

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL

Women of the ELCA

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 3

August 2010



PRESIDENT VERDELLE ANDERSON

“God Colors Outside the Lines”

was the theme for our 23rd annual Synodical Convention which was held in Vermillion June 25-26. We want to thank Trinity Lutheran Women of the ELCA of Vermillion for opening their church for this event and Trinity Lutheran Women of the ELCA of Yankton for being the host for this event. It was a fun filled two days of awareness workshops, speakers, Bible study and worship. We again were very pleased to have Bishop Zellmer with us during opening worship service on Saturday morning. The Bishop also took time to answer the many questions and concerns that the attending ladies had relating to our South Dakota synod. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this synodical convention a success. We also want to thank Margene Thompson and Janet Mattison for their past service on the synodical board.

During the business meeting, election of new officers included Kathy Heffernan as continuing secretary, Erika Lehmann, new vice-president; Lucille Birkholtz, member at large and Vicki Persson, member at large. Also the delegates and alternates for the Triennial National Convention were elected and also installed. See Kathy Heffernan’s column for the listing of these ladies. I, as president, will be notifying national headquarters of these names and they will then be in contact with the delegates later this year.

Our Leadership Workshop was recently held July 23-24 at First Lutheran Church in Mitchell. A special thanks to Janet Hamiel and the Women of the ELCA who assisted us in opening their church for this event and serving the meal and coffee breaks. Also a special thanks to Rev. Holly Slater for leading the Bible study and closing service. The theme for this workshop was “**Listening to God**” which is another Bible study resource available thru national headquarters. Talk to your conference officers as they have several copies of this workshop and you may also download this thru national headquarters. Our leadership workshop is a fun filled and rewarding time for your

conference officers to spend time with state board, other conference officers and review their duties and responsibilities as conference officers. They also have opportunity to share their talents and ideas with the others attending. Bringing this information back to their conferences is a great benefit in keeping their conference informed and active in God’s work.

Looking ahead, our next Synodical Convention will be held at Joy Ranch at Watertown on June 17-18, 2011. This will be hosted by the Women of the ELCA of Our Redeemer Church. Plans are to make this an opportunity to bring the family along and enjoy the activities offered by city of Watertown and its area. This will be a very exciting time to meet at our newest Lutheran Outdoors camp and see the wonderful facilities that will be available to our families and especially for our handicapped, who were not always able to attend other camps. If you would like to see a sneak preview, plan to come to Joy Ranch on Sunday, August 29 for Lutheran Outdoors annual quilt auction.

Hope everyone has enjoyed their summer and soon the schools and colleges will be back in session. Remember especially our young people going off to college. Be sure to keep in contact with them and assure them that their church family is thinking of them. My first grandson will be leaving for college soon. It seems that it was just yesterday when he went off to kindergarten. **Life moves so fast, don’t miss a minute of joy and always thank God for our blessings.**



VICE-PRESIDENT ERIKA LEHMANN

As the new vice president of the SD Synodical Women of the ELCA, I am looking forward to having more contact with the wonderful women of our synod. In the past I

have had some opportunity to speak to the women of a number of congregations and conferences about the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and to do some singing, but now I’ll have a new role as well.

I was born and raised in Sioux Falls, graduated from Augustana, where my dad, Gerhard Schmitterer was a professor, married and went to seminary. I graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 1982 and had my first child a week Cont.

later. Our little family moved to Athens, Greece, where we lived for nearly 4 years until it was almost time for our second child to be born. I've served as a pastor in seven churches (sometimes two at a time) since being ordained in 1987 and been active in the synod and church-wide. Divorced since 1987, I am now a live-in care-giver for my mother who has several chronic conditions, and serve part-time as pastor of West Prairie Lutheran Church, rural Lennox.

Both my children, Hilary and Christian, are in their 20s now and graduate students in Los Angeles. My daughter has a lovely singing voice and sings on all three of the recordings I made for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and my son has a powerful speaking voice. Both honed their skills in the congregations we belonged to while they grew up. They graduated from Yankton High School in 2000 and 2005. Hilary went to St. Olaf College in Minnesota and Christian to Bard College in New York.

My hobbies are basically singing and reading, but I also enjoy riding my bicycle, watching television with my mom, keeping up with friends and news on-line. I am deeply concerned with care of creation and the alleviation of suffering for people who are hungry, oppressed or victims of violence. I feel blessed to be able to live in beautiful South Dakota doing the work that God is calling me to do: taking care of my mother and being a pastor.

Though it is a challenge for me to be gone overnight, I love to get out and do programs singing and speaking for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal or Lutheran World Relief to groups around the synod. I make an effort to help congregations sell LWR fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate to give the growers and their families a living wage for their work. I was on the St. Dymas Associate Council for 4 years and feel passionately that we as a church need to feed the hungry and visit and reach out to those in prison, as Jesus tells us in Matthew 25. God's Work. Our Hands. As the new vice president of the SD Synodical Women of the ELCA, I am looking forward to having more contact with the wonderful women of our synod. In the past I have had some opportunity to speak to the women of a number of congregations and conferences about the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and to do some singing, but now I'll have a new role as well.

Thanks be to God!



**Out-going
VICE-PRESIDENT
MARGENE THOMPSON**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father. Colossians 1:2.

When we say "peace be with you" we are not just saying, "Good morning." We are saying, "God's peace be with you. Do not be afraid. Know that you are forgiven. Know that God loves you. Be assured of eternal life through Jesus." These words contain the same power as confession and forgiveness, the sacraments and sermons. As we contemplate these words let us ask God's help to share His peace with others.

