

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
First Lutheran Church, Mitchell, SD
October 18, 2024, 8:30 am**

Present: Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, Dennis Thompson, Jill Beers, Kristie Anderson, Rev. Michael DeKraai, John Rasmussen, Rev. Jackie Braun (zoom), Gary Kaufmann, Deacon Christie Meier, Thad Titze (zoom), Cristy Harkness, Jake Hoffner, Rev. Jeff Otterman, Kelly Nelson, Chad Nilson, Rev. Justin Van Orman, Jeff Clark, Bonny Hansen, Rev. Becky Senner, Rev. Wilbur Holz, Jody Johnson (zoom)

Synod Staff: Lois Borchardt, Kathy McHenry, Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, Rev. Jonathan Vehar

Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order

Dennis Thompson read the Land Acknowledgement.

Land Acknowledgement

South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognizes that the Oceti Sakowin (the Seven Council Fires of the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota), the Arikara, the Ponca and the Cheyenne, are the historic 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, and Yankton 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. And 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.

Opening Prayer

Bishop Constanze led the group in the opening prayer.

Roll Call and Introductions

Forward any corrections to Lois at lborchardt@sdsynod.org

Approve Agenda

The agenda was available in Google Drive.

10:00 Partner Ministry - Lutherans Outdoors in SD, Pastor David Zellmer
10:30 worship with Deacon Kris Wollman & Pastor Scott Munger
11:00 Synod Study - Pastor Cassandra Lamb (30 minutes)
12:00 Lunch

**MSC to approve the agenda in the order as the chair deems most appropriate.
SC.2024.10.01**

Approve Minutes

Synod Assembly May 31 - June 1, 2024

The minutes of the 2024 South Dakota Synod Assembly were in Google Drive.

MSC to approve the minutes of the 2024 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

SC.2024.10.02

Synod Council August 9-10, 2024

The minutes of the August 9-10, 2024 meeting were in Google Drive.

MSC to approve the minutes of the August 9-10, 2024 Synod Council meeting.

SC.2024.10.03

Reports - Round Table discussions (15 minutes each)

Bishop Constanze

- Caregiver Devotion is available on Pasque in a PDF
- Farm to Table - experiencing different needs
- Sabbatical was wonderful - If elected, I would enjoy a 2nd term
- Dealing with Portico and Humana

Dennis Thompson, VP, Executive Council, Treasurer's Report

- VP - involved with monthly VP meetings (working on code of conduct for bishop election)
- Executive Council - approve the last of the Lilly Grant 1.0, made contributions to other synods during disasters, approved funds for Jennifer Seffrood continuing ed
- Treasurer's Report - At the end of September there is a \$15,000 deficit

Rev. Jonathan Vehar

- NIS is a big part of the DEM position - there is a lot of paper work.
- Executive leadership course was discussed
- Creating a Narrative Budget course on Pasque
- Lutheran Lakota Ministry is now incorporated
- Box Elder is currently searching for a Mission Developer

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

- Mobility - 20 site studies this year with 19 calls extended
- Not as many seminarians are available. Currently we will have 2. Seminary is very affordable. Currently SD seminarians can go for free.
- We need to raise up our own candidates.
- Pasque is very helpful for extended learning.

Lutheran Outdoors - Partner Ministries - Pastor Dave Zellmer

- Pastor Dave has been on the job since 7/28/24 - serving as interim director

- There are a number of positions available. Jamie Dupray was hired as the Outlaw Director. Mary Kettle is working with recruiting.
- Lois Borchardt is helping with financial since Linda retired.
- Starting the search committee to fill the LO Director position. Bishop Constanze will share this position with other bishops.
- Many congregations don't know they own the camps. Board members will contact congregations to share the mission.
- The staff meeting will be held in November at Klein Ranch.
- A short video will be shared to congregations across the state.
- He hopes to have the new director in place by February/March.

Break for Worship with Deacon Kris Wollman and Pastor Scott Munger

Cassandra Lamb - Synod Study Report

- 208 responses
- A full report will be put in the google drive
- Suggested in 5 years looking at the form of this survey for the next bishop election

**MSC to receive the report of the Synod Study Committee and make it available on Synod e-news on Thursday, October 24.
SC.2024.10.04**

Old Business

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center (PRRC)

- August meeting asked to separate job corps into its own entity.
- Applied for 501c status with the ELCA

New Business

Partner ministry - Report earlier in the minutes

Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry (SAOM)

- to provide spiritual care in the Smithfield workplace

**MSC to approve a Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry (SAOM) to provide workplace chaplaincy.
SC.2024.10.05**

Re-authorize Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWC)

- Shepherds Table, Pueblo de Dios, First Lutheran African Ministry, Spirit of Hope and Church on the Street

- Each year we need to re-authorize SAWC. They do not call a pastor, the Synod Council does that.

**MSC to re-authorize Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWC):
Shepherds Table, Pueblo de Dios, First Lutheran African Ministry, Spirit of Hope
and Church on the Street.
SC.2024.10.06**

Synod Assembly Offering

**MSC to designate the 2025 South Dakota Synod Assembly offering to the Mission
Start at Box Elder
SC.2024.10.07**

Break for Lunch

Reconvene the meeting at 12:35 pm.

