

A hand is shown planting a small green seedling into dark, crumbly soil. The background is a warm, golden sunset sky. The word "cultivate" is written in a large, green, sans-serif font, with a small green leaf icon above the 'i'.

cultivate

2023 SD synod assembly

Preliminary Report

June 2-3, 2023



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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* Separate Documents will be available for download in the Assembly Guidebook App and at sdsynod.org/assembly.



2023 SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Sioux Falls, SD

June 2-3, 2022

Proposed Agenda

THURSDAY – JUNE 1

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Displayers Setup – The Hub

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM – Early Check-In

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Beer and Hymns, [Woodgrain Brewing Co.](#) Music will be led by musicians from the Crossroads Conference. A food truck will be on site and food from other establishments can be brought or ordered in. Finding parking spaces on the street near the brewery may be difficult but there are parking garages nearby which should have plenty of available spaces.

FRIDAY – JUNE 2

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Displays Open – The Hub

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM – Check-In

8:30 AM – New Voting Member Orientation – Celebrate Center

8:45 AM – Worship Instructional Meeting
(worship leaders only)

9:10 AM – 10:20 AM – OPENING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION – Sanctuary
Installation of Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson

10:30 AM – 11:50 AM **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

Welcome and Introductions– Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

Greeting from Augustana University – Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, Augustana University President

Keynote Previews – Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen, Wartburg Seminary and Rev. Jon Anderson, Luther Seminary

Credentials Report

Adoption of the Rules & Agenda

Voting Device Practice

Ecumenical Greeting – Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Dakotas Conference, The United Methodist Church

Presiding Bishop Video Greeting

State of the ELCA – Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch

Music by Heart River Child

Greeting from Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Rev. Tim Lemme

Announcements

Caregivers Devotional Announcement – Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

Table Prayer – Bishop Emerita Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Assembly Chaplain

11:50 AM – 1:00 PM

Break for Lunch & Conference Caucuses

(Conferences needing to caucus must meet in designated locations before heading to lunch.)

12:30 PM – Resolutions and Nominations Deadline
(Turn-in at the temporary synod office)

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Music by Heart River Child

Introductions and Announcements

Associate to the Bishop Report #1 – Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

Associate to the Bishop Report #2 – Rev. Jonathan Steiner

Music by Heart River Child

State of the Synod – Bishop Constanze Hagmaier Steiner

Credentials Report

Resolution #1 Elect Synod Council Members

Synod Council Report – Dennis Thompson, SD Synod Vice President

Treasurer's Report – Terry Johnson, SD Synod Treasurer

Nominating Ballot – Committees to be filled

Journeying Together E-Learning and Resource Hub – Rev. Kari Webb

Open Door Accompaniment Team – Rev. Karen Soli

Greeting from Lutheran Social Services – Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen

Greeting from Mission Investment Fund – LuAnn Ferguson

Mission Investment Fund Video Announcements

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM Break

Sponsored by the Southeastern Conference

3:00 PM – Resolutions Committee Meets –
Friendship Room

3:30 PM – 4:20 PM
THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Music by Heart River Child
2024 Compensation and Guidelines Conversation
Companion Synods – Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson
Rural Ministry Liaison Update – Rev. Alan Blankenfeld
Greeting from Lutheran Planned Generosity – Kathy McHenry
Introduction to Cultivate Labs
Table Prayer – Bishop Emerita Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Assembly Chaplain

CULTIVATE LABS

4:20 PM – 5:20 PM
(choose one to attend)

Journeying Together E-Learning and Resource Hub/Lay Academy – *Celebrate Center*
SD Synod Rural Ministry Strategy Table – *Sanctuary*
Lutheran Planned Generosity – *Gathering Place (south end)*
Companion Synod Committee – *Lower-Level Fellowship Hall*
Open Door Accompaniment Team – *Chapel*
Sprinkles of Grace Pilot Project – *Friendship Room*
Garden Project Collective – *Walking Tour, meet by the Information center*

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Evening Meal & Celebration, Keynote

5:30 PM – 6:15 PM – Meal
Gathering Place & Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Ministry Celebration & Keynote
Celebrate Center
Welcome
Keynote Speakers – Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen, Wartburg Seminary and Rev. Jon Anderson, Luther Seminary
Music by Heart River Child
Recognition of Anniversaries and Retirees
Announcements
Closing Prayer – *Bishop Emerita Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Assembly Chaplain*

SATURDAY– JUNE 3

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Displays Open – The Hub

8:00 AM – Worship Instructional Meeting
(worship leaders only)

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM – Morning Worship and Holy Communion – Celebrate Center
Installation of Synod Council Members
Woyatan Transfer

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM – Lutherans Outdoors Annual Meeting – Celebrate Center

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Break
Sponsored by Lutherans Outdoors in SD

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM*
FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Opening Prayer – Bishop Emerita Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Assembly Chaplain
Credentials Report
Youth Gathering Update – Mara Stillson
LuMin Report – Rev. Cassandra Lamb
Greeting from the Good Samaritan Society – Rev. Christine Hallenbeck-Ask
Resolution #2 - Approve 2024 Compensation and Guidelines
Adoption of the 2024 Mission Plan
South Dakota Synod Coaching Network – Rev. Jeremy Duprey, South Dakota Synod Coach
Music by Heart River Child
Thank Yous, Announcements
Closing of the Assembly

Synod Council Meets – Friendship Room

***Agenda Subject to Change**

Materials and information can be found online at sdsynod.org/assembly or in the 2023 South Dakota Synod Assembly Guidebook App

SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Rev. Elisa Berndt McMullen, Arlington
Rev. Justin Kosec, Sioux Falls
Kimberly Olson, McLaughlin
Janiece Peterson, Sioux Falls
Erik Scott, Canton
Rev. Herb Wounded Head III, Colton
Kathy McHenry, Lutheran Planned Generosity
Rev. Alan Blankenfeld, Synod Staff
Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson, Synod Staff
Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, Synod Staff
Rev. Jonathan Steiner, Synod Staff
Crystal McCormick, Synod Staff
Lois Borchardt, Synod Staff
Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Kristi Anderson, Webster
Rev. Jeff Backer, Sioux Falls
Reid Christopherson, Garretson
Rev. Erik Olson, Elk Point
Rev. Nancy Quatier, Rosholt
John Rasmussen, Sisseton

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Laura Beall, Hot Springs
Rev. Kari Foss
Rev. Justin Neugebauer, Milbank
Rev. Jeff Otterman, Yankton
Holly Paulson, Sioux Falls
Rev. Katie Pauly, Toronto
Rev. Becky Senner, Scotland
Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson, Synod Staff

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Carla Borchardt, Sioux Falls
Bob Jenson, Sioux Falls
Mara Stillson, Sioux Falls

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Brett Koenecke, Pierre

CHAPLAIN

Rev. Andrea Degroot-Nesdahl, South Dakota Synod Bishop Emerita, Sioux Falls

MUSIC

Heart River Child

PRODUCTION TEAM

Kevin Stillson, Sioux Falls

Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Sioux Falls

Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson, Synod Staff

SPECIAL THANKS

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Pastors, Staff, and Volunteers

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD STAFF

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier	605-274-4020	chagmaier@sdsynod.org
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Rev. Jonathan Steiner, Director for Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop	605-906-1197	jsteiner@sdsynod.org
Lois Borchardt, Business Manager	605-274-4025	lborchardt@sdsynod.org
Crystal McCormick, Executive Administrator/Candidacy & Mobility Office Coordinator	605-274-4024	cmccormick@sdsynod.org
Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson, Companion Synods and Communications	605-274-5035	companion-synod@sdsynod.org amatson@sdsynod.org
Rev. Alan Blankenfeld, Rural Ministry Liaison	605-941-3257	ablankenfeld@sdsynod.org
Kathy McHenry, Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD	605-274-5030	kmchenry@sdsynod.org

Contact the Synod Office

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Fax: 605-274-4028
E-Mail: news@sdsynod.org
Web Site: www.sdsynod.org

2022-2023 Synod Council

Name	Conference
DeKraai, Reverend Ramona	Prairie Coteau
Miller, Michael	Prairie Coteau
Seefeldt, Pam	Prairie Coteau
Braun, Reverend Jackie	Medary
Iverson, Jim	Medary
Braun, Marlee	Medary
McFarland, Anne Rieck	Crossroads
Meier, Deacon Christie	Crossroads
Poppens, Dave	Crossroads
Fowler, Reverend Doctor Jim	Southeastern

Hansen, Rhonda	Southeastern
Hoffner, Jake	Southeastern
Jung, Stan	Northern Plains
Lund, Reverend Dave	Northern Plains
Nelson, Kelly	Northern Plains
Senner, Reverend Becky	Prairie Rivers
Hansen, Bonny	Prairie Rivers
Clark, Jeff	Prairie Rivers
Chapman, Malcom	Bear Butte
Holz, Reverend Wilbur	Bear Butte
Hiatt, Emily	Bear Butte
Stoller, Truman	Youth
S., Mallorie	Youth
Hagmaier, Reverend Constanze	Bishop
Thompson, Dennis	Vice President
Johnson, Terry	Treasurer
Vehar, Reverend Jonathan	Secretary

2022-2023 Candidacy Committee

Rep.	Title	First Name	Last Name
At-Large	Reverend	Agapito (Augie)	Aviles
At-Large		Heather	Smith
At-Large		Bob	Scott
At-Large	Reverend	Chris	Matson
Deacon	Deacon	Laura	Campbell
Former TEEM	Reverend	LeShea	Avery
Bear Butte		Joel	Black
Crossroads	Reverend	Jeff	Backer
Chair, Prairie Coteau		Jack	Holmquest
Northern Plains	Reverend	Craig	Wexler
Medary	Reverend	Cassandra	Lamb
Prairie Rivers		Wanda	Swenson
Southeastern		Heidi	Fowler
Region 3	Deacon	Krista	Anderson
Seminary Rep	Reverend Dr	Mark	Granquist
Synod Staff	Reverend	Renee	Splichal Larson
Synod Staff	Bishop	Constanze	Hagmaier
Chaplain	Reverend	Don	Salberg

2022-2023 Support to Ministries Committee

Conference	Title	First Name	Last Name
Bear Butte	Reverend	Deb	Grismer
Bear Butte		Paul	Reynolds
Crossroads	Reverend	Justin	Kosec
Crossroads		Elizabeth	Koob
Medary	Reverend	Rebecca	Breddin
Medary		Nancy	Moose
Northern Plains	Reverend	Rhonda	Wellsandt-Zell
Northern Plains		Colleen	Winter
Prairie Coteau	Reverend	Janet	Miller
Prairie Coteau		Cora	Jones
Prairie Rivers	Reverend	Rick	Senner
Prairie Rivers		Doreen	Gosmire
Southeastern	Reverend	Erik	Olson
Southeastern		Elayne	Lande
Staff	Bishop	Constanze	Hagmaier
Staff	Reverend	Renee	Splichal Larson

2022-2023 Evangelical Outreach Committee

Conference	First Name	Last Name
Prairie Coteau	Rev. Justin	Neugebauer
Prairie Coteau	Rev. Karie	Geyer
Medary	Rev. David	Bacon
Medary	Scott	Parsley
Crossroads	VACANT	
Crossroads	Dave	Poppens
Southeastern	Rev. Lisa	Heffernan
Southeastern	VACANT	
Northern Plains	VACANT	
Northern Plains	Waynette	Geigle
Prairie Rivers	Rev. Joanne	Nagele
Prairie Rivers	Sara	Schott
Bear Butte	Rev. Wilbur	Holz
Bear Butte	Randi	Oyen
Appointed	Kylee	Sivertson
Invited	Rev. Chris	Matson

2022-2023 Multi-Cultural Committee

Conference	First Name	Last Name
Prairie Coteau	VACANT	
Prairie Coteau	VACANT	
Medary	VACANT	
Medary	Karin	Mathison
Crossroads	Kristi	Hoff
Crossroads	Rev. Aimee	Pakan
Southeastern	VACANT	
Southeastern	Nick	Oyen
Northern Plains	VACANT	
Northern Plains	Bobbi	Anderson
Prairie Rivers	Rev. Nancy	Eckels
Prairie Rivers	Yvonne	Strasser
Bear Butte	VACANT	
Bear Butte	Shana	Hindman
Appointed	Rev. Daniel	Johnson
Appointed	Abraham	Gayetaye
Appointed	VACANT	
Invited	Rev. Maria	Cabello-Salomon

Consultation Committee

John Rasmussen (2025)

Sisseton, SD

Larry McHenry (2026)

Clark, SD

Darcie Bien (2027)

Brookings, SD

Pastor Laura Overbo (2027)

Watertown, SD

Pastor Lori Hope (2027)

Sioux Falls, SD

Pastor Stephan Sandness (2023)

Spearfish, SD
2023 Synod Assembly
Preliminary Report

Discipline Committee

Cindy Hofland (2024)

Veblen, SD

Pastor Elizabeth Pagnotta (2024)

Brandon, SD

Pastor Tim Lemme (2024)

Sioux Falls, SD

Nick Oyen (2024)

Beresford, SD

Bryan Neugebauer (2024)

Dimock, SD

Pastor Jeremy Duprey (2025)

Hill City, SD

Pastor Becky Piper (2025)

Rapid City, SD

Mary Rice O'Donnell (2026)

Redfield, SD

Krisma (Kris) DeWitt (2026)

Watertown, SD

Pastor Kari Webb (2028)

Belle Fourche, SD

Pastor Scott Munger (2028)

Mitchell, SD

Betty Oldenkamp (2028)

Sioux Falls, SD

Representatives on ELCA Church Council from Region III

Bishop Patrica J. Lull

Saint Paul Area Synod

Mr. Loren A. Solberg (3E)

Bovey, MN

Representative on Luther Seminary Board

3C South Dakota

Marge Hegge, Ph.D.

