

# 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

First Lutheran Church  
411 N. Duff, Mitchell, SD

June 19-21, 2024

## Theme: Just Peace

The Lord will give  
strength to His people;  
the Lord will bless His  
people with peace.

Psalm 29:11



## MISSION STATEMENT

To mobilize women  
to act boldly in their faith  
in Jesus Christ.

## 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.

# SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL of the Women ELCA

## Wednesday, June 19

- 3-6 pm Register at First Lutheran Church
- 3-6 pm Explore Mitchell (Corn Palace tours at 4:30 and 5:00, gift shops, downtown stores and Cornerstone for ice cream)
- 6-7 pm First Lutheran Church Youth serving a meal for \$10 (prepaid)
- 7pm Vespers Service, led by Pastor Nancy and Deacon Kris
- Social Decaf Coffee and cookies from New Home L.C., Mitchell

## Thursday, June 20

- 8:00 am Registration, coffee & goodies from St. Paul L.C., Stickney, and browsing display tables
- 8:45 Music in the Sanctuary, led by Deacon Kris and Pastor Erika
- 9:00 Opening of the 37th Annual Convention  
Welcome, Purpose Statement, and Introductions  
Opening Devotions by Deacon Kris  
Greeting by First Lutheran WELCA President Joan Anderson  
Featured Speaker: Achut Deng, Author of "Don't Look Back"
- 10:45-11 Break time and book signing
- 11:00 Speakers: Lutheran Planned Giving, Kathy McHenry  
The Shepherd Shop, Tammy Fodds  
Sharing the Dream, Lauren Vaske  
Triennial Scholarship giftees Linda Morrison & Betty Hilleson  
Bold Woman Award, presented by Pastor Erika
- 12-1 pm Lunch, browsing vendor tables, and Silent Auction bidding
- 1:00 Meet in the Sanctuary  
Speakers: Pastor Chris Matson, Church on the Street  
Jamie Lennon, Lutheran World Relief  
Eric Klooz, Executive Director at Abbott House  
*Break Out Sessions: 2:30-3:05, 3:15-3:50 and 4-4:35*
- 4:45 Quilt Presentation by Brenda, Pin Cushion, in the Sanctuary
- 6:00 Banquet
- 7:00 Dakota Daughters Drama Presentation in the Sanctuary
- Social Decaf coffee and cookies by Storla L.C., Letcher

## Friday, June 21

- 8:00 am Coffee & goodies by St. John L.C., Dimock, browsing displays  
FINAL Silent Auction bidding. Place bids by 8:45 am.
- 8:45 Music in sanctuary
- 9:00 Welcome, Introductions, Land Acknowledgement,  
37th Annual Business Meeting  
Report from Church-Wide Representative Anna Jetson  
Stretch Break  
Report from Assistant to the Bishop Renee Splichal-Larson  
Invitation to 2025 Convention (Southeastern Conference)  
Report on Silent Auction and Election results  
Service of Recognition, Installation of Officers by Anna Jetson  
Closing Worship led by Asst. Bishop Renee and Pastor Becky
- 12:00 Go in Peace. Serve the Lord! (Pick up Silent Auction items)

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Convention Schedule ..... 1  
 Synod Co-President’s Welcome.... 2  
 Land Acknowledgement..... 2  
 Speakers ..... 3-5  
 Sample Ballot ..... 6  
 Vitae..... 6-7  
 Stewardship Report..... 7  
 Synodical President Report..... 8  
 Churchwide President Report ..... 9  
 Business Meeting Agenda..... 10  
 Scholarship History & Displays.... 10  
 2023 Convention Minutes..... 11  
 Treasurer’s Report ..... 12-13  
 Resolution ..... 14  
 Audit Report ..... 14  
 Proposed Budget ..... 15  
 Synodical Officers, Conference  
 Coordinators, and Committees.... 16



**Co-Presidents**  
**Sherry Archer &**  
**Lois Storm**

We’d like to welcome you to the 37th Annual Synodical Convention. If this is your first time in attendance we hope you will have a great experience. And we hope it won’t be your last one!

On behalf of the Synodical Board, we would like to thank everyone who helped us in any way to plan this event. It takes a lot of time and effort by many willing individuals to make this convention a success.

It is our prayer that you will make new friends and learn new ways to ACT BOLDLY in sharing your faith and sharing God’s Peace in your church and community.

Next year we will be in the Southeastern Conference at Trinity Lutheran, Yankton, on June 18-20. The theme of the event will focus on letting our light shine. Of course, we will have to sing: “This Little Light of Mine, I’m Going to Let it Shine....” Put it on your 2025 calendar and we hope to see you there!

We’d like to encourage you to fill out the evaluation form and turn it in. The Synodical Board uses those comments and suggestions to help in planning the next year’s convention. We know we cannot please everyone, but it is very helpful to go over the evaluations. Your thoughts and input are needed and appreciated.

