

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL

Women ^{of the} ELCA

VOLUME XXX NUMBER 2

APRIL 2011



PRESIDENT VERDELLE ANDERSON

During this Lenten season and soon the celebration of Easter, we can look at April as a resurrection. Look how the winter is ending and now the spring flowers are creeping out of the cold ground and new life is coming. O God, help us wake up to you! This was taken from article in April Lutheran Women magazine, article entitled “Waking Up to God”.

We have many coming events where we can celebrate our Christian relationships with each other. April is the month of spring gatherings and be sure to take time to attend your conference gatherings. I am sure each of you will agree that you will come home with inspiration and have met many new friends. Be sure to invite someone to attend with you.

Our Synodical Convention which will be held June 16-18 will also be a fun and rewarding event for everyone. Karen Krause with Lutheran Outdoor’s staff are planning a wonderful afternoon and evening at Joy Ranch on June 16. A time to put on your western gear and enjoy a camping experience.

Then Friday morning thru Saturday morning we will be meeting at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Watertown. This time will be spent with Bible study, awareness sessions, speakers, music, exhibits and also silent auction. The convention will then close on Saturday morning with worship service. Bishop David Zellmer will be giving the message and installing our new officers. Following the service, he will also be available to give a report from South Dakota Synod and also answer any questions or concerns.

In this newsletter, is the tentative schedule for our convention that you may share with the ladies in your churches. There will also be events, such as Thursday at Joy Ranch, that you may want to bring your spouse and family to attend. Start planning now to join us in Watertown!

This past year has been very difficult for many of our churches that have decided to leave ELCA. Many of these church ladies have stated they will miss attending our gatherings and annual conventions. I have told the ladies who have made these comments to me, “Please come and be with us. You are very welcome to attend, but you are not able to vote at business sessions.” Please pass this on to your ladies who may be in this situation and encourage them to come with you. These are our Christian friends who will also be inspired by our events.

Have you registered for the Triennial Gathering in July at Spokane Washington? It’s not too late. See Nancy Renner’s article regarding this event. We have 30 plus registered and room for more!

July 29 and 30 are dates of Leadership Workshop at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Pierre. This is a fun workshop which is lead by state officers for the seven conferences’ officers. This event will start Friday afternoon and commence by noon on Saturday. The event includes Bible study, officer training and also entertaining skits. We also have an opportunity to meet new friends and visit old friends. If you have not been a conference officer, you are missing a great opportunity. If you would like to be an officer, let your conference officers know. We are always looking for ladies to share their time and talents with the conference and your state.

See center fold of newsletter for more information about the Synod Convention!!



VICE-PRESIDENT ERIKA LEHMANN

Dear Sisters in Christ,

For many years my daily newspaper has run Billy Graham's answers to questions written in by readers. Both the questions and answers are generally interesting. Occasionally I wonder if people are just trying to stump the famous preacher, or really have been pondering that very question for a time. March 31st's was this: "I always prayed I'd become wealthy so I could give money to our church and to missionaries, but God hasn't let it happen. Why do you think he's done this? Doesn't God need wealthy people to support his work?" I'm not going to quote the published answer here, but rather write about a couple of points this letter raises. There are plenty of radio and television evangelists who promise wealth to those who ask God for it. This is a distortion of God's plan that we would have abundant life and that God will give us what we ask for. "Ask and it shall be given to you" refers to God loving us like a caring parent who works to provide us with what we need and what will be good for us in the long term, and does not imply that God is a fairy godmother or genie who grants us every extravagant wish, even if that wish is ostensibly for the purpose of blessing others. God hears and answers our prayers, but if we think that praying is like handing over a shopping list with items to be filled by a clerk in an old-fashioned general store, it is time to read the Bible more carefully. No shopping lists are to be found.

The other spiritual topic that this letter evokes is that of Christian stewardship. I read somewhere years ago, that God doesn't make us responsible for the millions in others' possession, but for the nickels in our own. To be a steward is to care for the owner's "treasure" on his behalf, in other words, all that we think we have comes from God and belongs to him. When we sing, "We give thee but thine own, whate'er that gift may be. All that we have is thine alone, a trust, oh Lord, from thee," we are summarizing Christian stewardship. When we strive to be faithful followers of Jesus, what we have is to be used as God wants and not as we desire. We may want to hold on tightly to every penny we have in case of trouble down the line, or spend everything plus more than can afford to meet our every desire, but as Christians we are called to consider our attitude toward money and our other "treasure" as an important aspect of our spiritual life. Our first fruits are God's-- a tithe is 10%, but for some starting at a lower point may be more doable. Have a financial plan, a budget or at least some principles of proportionate spending and it will be much easier to be a good steward.