Retired Professor of Nursing

South Dakota State University



“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age’”
(Matthew 28:18-20).

Dear siblings in Christ,

We know the gospel changes lives and that God’s power and grace are real and at work today. Together we are called to bear God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world. What if we could make God known to more people? To the child who’s never heard of Jesus? To young adults who are trying to make sense of the world? To older adults who often feel lonely and isolated?

Our purpose – “to activate each of us so that more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love” – is an expression of our calling and our longing for others to know the love of God in Christ Jesus. We live out our purpose through worship and service, in our congregations and communities, through our individual vocations and our collective work as church together.

Many of you have wondered why we set a goal to reach one million new, young and diverse people. We believe that each of us is made in the image of God, redeemed by Jesus on the cross, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Our focus on young and diverse people is not exclusive but an acknowledgment that younger and more diverse people are disproportionately missing from our pews and gatherings. We are challenging one another to reach out across differences of all sorts to meet our neighbors.

Setting a goal to engage with one million is a way for us to know whether the work we are doing is, in fact, reaching new people. It encourages us to work together to be a church that cares about the world around us and is effective and faithful in responding to God’s call.

Join us on this future-focused journey to widen our welcome and break down the barriers that keep people from engaging with the church. Together, we can help people experience the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Report from Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

Dear South Dakota Synod,



Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! We will gather in assembly under the theme of “Cultivate”. Rural

Ministry will be our focus. Our keynote speakers are well-seasoned experts in all things rural ministry, I invite you to take a moment to look at their bios to find out more about them. Our musicians are from Western North Dakota and are ready to awaken us through some new and some familiar tunes. We will be offering “Cultivation Labs,” where you can dig deeper into learning about ministry and hear from and be in conversation with other practitioners about what matters to you in your congregation’s context. Visitors are always welcome and can register to listen in and participate in assembly activities such as the cultivation labs and keynote talks.

As you prepare for the assembly, I would like to take you back to 2019, when your synod staff traveled across the state for “Listen, Learn & Care” events held in seven different locations. We gathered well over 250 responses from participants. Based on your responses we drafted the synod’s vision of “Journeying Together in Christ,” which is rooted in Luke 24:13-35. Together with our partners across the church we continue to flesh out that vision. A participant at one “Listen, Learn & Care” event said that the greatest challenge facing them was to “fit who we are into pews made for who we were.”

I am delighted to share with you that we are making great progress in re-imagining church in South Dakota as well as creating resources and frameworks that you can access with ease for immediate results. The “Journeying Together in Christ” Initiative stands on four legs. The first is a Rural Liaison outreach and accompaniment team. The Rural Liaison team will journey with congregations in transition, helping them to clarify their purpose, mission, and future using an intentional process. The second leg is a Digital Ministry task force which emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic in response to a growing need for technology-rich ministries, especially among our most rural congregations. A future-focused effort will allow the task force to resource, shape, and expand ministry for the post-pandemic church. The third leg of “Journeying Together in Christ” is to create an “e-Learning and Resource Hub.” We will leverage collaborative technologies across multiple platforms to equip local leaders as proclaimers of the gospel in their unique contexts. The fourth leg is a “Story Junction” project created in partnership with consultants from the organization LEAD (Living Everyday as Disciples). Our goal is to inspire authentic storytelling as a way to recognize Christ among us, especially for those who have not yet encountered the living Lord.

In summary, “Journeying Together in Christ” will build and foster courage, capacity, and confidence within the 197 congregations represented by the South Dakota Synod so that God’s people can recognize how God is active in their lives. This will, in turn, embolden them to accompany others who will discover the same for themselves, both within and beyond the local Lutheran church. It is my hope that you discover as you read this pre-assembly report and come to participate in the assembly that your synod staff has you in mind in all we are and do. Your congregation is the bearer of the Good News of Jesus the Christ in your community and surrounding area, and we are committed to

accompany you and provide you with the resources you need to do it well. I am looking forward to welcoming you to the 2023 Synod Assembly at Our Savior's in Sioux Falls under the theme of "Cultivate". Thank you for the honor to serve you as your Bishop as well as lead you into the next chapter of being church together.

Journeying together in Christ,
Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

CONGREGATION ANNIVERSARIES and ROSTER CHANGES

(as of 05/01/23)

Anniversaries and Dedications

150th Anniversary

Beaver Valley Lutheran Church, Brandon

100th Anniversary

Grace Lutheran Church, Midland

Installations

07/09/2022	Rev. Drew Riter – Gayville, Gayville/Bergen, Meckling
07/17/2022	Deacon Randy Youngquist-Thurrow – Lutherans Outdoors in SD
07/21/2022	Rev. Jeff Backer – St. Dysmas of SD, Sioux Falls
07/23/2022	Rev. Dayna Weltzin – St. Paul's, Clear Lake
07/24/2022	Rev. Dr. John Paulson – Augustana Lutheran, Sioux Falls
08/21/2022	Deacon Hannah Fleming – Spirit of Joy, Sioux Falls
08/28/2022	Rev. Steven Lindley – Trinity, Madison
09/04/2022	Rev. Brian Wasmoen – Trinity, Mitchell
09/11/2022	Rev. Henrique Fleming – Grace, Parker
09/18/2022	Rev. Lando Anderson – Holy Cross, Sioux Falls
09/18/2022	Rev. Katie Pauly – Leganger, Toronto
10/02/2022	Rev. Becky Senner – Spirit of Hope, Scotland
10/09/2022	Rev. Young Chung – Trinity, Chamberlain
10/09/2022	Rev. Mark Eliason – First/Palisade, Valley Springs
11/13/2022	Rev. Matt Spoden – Bethlehem, Aberdeen
11/13/2022	Rev. Martha Atkins – Community Faith, Edgemont
11/20/2022	Rev. Laura Beall – St. John's, Hot Springs
11/20/2022	Rev. Dr. Ramona Hayes – Our Savior's, Flandreau
11/20/2022	Rev. Elias Johnson-Youngquist – Zion, Hartford
12/04/2022	Rev. Kevin Jensen – Grace, Sturgis
12/04/2022	Rev. Carla Nelson – Grace, Sturgis
12/04/2022	Rev. Nancy Rieke – Our Savior's, Wessington Springs
12/11/2022	Rev. Dirk Hagmaier – Christ, Hartford
01/08/2023	Rev. Shari Schwedhelm – Our Savior, Highmore
01/22/2023	Rev. Jason Burggraff – First, Sioux Falls
01/22/2023	Rev. Erik Thone – Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls
01/29/2023	Rev. Jonathan Nerdig – Ascension, Brookings
02/05/2023	Deacon Kris Wollman – First, Mitchell
02/12/2023	Rev. Dan Overbo – Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown
02/12/2023	Rev. Laura Overbo – Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown
02/12/2023	Rev. Eric Ohrtman – Spirit of Joy, Sioux Falls
02/19/2023	Rev. Heidi Binstock – Gloria Dei, Sioux Falls
04/02/2023	Rev. Shannon Witt – Custer Lutheran Fellowship, Custer
04/23/2023	Deacon Koren Lindley – Trinity, Madison
06/02/2023	Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson – South Dakota Synod, ELCA

Ordinations

07/09/2022	Rev. Drew Riter
07/23/2022	Rev. Dayna Weltzin
07/30/2022	Deacon Hannah Fleming
09/17/2022	Rev. Katie Pauly
10/15/2022	Rev. Nancy Rieke
10/15/2022	Rev. Elias Johnson-Youngquist
11/04/2022	Rev. Laura Beall
12/03/2022	Rev. Jonathan Nerdig
05/24/2023	Rev. Leif Johnson

Necrology

07/22/2022	Rev. Melvin Frahm
08/25/2022	Rev. Lloyd Stivers, Jr.
11/12/2022	Rev. Gary Westgard
11/13/2022	Rev. Keith Smith
11/25/2022	Rev. LeRoy Flagstad
12/06/2022	Rev. Martin Haase
01/13/2023	Rev. Sue Wolf
01/24/2023	Rev. John Trom
03/26/2023	Rev. Jim Thvedt

On Leave

04/11/2022	Rev. Denise Broveak
07/01/2022	Rev. Lars Olson
11/01/2022	Rev. Pam Power

Retired

04/29/2022	Deacon Kristi Gullickson
09/01/2022	Rev. Jeff Eisele
10/01/2022	Rev. April Peterson
02/20/2023	Rev. Tim Thies

Removed from Roster

03/10/2023	Rev. Larry Jerke
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Resigned from Roster

04/17/2023	Rev. Sonja Pilman
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Transferred Into South Dakota

08/01/2022	Rev. Steven Lindley, 4A Nebraska
08/03/2022	Rev. Bruce Iverson, 5L La Crosse Area
08/25/2022	Rev. Dan DeBlock, 3F Southwestern Minnesota
10/24/2022	Deacon Koren Lindley, 4A Nebraska
01/01/2023	Rev. Jason Burggraaf, 3I Southeastern Minnesota
01/02/2023	Rev. Shari Schwedhelm, 4A Nebraska
02/20/2023	Rev. Shannon Witt, 5D Southeastern Iowa
03/27/2023	Rev. Arlo (Pete) Petersen, 5E Western Iowa

Transferred Out of South Dakota

05/27/2022	Rev. Wayne Gallipo, 5E Western Iowa
06/01/2022	Rev. Mark Galbraith, 2C Pacifica
07/15/2022	Rev. Fred Bartelt, 9C South Carolina
08/01/2022	Rev. Tera Kossow, 5G Northern Great Lakes
08/16/2022	Rev. Sami Johnson, 9B North Carolina
12/01/2022	Rev. Jonathan Dolan, 5D Southeastern Iowa
01/19/2023	Rev. Josh Johnson, 9B North Carolina
01/30/2023	Rev. Marlene Anderson, 3D Northwestern Minnesota

**Report of Rev. Renee Splichal Larson
Associate to the Bishop
South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2023**



Dear SD Synod of the ELCA,

Every year, even after the longest of record-setting winters, spring eventually arrives. Even in the midst of one more April blizzard, we know that change will come. There are joys and challenges in every season, including throughout the life of congregations. No matter the season, we hold on to the hope that is proclaimed in Isaiah, chapter 36, verses 1-2a:

“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.”

We celebrate the new life that comes with the calling of a new pastor or deacon, or the ordination of a candidate for ministry in the ELCA, or when the Spirit leads people to the waters of baptism.

Since June, 2019, the South Dakota Synod has accompanied churches and synod ministries in calling 98 rostered leaders. There were 28 ministry site studies in 2022. That is about one ministry site study every other week! What is even more astounding is that in 2022, 41 letters of call were extended. The Spirit of God has been busy! These extended calls have reduced the number of vacancies in our synod to the lowest they have been in four years.

The SD Synod has also walked with 70 candidates seeking to serve the church as pastors and deacons Since June 2019. As of March, 2023, there are 22 people in various stages of candidacy in the SD Synod, with four entrance interviews in April. There will be at least three approval interviews this summer. After a few years without one, we were finally able to hold an in-person candidacy retreat in Sioux Falls, February 3-4, 2023. Twenty candidates and candidacy committee members were in attendance. Some experienced worship with St. Dymas, as well as volunteering for Church on the Street’s “Hope and Healing Event.”

Building on the legacy of the ‘Listen, God is Calling’ campaign, all of our candidates for ordained ministry in the SD Synod have been supported by SD Synod seminary scholarships, graduating from seminary with no seminary debt. Because of faithful generosity and planned gifts, \$124,290 in scholarship funds were awarded through the SD Synod to its seminarians for the 2022-2023 academic year. If there are people considering public, ordained ministry, but are worried about how to afford a seminary degree, you can assure them that there is financial aid from seminaries, the Fund for Leaders in Mission, and the SD Synod to assist them.

We received nine new first call candidates in 2022, and held our annual First Call Ministers' Retreat on November 6-8 in Chamberlain. The event drew 27 participants together. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert, who focused on how to interpret the Gospel of Matthew through a Lutheran lens. Every first call minister is part of a peer mentor group that meets regularly and is facilitated by a pastor in the synod.

Since moving from a national to a regional first call assignment process, we now have four first call consultations a year in Region 3. These are the trends we are seeing with the new first call process:

- First call candidates are getting into calls faster, especially candidates with “culminating internships”
- The new process makes a lot more work for synod offices, but all agree that the pre-consultations between bishops and candidates are life-giving and a great addition to the process
- Rural areas are struggling even more to receive candidates due to restrictions and candidate agency. We are observing a lot more restrictions to urban areas and are working on solutions as most calls in Region 3 are “rural”

We have been working hard to sustain ministry with our congregations who are in transition, utilizing area pastors and interims. Even in times of transition, ministry happens and the Gospel is proclaimed! People step up and realize they may have gifts they have never discovered before, and we become creative about ways we do ministry and find leadership.

Our synod staff has been compiling a list of people who are hungry for theological education and deepening their faith. Stay tuned for some announcements at Synod Assembly for accessibility to theological education and ministry resources.

My gratitude goes out to all who voluntarily serve in the Synod to support ministry. This includes those who serve on the Synod Council and Executive Committee, the Candidacy Committee, the Seminary Debt Reduction Committee, and the Support to Ministry Committee. I want to also say a special “thank you” to lay and rostered people who step up and serve our congregations during times of transition. Your gifts and ministry are so important! I am humbled by the dedication, faith, and commitment of those who comprise the South Dakota Synod and give of their gifts and time.