Synod Council Congregational Visits

A list and talking points will get put in the google drive.

Committee mileage and reimbursement rate

Discussion was held regarding the reimbursement rate for committee members. Currently, committee members are reimbursed for meals and lodging at the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) per diem rate.

**MSC to add a check box “I want to be reimbursed at the full rate” on the
reimbursement form.
SC.2024.10.08**

Lilly Grant 2.0 “Holy Playground”

- Nurturing Children in Worship and Prayer. The amount is 1.2 million dollars
- This will walk along with Neighbors in Solidarity (NIS) and Synod Authorized Worshipping Congregations (SAWC)
- This will work with congregations to make sense of this grant. It will provide microgrants to help implement the grant.

Insurance Renewal

- Cincinnati dropped us. We are now piece-mealed to get us insured.
- Significant increase
- We need sexual misconduct covered
- We will take a year and reevaluate

Roster Matters

Inform Only

Rev. Young Chung - transferred to Metropolitan Chicago Synod effective 4/01/24

Rev. Steve Moberg - transferred to Minneapolis Area Synod effective 10/04/24

Rev. Heidi Youngquist - transferred to Nebraska Synod effective 8/01/24

Rev. Tedd Rieke - transferred into SD Synod from Eastern ND Synod effective 8/28/24

Other roster matters will be addressed in Executive Session.

MSC to enter to executive session for roster matters.

SC.2024.10.09

Synod Council met in Executive Session.

Exit Executive Session.

MSC to come out of executive session and report all actions taken in the minutes.

SC.2024.10.15

Actions taken while in executive session

MSC to grant Deacon Amanda Randall On-Leave-from-Call effective 10/01/24

SC.2024.10.10

MSC to grant Rev. Mary Sacco retirement effective 8/01/24

SC.2024.10.11

MSC to grant Rev. Jeff Sorenson retirement effective 1/01/25

SC.2024.10.12

MSC to grant Rev. Tim Thies a change from Retirement to Disability effective 2/20/23

SC.2024.10.13

Synod Council Calls Annual Review

- Pr. Chris Anderson - Chaplain for Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen
- Dr. Richard Bowman - Professor of Religion for Augustana University, Sioux Falls+
- Pr. Maria Cabello - Pastor Developer for Pueblo de Dios, Sioux Falls
- Pr. Paul Erdal - Intentional Interim Pastor for South Canyon Lutheran, Rapid City
- Pr. Randy Fett - Intentional interim Pastor for Calvary, Rapid City
- Pr. Kris Garlick - Chaplain for Monument Health Hospital, Rapid City
- Pr. Christy Hallenbeck Ask - Director, Mission Integration and Senior Pastor for The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Sioux Falls
- Pr. Lisa Heffernan - Campus Pastor for USD Luther Center, Vermillion
- Pr. Dan Johnson - Director of Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, Pine Ridge
- Pr. Cassandra Lamb - Campus Pastor for the University Lutheran Center, Brookings

- Pr. Bailey Landa - Spiritual Care Director for Legends on Lake Lorraine, Sioux Falls
- Pr. JoAnn Lemme - Chaplain for Bethany Lutheran Home for the Aged, Inc, Sioux Falls/Brandon
- Pr. Chris Matson - Pastor for Church on the Street, Sioux Falls
- Pr. Ann Rosendale - Administrative Campus Pastor for Augustana University, Sioux Falls
- Pr. Kari Sansgaard - Chaplain for Avera Sioux Falls
- Pr. Becky Senner - Pastor/Mission Developer for Spirit of Hope, Scotland
- Deacon Randy Youngquist-Thurow - Associate Director for Lutherans Outdoors in SD
- Pr. Renae Boehmer - Chaplain for Dow Rummel Village, Sioux Falls
- Pr. Katherine Olson - Chaplain for Dow Rummel Village, Sioux Falls

Motion to accept the reviews of these Synod Council calls en bloc.

MSC to accept the reviews of these Synod Council calls en bloc.

SC.2024.10.14

Congregational Matters

Action Item

Lake Preston Lutheran and North Preston Lutheran, Lake Preston 2nd vote to leave ELCA passed on 8/25/24 for both.

MSC to allow Lake Preston Lutheran and North Preston Lutheran, Lake Preston, to disaffiliate from the ELCA

SC.2024.10.16

Kimball Protestant Parish

Kimball Protestant Church did not unite, they federated.

MSC to renew the agreement between the Kimball Protestant Parish for another 12 months.

SC.2024.10.17

Two questions for each member:

What will you share?

How will you share it?

Future Meetings

- February 12, 2025 - Executive Committee, 2:00 pm, Synod Office, Sioux Falls
- February 23, 2025 - Conference Assemblies
- March 13, 2025 - Executive Committee, 6:00, Synod Office, Sioux Falls

- March 14, 2025 - Synod Council, 8:30 am, TBA
- March 30-31 - Synod Assembly, Our Savior's Lutheran, Sioux Falls

Close with The Lord's Prayer

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Beers, secretary