhere.
 - b. A new worshipping community valuing and celebrating uniqueness and differences within two historic protestant traditions: Lutheran and Presbyterian. Martin Luther and John Calvin will be working together in the fastest growing area of our state – the west side of the Harrisburg School District – to form a completely new kind of congregation. (different than a federated ministry, such as we have in Kimball)
 - c. A ministry addressing the urgent needs of people who have no access to basic human services due to their immigration status.
 - d. A ministry engaging the homeless.
 - e. A network of geographically co-located congregations engaging in relational evangelism.
- 2) Standing Rock Indian Reservation Area Mission Strategy Table: I will be convening congregations within and around the reservation to explore ways they might work together to build relationships and share ministry with the people of Standing Rock. A generous offer of financial assistance from a person in TX is providing the occasion/opportunity for this exciting conversation.
- 3) Growing in Faith Together: This is a training program that teaches congregational leaders how to listen to God, each other and their community in order to form a deep sense of purpose and discover how God is calling them change and engage the world. (i.e.: This is about congregational renewal). It is intensive and requires commitment. While many congregations have affirmed the value of such a process - we are finding that the delivery system (a 4-day retreat) may be prohibitive for many potential participants. We are exploring ways to offer this on-site in shorter periods and expect to have at least one pilot group of congregational teams this year.
- 4) Growing Stewards: 15 congregations are part of our new initiative (called “Ventures”) to cultivate a culture of healthy stewardship. Their participation has been enthusiastic which is evidenced by the increasing size of congregational teams from one workshop to

the next. (The process involves a series of four workshops.) We have 17 certified trainers (the most in the ELCA) who work together to provide this excellent opportunity.

5) Ongoing work:

- a. Council Visits – Thank you for doing them. If you have not been part of this process of visiting congregation councils and saying “thank you,” you are missing out on the best part of this commitment to synod council. I visited a church last week, and there were tears in people’s eyes – “No one ever thanked us before. We don’t do it for recognition, but it’s still good to be recognized.”
- b. Pueblo de Dios: We have a new “indigenous” leader who has emerged! Maria Caballo Salmon is in the TEEM program. She will work with Pastor Jeanette Clark for one or two years before taking over as the pastoral leader.
- c. Pine Ridge: Pastor Karen Rupp is nearing retirement and we have been working to find a qualified leader to replace her. We have funding for the new “Ministry for Children and Youth” position and our initial thought is to wait until a new director is called to fill it – we believe this will simplify and streamline the transition.
- d. Woyatan: We continue to work with the congregation to develop short and long-term strategies for providing Word and Sacrament ministry. A potential partnership with a nearby Episcopal congregation has emerged and we have the possibility of a “new” (or “returning”) TEEM candidate. I’ve worked with them to make progress on some maintenance issues with the building and on some organizational issues with the ministry.
- e. WestSide: I attended mission developer training with their new pastor, Heidi Binstock and with two lay leaders. They have about \$217,000 remaining on their mortgage.
- f. Wopila House (Young Adult Intentional Community at Pine Ridge): We are always looking for young Lutherans and Episcopalians to be part of this unique community.

This has been a fruitful time and God is lifting up and opening our eyes to what seems to be an ever-widening “field” of harvest in which we are called to labor. I continue to cherish the partnership we share as synod and the church wide organization with the leading edge of mission and ministry – our congregations. I greatly value the partnership with Dave and Susan and the whole synod staff – as I travel around our ELCA, I truly believe we have the best!

Thank you for your partnership.

Respectfully in Christ,



Pastor Bill Tesch

Synod Assembly Report
May 2015
Submitted by Susan Marone, MA, LPC, AIM
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 of our synod!

This year was filled with congregational visits and conducting Parish Studies for congregations with Rostered Leader vacancies.

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

Pastor Dan Nelson, Brandon Lutheran
Pastor Arlyn Rusche, Lyman County Parish
Pastor Lisa Heffernan, Trinity Lutheran, Chamberlain
Pastor Jonathon Steiner, Atonement Lutheran, Rapid City
Pastor Durk Thompson, Trinity Lutheran, Arlington
Pastor Rhia Strohm, Bethlehem Lutheran, Aberdeen
Pastor Chris Strohm, Bergen/Bristol, Butler Lutheran

Commissioned as Associates in Ministry include:

Penny Steinken, AIM

Mobility in the SD Synod has been steady as 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 David Schoeld for his leadership as Chair of the Support to Ministries Committee and for his faithful service in ministry in the Medary Conference.

I continue to enjoy working with the Candidacy Committee as we accompany 52 candidates in responding to a call to ministry in the ELCA. The annual Candidacy Retreat at Shalom Hills Farm in MN, was held in April.

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, MA, LPC, AIM

2015 Report for Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministry at Pine Ridge

This has been a year of challenges as we continued to host faith based and academic oriented groups and guide them through inter-cultural immersion experiences where they build relationships, understanding and respect for and between all God's peoples. The schedule for this coming year is full. Several groups are returning and we will be welcoming some first- time groups too. We're grateful for growing networks of connections as those who visit and experience Pine Ridge share the story, increasing interest and expanding the numbers who come and see, but most importantly become aware of the conditions on Pine Ridge and other reservations.

We experienced a good January Cross-cultural program with positive feedback from the seminarians – seven from Wartburg and seven from Wesley.

An organization called AMEND has provided several families connected with the Center with heating assistance. We are very grateful for so many generous hearts and hands and the prayers of many from near and far. Our sandwich/lunch program and after-school Sanctuary Programs continue to be well received and well attended.

Our Steering Committee is very committed and supportive. We've changed the meeting schedule to quarterly and will deal with urgent/emergency issues via electronic media.

Hopes for this year carry over from last year – they continue to include but are not limited to:

- Increase staff (focus on youth & intern)
- Develop Teen group (probably including ages 11 & up)
- Bi monthly newsletter
- Construction of Fellowship Hall at St. John Episcopal
- Strengthen LutEpisc relationship
- Visit churches and schools of visiting groups
- Offer additional services of Word and Sacrament (either at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center or in cooperation with the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.)
- Support groups/recovery program

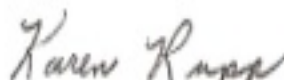
Bishop Tarrant met with clergy serving Episcopal Congregations to strategize coverage until a person is found to serve at Holy Cross in Pine Ridge and St. Katharine's in Martin. I'll be helping once a month at St. Katharine's. The person filling the Circle of Hope position will be provided housing at the Holy Cross campus in Pine Ridge, further strengthening our cooperative relationship. I am hopeful that we will move forward in filling that position for the "Circle of Healing" which was approved at Assembly last May. There have been nine suicide completions since December and several (100+) failed attempts. Please pray for the community.

I was able to visit two strongly supportive congregations of our ministry while in Virginia in December and also spent four days at Wartburg Seminary the first week of November. I would love to visit every school and congregation who bring groups to the Pine Ridge retreat Center.

The time has come for me to enter into retirement. I've been blessed to be serving in such a prayerful spirit led community and pray for a smooth Holy Spirit led transition. I believe the ministry is being taken to a higher level under new leadership.

I continue to be thankful to Bishop Zellmer, Synod staff, Synod Council, and the Synod congregations for ongoing words of encouragement, prayers and support for the Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministry at Pine Ridge. Thank you for the many donations we receive– the quilts, disposable diapers, gift cards and designated funds for utilities, propane, gasoline and clothes and play toys. Pilamayaye! Mitakuye Oyasin!

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Karen Rupp, Director Native American Ministry, South Dakota Synod, ELCA

2015 South Dakota Synod Assembly Report
Suzanne Hansen AIM, Synod Youth Ministry Coor.

RISE UP TOGETHER is the theme for the 2015 Youth Gathering in Detroit. Once again this South Dakota Synod is sending over 1,000 Sr. Hi Youth and committed Adult Advisors to be a part of this Gathering. Detroit is going to be a great place to come and hear inspiring speakers and worship together, and help the people in Detroit during the week of July 15-19. The experiences that each person will have will be life changing .

The Youth Ministry Network continues to meet once a month and support each other in the ministries that they each serve. It is a joy for me to be a part of this group.

Another group that has been started in the Synod is The Family Network, which consists of people in congregations that work with the Ministry to Families that each serves. We meet together once a month in different locations to learn from each other about how to help with the Faith Formation in Family Ministry.

I feel privileged to be able to be on staff in a Synod that is innovative and faithful to the Ministries that we serve.

2015 Report to Synod Assemblies
Paul Baglyos, Coordinator for Missional Leadership, ELCA Region 3

Candidacy in the ELCA: Leading Those Who Will Lead Others

All four gospels in the New Testament tell of Jesus calling people to discipleship with the invitation, “follow me.” Following Jesus, however, means more than merely trailing along behind him. As the gospel narratives progress, it becomes clear that Jesus’ invitation, “follow me,” involves learning to do *with* Jesus everything that Jesus does. On the eve of his Passion, Jesus tells his disciples that those who believe “in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these.” One of the principal works of Jesus is to lead others in relationship with God. Because that is Jesus’ work, it is therefore also the work of Jesus’ disciples.

My call as Coordinator for Missional Leadership in Region 3 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America involves numerous responsibilities, including collaboration with our bishops on the assignment of new leaders for first calls in our congregations, the development of a new program of education for Synodically Authorized Ministers in our region, and some work with our campus ministries. The largest area of my responsibility, however, is *candidacy*, which is the process by which people become rostered leaders (diaconal ministers, deaconesses, associates in ministry or pastors) of the ELCA. Every synod of the ELCA has a candidacy committee that guides and accompanies people through that process, and the regional coordinators work closely with all the candidacy committees in the regions that they serve. (Region 3 includes the nine ELCA synods in the three states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.)

While candidacy prepares people for leadership in the ELCA, it also involves an exercise of leadership on the part of everyone engaged in it. The members of your synod’s candidacy committee are themselves leaders, because they participate in Jesus’ work of leading people toward particular ministry roles in the church. The members of your congregations and all other ministries in your synod likewise lead by helping others to discern a call to enter candidacy. No one becomes a leader in the church without the leadership of others who guide and accompany them along the way.

Not all disciples will become rostered leaders, but all disciples are called to be leaders. What opportunities has God given you to lead others toward candidacy in the ELCA? Who have you helped, or who might you help, to lead along the way toward rostered ministry in this church? How do you, or how might you, participate in your synod’s work related to candidacy?

ELCA Region 3 Archives Report to 2015 Synod Assemblies

Introduction

This year marks the *27th year of the ELCA Region 3 Archives*. I continue in the archivist position half-time for the 9 synods of Region 3 and half-time for Luther Seminary. This shared position 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) and technical support from the school’s IT office.