By God's grace and mercy, we do ministry together for the sake of the Gospel. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on synod staff and be journeying together in Christ with you.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Renee Splichal Larson

**Report of Rev. Jonathan Steiner
Director of Evangelical Mission
Associate to the Bishop
South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2023**



The past year has been one filled with excitement and energy across South Dakota.

Our Neighbors in Solidarity ministries continue to make impacts in their communities through their work. Congregations are dreaming and discerning what their calling is, as they learn about their neighbors & communities while sharing their gifts and blessings. We are exploring two potential new start congregations, one in Box Elder and the other in Sioux Falls. As the South Dakota Synod, we continue to be leaders in the church, and I thank you for your commitment to this work we do together!

Our Neighbors in Solidarity network is a group of ministries that we particularly support across South Dakota. Instead of focusing on only one ministry, we have so much good work happening that the Neighbors in Solidarity network is a way to celebrate all of these wonderful ministries at once. The network includes specialized ministries, like LuMin campus ministries or Church on the Street who works among people with no homes. It includes ethnic-specific or multi-cultural ministries, like Pueblo de Dios (Spanish speaking), First Lutheran African Ministry (mostly Liberian immigrants and refugees), Woyatan (Lakota), Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center (ministry on Pine Ridge), and McLaughlin Community Alliance Group (non-profit work on Standing Rock). And when we start new congregations, like Spirit of Hope in Scotland, they are also included. You can learn about these wonderful ministries at sdsynod.org/neighbors and you can also find links to their own sites there.

It has also been an honor and blessing to me to serve you in this role over the last nearly four years. However, I have discerned that God is calling me into something new. My work at this position will be concluded by the end of the summer, and I am proud of the work that we have accomplished together.

In this time, we have supported our vulnerable ministries and all congregations through a global pandemic, developed deeper relationships with West River congregations, walked with new start congregations into being fully organized, planted or explored planting three new congregations, and now celebrate the land transfer for Woyatan to live deeper into self-determination.

I am amazed at the imagination, the passion, the generosity, and the love for our neighbors that I've experienced in this work. Thank you for being part of that, in

response to the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is certainly at work in the South Dakota Synod, and I am thankful to have been your partner as we Journey Together in Christ!

- Respectfully submitted by
Pastor Jonathan Steiner
Director for Evangelical Mission
Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship & Outreach
West River Representative



The vastness of the South Dakota Synod!!

I truly believe that I have the best call in the synod, to be able to travel the state and walk with the congregations as they are in a time of transition. Since last synod assembly I have been in 10 communities and 18 congregations! What a blessing to be able to visit and walk with the people who call these churches home. I have had the privilege to teach and administer first communion and to grieve with families at the time of a death. To laugh and cry with the people, to have hard conversations and look to the future. We all fear the future as we don't know what is ahead for us personally or for our churches, but we journey together in Christ, trusting that He is with us.

Pr. Jackie Braun and I serve as the co-facilitators of the Rural Strategy Round Table. This group comes together from all conferences in the SD Synod, lay and ordained with one common interest, ministry in our rural communities. We are involved with working closely with the Bishop, Wartburg and Luther seminaries and others as we explore how to best help and better prepare our lay leaders, as they serve a very important part of the continued ministry in our rural areas.

I also truly enjoy talking with people who may or may not be involved as lay leaders in their church but have gifts that they need to do just that. Some are taking lay leadership classes, others are taking seminary classes and then there are those who soon will be taking seminary classes but just don't know it yet.

I would like to thank the Bishop and Synod Council for your continued support. The South Dakota Synod is a diverse synod and most certainly has roots firmly planted in our rural communities and together we will continue to Journey Together in Christ!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Alan Blankenfeld
Rural Ministry Liaison

2023 South Dakota Synod Assembly Report
Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson
Companion Synod Coordinator

To the saints of the South Dakota Synod,

In my work as Companion Synod Coordinator, I have the privilege and the blessing to bear witness and share the story of how our work together as the South Dakota Synod with our companion synods in Nicaragua and Cameroon changes lives in the name of Jesus Christ in those countries and even here in South Dakota.

In the past year, there have been new stories to share. Representatives of the Church in Nicaragua were able to visit South Dakota last fall, visit congregations, and build new relationships around the Synod. A delegation from South Dakota was able to visit Nicaragua this January and strengthen the bonds of friendship, and see new chicken coops, new wells, and developed fields that your support has made possible. And together as a synod, we were able to be there to lend a hand through our “Seeds of Hope” program as the people of Nicaragua recovered from Hurricane Julia last September. We were also able to help sponsor the annual youth camp and pastors’ Reformation gathering.

In Cameroon, we have together been able to help support the education of many children through the “Train up a Child” program and other education programs, support the education of new pastors at the Lutheran seminary in Cameroon, and help put roofs on four new church buildings, so that communities have a stable, safe, permanent place to gather and worship.

Speaking of church roofs, I have some great news to share on this front. 2023 is the 100th anniversary, or centennial, of the Lutheran Mission in the Sudan Region of Africa, which includes Cameroon. In honor of this anniversary, Bishop Baiguele, the national bishop of Cameroon, has been invited to join us for our Synod Assembly this year, and if things go as planned (which is never a guarantee in international travel), you can look forward to meeting him at our assembly, and have the chance to join him at one of our breakout sessions.

To mark his visit, the Prairie Rivers Conference of the South Dakota Synod – the conference of which you are a part – has set a goal of raising \$8000 to build a church roof in Cameroon. They have also challenged the other six conferences in our synod to match that goal. Hopefully, by this summer, or at least by the time Bishop Hagmaier leads a delegation to Cameroon in October for their week of celebrations, we will be able to share this centennial gift of seven new church roofs with our siblings in Christ in Cameroon.

Thank you for all you do to support our work together as the South Dakota Synod, especially our work with our companion synods. Thank you for keeping the people of the Lutheran Churches of Nicaragua and Cameroon in your prayers, and for your continued financial support of our work together. If you’d like to learn more about these relationships, please don’t hesitate to email me at companion-synod@sdsynod.org. You can also find out more on our Synod website at <https://sdsynod.org/companion-synods/>.

Your sibling in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson



Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

PO Box 862

Pine Ridge, SD 57770

605-867-5262 Cell: 605-454-6400

e-mail: pineridge.center@gmail.com

website: <http://www.pineridgereconciliationcenter.org/>

Fostering mutual trust, respect, and understanding, while addressing the deep poverty that exists on the reservation.

The last year has brought a change to how ministry exists at the center. We are truly living our mission. We are making an impact in the community and have been addressing the poverty that we face every day. Because we are on the front lines helping the community, we are building a level of trust.

We have been operating the Homeless Shelter since November of 2022 and currently, we are using the center as a day shelter. Over the winter we housed as many as fifty people per night. During the blizzard in December, we were one of only 2 places that remained open. During the height of the storm, the hospital was bringing people to the shelter when they were discharged. One even came without shoes. The Job Corp staff stayed at the center to ensure we could serve the homeless community. We provide over 130 meals each day. 200 on the days when we are feeding the kids.

Additionally, with a housing grant from the state of South Dakota, we have rehoused 44 families into permanent homes. In other cases, we kept people from being evicted and helped others pay their electric bills to get the power turned on. For others, we help keep homes safe with improvements or replace needed appliances. For example, the fridge died in a family with 5 kids.

We continued to serve the kids of the community. Each week we provide food and activities to 65 kids. And we provide food bags to each kid to ensure that they have something to eat over the weekend. The kids love coming to the building and were bummed when we had to cancel because of the weather.

The Energy Matching Assistance Program was very popular. Word of the program was spread on Facebook, and we had 105 families apply in two days! We were packed and the applications came non-stop. The STAFF was awesome. We had thank cards come in and others shared, on Facebook, how great the service was. We gave out over \$55,000.00 in funding and helped 302 families and over 1450 people.

I cannot walk around town without being greeted by many people. The center and more importantly the staff of the center are making a difference. But it is only possible with the support we receive from the synod, the Episcopal Diocese, the ELCA, and the many people and churches that continue to support us.

Blessings on all you do,

Pastor Dan Johnson

Director, Lutheran/Lakota Shared Ministries

South Dakota 2022-2023 Synod Council and Vice President Report

As we plan to meet in person for the 2023 Synod Assembly, things are returning to a more “normal”. But it will never be as it was before the pandemic. Our lives and our church life have changed. We are all learning how to adapt and continue to do God’s work.

The Synod Council continues to meet and conduct the business of the Synod. We always keep in mind that we need to be good stewards of the Synod’s assets and that our mission is to spread God’s word and accompany individuals and Congregations in their faith journey.

Once again, the congregations of the South Dakota Synod and its individual members have been very faithful in their giving. Contributions have remained stable, but, just as with congregations, costs have continued to rise and have required the Council to look closely at the mission plan. After much thoughtful deliberation, we hope that we have a plan that will continue the important work of the Synod.

Highlights of Synod Council activities include:

- Continued support for the Rural Ministry Liaison position as a resource to rural congregations in transition
- Continued support for the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center and the great work done by Rev. Dan Johnson.
- Contacted congregations to express appreciation for ongoing mission support and listen to input on Synod activities.
- Approved distribution of endowment funds
- Heard reports from staff and mission partners
- Continued to partner with the McLaughlin Community Alliance Group.
- Continue to walk with new start Spirit of Hope in Scotland, SD.
- Authorized disbursement of Listen! God is Calling appeal funds for Rostered leader and lay education.
- Reaching a conclusion for Woyatan’s self-determination.

Thank you to the Synod Council members who ended their term in 2023: Michael Miller, Pam Seefeldt, Jim Iverson, Rev. Jim Fowler, Stan Jung, and Truman Stoller. Also, thank you to Rev. Ramona Hayes who left the council as she changed conferences. Thank you for participating on Synod Council and being flexible to meet on Zoom. Thank you to the Executive Committee for your willingness to meet monthly and provide leadership: Bishop Hagmaier, Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Terry Johnson, Malcom Chapman, Bonny Hansen, Rev. Jackie Braun and Dave Poppens.

The Synod staff continues their good work. Thank you to Bishop Constanze Hagmaier , Pastor Renee Splichal Larson, Pastor Jonathan Steiner, Lois Borchardt, Crystal McCormick, Rev. Alan Blankenfeld, Kathy McHenry and Rev Dr. Aaron Matson. The Synod is blessed to have these dedicated, talented individuals working to further the mission of the Synod. Thank you.

Also, thank you to the individuals who have agreed to serve on Synod Council. The Council's work is important in providing leadership to the Synod. Bless you. I look forward to working with you during the coming year.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Most people, when asked to serve on a “committee”, tend to groan.

This is surely not the case with the South Dakota Synod’s Candidacy Committee.

Our mission is to welcome, nurture, and guide deacon and pastor candidates in their discernment to answer God’s call and grow in service to our church. There is great joy in sharing the rigorous path these candidates traverse.

Associate to the Bishop Reverend Renee’ Splichal Larson recently summarized the status of our synod’s candidacy program.

“The SD Synod has walked with 70 candidates seeking to serve the church as pastors and deacons since June 2019. As of March, 2023, there are 22 people in various stages of candidacy in the SD Synod, with 4 entrance interviews held in April. There will be at least 3 approval interviews this summer. We were finally able to hold an in-person candidacy retreat in Sioux Falls, February 3-4, 2023. Twenty candidates and candidacy committee members were in attendance. Some experienced worship with St. Dymas, as well as volunteering for Church on the Street’s “Hope and Healing Event.”

Building on the legacy of the ‘Listen, God is Calling’ campaign, all of our candidates for ordained ministry in the SD Synod have been supported by SD Synod seminary scholarships, graduating from seminary with no seminary debt. Because of faithful generosity and planned gifts, \$124,290 in scholarship funds were awarded through the SD Synod to SD seminarians for the 2022-2023 academic year. If there are people considering public, ordained ministry, but are worried about how to afford a seminary degree, assure them that there is financial aid from seminaries, the Fund for Leaders in Mission, and the SD Synod to assist them.”

I close with this invitation to be part our work.

Virtually every congregation in the South Dakota Synod of ELCA has the opportunity to lift up people to explore their response to God’s call. As you feel God’s call to nurture faithful believers to consider this service to our synod, I encourage you to enable potential candidates to contact Reverend Renee’.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our church, this synod, and our Lord’s work in South Dakota.

Jack Holmquest, SD Synod Candidacy Committee member
jholmquest@wat.midco.net
(605) 520-0426

Report from Support to Ministries 2023

prepared by Justin Kosec, chair of Support to Ministries

As part of each Support to Ministries meeting, we cover every congregation in transition: those experiencing a recent pastoral vacancy; those who have begun to interview candidates; those who approach pivotal congregational votes. We pay special attention to congregations that need additional support in these transitional moments.

These moments include some of the most hopeful and exciting for a congregation: the calling of a new pastor, the ordination of a vibrant young candidate for ministry, the renewal of purpose and hope.

As part of that work, for instance, we have developed a mock interview tool for call committees that may wish to practice their interviewing skills before they begin speaking to pastoral candidates. In these mock interviews, a call committee can practice sharing their congregation's vision by "interviewing" a rostered leader who will help them put their best foot forward.

Over my last several years on this committee, I have also watched this team support a congregation's ministry even through the toughest conversations. This could be the death of a beloved pastor, or the sudden retirement of a pastor after the onset of life-altering illness; or even conversations to disaffiliate from the ELCA and withdraw from our denomination. In each circumstance--in every challenging conversation--the bishop, synod staff, and members of the Support to Ministries team have shown candor, deep pastoral sensitivity, creativity, wisdom, and a desire to care for our fellow Christians.

