

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL Women of the ELCA

VOLUME XLII NUMBER 2

Spring 2024

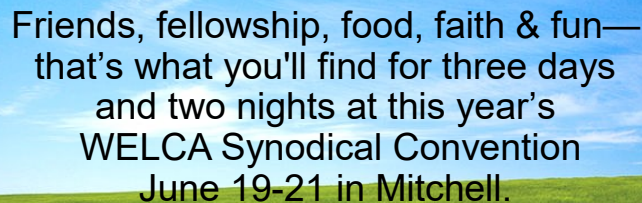


Co-President
Lois Storm

Are You Ready?

Come! Attend the 37th Annual Synodical Convention June 19, 20, and 21 at First Lutheran in Mitchell, SD.

I went to a Synodical Assembly in 2010 and was hooked! I have not missed a one since. When the new year's calendar gets put up, those days in June go up there too. Think of friends,



Friends, fellowship, food, faith & fun—
that's what you'll find for three days
and two nights at this year's
WELCA Synodical Convention
June 19-21 in Mitchell.

fellowship, food, faith, and fun — that's what you'll find for two nights and parts of three days. Laughter makes the clock go backwards, and we do have humorous times together too.

You'll be seeing more information about all the speakers, vendors, and things to do in posters and hopefully your church bulletins as we get closer to June. The WELCA ladies have a reputation for doing things and being helpful in many different missions.

If you register by May 15, it's only \$50. What a deal! I promise you will not be disappointed. If you are, please look me up! As Co-President, I am happy to help you in any way I can.

Our theme is Just Peace and I add Just Come! I think you will fall in love with attending the SD Synodicals like I have.



Co-President
Sherry Archer

Greetings! I'm looking forward to seeing some of you at our Crossroads Spring Gathering on April 20th at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, and a lot of you at the Synodical Convention in Mitchell in June!

I will be one of the presenters for a break-out session at the Synodical. Several years ago I taught a class

through Sanford Health called A Matter of Balance. It was geared toward helping people learn what they could do to prevent falling as they aged, along with reducing their fear of falling. I can't teach an eight-session, two-hour class in 35 minutes, but will be showing the exercises that will improve balance skills, flexibility, coordination, and overall conditioning to strengthen quadriceps muscles and hip extensors. If you wish to come to my session, please wear comfortable clothing that will allow you to move freely and comfortable shoes—no high heels!

May God walk with you on your Lenten journey and grant you a blessed Easter and a safe and happy spring.



Vice President

Wanda Biel

Peace to all!

The theme for the South Dakota Women of the ELCA is *Just Peace*. The theme verse is Psalm 29:11: "The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace."

I would like to add more peace verses :

John 14:27—Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.

Ephesians 2:14—For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of separation.

Currently I am a TEEM student at Wartburg Seminary. One morning at Chapel service was a service called Healing for the Nations. On the floor of the Chapel, there was a large plastic map of the world. Throughout the service, the worshipers were invited to light a candle, walk to a country, place the lighted candle on a country and then pray or meditate.

As I was leaving the area after the service, I turned and glanced back, seeing the map and the burning candles. I reflected that the light of Christ will never be extinguished. It burns with love for His entire creation, bringing peace and reconciliation. And we, as His children, are His light bearers.

Along those lines, we need people to let their light shine in leadership roles at the synodical level. Please be canvassing spring gatherings for our candidates to fill these positions and contact members on the Nominating Committee.



Treasurer

Darla Toben

The SD Synodical convention is fast approaching, so now is the time to start planning your trip to Mitchell. Registration fees include many great speakers, Thursday noon meal and Thursday evening's banquet meal. **Early bird registration is \$50 if paid before May 15th**. Registrations after May 15th will be \$65.

The online registration for last year's convention was VERY successful, so we will do it again this year. You may register by mail or register and pay online using Tithely <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/8577338>. Hotel information is listed on the registration form. Get your registrations in EARLY! Online registration is available thru June 14, 2024. First Lutheran Church Youth Group will be offering a \$10 meal of grilled hamburgers or hot dogs, pasta salad, veggies, bars/cookies as a

Fundraiser for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this summer.

