

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL Women^{of the} ELCA

VOLUME XXXXII NUMBER 2

Fall 2023



Co-President **Sherry Archer**

Greetings! My name is Sherry Archer. I'm from the Crossroads Conference and attend Grace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. At Grace, I've been the Chairperson of Martha Circle since 2000 and also

serve on our WOG (Women of Grace) Executive Board as Vice-President. This will be my first stint on the Synodical Board, and I'm looking forward to learning and serving you all to the best of my ability, with your support and God's help!

I've been married to John for 42 years, and we have three children and 10 grandchildren aged 1 to 10. I enjoy gardening (vegetables, fruit and flowers), reading, volunteering, travelling, babysitting, playing in the chimes choir at church, and spending time at our lake house.



Co-President **Lois Storm**

I am Lois Storm, married to Glenn, have 4 children and 1 granddaughter. We live on a farm between Corsica and Parkston, SD and are members at St. John Lutheran Church, Dimock.

Some of the things that I have been involved in at church are being on church council a couple times, our WELCA Board President for quite a few years and am a co-leader of a Circle group (about forever). In the past, I have co-chaired with 3 different ladies, at different times, as President of our Prairie Rivers Conference. Presently I am Vice President of the Conference and Secretary of our women's group.

The Synodical Convention held in Rapid City June 21-23, 2023 opened with vespers at Chapel in the Hills.

This was my first time there viewing the trails, flowers, museum, and gift shop; it was very inspiring! Thursday was filled with a time of fellowship over meals, listening to very interesting speakers, bidding on silent auction items, and visiting with the vendors. The day closed with our banquet meal and a presentation: "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children." Our world is changing so fast, and we can't sit back and not speak up when we witness acts of abuse, prejudice, and injustice. We again had such interesting speakers Friday morning and people had lots of questions, especially on the topic of consumer awareness and scams. We closed with an inspiring sermon, singing, and a communion service. The Bear Butte Conference did a wonderful job as our hostesses and we thank them.

The Board will carefully study your evaluations and try to incorporate as many ideas as we can. I went for the first time about 15 years ago and haven't missed one since. There's something about spending a

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Treasurer

Darla Toben

Greetings from your Synodical Treasurer:

The Synodical Convention in Rapid City was wonderful. It is so great to travel to the beautiful Black Hills and meet again with our community of women and mission partners.

Thank you to the units who sent voting members to the convention. Your units are so important to our organization and even though you might not think you are active, you really are very active in all you do including your monetary gifts, bible study, quilting and mission work, and being a treasurer.

The offerings received at the Synodical convention and through the end of July include the following:

SD Women of the ELCA Synodical Convention Offering:
\$3405.00 (50% of this was sent to Churchwide \$1702.50).

Love Offering for Woyatan: \$555 in addition to the many bags of feminine and personal hygiene products collected and donated.

Love Offering- Youth and Family Services of Rapid City -
\$672

Silent Auction – Katie’s Fund – 27 items were auctioned and with donations a total of \$1168 was raised for Katie’s Fund at the silent auction.

New for Form A: Katie’s Fund

During the business meeting, the voting members voted and passed the Support for Katie’s Fund 2122 \$1 Million Campaign. As a result of the resolution: A total of \$935 was sent to Churchwide, which included the \$500 donation given to the Campaign in honor of Pastor Laura Lee Campbell as the recipient of the 2023 Bold Woman Award, and other donations to the Katie’s Fund Campaign.

I encourage all unit treasurers to attend your Fall Retreats as there are revised forms and great information that your conference treasurers will share with you. Fall blessings to all of you and thank you for all you do for the Women of the ELCA. If you have any questions, please reach out to me by phone or text at 605-880-3506, or send an email dgtohen@itctel.com.



Synodical Officers for 2023-24 are (front from left): Cheryl Lundeen and Dee Sanderson, members at large; Rev. Erika Lehmann, Director for Discipleship; SAM Wanda Biel, Vice President; Diane Bryan, Nominating Committee; Kathy Heffernan, Director for Stewardship. Back row, from left: Connie Matzner, Director for Justice; Lois Storm and Sherry Archer, Co-Presidents; Teresa Mikkelsen, Secretary; and Vicki Persson, Nominating Committee.

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couple days with Christian ladies across SD, gathering interesting information and the joy filled daily events that you will be thankful you attended.

Save The Date: The 2024 Synodical Convention will be held at First Lutheran in Mitchell June 19-21, 2024. Plans are already beginning to make it interesting, exciting, and inspiring.

Shalom! God’s Peace to you all.



Director for Stewardship

Kathy Heffernan

A new format for the SD Women of the ELCA's Leadership Event brought many positive comments in the evaluation forms.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Chamberlain hosted the Leadership Event on Saturday, August 12, 2023. The theme was "Workers in the Field" and with emphasis on Matthew 9:35-38. Thirty-four women attended, representing 64% of the Conference and Synodical officers.

The Leadership event used an open forum concept rather than break-out sessions. Currently many units and four conferences have one or more women serving in multiple positions. Each Synodical Officer

spoke about and shared information about their responsibilities, then fielded questions from conference officers in attendance and others taking notes for those who were absent. This format really opened up a lot of beneficial conversation that attendees were encouraged to take back to the Conference Fall Retreats/Gatherings.

The video presentation, "Katie Von Bora Luther" portrayed by Donna Glover, was shown and enjoyed by all. This was taped at the 2023 Synodical Convention and can be viewed on YouTube: SD WELCA 2023 Katie Luther Skit. A link is available at sdsynod.org. This is a must-see, if you can add it to your Fall Events. The event concluded with a sending Litany.