Support to Ministries does not simply consider how to walk alongside congregations in transition. We also continually till the ground so we can plant seeds for the future of our ministry here in South Dakota.

We have placed special focus on how to further develop lay ministry so our churches can raise up a new wave of lay leadership in our congregations. This has led to our synod's conversations with Luther Seminary and Wartburg Seminary to develop educational opportunities for people who want to learn more about their faith as they feel called deeper into service.

We have also uplifted initiatives that make our synod a more welcoming place to do ministry, such as the Open Door LGBTQI2S+ Accompaniment Team. You may not know a pastor who identifies as a member of this community. But we have seen incredibly talented LGBTQIA2S+ ministers from across the country who *want to do ministry in places like South Dakota*--but they have wondered if our state would be a safe place for them to live and work. The Open Door team has tried to address this question head-on so we can continue to welcome the most talented ministers in our denomination.

Our team also ensures careful review of the Compensation and Guidelines documents that helps congregations calculate a fair wage for their rostered leaders. After overhauling this process a couple years ago, a dedicated team has done exceptionally thorough research to ensure the South

Dakota Synod remains competitive with synods like ours in states like Nebraska, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

Through strong leadership from committed lay people, rostered leaders, and synod staff, Support to Ministries continues to creatively engage every part of the relationship between congregations and their leaders. We're here for you: to understand your challenges, to celebrate your successes, to help you navigate your changes, and to thank God for the good work you do every single week in service of the gospel.

With warm regard,
Justin Kosec
Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls
Chair, Support to Ministries
Dean, Crossroads Conference

Evangelism Outreach Committee Report for Synod Assembly 2023

The Evangelical Outreach Committee Zoom Meetings have centered around new start and specialized Ministries in the “Neighbors in Solidarity” network. We are working to emphasize the story of each ministry site to each congregation in our Synod. It is our hope that congregations will be willing to get to know who these “Neighbors” are and how we can relate to them. Each member of our committee has also been encouraged to partner with one of our “Neighbors in Solidarity” sites and be an advocate for them.

Pastor Jonathan Steiner, our South Dakota Synod’s Director of Evangelical Mission, is our Synod staff person who works with us. If you are interested in learning more about these “Neighbors,” please go to the Synod website (sdsynod.org/neighbors) and you will receive a great idea of who their leaders are and what they are doing to share God’s love in the communities they serve.

The other primary task of the Evangelical Outreach Committee is to request from the South Dakota Synod funds to help with addressing the financial cost of ministry for their particular settings. We received \$50,000 and approved the following distribution of those funds:

1. \$10,000 to be left in Reserve
2. \$20,000 to be split evenly, \$2,500 annually
3. \$20,000 for project proposals
 - a. Woyatan, Salary Support: \$2000
 - b. Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, General Funding: \$2,000
 - c. Mc Laughlin Community Alliance Group, Administrative Support: \$2,000
 - d. Spirit of Hope, Scotland, Ministry Support, AED: \$2,800
 - e. Pueblo de Dios, Salary Support: \$4,600
 - f. First Lutheran African Ministry, Salary Support: \$4,600
 - g. Church on the Street, Arts in the Park: \$1,000
 - h. LuMin (Lutheran Campus Ministry sites), General Funding: \$1,000

We are looking to other ways to support these leaders and help with their ministries so that they can continue to impact the communities they serve.

Please consider learning more about our “Neighbors in Solidarity” and feel free to invite these leaders to meet with you as a congregation to develop a deeper relationship with each other. Please pray for them so that we will be able to build a more solid relationship with each other as we work together to proclaim the love of God more boldly and effectively to all who benefit from these ministries.

Respectfully, submitted,

Pastor Joanne Nagele

Multi-Cultural Committee Synod Assembly Report - 2023

The Multi-Cultural Committee has not regularly met this last year, and has not had a chair. It has been hard to jump start the momentum, as the committee had identified the need to meet in person with our ministries to build relationship, which was then cut off by the pandemic. We have identified a need for renewed vision and investment into this committee, centered around supporting and advocating for our multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries. The bylaws of the SD Synod direct this committee as follows:

The Multi-cultural committee shall:

- a. Advise the Evangelical Outreach Committee on matters related to the oversight and funding of ethnic specific congregations.
- b. Develop strategies to help us become a more multicultural church.
- c. 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.
- d. Teach the people of our Synod how to listen and interact with different cultures, so that there may be a mutual blessing.
- e. Encourage congregations and leaders who are involved in multicultural ministry.
- f. Seek generous giving and participation from churches, individuals and organizations toward the cause of multicultural ministry.

It is my hope that this committee is re-energized with the mission to be in direct relationship with our ministries, to better live out this work. I invite the synod to embrace the work of this committee, to be in relationship with our ministries, and to ensure the Gospel is proclaimed to all of God's people.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Jonathan Steiner, Director for Evangelical Mission

ELCA Region 3 Archives Report to 2023 Synod Assemblies

Introduction

2023 marks the 35th year of the ELCA Region 3 Archives. Paul Daniels continues in the archivist position at 80% time, half-time for the 9 synods of ELCA Region 3 and half-time for Luther Seminary. This shared position works well with Luther providing office and storage space as well as access to a much-needed volunteer pool and IT support. Luther profits from hosting the largest of the 9 ELCA regional collections as the materials are available for use by the entire seminary community.

Use of the ELCA Region 3 Archives

The Archives website, www.luthersem.edu/archives, continues to work well as our “front door” for promoting archival services to congregations and individuals. Luther Seminary provides IT support for the site and its regular updates. Researchers use the site for information on the collections as well as articles like “Ask the Archivist”, focusing on particular archival topics pertinent to their church settings. Reference uses for the year were:

+Assisted a total of 845 reference patrons in the past year with a range of research interests. The majority (64%) are congregational committees working on records scanning projects, anniversary celebration planning, church history writing and general records care questions. Other significant user groups include synod leadership, church wide offices and individual researchers.

+Worked on a regular basis with all 9 synod offices, collecting valuable office records and assisting with retention plans for each office. In an effort to reduce travel costs I limited my on-site visits to 2-3 visits per year to each of the 9 synod offices. In most cases, email, phone calls, and Zoom meetings were sufficient. These virtual visits were coordinated with 24 Zoom congregational visits throughout the 3 states of ELCA Region 3.

Collection Growth

+Collected 234 linear feet of additional synod office records from the 9 offices. These include legal, financial, personnel and program files. Much of this material is stored off-site in space leased from Iron Mountain Co.

+Gathered 178 congregational pieces adding to a collection now totaling 7,033 files.

+Received 504 biographical pieces on clergy and lay leaders – total is now 9,330 files.

+Assisted 15 closing congregations in Region 3 with records care (scanning) and critical records collection.

Outreach and Education

+Distributed 56 copies of “Memory Work: A Guide for Congregational Archives and History” to congregations and individuals. The guide is more frequently accessed digitally via the Region 3 Archives website.

+Managed off-site secure storage program via Iron Mountain Co. for permanent care of sensitive files, including candidacy, camping staff, and synod financial records.

+Promoted and managed the congregational records scanning program through Mid-America Business Systems.

Professional Development

+Daniels remains an active member of the Society of American Archivists, the Midwest Archives Conference, the Twin Cities Archives Roundtable and the Lutheran Historical Conference. Daniels renewed and maintained his professional certification in the Academy of Certified Archivists.

Respectfully submitted 3.10.23 by Paul A. Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archivist and Luther Seminary Archivist



The Mission Investment Fund: Your financial partner

The Mission Investment Fund, a financial services ministry of the ELCA, provides a strong, stable, faith-based way for individuals, congregations and ministries to achieve their financial goals. MIF offers a range of investments for individuals, congregations and ministries. We put those investments to work to fund building and renovation loans for congregations and partner ministries, including outdoor camps, senior housing and social service agencies.



The result? Impact investments, with a transformative impact on our communities: Expanded worship spaces ... new space for education and youth ministry ... much-needed day care centers for working families ... industrial-grade kitchens and fellowship halls for community meals.

Why is MIF the right choice?

- **MIF has demonstrated expertise** in church and ministry financing. With longstanding experience in congregation and ministry building projects, we're unique among lending institutions.
- **We consistently offer competitive rates and terms.**
- **We offer a full suite of financial services.** MIF offers congregations, ministries and individuals a host of investment options. We work in deep partnership with the ELCA Federal Credit Union to offer a wide range of financial products and services.
- **The faithful stewardship of Lutheran congregations and their members funds our loans.** The money invested in MIF finances hundreds of capital projects across the church.

MIF has a longstanding tradition of strength and stability. At year-end 2022, MIF had 812 loans outstanding, totaling \$582.7 million. Investment obligations totaled \$559.4 million. With total assets of \$776.3 million and net assets of \$202.9 million at year-end 2022, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 26.14 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

Our steadfast support continues for the members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA and the many ways you minister to a world in need. We are honored to walk alongside you as a trusted partner.

MIF at work in the South Dakota Synod (as of December 31, 2022):

- 6 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$3,100,589
- \$8,994,264 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

For more information about MIF capabilities, please visit our website, mif.elca.org or contact your Regional Manager LuAnn Ferguson: 651-900-3575 luann.ferguson@elca.org



a legacy of
generosity



1983: Under the leadership of Bishop Norman Eitrheim, the South Dakota District of the American Lutheran Church, in partnership with the ALC Foundation, Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota and Augustana College, creates a **Development Office** for the South Dakota District. Reverend Franklin M. Pudas accepts a call as the district's first Development Counselor.

1984: South Dakota Endowment is established by the District Council with an initial balance of \$50,347.04.



2003: The Development Ministry expands with additional ELCA ministry partnerships and the creation of **Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota**. A new mission statement is adopted: *We will help people of God make lifetime financial gifts to the South Dakota ministries who are members of Lutheran Planned Giving (LPG) and create a rising tide of financial support for their missions.*

2003: South Dakota Synod Endowment balance exceeds \$800,000. Distributions of \$123,300 support seminary students, rostered leaders, and synodical operations and ministries throughout the state.

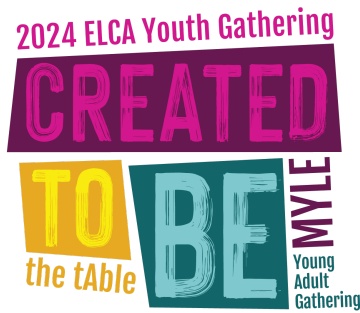
2020: LPG gets an update with a new name, **Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota**, in partnership with the South Dakota Synod ELCA; the ELCA Foundation; Augustana University, Luther Seminary, Lutheran Social Services of SD, Lutherans Outdoors in SD, Bethesda of Aberdeen, Heartland Ephphatha Ministries, Lutheran Campus Ministries, Prison Congregations of America, and St. Dismas South Dakota. A message of **generosity** as a fruit of the Spirit inspires members and congregations of the South Dakota Synod to make a difference.



2023: South Dakota Synod Endowment's fiscal year-end balance of more than \$10 million generates over \$400,000 in distributions, including over \$150,000 in seminary debt reduction grants and scholarships.

- to those whose faith and foresight to encourage generosity established a permanent source of support for ministry in South Dakota and throughout the world.
- to all those who have shared gifts and created plans that provide perpetual resources supporting future generations of church ministry and leadership.
- to those considering generosity--***your life can make a difference!***

Thank you



We are getting excited about the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, and we hope you are too!

First, I wanted to introduce myself. My name is Mara Stillson (she/her/hers) and I serve as the Gathering Synod Champion for the 2024 Gathering for the South Dakota Synod. Additionally, I serve as the Marketing Director for Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota in the Sioux Falls Administrative Office. I'm excited to join you in this journey as a leader who will bring youth to this life-changing faith formation event. If you are not the primary adult leader, we would love it if you'd share this information with the person who is responsible for youth ministry in your congregation, and let us know so we can update our records.

Gathering registration opens this fall, and we want to give congregations as much time as possible to get ready for what's to come. I will be sharing information about the Gathering, along with Pastor Jonathan Vehar (he/him/his), Director of the tABLE from Peace Lutheran at this year's Synod Assembly.

We hope you will join us! We also have a travel opportunity through Lutherans Outdoors for groups who are looking for shared transportation to New Orleans. Pre-registration is available for that experience, and you can learn more by reaching out to me at mara@losd.org.

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the Gathering's website (elca.org/gathering). There is a ton of helpful information related to the Gathering, Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), the tABLE and ELCA Young Adult Gathering already posted. As planning continues, information will be added and/or updated.

That's it for now. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me mara@losd.org. We can't wait to get started!

LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA



2022 REPORT



PAUL HANSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lutherans Outdoors is excited to celebrate 55 years of summer camp and retreat ministry for the ELCA congregations of South Dakota and beyond. Fifty years of ministry at Klein Ranch will be celebrated this summer. Outlaw Ranch will be 65 years old this summer and last summer we celebrated 80 years of ministry at NeSoDak. Many things in our world have changed over the years but Outdoor Ministries continue to offer faith-growing experiences where God's love is felt through song, worship, Bible study, and play. Take the opportunity to visit your sites---Klein Ranch, Outlaw Ranch, and NeSoDak Bible Camp.

Lutherans Outdoors continues to offer powerful summer camp opportunities and radical hospitality for retreat guests. Though Covid was still a concern, Lutherans Outdoors did see an increase in both summer campers and year-round retreat guests in 2022.