Voting delegates: Each unit can register **one voting delegate** to the convention and the Board encourages your unit to do so. Delegate information will be mailed to the delegates prior to the convention.

Synodical Offering: Please bring your unit and personal synodical offerings to the convention. If sending a unit SWO (Synodical Women Organization) offering, please complete Offering Form A with your check so your donation can be recorded appropriately and recorded to your unit's annual giving report. 50% of SWO offering is sent to Churchwide and 50% stays with the SD Synodical Women's Organization.

Silent Auction: Katie's fund will be recipient of the Silent Auction proceeds. Each unit is encouraged to bring ONE item for the silent auction. Cash donations will also be received for Katie's fund.

Love Offering: The Abbott House will be the recipient of the Love Offering.



Member at Large

Cheryl Lundeen

Land Acknowledgment Statements

Have you heard the land acknowledgement statements being used at our Synodical and Conference meetings the past few years? We encourage you to learn more about these statements and why they are so important. All Women of the ELCA Units are encouraged to use these statements at their meetings and to learn more about it. Visit www.elca.org/indigenous

Land acknowledgements are indeed meaningful and play a crucial part in combating the erasure of Indigenous peoples. Other countries have been practicing land acknowledgements for some time, but only recently has the United States begun to understand their importance. A land acknowledgement statement expresses gratitude to the land and acknowledges the Indigenous people from whom the land was stolen. The ELCA is working towards the practice of this ritual of

respect and gratitude for the land and our Indigenous neighbors.

The South Dakota Synod and Synodical WELCA use this statement at the statewide and conference levels. We encourage its use at congregational and Unit levels as well. Here is a sample of how a statement can read:

“The Women of the ELCA at (name of congregation/unit) recognizes that the Oceti Sakowin, (the Seven Council Fires of the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota) the Arikara, and the Cheyenne are the original inhabitants of South Dakota and South Dakota is the current home of the Cheyenne River Tribe, Crow Creek Tribe, Flandreau Santee Tribe, Lower Brule Tribe, Ogalala Tribe, Rosebud Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Yankton and Standing Rock Tribe.

“We recognize that we are called to be in good relationship with our neighbors, that the tribes are sovereign nations, that there is a history of broken treaties and broken trust, and that there is lots of work to be done. But we also recognize that as Christians, we have faith in new life, in hope for mending what is broken, and in our calling through the Holy Spirit to do this work.”

For the tribe names in your specific location, go to www.native-land.ca.



SD Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Don't miss your Spring Conference Gathering !

For more information, see page 7 for Conference contact information See also [Women of the ELCA - South Dakota Synod, ELCA \(sdsynod.org\)](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

Bear Butte: April 20, St. James Lutheran,
Belle Fourche

Crossroads: April 20, Spirit of Joy , Sioux Falls

Medary: April 6, Our Savior's Lutheran, Flandreau

Northern Plains: April 13, Our Savior's Lutheran,
Redfield

Prairie Coteau: April 20 Lutheran Church of Our
Redeemer, Watertown

Prairie Rivers: April 13, St. Paul Lutheran, Stickney

Southeastern: April 20, Vangen Lutheran, Mission Hill



Director for Stewardship

Kathy Heffernan

Wow! What a fantastic journey I've experienced as the Director for Stewardship for the South Dakota Women of the ELCA! I am honored and blessed. Having seven Conference Stewardship women, gathering, collecting, and sending the

annual reports of everything their women have created or assembled, really opened my eyes to the generosity and Love's labor we all have in our hearts. (God's Work - Our Hands)

Your pride also shows in what you create to serve the needs of your community, county, and across South Dakota. I have a printed list of all the projects! I'll have copies to give away at our state synodical convention in Mitchell.

I want to invite you to bring your boxed rolled bandages to the Gathering. I will deliver them to the Minneapolis Relief Services, in July (LWR & GHM) while visiting family.



Director for Justice

Connie Matzner

As Director of Justice, it is exciting to tell you about two events that will take place at our synodical gathering in June.

The theme for our 2024 Synodical gathering is "Just Peace." We often take peace for granted. The Thursday morning speaker at our 2024 Synodical gathering has experienced "Peace" in her life in many ways.