We pray you will have a safe trip home, filled with God’s Peace and Joy.

Shalom!

**Land Acknowledgement**

South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Women of the ELCA recognize 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, Oglala Tribe, Rosebud Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, 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.

**APPOINTED COMMITTEES**

**Credentials Committee**

Darlene Bresson,  
 Prairie Coteau  
 Kay Jenkins, Bear Butte  
 Darla Toben, Medary

**Convention Nurse**

Vicki Persson

**Parliamentarian**

Margene Thompson

**Newsletter Editor**

Lilah Gillis

**Nominating Committee**

Vicar Wanda Biel,  
 Vice President  
 Lori Tendler, Crossroads  
 Karen Jensen, Crossroads  
 Diane Bryan, Bear Butte  
 Vicki Persson, Prairie Rivers

**Minutes Committee**

Teresa Mikkelsen  
 Connie Matzner  
 Margene Thompsen

**Technology**

Dale Moke

## Speakers and Session Leaders

**Achut Deng** was born in South Sudan and came to America as a refugee when she was sixteen years old. She recounts that story in her memoir, "Don't Look Back." She is now an American citizen and works as a safety coordinator at the Smithfield meat-packing plant in South Dakota, where she also resides. She is the mother of three sons. Over the last year, Achut has shared her story with schools, professional groups, churches, conferences, and several national news organizations including The New York Times, The Daily Podcast, The Atlantic, NPR, The Boston Globe, the Associated Press, and Anna Nawaz of PBS NewsHour. Achut will speak Thursday morning and sign books previously purchased.



### Dakota Daughters

*Wounded Knee... Three Women, Three Stories, Three Cultures*

This play creates an opportunity for awareness and healing in South Dakota as we remember and reflect. **Geraldine Goes In Center** portrays Sitting Bull's daughter, **Lillian Witt** portrays Sadie Babcock (a rancher's wife), and **Joyce Jefferson** portrays Mattie Elmira Richardson (engaged to a Buffalo Soldier). Each performer researched and wrote her part of the historical interpretation of the events leading up to the massacre at Wounded Knee Creek in 1890. Their performance is Thursday following the Banquet.

**Churchwide Rep Anna Jetson** fills many roles: granddaughter, daughter, sister, child of God, friend, neighbor, co-worker, leader, board member, and church geek, to name a few.

A lifelong Lutheran, Anna began teaching Sunday school as a teen and was active in camp and Campus Ministry during college. She is active in Highland Evangelical Lutheran

Church, rural Decorah, Iowa. Anna has served at the unit, conference, and synodical levels and been to five triennial gatherings/conventions.

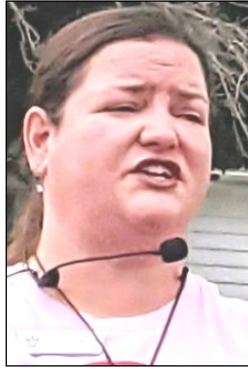
She currently lives on a farm at the edge of Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin with cats Beatrix and Keke. She enjoys reading, hardanger embroidery, tatting, crocheting, and spending time with family and friends.



**Pastor Chris Matson** is a Mission Developer at Church on the Street, taking the gifts of the Church out to the people who, for whatever reason, cannot come inside.

Her home congregation in Ohio provided meals to folks and accompanied those living with HIV/AIDS in Hospice Homes. These experiences led her to earn her Bachelor of Social Work before answering her call to ordained ministry. She's served for 16 years in Watertown and Sioux Falls.

Pastor Chris will speak about Church on the Street Thursday afternoon.



**Brenda Freidel** freely admits her addiction to all things quilting.

Her husband supports her quilting addiction and together they bought The Pin Cushion quilting store about 10 years ago. They have two children and two grandchildren who appreciate Brenda's many creations.

Brenda loves the friends she has made through quilting and presents "Quilting the Colors of the Rainbow" Thursday afternoon.



**Deacon Kris Wollman** has served at Mitchell's First Lutheran almost two years. She has been a life-long worship and music director and was ordained a deacon in November 2009 with a focus on caring ministries. Deacon Kris has served congregations in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, and Pierre. She is mom to two adult sons.

Deacon Kris loves to hike, sing with others, read, share a meal out with friends, and take in the prairie sunsets.

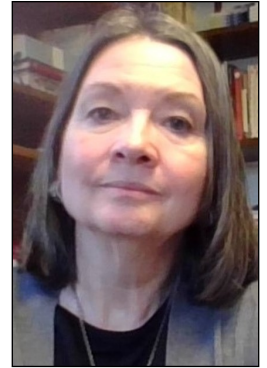
She will lead opening devotions on Thursday morning and help lead the hymn sings.



**Pastor Nancy Rieke** is not an unfamiliar face to the SD Synod W/ELCA, having previously served as Vice President before leaving leadership to finish her theological education.

Pastor Nancy graduated from Sioux Falls Seminary after affiliating with Luther Seminary and completed her internship in Seymour, WI, near Green Bay. She was ordained in October 2022 and serves Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Wessington Springs.

Pastor Nancy will lead opening Vespers Wednesday evening.



Originally from Wales in the United Kingdom, **Jamie Lennon** now lives in South Dakota with his wife Alissa their two children (Vianney and Anders) and two dogs (Clarence and Bruce).

Jamie serves Lutheran World Relief (LWR) as a Senior Advisor for the Congregational Engagement team. In this role Jamie meets with pastors and congregations throughout the Midwest, Rockies and beyond to share how their love reaches our neighbors throughout the globe.

Jamie will speak Thursday afternoon.



**Marti Knudsen** serves Lutherans Outdoors as the Camp Director at NeSoDak Bible Camp. She has been in this position for two years and otherwise involved in Outdoor Ministries for two decades.

Marti resides in Sisseton with her husband Josh, her three daughters, and their pets. She enjoys reading and spending time with her family.

She will lead a breakout session on Thursday afternoon.



**Eric Klooz** joined Abbott House as its Executive Director in April 2005. Prior to that time, Eric held various positions during his 10 years with the Omaha Home for Boys. Believing that behavior is driven by past experience, Eric creates programs to support youth and families as they work to reach their potential.



Eric served 16 years in the Army National Guard and is past President of the South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association and the National Fellowship of Child Care Executives. He is part of numerous local boards and committees.

Eric will present "85 Years of Caring" Thursday afternoon.

**Pastor Jeff Backer** is Senior Pastor at St. Dymas Lutheran Congregation and Director of Development for St. Dymas of South Dakota.

He worked in the outdoor sporting goods industry before being called to ministry. He has served at First Lutheran Church in downtown Sioux Falls.



Pr. Jeff and his wife, Marnie, have two sons: Harrison and Finnigan. When not at work, Jeff is often found outdoors hunting, fishing, or something else. He is a passionate bowhunter.

He will lead a breakout session on Thursday afternoon.

**Pastor Renee Splichal Larson** serves as the Associate to the Bishop in the SD Synod (ELCA) for Candidacy, Congregation, and Rostered Minister Accompaniment. She is a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA.



Renee is a survivor of the Haiti earthquake and author of the book, *A Witness*. She is married to Pastor Jonathan Splichal Larson. They have two sons, Gabriel and Elias.

Pastor Renee will give a report from Bishop Constanze Hagmeier Friday morning and lead the closing worship with Pastor Becky Senner.

**Sherry Archer** is an active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. She enjoys babysitting (she has 10 grandchildren aged 11 and younger), gardening, reading, traveling, and spending summer weekends at her lake home with her family.



Sherry enjoys exercising. Back in the 80's she taught Fitness Fantasia at the YMCA in Pierre. More recently, she taught a series of classes called *A Matter of Balance* through Sanford Hospital. Sherry will bring this important information to a Breakout Session about balance Thursday afternoon.



**Pastor Becky Senner** serves Spirit of Hope, Scotland, a SD Synod Neighbors in Solidarity congregation. This congregation is about two years old and continues to be going strong. She would love to come and tell you about their worshipping community. She has been serving Spirit of Hope since

September, 2022. Prior to that at St. John, Ramona and Oldham, Oldham at the time of her 2009 ordination; and then in 2014 to Zion, Bridgewater and Immanuel, Canova. She is married to Pastor Rick Senner, Salem Lutheran in Parkston. She will lead the closing worship with Pastor Renee Splichal Larson.

**SAMPLE BALLOT**  
**June 21, 2024**

**Vice President:**

two-year term (Vote for one)  
Wanda Biel—Incumbent

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**Secretary:**

two-year term (Vote for one)  
Teresa Mikkelsen—Incumbent

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**Director of Stewardship:**

two-year term (Vote for one)  
Darlene Bresson, Prairie Coteau

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**Treasurer:**

one-year term (Vote for one)

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**Member At Large:**

two-year term (Vote for one)  
Beth Nielson, Bear Butte

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**Nominating Committee:**

two-year term (Vote for two)  
Kathy Heffernan, Northern Plains

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**Vitae for Synodical Nominees**

**Vice President—Wanda Biel** Medary Conference  
Oldham Lutheran Church, Oldham and St John, Ramona

Greetings, my dear sisters in Christ. Professionally, I am working as a SAM (Synodically Authorized Minister) at Oldham and St John. I attend Wartburg Seminary seeking ordination through the TEEM program. I would like to thank the SD Synod WELCA for all the financial support that has been given me.

Personally, I am a baptized child of God, a wife to Karl Erickson and a pet parent. I have enjoyed being a member of WELCA groups wherever I've lived, and have also enjoyed serving as your Vice-President of the SD Synod WELCA.

**Nominating Committee—Kathy Heffernan** Northern Plains Conference, Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen

I have called Wecota, SD (population 9) my home for 32 years. My two children are Thomas and Lisa. My husband Steve passed away in 2004 from complications of MS.

At Zion I operate the sound board, PowerPoint, lector, sometimes am Worship Assistant and Chair of the Worship and Music Committee. Monthly shifts with Table of Plenty, a free community meal, is my new passion. I am also enjoying a new, awesome, side of education - substitute teaching in the Aberdeen schools.

Being involved in all areas of SD Women of the ELCA is educational and humbling: Conference officer, Synodical officer, Triennial traveler, attendee of Conference and state gatherings, and Leadership events.

**Member At Large— Beth Nielsen** Bear Butte Conference, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spearfish

I'm Beth Nielsen, President of the Bear Butte Conference, and member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spearfish, SD. I am the Director of Children's Ministries at OSLC and love doing God's Work with all of God's Children, regardless of their age! My husband Scott and I have two teenagers; Elaina, 17, will be a senior in the fall, and Evan, 16, will be a junior. In my spare time, I try to keep up with my kids, I enjoy going on walks with my dogs, and spending time with friends.



**Director of Stewardship—  
Darlene Bresson**

Medary Conference, Grace Lutheran, Watertown

Hello, Women of the ELCA!

I am honored to be a nominee for the Director of Stewardship for the SD Synodical. I live with my husband and 4 dogs in Watertown and have been a member of Grace Lutheran for 20 years. I've been Treasurer for the SD Synodical and the Prairie Coteau Conference for 4 years each. I am currently the Director of Stewardship at Grace Lutheran.

I have been involved in Grace's quilting ministry, Dorcas (7 years). I am a volunteer for the Watertown Banquet, and past volunteer for Watertown's Glacial Lakes Multicultural Center (5 years) and taught English to immigrants from various countries.

**Secretary— Teresa Mikkelsen**

Prairie Coteau Conference, American Lutheran Church, Webster

I'm employed full time as a church secretary. I'm a church WELCA officer, on altar committee, a worship leader, and current SWO secretary. I'm also a Webster Community Club officer, Day County Arts Council board member, Webster People against Child Hunger board member, a volunteer at Webster Museum of Wildlife, Science, and Industry, and an EMT. I also love chocolate.

south dakota synod

# 2023 WOMEN OF THE ELCA

## missions accomplished

TOTAL WELCA DOLLARS



**\$288,302** TOTAL WELCA DOLLARS

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SUPPORT

Quilts <b>6,311</b>	Personal Care Kits	Baby Care Kits <b>783</b>	School Kits <b>3,208</b>
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GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES SUPPORT

Newborn Kits <b>111</b>	Pounds Rolled Bandages <b>714</b>	Hospice Kits <b>1</b>	Quilts <b>282</b>
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SUPPORT TO PEOPLE IN NEED

Pounds of Clothing <b>12,448</b>	Prayer Shawls <b>922</b>	Blankets <b>1,432</b>	Health Kits <b>147</b>
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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING!**

Submitted by Kathy Heffernan, Synodical Director of Stewardship  
[kheffernan1957@gmail.com](mailto:kheffernan1957@gmail.com) 605-324-3638

Reminder: Please place boxes of rolled bandages on Kathy's table **by the end of Thursday night.**



## SD Synodical Women of the ELCA Report to the Synod Assembly

Our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Synodical Convention was held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid City, which is in our Bear Butte Conference. There were 76 women in



### Co-Presidents Sherry Archer & Lois Storm

Fall Workshop and Spring Gathering. At the meetings women can fellowship together, be entertained, conduct their Conference business, and open

attendance. The theme was "All Are Welcome" and our theme verse was I Corinthians 16:14, "Let all that you do, be done in Love." We had evening vespers at the Chapel in the Hills on Wednesday evening. Thursday's main speaker was Kelly Patterson, on sex trafficking; she is the author of a book on her true story "From Trafficked to Treasured". The day was filled with many interesting speakers, and our CW speaker from AZ was Laura Krueger. After our Business meeting, we closed Friday morning with a Holy Communion Service.

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 our first Biennial Leadership Event for Conference Officers was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Chamberlain. All Conference officers were encouraged to attend to learn, ask questions, and engage in conversations with others, for the purpose of strengthening their leadership skills.

On September 21-24, 19 women from South Dakota went to Phoenix AZ, for the Twelfth Triennial Convention. The 4 voting delegates were Sherry Archer, Kathy Heffernan, Lois Storm, and Darla Toben. Our Main Theme was "Just Love" through the lens of immigration, migration, and human trafficking. Two of our Key Speakers were Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, who is the author of a book: "Love Without Limits" and Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, a Native American, who shared stories of the atrocities that her ancestors went through. Also, as speakers, were several students from various foreign countries who addressed racism, homesickness, and learning a new language, etc. We had choices on different workshops to choose from and they were very interesting. It was wonderful to be there. Each of the 7 Conferences in the state have a

and close with worship together.

A Zoom meeting on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> was held from 12:00-5:30, with the other Churchwide Synodical Presidents. Our meeting was titled Remembering, Rebuilding Leadership and was very interesting for us.

The SD Synodical Officers have been busy planning and preparing for this year's 37<sup>th</sup> Convention at First Lutheran Church in Mitchell (Prairie Rivers Conference), which will be held on June 19-21. All women of the ELCA are encouraged to attend.

Women of the SD Synod continue to serve with the making of many quilts which are boxed up for LWR, and also given out to local communities that are in need of them across SD. We also put together personal care kits, school kits, pillow cases, fabric kits, and newborn kits which are shipped to LWR. We do hospice kits, rolled bandages, newborn kits, quilts for missions, baby blankets, and baby hats which are made for Global Health Ministries. We also make mats for the homeless, give gifts to local food pantries, and support projects of LO and LSS. We thank the women of our synod for serving as officers in their church, conference, and on the synodical board, and for being wonderful leaders. We thank the women of our synod for the many ways that they serve in their churches and communities and are really the hands, feet, and heart of all our 7 conferences across SD. We pray that together we can bring hope and joy as we work together into the future.

Shalom! Sherry Archer and Lois Storm





Blessings to each of you, my siblings in Christ!

I bring you greetings from your churchwide executive board, representing all of you as we continue to breathe new life into the bones of our beloved Women of the ELCA. You are part of this revitalization, and I give thanks for each of you, and for your congregational units, your conferences and clusters, and your synodical women's organizations. As you convene in your annual or biennial synodical women's conventions, know that you are being lifted up in prayer by the leadership of your executive board.

Your conventions involve more than transacting necessary business. They are also opportunities to be inspired by the messages of clergy and gifted speakers and to be challenged by issues facing our neighbors and our communities, including immigration, human trafficking, and racism. You also celebrate accomplishments, make new friends, and reconnect with old. You eat together, pray together, laugh together, grow in faith together. And you leave re-energized to continue our mission and ministry. You are bold Women of the ELCA!

Thank you for being the face of Christ as we learn to dismantle actions that exclude our siblings from feeling welcomed, included, and heard. Each of you are ambassadors of God's Just Love.

Together, we are the women's ministry arm of our ELCA. God has called us into this work. I pray you will feel the call, and the power of the Holy Spirit, as you gather together. I walk with you on this journey.

With Just Love,



Myrna Wells-Ulland  
President, 2023-2026 Triennium  
Women of the ELCA

8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101

800-638-3522, ext. 2730  
773-380-2730

[womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org)

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention – South Dakota Synodical Women of the ELCA Business Meeting Agenda Friday, June 21, 2024 “Just Peace”**

**Convention Offering:**

50% to Churchwide Women of the ELCA and  
50% to Convention Expenses

**Silent Auction:** Katie’s Fund

**Business Meeting:** *Everyone is welcome to stay for the business meeting. Voting members should be seated in the area designated. Non-voters may leave to visit vendor tables.*

**Call to Order**

Report of Credentials Committee by Darla Toben  
Appointment of Convention Business Committees  
Adoption of the Agenda  
2023 Business meeting minutes ..... page 11  
Treasurer’s Report..... pages 12-13

**New Business**

Report of Nominating Committee:  
Vicar Wanda Biel, Convenor  
Call for Ballot ..... page 6  
Vice President: Incumbent Vicar Wanda Biel  
Secretary: Incumbent Teresa Mikkelsen  
Treasurer:  
Director of Stewardship: Darlene Bresson  
Member at Large: Beth Nielson  
Nominating Committee: Kathy Heffernan  
Nominating Committee:  
Election  
Presentation of Resolution  
Adopt 2026 Budget..... page 15

**Closing of Business Meeting**



**ELCA Endowment Fund Scholarship Winners**

- 2012-2013 – LeShea Avery
- 2013-2014 – Nancy Eckels
- 2014-2015 – Maria Caballo Salomon
- 2015-2016 – Maria Caballo Salomon
- 2016-2017 – Maria Cabell-Salomon
- 2017-2018 – Maria Cabello-Salomon
- 2018-2019 – Alysa Berndt, now Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Arlington
- 2019-2020 – Tami Steffenson, American Lutheran Presho
- 2020-2021 – Laura Beall, now Pastor at Hot Springs
- 2021-2022 – Rhonda Hanish,
- 2022-2023 – Nicole Phillips, SAM at Bergen Lutheran, Bristol, and American Lutheran, Webster
- 2023-2024 – Wanda Biel,
  - Hannah Flemming
  - Nicole Phillips
- 2024-2025 – Wanda Biel, vicar, Oldham Lutheran, Oldham
  - Hannah Fleming, Deacon, Spirit of Joy, Sioux Falls

**Displays & Information Tables**

*Please take some time to visit the displays and learn about these organizations:*

- Lutheran Social Services
- Church on the Street (Chris Matson)
- Lutherans Outdoors in SD
- St. Dysmas (Jeff Backer)
- Sharing the Dream in Guatemala
- Lutheran World Relief (Jamie Lennon)
- Lutheran Planned Giving (Kathy McHenry)
- Thrivent (Jeff Tveit/Kyle Gerlach)
- LuMin
- The Shepherd Shop Book Store
- World Hunger/Bread for World
- Global Health Ministries

**SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL WOMEN of the ELCA  
MINUTES of the ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD

June 23, 2023

Call to Order to convene business meeting was done by President Margene Thompson at 9:20am. We opened with our mission statement.

**Report of Credentials Committee** - Darla Toben (chair)

9 Synodical Officers and Board Members

21 Registered Voting Members

30 Total eligible to vote

1 Guest

43 Non Voting Members

74 Total in attendance

We have a quorum.

**Convention Business Committees:**

Parliamentarian: Rev. Erika Lehmann

President Margene introduced Committee Chairs who introduced their members.

Secretary Teresa read the proposed Rules of Procedure - Passed.

Adoption of Agenda - Passed.

**Vice President Wanda presented the ballot of elections:**

Co-Presidents: Sherry Archer and Lois Storm (Crossroads conference)

Director of Discipleship: Rev. Erika Lehmann (Crossroads conference)

Director of Justice: Connie Matzner (Prairie Rivers conference)

Member at Large: Dee Sanderson (Northern Plains conference)

Nominating Committee: Vickie Persson (Prairie Rivers conference) and  
Diane Bryant (Bear Butte conference)

Treasurer: no nomination

President Margene asked for nominations from the floor for President, Treasure, Director of Discipleship, Director of Justice, Member at Large, and Nominating Committee. There were no nominations from the floor. Since no one is nominated for Treasurer, the Board will appoint someone to this position for a year and will nominate someone next year to fill out the term.

President Margene declares nominations closed and introduced the names on the ballot.

We voted by paper ballot.

Motion/Second/Carried: The 2022 Secretary's Report will not be read aloud.

Motion/Second/Carried to approve the 2022 W/ELCA Synodical Convention minutes as printed in the booklet.

Cheryl Lundeen, chair of Katie's Fund Task Force, presented Resolution #1. After discussion:

Motion/Second/Passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Darla Toben presented the Treasurer's report that is printed in the booklet. End of year balance \$21,183.93. Note Endowment Fund accounts: 1) Cannot spend the Principle, 2) the interest is for scholarships. Kathy McHenry helped with the discussion. Report to be placed on file.

Darla Toben presented the proposed 2025 budget printed in the booklet. Darla motioned to approve the 2025 budget, Second/Carried.

Margene reviewed other printed reports. Stewardship report is a 13% decrease from last year.

Adjournment called by President Margene at 10:05am.

Teresa Mikkelsen  
Secretary

**South Dakota Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**Statement of Financial Position January 31, 2024**

**ASSETS****CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash in Bank- DNB National	\$	16,436.80	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>			<b>\$ 16,436.80</b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

Current Liabilities	\$	-	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	21,183.98	
Year to date increase (decrease)	\$	(4,747.18)	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET</b>			<b>\$ 16,436.80</b>

**ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

Dina Johnson Scholarship Fund (Augustana 7-31-23)	\$	29,006.00	
ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust Acct E271771 (12-31-23)	\$	154,674.15	
ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust Acct E271772 (12-31-23)	\$	3,567.85	
<b>TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>			<b>\$ 187,248.00</b>

**Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements**  
**For Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2024**

***UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:*****CASH RECEIPTS:**

Congregational Units	\$	13,847.85
Conference gatherings offering	\$	4,418.75
SWO (Synodical Women Organization) Convention offering	\$	3,765.00
SWO (Synodical Women Organization) Convention registration	\$	3,405.00
Newsletters	\$	135.00
Katie's Fund	\$	6,227.18
Love Offering at Conv (Woyatan W/ELCA)	\$	555.00
Love Offering at Conv Family Youth Services Rapid City)	\$	672.00
Grant Katie's Fund from Churchwide	\$	1,000.00
Other Designated Receipts	\$	14,256.85
Silent Auction at Conv (Katie's Fund)	\$	1,168.00
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>49,450.63</b>

***CASH DISBURSEMENTS*****SWO PROGRAM:**

Board and Committees	\$	1,053.21
Newsletter	\$	1,735.25
Winter Board meeting	\$	507.11
<b>TOTAL BOARD AND COMMITTEES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,295.57</b>

**EVENTS**

SWO (Synodical Women Organization) Convention	\$	8,993.96
Conference Officers Workshop/Business Meeting	\$	2,211.45
<b>TOTAL EVENTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,205.41</b>

**CHURCHWIDE**

Regular Offering (65%)	\$	9,001.12
Convention Offering (50%)	\$	1,882.50
Conference Gathering Offerings (65%)	\$	2,872.20
ELCA Disaster Response	\$	366.50
Global Health Ministries	\$	540.00
Katie's Fund	\$	6,727.18
Katie's Fund (Silent Auction at Conv)	\$	1,168.00
Grant Katie's Fund from Churchwide Disbursement	\$	1,000.00
Thankoffering	\$	287.63
World Hunger	\$	175.00
Where needed most	\$	-
<b>TOTAL CHURCHWIDE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>24,020.13</b>

**SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD**

Heartland Ephaphata	\$	150.00
LSS Campaign for Hope	\$	50.00
LuMin (Campus Ministries)	\$	1,475.84
Lutheran Social Services	\$	1,597.50
Lutheran Outdoor Camps	\$	1,027.18
Lutheran Outdoor Camp-Ne-So-Dak	\$	650.00
SD Synod	\$	50.00
Woyatan Lutheran W/ELCA (Love Offering at Conv)	\$	555.00
Youth Family Services of Rapid City (Love Offering at Conv)	\$	672.00
<b>TOTAL SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,227.52</b>

**OTHER**

Family Connections	\$	50.00
Fund for Leaders (formerly Answer the Call)	\$	100.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$	390.00
LWR Quilts and Kit Project	\$	3,958.35
Misc.	\$	480.00
Prison Congregations of America	\$	50.00
St. Dysmas	\$	1,420.83
Triennial Gathering	\$	3,000.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,449.18</b>

**TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS** **\$ 54,197.81**

INCREASE (DECREASE) NET ASSETS **\$ (4,747.18)**

ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR **\$ 21,183.98**

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR **\$ 16,436.80**

**CONGREGATION UNIT OFFERINGS FOR YEAR ENDING 1/31/24**

CONFERENCE I	Prairie Coteau	\$	2,919.10
CONFERENCE II	Medary	\$	1,712.45
CONFERENCE III	Crossroads	\$	5,207.38
CONFERENCE IV	Southeastern	\$	500.32
CONFERENCE V	Northern Plains	\$	1,742.30
CONFERENCE VI	Prairie Rivers	\$	1,290.30
CONFERENCE VII	Bear Butte	\$	476.00
<b>TOTAL CONFERENCE OFFERINGS</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>13,847.85</b>

Respectfully submitted  
Darla Toben, Treasurer

# RESOLUTION: Support for Forming New WELCA Units and Revitalizing Others

**Whereas** - The South Dakota Synodical Women of the ELCA are aware that various congregations do not have WELCA Units and that others are struggling to keep their organization active, it is important to recognize these situations and need.

**Whereas** - It is important for Women of the ELCA to be BOLD and show that this organization lives up to its purpose statement to support one another in our calling and act on it.

**Whereas** - There are many women with a long and active history with WELCA who can provide advice, resources, and support to Units that need this help and who can help guide others to form a Unit.

**Whereas** - Women of the ELCA have a high calling to engage in ministry and action for social justice and inclusion of all women to experience the love of Christ and be included in our organization.

**Be It Resolved:**  
To support the identified Units that request help and the Women that would like to form a

- new Unit by:
1. Forming a Task Force to be available for this purpose.
  2. Provide assistance by visiting in person, by phone or Zoom.
  3. Be available throughout the Synod Conferences by appointing volunteers to this Task Force from each Conference.
  4. Have the Task Force report to the Synodical Board on an annual basis.
  5. To promote and advertise this service through newsletters,

emails, etc., to make everyone aware of our organization's belief in doing our best for Women of the ELCA and who the contact persons are.

Crossroads Conference,  
Cheryl Lundeen,  
Past President  
of Crossroads Conference  
June 2024

Recommend Do Pass

## Auditor's Report

March 22, 2024

Board of Directors  
South Dakota Synodical Women's Organization  
Women of the ELCA

To whom it may concern,

Dianne Hoff, Linda Meier, and Phyllis Pates have reviewed the financial records from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

Our review consisted of reconciling cash receive with deposits recorded in the bank statement and computer reports and verifying vouchers paid with check copies and bank statements.

The account is in good order. We appreciate the manual record of activity with the computerized accounting as it is a good check and balance tool.

It was a pleasurer to review the financials for you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of us.

Called to serve,

Dianne Hoff  
Dianne Hoff

3-22-24  
Date

Linda Meier  
Linda Meier

3-22-24  
Date

Phyllis Pates  
Phyllis Pates

3-22-24  
Date



## SD Women of the ELCA Proposed FY 2026 Budget as recommended by the SWO Board

	Recommended by SWO Board FY 2026	Approved Budget FY2025	Actual Inc/Exp FYE 2024
<b>CASH RECEIPTS:</b>			
Offerings			
Congregational Units	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$16,789.59
Conference gatherings	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00	\$3,625.00
SWO Convention	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,290.00
SWO Convention Reg.	\$3,500.00	\$3,400.00	\$2,535.00
Newsletters	\$120.00	\$140.00	\$125.00
LSS Campaign for Hope	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Other (Synodical Projects/Designated Gifts)	\$15,380.00	\$15,000.00	\$16,288.04
<b>Total Cash receipts</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$44,540.00</b>	<b>\$43,902.63</b>
<b>CASH DISBURSEMENTS:</b>			
Board and Committees:			
Board Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$191.58
Nominating Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletters	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,200.39
TDTR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other expenses	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$178.00
Events:			
SWO Convention	\$6,150.00	\$6,070.00	\$6,938.30
Board Meetings	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$0.00
Leadership Workshop	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Triennial Gathering Promo	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Churchwide			
Regular Offering (65%)	\$11,700.00	\$11,700.00	\$10,945.75
Convention offering (50%)	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,145.00
Conf. gathering offerings (65%)	\$2,470.00	\$2,470.00	\$2,323.76
Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Designated gifts-churchwide	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,377.03
Katie's Fund (Bold Woman Award)	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$550.00
South Dakota Synod:			
Synodical Projects/Designated	\$15,380.00	\$15,000.00	\$14,526.01
LSS Campaign for Hope	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Other:			
Other Lutheran Designated Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Cash disbursements</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$44,540.00</b>	<b>\$41,625.82</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,276.81</b>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:ladnred2023@gmail.com)

1st term 6/2023, Crossroads Advisor

### **Vice President Wanda Biel**

205 N Leslie Ave., Oldham SD 57051

[wandabiel402@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dgtoben@itctel.com)

Appointed for 1 year

Serving since 6/2019

### **Director of Discipleship Erika Lehmann**

913 3rd St., Garretson SD 57030

605-338-4737 Bear Butte Advisor

[elehmann1869@icloud.com](mailto:elehmann1869@icloud.com)

1st term 6/2023

### **Director of Justice Connie Matzner**

26420 385th Ave., Stickney SD 57375

605-732-4370 [matzp@midstatesd.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:deesand@aol.com)

2nd term 8/2021 Northern Plains Adv.

## Nominating Committee (2-yr term)

**Lori Tendler** (2022) Crossroads

[lorit@sio.midco.net](mailto:lorit@sio.midco.net)

**Karen Jensen** (2022) Crossroads

[kjva41@msn.com](mailto:kjva41@msn.com)

**Diane Bryan** (2023) Bear Butte

[blueroosterchick@hotmail.com](mailto:blueroosterchick@hotmail.com)

**Vicki Persson** (2023) Prairie Rivers

[vicki@midstatesd.net](mailto:vicki@midstatesd.net)

## Conference Coordinators

**Bear Butte:** Diane Bryan

1807 Windmill Dr., Spearfish SD 57783

701-870-2020 [blueroosterchick@hotmail.com](mailto:blueroosterchick@hotmail.com)

**Crossroads:** Cheryl Lundeen

50 N Knoll Dr. #3, Sioux Falls, SD 57110

605-201-3102 [clundeen@midco.net](mailto:clundeen@midco.net)

**Medary:** Connie Bickett

45041 217<sup>th</sup> St., Arlington SD 57212

605-270-9967, cell 605-315-2402

[conniebickett452@gmail.com](mailto:conniebickett452@gmail.com)

**Northern Plains:** Brenda Glasford

922 3rd Ave. NE. Aberdeen, SD 57401

605-215-1408

[brenda.glasford@yahoo.com](mailto:brenda.glasford@yahoo.com)

**Prairie Coteau:** Pam Seefeldt

42598 180th Street, Clark SD 57225

605-532-3840, cell 605-881-6141

[seefmar@itctel.com](mailto:seefmar@itctel.com)

**Prairie Rivers:** Margene Thompson

39141 240th St., Letcher, SD 57359

605-248-2444, cell 605-770-8311

[amthompson@santel.net](mailto:amthompson@santel.net)

**Southeastern:** Joyce Vasgaard

28746 462 Ave., Centerville, SD 57014

605-359-0386 [joycevasgaard@iw.net](mailto:joycevasgaard@iw.net)

## Communications

**FACEBOOK GURU:** Erika Lehmann

605-338-4737

[elehmann1869@icloud.com](mailto:elehmann1869@icloud.com)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Lilah Gillis

cell 605-660-8418 [sdwelcanews@gmail.com](mailto:sdwelcanews@gmail.com)