Kathy Heffernan (chair), Sherry Archer, Lois Storm, Erika Lehmann, Connie Matzner, and Donna Vreugdenhil (Conference rep) planned the event.

Leadership Events will now be held in odd-numbered years. The location for the Summer 2025 meeting is still to be determined.



Director for Justice

Connie Matzner

One of the justice issues we heard about at our recent synodical gathering in Rapid City was sex trafficking. Kelly Patterson from Treasured Lives spoke to us about her experiences and mission.

The mission of Treasured Lives is to provide avenues of healing, safety and hope for those exploited by sex trafficking. They focus on the individual needs of trauma survivors; along with the need for community awareness.

Kelly gave us this list of some of the signs and symptoms to look for:

- Disconnection from family and/or friends

- Depression or anxiety
- Insecurity or self-hatred
- Sleep issues or frequent nightmares
- STD's
- Deception or secrets surrounding whereabouts
- Relationships with significantly older men and/or women
- Unexplained weight loss
- Baffling cuts, bruises, burns
- Rebellion
- Sudden loss in hygiene or extreme attention to hygiene

There are many more signs and symptoms.

Treasured Lives has people who are willing to come speak at your gatherings. You can contact them at:

Treasured Lives
Box 599
Rapid City, SD 57709
call or text: 605-416-HOPE)



Katie Luther Brought to Life

“Katie Luther” visited the June 2023 convention of the South Dakota Women of the ELCA in Rapid City.

Katie Luther was embodied by Diana Babb Glover, a retired elementary teacher who has portrayed Katie at several events.

Her presentation was recorded through a gift from Katie’s Fund, and will help people learn about the wife of Martin Luther and the roles she played in her life.



Diana Glover

Conferences and units are encouraged to share Diana’s presentation. It is available through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXJygpzQNYg>

Katie Luther (clockwise from top left) as a young girl, nun, Martin’s wife and widow. (portrayed by Diana Glover)



Above left: Then-President Margene Thompson opens the 2023 Synodical Conference at Calvary Lutheran in Rapid City. **Above:** Calvary Quilters explain how their quilts support Lutheran World Relief. **Left:** Bidders peruse the Silent Auction items, which raised \$1168 for Katie’s Fund. **Right:** Outgoing Associate to the Bishop Jonathan Steiner spoke about outreach ministries of the SD Synod.





Above: Deacon Kris Wollman played piano and Rev. Erika Lehmann led the singing. **Left:** Extra help arrives to lead "Jesus Loves Me" during the Hymn Sing.



Laura Krueger, Churchwide rep, reconnects with friends from the Aberdeen Synodical.



Laura Campbell accepts the 2023 Bold Woman award.



Above: Over 80 attended the 2023 SD Women of the ELCA Convention in Rapid City. **Below:** Lily Mendoza explains the colored dresses to spur awareness and honor memories of school victims, trafficking victims, missing and murdered indigenous women and suicide victims.



Kelly Patterson tells of escaping her traffickers.



Jessie Schmidt warns about potential scams and how to protect yourself.



Member at Large

Cheryl Lundeen

“The Morning Star of Wittenberg”

What’s that all about, you may ask! If you have watched Diana Glover portray Katie Luther, you will know that it is the nickname that Martin Luther called his beloved and BOLD wife, Katie. Katie lived a very unusual life in Germany—from being separated as a young girl from her family at the death of her mother to quite a “controversial marriage” to Martin Luther—she was and still is considered a BOLD woman.

Our Women of the ELCA’s Katie’s Fund is named in her honor. It is good to know about the namesake, but it is also good for us to continue in her BOLD footsteps. We can do that by supporting the Resolution passed at our June Convention in Rapid City regarding Katie’s Fund 2122 \$1 Million Campaign. The Resolution asks that each Unit and Conference do the following:

- Educate your members regarding Katie’s Funds’ purpose and Katie Luther’s life.
- Support the Campaign financially through a budgeted donation/pledge, fundraiser or individual donations.
- Complete this effort by the end of 2024.
- Consider awarding a “BOLD Woman” award in your group to honor and highlight the faithful women who work hard for our organization and its mission.

The video of Katie Luther presented at the Convention in June can be found at www.sdsynod.org/welca. Use it to promote Katie’s Fund in your Welca organization!

The Synodical Board was awarded a \$1,000 Grant from ChurchWide to promote Katie’s Fund and WELCA. It was used to award 2 scholarships to “first-time” attendees to the Triennial WELCA Gathering in Phoenix as well as help fund the video done by Diana Glover. The winners of the two scholarships are Linda Morrison from Our Savior’s in Hermosa and Betty Hilleson from Our Savior’s in Veblen. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Deacon Laura Campbell from Our Savior’s Lutheran in Spearfish as well. She was awarded the 2nd annual “Bold Woman” Award at the June WELCA Convention. A \$500 donation to Katie’s Fund will be sent in her honor.

Fall Conference Retreats

Be sure to attend your Conference’s Fall Retreat! Carpool with others from your congregation and spend time with your sisters in Christ sharing ideas and fellowship.

Bear Butte: Oct. 6-7 at Outlaw Ranch near Custer

Crossroads: Oct. 21 at West Nidaros Lutheran, Crooks

Medary: Oct. 10 at Trinity Lutheran, Arlington

Northern Plains: Sept. 30 at Zion Lutheran, Eureka

Prairie Coteau: Oct. 12 at NeSoDak Bible Camp near Waubay

Prairie Rivers: Oct. 7 at Spirit of Hope Lutheran, Scotland

Southeastern: Oct. 21 at Hudson Lutheran, Hudson



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