During 2022, Lutherans Outdoors began the process of REIMAGINING LO. During last year and this year, the Board of Directors will conduct eight deep dives into all facets of the ministry. This REIMAGINING began with a deep dive into the Philosophy of Lutherans Outdoors and a new set of Core Values was decided.

Through our Core Values, we promise to:

- Explore Faith
- Welcome All
- Build Leaders
- Care for ALL Creation

These four Core Values will prominently be active and noticed at all Lutherans Outdoors' Programmed Ministries, Hosted Ministries, Special Events, and staff interactions,

This REIMAGINED Lutherans Outdoors promises to continue to be your first choice for dynamic and innovative Christ-centered ministry.

I hope to see you at a Lutherans Outdoors site or event soon!

Be Good!

SUMMER CAMPERS



OUTLAW RANCH

2022 | 569
2021 | 478



KLEIN RANCH

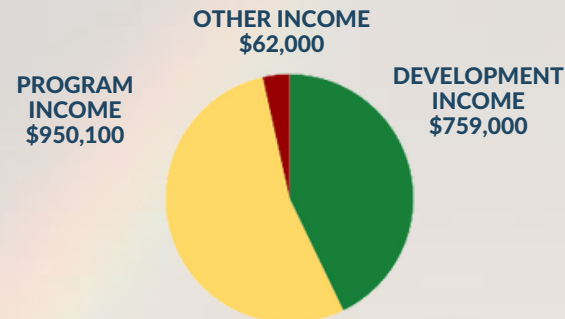
2022 | 136
2021 | 108



NESODAK

2022 | 470
2021 | 486

2022 INCOME SOURCES



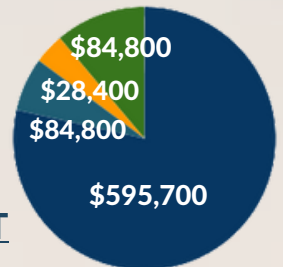
OUTLAW RANCH

KLEIN RANCH

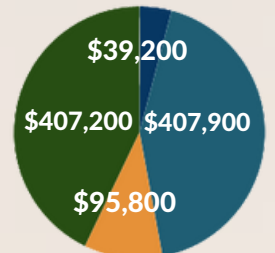
NESODAK

ADMIN OFFICE

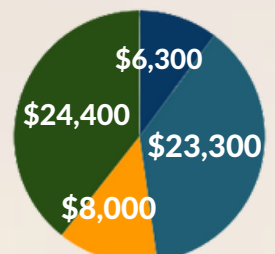
DEVELOPMENT INCOME \$759,000



PROGRAM INCOME \$950,100



OTHER INCOME \$62,000



CONNECT WITH US:

2023 Synod Assembly
Preliminary Report

LOSD.ORG
800-888-1464



Doing God's Work to Serve and Value All People



REBECCA KIESOW-KNUDSEN
PRESIDENT/CEO

At LSS we are passionate about making a difference in South Dakota communities and addressing emerging community needs. Over the last year, our strategic planning process engaged the Governing Board of Directors, executive and leadership teams, and LSS staff in conversations about how changing community needs as well as our funding, staffing and service delivery models will impact us over the next four years.

**We believe that a focus on services that strengthen families
and help keep youth at home and in their community
will help reach our vision for South Dakota—
that all South Dakotans will be healthy, safe and accepted.**

We make a significant impact in people's lives every day. But we have to ask ourselves, 'How can we do it better?' There will be exciting outcomes, news and stories to share as we continue to do God's work to serve and value all people.

Thank you for being part of our mission and vision.



JUNE 10 • LEVITT AT THE FALLS
10AM — 3PM • FREE

FAMILY-FRIENDLY
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FOOD TRUCKS
CRAFTS • KIDS ACTIVITIES

A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

2023 Synod of the ELCA
Preliminary Report

Our Strategic Priorities in Action

A recent onsite visit from Vincent Madera and David Collins with the Children's Village of New York not only inspired our leadership and staff but challenged us on how we can ease disparities for families in communities across South Dakota and elevate the voice of those we serve.

Madera and Collins spent a week with LSS leadership and staff in Sioux Falls and Rapid City engaged in the conversation surrounding two of our agency's strategic priorities.

- **Seek program opportunities to strengthen families.**
- **Ensure that LSS is a welcoming and inclusive organization for staff and clients and working toward equitable outcomes for those we serve.**

The work of Children's Village to strengthen youth and family voice pushes us to excel in our work. To mirror their work means that the staff at LSS walk alongside those we serve and listen and respect what they think is best for themselves and their family. It means that we honor the families' experiences, history, culture and goals. It means that we acknowledge and don't assume which resources a family needs, but listen to the family about what they need to succeed.

"Our work at LSS is so diverse. The elevation of the client's voice will show up differently in each service area," says Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen, LSS President/CEO. "We have amazing resources as an organization given the continuum of services we offer. Not all organizations support families in as many ways as we do. In the coming months, we will be working to operationalize the ideas generated in the site visit."



May 2023

Greetings from Augustana University.

After a long winter and chilly spring, I hope this finds you and your families well and excited for summer. May the months ahead bring time for rest, renewal and wonderful family experiences.

As you will read, Augustana University has been blessed with much to celebrate since the time of our last report. Our fall 2022 enrollment of 2,086 students — including part- and full-time undergraduate and graduate students — marked the fourth largest student body in four decades. Included were 553 new first-year full-time undergraduates — the second-largest incoming class in the university's history. Our 92 new international students established another record for the university. With students representing 37 states and 49 countries, diverse thoughts, ideas and perspectives continue to enrich classroom discussions and campus life.

We celebrated the many accomplishments of Phase I of our Viking Bold: The Journey to 2030 strategic plan last September and are now well into Phase II. I appreciate the opportunity to share the following updates related to our enduring commitments and Viking Bold journey.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Augustana University grounds itself in worship on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. In addition to hearing God's word and giving Him thanks and praise, worship brings the opportunity to enjoy the gifts of our music ensembles, bless student groups and support important events, such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Interfaith & Better Together Week. We celebrate communion on Wednesdays and our decades-long tradition of senior sermons on Fridays. In addition to worship, there is a student-led Bible study on Tuesday evenings.

Opportunities for service, connection and outreach are plentiful. This winter, 95 students participated in the 20th annual Augustana University Faith Fest, a 1-day retreat held on campus for sixth through eighth graders. Other campus ministry programming this year has included hosting representatives from local faith communities for "Faith Fair," an initiative to connect students and staff to faith communities; hosting representatives from ELCA seminaries; supporting Augustana's Interfaith Council and Better Together interfaith student group; and "Lenten Faith Partners," an initiative which pairs students and faculty who meet for weekly faith conversation during the season of Lent — growing from 23 pairs last year to 43 pairs this year.

With a focus on learning more about our neighbors, 15 Augustana students traveled to the Pine Ridge Reservation with Pastor Ann Rosendale and Tyra Hawkins, assistant director for diversity, equity & inclusion, during fall break — the largest group in over a decade. The experience included listening to stories of Native people, visiting Wounded Knee and meeting local artists.

There is much excitement surrounding the Chapel of Reconciliation Expansion Project, which will include community gathering spaces, a lovely patio area, an enlarged narthex and the placement of beautiful and historic liturgical art. Construction will begin once our fundraising goal is achieved. The university community is grateful for the generosity shared to date by many alumni, parents and friends.

Campus Ministry is led by Campus Pastor Rev. Ann Rosendale '04, along with Interim Associate Campus Pastor Rev. Jon Splichal Larson '06. Pastor Ann is currently immersed in a professional development leave, which has included a trip to the Holy Land, visits to other colleges and universities and long-range planning.

In January, I was elected to serve as president and executive committee chair of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU) for 2023. The 27 member institutions share a common calling to prepare graduates who “are called and empowered to serve the neighbor so that all may flourish.”

The NECU is in the midst of its 2022-25 Strategic Plan, with the following goals established:

- Deepen the understanding of the rich diversity of Lutheran identity at NECU institutions.
- Enhance Lutheran distinctiveness through increased inter-institutional collaborations.
- Strengthen NECU's relationship with the ELCA.

It is an honor to serve in this leadership role as the NECU strives to fulfill its mission and achieve the goals before us.

CONTINUED PROGRESS OF OUR VIKING BOLD STRATEGIC PLAN

Academics

- Finalized and implemented a new governance model for the change in academic structure to a College of Arts and Sciences, Sharon Lust School of Education and Schools of Business, Health Professions and Music

- Secured Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation for the June 2023 launch of the Master of Science in nursing (MSN) and post-graduate certificate programs with specialty tracks in adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner (AG-ACNP) and adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist (AG-CNS)
- Finalized first cohort in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program which will begin in June 2023
- Launched minors in neuroscience and brewing & fermentation
- Announced Fall 2023 launch of the Augustana University Fintech Program by Pathward™, which will be the first of its kind in the region
- Approved programs in bioinformatics, criminal justice, gender, sexuality & women's studies, science writing and social work for Fall 2023

Enrollment & Strategic Scholarships

- Implemented ePortfolios, a digital, multi-dimensional place where students may archive narrative reflections, supervisor evaluations, letters of recommendation and more, which may be used to demonstrate competence when applying for employment or graduate school admission
- Announced the Sanford Health Nursing Scholarship Program, a 1-year pilot program which will award as many as 32 scholarships to students, both in the accelerated nursing and traditional Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) programs

Athletics

- Launched women's acrobatics & tumbling, women's diving and men's swimming & diving
- Continued construction of Midco Arena, future home to Viking Men's Hockey, to be completed in January 2024

Physical Campus & IT

- Dedicated Ralph H. Wagoner Hall, rededicated newly renovated Bowden Field, home to Augustana Softball, and reopened renovated Bergsaker Hall
- Renovated campus green to include an additional outdoor classroom, seating areas with charging stations, designated spaces for intramural sports and a water feature
- Renovated Solberg Hall will reopen this fall

Viking Bold Campaign

- Raised more than \$136 million toward the \$175 million goal for the Viking Bold Campaign

OTHER 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS

The Augustana University Class of 2022 Outcomes Report confirmed that 99 percent of 2022 graduates — who completed degrees in August, December and May of the 2021-2022 Academic Year — found employment in their major or chosen field — further affirming the value of an Augustana degree.

Augustana Athletics secured Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Championships in men's & women's cross country and women's swimming & diving; Bryn Greenwaldt '26 was named NSIC swimmer of the year; and men's & women's cross country earned top-10 finishes at the NCAA DII National Championship.

Augustana University and the Center for Western Studies hosted the 26th Boe Forum on Public Affairs, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway.

Under the guidance and care of our dedicated faculty and staff, students thoughtfully discern their vocational calling and pursue a path of meaning and purpose. With an education of enduring worth, grounded in our core values of Christian, liberal arts, excellence, community and service, they leave Augustana to serve all aspects of society. They are God's hands at work in the world.

We appreciate the South Dakota Synod's continued partnership in our mission. We invite you to stay connected through social media, campus visits and special events. Please consider encouraging young people in your community, or those of any age who are interested in continuing their education, to consider Augustana. On behalf of the university community, thank you for your time and commitment in fulfilling this important work.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
President

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen!

Greetings from your brothers and sisters in Christ behind the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary system. Thank you all for the outpouring of support and encouragement we have received this year. It has been a big year of transitions, and God is at work in amazing ways in the lives of people inside and outside the walls.

The beginning of this year saw us restricted from even being allowed inside the prison due to lingering Covid restrictions, to again being able to gather for worship in-person. And you stepped up; we have had great groups visit both “The Hill” in Sioux Falls and at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, SD, to worship with us.

In February, we bid Pr. Wayne Gallipo a joyous farewell as he transitioned into retirement. I want to thank Pr. Wayne for his faithful service, hard work, and ministry to St Dysmas. Our staff including our office manager, Susan Zacher, and music directors, Diane Larson and Joran Olson, all worked so hard to endure very challenging times in the history of both the St Dysmas ministry and the world in general.

Emerging from Easter season in the promise that God makes all things new, on May 1, I began serving as the Senior Pastor and Development Director to St Dysmas of South Dakota. Though I am new to leading this ministry, I inherited a strong legacy of God’s grace at work in challenging places. I give thanks that each and every day I get to witness God bringing new life from death in the lives of those who society often sees as undeserving. Worship attendance has increased at “The Hill,” MDSP, and the Yankton Unit. I am grateful for the work of Pr. David Bentz, who serves at MDSP, and Pr Dani Jo Bierwagen, who serves at the Yankton Unit. They are both faithful shepherds of God’s flock.

We are guided by a faithful and hardworking Associate Council that helps guide the strategy of the St Dysmas ministry. Bringing my business management background with me into leading this ministry, I know I have certainly thrown new ways of thinking at them, and they have been greatly supportive.

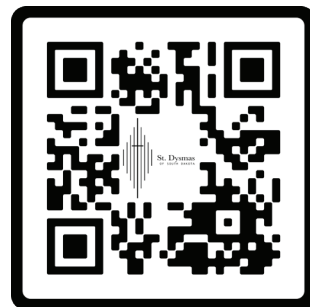
Mitch Wilson continues to serve as our Re-Entry Coordinator. During Covid, a lot of the momentum of his work took a hit, but he has continued to accompany those transitioning from incarceration back into the “normal world,” and he does a great job. We look forward to talking to congregations about welcoming justice-impacted individuals to be part of your faith community. We know that making connections with these individuals leads to the success of their transition.

Above all, I give thanks to God for the many gifts he has entrusted to us. Through the faithful partnerships of many congregations, families, and individuals, we can do the work of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear it most; “setting the captives free...”



Grace and peace to you always!

Pastor Jeff Backer
Senior Pastor/Development Director



Donate Now!