Use of the Region 3 Archives

Our website (www.luthersem.edu/archives) has greatly increased use of both collections and services. 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 955 reference patrons in the past year with a range of research interests. The majority (64%) are congregational committees working on 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 6 times during the year. These visits were coordinated with 31 on-site congregational visits throughout the 3 states of Region 3.

+Daniels spoke at 16 adult forums and study groups in congregations throughout the Region. The main focus of these presentations is the use of memory in the congregation and Region 3 Archives services.

Collection Growth

+The Archives received 520 linear feet of synod office records from the 9 offices. These included legal, financial, personnel and program files.

+Gathered an additional 288 congregational histories – collection now totals 6,322 histories.

+Received 520 biographical pieces for files on clergy and lay leadership – collection now totals 6,725 files.

+Additional 14 congregations filmed their valuable church records through the new scanning program.

+Completed negotiations with the board of the Metro Lutheran newspaper for permanent retention of all 29 years of newspaper history upon their closure, May 2014. This large collection is being processed now.

Outreach and Education

+Daniels led workshops on congregational archives at 4 Region 3 synod assemblies in 2014. He also presented Archives services information at 2 fall theological conferences.

+Daniels recently completed meeting with all 9 synod councils in the Region during the past year to acquaint and update this key leadership group with the services and activities of the Region 3 Archives

+Distributed over 565 copies of “Memory Work: A Guide for Congregational Archives and History” to congregations and individuals. It is also accessed electronically via the Region 3 Archives website.

+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.

+Promotes and manages a new records scanning service for congregations to replace the long-running microfilming program. This new service of digitizing vital church records began in April 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, Paul A. Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archivist and Luther Seminary Archivist,
3.1.15*



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

About the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF), a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, makes low-interest **loans** to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries for capital projects.

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.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a variety of **investments** for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. MIF investments offer adjustable- or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

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

- With total assets of \$661 million and net assets of \$192 million at year-end 2014, MIF achieved a capital ratio of 29 percent—maintaining MIF's position in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.
- At year-end 2014, loans for capital projects for more than 780 ELCA congregations and ministries totaled \$461 million. MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$464 million.

Investments and Loans in the South Dakota Synod

As of December 31, 2014:

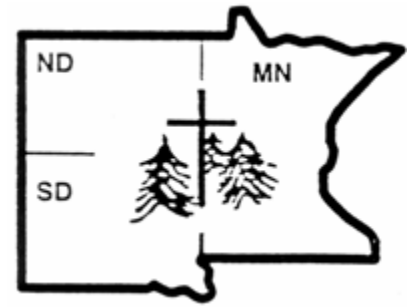
- 9 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of **\$1,748,634**, are at work throughout the synod.
- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 227 individuals, 103 congregations, 21 ministries and the South Dakota Synod totaled **\$9,518,433**.

MIF representative for the South Dakota Synod:

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

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

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



Executive Committee: Marv Nysetvold (Shetek) President
Nick Johnson (Upper Missouri), Vice President
Paul Hanson (Luther Crest), Treasurer
Mara Stillson (Lutherans Outdoors in SD), Secretary
Grant Winter (Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry), MN Representative
Rev. Janis Sloka III (Camp of the Cross Ministries), ND Representative
Christy Schmal (Lutherans Outdoors in SD), SD Representative

Hear the Gospel!

Celebrate God's Creation!

Find Spiritual Renewal!

2015 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. Network camps participate in the fairs, as well as additional camps from across the country.
- **Communication**—The network website is www.r3campingnetwork.org. The website includes a listing of all participant camps, program ideas, job postings, a calendar of regional and national camp events, resources for camp staff and Summer Staff recruiting information. The network also sends out the *GRAPEVINE*, a biweekly 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 Vice President's Report

It continues to be a privilege to serve as the Vice President of the South Dakota Synod. I had the opportunity to attend an orientation for ELCA vice presidents in Chicago this past fall. Information and resources were presented regarding the roles of the vice president and synod council. Overviews were shared by representatives of the churchwide organization including Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Secretary Chris Boerger, and ELCA General Counsel Phil Harris. The Conference of Bishops was held at the same time enabling the vice presidents and bishops to spend time together hearing reports and participating in a visioning exercise.

The 2014 South Dakota Synod Assembly authorized an Appeal for Leadership and Mission in response to the Synod's vision that all may be fed. This appeal, titled "Listen...God is Calling, Never be the Same" highlights three broad categories of leadership, mission, and partner support. Specific initiatives are uplifted within each of these categories. Pastor Bob Hansen has been hired as the appeal director and Debbie Gallipo as the appeal coordinator. Individuals have graciously agreed to serve in leadership roles as chairs and honorary chairs for the appeal. Work has begun in the synod leaders, rostered leaders, and major gift portions of the appeal. The congregational phase of the appeal will begin this summer.

I urge you to learn more about the appeal and to prayerfully consider how you, as individuals and congregations, can participate in the appeal and contribute towards the appeal goal. By working together, we will fund ministry for the people of South Dakota and across the church, leaving a legacy for generations to come.

I would like to extend a special word of appreciation to outgoing members of the Synod Council: Michael Miller, Teri Gayer, Lon Moeller, Pastor Greg Myrmoe, Peggy Namanny, Pastor Tom Opoien, and Matthew Johnson.

Thank you also to Bishop Zellmer, Pastor Bill Tesch, Susan Marone, Suzanne Hansen, Pastor Nate Lizarazo, Pastor Karen Rupp, Crystal McCormick, Lois Borchardt, Kevin Stillson, Jim Schade, and Kurt Osborne for their dedication and passion for the ongoing work of the South Dakota Synod.

God's blessings to you as we continue to listen to the ways that God is calling us into mission and ministry together.

Caroly Borchardt

Report of the Support to Ministries Committee
2015 South Dakota Synod Assembly
Pastor David Schoeld, Chairperson

This has been a busy year for the Support to Ministries (STM) Committee – but, then, I expect every year is a busy year. Congregations are in a constant state of change, and in like fashion, the reality of ministry is changing. What used to be assumed realities within the church, no longer are. We are seeing fewer pastors in the candidacy/seminary process; we are seeing more and more pastors entering ministry with a heavy debt-load; we are even seeing the way we “make” pastors changing as seminaries and synods work to address these realities.

In like fashion, the STM committee is seeking to better address our current realities. We are working to get the deans more connected with congregations as they enter into, or journey through, the call process. We are making an effort to engage congregations in the midst of their healthy seasons so we might better understand their needs when change does come. We are trying to create a system that utilizes the resources we have available, mixed with good conversation and relationships, to connect pastors with congregations.

As we seek to better our recruitment and communication, we still face the difficulty of fewer pastors (retirements, fewer seminary students, more pastors seeking calls in urban areas, etc). As Pastor Hahn mentioned in last year’s report, we will do our best, but it is the congregational members and pastors who have the best ability to change this. Do you know a pastor who might like a change? Have you promoted the synod resources and direction – feeding the hungry, physically and spiritually, as well as our “Answer the Call” campaign to keep pastors on the prairie? You’re words, you’re invitation, may be just what’s needed.

Throughout this year, as we’ve addressed everything above and more, I’ve been thankful for the members of the committee: their prayerful support of each other and the congregations of South Dakota in the midst of change; their familiarity with, and concern for, congregations throughout the synod as they ask difficult questions and deal with difficult situations; their joyful conversation and uplifting spirit in the midst of ministry. They are a blessing to me, and to this synod.

Also, thank you to Susan Marone and Bishop Dave for direction, encouragement, and support. Thanks to Susan, especially, for her diligent work and care with congregations and pastors. Finally, a huge thank you to Crystal McCormick, as we discovered this year just how much we truly rely on her. Susan and Crystal really are the ones who make this work, so if you see them, be sure to thank them.

Lutheran Campus Ministry in South Dakota 2014-2015

This past year has been a year of transition for Lutheran Campus Ministry at **South Dakota State University** as Pastor Herb Wounded Head continues in his new role as campus pastor.

Ministry at the Luther Center at **University of South Dakota** centered on Kingdom of God as a present reality for our lives and the world. A variety of guests shared how God's Kingdom broke in their lives during worship opportunities throughout the year. Students were involved in other community activities: serving meals at the Welcome Table, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, supporting prisoners by attending worship at the prison in Springfield. All these activities celebrated what God is up to in the USD community and the world. Pastor Andy Nelson has resigned his position as Campus Pastor so the board is looking to call another leader for the fall.

2014-2015 was a time of transition for campus ministry in West River at **Black Hills State University** and **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology**. Both campuses are now being served by Rachel Nelson, former staff at NeSoDak and Klein Ranch of LOSD. BHSU continued their Mom's group to assist moms and single parents to continue their education. The Boards of Directors of SDSM&T and BHSU **are in** partnership together to continue Lutheran Campus Ministry at Spearfish and Rapid City.

Collegians in Christ's Service (CICS) at **Northern State University** continue to be very active in serving in the local Aberdeen community. Bible study and service is the core of ministry at NSU. Their service continues after graduation.

Your undesignated gifts to Campus Ministries add up: The sum of \$4054.66 was distributed to each campus program this past year.

You can find addresses, names and emails for Campus Ministry at the Synod's website, www.sdsynod.org/campus-ministry. If a family member, church member, or friend attends or is planning to attend one of our South Dakota universities, encourage them to give Lutheran Campus Ministry their contact information. They can submit contact information at the above link.

South Dakota Synod Candidacy Report 2015

The South Dakota Synod is blessed with fifty-two 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 individuals from throughout the SD Synod, both pastors and lay people that walk with the candidates on their journey. The individuals walking 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. In 2014, the Candidacy Scholarship Committee awarded \$167,538.61 to 18 candidates 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, smarone@sdsynod.org, phone: 605/274-4022; or Crystal McCormick, Candidacy and Mobility Office Coordinator, cmccormick@sdsynod.org, phone: 605/274-4024. Or visit: www.sdsynod.org/candidacy.

Report Multicultural Committee 2015

By Natanael Lizarazo, Chair

For us Lutherans, Multicultural Ministry represents opportunity, challenge and mission frontier. Given the fast demographic changes taking place in South Dakota and the United States, opportunities abound for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with new immigrants, refugees and ethnically-specific communities, the people who historically have not been part of our Lutheran history and mission. A missional reading of the signs of the times does invites us to grow into the diverse and multicultural church God is calling us to be, the church colorfully reflected in the diversity we see in gas stations, grocery stores and in every aspect of daily life.

Our Committee represents all seven Conferences of our Synod and works in collaboration with our Synod's Evangelical Outreach Committee. This structure facilitates greater participation as well as improved communication. And though geography is wide-spread, technology allows us to participate in meetings without spending traveling time or spend significant financial resources. Still we have face-to-face meetings complemented by technology if necessary.

