

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL Women of the ELCA

VOLUME XLIII NUMBER 1

Spring 2025



Co-President
Lois Storm

Come, enrich your life with fellowship, friendships, food, faith, and fun! I'm tooting a horn again for all of you to come to your FIRST Synodical Convention in Yankton this year on June 18-20. The reason I say first is, because I truly believe IF you come to your first one, you will keep on attending them.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone who has been to one before too. I went to my first one 15 years ago and it has been my personal vacation

every year. I saved for it and was hooked, and haven't missed one since 2010. I never ever thought I'd be helping plan one; but here I am on my second one. The Synodical Board, along with Southeastern Conference President Joyce Vasgaard and Lilah, our Newsletter editor from Trinity in Yankton, have worked diligently planning this one. We want each of you to leave on Friday knowing you will want to return the following year.

I wrote a few sentences about each Speaker we have lined up on page 6. Also have a block of rooms reserved in 2 hotels. See page 5 for details. The block is under WELCA, and the price includes taxes and fees. You can check for rooms elsewhere too. Looking forward to seeing you there and invite your friends too. Shalom!



Co-President
Sherry Archer

Greetings! As I write this, I know spring isn't officially here yet, but we've been having a foretaste of what is to come. One of the joys of living in good ole SD is how quickly the weather can change. Speaking of JOY, please plan on going to your Conference Spring Gathering and/or our 38th annual Synodical Convention in Yankton in June. You will find JOY in listening to the

speakers, JOY in enJOYing the program following the banquet meal, and JOY in being surrounded by so many other Lutheran women at the Convention! This year we are trying something new: instead of having a Silent Auction, we will accept monetary donations for Katie's Fund.

If you're not familiar with that fund, here's a little bit about it: "Katharina von Bora Luther was a practical and bold woman of faith. Through Katie's Fund, Women of the ELCA honors her life by supporting global connections, leadership development and living theology. 2122 is a \$1 million campaign for Katie's Fund that is designed to support the organization into the next 100 years of mission and ministry." You may learn more about it by going to the WELCA website.



Vice President

Wanda Biel

Greetings, dear Sisters in Christ,

While we enjoy the sunshine, rain, and snowstorms of spring, take heart! Soon we will be celebrating with our South Dakota sisters our annual convention in June. At that time, we will also be electing our SD WELCA leaders.

Much of our ballot is complete. However, we need three ladies to run for these two-year terms: **Member-at-large, Director for Justice**, and one person for the **Nominating Committee**.

What about a Triennial Convention? The Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention will be held virtually in July of 2026. South Dakota will send three delegates as voting members. Our ballot in June will include voting for these delegates.

If you know of any ladies willing to hold a Synodical Office, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

Wanda Biel 402-883-0474 wandabiel402@gmail.com

Diane Bryan 701-870-2020

blueroosterchick@hotmail.com

Kathy Heffernan 605-324-3638

kheffernan1957@gmail.com

Janet Lustig 818-571-2594 jjehrtig@gmail.com

Vicki Persson 605-999-2946 vicki@midstatesd.net

Ask, ask and ask and pray, pray and pray for God's provision for these needed leaders.



Treasurer

Darla Toben

The SD Synodical convention is fast approaching, so now is the time to start planning your trip to Yankton. Registration fees include many great speakers, Thursday noon meal and Thursday evening's banquet meal. **Early bird registration is \$50 if paid before June 1st**. Registrations after June 1st will be \$65. You may register by mail or online using <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/9897404> Hotel information is listed on the registration form on the back page. Get your registrations in EARLY! Online registration is available thru June 13, 2025.

Voting delegates: Each unit can register **one voting**

delegate to the convention. Voting delegates **must** register by June 1, 2025. Delegate information will be mailed to the delegates prior to the convention.

Synodical Offering: Please bring your unit's and personal synodical offerings to the convention. If sending an offering from your unit, please complete Offering Form A with your check so your donation can be recorded appropriately. The SWO offering will be split 50/50 between Churchwide and the SD Synodical Women's Organization.

Silent Auction: There will be NO silent auction this year as a result of the evaluation results from last year's convention. The South Dakota SWO has made a commitment to support Katie's Fund, therefore we will have a free will offering for Katie's Fund. Monetary donations will be greatly appreciated.

Love Offering: Sleep in Heavenly Peace is the recipient of the Love Offering.

See you in Yankton!

Yankton attractions

Lewis & Clark Lake, formed by Gavins Point Dam is arguably Yankton's main attraction. Trinity has arranged a free **tour of the Dam**. We will load up the church van and leave Trinity at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday. The tour does include a flight of stairs at the beginning and end, and a noisy generator room, but it's so very interesting to see how it all works.

If history is more your style, the **Mead Museum** is hosting a special free hour on Wednesday 4-5 p.m.

for WELCA visitors. It has been lovingly and beautifully restored from its days housing women with compassion and dignity.

The **Cramer Kenyon Heritage Home** provides another glimpse into yesteryear with its elegant Queen Anne architecture and gardens. Stop by from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday for a free tour.

One last historic spot to check out is the double-deck Meridian Bridge. It's been converted to a walking bridge and offers scenic views of the Missouri River.

Application for Voting Member to the Twelfth Triennial Convention **July 13-15, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa**

A note on the Triennial from Churchwide: The budget for the 2023 Triennial Convention was made for the event to be held in 2020, in Phoenix. Due to Covid, the Triennial was rescheduled for 2021 and held online. When the 2023 Convention was planned, again for Phoenix, the budget was not updated for inflation. There were fewer participants and higher fees from hotel and convention center, resulting in a deficit. The Churchwide Board voted to hold a virtual Convention in Des Moines July 13-15. Voting delegates from the statewide organizations will virtually join the convention proceedings, and will not be reimbursed for expenses.

The Churchwide executive board encourages SWOs (Synodical Women's Organizations) to meet within regions. South Dakota's three delegates will meet with delegates from North Dakota (4) and Minnesota (35). Voting members will attend pre-Convention virtual practice sessions to become familiar with the process. The National Executive Board understands this decision will be a disappointment.

A note from our Synodical Presidents: At the Business meeting of our Synodical Convention on June 19, we will need to elect two more delegates (the President is the third one). If you have any questions, please call Lois or Sherry, and they will try to answer your questions.

Final Note: Only one (1) person per unit! The nominating committee has very strict rules.

Applications will be available at conference Spring Gatherings, or send Wanda this info:

Name, age, full address, telephone number, email, Conference and Unit

Person of color or whose primary language is not English: Yes____ No____

First Time Voting Member(delegate)____ Previous Convention as voting member____

Also include: *Experience in Women of the ELCA and Why I want to serve as a voting member*

Please send the above information by May 5, 2025 to Wanda Biel, 205 N Leslie Ave., Oldham SD 57051.

Email: wandabi402@gmail.com



Director for Discipleship

Rev. Erika Lehmann

Every year when I attend our South Dakota Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention, I learn things through the speakers, displays, and talking to the other women from around the state about what their congregations are doing.

This year I will share with you the work of ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response.

Overseas, we usually work with Companion Synod churches or Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran World Federation of Church World Service to make sure that we aren't just sending money, but following through with local partners.

In the United States, including in South Dakota, money is channeled through carefully screened grants to churches and ministries making a difference in their setting.

Lutheran Disaster Response is organized to be more nimble, so as to respond quickly to disasters soon after they happen. When you give to a specific disaster in the United States or overseas, funds are directed to that need with no administrative costs, but it is very important to know that undesignated disaster money is vital to have on hand so that there is no waiting period for money to flow in before people are on the ground, helping organize the work on the ground where fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and other catastrophes occur.

Come to Yankton this summer for our convention! I look forward to seeing you — it is like a family reunion where new people are always welcome!



**Director for
Stewardship**
Darlene Bresson

The Synodical Board has chosen Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) as the recipient of the Love offering for the 2025 Synodical Convention in June.

SHP believes all children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their head, but they found that too many children were sleeping on couches, blankets, or even the floor. This can affect a child's happiness and health.

SHP volunteers in 10 different South Dakota communities build beds for children: Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Sisseton, Watertown, and Yankton. Their mission is, "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!" SHP is a 501(c)3 organization, and they ensure that 95% of all financial donations go toward building beds.

For Love Offerings, see the poster on the next page. Help a child today!



Director for Justice
Connie Matzner

Have you ever experienced a gathering of Lutheran women from across the state of South Dakota? If so, then you have had the privilege of attending a South Dakota Synodical Convention.

If you answered **no** to this question, then you need to start attending and realize the inspiration you get from worshipping with 75-100 Lutheran women from across South Dakota.

This year the Synodical board is paying the registration for two first-time attendees from each conference. When you register, there will be a place on the registration form to mark "first time attendee." When Darla receives your registration and sees you are one of the first first-timer from your conference, she will let you know that your registration is "free," and you will get your money back.

The synodical board encourages each conference to also give some type of monetary gift or stipend to your first-time attendees, or any attendees. We want to make this a wonderful time for us as Lutheran women to gather in Yankton. See you then!



Member at Large
Dee Sanderson

Greetings from the Northern Plains.

I would like to thank the Women of the ELCA for privilege and pleasure of serving on your Board for the past four years. It has been a delight to get to know the other board members and be a part keeping your organization active. I

encourage you to be active in this organization .

We are still working on forming a task force to assist units in reactivating or encouraging current activity. Cheryl Lundeen, Crossroads Conference, chairs this task force. We have a volunteer from Bear Butte Conference and would like one from each conference. Call or text me at 605-228-2567 or email deesand@aol.com to volunteer. Or call or text Cheryl, 605-201-3102 or Email clundeen@midco.net.

Hope to see many of you at the Synodical Convention in Yankton, June 18-20 at Trinity Lutheran in Yankton, SD.

SOUTH DAKOTA
SYNODICAL
38TH Annual Convention



June 18-20, 2025

6 Let Your Light Shine *9

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. — Matthew 5:16

Wednesday, June 18 2:30 pm Gavins Point Dam Tour (free, van from Trinity)
4-5 pm Mead Museum (a special free hour for WELCA)
4-6 pm Cramer Kenyon house open for WELCA (free)
6-8 pm TLC Kitchen Fundraiser meal & Vespers Service
Thursday, June 19 8:30 am—8 pm
Friday, June 20 8:30 am to noon

Registration: \$50 if paid by May 31; \$65 if paid June 1 or later
(one voting member per unit, must be paid by June 1)

Sneak preview of the Speakers and Breakout Sessions:

Anghy Aragon	Relationships with Companion Synods
Diane Gubbels	Quilts with Stories of Inspiration
Kevin Watt	Avoiding Scams, Fraud and Phishing
Rev. Erika Lehmann	Lutheran Disaster Response and ELCA World Hunger

BANQUET Program Portrayal of Women of the Bible

LOVE OFFERINGS: Twin-sized sheet sets, quilts, bed pillows, gently used toys and books, and monetary donations are always appreciated by Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

HOTELS: Blocks of rooms are available at these hotels under the name WELCA
Econo Lodge Inn (first floor), \$109. 2410 Broadway Ave. 605-665-8717
2 queen beds and a hot breakfast. Call before June 15.
Comfort Inn (has elevator) \$130. 611 W. 23rd St. 605-689-3400.
2 queen beds and a hot breakfast. Call before May 15.

Trinity Lutheran Church
403 Broadway Ave, Yankton, SD 57301

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

Convention Speakers, Awareness Session Leaders, and More!

Victor Brent Asby and guitar will lead us in song throughout our Convention and will form an impromptu choir for our worship service on Friday. **Marliyn Nyberg** will be our organist.

Pastor Elan Asby will do the Vespers Service Wednesday evening, and **Megan Moroff** will have devotions on Thursday morning.

Thursday:

Diane Gubbels will share her beautiful quilts with "Stories of Inspiration." Her quilts come from life experiences and stories of Christian faith.

Kevin Watt will speak after the business meeting about avoiding scams, fraud, and phishing. He will also lead one of the Awareness Sessions, where you can ask personal questions. This information alone may make your trip worthwhile!

Lois Storm will lead Balance Exercises at an Awareness Session. Your balance is not something you have naturally; you have to consistently work at it. She will show you the best exercises that don't need complicated equipment.

Pastor Martha Atkins served at St. Dysmas of SD, a valuable ministry to men in whom we see the face of God. You will be inspired by the genuine stories of faith. Visits to St. Dysmas congregation are welcomed to share the joy which radiates from the men you worship with.

Pastor Erika Lehmann will lead an Awareness Sessions on Lutheran Disaster Response and ELCA World Hunger. Her article on page 3 has some previews.

Pastor Becky Senner, with ladies from Spirit of Hope in Scotland dressed in costumes of Biblical times, will narrate a Portrayal of Women of the Bible. Marsha Marohl from the Southeastern Conference wrote the play.

Friday Morning:

Gwendolynn Edwards, secretary of the Churchwide Board of Women of the ELCA, will give a report from that body. She is our Churchwide Representative this year.

Anghy Aragon is a member of one of our Companion Synods: The Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope in Nicaragua. She will help to increase awareness of our companion synod ministry and speak on how to build relationships.

Pastor Renee Splichal Larson serves as the Associate to the Bishop in SD Synod. She will give a report from the SD Synod. We will close our Convention with our Holy Communion worship service, where she will give our sermon. Renee is also a survivor of the Haiti earthquake and author of the book "A Witness."