The Good Samaritan Society

The Good Samaritan Society is one of the nation's largest non-profit providers of senior care and services, offering home-based services, skilled nursing and rehabilitation care, assisted living and independent senior housing. We are proudly affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and in 2022 we celebrated 100 years of mission-centered service to seniors and individuals with disabilities. We are honored to provide compassionate services and care to those in our communities who need us.

In 2019, the Good Samaritan Society and Sanford Health merged to create an integrated care delivery system that provides health care services through the lifespan. After nearly five years as a combined organization, we are seeing how our partnership is helping communities thrive.

Presence in the South Dakota Synod

Though our services extend far beyond South Dakota, we are especially proud to call Sioux Falls the headquarters of both the Society and Sanford Health. We also offer skilled nursing, assisted living, senior housing and home-based services in greater South Dakota—namely in Canistota; Canton; Clear Lake; Corsica; De Smet; Herreid; Howard; Miller; New Underwood; Rapid City (Echo Ridge and St. Martin Village); Scotland; Sioux Falls (SF Center, Prairie Creek and SF Village); Tyndall; and Wagner.

We are honored to serve many members of the South Dakota Synod and partner with Rostered Ministers to meet the needs of our residents and clients.

Public Advocacy

The pandemic has put unprecedented stress on the senior care industry.

We are working with state and federal policymakers to advocate for our seniors and the caregivers who serve them. We are committed to working with partners in the senior care industry to find permanent and meaningful solutions to support and address our workforce and resident care needs now and in the future.

More than 70 percent of the residents we serve live in rural communities, and we remain resolute in ensuring they have access to care as close to home as possible.

ELCA Endowment for the Elderly

In March 2023 the Society was awarded a \$25,000 grant through the ELCA Endowment for the Elderly. These funds will allow us to pilot a program around diversity, equity and inclusion for our residents and staff, namely at our skilled nursing facilities in New Hope, and Robbinsdale, MN. Starting in May 2023 we will host artistic organizations and performers to celebrate diversity and to commemorate PRIDE Month, Juneteenth, Hispanic Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Month. We trust this work will bring life-giving performances and connections to those we serve and to those who provide their direct care.



It is a week after Easter and I am reflecting on the Easter story as I prepare to preach on the text for our Easter worship service at the University Lutheran Center at South Dakota State University. As is typical in campus ministry, we do whatever we want, whenever we want. So, we will celebrate Easter on the second Sunday of Easter, but this gospel news is so good it is worth telling even a week later. We do this later Easter worship service because we value celebrating together as a faith community, but we also recognize that most of our community travels off campus for the long weekend that surrounds the actual day of Easter.

I am struck that in Matthew the Easter story includes road work. The Marys travel on the road to the tomb. The angel greets them with action words of travel: “come, see” and “go quickly and tell.” Those same words are prevalent in campus ministry. Students travel from their homes to Brookings to come and see what college life has in store for them. And in the blink of an eye, they travel away from this place to go and tell of their college experiences.

Campus ministry includes road work, too. At the core, campus ministry is rooted in accompaniment and sojourning while building community through holy experiments. Our ministry kicks off each August, as new and returning students descend upon SDSU and seek to find meaningful ways to connect with their peers outside of the classroom, through a variety of organizations, clubs, and activities. We see a surge of new students enter our doors right away, but they continue to trickle in throughout the whole academic year, often aided by the invitation of other students to come and see. Our programming gathers students on Sunday mornings for worship and free lunch and on Wednesday evenings for Bible study and snacks. On Thursday evenings our building is open for studying, socializing, caffeinating, and brain breaks. We take our message across the street to campus on a routine basis offering a variety of swag along with relevant messaging. We also find plenty of time for fun during our time together. This year that included a game night, ice skating, a Stampede hockey game, and a formal dance. During finals we keep the lights on, the caffeine flowing, and bellies full at almost all hours of the day and night, hoping to cheer students on to successful completion of their courses.

Most of the students we travel alongside have done a fair amount of their own traveling back and forth to church throughout their lives. Others of them have trauma and pain that was caused by church communities in their past, yet they still show up. Some are new to faith completely. A handful of them will do similar work of accompaniment as they work at Bible

camps this summer, and as a supportive faith community, we will gift them with financial support to make their summer employment a more profitable experience.

We found ourselves on the road for spring break, as a group of five from our campus ministry were joined by a group of six from Northern State University, for a trip to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. There we were welcomed by Spark 'Dwell, a service oriented collaboration of two organizations. Spark is an organization that creates meaningful service opportunities for groups, but is also intentional about creating ongoing relationships with those they serve. The Dwelling is a newer faith community rooted in the ELCA and The Moravian Church in America, serving those on the margins. As we walked the streets, heard the stories, worshipped with the community, and broke bread alongside our neighbors, we deconstructed our own preconceived ideas about hunger, homelessness, and poverty and we were moved to action. We were moved to action there, but we also came back to campus inspired to continue doing meaningful service in our own community, empowered by the notion that we each have the ability to help others on the road to rise and thrive.

This year we were travel partners with several local organizations to make a difference in our community. We sojourned with the Brookings Backpack Project, the Brookings Area Foster Closet, Jack's Cupboard (the campus food pantry), and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Student offerings in excess of \$200 were split between Jack's Cupboard and The Dwelling in NC.

I have no doubt that this year the community that has been created at the ULC will go quickly and tell of their college experience. Their road work for this academic year was transformed by the accompaniment of campus ministry. And we are fortunate, because with only one graduating senior, many will return to this place and continue the ministry of invitation next fall, so that others may find welcome and community at the ULC.

We cannot travel alone in this ministry! A huge thank you to the synod, congregations, WELCA organizations, and individuals whose generosity does not go unnoticed. We hope you will continue to support us as we journey forward. Beyond financial support, we also want to connect with young adults from your communities as they make their way to SDSU to further their education. Please, help us connect with them by sharing their contact information. Additionally, if your community would like to learn more about how they can accompany us on this journey, please do not hesitate to reach out and schedule a visit.



Pastor Cassandra Lamb

1404 8th St Brookings, SD 57006

605.692.4880

pastorcassandra@sdsulutheran.org



Dear Friends of the Luther Center,

God's grace and peace be with you! This first full school year with the Luther Center was quite a whirlwind! Fall saw us gathering together on Wednesday nights for worship, game, and movie nights while Thursdays continued with a dedicated group of young men gathered for bible study. Highlights for us in the fall semester were our gathering for Halloween, meeting with Pastor Chris Matson from Church on the Street, and our participation in many of the activities put on by USD and the community in the first weeks of the year.

These students here at USD and the Luther Center are so involved in life here, which is a wonderful gift. Sometimes that meant our gatherings were small, but I learned that there is so much value in continuing to meet with students, however many can be present. Smaller gatherings gave me and our students the chance to get to know one another, and for me to learn where they are on their journey as young followers of Christ. I wouldn't trade those times, and only look forward to finding ways to enrich these relationships in the new school year.

Spring semester flew by! We held an open house at the Luther Center, inviting students and area pastors and lay people to gather for worship. Thursdays became their own bit of fun teaching (and certainly learning from) the young men who attended bible study. Together we tackled the book of Revelation, and I could not be more impressed with the depth of their

questions and creativity as we read through this hard bit of scripture together. As I write this now, that same bible study is preparing for our last gathering of the year where we will send off one of our own with prayers and a word of blessing as he is being deployed with the Army Reserves this summer.

I am so thankful for the ways God worked in our little community on Plum and Cherry in Vermillion, and for the guidance and care of our board and office manager. Their care and dedication for sharing the Gospel here too would often lift me up when I felt like an event hadn't gone off well, or if I ever felt discouraged. Together we are looking ahead to the new school year and the possibilities of starting a regular worship service at the Luther Center in addition to our bible studies and other activities.

I want to express my thanks as well to the SD Synod and all who help this ministry grow and thrive through your prayers and offerings. Your support means the world to everyone who comes to this place to find a community grounded in Jesus Christ. I look forward to the next school year and hope to see some of you this summer. I'd love to come and chat with you and your congregations about campus ministry and say thank you in person!

In Christ,

Pastor Lisa Heffernan

A YEAR OF SECURITY, HOSPITALITY, & WELLNESS

This year your Northern LuMin student leaders recognized and responded to the call of loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Food insecurity is prevalent on South Dakota college campuses and across the nation.

Students living on campus respond to rising tuition and fees by downsizing meal plans and/or living off campus where meal plans are not required. We responded to this need by hosting Grocery Bingo, providing a Thanksgiving meal, and starting a new monthly meal ministry called Feeding the Pack.

Understanding the stress of college involves new responsibilities, meeting expectations, and pressure. We choose to extend hospitality. We celebrated birthdays, hosted a campfire, joined a trunk or treat, created community with Dwell Differently at Dempsey's devotions, and provided students with ways to reduce plastic use on campus during Lent.

Loving others does not end with well wishes, it requires understanding and appreciation of all aspects of wellness. Our weekly devotion centered on monthly themes of the Wellness wheel, exploring social, emotional, physical, financial, vocational, intellectual and spiritual wellness. Overall gaining new insight on the importance of seeking balance in all things.

As we prepare for the next year we thank you for your support and appreciate your prayers.

Your Backyard service learning trip

McKenzie Hassebrook
student leader

"Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough. Money can be gotten, but others need your heart to love them. So, spread love everywhere you go."

Mother Theresa, Missionary

Over Spring Break I had the opportunity to serve in Winston-Salem North Carolina alongside fellow NSU & SDSU Lutheran Campus Ministry members, The Dwelling and Spark!

Throughout the trip, I experienced poverty simulation, made durable bags, restocked a food pantry and cooked. It was truly an impactful week learning about basic need insecurity, redlining, food deserts, and being trauma-informed. We were challenged to take our knowledge, apply it to our own "backyards", and implement change.



follow us @ northernlumin or email northernlumin@gmail.com

Heartland Ephphatha Annual Report

Jason Andera

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries operates to bring those who are Deaf and hard of hearing the message of Christ's love. We are part of the South Dakota ELCA Synod and are headquartered at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. We have weekly interpreted worship every Sunday at 9:00 in American Sign Language. Sarah and Jason Andera are the directors and our board members are Angela and Mark Koterwski and Belinda and Jeff Panek. Together we provide worship, learning, fellowship and service opportunities for our community. This year we continued to have Bible studies and worship opportunities despite the pandemic. We stream our ASL interpreter on our Facebook page each week and try to meet bi-monthly for Bible study. We are also part of the ELDA which is a group of ministries across the country who provide worship opportunities for the Deaf community in the ELCA.

Our current goals are to:

- Plan for the 2024 ELDA conference in Rapid City next year.
- Continue making sure our community has an opportunity to worship in ASL weekly.
- Support interpreted worship across South Dakota and SW Minnesota.
- Create several service opportunities for our members.
- Continue teaching ASL in person when it is safe to do so.

God's peace to the South Dakota Synod for their outstanding support to our ministry for decades.





2022 Annual Report to the SD Synod, ELCA

Chapel in the Hills

3788 Chapel Lane

Rapid City, SD 57702

(605) 342-8281

www.chapel-in-the-hills.org info@chapel-in-the-hills.org

The Chapel in the Hills is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed to maintain and operate the Chapel in the Hills, in Rapid City. We are considered a Special Partnership Ministry of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA. The Chapel and grounds are open to visitors from May 1st to September 30th and during special services and events the remainder of the year.

The Chapel offers a quiet, retreat-like setting in the midst of the hustle and bustle of vacation and offers a place for tourists and local residents alike to slow down, relax, and enjoy Christ's presence. The Chapel fills a unique niche in the Synod's evangelism through its ministry to visitors, sharing our Lutheran heritage and traditions. Visitation remains high, with approximately 30,000 visitors annually, coming from every U.S. state and numerous countries.

Evening worship services are held Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 7:30 PM throughout the summer, continuing the tradition that began when the Chapel was the home of the *Lutheran Vespers* radio program. The Chapel continues to host other special services and events throughout the year, along with numerous weddings and renewal of vows ceremonies. In addition, we continue to seek ways to extend our mission to the local community and beyond. We are now in our seventh year of hosting ELCA clergy from all over the country to serve as our guest pastors. This program has been very popular with all involved, as our guest pastors share their ministry with our visitors and carry back awareness of the Chapel and our ministry to their own congregations and friends. If you happen to know of an ELCA pastor (active or retired) who may be interested in serving as one of our guest pastors, invite them to contact us for more information.

Volunteerism remains the solid backbone of our ministry at the Chapel in the Hills. We have a very dedicated group of volunteers that staff our gift shop and serve as hosts for our visitors. Without their help, along with youth and other church groups assisting with maintenance projects and special events, we would not be able to continue our ministry. If you should ever feel a call to serve as a volunteer in the gift shop, on a maintenance project, or as a visiting pastor, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Adequate funding is always a concern—and goal—of the Chapel in the Hills board of directors. We feel fortunate to have weathered the COVID-19 pandemic in good condition, and we enjoyed excellent visitation in 2021. We anticipate this year to be the same. Being blessed in receiving some generous recent donations, we have been able to establish an endowment that now provides a secure, permanent source of funding to assist with the maintenance and operation of the Chapel. If you or someone you know feels a call to make a gift to add to our endowment fund, please contact us. Watch for further information on giving opportunities to the Chapel in the months ahead.

As we continue our service to residents of the Black Hills and beyond, we ask for your continued prayers and support of this unique ministry in South Dakota. We encourage your congregations to take advantage of all that the Chapel can provide. Come visit us when you are in the Black Hills. Feel free to hold a special worship service, congregational picnic, or other special event at the Chapel. Get together a group of your family and friends and attend an evening worship service during the summer. Discover the peace you will find, and then share the news of this special place with others!