Current members of the Multicultural Committee are: Rev. Bill Schrub, Rev. Daryl Schubert, Gayle Cole, Rev. Natanael Lizarazo, Daniel Gayetaye, Rev. Kwen Sanderson, Sheldon Engen, Rev. Tim Sersen, Connie Woehlhoff, Rev. Chris Baesler, Dennis Paulson, Rev. Karen Rupp, Sarah Holz, Rev. David Piper, Rev. Herb Wounded Head, Jim Bishop and Rev. Bill Tesch, Director of Evangelical Outreach.

Our core responsibilities are: (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 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.

The ethnic specific ministries we accompany are: Lakota Retreat Center in Pine Ridge, Woyatan Lutheran Church (Rapid City), Intentional Young Adult Community (Rosebud), Pueblo de Dios (Sioux Falls) First Lutheran African Ministry (Sioux Falls). Though challenges are present, these ministries keep moving forward in proactive ways. As we address our growing ethnic diversity, it is critically important that together as Synod we make these ministries visible, invest in leadership development and provide greater participation for people of color in our shared life. In terms of culturally competent leadership development, as Synod we have entered into a relationship with a multicultural training initiative alongside five synods in the region, called Agora. Agora is housed at Luther Seminary in St Paul MN and offers great promise for leadership development among ethnic communities. On behalf of our Synod's Multicultural Committee, we invite you to support these ministries with your prayers and financial resources.

Report of the Evangelical Outreach Committee

The purpose of the Evangelical Outreach Committee is to advance the spread of the gospel by discerning, encouraging and supporting new, redeveloping, ethnic specific, and emerging ministries.

The Evangelical Outreach Committee offers oversight, support, and advocacy on behalf of new starts, congregations focused on renewal, and ethnic specific congregations that are supported by the South Dakota synod. This work is in partnership with the Multi-Cultural committee and reinforced through three working groups: new starts, renewals, and mission partners.

New starts: The committee oversees and supports congregations in development and identify possible areas for new congregations. First Lutheran Africa Ministry (Sioux Falls), WestSide Lutheran (Sioux Falls), Wopila House (formerly Youth Adult Community on Rosebud Reservation), Pueblo de Dios (Sioux Falls), and Woyatan Lutheran (Rapid City) have all undergone changes or transformations in their ministries. Please view more information for some of these ministries on the Multi-Cultural committee report.

Renewals: It is the committee's goal to encourage congregations to seek renewal that fits their context. The South Dakota synod currently has a number of congregations in renewal. Several are still pursuing the "Vibrant Faith Model – with as many as 21 engaged in this way over the last 6 years. We have three congregations receiving direct grant support for renewal and utilizing the "transformational ministry" model. We recently revised the transformational ministry model for better use in our context and renamed it GiFT (Growing in Faith Together). While this new model has generated a lot of interest, we have found that the four-day retreat format is prohibitive for most congregations. Therefore, the committee reformatted the GiFT model so that it is offered over 4 shorter workshops. A Discovering Hope renewal event will be made available across the state in 5 locations on June 27th. Ne newly reformatted GiFT model will be offered as an excellent follow up to the Discovering Hope Event – watch for more information this summer!

Mission Partners: This is an exciting opportunity available for congregations and individuals (mission boosters) to financially support our mission congregation. Please check the synod website for more information so that you can actively participate.

The Evangelical Outreach committee invites you to include the above congregations and ministries in your congregational prayers. We thank you for your support and partnership in furthering the good news of Jesus Christ within the South Dakota synod in new ways.

Report to South Dakota Synod Assembly by Coordinator Companion Synods

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your generosity...For the rendering of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God". 2 Cor. 9:10-12. Overflowing generosity! Ministering to the saints! Thanksgivings to God! More than a slogan, these are the realities which inspire and engage our Synod's relationships with The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon and The Lutheran Church of Faith & Hope of Nicaragua.

With profound gratitude, our Synod celebrated the services of Cathy Larson who retired as Coordinator of Companion Synods at the end of 2014. Thank you Cathy for your faithful service. Regarding our mission relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon, we facilitate communication, collaborative relationships and shared work not only with our ELCA Global Mission Unit but also with other companions in the United States and Canada. Our South Dakota Synod is integral part of the Cameroon Network which just met in Winnipeg, Canada to share experiences and coordinate ongoing mission efforts. We also celebrate in this Assembly the completion of last's year goal to raise funds for 25 roofs. Our heart-felt gratitude to congregations, W/ELCA groups, Sunday schools, ministries and individuals for such amazing generosity. Our Synod's generosity also allowed us to support the "Train up A Child" Initiative and to respond to the emergency of the Hospital in Garoua Boulai which continues serving about 30,000 refugees from the conflict in Central African Republic. As much as we worked to make it happen, Bishop Ruben Ngozo will not be present with us at this Assembly.

Regarding the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope of Nicaragua, we share very personalized relationships thanks to congregational groups from our Synod who travel to experience the hospitality and joy for ministry of our Nicaraguan Companions. These experiences are highly enhanced thanks to the presence of Michael Busby, our Synod's missionary in Nicaragua. By the time this Assembly closes, Michael would have also completed his service. We are thankful for his service and actively recruiting a new person to continue this vitally important relationship.

As approved by our Synod Assembly last year, the most significant project we continue to support is the Green Project of Cedro Galan, a pioneer ecologically-sound agricultural project with national impact. As Companion Synods Committee, we highly encourage congregations, church organizations, ministries and individuals to continue supporting this vital project. As we join in the 25th Anniversary of ILFE in this Assembly, a Resolution of Thanksgiving encourages us not to lose sight of our ongoing financial commitment to the Green Project of Cedro Galan. Other projects which need our ongoing financial support include the National Youth Retreat, our Synod's missionary and the exchange of pastors. Whether it is in Cameroon or Nicaragua, our shared experiences, mutual gifts and prayers glorify God and built our mission capacity to be the church God calls us to be. Thank you indeed for your ongoing mission generosity!

South Dakota Synodical Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American

Report to the South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2015.

In June of 2014, our 27th Annual Synodical Convention of the South Dakota Women of the ELCA was held at First Lutheran Church in Brookings. There were 113 in attendance. Our theme was “Who? Me? Women of Faith Making a Difference,” based on Micah 6:8: “. . . and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

We had evening vespers at the Lutheran Center on the campus of South Dakota State University. Pastor Herb Wounded Head was our keynote speaker.

We passed three resolutions:

#1 Campus Ministries: Resolved that the SD Synodical Women's Convention encourage its units to continue supporting, or begin supporting, South Dakota Campus Ministries.

#2 Whereas the Women of the ELCA is encouraging synodical organizations to arrange and help finance members of their companion synods, to enable women to attend the next Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis in 2017, it was resolved that the SD Synodical Women's organization appoint a committee to study the costs and begin a fund to make this possible.

#3 Dina Johnson Scholarship: The South Dakota Women of the ELCA established this endowment, which is awarded each year to a female student at Augustana College, who is from South Dakota, and who demonstrates a strong Christian character. It was resolved that SD WELCA encourage units to support this scholarship and donate additional funds to the endowment, to bring it up to the minimum level of \$25,000.

In July, 29 women from South Dakota, traveled to Charlotte, NC for the 9th Triennial Gathering and Convention of the WELCA. They all felt it was a wonderful experience.

The 10th Triennial Gathering of the WELCA will be July 13-16, 2017, in Minneapolis. We plan that more women will attend because of the location.

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.

The Women of the SD Synod continue to meet in Circles each month for fellowship, service, and participation in Bible study, using our national magazine, Gather. We also make quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief.

In October, we held our “Winter Board Meeting” at Faith Lutheran, Rapid City. Our coming convention will be there on June 26-27, 2015.

Women of the ELCA, SD Synod, is on Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter. We also have a blog.

Vivian Westgard, President

The State of South Dakota

Strengthening Christian Communities and Churches

As a membership organization of Christians, we have 48,566 Thrivent Financial members in the State of South Dakota who are our owners. Our purpose is to serve our members and society by guiding both to be wise with money and live generously. We believe that all we have is a gift from God and that generosity is an expression of faith. We succeed when our members, their families and their communities thrive.

Member Activation - 2014

Our members don't just raise money. They raise people up by building homes, serving food, assisting a neighbor in need and more. And because we're a membership organization, members often get together just to have fun. Over the next few years, our current chapter system is moving to new structure: Thrivent Member Networks. Soon it will be even easier for members to start conversations, form connections and help others.

- 36,854 members and others participated in Thrivent Action Team and chapter activities in the State of South Dakota, resulting in 181,923 volunteer hours. Funds raised through these local activities total \$2,657,913, which was combined with \$456,068 from Thrivent to increase the impact.
- 195 people activating, along with the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity program, resulted in building 1 home in the State of South Dakota, which impacted 4 individuals.
- 273,289 Thrivent members directed \$54.9 million Thrivent Choice Dollars to 25,652 enrolled churches, schools, social ministries and other nonprofits. In the State of South Dakota 631 churches and organizations received \$1,431,890 in Choice Dollars charitable grant funds.

Other Impact - 2014

- \$1.8 billion paid out to member families/beneficiaries through insurance and annuity benefits.
- \$182.5 billion life insurance in force, ready to help when needed.
- 43,839 life and disability income insurance contracts written to protect members and families.
- \$125,393 Thrivent added to its impact in this state through grants awarded to Christian and community organizations and by supporting additional volunteer and outreach efforts.

Support from the Thrivent Financial Foundation - 2014

Thrivent and its subsidiaries contribute to the Thrivent Financial Foundation, which provides grants to Christian and other nonprofit groups nationwide. The Foundation awarded more than \$16.3 million in 2014, of which \$8.6 million was from employee matched gifts.

For more information, please visit <http://www.thrivent.com> or <http://www.thriventbuilds.com> or <http://www.thriventfoundation.com>

Augustana College Report 2015

More than 154 years ago, Augustana's roots were formed as a college of the Lutheran church.

Today, that foundation remains strong and continues to guide us in our daily work to inspire students to pursue their talents and passions and to engage faith.

Augustana has much to celebrate and much for which to be thankful.

We are thankful for the 15,000 alumni, parents, friends, churches and organizations who supported the recently-completed Momentum Augustana Campaign, whose gifts totaled more than \$121 million. Our desire to build an "Augustana Like Never Before" has allowed us to grow the endowment, fund new academic programming, increase annual giving and enhance our facilities.

Right now on the corner of 33rd and Summit Ave on campus, you will see the \$35 million construction of the Froiland Science Complex rising up. Phase one of the project, a 41,000-square-foot addition to the existing Gilbert Science Center, will open in December 2015.

Late last year, we unveiled Horizons: 2019, the strategic plan to lead Augustana through the next five years and beyond.

We are excited to share with you the five major goals of this plan:

- Serve more students and foster their success.
- Offer substantive and innovative educational experiences.
- Cultivate strategic partnerships.
- Steward human, physical and financial resources.
- Pursue greater brand awareness.

We believe these goals will help us inspire even more meaningful experiences in our students and create graduates who are better equipped to lead exceptional lives rooted in service to others.

Progress is already being made on a number of these goals. New graduate programs in professional accountancy and genetic counseling are in development and enrollment in our current master's programs for education and sports administration are increasing. When Augustana's new master's program in genetic counseling launches next year, it will become only the 32nd program of its kind in the U.S. and the only one in South Dakota.

Our graduates are also thriving as evidenced by our 99 percent placement of recent 2014 graduates who are pursuing graduate or professional school or have entered the workforce in areas related to their major or chosen field of study.

We value our partnership with the South Dakota Synod as member congregations encourage their young people to enroll here and as we are blessed with philanthropic support from across the Synod. There is much more to accomplish as Augustana pursues its ambitious plans for the future. As always, we are grateful for your prayers and personal words of encouragement.

God bless the proceedings of your Assembly.

Rob C. Oliver

President



Chapel In The Hills

April 15, 2015

South Dakota Synod of the ELCA,

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 1st to September 30th and during special programs and services the remainder of the year.

Each year we see 20,000 to 25,000 visitors from all over the United States and the world. As a church, Chapel in the Hills offers a unique opportunity for evangelism and display of our Lutheran traditions.

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

This past year we preformed 79 weddings and 1 memorial service. We had an increase in bus traffic with 38 scheduled bus tours and 4 to 5 additional unscheduled tours. We continued Vesper services. In addition we offered a special Memorial Day service and Advent service. We continue to seek ways to offer services to the community.

Maintenance continues to be a major concern. A water line broke this winter in the gift shop and flooded much of the building. This was another of those unexpected setbacks that prevented our opening during the Christmas season.

Two Boy Scout chose the Chapel to do there Eagle Scout projects It is always a blessing when groups or individuals choose to volunteer time and resources to maintain this beautiful property. We have also enjoyed a close relationship with YouthWorks. Each year youth groups from the Midwest come to Rapid City and preform service projects for local non-profit organizations and we are pleased to be one of the recipients. Also this year we have had a number of families who homeschool their children come to visit and learn about the Chapel, Scandinavian immigration, and Norwegian history.

This year the organ donated from Calvary Lutheran Church will be installed and we are looking forward to having a complete organ for services and weddings. As with many things at the Chapel, after 46 years repairs and upgrades need to be made. Speaking of which, we are beginning to prepare for 2019 and the 50th anniversary of Chapel in the Hills.

Much has changed at the Chapel in the past 46 years. We are looking forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with the South Dakota Synod, the community and our visitors. It is important to us to remember why the Chapel was built and the legacy we have been left. We ask all the churches in the Synod to pray of our ministries and our long-term success.

The peace of the Lord be with you,

Craig Lewis, Manager, Chapel in the Hills

2014 ELCA annual report: The Good Samaritan Society

As the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of senior services and housing, The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society has always sought to create environments where people are loved, valued and at peace.

The Good Samaritan Society was founded in 1922 and opened its first care center in 1923 in Arthur, N.D. Today, the Good Samaritan Society operates in 24 states at more than 240 locations with its headquarters in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The organization continues to evolve to meet the needs and desires of residents, staff members and communities it serves and is dedicated to supporting well-being through innovative products and services for older adults and their families.

In 2014, the Good Samaritan Society:

- Was selected to participate in a project focusing on access to healthcare services in rural communities an improving management of care as patients transition from one healthcare setting to another. Funding comes through an \$8.8 million award from The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) given to Avera eCARE in Sioux Falls. Ten Society locations were picked to be part of the project.
- Hosted the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services at Society locations in Pipestone, Minnesota, and Howard, South Dakota. The advisory committee will use insights and information gathered at the meetings to form recommendations in a report on rural healthcare challenges and opportunities.
- Continued to grow its services, especially through post-acute rehab; home and community based services; and Hospice.
- Collaborated with Verizon Wireless in a project to test technology that connects individuals who are homebound with the places and events they love. The Windows to the World program would give seniors the ability to attend family gatherings, worship services and other events through virtual technology.
- Awarded grants totaling \$100,000 through its Social Accountability program. The grants help Society locations meet community needs through donations to food banks, transportation programs for seniors and other projects.
- Organized mission trips to Colombia and Bangladesh, two of three locations the Society supports through its Project Outreach program. The mission teams visited Soacha, an impoverished community south of Bogota; and LAMB hospital in Bangladesh.

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries

Our Mission is to make worship, Bible study, and fellowship opportunities available to all people in South Dakota and Southwest Minnesota who are Deaf and hard of hearing and their hearing families and friends regardless of denomination or affiliation. We have made Peace Lutheran our worshipping home since 1997 and have felt welcomed. Jason and Sarah Andera act as co-directors for this ministry.

Members of Heartland Ephphatha have been active with mission trips, church council, service projects and anything else that hearing people do at Peace Lutheran thanks to this wonderful ministry. Over the past 12 months our ministry has put three people on the national board for deaf ministry in the ELCA. We are doing big things and are a very active group.

In the future we plan to focus our efforts on outreach to the unchurched deaf population in South Dakota. We will hold events to make ourselves known in the community. We will also be working closely with our national organization of deaf churches to bring more opportunities and access for deaf Lutherans.

Lutheran Planned Giving in South Dakota

Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota (LPG of SD) was formed in May of 2003 with the following mission:

We will help people of God make lifetime financial gifts to the South Dakota ministries who are members of Lutheran Planned giving and create a rising tide of financial support for all ELCA ministries.

Lutheran Planned Giving partner ministries are:

Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD	Bethel Lutheran Home, Madison
Bethesda Home of Aberdeen, SD	ELCA Foundation, Chicago IL
Heartland Ephphatha, Sioux Falls, SD	Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
Lutheran Campus Ministry	Lutheran Social Services of SD
Lutherans Outdoors in SD	Prison Congregations of America
St. Dymas, 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 free no-obligation information seminars regarding the gift planning strategies. Congregation members will be able to come and hear information, ask questions, and set up personal one-on-one visits with LPG staff concerning the stewardship of their assets. At those visits members will discuss their intent, the options and the most helpful strategies regarding gift planning. We also are able to offer suggestions for other advisors to contact in order to bring additional expertise to best accomplish those wishes.

Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota is now offering Interactive Planned Giving Websites to the congregations of the SD Synod!

GiftLegacy's planned giving websites use your organization's branding and include motivating donor stories of giving, regularly updated articles, an online Wills Planner, personal gift illustrations, Advisor information and more. Request a personal demonstration and view of the power of the GiftLegacy system! These features and more are made possible to your congregation through a partnership of Lutheran Planned Giving and Crescendo Gift Planning services.

Weekly E-newsletters

GiftLegacy provides the GiftLegacy E-newsletter for donors, and the GiftLaw E-newsletter for financial professionals. Each E-newsletter contains your branding, and includes timely articles, impactful stories and multiple links directing readers to your website. You may personalize the e-newsletter for the most impact. These features and more are available for \$250.00 per year. This fee is payable to Crescendo.

To look online at the resources available, please visit www.lpgsd.org.

To arrange for a demonstration, or for more information, please contact Kurt Osborne kosborne@sdsynod.org 605 940-7524, or Jim Schade jschade@sdsynod.org 605 940-2363.

Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota Touching People's Lives 56,212 Times Last Year

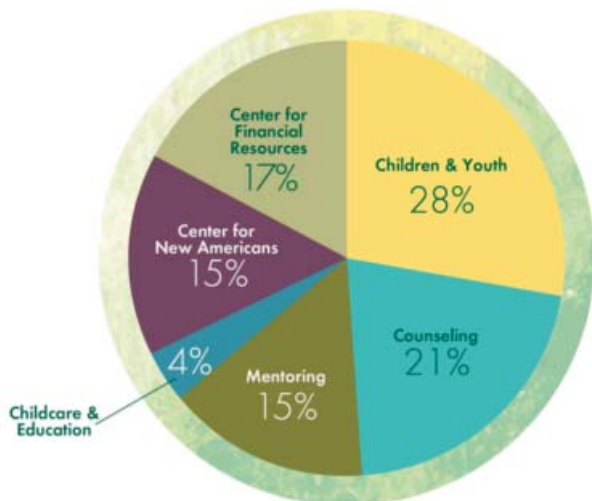


Dreams Do Come True

Amy's mom was a meth user and exposed Amy to alcohol, drugs and a disruptive home environment for much of her early childhood. Eventually Amy went to live with her grandma. Her grandma loved her, but she couldn't handle Amy's defiance and anger. Amy disrespected authority, didn't feel any rules applied to her and the choices she made lead to running away and truancy. When Amy was placed in DSS care, she admitted to using meth daily.

Amy successfully completed a chemical dependency program and was admitted to LSS New Beginnings Center in Aberdeen for follow-up. New Beginnings offers group care and treatment in a residential setting. When she came to LSS, Amy was guarded and she trusted no one. As time went on she began to build relationships with peers and caring workers. She started to open up and believe in herself. She set goals and would openly talk about going to college. One step at a time, she began to achieve her goals. She became eligible to attend public high school and obtained a job. After one year, Amy was successfully discharged from New Beginnings and returned to her grandma's home. Amy continues to make good choices and it was a proud day when she began college as she had dreamed. Today, Amy continues to work on her college degree and lives independently.

How Your Gift Serves



2014 Highlights

LSS began Kinship Services statewide. Through this program, LSS completes home studies for the Department of Social Services. This assists DSS in placing children who are in SD's child welfare system with responsible relatives who have a bond or tie with the child and/or the child's parents.

Demand for Center for Financial Resources services remains high. Last year, CFR served more than 3,800 individuals through financial counseling and more than 4,800 individuals through financial education and debt management programs.

LSS touched more than 5,200 lives of children and their family members last year through residential care, foster care, adoption, pregnancy counseling, mentoring, childcare & education and other services.

More than 5,000 people were served through counseling services last year; 50% served had incomes below \$30,000 (23% below \$10,000). Economic conditions continue to make access to behavioral health care even more challenging.

LSS was on site in Wessington Springs following the tornado and responded to the flooding in Canton and Lincoln & Union Counties in 2014. In response to calls for assistance from more than 1,300 families, LSS organized more than 1,000 volunteers who provided more than 23,000 hours of volunteer service.

LSS Childcare & Education Services began offering individualized care for youth with special needs and their siblings through its Here4Youth program.

LSS launched "Better Together", a program designed to improve quality of life for older adults by connecting them with trained volunteers. They will spend four hours per month together going on outings, talking, pursuing hobbies and other relationship-building activities.

LSS opened the Arise Youth Center, Evening Report Center & Shelter Care programs to provide alternatives to detention for youth referred by local law enforcement in Pennington County.

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

Imagining innovative ways forward in educating leaders for Christian communities

In my first year at Luther Seminary, I've been building relationships, listening carefully and identifying strengths. This has made it clear to me that we are in the process of becoming the kind of nimble, innovative teaching and learning institution that will lead to long-term sustainability for the mission of the seminary.

I am excited about what I see happening at Luther Seminary.

- **Both applicants and admits are on the rise.** The inquiry pool for the 2015-16 academic year is off to a solid start. We've seen a significant increase in applications and admits over last year for both the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity programs. Our number of presidential scholarship applications has also far exceeded our expectations. We are hopeful that these are positive indications that prospective students have confidence in the type of education Luther Seminary provides.
- **Our students are enjoying the flexibility of our new curriculum.** It's an exciting development in seminary education, and one that took years of collaboration among faculty and staff. This curriculum continues to equip our leaders to meet the changing needs of the church and world.
- **We see a wealth of potential in our Lifelong Learning programs.** Nearly 4,000 leaders in ministry—in multiple denominations, across the country and in Canada—are served annually. For the sake of church leadership we need to encourage more men and women to join us by both enrolling in seminary and engaging in lifelong learning opportunities.

We can't do any of this without your help. We want to say thank you for all the support you provide. Keep praying for us, sharing our story, supporting us financially and sending new students our way. Thank you for partnering with us.



Robin Steinke, President

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.

In your synod...

Financial Support

Synodical and churchwide support accounted for 7 percent of Luther Seminary's 2013-14 budget.

During the 2013-14 fiscal year, the South Dakota Synod provided direct financial support of \$67,889.

Students

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

- There are 18 students from your synod enrolled at Luther Seminary.
- There are five interns serving in your synod.

Seminary Finances

- Of Luther's operating income, 58 percent comes from private gifts and grants.
- Of Luther's operating expenses, 54 percent goes toward student instruction and institutional support.

Board of Directors

Roald Eidsness

Alumni

There are 253 Luther Seminary alumni living in the South Dakota Synod.

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



In 2014, the camps and year-round retreat centers of LOSD served 18,660 people through summer programs and year-round retreats.

TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

In partnership with congregations, we continue to seek out all who wish to come and experience the Christ centered programs of your camps.

Thanks to your support, in 2014 we were able to extend our ministry to include:

- Families from the Sioux Falls Banquet at Joy Ranch
- Children from Pine Ridge at Outlaw Ranch
- Sudanese families from Fargo at NeSoDak
- Children from Pueblo de Dios, Sioux Falls at NeSoDak, Joy Ranch, and Day Camp
- Vacation experiences for people with intellectual disabilities at Joy Ranch

Congregations created and now sustain Lutherans Outdoors. Through your direct financial support, you are the lifeblood of this ministry and open the doors to all. Thank you!



Layne D. Nelson

Rev. Layne Nelson | Executive Director



OUTLAW RANCH



JOY RANCH



NESODAK

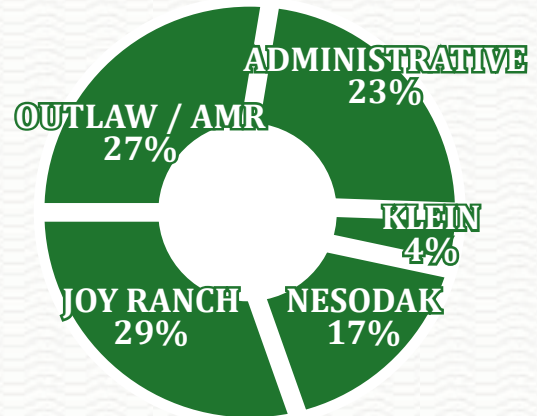


KLEIN RANCH

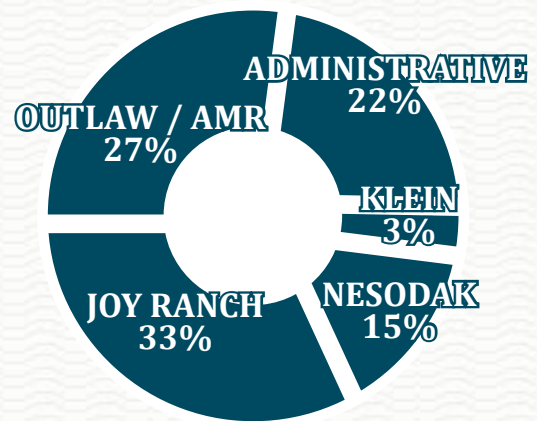
2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENT*

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

REVENUE - \$2,461,931



EXPENSES - \$2,594,871



*As of print date numbers are unaudited. Does not include depreciation (\$530,177), in-kind Gifts, capital campaign income and expense. As of January 31, 2014 the balance in the Lutherans Outdoors endowment is \$1,377,510.

**St. Dysmas
Annual Report
SD Synod Assembly
May 29-30, 2015**

St. Dysmas is excited to be celebrating our 25th year as an ELCA congregation this year and are excited to have you join us. Our first worship service was Ascension Day, May 24 1990. We began our year long celebration on Ascension Day, May 14 with a festive worship service where Bishop David Zellmer delivered the sermon.

We give thanks to God for the generous and faithful support of SD congregations and individuals. Our ministry has grown and flourished with God's guidance and your support.

We invite you to celebrate with us this year and we will culminate with a celebration at the 2016 Synod Assembly.

Please join us by learning, supporting, or visiting—or all three!

Learning:

Form a group in your congregation to:

- Discuss the ELCA social statement, "*The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries,*" (free online or \$1.25 for 5 copies)
- Read and discuss: *Life on the Outside: The Prison Odyssey of Elaine Bartlett*
- Read and discuss: *Down in the Chapel: Religious Life in an American Prison*
- Invite Pastor Bob Chell from St. Dysmas, Mary Mortenson with Prison Congregations of America or another resource person to visit your congregation
- Choose your own guest or book to learn more about Prisons and prison ministry

Supporting:

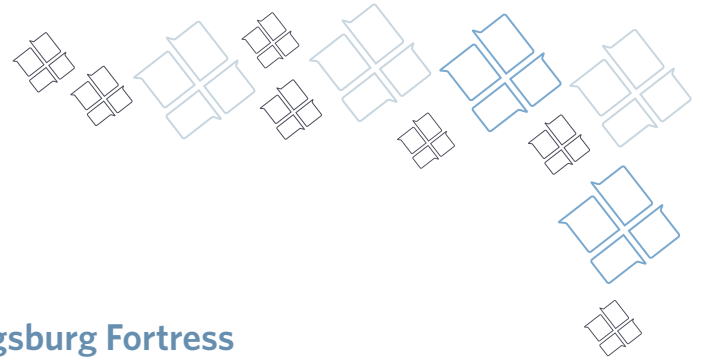
- Make Christmas Fudge for Inmates in Dec. (directions & recipe at www.stdysmas.com)
- Have children make Christmas cards for inmates (directions & recipe at www.stdysmas.com)
- Collect yarn for inmates to knit caps for those in need
- Thrivent members can lead a Thrivent Action Team and secure \$250 in seed money for these or other activities.
- Make St. Dysmas the recipient of a special offering or fund raiser

Visiting

- Bring a group to worship with our congregations at
- South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, SD
- Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, SD
- Coordinate with congregations in your area for those incarcerated in your county.

This isn't a definitive list. Develop your own ideas or contact us for more ways to celebrate with us.

St. Dysmas
www.stdysmas.com
(605) 338-1735
1300 E. 10th St.
Sioux Falls SD 571103



Ten Things You Might Not Know about Augsburg Fortress

Spring 2015

- 1 Augsburg Fortress, the ministry of publishing of the ELCA, receives no financial support except through the sale of resources to our partners in ministry.
- 2 We publish a number of innovative faith formation resources for children including Spark: Activate Faith, Holy Moly, Connect, and Whirl. These all include print resources. In addition, Holy Moly, Connect, and Whirl include animated videos for teaching and learning. Learn more at <http://wearesparkhouse.org>
- 3 Sunday school planning has never been easier than with Sparkhouse Online Sunday School, our web-based subscription resource for our children's faith formation resources. Your congregation may subscribe to one curriculum, several, or all with this innovative online resource. <http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS>
- 4 sparkhouse is proud to announce **Colaborate**, a new Lutheran confirmation resource! This innovative curriculum invites students to ask tough questions and work together to find answers. **Colaborate** will be published this summer, but information is available now at <http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/colaborate>
- 5 Augsburg Fortress is delighted to partner with Liturgical Press, the Roman Catholic publishing house, in the co-publication of *One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ*, a resource to help Lutheran and Catholic communities walk together, recognizing and nourishing unity at a grassroots level. Find out more at <http://www.augsburgfortress.org/onehope>
- 6 For higher education, our Fortress Press imprint publishes in three categories: education (textbooks), academic (specialized monographs), and reference. Learn more at <http://fortresspress.com>
- 7 Later this year, Fortress Press is launching a new initiative, Theology for the People, offering adult readers books that are culturally engaged and grounded in fresh, substantive, and accessible theological reflection. Watch for more information at <http://fortresspress.com> this fall.
- 8 Augsburg Fortress continues to partner with churchwide worship staff toward the ongoing renewal of worship in the ELCA, especially through the Evangelical Lutheran Worship and Sundays and Seasons resource families. Since Fall 2014 these resources have included a new annual publication, *Sundays and Seasons: Preaching*, and a bilingual version of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting Seven, Santa Comunion / Holy Communion*. Coming in 2015 are major enhancements to sundaysandseasons.com, which has served the ELCA as a rich and reliable online worship planner since 2005.
- 9 We offer free webinars every week on a variety of topics related to congregational life. Explore and register at <http://gatherlearnlead.org>
- 10 Want to learn more? Sign up for emails and our free eNewsletters!
<http://augzburgfortress.org/eNewsSignup.jsp>
<http://wearesparkhouse.org>
<http://fortresspress.com>



2015 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS

Seeking Truth, Building Strength, Inspiring Service—Together. These seven, simple words are the Carthage mission statement. They serve as the foundation for everything we do here as we seek to educate young men and women. We proudly embrace our Lutheran heritage, even as we welcome all to our beautiful, lakefront campus. We challenge students, faculty, and staff to seek excellence in every endeavor, and we affirm that the privilege of an education carries with it the responsibilities of social awareness. We are, in short, *your* college.

But what *is* your college? Physically, Carthage comprises an 80-acre campus on the shore of Lake Michigan. The campus is in Kenosha, a city of 100,000 in southeastern Wisconsin—an hour from downtown Chicago, a half-hour from downtown Milwaukee. Intellectually, Carthage is more than 150 full-time faculty—no graduate assistants teach our students—with degrees from some of the most prestigious universities in the world. 91% of the full-time faculty have the terminal degree in their field. The average class size is 18; there simply are no large lecture halls on campus. Carthage was named a **Best Midwestern College** by *The Princeton Review* (2014), and a **Tier 1 National Liberal Arts Institution** by *U.S. News & World Report* (2014).

Your college has enjoyed a spectacular year, which simply challenges us to reach ever higher. Here are a few of the highlights of our work this year:

- When the present school year opened in September 2014, Carthage set an all-time record enrollment with 2,599 full-time undergraduate students. Thanks to the very hard work of our admissions officers, we were among the 13% of colleges nationally that reached their enrollment targets this year.
- Each year, some 800 adult learners enroll in undergraduate, graduate, or professional development classes at Carthage.
- We are good stewards of our resources. The College is on track to end this fiscal year with its 27th consecutive balanced budget.
- The endowment fund was at an all-time high of some \$82 million as of December 31. Still, this is well below the average of colleges our size, and well below what we need in order to truly support student financial aid and innovative academic projects.
- Phase I of the \$43 million renovation of our science facilities was completed in January 2015, and faculty and staff have moved back in to their new offices, classrooms, and labs. Phase II began even before Phase I was formally complete, and should be completed by June 1, 2015. Phase III takes place this summer, and will be completed by September 1, 2015. The project includes a major renovation of the 70,000-square-foot David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Natural and Social Sciences, and creation of a new 35,000-square-foot wing to the south and east, embracing the Center's lakeside location. This will increase classroom and laboratory space by more than 40%, which is essential, given that more than 25% of Carthage students major in the natural sciences.
- As part of this renovation project, Carthage received the second largest gift in its history, a \$10 million grant from the Tarble Family Foundation of Los Angeles.
- Carthage is the new home for NASA in Wisconsin. Carthage was named the lead institution for the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium, which funds education, research, and informal education projects through a national network of university-based Space Grant consortia.

- After a lengthy process of research and preparation, Carthage launched a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The founding director of the program is working to satisfy all educational, regulatory, and accreditation requirements. We hope to welcome our first students this September.
- The American Institute of Physics (AIP) recently selected Carthage’s Department of Physics and Astronomy for its new study on effective undergraduate physics programs. Carthage is among the best in the country at preparing undergraduate physics students for careers in STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—according to the AIP. Carthage is one of six colleges and universities nationwide selected for the project.
- Over the past fifteen years, Carthage has invested close to \$200 million in new campus facilities. There is no deferred maintenance.
- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has given Carthage high marks and granted reaccreditation without condition.
- The latest strategic plan is nearly complete. More than 125 faculty and staff members, and some 75 or so members of the greater community, have been working in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, which is fashioning its next five- and ten-year strategic plan for the College. The Board will approve the plan later this year.
- When it comes to critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication, Carthage seniors are in the top 11 percent nationwide among colleges and universities using the Collegiate Learning Assessment, a national tool administered at institutions across the country to assess their impact on student learning.
- Carthage is ranked seventh nationally for student participation in short-term study abroad by the Institute of International Education (Open Doors 2013 Report).
- Carthage students studied on five different continents during the 2015 January Term. The Carthage Choir went to Spain, and the Women’s Ensemble sang in China. Students studied economics and business in South Africa; the tropical ecology of Costa Rica; religion and society in India; the economics and science of rural development in Guatemala; business and marketing in Sweden; and biology and geography in Nicaragua, among other J-Term trips.
- Carthage students volunteered their time and effort in thriving partnerships with the United Way campaigns in both Kenosha and Racine Counties, as well as Kenosha’s Boys and Girls Club, Women and Children’s Horizons, Shalom Center, and other non-profit agencies. Students also supported national efforts such as the ALS “Ice Bucket Challenge” (more than 75% of the incoming freshman class participated!), the Relay for Life, and Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.
- Finally, and most importantly, within six months of graduation, 95 percent of graduates report landing a satisfying career position or enrollment in graduate school.

The Lutheran concept that God gives us our vocations, that we strengthen them through the attainment of skills and knowledge, and that we use these strengths in the service of others, is essential to our mission, inspiring and leading students to find their own particular way in this complex world. Carthage is proud to be a college of the church, and proud to provide a challenging and rewarding liberal arts education in a Lutheran context. Thank you for your partnership with us!

Gregory S. Woodward
President

Paul R. Hegland
Executive Director, Church and Professional Relations

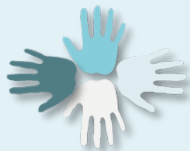
February 2015

Stats for January



Sunday Services

Average 57 students
1,044 since Sept. 2014



Midweek Program

Average 101 students
(37% of campus)
1,612 since Sept. 2014



Small Groups

Average 5 students
26 since Dec. 2014



Dakota Word of the Month

yawaste (yah-wah-shday)

v. to call good, to bless, to praise

Wakantanka yatai

(wah-kahn-dahn-kah yah-dahn-ee)

Praise God



Serving Flandreau Indian School

- One of oldest, off-reservation boarding schools in US
 - 1873 began in local Santee Sioux Presbyterian church
 - 1892 became federal boarding school
- School: Educates/houses 300+ students in grades 9-12; capacity for 600
- Students: Native American teenagers enrolled in a federally-recognized tribe
- Last school year: students from 16 states representing 43 tribes

Stats & Stories

Because there's a name behind every number.



To God Be The Glory

RealTalk: On January 25, we had **89 students in attendance—our largest attendance ever for a Sunday service.** We've been studying purpose and "what on earth am I here?" and how God fits into all of that. It's exciting when students approach during the week and can verbalize the challenge from the talk the previous Sunday; "*Pastor Bill, I forgot to pray for a few minutes yesterday morning, but I made it up today.*"

Small Group Bible Studies: Using the sermon from Sunday, we're digging deeper into the Bible on a more personal level. Students continue to ask a lot of thought-provoking questions resulting in honest conversation and prayer.

Connections: As they identify students that seem to be distant or disconnected, staff directs them to the Chaplaincy for conversation, relationship-building opportunities and prayer. There have been many opportunities to offer "Real Hope for Real Life" through Jesus.

***Therefore I will praise you among the nations, O LORD;
I will sing praises to your name.***

Psalms 18:49

Real Hope for Real Life.

Your gifts and contributions are vital for the students and staff to encounter the hope and love of Christ.

*Flandreau Indian School Chaplaincy Program is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Donations to the ministry are considered a charitable contribution for tax purposes.*



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(605) 864-8625

Bill Britton, Chaplain
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58
FISchaplaincy.com



Portico Benefit Services — 2015 Report to Synod Assemblies

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Healthy, resilient leaders shape healthy, resilient faith communities. This ELCA core belief is referenced in guiding church documents, and explains the enduring partnership between ELCA organizations, their leaders, and Portico Benefit Services. As one community, we're called to strengthen ministry.

ELCA organizations are expected to provide sustainable livelihoods for their leaders, and give them time to tend their well-being. Leaders are expected to tend their well-being so they are able to shape healthy congregations in changing, often challenging, times. Portico delivers cost-effective benefits, resources, and inspiration, helping leaders use services and tools to strengthen their financial, emotional, and physical well-being.

This partnership comes to life in a story Portico shared during last year's Open Enrollment. Erik Heskin, pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Escanaba, Michigan, required an organ transplant in 2013. Supported by his congregation and the benefits it provides, Pastor Heskin is now reclaiming his role in parish ministry.

Yes, his care was costly — in fact, about 1% of members incur one-third of annual health claims. But on any given day, through illness or injury, any of us could find ourselves in Pastor Heskin's shoes. By standing together as a community, purchasing health care wisely, and maintaining healthy lifestyles, we're better able to shape resilient faith communities and afford quality care for leaders in need.

To Strengthen Ministry — ELCA Organizations Support Their Leaders

Benefits are an investment in God's ministry as carried out through the lives of rostered leaders and lay employees.

— ELCA Philosophy of Benefits

Last year, 7,085 ELCA organizations partnered with Portico to sponsor one or more leaders in the ELCA benefit program, honoring the ELCA's long-standing commitment to protect members and their families against the impact of aging, illness, injury, disability, and death. Since the ELCA's founding, the number of its pastors enrolled in the ELCA benefit program has remained above 90%.

This commitment was evident during last year's Open Enrollment. Ninety percent of sponsoring employers chose to offer the Gold+ health benefit option for 2015, despite an 11% health contribution rate increase triggered by higher than expected health claims. While this kind of increase isn't typical for Portico, it is typical in the marketplace. Since 2007, Portico's average health contribution rate increase has stayed well below the average U.S. employer rate increase, saving millions of dollars for ministry.

ELCA sponsoring organizations also partner with Portico to administer benefits efficiently. In 2014, we automated several manual processes and encouraged sponsors to save time and increase accuracy by paying their monthly bill online. Currently, 48% use this simple, cost-saving process, and we're encouraging the rest to take this stewardship step in 2015.

"In every respect, I have been thankful to our church for providing such a superb retirement program. As a third generation pastor in our family, I am pleased with the way in which our denomination has progressed in its care for all of her pastors and lay professionals. Thank you!"

Pastor Ken Gamb, Retired
Iowa City, Iowa

To Strengthen Ministry — Leaders Strive to Live Well

The ordained minister needs to be an example of self-care, as well as caring for others.

— ELCA Vision and Expectations

Annually, Portico invites health plan members and spouses to take stock of their health, and then take a small step to improve their emotional or physical well-being. In 2014, our members responded in force.

Eighty-one percent of ELCA-Primary health plan members took the Mayo Clinic health assessment, up from 77% the year before. This increase helped the number of sponsors earning the 2% discount on ELCA health contributions jump for the sixth consecutive year to 97%, saving the ELCA \$2.3 million collectively.

Even more impressive, over 51% of ELCA-Primary health plan members earned all their wellness dollars by completing last year's featured wellness activity, up from 44%. One result of these healthy steps: Among those taking the health assessment each year from 2010 to 2014, 5.4% are no longer at risk for poor nutrition, and 7% are no longer at risk for poor emotional health.