This is not just a matter for individuals or families, but also for our Women of the ELCA groups. It is easy to get distracted by the business of the day, and not to put much thought into what God is calling us to do with the money that our units accumulate in various ways. How much does it take to take care of basic responsibilities? Where and how much do we plan to give to support ministries outside the congregation and to projects inside? Do we have a memorial policy that assures we will neither fight over or hoard memorial gifts? If we have significant

savings, is there some kind of designation for them--new carpet, an upgrade in the kitchen, or a travel fund to enable women to attend Triennial Gatherings? Stashing away money for a rainy day is dangerous for organizations. Without a fairly definite plan, that rainy day fund can become a kind of sacred cow that gets in the way of being an active organization doing God's work in the world. A change of leadership can cause heartache for those who were involved in collecting the money to begin with, but now feel that they have less say in how it is dealt with.

God calls us to be stewards of what we have, but not hoarders. We are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others as we respond to the deep needs in our communities and the world. We cannot determine what others do with their fortunes, but we can take control of what is in our keeping and strive to be faithful. In Christ's love, Erika Lehmann, vice president



SECRETARY KATHY HEFFERNAN

The church I attend has made available a daily Lenten family devotional called "Springs of Living Water" by Mark Neilson. I'd like to share the devotional with you.

What Can We Do to Help? by Mark Neilson

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores." Luke 16: 19-21 (NRSV: Catholic Edition)

"The rich man ate "sumptuously", meaning his food was top quality, and there was plenty of it. He certainly had enough money to help Lazarus. In fact, Lazarus would have been happy with the leftovers that were thrown away. So why didn't the rich man reach out to help Lazarus?

Maybe he didn't notice Lazarus. Maybe, even though he was rich, he was still afraid that he wasn't rich *enough* and that if he helped Lazarus, he would soon run out of food for himself. Whatever the reason, the rich man did not help, and in time he was punished for his failure.

Who are the poor at our gates, in our church community, in our neighborhood? Is there something that we as a family can do to help the poor this Lent?"

After reading this particular devotional, the last sentence remained with me. Is there something we as a family can do to help the poor this Lent? One project I advocate with my Girl Scout troops is giving and helping others that are less fortunate. Three weeks ago as my Junior Girl Scout troop and I were looking over the requirements for the World Neighbor badge, we came across one suggested activity that ended with "How can your troop help those less fortunate in your town or neighborhood?" It took those 10 year old girls about 10 seconds to come up with what they wanted to do: Have a local food drive. Their planning included decorating boxes and placing them in 2 community churches, talking with the pastors about their project,

putting a notice in the local newspaper, and taking the collected donations to the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield. Well, after three weeks of collections these four girls had enough food donations to fill the back cab of my pickup truck. The Girl Scouts proudly delivered their gift still dressed up from their St. Patrick's Day celebrations at school. Kind of like little leprechauns delivering a "pot of gold"! Their next project to fulfill another badge requirement is to collect gently used blankets to donate to the Wotayan Lutheran Church in Rapid City.

Just this past week I experienced the giving that comes from our children. The 7 - 12 grade students at the school where I teach were invited to listen to a motivational speaker at another local school. Following the speaker's presentation, the host school's student body president invited those in the gym to donate to a collection to be sent to the people of Japan. The students gave what they had and they were very generous. Such a wonderful act of kindness.

As we continue through this Lenten journey, one question to ask is: Is there something that we as a family can do to help the poor this Lent?

Blessings to all, Kathy Heffernan, SD WELCA Secretary



TREASURER
DARLENE BRESSON

Create in Me a Clean Heart

A friend shared the following devotion during a recent meeting- from Psalm 51:10: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, open and receptive, so that I may embrace the many ways you choose to visit my life.

Create in me a clean heart, cleared of the refuse of old battles with others and deadly opposition with myself.

Create in me a clean heart, purified through the daily disruptions and the life encounters that take me beyond my grasping control and ego-centeredness.

Create in me a clean heart, freed from the clutter of cultural enticements, so that I can enjoy the beauty of life's simple things and relish the gifts I easily take for granted.

Create in me a clean heart, bathed from harsh thoughts, shame and perfectionist tendencies, warmly welcoming others with the embrace of non-judgment.

Create in me a clean heart, brushed free of frantic busyness, so that I will have time to dwell with you in the listening space of solitude and silence.

Create in me a clean heart, rinsed of the residue of false messages about my identity, enabling my inner goodness and light to shine through all I am and do.

Create in me a clean heart, cleansed of anxiety and lack of trust, restoring in me an enduring faith in your abiding presence and unconditional love.

Create in me a clean heart, scrubbed of racism and prejudice, drawing me toward all as my sisters and brothers.

Create in me a clean heart, washed with your mercy and strengthened by your love, helping me move beyond whatever keeps me from union with you.

As I journey through Lent, the above message addresses so many of my shortcomings. And yet, God's grace, which he so freely gives us through Jesus' death and resurrection, is simply that – a gift of life and love.

Just a few reminders on the Synodical Convention:

* Make your hotel or camping reservations now! See the list and phone numbers in the center fold of this newsletter.

* Delegates must register by June 1st, so I have time to mail information on the nominees for Synodical office. Non-delegates can register anytime – even at the Convention, but it would be nice to pre-register, so our host church knows how many meals to plan for.

* If you'd like daycare during the Convention, please notify me by June 1st with the number and ages of children.

* Convention registration is \$40, which includes the Thursday night meal at Joy Ranch. Your spouse or family is welcome to join us Thursday night at Joy Ranch, and the charge for the meal and entertainment will be \$12 for adults and \$8 for children – 12 and younger.

Looking forward to seeing you in June! If you have any questions on the convention, please feel free to email me:

Minnie@wat.midco.net or call: 605-886-0785 (evenings or leave a message and I'll call you back.)

May God Bless you! Darlene Bresson, Synodical Treasurer



MISSION ACTION
KAREN LINDGREN

Greetings from Mission Action:

As I am looking thru all the work our Mission Action has been doing this last year I am amazed and thrilled to see the work that continues on, this brings to mind that God is at work in our lives, to help those who are in need.

I ran across a reading from Max Lucado, that can apply to us as we do the work: It's entitled "God Gets Into Our Lives". As we look forward to spring we have many things to do to, We have leaves to rake, flower to plant etc, simply put, we have things to do, yet we take the time to help those in need. So does God. God has work to do. And he uses our hands to do it. What the hand is to the glove, the Spirit is to the Christian...God gets into us. At times, imperceptibly. Other times, disruptively. God gets his fingers into our lives, inch by inch reclaiming the territory that is rightfully his. Your tongue. He claims it for his message. Your feet. He requisitions them for his purpose. Your mind? He made it and intends to use it for his glory. Our eyes, face, and hands? Through them he will weep, smile, and touch.

To all a Blessed Easter Season

Karen Lindgren

SD Synod WELCA

Mission Action Coordinator



MISSION GROWTH ARDITH MCFARLAND

Due to illness, Ardith is unable to write an article for this issue. Pray for a quick recovery for Ardith.



MISSION COMMUNITY GRACE WANGBERG

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below! Praise Him above all heavenly

hosts! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!!”

When is the last time you spontaneously sang out those powerful words of praise to our Heavenly Father? Yes, He is worthy—worthy of all our praise and worship, in good times and even in times of trouble.

The terrible tragedies which have hit Japan, parts of Africa and other parts of the globe remind us that while we bow our heads in thanks to God for our blessings, we need to reach out with our prayers, our hands and our feet in His name to help our neighbors around the globe.

Just what can we as small groups of women do? We can write letters to our senators and representatives encouraging them to vote for helping those in dire need. We can team up with our Mission Action Chairpersons to prepare and send more of those emergency kits to the many places of need. And we can seek to learn as much as possible about those far away places that reach our evening news reports.

In my last couple of newsletter articles I have suggested that you set a goal of doing one special kind deed for someone outside your person circle of friends. Can you now reach just a bit farther to add a second (or third) kind deed and prayer to benefit your neighbor across the globe? Each kind deed has a ripple effect, just like the waves in the tsunami that hit northern Japan. However, your kind deed and prayer can spread that expanding ripple of God’s goodness and love beyond your wildest dreams.

Coming back to South Dakota living, --- now that the snow is leaving us, and hopefully the flood waters are down where you live, and we can think ahead to June. June 16, 17, and 18. We look forward to seeing you at Joy Ranch and at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Watertown. The program, speakers and special events will be great. Watch for more details in other parts of this newsletter and elsewhere. While at Our Redeemer Lutheran please stop at the various displays of many of the benevolent arms of our church. There will be knowledgeable people who can answer your questions at each display. And last, but not least, the Christian book/gift store will be a good place to start your Christmas gift shopping.

May Christ richly bless you as you reach out with God’s love to neighbors all around the globe.