In Christ's Love,

Brian & Joyce Kringen, Managing Directors

SD Synod Coaching Coordinator Team Report – 3/31/23

The SD Synod team of “coaching champions” is comprised of Jamie Duprey, (SD synod coordinator) Jeremy Duprey, and Jess Daum. There has been a formal South Dakota Synod coaching cohort for four years. We meet quarterly, at minimum, to discuss ideas and opportunities to create and cultivate partnerships and pathways for coaching in our synod. Wilbur Holz, Nicholas Breining, Laura Campbell, Jackie Braun, John Paulson, and Cassandra Lamb are involved in the SD Synod coaching network as they meet ELCA Coaching “Active Status” requirements

<https://www.elcacoaching.org/pages/active-status-protocol-for-elca-coaching-ministry>.

Current State of SD Coaching

- The SD Synod coaching cohort has two coaches who are ICF certified at the associate level of certification (ACC) and pursuing the professional certification (PCC) with an emphasis on grief coaching, one who is close to ACC certification, and one actively discerning the process of seeking associate level certification.

Coaching Support and Training

- The SD Synod coaching team is in consistent correspondence with Jill Beverlin, Jason O’Neill, David Hively, and other coaching coordinators across ELCA churchwide.
- The SD Synod coordinator, Jamie Duprey, is working with Charlie Zimmerman (NC), Gary Rothenberger (EWA), and Beth Anderson (WND) to mentor coaching coordinators across the ELCA. Jamie and Beth are the mentor coordinators for all of the other synods involved in coaching across the ELCA.
- Active Status is defined as:
 - Connecting 3-6 times a year with synodical coaches for support and training
 - Coaching at least two (2) clients for ten or more hours (total) annually
 - Following the ICF Core Competencies and Ethical Guidelines
 - Submit annually a recorded coaching session for review
 - Four (4) hours minimum per year of continuing education/coach specific training; ELCA Coaching is partnering with Dr. Don Eisenhauer at Coaching at End of Life to provide free continuing ed opportunities
- ELCA Launch Training – enables participants to be certified as Level 1 ELCA coaches. This certification is unique to our denomination and has no standing elsewhere (in the realm of coaching). It is separate from the International Coaching Federation (ICF) credentials. Coach Launch participants are now required to complete an application form with the signature of the bishop. This helps the participant understand and honor that coaching is a “calling” with the intent of supporting advancement of the mission of the synod and larger church. The SD Synod is looking into a hybrid coach training option connected to Spring Theological 2024.

Coaching in the SD Synod

- Bishop and associates Renee Splichal Larson and Jonathan Steiner have all been through ELCA Level 1 Coach Launch.
- The synod staff has been most supportive in helping create venues where coaching can be utilized and help advance the mission of the synod.
- Current venues where coaching is offered include: first-call, ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Growing Younger, Coaching Around Stress and Crises.
- Pastor Jonathan Steiner is in conversation with coaching coordinator regarding ways to continue to support leaders through coaching, and to continue broadening partnerships and pathways for coaching in our synod.

The Challenge

- We value the partnership we have with the bishop and her staff. We look forward to continuing our work together to support and empower servant-leaders for Christ in and through the SD Synod—and beyond—as we help those who coach and are coached maximize their God-given gifts and potential.
- The challenge remains to continue to promote and advocate for coaching. Coaching is often perceived to be for those who “need help” or are somehow not performing up to expectations. Clients who undergo the most transformation are, in fact, high performing individuals who want to fully develop their potential and grow more fully into the person God has created them to be.
- We look forward to finding new and creative ways to help rostered and lay leaders discover the power of coaching and how it can help them live more fully into God’s dream for their lives and congregations.

Currently, ELCA Coaching is looking for more specific data collection regarding communities where coaching is showing up: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOyievLJddA>

- # of coaching relationships in 2022
- # of coaching hours
- # of new, young, or diverse individuals engaged
- # of coaching engagements in young adult ministry
- # of Latine/REDIL
- # of African, Asian, Arabic and Middle Eastern, Native and Indigenous communities
- # of LGBTQIIA+ communities

The SD Synod network will continue to stay informed regarding ELCA Coaching best practices and prayerfully considering pathways and partnerships where coaching can continue to support leaders.

Helping Members Refill Their Cup with Responsive Benefits

PORTICO®

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

In 2022, Portico invited plan members to use their full range of benefits to care for themselves following the challenges and stress of the last few pandemic years. We continually seek cost-effective and nimble ways to support ELCA leaders, congregations, and organizations with high-quality, innovative, and stable benefits that promote holistic well-being.

- ELCA-Primary health benefits provided both in-person and virtual access to health care and wellness resources.
- Portico's Financial Planners and LSS of Minnesota helped ELCA Retirement Plan members navigate the weight of rising interest rates and market downturns through no- or low-cost financial planning, coaching services, and financial education.

In recent years, we've added several eligible ELCA- and full-communion-partner organizations to the Portico community. Growing the number of members we serve helps us manage costs and offer innovative benefits not typically available to smaller groups, affirming the importance of church together.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2022

232

Podcast Plays

Of the "Creative Approaches to Innovative Ministry" episode of Being Here last year.

16,002

Total Pounds Lost

Through the Omada prevention program since it launched in 2018, with 2,643 pounds lost in 2022.

591

Retired

With Portico's bundled benefits program — Congratulations to these faithful servants!

1,132

Webinar Views

Of the annual Retirement Readiness Series (live and on-demand).

3,080

Medical Visits via Text Based Care

Through 98point6®, our virtual primary health care service.

9.75%

Increase in Net Membership

Over the past 5 years.

3,952

Health & Fitness Classes Completed

On Portico's online Burnalong platform.

Over \$2M

Debt Paid Off

By plan members working with LSS of Minnesota financial counseling since the partnership began.

86%

Very Satisfied

With our Customer Care Center, certified for excellence since 2015.



ELCA Federal Credit Union

***Providing a full complement of financial services
to ELCA members, congregations and ministries***



The ELCA Federal Credit Union, founded in 2016, provides a full suite of financial products and services to members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA. **We are the first of the ELCA's financial ministries to offer loans to individuals.**

The Credit Union offers a rich variety of products—

from savings and checking accounts and CDs ... to loans, lines of credit and credit cards. And now, we provide home mortgage loans for new homes or remodeling, along with home equity lines of credit.

We serve ministries with deposit accounts, a flexible credit card program, auto loans and unsecured ministry loans up to \$100,000 for small projects such as building repair and purchases. Our new CU@Work program presents the opportunity for ministry organizations to offer our Credit Union products and services to their employees.

In 2022, we ushered in the fourth cohort of participants in the ELCA's Resourceful Servants program, designed to improve financial wellness and assist rostered leaders in building emergency savings funds. In this matching program, ELCA rostered leaders make ongoing deposits to their Credit Union emergency savings accounts, and our partner MIF matches those funds up to an established amount. Together, we already have served **657 rostered ministers** who, collectively, have made emergency savings deposits of more than \$1 million.

Our strong online presence allows members to access their funds anytime, anywhere—as consumers expect today.

Why choose the ELCA Federal Credit Union?

- **The ELCA Federal Credit Union supports the ELCA's mission of good stewardship.** We provide full services to all ELCA members, congregations and related ministries.
- **Our mission is to offer competitively priced products and services.** We can often offer better rates and lower fees than traditional banks. We have demonstrated success in providing savings to our borrowers.
- **With the church as our sponsor, we operate in ways that are consistent with the church's values.**

Membership is open to every ELCA member, synod, congregation and ministry—and their employees.

For more information about the products and services of the ELCA Federal Credit Union, please visit our website, elcafcu.org or call us at toll free at 877-715-1111.



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Partners in Ministry,

For many of us, 2022 represented a moment of hope. After the darkness and isolation of the pandemic, life has begun to return to normal –offering new opportunities for connection and renewed commitment to serving our neighbor.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has embraced this moment; in the past year, we have grown exponentially in both size and scale, expanding our capacity to welcome immigrants and refugees.

With the help of people of faith and communities like yours, we were able to...

- help **16,690 children** reunify with their families or find safe, loving foster homes
- resettle nearly **12,000 Afghans** forced to flee after Afghanistan fell under Taliban control
- welcome **3,169 refugees** from countries across the world
- assist **18,262 people** seeking safety from Central America and beyond

We continue to expand our slate of innovative programming to move beyond traditional resettlement into an empowered living experience that promotes not just surviving, but thriving.

That work reaches, too, into our media and advocacy footprint. You may have seen LIRS President and CEO Krish O'Mara Vignarajah on national news programs like *PBS Newshour*, *MSNBC*, *NPR*, the *BBC*, and others, advocating on behalf of our immigrant and refugee neighbors from Ukraine to Venezuela.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It remains a priority of ours in 2023 to combat the divisive, xenophobic rhetoric surrounding immigration and instead promote kindness, compassion, and inherent human dignity.

We invite you to join us in that work! This year, we will continue to offer opportunities to get involved in the work of welcome, including:

- advocating alongside LIRS and our newest neighbors in celebration of [World Refugee Day](#) on June 20th,
- sharing notes of welcome with children and families impacted by immigration detention through LIRS' [Hope for the Holidays™ program](#) each fall,
- and equipping leaders and faith communities to create more just and welcoming communities through the [LIRS Ambassador Network](#) and [EMMAUS Network for Congregations](#) throughout the year.

Together, we can realize Jesus's ministry of compassion and welcome. We're so grateful for your support and look forward to working alongside you in the coming year.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsey Johnson".

Chelsey Johnson, LIRS Mobilization and Faith Relations

National Headquarters: 700 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 | Phone: 410-983-4000 | Fax: 410-230-2890 | www.lirs.org
Advocacy Office: 110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 506-507, Washington, DC 20002 | Phone: 202-381-1030 | Fax: 202-330-5807

Founded in 1874, the mission of St. Olaf College is to challenge students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged community nourished by Lutheran tradition. With an enrollment of just over 3000 full-time undergraduates, St. Olaf continues to attract a broad pool of talented students, currently representing 49 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and 99 countries. Our Fall 2022 incoming first-year students had an average high school grade point of 3.72 and a median ACT composite score of 30. In addition, 20% are first-generation college students, 22% identify as domestic students of color, 10% are international students, and 20% are income-eligible for Pell grants.

More than half of our students indicate that they are affiliated with a Christian denomination, with 18% self-identifying as Lutheran and another 6% as members of a denomination in full communion with the ELCA. Among our Class of 2022 graduates, 93% had participated in an internship, mentored research experience, practicum, or other vocation-related opportunity, and 43% had studied off-campus (a drop-off from previous years due to the restrictions imposed by COVID). Among the Class of 2022 graduates for whom we have data about post-college activities (88% of the class), 98% were working, pursuing further education, or engaged in full-time military or other service program within the first six months of graduation.

St. Olaf continues to offer daily Chapel services and Sunday worship with Holy Communion during the academic year, led by the college pastors and featuring members and friends of the St. Olaf community as speakers and musicians. All services at Boe Chapel are [streamed live](#) and then [archived](#) for on-demand viewing on the St. Olaf website. The College Ministry team also includes an Associate Chaplain for Jewish Life and an Associate Chaplain for Muslim Life (currently an open position, with a search anticipated next fall), who offer opportunities for worship, religious education, pastoral care, and interfaith engagement, not only for students who identify with these faith traditions but also for students of any identity.

The college continues its weekly [Sing For Joy®](#) radio program, broadcast on more than 150 stations in the U.S., the U.K., and throughout Africa, and streamed both live and on demand. Built around the Revised Common Lectionary for the church year, *Sing For Joy®* integrates the best in sacred choral music with thoughtful commentary, now provided by its new host, Rev. Alexandra Jacob '16. The [St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts](#) returned in July 2022, with “Scatter the Imagination of Our Hearts” as its theme, and featuring theologian Willie James Jennings (Yale University Divinity School) and Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics Eunjoo Mary Kim (Iliff School of Theology) as guest keynoters.

The [Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community](#) is now in its fourth year of programming to advance a compelling vision for Lutheranism in the 21st century, foster inter-faith engagement, nurture vocational discernment, and provide national and global thought leadership. Center Director Dr. Deanna Thompson, together with Dr. Anton Armstrong, Tosdal Professor of Music and Conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, and Rev. Dr. Anthony Bateza, Associate Professor of Religion, each contributed chapters to [So That All May Flourish: The Aims of Lutheran Higher Education](#), published in January 2023 by Fortress Press. Rev. Dr. Charlene Cox, the Lutheran Center’s Program Director for Congregational Thriving, continues to lead the Center’s five-year [Nourishing Vocation Project](#), supported by a grant from the Thriving Congregations initiative of Lilly Endowment Inc. The Nourishing Vocation Project engages congregations in a process of vocational discernment guided by three primary questions – *Who are we called to be? What are we called to do? Why are we here?* Working in community with other congregations, participants engage Biblical texts and spiritual practices for vocational discernment; participate in the St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts; and are provided with resources for congregational use in worship, Christian

education, and leadership development, to support spiritual nourishment and a deeper understanding of God's call upon their life and work together. At present, a total of 15 congregations, spanning four denominations and seven states, are participating in Cohorts 1 and 2, and the entire Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA, with more than 140 congregations, launched their participation as Cohort 3 during Lent. A number of the Nourishing Vocation resources are available at no cost on the [project website](#), including [Sing Vocare](#), a playlist of musical selections to accompany the [Vocare Spiritual Practice](#).