It has been my privilege and a blessing to serve as your Vice President. You too can be so blessed by taking the opportunity to minister to your sisters in South Dakota and around the globe, as an officer.

As an officer you will know first hand women of prayer - women that pray for each of you and pray for our sisters around the globe. You will know firsthand that each of you are held in highest esteem as God's children ministering to others' in so many beautiful ways. You will know firsthand that in every action and decision made, the officers take into consideration the women they represent and ask God's direction on their behalf. And, you will have fun as you work with these women of God.

God bless you and I will see you around.

Remember: Mardella Bieber and I are available to attend and present Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality at your "events". Margene Thompson, 39141 240th St, Letcher SD 57359 amthompson@santel.net



**SECRETARY
KATHY HEFFERNAN**

Goodness! The summer is on the downturn pointing the way to the only 6 - letter word that most children hate to hear: SCHOOL!.

It's hard to believe that by the time you read this newsletter, the teachers among us will be back in the teaching mode in 23 days!!

I'm writing this, hours before I take off for my last 3 day workshop, of the summer, near Beulah, WY. I will be attending a workshop titled: "Forest and Fire Ecology". My entire teaching career has been in the Flatlander part of South Dakota, so I enjoy the opportunity of learning about other environments and habitats that can be shared with my students. This summer I've been blessed to also attend workshops in the oil patch near Stanley, ND (I climbed to the top of an oil rig) and the lignite coal mines near Falkirk, ND. (toured an active mining site).

What a wonderful Synodical Convention! Hat's off to the Trinity Lutheran Church WELCA of both Yankton and Vermillion. A testimony to the support churches are so willing to unconditionally give to each other.

The Triennial Convention and Gathering are just a year away. Congratulations to our delegates from South Dakota: Kathy Villa, Margene Thompson, Kathryn Thompson, Carolyn Pesicka, Carie Knutson, Arlene Bich, Lucille Birkholtz, Verdelle Anderson, and Mary Abraham. Please place these women in your prayers as they begin their most important work, representing you.

The time is quickly approaching for Conference Fall Leadership Workshops. This is the day when ALL officers in the congregation units come together to learn, share, and discuss the responsibilities of the offices they hold. PLEASE encourage your unit officers to attend this important event.

As Synodical secretary, it is my hope that at these Fall workshops the recorders of the congregation units will turn in their contact

lists to the Conference Recorder. Our synodical operates on the information provided to us by the WELCA units in the congregations. It is difficult to send information to a unit WELCA in Anytown, SD when that unit failed to give their contact information to the Conference Recorder who then sends it onto me and I compile the information to disperse to the Synodical Board Officers, 7 Conference Coordinators, and the SD Synod office. Don't be the unit that has to be reminded numerous times to turn in a form that takes 5 minutes to fill out.

This message from GOD: "I will be handling all your problems today and I will not need your help. So Have a GREAT day!!"

Thank you, one and all!



TREASURER
DARLENE BRESSON
Beginning Feb. 2010

The 2010 Synodical Convention is only a memory now, but what a convention! In spite of the heat and humidity, it was a great time of meeting new friends and renewing old friendships, hearing from our mission partners, and praising God!

In 2 Corinthians 3, the Bible reads: "Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant... Since then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness." Boldness is a call to action, and when I consider the breadth of support that Women of the ELCA gave to others during the convention, I realize that our organization has been stirred to boldness!

On Friday night, we raised \$1,048 for Lutheran Social Services Immigration Assistance Program. The silent auction raised over \$1,700 for the Bunk House – the kitchen at Joy Ranch. The General Offering on Saturday raised \$5,578 and 50% - or \$2,789 went to churchwide; 25% or \$1,394 each went to both St. Dymas and Answer the Call. Finally, the Love Offering raised \$550 each for the Clothing Closet and the Contact Center (food pantry), in addition to the gifts of clothes and food! How wonderful! A huge thank you to all of you! Look what we can accomplish together!

The Leadership Workshop, with a theme of "Listening to God," was held the last week-end in July in Mitchell, and the initial plans were made for the Conference Workshops to be held in Sept. This is a great opportunity to gather with your friends and neighbors and continue our study and worship of God. I hope you will attend!

Churchwide asked that we remind congregations that the Stewardship Planning Guide is mailed the first part of September, and it contains remittance forms A and B, along with other vital information. It will be sent to the person on their active unit assessment, so if you've recently taken over the position, make sure that Kathy Heffernan has your name and address, so she can pass this information on to Churchwide.

Till next time: May the strength of God pilot us, May the power

of God preserve us, May the wisdom of God instruct us, May the hand of God protect us, May the way of God direct us, May the shield of God defend us, May the host of God guard us against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. Amen.



MISSION ACTION
KAREN LINDGREN

Greetings from Mission Action:

"I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service". 1 Timothy 1:12

Here is some information I have on fabric at a fabric outlet at Hawarden, IA. You may go to their web site at Inweavefabric.com and check it out. "Inweave Fabric offers quality fabrics and try to keep our prices at Factory Outlet or Wholesale prices. We hope that you find that our beautiful fabrics compete favorably. Over the years we've tended to specialize primarily in fabrics for home decorating – sheers, drapery and upholstery fabrics but we offer a little of everything. We locate good buys and pass the savings, discounts, and specials along to our customers. Order online, come by the store, or call us at 1-800-646-9328 today!"

Store Hours: Monday - Friday 9:30 - 5:30 CST Saturday 9:30 - 4:00 CST Closed Sundays

Email: inweavesales@acsnet.com

REQUEST SAMPLES

InWeave Retail Store Fabric Galore!!!

Also for those who Walmart store have fabric check them out down in my area they have some for \$1.00 or less a yard.

LWR has several excellent production that are available to choose from, depending on your particular interest. Videos are free from the LWR Resources Center at 1-800-597-5972, most are in VHS and DVD. Title are: **Justice, Dignity and Peace** (an introduction to LWR's work through first-hand accounts of its staff), **Ordinary to Extraordinary** (the journey of LWR quilts and kits to Mali, West Africa), **From Bean to Bar** (the story of Divine Chocolate and the LWR Chocolate Project), **Blessed are the Peacemakers** (an overview of LWR's advocacy work to bring peace to Colombia).

Breaking News: Midwife Kit changed to Newborn Kit

Midwife kits have been a GHM signature project for many years. The kits have been shipped to many countries where they have provided clean and useful supplies to midwives, birth attendants, new moms and babies. Over the years, we have asked questions on how best to improve these kits from our partners overseas. Suggestions have varied from country to country, but after much discussion and prayer, we found common agreement on the following changes: remove the razor blades, cord ties, and gloves, and change the name. Read more in an exclusive B-line edition in the [July-August Newsletter](#).

If anyone is interested in making dresses for Haiti. I do have the dress pattern and if you want it send me your request

via email and I will get it to you. I also have a picture of a lady and child who have it on.

If you want more information regarding the project, here is the address I have and a phone number and email address.

World Wide Village

616 Sims Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55130

Phone: 651.777.6908

www.worldwidevillage.org

As soon as I get the information on the questions that was asked at the Leadership training I will be either emailing or sending a letter with the information. I have a call into LWR and they haven't responded to me by the newsletter deadline.

MISSION COMMUNITY GRACE WANGBERG



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to each one of you as Fall approaches with school and Sunday School beginning anew and many Women of ELCA units beginning their new season also.

I appreciated visiting with many of you at the Synodical Convention in Vermillion and the Synodical Workshop in Mitchell. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about these issues

Again I refer to Katie Luther as our example of a woman involved in Mission Community. Who is in your community? Katie Luther did not have a group of faithful ladies in her church with whom to share her discipleship. Yet she reached out in hospitality to students and theological leaders alike when they came to share time with her husband, Martin.

Within the South Dakota Synod we have had two fires where congregations lost everything,--First Lutheran, Artesian and Spring Valley, rural Viborg. Both congregations counted the cost, yet prayerfully determined to rebuild. God laid it on the hearts of congregations, Women of ELCA units, and individuals in their Conferences and beyond to assist monetarily and with gifts of use in their new structures. Medary Conference used half



Artesians' new church being built

of the receipts from their Spring Gathering Silent Auction toward this. At last report both churches are looking positively toward gathering and worshiping in their own new "church home" in the near future. Yes, God is good, and your Mission Community ladies have had a big part in working with God to make this happen. May God continue to bless your outreach.

An outreach that has been underreported on the W/ELCA Annual report sent in by Mission Action in recent years is that of sending letters to government officials regarding human relationship issues. (This definitely is a Mission Community issue). And yet we know that there are many individuals as well as groups who have sent letters, and often received replies explaining the officials stand on an issue. You may want to ask about this participation at an upcoming Circle or General W/ELCA meeting, and get it reported this year.

Have a great year in the Lord's work!

Grace Wangberg, Mission Community



MISSION GROWTH ARDITH MCFARLAND

Hope your summer has been a good one so far, we have certainly had a variety of weather, wind, hail, tornadoes, and now grasshoppers in the western part of SD, what next?

We had a great group of gals from all the conferences gather at Mitchell for the Leadership Workshop. I thank God for each one of you. In our group discussions, we all seem to have the same concerns: how to reach other Lutheran women of all ages and encourage them to join us in the blessings and rewards we receive from one another, from our Bible studies, and the many mission projects where we share our gifts and skills. It not only benefits you, but those around you, in your church, family, community, and world.

Wasn't the summer study "Pray Always" a great study? Some of the gals were planning an all day retreat and some continue to meet through the summer months. However you choose to gather, it makes a great study.

The 2010-2011 Bible study will be "The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity". This study looks at what unites us and defines us as a people of faith. These days, the tendency is to stay focused on the issues that divide us. The goal of this study is to help us understand how our different backgrounds, life experiences, and perspectives can be shared as we study the Bible together and focus on our common faith in Jesus Christ. The theme verse is Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" I hope you will read the whole book of Amos. He could see how the division of Israel was going to weaken God's people. Is this a message for us today?

Your July/August *Lutheran Women Today* has a month-by-month breakdown of each study. On pages 46 and 47 is the phone number or email to renew your subscription and shows what is available for study resources and its cost. If you haven't heard yet, the Resource Center has closed and the material has been given to "Mission Growth". I have given a list of available materials to each Mission Growth Conference officer. If I missed someone, please call me at 605-347-3153 or 605-490-2525 and I will be glad to send you a list. For a minimal fee I will copy any of the material you request and send it to you.

Stay safe and cool.

God's peace, Ardith



**Out-going
MEMBER AT LARGE
JANET MATTISON**

Psalm 103:2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

What a "blessing" it has been to serve as your 'member at large' on the South Dakota Synodical Board. I have many new Sisters in the Lord.

It is such a blessing to work with Christian ladies that believe in our Lord and Savior.

I will pass on some of the duties that were assigned to me and encourage the privilege of just jumping in and helping when needed. This is all done with much prayer and Bible Study as a group. I encourage all of you to consider the privilege of saying "YES"

I will serve, as I will be calling come Spring as I am now going to join the nominating committee.

So good-bye for now and God Bless and keep each one of us in His missions, where ever that may be.

Don't wait for us to call; if God is speaking to you to be a part of this 'team' give me a call, or e-mail me: 605-641-307 or mattisonj@spe.midco.net.

Love and prayers to you all,
Blessing for the day, Janet Mattison



**MEMBER AT LARGE
Vicki Persson**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart..in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5,6

God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called. I am privileged to serve as your member at large. My name is Vicki Persson and I attend church at St. Paul Lutheran in Stickney, S.D. I am a member of Prairie Rivers Conference. My husband Delayne and I live on a farm south of Stickney. We have four grown children, two girls and two boys. Two of my children are married and I have one grandson. I work as a nurse at the Good Samaritan Nursing home in Corsica.

The Synodical Member At Large works closely with the Mission Action. I plan to promote ELCA World Hunger program, Literacy, Peace with Justice, Bread for the World, and Women and Children in Poverty. I look forward to attending Synodical board meetings and work with board members in planning conventions, leadership training workshops, retreats, and other events. I enjoy working in service activities.

Mark your calendars for our next Triennial Gathering. The delegates will meet before the gathering. Plan to spend July 14-17, 2011 in beautiful Spokane, Washington with your Lutheran sisters. Registration begins Sept. 15. Check online at www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial4 or call 800-638-3522,ext. 2730.



**MEMBER AT LARGE
Lucille Birkholtz**

At the Synodical Conference in Vermillion in June, I was elected to the office of 'Member at Large'. This is a privilege to have been elected to this office and given the opportunity to serve on the Synodical Board. I thank those who voted for me and pray I can fulfill the office as required. I am also serving as the editor of this news letter.

I live near Willow Lake, Clark county, on the farm with my husband. This is his family homestead of 128 yrs. Our son and family farm with us. We are members of Grace Lutheran church in Willow Lake, where I have held several different offices. We are the parents of four married children, eight grandchildren and one Gr. Grand-son who lives in Florida, so we haven't seen him yet as he is only 2 months old. I do not work out of the home, but have several small computer jobs at home. I love to quilt, maybe I'll meet some of you at the Quilt Shows around the state as I did at the Mitchell quilt show after our workshop there!!! Small world.....

I am a delegate to the Triennial Gathering in Spokane and am looking forward to going next July.

May God Bless you all as you do His work.



Each year since 2007, the SD Synod Hunger Taskforce has awarded the Holy Cow trophy to congregations with exceptional giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Usually these are given at the Synod Assembly, but there was a problem in getting the travelling cookie jar to one of this year's winners, so Erika Lehmann representing the synod hunger taskforce gave it to Susan Everson of New Hope Lutheran church of Hayti, SD at the Synodical Women's Leadership Workshop. New Hope members gave the most per confirmed member, over \$70 (!) and the Lutheran church of Our Redeemer in Watertown received the Holy Cow for largest giving as a congregation. Thanks for your generosity to those in need around the world!

Congratulations to the South Dakota Literacy Council's new Church Literacy chairperson— Carol Ann Rahja, 1193 200th St., Whitewood, SD 57793. For the latest in literacy information please go to www.ReadSD.org or contact Carol if you would like a speaker for your church event! Sally Hillner, 605-692-5560.



TODAY'S DREAM TOMORROW'S REALITY

Mardella Bieber

Forty some years ago, when I was a young farm wife, I would sometimes find myself in an implement shop on an errand for my husband. Once in awhile that the men behind the counter would wait on the men customers who came in later than I did before they waited on me. It made me feel like I was being overlooked, less worthy of attention (invisible). I assumed it was because I was a woman and they thought my time was not as valuable as a man's time would be. It made me mad. I had taken time from my hectic life of cooking for several men, caring for my young children, tending my garden and yard, as well as the usual chores that go with home making. And here are these *men* acting as though I had nothing better to do than wait while all the other men who had *important farm work* to do were waited on. Today I would draw their attention to the fact that I was there first, but at the time I was still under the influence of my upbringing.

I accepted the idea that men were in charge. As a farm family we needed to work together. Our survival depended on the farm income and the man was in charge of the farm. It was right. Didn't it say in the Bible that the man was to be the head of the house? (What I didn't think of at the time was that my man's work was being held up because they were ignoring me.)

Recently I have seen the similarity of my experience in that implement shop to the experience of people of color in our society, and particularly American Indians. They, too, feel they are *invisible*. Their culture, too, had instilled in them a resistance to demand their rights. The burden seeing the need and helping the less fortunate was on those who were able. It was disgraceful for those who were able not to help the less fortunate. The more you were able to accumulate, the more you had to share. (Not a bad principle to live by. Didn't Jesus say that whoever has two coats was to give one to someone in need.) They feel it was a fundamental part of their ethical being that was good and sacred, while today's focus is more on accumulating things for oneself. They fear those who change will abandon some of the sacred ways that are Indian.

It is difficult to change our fundamental beliefs. Just as some of us women still cringe when we witness a very assertive woman, because we just don't feel that is what a nice woman would do, so the traditional American Indians frown on those who advocate ways of adjusting to today's world by getting an education, holding a job, etc. Those who want to better their situation have to figure out how to take the good of the traditional ways and the good in the modern ways and blend them together.

It is a work in progress and there are many good people who are working to help ease the adjustments, but while they are helping, many have already fallen into the cracks of chemical dependency and still need to be taken care of. We as Women of the ELCA help by supporting those who are trying to make a difference. Giving quilts to Pine Ridge is a small physical thing but very helpful. We also need to understand why they may see acceptance of the white ways as less than desirable. We need to see the need and respond.

When I was in that implement shop waiting to be served, I did not wish to be a man. I wanted them to realize that I was worthy of their attention and respect. We need to remember that when our Indian neighbor looks in the mirror, she does not wish she was white. She wishes to be acknowledged as a viable woman worthy of our respect and attention..



TRIENNIAL GATHERING PROMOTER

Nancy Renner

The synodical convention in Vermillion was great!. Wish you all could have been there. I attended the Human Services workshop and visited the National Music Museum. What a treat that was. You can't believe the beautiful instruments they have. You should all take a road trip to Vermillion to see it.

As your Triennial Gathering Promoter or "TGP", I am encouraging you all to attend the gathering in Spokane, WA. July 14-17, 2011. The synodical board has announced to give \$150 to each attendee who is a member of an active South Dakota unit. This will be given to attendee following the gathering as a reimbursement towards their travel expenses. This is in lieu of arranging a bus and gives each attendee the opportunity to select her own form of transportation. You may decide to travel by airlines, train or car pool. This would also be an excellent way to bring your family with you on a nice vacation. By the way, if you were elected a delegate at the convention, you do not qualify for this \$150. This is because the delegates will receive their transportation thru national headquarters.

Registration for Triennial Gathering begins September 15, 2010. The early registration fee is \$299 thru December 31. Starting January 1, 2011, the registration fee will increase to \$325. You are encouraged to register on line @www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial8 or call 1-800-638-3522.

You can also get more info. on Facebook, www.facebook.com/women of the elca. Start looking for good airplane fares, take the Amtrack or car pool. It's a beautiful drive thru South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and into Washington. Encourage your women to go. Offer a scholarship in your church unit, have some fundraisers. Who ever goes will come home inspired. The theme is **Renew, Respond, Rejoice!** **For nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37**



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

Many thanks to the organizers of this year's SD Synodical WELCA Convention for a wonderful event! LSS is very grateful for the opportunities we were given to share information about our services. There were great discussions during the Awareness Sessions led by Refugee & Immigration Volunteer Coordinator Amy Spaulding. Janette Ellis, our local Certified Consumer Credit Counselor, fielded questions about LSS services at our booth. And what a blessing to hear Mustafa Rashid tell his inspirational story of fleeing from Saddam's genocide in Iraq with fellow Kurds, and his eventual journey to America! The generous offering from the Friday night service is being used for supplies for refugees. If your unit would like to donate quilts, household goods, winter coats and other cold weather gear (hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, boots) for refugees being resettled by LSS in SD, please let us know. Southeast contact: Linda Jensen at 1-800-568-2401 ext. 136 or linda.jensen@lsssd.org. West River contact: Beth Massa at 1-800-260-1439 or beth.massa@lsssd.org. Northeast contact: Lisa Adler at 1-800-584-9248 or lisa.adler@lsssd.org. We also have some donated yarn and patterns available if you have members who would like to knit/crochet afghans for refugees; just contact Linda. Additional program wish lists can be found on our website at www.lsssd.org.

LSS Introduces Northeastern Director for Aberdeen Area and Beyond

As part of its strategic planning, LSS has announced that Lisa Adler will transition to Regional Director for the northeastern region of South Dakota, based from Aberdeen. While Lisa has been with the agency for a number of years as Director of the Aberdeen Area Counseling Center and New Beginnings Center, she will now focus most of her time and energy on community relations and service development in the northern part of the state. Many of you have met Lisa at a number of WELCA events over the past years. Please use her as a resource for your LSS questions, to suggest needed programs, and to discuss ways to help others through LSS of SD. Lisa can be reached at the Aberdeen Area Counseling Center at 1-1-800-584-9248 or lisa.adler@lsssd.org. Lisa, her husband and children live in Groton.



ANSWER THE CALL

Kristi Lee

The Holy Spirit is definitely at work through Answer the Call in the SD Synod. We have received lead gifts of over \$50,000 for the next phase of Answer the Call focusing on leadership development. We just hosted our second annual Golf with the Bishop event raising over \$14,000 for Answer the Call. God is at work.

Thank you for your continued focus and support to fund a full ride scholarship for a South Dakota seminarian. As of middle of July, you have raised \$57,875 with a goal of \$200,000. Thank you for your continued efforts to raise up the future leaders of our congregations.

I wanted to inform you that due to a continued decrease in mission support, a difficult decision to eliminate the position of Director of Development for the Synod and Answer the Call was made. My last day with the Synod was July 30th. Rest assured that Bishop Zellmer and the Synod Staff will continue to support Answer the Call and the development of our future leaders for our congregations. Please pray for the Staff and the South Dakota Synod as we move into the future knowing that God has a plan for each of us and all of our congregations.

I am excited about the future of the ELCA and will continue to work with the Synodical Women of the ELCA through the Circle in my home congregation. I am proud to be a part of WELCA and the heritage of mission and service that so many of you have been a part of building.

Blessings to each of you as you continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people across the globe.

The South Dakota Synod, ELCA Presents: "Recipes For The Future"

August 25-29, Various Locations

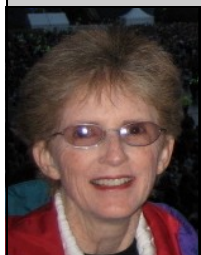
Hear stories of "God's Work. Our Hands" in our ELCA. See what God accomplishes through your generous mission support. Engage in conversations with Bishop Zellmer and members of the South Dakota Synod Staff about how God is at work in the South Dakota Synod. Receive fall stewardship ideas for your congregation.

Every member of the ELCA in South Dakota will find inspiration and benefit from the "Recipes For The Future" events to be held in four locations around the state. Key congregational leaders are urged to attend, and WELCA leaders, youth and other members of the congregation are welcome. Come see what God is up to now and on the road ahead for our church. Come learn an easy and exciting new way to share your congregation's story. Four Opportunities:

Redfield, Our Savior Lutheran, Wednesday, August 25 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM **Rapid City, Lord of Life Lutheran**, Thursday, August 26 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM **Sioux Falls, Peace Lutheran**, Saturday, August 28 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Watertown, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Sunday, August 29 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM For more information, visit the synod website at sdsynod.org and click on "Recipes For The Future" under "Synod Events".

BREAD FOR THE WORLD



Cathy Brechtelsbauer

"I cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good I can do." -Fr. Matthew Kunnath

1. Good news. The leaders of Bread for the World and the Heifer Project were just named winners of the 2010 World Food Prize, a prize that ordinarily goes to agricultural scientists. This is an important recognition for our grassroots efforts on ending hunger.

2. Bad news. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, South Dakota workers now earn the lowest median hourly wage in the country, now below Mississippi. Ask candidates for state legislature and governor how they will work to get wages up.

3. An uncanny resemblance. In the new obesity report, the states with most obesity are all low-income states. Worse yet, those with the most obesity also have the highest tax on their groceries: Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Although few states still tax food, of the 8 states with over 30% obesity, six tax groceries. In another, food tax is imposed by local governments. (Encouraging note: West Virginia's leaders just recently phased in cuts to their state food tax, effectively making good nutrition choice more affordable for West Virginians.) Obviously no one can claim direct one-to-one correspondence. But South Dakota should take heed, especially since our obesity ranking is worsening. Recently we ranked 20th on obesity, and now we are 15th in the nation. Meanwhile, our total food tax increased due to recent city tax hikes, which in most cities applied only to food. Our food tax is equivalent to three weeks worth of food in a year. Might the ability to afford healthy food might play a role in people's health? Ask candidates for state legislature and governor how they will rid our state of this cruel tax.

4. Thanks to everyone who has written letters this year on behalf of those who need the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, which help lift millions of Americans above the poverty threshold. We hope Congress will pay them the needed attention.

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.

— Jane Addams

Cathy Brechtelsbauer, volunteer, SD Coordinator for Bread for the World 605-335-6222, ryebread@breadrising.org

CONFERENCE COORDINATORS & EVENTS

Prairie Coteau (I) Connie Patterson, 42474 SD Hwy 10, Britton, SD 57430, PH:448-5729, Cell:605-448-8286 E-mail: sdgmacp@venturecomm.net

Conference Leadership Workshop: Sept. 1

Medary (II) Susan Everson, 45129 189th St., Hayti, 57241, PH: 783-3769 E-mail:kensue@itctel.com

Fall Retreat: Sept. 14, 9AM, Badger Community Hall

Conference Leadership Workshop: Oct. 9

Crossroads (III) Barb Daily, 1616 Cameo Way, Sioux Falls, SD 57105 PH:334-0851, Cell:605-360-8430 And Gretchen Tweet, 717 S. Holt Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103 PH: 332-9102, Cell 605-351-6098

Conference Leadership Workshop: Oct. 9

Southeastern (IV) Louise Jones, PO Box 495, Wakonda, SD 57073 PH:605-267-3436

E-mail:iloujones@iw.net

Conference Leadership Workshop: Oct. 16

Northern Plains (V) Donna Bieber, PO Box 275, Java, SD 57452-0275 PH:605-639-6407

E-mail:donnab@sbtc.net

Conference Leadership Workshop: Sept. 25

Prairie Rivers (VI) Kathleen Anderson, 324 Wildwood Ave. #2, Mitchell, SD 57301 PH:996-8475

E-mail: akanderson@midco.net

Conference Leadership Workshop: Oct. 2

Bear Butte (VII) Arla Bruch, 239 Elk Grove Trail, Newcastle, WY 82701 PH:307-746-3046,

E-mail: arlabruch@rtconnect.net.

Fall Retreat: Sept. 10 (4 PM)-11th at Outlaw Ranch

Conference Leadership Workshop: Oct. 23

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS THAT EXPIRE BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, WILL NOT RECEIVE THE NEXT ISSUE

Mrs. Doug Anderson
Beryl Bossman

Connie Bickett
Mildred Saboe

ANYONE can receive a copy of this newsletter by e-mail at no charge. Please send your name and e-mail address to Lmbirk@itctel.com. This will be in PDF format so that you can open it if you have PDF, which I will instruct you in downloading a free copy when I send the newsletter out.

You can also find this newsletter on the internet at: <http://www.sdsynod.org/> At the top of the page, position your cursor on 'Congregations & organizations', then click on WELCA on the drop down menu. When this page comes up, click on the SD Synod WELCA newsletter.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota—Janette Ellis

About 2 years ago- right around the same time the economy really started to turn- I came to work for CCCS. Coming from the banking industry, I thought I already knew it all. But, in going through CCCS's education myself, I found a wealth of information that has personally changed my life and it's been my pleasure sharing the same education, tools, and resources with our communities. In my time with CCCS, I have touched the lives of hundreds of individuals. In these rough economic times, everyone has been impacted on some level. Welcoming others to reach out to CCCS is an important job as stewards to our communities.

Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) is a local, non-profit program of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota. CCCS is dedicated to providing confidential and professional financial counseling including but not limited to: budgeting, debt management, and bankruptcy. The Housing Resource Center is a program of CCCS that provides foreclosure prevention and mitigation approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Homebuyer Express provides free homebuyer education covering affordability, credit reports and scores, and comprehensive coverage of the home buying process.

CCCS has been serving individuals, communities and families since 1983, and currently has offices in the communities of Aberdeen, Brookings, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Watertown, North Sioux City and Yankton. CCCS is a member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC), Accredited by the Council on Accreditation and is a HUD Certified Housing Counseling Agency. We are licensed through the Executive Office of the United States Trustee for Bankruptcy counseling. We have maintained Honor Roll status with the Better Business Bureau. We are a United Way agency in the communities we serve. We serve South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota. Limited services are available in many other states as well.

Appointments are available in person, by phone, and via our website at www.lsssd.org. Free language translation is available. Appointments are offered days, evenings, and some weekends. A free class series titled "Making the Most of... Your Dollars and Credit" is also offered in the communities we serve. Upon request, we are able to provide classes and guest speaking to organizations, churches, schools, committees, and other community functions and groups. Please call 1-888-258-2227 or visit the website for more information.

You are invited

**IT'S FALL RETREAT TIME!
BEAR BUTTE WOMEN OF THE ELCA
CONFERENCE RETREAT AT OUTLAW RANCH
SEPTEMBER 10 & 11, 2010**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church women in Spearfish are planning a wonderful retreat for us this fall at Outlaw Ranch. Come and relax and be spiritually fed, in fact **"BE BLESSED"**

ALL women of the ELCA and their mothers, sisters, daughters and friends, are invited to this retreat. The retreat is less than 24 hours, so we encourage you to come and spend the day replenishing your spiritual body.

Verse: "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee..." Num. 6:24

Friday, September 10th

4:00 pm --- Registration

6:00 pm --- Supper

6:45 pm --- (upstairs) "Blessed by Law and Gospel"

Speaker, Rev. Arley Fadness

Saturday, September 11th

8:00 am --- Breakfast

8:45 am --- St. Dysmas Prison Ministry Speaker, Pr. Marlin Wangness

9:00 am --- Relax, Refresh, Renew

10:00 am --- Blessings Bible Study Leader, Kris Stewart

11:00 am --- Small Groups

12:00 pm --- Lunch

1:00 pm --- Communion Service (Chapel in the Barn)

Pastor Karen Matuska, Associate Pastor

What to bring:

BIBLE, sleeping bag, pillow, towels, personal items, walking shoes, jacket, rain gear (?), warm clothes, flashlight, an open mind and heart, ready to grow in the Lord.

Leave the following emergency number for Outlaw Ranch with your family: (605) 673-4040

If you have any questions, please call Anne Kirk at (605) 722-0552.

E-mail: gakirk28@yahoo.co.uk

(PLEASE REGISTER BY September 1, 2010!)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CHURCH _____

PHONE _____ E-mail: _____

HOUSING PREFERENCE (includes all meals)

(Circle Choices, mark 1st 2nd and 3rd choices)

Lodge,\$42.25;Barn Retreat Center,\$41.25;Cabin,\$37.00

Meals ONLY (no lodging)

Supper, \$ 8.95: Breakfast, \$ 5.50: Lunch,\$ 6.50

REGISTRATION FEE (non-refundable) **\$5.00 enclosed**

(All attendees pay registration fee!) Balance due on arrival at retreat. Make Checks payable to "Bear Butte Conference, WELCA"

Room mate(s) Preference(s)

Special Needs _____

By September 1, return, enclosing registration fee, to:

Anne Kirk, 9 Swan Lane, Spearfish, SD 57783



LUTHERANS OUTDOORS

Karen Kraus

Joy Ranch Kitchen

The Feed Bunk is the new name for the Joy Ranch kitchen! The winning name was submitted by Shirley Skoglund, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Norden. Thank you, Shirley! Pam Walton, Joy Ranch Camp Director, announced the winner at last month's Women's Synodical Convention in Vermillion. "We can have a lot of fun with the campers with this name," says Pam. "We think they will really get a "kick" out of it! But it has a serious aspect too. Jesus began his life on earth in a manger, ie, a "feed bunk", and from there he went out into the world where he fed his people. How awesome that our campers will be fed both physically and spiritually from the Joy Ranch **Feed Bunk.**"

The South Dakota Women of the ELCA have raised \$165,672.68 in gifts and pledges to name the Joy Ranch kitchen. **We are very appreciative of your support!**

Lutherans Outdoors Quilt Auction

Sunday, August 29, 2010

Joy Ranch, Watertown

11:00 Construction Tours & Horse-drawn Buggy Rides

11:30 Food Booth Opens

12:30 Community-wide Worship Service

Preacher - Rev. Layne Nelson, LO Executive Director

Music Leader - Kari Sorensen, LO Program Consultant

2:00 Quilt Auction on Joy Ranch's new "Main Street"

Please invite family, friends, and fellow congregational members to join you for a fun-filled day at Joy Ranch! The east side of the "Old West Town" facades and siding showcase our "Old West look", and you can now walk through the bunkhouses, commons, health-care, and adult retreat center to get a sense of the vastness of this project. *All are welcome!*



Photo of Joy Ranch's newly constructed "Main Street" – site of 2010 Quilt Auction (The street will be leveled and the mud will be gone!)

2009-2010 Synod Officers

PRESIDENT: Verdelle F. Anderson PH:605-785-2190
E-mail:verdelle@itctel.com 528 W. Lake Drive, Lake Norden, SD 57248- 2nd year, 2nd term

VICE-PRESIDENT: Erika Lehmann, PH:338-4737, E-mail: elehmann@sio.midco.net 1869 S. Sertoma Ave. Unit 101, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 1st year, 1st term (Crossroads advisor)

SECRETARY: Kathy Heffernan, PH:605-324-3638
E-mail:heffernan@venturecomm.net 35338 153rd St., Wecota, SD 57438
1st year, 2nd term (Northern Plains advisor)

TREASURER: Darlene Bresson PH: 605-886-0785
E-mail:minnie@wat.midco.net 621 S. Lake Dr., Watertown, SD 57201 2nd year, 1st term (Prairie Coteau Adv.)

MISSION ACTION: Karen Lindgren PH: 605-665-2686 210 W. 3rd St., Mission Hill, SD 57406 E-mail: krl@svtv.com
2nd year, 1st Term, (Southeastern advisor)

MISSION GROWTH: Ardith McFarland PH:605-347-3153
E-mail:triplecreekbranch@msn.com 21546 Ricard Rd, Sturgis, SD 57785 2nd year, 1st Term (Bear Butte Advisor)

MISSION COMMUNITY: Grace Wangberg, PH: 605-826-4382
E-mail: jgwang@itctel.com PO Box 64, Sinai, SD 57061
2nd year, 1st term (Medary Advisor)

MEMBER AT LARGE: Vicki Persson, Ph:732-4605, E-mail: Vicki@midstatesd.net 38896 268th St. Corsica, SD 57328
1st year, 1st Term (Prairie Rivers Advisor)

MEMBER AT LARGE: Lucille Birkholtz, Ph:625-3765, E-mail: LMBirk@itctel.com 42341 193rd St., Willow Lake, SD 57278
1st year, 1st term (Medary Advisor)

LITERACY CHAIRPERSON: Sally Hillner PH:605-692-5590
E-mail:sallyh@brookings.net
505 Minnesota Dr., Brookings, SD 57006

TODAY'S DREAM TOMORROW'S REALITY: Mardella Bieber
PH:605-685-6984 E-mail: dmbieber@abe.midco.net PO Box 266, Bowdle, SD 57428
Margene Thompson: E-mail:amthompson@santel.net
39141 240th St., Letcher SD 57359

NEWSLETTER: Lucille Birkholtz PH & FAX:605-625-3765
E-mail:LMBirk@itctel.com 42341 193rd St, Willow Lake, SD 57278

Please remember, all addresses MUST be your mailing address, some of you have 2 addresses, a physical address (street or 911) but I have to have your mailing address to insure that your newsletter is delivered.

FYI- There are 361 copies of this newsletter mailed out and 134 sent by e-mail.

Dates to remember:

2011 Winter Board with Synodical & Conference Coordinators meeting in Watertown, January 7 and 8;

2011 Synodical Convention – June 17-18 at Joy Ranch at Watertown. This will be hosted by Our Redeemer Lutheran of Watertown.

2011 Triennial Convention – July 12-13 at Spokane, Washington

2011 Triennial Gathering – July 14-17 at Spokane, Washington

PASS IT ON!!

This SD Synodical Newsletter is published to inform Women of the ELCA of the SD Synodical happenings, activities and opportunities with the Synod.

The newsletter is published four times a year: February, April, July and November.

Please share this newsletter with your congregational unit officers:

President _____ Vice President _____
Secretary _____ Treasurer _____
Mission Growth _____ Mission Action _____
Mission Community _____

Anyone can subscribe to this newsletter for \$5 per year. You will receive four issues. Due dates for article are Feb. 1, April 1, July 1, November 1.

Name _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Make your check payable to SD Women of the ELCA and mail it with the above information to:

Darlene Bresson, 621 S Lake Dr. Watertown, SD 57201

Send Address changes to Lucille Birkholtz,
42341 193rd St., Willow Lake, SD 57278
PH: & Fax: 605-625-3765



South Dakota Synodical

Lucille Birkholtz, Editor

42341 193rd St.

Willow Lake, SD 57278

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

LUTHERAN PLANNED GIVING

Kurt Osborne

A Simple Bequest

A bequest in your will, living trust or other estate plans could benefit ministries of the church you have supported throughout your life- and in ways you might not have considered.

When you inform your attorney of your desire to include one or more charitable bequests in your will you will need to provide the complete name of the ministry, the physical address, city and state. If you have a desire to designate the use of your bequest, it would be wise to have a conversation with someone in the organization before your will is drafted. *words, is all you need to create a bequest: **I direct ___% of my estate to (name of ministry, physical address, city, state)***. This simple statement, approximately a dozen would also be helpful to provide the tax exempt number (Federal I.D. number) of the organization.

It's that simple. A dozen words or so will make a difference in ministries of the church and give you great joy for a plan well made.

The ministry partners of Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota include: Augustana College / Bethany Lutheran Home, SF and Bethany Meadows, Brandon / Bethel Lutheran Home and Bethel Foundation, Madison / Bethesda Home, Aberdeen / Bethesda Home, Beresford Chapel in the Hills /ELCA Foundation / Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society / Heartland Ephphatha Ministries / Luther Seminary Lutheran Social Services of SD / Lutherans Outdoors / Prison Congregations of America /Shetek Outdoor Ministries / SD Campus Ministries / South Dakota Synod and member churches.

The mission of Lutheran Planned Giving of SD is to create a rising tide of support for all ELCA ministries by encouraging and assisting people of God to make lifetime financial gifts to our partners.

Please contact Kurt Osborne, 605 940 7424, osborne@augie.edu, or Jim Schade, 605 940 2363, schade@augie.edu for a consultation on bequests, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities or any other gift planning strategy