Renewals due...

Please send the \$5 annual subscription to Darla Toben, 47906 171st St., Clear Lake SD 57226

For a free, e-mailed newsletter, contact sdwelcanews@gmail.com

Karel Amend
Alice Anderson
Ruth Anderson
Connie Bickett
Janet Bohn
Lynne Bye
Krisma DeWitt
Marie Erickson
Brenda Glasford

Myla Kneeland
Sue Larson
Linda Meier
Marilyn Nelson
Janet Nygard
Ardys Olson
Jane Petersen
Margene Thompson
Marilyn Van Liere

Don't miss your Conference Spring Gathering!

Bear Butte: April 26, Our Savior's Lutheran in Hermosa

Crossroads: May 5, Peace Lutheran, Sioux Falls

Medary: April 5, St. John Lutheran, Madison

Northern Plains: April 5, St. Paul Lutheran in Bowdle

Prairie Coteau: April 26, Grace Lutheran, Sisseton

Prairie Rivers: April 26, Spirit of Hope, Scotland

Southeastern: April 5, Scandia Lutheran, Centerville

Contact your Conference coordinator for info.

See page 7

2024-2025 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 2023, Southeastern Advisor

Co-President Sherry Archer

2204 E 52nd St, Sioux Falls SD 57103

605-310-0153 ladnred2023@gmail.com

1st term 2023, Crossroads Advisor

Vice President Wanda Biel

205 N Leslie Ave., Oldham SD 57051

wandabiel402@gmail.com

402-883-0474 2nd term 2022. Medary Advisor

Secretary Teresa Mikkelsen

PO Box 94, Webster SD 57274

605-345-2912 teresalm82@hotmail.com

2nd Term 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, Medary Advisor
Serving since 2019

Director of Discipleship Erika Lehmann

913 3rd St., Garretson SD 57030

605-338-4737 Bear Butte Advisor

elehmann1869@icloud.com

1st term 2023

Director of Justice Connie Matzner

26420 385th Ave., Stickney SD 57375

605-732-4370 matzp@midstatesd.net

2nd term 2021, Prairie Rivers Advisor

Director of Stewardship Darlene Bresson

621 S. Lake Drive Watertown, SD 57201

1-605-421-1258 dbress20@gmail.com

1st term 2024

Member-at-Large Beth Nielsen

1540 Buena Vista Road, Spearfish, SD 57783,

bethn2005@gmail.com , 605-381-8695

1st term 2024

Member-at-Large Dee Sanderson

104 S Main St, Unit 4-S, Aberdeen SD 57401

605-228-2567 deesand@aol.com

2nd term 2021 Northern Plains Adv.

Nominating Committee (2-yr term)

Kathy Heffernan (2024) 605-324-3638

kheffernan1957@gmail.com

Janet Lustig (2024) 818-571-2594

jjehrtig@gmail.com

Diane Bryan (2023) Bear Butte

blueroosterchick@hotmail.com

Vicki Persson (2023) Prairie Rivers

vicki@midstatesd.net

Conference Coordinators

Bear Butte: Beth Nielsen

1540 Buena Vista Rd, Spearfish, SD 57783

bethn2005@gmail.com 605-381-8695

Crossroads: Sandy Sorum

47510 258th St., Renner, SD 57055

dssorum5@gmail.com 605-201-4334

Medary: Connie Bickett

45041 217th St., Arlington SD 57212

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

conniebickett452@gmail.com

Northern Plains: Bobbi Anderson and

Rachel Hemke

bobbi.anderson.501@gmail.com

rachel.hemke@gmail.com

Prairie Coteau: Cindy Hofland

44473 107th St., Veblen, SD 57270

hofland@tnics.com, 605-626-1178 and

Diane Odland, 11570 468th Ave., Sisseton, SD

57262, odlandjoel@yahoo.com, 605-268-1123

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

REGISTRATION FORM

SD Women of the ELCA 38th Synodical Convention

June 18-20, 2025—Trinity Lutheran Church, 403 Broadway Ave, Yankton, 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 by May 31

\$65 June 1 or later

includes Thursday noon meal and Thursday evening Banquet meal

Wednesday eve grilled hamburgers and brats will be served by Trinity's TLC Team as a fundraiser for the Kitchen Remodel fund.—if yes, add \$10 by June 13.

Register online at: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/9897404>

On-site registration starts at 3 pm Wednesday, June 18th

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