With additional support from Lilly Endowment Inc., in June 2023 the Center will launch a second initiative to enrich the life and work of congregations within and beyond the ELCA. The new Nourishing Vocation with Children project is aimed at deepening the full participation of children in congregational worship and prayer through the arts. We will accompany congregations and congregational leaders in a process of vocational discernment focused on the centering of children in worship and congregational prayer; equip congregations and their leaders with ideas, resources, and hands-on experiences integrating child-attentive music, theater, movement, poetry, and visual arts into worship and prayer practices they can use in their own congregations; and support them in reflecting on the impact of their new practices on children's capacity to know, love, and serve God. Lilly Endowment made the five-year grant in support of this project through its Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative.

In May 2023, I will conclude my seventeen-year appointment as President of St. Olaf. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve my alma mater. Following my retirement, the College will welcome [Dr. Susan Rundell Singer](#) as its twelfth president. A national leader in the improvement of undergraduate teaching and learning, Dr. Singer currently serves as vice president for academic affairs and provost at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to her, along with your prayers for the flourishing of her leadership and of the students, faculty, staff, and alumni she will serve.

David R. Anderson '74, *President*

LUTHER COLLEGE

Greetings from Luther College in the beautiful Driftless region of northeastern Iowa!

After three academic years heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, our students, faculty, and staff have spent the 2022-2023 academic year returning to many joyful activities that have long been deferred. It has been a year of energy, creativity, and celebration.

Luther College recognizes itself to be both grounded and global—grounded in its history, mission, and embeddedness in the local community; and global in its curriculum, student programming, and development of graduates who understand themselves as stewards of the global common good.

This fall, we honored our global connections by welcoming members of the Norwegian Parliament to campus and sending a delegation to Saint Paul, MN to meet Queen Sonja of Norway, and just a few weeks later, celebrated our (literal) groundedness by co-hosting an exhibition of a life-sized model of the six-foot long Decorah sea scorpion, *Pentecopterus decorahensis*, a fossil discovery from the Decorah Crater basin, which was formed by a meteor impact around 465 million years ago.

We are especially pleased to share that Luther College has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by more than 72% since its baseline was established twenty years ago, in 2003. Achieving this milestone puts the college on track to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. In addition, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education has named Luther College the fourth best baccalaureate institution in the nation for its efforts in sustainability, according to the 2022 Sustainable Campus Index.

Bringing together values of sustainability and service, more than 70 students, staff, and faculty participated in environmental conservation projects this fall as part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. The Luther College Cafeteria to Community program, begun in 2014, marked a significant milestone in December, reaching 80,000 pounds of leftover food donated to local organizations to address hunger. In February, Luther College Ministries squared off against Wartburg College Ministries in a food drive competition, and the colleges combined collected more than 500 pounds of food and nearly \$2000 in donations.

Our Luther College baseball team made history this year by playing in the first collegiate game at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, IA, welcoming more than 2000 attendees to this iconic location. In February, we celebrated with our men's and women's swimming and diving teams, each of them winning their second consecutive American Rivers Conference championship titles. Construction was completed on the Robert and Ann Naslund Sports and Recreation Center, a significant renovation and upgrade to our campus athletic complex.

This year has included a full slate of musical performances and performing arts offerings, including the Symphony Orchestra's three-week January residency in Vienna, Austria; Nordic Choir tour concerts in the southwest; and Concert Band tour concerts across the eastern midwest.

Recently, Luther has received several major gifts, totaling \$4.5 million, to help ensure that students have the financial resources they need to get the most out of their college experience. These gifts endow new scholarships for students with high financial need and for future educators and student musicians. These gifts also establish a new Peace Fellows program that seeks to engage students, faculty, and the broader community in how to practice peace in all of its dimensions. We are grateful for these gifts and for all donors who continue to support Luther College's mission.

Finally, a word about a few senior leadership transitions this year. After successful national searches, we welcomed Dr. Robert Clay as our new Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer and Special Assistant to the President for Community Engagement, and Mary Duvall as our new Vice President for Development. We also welcomed Dr. Bradley Chamberlain, Luther faculty and recent Vice President for Mission and Communication into his new role as Provost.

The Luther College community also remembers and celebrates the life of Richard "Rick" Torgerson, Luther's ninth president (1999-2013), who died on Oct. 30, 2022. A legendary figure in Luther history, he shaped the college in deep and meaningful ways that will resonate far into the future.

Luther College continues to be a thriving community of faith and learning. We are both deeply rooted in our history and our environment and also deeply committed to empowering and shaping our students to meet the future with hope, creativity, and wisdom.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for Luther College. We are grateful for your partnership.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Dr. Jenifer K. Ward
Luther College President

South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2024 - 01/31/2025

	Adopted 2023	Revised 2023	Proposed 2024
Revenue			
Mission Support			
Undesignated Mission Support	1,870,465	1,750,576	1,803,094
SD Synod Mission Support	25,000	28,675	28,675
Total Mission Support-Congregations	1,895,465	1,779,251	1,831,769
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
Total Program Ministry Income			
Other Income			
DEM Support Staff Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
SDS Travel LLC Income	5,000	5,000	5,000
Misc Income	1,000	50,000	1,000
Total Other Income	26,000	75,000	26,000
Total Revenue	1,966,465	1,899,251	1,902,769
Expenses			
Churchwide Ministries	43%	43%	41%
Churchwide Support	804,300	752,748	739,269
Region III			
Region III Support	7,260	8,004	8,004
South Dakota Ministries			
South Dakota Partnership Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	10,750	12,330	11,757
Luther Seminary	74,492	69,925	71,989
Church Colleges (ELCA Pool)	6,445	6,049	6,228
Lutheran Social Services	74,492	69,925	71,989
Campus Ministry	131,356	123,302	126,942
Lutheran Outdoors	37,151	34,873	35,903
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
Heartland Ephphatha	6,445	6,049	6,228
Youth Ministry	3,600	9,600	7,200
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	0
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Woyatan Lutheran/Wambli Ska	19,000	19,000	19,000
Lutheran Planned Generosity	58,300	58,300	58,300
Total Shared Ministries	423,063	410,385	415,538

South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2024 - 01/31/2025

	Adopted 2023	Revised 2023	Proposed 2024
Executive Leadership			
Bishop	96,675	99,034	102,005
Assoc/Director of Ev Mission	6,375	10,533	10,849
Assoc-Mobility/Candidacy	79,909	82,132	84,596
Executive Staff Benefits	106,192	86,940	89,546
Exec Travel/Continuing Ed	34,800	36,800	36,800
Program Ministries			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center-Director	98,872	96,302	99,257
Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator	6,959	0	0
Companion Synod Coordinator	15,839	18,008	18,521
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefit	167,359	171,874	176,980
Synod Office Expenses	69,264	70,681	66,791
Augustana University Occupancy Fee	27,876	30,108	30,108
Synod Committees			
Synod Council	3,000	6,000	5,000
Support to Ministries Committee	2,100	3,100	3,100
Candidacy Committee	2,250	7,000	6,000
Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee	1,550	1,000	1,000
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	200	200	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,500
Mission & Outreach			
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	4,000
Mission Strategy Table	2,000	2,000	2,000
Contingency	5,122	902	1,705
Total South Dakota Ministries	731,842	728,114	739,958
Total Expenses	1,966,465	1,899,251	1,902,769
Net Total	0	0	0

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS



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

October 2022

- S6.04.03. The Synod Council shall allocate numbers and categories of Churchwide Assembly members and alternates among the conferences of this synod. Each conference shall nominate members and alternates of the Churchwide Assembly according to the Synod Council allocation and according to that conference's nomination procedures. Members and alternates elected shall be ratified by the Bishop.
- †**S6.05.** Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this synod or any synod units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.
- †**S6.06.** References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church – congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization – as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God's mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.
- Chapter 7. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**
- †**S7.01.** This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly's own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †**S7.11.** A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least triennially.
- S7.11.01. The time and place of the South Dakota Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place the next regular assembly normally shall be announced 12 months prior to the assembly.
- 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 rostered ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and 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 rostered ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- b. 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, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, 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, at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men.
- c. 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.B17

Rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament 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.C17 Rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament 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.D17 Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs) certified by the South Dakota Synod, under contract to a congregation of this synod, shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote, as an additional lay member, in the Synod Assembly during the period of contracted service in a congregation of this synod.*
- S7.21.E22 Each Synod Authorized Worshipping Community under the purview of the South Dakota Synod shall be afforded voting members, in addition to the Synod Authorized Minister, in accordance with S7.21. and S7.21.A07*
- S7.21.01.** 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.
- †S7.21.02.** If a special Synod Assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next regular Synod Assembly.
- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- †S7.23.** The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of the churchwide organization as may be designated by the presiding bishop, shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.
- S7.24.** Ministers under call on the rosters 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 rosters 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 worshipping communities of this synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament 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 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 the Synod Assembly.
- S7.32.** Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the 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 ministers of Word and Sacrament and three laypersons to an Election Committee to supervise elections and announce the results to the Synod Assembly.

S7.40.30. **Resolutions Committee**

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

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

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

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

S7.50. Conference Caucus

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

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

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

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

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

Chapter 8. OFFICERS

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

S8.10. Bishop

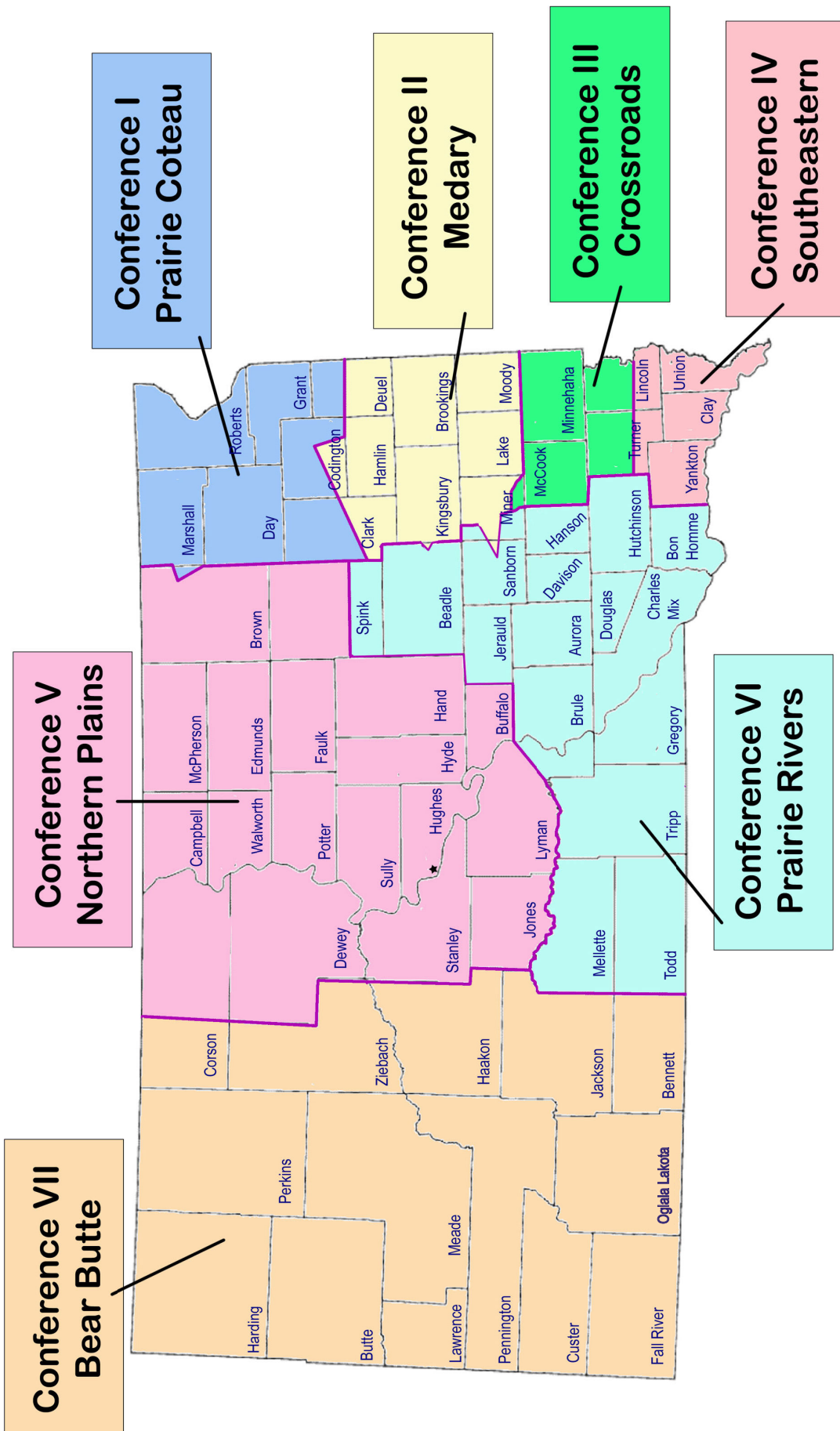
†**S8.11.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†**S8.12.** As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:

- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
- b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.
- c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synod bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
- d. Ordain (or provide for the ordination of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service of this church.
- e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
- f. Install (or provide for the installation of) rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has attested.
- g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
 - 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
 - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
 - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
 - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning the synod's life and work; and
 - 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
 - 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;

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. RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED BY THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: RC = Resolutions Committee; VM = Voting Member of the Assembly							
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
II. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS INTRODUCED BY VOTING MEMBERS FROM THE FLOOR:							
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



South Dakota Synod Conference Map