MEMBER AT LARGE Vicki Persson

Perseverance

There are many events in our lives over which we have no control. However, we do have a choice either to endure trying times and keep going forward or to give up. The secret of survival, whether or not we question God’s presence or His ability to help us, is remembering that our hope is in the fairness, goodness, and justice of God. When we put our trust in the character of a God who cannot fail us, we will remain faithful. Our trust and faithfulness produce the endurance that sees us through the “tough stuff” we all face in this life.

Such is life. If we face our problems and respond to them positively, refusing to surrender to panic, bitterness, or self-pity, the adversities that come along to bury us usually possess the potential to benefit us. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.

Our theme is “Renew, Respond, Rejoice”. We need to draw attention to an important way we respond to God’s love, by participating in breadforthe world 2011 offering of letters. Writing a short letter in your own handwriting will make progress against poverty. Taking a few minutes to write a letter will make foreign aid better at reducing poverty. Encourage letters to be written during your spring gatherings and at your churches. Cathy Bretchelsbauer, SD Coordinator for Bread for the World will give you examples of letters. 605-335-6222, rye-bread@breadrising.org, or Box 143 Sioux Falls, SD 57101.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Synodical Convention. Bring a car load of ladies to come to Watertown June 16th, 17th, and 18th. The convention starts on Thursday afternoon and goes to Saturday morning. We register at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Watertown.

There will be a Love offering for supplies at Joy Ranch along with my favorite Silent Auction with proceeds going to Campus Ministry, Lutheran Outdoors, Prison Congregations of America, and St. Dysmas. I am working on my silent auction donation, and can hardly wait to see yours. Love those silent auctions. Bought some beautiful hand made cards last year. The Convention will feature tours of Joy Ranch, Bible Study, awareness sessions both morning and afternoon, banquet, and meetings. Jim and Karen Noss, retired missionaries who served Cameroon will speak Friday evening. Bishop David Zellmer will speak after the communion service Sat. morning. Vicki Persson, Member at Large



MEMBER AT LARGE

Lucille Birkholtz

I would like to reflect on our 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 and engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world."

We have several opportunities before us this spring and summer to carry out our 'purpose' in being members of our local WELCA's. Throughout the year we can take part in our local Bible Studies. Our LUTHERAN WOMAN TODAY magazine has a great Bible study in it. Working on a Bible study with our own members is a great time to grow in our faith, affirm our gifts and support one another. We all have different talents. When you combine these in a local WELCA group, you can accomplish a lot. Together we grow in faith.

Each conference has a Spring Gathering, usually in April. Find the date and place for yours and plan to attend. There is a great opportunity for Bible study together with ladies from different local groups, expand our knowledge and engage in ministry and action. Many good ideas are exchanged at these Gatherings, promoting healing and wholeness in our church.

Our Synod Convention is coming up soon, June 16-18 in Watertown to be exact. This is another opportunity to come together with WELCA members from across our state, a time for sharing with each other, supporting one another, promoting wholeness in our state. Another great time to grow in faith, affirm our gifts and support each other. What a joy it is to renew acquaintances with ladies we have met at past Conventions. What a great experience it will be to see our newest Bible Camp, Joy Ranch, as it grows toward completion. It is such a beautiful serene place. Plan to attend!!!

The Triennial Gathering in Spokane, WA in July will be an outstanding experience for those who are planning to attend. You can still register for this, please consider it. Can you imagine the power of 2,000 Women of the ELCA from across the nation together, worshipping and praising the Lord. The speakers, Bible Study Leaders and music will be something to remember. I have been elected a delegate from our State and am looking forward to it.

We have many opportunities throughout the year, both locally, conference and State wide to see our Purpose statement at work. Check it out and become a part of it.



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!



TRIENNIAL GATHERING PROMOTER Nancy Renner

What happens at the Triennial Gathering? It is the highest legislative authority. They pursue the purpose and functions of the organization. The delegates are responsible for this. We all can attend different workshops you can look these up at www.womenoftheelca.org/triennialgathering. The speakers topics will be "Renew-Respond-Rejoice". They have 1565 registered. It is not too late for you to register. It will be a good time to lift your heart and raise your voice in prayer and song. A time to celebrate your Christian faith. I will have a packet of yo-yo pins for those attending the triennial, one for you and some to give or trade away. See ya there!!!

WOMENS PRISON MINISTRY

Sharon Stark

*Psalm 121¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?*

*² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of
heaven and earth.*

Dear W/ELCA,

This favorite scripture verse of mine helps me to remember God is always there for me.

I just need to call on Him. I am still amazed how quilts and pillowcases always come to me just when I need them for the kids at STAR Academy(State Treatment and Rehabilitation.) The staff works hard to rehabilitate these young people who are often abused in every way possible. So thank you again and again. Without your time and talents this ministry would not be possible.

I will be working on the Prayer Gardens at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church again this year and you are all invited to visit if you are in Sioux Falls. Check the pictures out at spiritofjoy.net and then scroll down to photo albums. Phone number for Spirit of Joy is 333-2004. SoJ also has an outdoor prayer labyrinth.

We have had several calls from churches wanting to start their own gardens. How wonderful is this...glorifying God through prayer and flowers.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,
Sharon Starks 214-4140 starks.sharon@hotmail.com

24th Annual Synodical Convention June 16-18, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD

“Renew, Respond, Rejoice” Phil. 4:4 “rejoice in the Lord Always, Again I will say rejoice!”

Convention Offering: 50% to Churchwide Women of ELCA, 25% to Answer the Call and 25% to Lutheran Shared Ministries at Pine Ridge.

Love Offering: Supplies for Joy Ranch Camp

Silent Auction: Proceeds to Lutheran Outdoors, Campus Ministry, Prison Congregations of America and St. Dymas of South Dakota. (Silent auction will start Thursday and close at 8:15 a.m. on Saturday.)

Registration Fee: \$40. Registration will at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on Thursday at 1-5 p.m. and then Friday at 8 a.m.

Thursday:

At Joy Ranch. If possible, we will car pool from church because of limited parking at camp. **Schedule at camp:**

1-5 p.m. Registration at the church.

3-6 p.m. – Walking Tours, Horse-drawn Buggy Rides, Flatbed Tours.

6-7 p.m. – Supper (boardwalk or in dining hall)

7-7:45 p.m. – Western-style entertainment

8-9 p.m.- Worship

Please note, your family and spouse are invited to join us. Fees for supper and entertainment is \$12 for adult and \$8 for children (12 or under).

Friday:

8 :00. – Registration will start

8:15 – Opening with Hymn sing

8:30 - Welcome and Opening of Convention

Bible Study led by Rev. Christina Matson

Coffee Break and time to view Silent Auction items

Awareness Sessions : 10 :00 and repeat at 11:00.

Lunch

1:00 – Open with Hymn sing

Business Session and Election of officers

Coffee Break and time to bid on Silent Auction items

Awareness Sessions: 3:00 and repeat at 4:00

5:15 – Ladies going to Spokane meet with Nancy Renner

6:00 – Banquet with special music.

Speaker will be Jim and Karen Noss, retired missionaries who served Cameroon.

Saturday:

8:00 – Opening with hymn sing.

Churchwide Representative report.

Coffee break

10:00 – Closing Communion Worship with officer installation

Following worship service, Bishop David Zellmer will be available to speak and answer any questions or concerns from the ladies.

Awareness Sessions: How to revitalize your unit; Mission work in Cameroon; Camping Ministry; Prison Congregations of America; St. Dymas of South Dakota; Have you considered being an organ donor?; Book suggestions for your Church Book Group; Today’s Dreams, Tomorrow’s Reality; and Poverty in our Communities.

Love offerings: Kitchen Supplies: Dish Cloths, Dish Towels, Heavy-duty pot holders, Aprons, Measuring cups - both commercial kitchen sizes and smaller sizes, Measuring spoons, Variety of kitchen utensils - commercial sizes **Paper Products:** Paper towels, Kleenex, Reams of copy paper - "bright white", and various colors, Books of postage stamps, Thank You Notes **Office Supplies:** Desk sized tape + dispensers, Staplers, Pens, especially blue ink, **For Retreat Center:** Money, Travel sized shampoo & toothpaste, also combs, toothbrushes, small baskets, Small Redwing-style Crocks for use as garbage cans, Baskets for use as garbage cans, Gently used or new children's books

If you plan to attend, I encourage you to make your reservations early – whether hotel or campground.

Country Inn & Suites – 20 rooms - \$79.99/room – deadline for reservations: June 9 – 605-886-8900

Days Inn – 10 rooms - \$71.99/room – deadline: May 16th – 605- 886-3500

Drake Inn (Rodeway) – 18 rooms - \$54.95/room – deadline: May 16th – 605-886-8411

Holiday Inn Express (water park) – 10 rooms - \$95.00/room – deadline: May 17th – 605-882-3636

Travelers Inn: 10 rooms - \$54.99/room; deadline: June 2nd; 605-882-2243

Campers: There are several City parks, but the City does not take reservations – it’s first come, first served. Information on camping in Watertown can be found on this website: http://www.visitwatertownsd.com/index2.php?page_id=113&group=1. There is also a county park on Lake Kampeska, Codington County Memorial RV Park, which *does* take reservations. Daily rate is \$18 (elec. hookup) or weekly (\$108). These are 2010 rates; 2011 rates will be set the end of February. Phone: 605-882-6290. Mention that you’re with WELCA, and they’ll try to place everyone in one area. If you’d like a brochure, email me at: Minnie@wat.midco.net. Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer also has a worship service on Sunday morning at Memorial Park. There is a very nice quilt shop that you may want to visit when you’re in Watertown (Dakota Quilt Shop) if you have time.

REGISTRATION FORM

SD Women of the ELCA 24th Annual Synodical Convention

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

2001 2nd St NW – Watertown, SD 57201

June 15-17, 2011

“Renew, Respond, Rejoice!”

Please check one: _____ Delegate _____ Non- delegate

Name: _____ Telephone _____
(please print)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

Congregation _____ Conference _____

Registration fee: \$40.00 Payable to: SD Women of the ELCA

+++++++Please return this top portion with your registration fee +++++++

CONVENTION REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Delegate: Registration postmarked no later than June 1, 2011

Non-delegate: No pre - registration required, but preferred

Mail Registration form and \$40 to: Questions? Contact Darlene at: Minnie@wat.midco.net or 605-886-0785 (H)

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

**** Convention delegates will receive a confirmation letter/e-mail with convention schedule information 10-14 days before the convention.

Registration from 1-5 pm on Thursday and Friday morning, starting at 8:00 am, at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. Activities start at 3:00 pm on Thursday at Joy Ranch. Please carpool from the church due to limited parking at Joy Ranch.

Unit Presidents: Please make copies of this form for each woman in your unit.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD



Cathy Brechtelsbauer

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Does God care how the most influential nation in the world relates to its world neighbors? What do you think?

The earth is the Lord's and all the people in it. -
Psalm 24

Foreign aid: not just handouts

Far from just giving food or money, some of our assistance develops agriculture so that self-reliance can grow in areas where, now, one bad harvest or one dry rainy season can create a need for emergency aid. It brings water, sanitation, and health improvements – the essentials of life – to our poorest global neighbors. Self-reliance is the focus and goal of such foreign aid today.

Foreign aid helps

Too often during cold-war times, aid was used to buy the loyalty of often-corrupt governments, rather than to help people in dire need. But look now. Since the cold war, economies of many developing countries have boomed. The economic crisis slowed things, but many countries are again on an upward trend.

Our aid helped provide many of the basics for this economic growth – health, agriculture, water, sanitation, education. The bipartisan PEPFAR program, crucial in stemming the HIV/AIDS epidemic, is great example of aid that really works. (Our letters supported this in 2006.) If that epidemic takes off again, it could cripple those emerging economies. There is always room for improvement, but the idea that the US is simply throwing money at problems is a big misconception.

Not just a moral duty, but an investment

America's fastest growing markets are in developing countries. Our foreign aid will fuel American jobs to through trade and new markets.

Military leaders recognize the importance of investing in development. Fighting poverty is a lot cheaper than fighting armed enemies. Congress must make foreign aid more effective, not cut it.

What is needed now - Reform foreign aid

so that it does more of what it does best, even without more funding. **You can help by writing to Congress urging reform of our foreign assistance this year.** Ask Congress for a commitment to the focus on reducing poverty, more focus on nutrition and agriculture, clearer accountability, and better collaboration with the recipients. There is significant progress to build on, but much yet to be accomplished. For more info: www.bread.org

"Tested and effective programs that clearly help to lift people out of poverty are more reflective of the compassion of Christ than many other things we do with our public dollars." -*Jim Wallis, Feb.2011*

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

DIRECTIONS TO:

For Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer:

From the Junction of US Hwy 212 and 81, turn north on Hwy 81.
Proceed north on Highway 81 past Highway 212 and past the uptown district.
Turn left on Fourteenth Avenue North.
Go 6 blocks west to 2nd Street.
Turn right. Proceed north for .5 mile to Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer.