Achut Deng is a survivor. She will talk about her book "Don't Look Back," which tells about her life in Sudan and how she came to America. For ten years, Achut Deng survived at Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya after her family was ripped apart by the Second Sudanese Civil War. But Achut wanted to do more than merely survive. She wanted to live.

The 22-year civil war essentially orphaned over 20,000 children and drove them from their villages in southern Sudan. Some of these children walked over a thousand miles, through

dangerous war zones and across unforgiving deserts. They are often referred to as The Lost Boys, but there were girls, too. Achut Deng was one of them. This is her story.

It's a story of unimaginable hardship and selfless bravery, of tormenting physical pain and amazing emotional resilience, of unbreakable bonds of friendship and family. It's a story about what happens when your dream comes true, only to give way to a new nightmare. It's about how hard you will fight to save your own life.

Thursday evening we will hear from "Dakota Daughters." This long-running and popular South Dakota Humanities Council Speakers Bureau program recounts the Wounded Knee Massacre from 1890. It sheds light on the human experiences of those involved.

Through the voices of the SDHC scholars Joyce Jefferson, Geraldine Goes in Center and Lillian Witt, our audience will experience a contemplative, Chautauqua-style retelling of history by three women from diverse cultures (one white, one black and one Lakota in the late 1800s. Although the character portrayals are fictionalized, the historical representation is based on the actual events, materials and arts of that period.

See you in June!

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL 37TH Annual Convention



June 19-21, 2024

“Just Peace”

*The Lord will give strength to His people;
The Lord will bless His people with peace. —Psalm 29:11*

Wednesday, June 19 4:30 and 5:00 pm Corn Palace Tours
6-9 pm Youth Fundraiser meal & Vespers Service

Thursday, June 20 8:00 am—7pm

Friday, June 21 8:00 am to noon

Registration: \$50 if paid by May 15; \$65 if paid May 16 or later
(one voting member per unit)

Sneak preview of the Speakers and Breakout Sessions:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Achut Deng | “Don’t Look Back” surviving Sudanese Civil War |
| Rev. Chris Matson | Church on the Street |
| TBD | Thrivent |
| Sherry Archer | Fall Prevention Exercises |
| Pin Cushion quilt presentation | |

BANQUET Program Dakota Daughters

LOVE OFFERINGS: Suave women's deodorant, baby lotion, 3-pack Crest toothpaste, coloring books, word find books, sudoku books, crew neck sweatshirts (without a hood) and sweat pants for residents at the Abbott House

SILENT AUCTION PROCEEDS Katies Fund (one item per Unit, please)

First Lutheran Church
Mitchell, SD 57301

Find the newsletter, registration, and more at sdsynod.org/ministries/welca

REGISTRATION FORM
SD Women of the ELCA 37th Synodical Convention
June 19-21, 2024

First Lutheran Church, 411 N. Duff, Mitchell, SD

Please **Circle** one: Voting Member Non-Voting Member
(One voting member per unit)

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Congregation _____ Conference _____

Registration fee: \$50 before May 15, 2024 \$65 May 16 or later

includes Thursday noon meal and Thursday evening Banquet meal

Wednesday eve grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be served by the youth at First Lutheran as a fundraiser for the ELCA Youth Gathering.—if yes, add \$10 by June 19

Register online at: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/6654314>.

On-site registration starts at 3 pm Wednesday, June 21st

Direct any questions to Darla Toben 605-880-3506 dgtoben@itctel.com

Mail-in registration to Darla Toben 47906 171st St, Clear Lake SD 57226

*Each unit is invited to bring an Offering,
 Love Offering, and/or ONE Silent Auction*

OFFERING

Half to Churchwide

Half to SD Women of the ELCA

LOVE OFFERINGS

Suave women's deodorant, baby lotion,
 3-pack Crest toothpaste, coloring books,
 word find books, sudoku books, crew neck
 sweatshirts (without a hood) and sweat
 pants for residents at the Abbott House

SILENT AUCTION PROCEEDS

Katie's Fund

You are responsible for your own lodging.

Blocks of rooms are available at these Mitchell hotels

under the name: **SD Women of the ELCA**

All have 2 queen beds and all serve a hot breakfast.