Other ways leaders stepped up their use of ELCA benefits in 2014:

- In an average month in 2014, 769 ELCA-Primary health plan members received the fitness center discount by visiting a fitness center at least eight times during the month — an 11% increase from 2013.
- As of Jan. 1, 2015, 47% of plan members are now partnering with Portico to strengthen their future financial well-being by making pretax retirement contributions, up 8% from last year. Forty-eight percent of plan members who made pretax retirement contributions in 2014 increased their contribution amount for 2015.
- 955 sponsored members and 24 retirees purchased a discounted long-term care insurance policy as part of Portico's first-year offering.

"I have let my 'be still' practice spill over into the church I serve and it is having GREAT effects. We gather for guided silence now before the Lenten Wednesday evening services."

Keith Weber, Dir. of Music
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Houston, Texas

To Strengthen Ministry — Portico Helps Leaders Tend Their Well-being

Benefits should support and enhance the unique needs of this church.

— ELCA Philosophy of Benefits

To best serve ELCA sponsoring organizations and leaders, Portico routinely asks the ELCA community for feedback. In 2014, we gathered survey responses from members and sponsors, as well as input from our advisory committees, the Conference of Bishops, synod assembly participants, synod office staff, theological conference attendees, our own Live Well ELCA Facebook page, and the ELCA Clergy Facebook group.

Through this intentional listening, we improve our offerings. For example, after hearing a number of members request long-term care insurance, we used our collective purchasing power in 2014 to offer it at a discounted rate. Another example: Using Customer Advisory Committee feedback, we were able to streamline last year's Open Enrollment process, a clear benefit for time-strapped sponsors and members.

Portico continues to steward the ELCA investment program with efficiency and precision, carefully selecting managers and calibrating asset allocation to enhance the performance of the funds. In 2014, more than 70% of Portico’s investment managers exceeded their benchmarks. This was not the case for most of the investment industry. Morningstar reported that fewer than 20% of U.S. stock mutual funds exceeded their benchmarks during 2014.¹ What’s more, our actively managed funds, with few exceptions, performed better than comparable mutual fund peer group benchmarks during the year — in some cases, by a wide margin. Importantly, this also holds for 10-year and longer time periods.²

Beyond the ELCA, Portico’s ongoing involvement with multi-denominational church benefit organizations like the Church Alliance continues to deliver value. When a federal district judge struck down the clergy housing allowance exclusion as an unconstitutional preference for religion under the First Amendment in Nov. 2013, Portico, as part of the Church Alliance, jointly filed an amicus brief urging the court to uphold the exclusion’s constitutionality. Thanks, in part, to our effort, the U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, acted in Nov. 2014 to preserve the clergy housing allowance exclusion.

“A few of our staff members petitioned our local gym to be on the Fitness Center discount list, and I can now continue my daily workouts (aka sanity sessions) and save money, too! Thank you for such great benefits to help keep me healthy, ELCA!”

Pastor Amy Stewart
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Manchester, Missouri

Together, for Life

Our partnership with sponsoring organizations and members is enduring. In 2015, we’re partnering with synods to learn how Portico can better support sponsors and leaders in the ELCA call process. And to simplify things for our members, we’ve begun to enable “single sign-on” access to our benefit partner websites. As of Jan. 2015, members can access Mayo Clinic’s new Healthy Living website directly from myPortico, and we intend to expand single sign-on to other health benefit partners later in the year.

As always, we thank you for your partnership in this shared call to strengthen ministry.

In Christ,



The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann
President and CEO

1. Source: Return of the Stockpickers, S. Max, Barrons — The Dow Jones Business and Financial Weekly, Jan. 12, 2015.

2. Find specifics about ELCA Retirement Plan investment fund performance at myPortico.PorticoBenefits.org.



ELCA Synod Assemblies 2015

Greetings from St. Olaf College!

Since 1874, St. Olaf College has provided a distinctive education grounded in academic rigor, residential learning, global engagement, and our vibrant Lutheran faith tradition. Students work closely with dedicated faculty who challenge them to grow in mind, body, and spirit. In both the curriculum and the co-curriculum, they 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, as well as a third course introducing Christian and other ethical systems. The Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career assists students in discerning their vocations and preparing for their careers during their four years at St. Olaf.

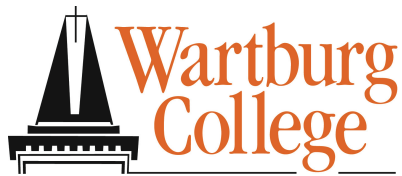
The appointment of the Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock '62 as Martin E. Marty Professor of Religion and the Academy, which began in Fall 2013, has been extended through the 2014-15 academic year. Dr. Jodock continues to engage faculty and staff in exploring the distinctive contributions of Lutheran theological principles to our educational practices and community commitments. In July 2014, following the departure of Dr. Paula Carlson to assume the presidency of Luther College, Dr. Jo Beld, Professor of Political Science and former Director of Evaluation and Assessment at St. Olaf, was appointed Vice President for Mission. In early August, St. Olaf also welcomed a new Associate College Pastor, the Rev. Katherine (Katie) Fick, to the College Ministry staff. A graduate of Augustana College (Sioux Falls) and Luther Seminary, Pastor Fick previously served as pastor of Hayward Lutheran Church and Trondhjem Lutheran Church in southern Minnesota.

In response to the recommendations of a Board of Regents Task Force on St. Olaf's Lutheran Tradition, the college is currently working to enhance both internal and external understanding of the ways in which that tradition enriches all that we do at the college. A recent contribution to that effort is the July 2014 publication of *Claiming Our Callings: Toward a New Understanding of Vocation in the Liberal Arts* (Oxford University Press), edited by L. DeAne Lagerquist and Kaethe Schwehn, in which fourteen St. Olaf faculty members across nine different departments reflect on their own callings as professors and their practices for fostering vocational discernment among their students. Finally, plans are well underway for the next St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts, scheduled for July 18-22, 2016 (stolaf.edu/cwta/).

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Olaf. Come to campus to join us at concerts, lectures, conferences, or summer camps. You can also visit the St. Olaf multimedia website (stolaf.edu/multimedia/) to join in a wide variety of live and archived streamed events, including daily Chapel and Sunday morning worship services during the academic year, the weekly Sing for Joy radio program, and vocal and instrumental concerts and recitals.

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

David R. Anderson '74
President



2014 Annual Report to ELCA Synods and Congregations

Mission Statement

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Wartburg College helps students discover and claim their callings connecting their learning with faith and values, their understanding of themselves and their gifts, their perspective on life and the future, and the opportunities for participating in church, community, and the larger society in purposeful and meaningful ways.

Enrollment

Fall 2014 enrollment at Wartburg College was 1,661 students. 10.1% are international students from a record 69 countries. 66.2% of our students are from Iowa, 8.2% are from Minnesota, and 6.9% are from Illinois. More than 25 Christian denominations and eight world religions are represented on campus, with 29.4% of the student body affiliated with the Lutheran church. The top five majors are biology, business administration, communication arts, elementary education, and music education, followed closely by psychology, engineering science, and fitness management.

Strategic Plan 2010-2020

Living our Learning, Claiming our Calling, Transforming Tomorrow

The Wartburg College Strategic Plan embraces six goals: integrative learning, commitment to vocation, mentoring community, outstanding infrastructure, investing in people, and telling the Wartburg story. Additional information about the plan is available at <https://www.wartburg.edu/strategicplan>.

Transforming Tomorrow

The \$75 Transforming Tomorrow comprehensive campaign was publicly launched in 2014 and developed out of Wartburg's strategic plan to enrich the campus community through three components: investing in **people** to ensure student access, investing in **places** to enhance student living and learning, and investing in **programs** to enable student success. Additional information about the campaign is available at <http://www.wartburg.edu/transform>.

Commitment to Faith

Wartburg is an inclusive community of faith rooted in the ELCA Lutheran tradition. Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry accompanies students, faculty, and staff from all traditions on their spiritual journeys. Church Relations supports the work of the Center for Community Engagement by connecting college resources to faith community partners and identifying opportunities that provide student learning, meet community needs, and enrich the Wartburg mission.

The Saint John's Bible, Heritage Edition

The Saint John's Bible ignited the imaginations of people of all ages during the yearlong program at Wartburg College. Students, faculty, and staff collaborated across disciplines to provide educational opportunities to the campus and greater community. Thousands of people explored the handwritten, illuminated 21st century Bible in the art gallery, at Vogel Library, through campus and community programs, and at Christmas with Wartburg. Additional information is available at <http://knightguides.wartburg.edu/bible>.

Many Blessings

At Wartburg, students take a journey of discovery, embracing their passions and unlocking their potential to realize their purpose. Our Lutheran identity is central to who we are as a college. Thank you for your continued ministry, partnership, and prayers.

Dr. Darrel D. Colson
Wartburg College President
100 Wartburg Blvd., Waverly, IA 50676
319-352-8450 – president@wartburg.edu

Gail Sexton
Coordinator of Church Relations and Faith Community Outreach
100 Wartburg Blvd., Waverly, IA 50676
319-352-8699 – gail.sexton@wartburg.edu

**Proposed Budget
02/01/2016 - 01/31/2017**

	Adopted 2015	Revised 2015	Proposed 2016
INCOME			
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	1,763,998	1,754,418	1,807,051
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	88,441	88,441	88,441
Other Income Streams			
SD Synod Mission Support	53,770	44,568	44,568
DEM Support Staff	15,000	15,000	15,000
Interest Income	7,500	7,500	7,500
SDS Transportation LLC Income	5,000	5,000	5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000	25,000	25,000
Misc Income	4,500	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	1,963,209	1,939,927	1,992,560
EXPENSES			
	Adopted 2015	Revised 2015	Proposed 2016
CHURCHWIDE MISSION			
Mission Support to ELCA	802,619	789,488	813,173
% of Mission Support	45.5%	45.0%	45.0%
Region III	15,380	15,380	15,380
SHARED MINISTRIES			
South Dakota Sustained Ministries			
Campus Ministry	135,969	124,670	128,317
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	61,192	61,192	63,028
Heartland Ephphatha	6,180	6,117	6,296
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605	3,605	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	24,467	20,056	20,056
Luther Seminary	71,438	70,700	72,769
Lutheran Social Services	71,438	70,700	72,769
Lutherans Outdoors	35,628	35,260	36,292
Church Colleges	6,180	6,117	6,296
Association of Christian Churches	2,000	1	1
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Total Shared Ministries	419,129	399,450	410,461

**Proposed Budget
02/01/2016 - 01/31/2017**

	Adopted 2015	Revised 2015	Proposed 2016
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES			
Staff Leadership			
Bishop	104,978	104,936	108,084
Associate Tesch	12,013	12,013	12,373
Associate Marone	79,286	79,286	81,665
Bishop/Associate Benefits	61,476	67,593	69,500
SDS Travel	46,066	44,566	44,566
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	20,800	18,800	18,800
Program Ministries			
Native American Ministry	120,525	125,959	129,428
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator	14,403	14,403	14,811
Companion Synod Coordinator	10,984	10,984	11,276
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	129,996	135,282	139,318
Resource Center Supplies	250	250	250
Synod Office Expenses	61,635	56,128	58,623
Augustana College	19,233	19,233	19,233
Synod Leadership			
Synod Council	6,000	5,500	5,500
Support to Ministries Committee	6,000	3,500	3,500
Candidacy Committee	6,000	7,000	7,000
Electronic Communications	2,500	2,500	2,500
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700	1,700	1,700
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	2,000	500	500
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,500
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000	2,000	2,000
Ministry Projects			
Stewardship Project	4,000	1,000	1,000
Congregational Initiative Grants	1,236	-	-
Continuing Education Projects	1,000	250	250
Rural Ministry Projects	500	-	-
Outreach Ministries			
Multicultural Center/Woyatan	15,000	15,000	15,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	4,000
Companion Synods	1,000	500	500
Contingency			
	-	1,226	669
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	736,081	735,609	753,546
Total Expense	1,973,209	1,939,927	1,992,560
Net Total	-10,000	0	0

Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

South Dakota Synod, ELCA

Introduction

- 0.01 The purpose of any system of parliamentary procedure is to provide a structure within which a deliberative body may conduct its business with the greatest degree of efficiency consistent with full and free debate. These rules of order have been prepared for use in the Synod Assembly of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA. They reflect generally accepted principles of parliamentary law and procedure, simplified, and modified for their specific purpose.
- 0.02 The presiding officer of the Assembly should be identified as the President of the Assembly, and should be addressed as Mr. President or Madam President.

Motions and Resolutions

- 1.00 There are two kinds of motions that may come to the floor of the Assembly. *Substantive* motions propose actions that determine the policy and program of the Synod. These are usually presented in the form of **resolutions**. Only one substantive motion may be on the floor at a time. *Procedural* motions determine the procedures the Assembly follows in dealing with substantive motions and in conducting its business.

(To illustrate, motions to amend, to substitute, to table, to adjourn or recess and so on are procedural motions. A procedural motion may be made while there is a substantive motion on the floor. Although only one procedural motion may be on the floor at a time, one procedural motion may displace another. For example, a motion to refer a substantive motion may be displaced by a motion to adjourn, a point of order, or a call for the orders of the day. Some procedural motions may interrupt the actions of the Assembly in order to change its direction.)

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

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

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

Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

South Dakota Synod, ELCA (continued)

- c. The order for presentation of resolutions shall be determined by the Chair of the Resolutions Committee, the Bishop, and Chair of the Synod Council. At the beginning of each plenary session the Assembly is to be informed of the intended schedule of all pending resolutions and may take action to change the order of presentation of resolutions.
 - d. All resolutions or amendments dealing with one issue shall be presented together to the Assembly prior to action moved on any single resolution.
 - e. As resolutions are received at the Synod Office, they should be edited for form and grammar by a committee appointed by the Bishop.
- 1.02 Resolutions shall include a title reflecting the content of the resolution, its origin, and a number assigned by the Committee.
- 1.03 The Committee, in consultation with the source of the resolution, may edit and revise each resolution for clarity and consistency.
- 1.04 The Committee must present each resolution substantially as it is received but may propose amendments. The sources of resolutions should be informed of Resolutions Committee recommendations prior to plenary presentation. Consultation with source of resolution is required in the case of substantive amendments prior to plenary presentation.
- 1.05 The Committee may also draft such resolutions it deems necessary or is directed by the Assembly.
- 1.06 The Committee shall forward each resolution to the Assembly with one of the following recommendations:
- 1.06.01 **Do Pass**
"Do Pass" indicates the Committee's approval of the resolution and places it on the floor of the Assembly. No further motion or second is needed.
 - 1.06.02 **Do Pass as Amended**
"Do Pass as Amended" indicates the Committee's approval of the Resolution modified by the Committee's amendment(s) and places the Resolution and the Committee's amendment(s) on the floor without further motion or second. Both Resolution and amendment(s) are considered together.
 - 1.06.03 **No Recommendation**
"No Recommendation" indicates the Committee's inability or unwillingness to make a common recommendation. For the Resolution to be considered, it must be moved and seconded from the floor of the Assembly.
 - 1.06.04 **Commit to Committee**
"Commit to Committee" places a motion on the floor of the Assembly to refer the Resolution to one of the Synod Boards or Committees.

Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

South Dakota Synod, ELCA (continued)

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

Amendments

- 2.00 Amendments may alter or even reverse the purpose or effect of the original Resolution.
- 2.01 A Resolution may be amended by "striking" or "deleting" parts of it, "inserting" or "adding" material, or by both. Any voting member may make an amendment. A second is required. The President may require the voting member making the substantive amendment to provide a written copy of the amendment to the Secretary of the Assembly before a vote is taken on the amendment.
- 2.02 Amendments may be made to a resolution, to previous amendments, or in some cases to procedural motions. Each amendment is considered in order, and at each point, passing an amendment modifies the next stage of the matter.
- 2.03 When an amendment is 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

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:

* Baptized Member Increments	** Lay Voting Members	+ 16-21 Year Old Member	+ Person of Color and/or Non-English Origin	Maximum Total Lay Voting Members
0– 500	2	1	1	4
501 – 1000	3	1	1	5
1001 – 1500	4	1	1	6
1501 – 2000	5	1	1	7
2001 – 2500	6	1	1	8
2501 – 3000	7	1	1	9
3001 – 3500	8	1	1	10
3501 – 4000	9	1	1	11
4001 – 4500	10	1	1	12
4501 – 5000	11	1	1	13

**Figures used are the published baptized membership totals from the most recent South Dakota Synod Handbook. **Goal of a balance of female/male voting members.*

S7.21.B02

Ordained Ministers from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of called or contracted service in a congregation of this synod, in accord with ELCA churchwide bylaw 8.72.12.

- S7.21.C02 ELCA pastors serving as interim pastors, under contract to a congregation of this synod, shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of contracted service in a congregation of this synod.*
- S7.21.D02 Licensed Lay Ministers certified by the South Dakota Synod, under contract to a congregation of this synod, shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of contracted service in a congregation of this synod.*
- +7.21.01.** Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the next regular Synod Assembly.
- 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 worshiping 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 worshiping 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

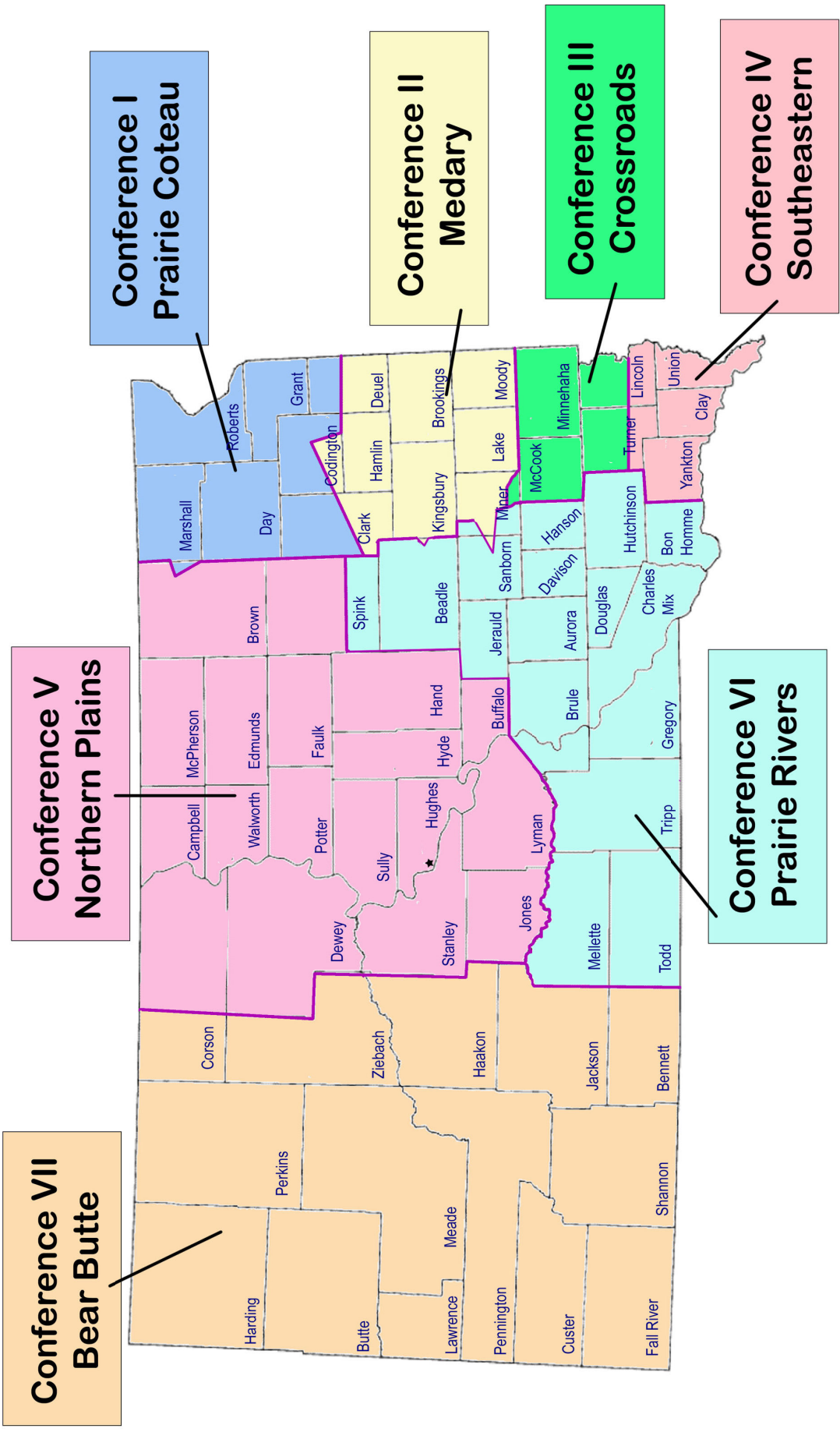
S7.50.10. The members of the Synod Assembly from each conference shall constitute the conference caucus.

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.



South Dakota Synod Conference Map