For Joy Ranch:

From I-29 take the Watertown exit onto Hwy 212. Go west (left).
Follow Highway 212 through Watertown to the west side.
Turn North (right) onto Highway 20 (at a stoplight).
Travel north-northwest on Highway 20 for about 9.5 miles (This will take you about 4 miles past Lake Kampeska).
Turn south (left) on County Road 19 (same as 448th Ave) at the 'Joy Ranch' sign. You will be able to see the steeple of the church by now.
Go about 3/4 mile. Turn right into the driveway to the church. You are now at Joy Ranch!
Since I sent my article, I thought I should probably add that Registration will be open from 1-5:00 pm on Thursday at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer and again Friday morning, starting at 8:00 am.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

Heidi S. Gough

Consumer Credit Counseling Services is a program of Lutheran Social Services that has provided financial counseling and education to individuals and communities for over 25 years. CCCS is pleased to provide a new education opportunity, "Money and Faith in Motion," which is designed to give practical advice to manage the resources given by God. This class distinctively addresses the major areas of financial living so that participants are better able to provide for their household and gain resources to help others. Classes are available at your local church or community organization upon request, as well as the LSS office located at 705 East 41st Street in Sioux Falls. Ongoing class schedules are available on the CCCS website at www.lsssd.org. Money and Faith in Motion Part 1 can be completed on an individual basis by appointment or in a group setting. Cost is \$25 per person for a single 3-hour class. Part 2 is an optional opportunity for non-homeowners to educate themselves on housing options and have their \$25 fee from Part 1 reimbursed. Part 2 can also be completed on an individual basis or in a group setting.

Your help is very much appreciated sharing this news. Please contact Janette Ellis, Education Coordinator, with CCCS at 605-357-0176 or email janette.ellis@lsssd.org with any questions and to obtain class information to share with others.

The recent Mitchell Area Benefit for LSS was a success, with over \$6,500 raised! Many thanks to the WELCA unit at First Lutheran in Mitchell for all their help in setting up, serving, and cleaning up. To sign up to attend or volunteer for the other benefits coming up, for more information, or if you have a silent auction item to donate, please contact Linda Jensen, LSS Development Officer at 357-0136, 1-800-568-2401 ext. 136, or at linda.jensen@lsssd.org.

April 3 Aberdeen Area Benefit at Zion Lutheran Church in Aberdeen 12:00 p.m. Silent Auction and fellowship, 1:00 p.m. Lunch and Program

April 10 Sioux Falls/Southeastern SD Lunch Benefit at Sioux Falls at Our Savior's Lutheran Church's new Gathering Place at 1:00 p.m.

May 1 West River Dinner Benefit at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid City 4:00 p.m. Silent Auction and fellowship, 5:00 p.m. Dinner and Program

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

AMY POKELA

From the Family Connection Hospitality House here in Sioux Falls, we'd like to thank the women who have supported us and the guests we serve for so many years. Without your prayers and support we would not be able to do our ministry. The Bible shows us that when we welcome others, we open ourselves to blessings. Showing hospitality to strangers, we thereby entertain angels unawares. (Hebrews 13:2). Your gifts have allowed us to welcome 935 people in 2011. Thank you!



LUTHERANS OUTDOORS

Karen Kraus

"An Old West Evening at Joy Ranch"
You Are Invited, S.D. Women of the ELCA!
Thursday, June 16, 2011



	Retreat Center Rooms	Dining Room	Kitchen
3:00	Walking tours, buggy rides, flatbed rides begin		
6:00	Picnic supper		
7:00	Music by God's Country (Western & Gospel)		
8:00	Worship		
9:00	Campfire and S'mores		

"LO Quilt Auction"

Joy Ranch

Saturday, August 27, 2011

Note the change to a Saturday event!

"Buffalo Roundup & Lakota Culture" Retreat

Outlaw Ranch - September 25-30, 2011

"My favorite retreat - ever!"

For info on all LO retreats, go to <http://www.losd.org/retreats/index.html>

TODAY'S DREAM TOMORROW'S REALITY

Mardella Bieber

When the discussion leads to issues of race, do you wish you knew more about it? Do you feel uncomfortable and wish you could put your finger on exactly what is troubling you? Would you like to have more insight into the matter? If so, do I have a deal for you!!

Every year Churchwide Women of the ELCA offers a TDTR (Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality. A Diversity/Racism Awareness Program), training session in one of the sections of country. This year we are in the section that is being offered the opportunity. The training will be in Kitsap Peninsula, Washington, November 17-20. Churchwide pays your airfare and room and board while attending. Synodical pays your travel to the airport. South Dakota can send two women. These women can either be "seasoned" members of the TDTR or new women interested in becoming members.

In the 12 years that I have been part of TDTR I have attended 7 of these events and they are wonderful. I grow in my faith as well as knowledge of diversity and racism each time I attend. It is my sincere prayer that someone who has not had the chance to attend and would like to will take advantage of this opportunity. It is so worthwhile.

If you have any questions talk to Margene Thompson, Verdelle Anderson, or me. (Our contact information is listed elsewhere in this newsletter).

And while you are considering going to Washington in November, don't forget to attend the TDTR focus group at the Synodical Convention in Watertown, and if you are going to Triennial, look for focus groups relating to diversity and racism. If you see any that are given by Inez Torres-Davis, make a special effort to attend. She is good at getting to the heart of the matter.

Our communities are all becoming more diverse. It gives us a chance to learn and grow in our appreciation of people from different backgrounds and life experiences. We want to be like Christ in our relationship to others, including new people in our community and church. But we hesitate. Are we afraid? Of what? Looking foolish? TDTR education gives us a chance to look at and understand ourselves better. I hope you take advantage of any presentations offered in your area.

The following newsletter subscriptions will expire before the next issue. Please send \$5 for another year of printed copy to Darlene Bresson (address inside back cover). If you want to receive it by e-mail, send your address to Lmbirk@itctel.com. Or you may access it on the Synod website.

Arlyce Griesel	Alma Holm
Shirley Keller	Janice Anderson
Sharon Larson	Doris Gross
Janice Moore	Delores Haugen
Janet Naessig	Mary Abraham
Verna Nelson	Jeanette Anderson
Dileen Ninke	Judy Burgers
Bette Poppen	Jackie Fuller
Kay Schoppers	Kathy Heller
Roberta Tingle	Lisa Hinkley
Mary Beth Weise	Norma Hofer

COMPANION SYNOD

Cathy Larson

Companion Synod Sunday

The Companion Synod Committee will be promoting a Companion Synod Sunday this fall. Recent visitors to Nicaragua brought back stoles for our clergy to wear on a promotion Sunday. Barb Bunk, artist and former missionary to Cameroon, is designing stoles of Cameroonian fabric. Ladies attending Spring Conference meetings may be asked to sew this Cameroon fabric. Think of other things you could do on a Companion Synod Sunday. Have a snack or dinner featuring some foods from our companions. Bananas grown in both Nicaragua and Cameroon would make a good snack. If you decide to have a potluck, bring all kinds of ethnic foods. Have a Sunday School focus on learning about one of our companion churches. Take a special offering for one of our companion synod projects. Have a women's meeting close to the Companion Synod Sunday and invite a special speaker to talk about one of our companions.

You will be hearing more about this special promotion in your churches and on the synod web site. Remember to pray for the women of our companion synods. Thanks for your partnership with our companion churches in Nicaragua and Cameroon.

Cathy Larson
Companion Synod Coordinator
SD Synod, ELCA

2009-2010 Synod Officers

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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.

Seven days without prayer makes one weak.

Dates to remember:

Bear Butte Conf.- 4/30 at St. James @ Belle Fourche
Medary Conference- 4/16 at American in DeSmet
Prairie Coteau Conference- 4/30 at St. John's in Webster
Prairie Rivers Conf.- 4/9 at Salem Lutheran at Parkston.
Crossroads Conference
Northern Plains Conference
Southeastern Conference

2011 Synodical Convention – June 16-18 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

Does your Will include a warranty?

Automobiles are delivered with a warranty. For many years the industry standard has been 36,000 miles or three-years, bumper to bumper. When you complete the sale, receive your new keys and drive your car off the lot, the warranty clock begins to tick; but to maintain the warranty, periodic service and reasonable driving habits, are required. You understand that and the value of such service for reliability and performance of your vehicle.

Philosophically, there is not a lot of difference between the value of service for your vehicle and the most important document you'll likely sign in your life -- your **will**. It, too, needs periodic service for "reliability and performance" to best serve you, your loved ones, and your approach to life, particularly if you have charitable interests at heart.

So how frequently should you "service" or review your will?

Some advisors would say annually (at a time you can easily remember -- a birthday, anniversary, during tax preparation, or maybe the end of a calendar year). Others would suggest every

three to five years or following a significant change in life created, for example, by a birth, death, divorce, move to or from another state, or an empty nest.

In addition to "events" what might you also consider?

Changes in life-style, personal finances, retirement, or the success and independence of children. A related question worth considering is this: "Do my children (or other heirs) *need* everything I have?"

Could I create a financial burden for anyone by leaving my entire estate or even a sizable portion of it?

Beyond your family consider: What impact could you have on others served by your church in its various expressions -- social ministry organizations, colleges, seminaries, global and domestic ministries of hunger and disaster response, as well as your congregation?

Where there is a will, there is a way.

For confidential, no cost gift planning, call Lutheran Planned Giving of SD @ 800 653 9520, visit us on the web @ www.lpgsd.org, or send an email to Kurt Osborne, osborne@augie.edu, or Jim Schade, schade@augie.edu.