You must call by June 6th.

Super 8 Hotel – \$99 + tax – 2 queen beds/room

1700 S Burr St, Mitchell SD 57301

605-996-9678

Kelly Inn & Suites – \$135 + tax – 2 queen beds/room

\$159 + tax – Family room: 2 queens/double sofa bed

1010 Cabela Drive, Mitchell SD 57301

605-995-0500

Comfort Inn & Suites – \$175 + tax – 2 queens/room

2020 Highland Way, Mitchell SD 57301

605-990-2400

2023-2024 Synod Officers

Co-President Lois Storm

39885 273 St., Corsica SD 57328
c. 605-933-1243 h. 605-928-3035
thestormfarm@hotmail.com

1st term 6/2023, Southeastern Advisor

Co-President Sherry Archer

2204 E 52nd St, Sioux Falls SD 57103
605-310-0153 ladnred2023@gmail.com

1st term 6/2023, Crossroads Advisor

Vice President Wanda Biel

205 N Leslie Ave., Oldham SD 57051
wandabiel402@gmail.com

402-883-0474 1st term 6/2022. Medary Advisor

Secretary Teresa Mikkelsen

PO Box 94, Webster SD 57274
605-345-2912 teresalm82@hotmail.com

1st Term 6/2022, Prairie Coteau Advisor

Treasurer Darla Toben

47906 171st St., Clear Lake SD 57226
605-880-3506 dgtoben@itctel.com

One year of a 2 yr-term

Serving since 6/2019

Director of Discipleship Erika Lehmann

913 3rd St., Garretson SD 57030
605-338-4737 Bear Butte Advisor
elehmann1869@icloud.com

1st term 6/2023

Director of Justice Connie Matzner

26420 385th Ave., Stickney SD 57375
605-732-4370 matzp@midstatesd.net

2nd term 6/2021, Prairie Rivers Advisor

Director of Stewardship Kathy Heffernan

35338 153rd St. Faulkton SD 57438
605-450-8782 kheffernan1957@gmail.com

2nd term 6/2018

Member-at-Large Cheryl Lundeen

50 N Knoll Dr #3, Sioux Falls SD 57110
605-201-3102 clundeen@midco.net

3rd term 6/2018, Crossroads Advisor

Member-at-Large Dee Sanderson

104 S Main St, Unit 4-S, Aberdeen SD 57401
605-228-2567 deesand@aol.com

2nd term 8/2021 Northern Plains Adv.

Nominating Committee (2-yr term)

Lori Tendler (2022) Crossroads
lorit@sio.midco.net

Karen Jensen (2022) Crossroads
kjva41@msn.com

Diane Bryan (2023) Bear Butte
blueroosterchick@hotmail.com

Vicki Persson (2023) Prairie Rivers
vicki@midstatesd.net

Conference Coordinators

Bear Butte: Diane Bryan

1807 Windmill Dr., Spearfish SD 57783
701-870-2020 blueroosterchick@hotmail.com

Crossroads: Cheryl Lundeen

50 N Knoll Dr. #3, Sioux Falls, SD 57110
605-201-3102 clundeen@midco.net

Medary: Connie Bickett

45041 217th St., Arlington SD 57212
605-270-9967, cell 605-315-2402
conniebickett452@gmail.com

Northern Plains: Brenda Glasford

922 3rd Ave. NE. Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-215-1408
brenda.glasford@yahoo.com

Prairie Coteau: Pam Seefeldt

42598 180th Street, Clark SD 57225
605-532-3840, cell 605-881-6141
seefmar@itctel.com

Prairie Rivers: Margene Thompson

39141 240th St., Letcher, SD 57359
605-248-2444, cell 605-770-8311
amthompson@santel.net

Southeastern: Joyce Vasgaard

28746 462 Ave., Centerville, SD 57014
605-359-0386 joycevasgaard@iw.net

Communications

FACEBOOK GURU: Erika Lehmann
605-338-4737
elehmann1869@icloud.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Lilah Gillis
cell 605-660-8418 sdwelcanews@gmail.com



South Dakota Synodical

Lilah Gillis, Editor

1202 E 15th St.

Yankton, SD 57078

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED