



Take the health assessment now to earn a \$150 credit in your personal wellness account to offset out-of-pocket medical expenses, and you will have the opportunity to earn an additional \$350 by completing follow-up activities.

It's quick and easy!

Have you taken the Health Assessment? It'll save you, your church, and the synod money!

Take the health assessment today if you haven't already! You will earn a \$150 credit in your personal wellness account to offset out-of-pocket medical expenses, and you will have the opportunity to earn an additional \$350 by completing follow-up activities. And on top of that, each congregation in the South Dakota Synod will receive a 2% discount on health contributions for all of 2013 if 65% of the eligible ELCA-primary plan members and spouses in our synod complete the online Mayo Clinic Health Assessment by April 30.

Learn more about the assessment at the ELCA Portico website at myportico.porticobenefits.org. Or, take the assessment now at the Mayo Clinic Embody Health web portal at www.elcaforwellness.org.

If you have questions or would like help with the assessment, please contact the synod office. We'd be happy to help!

**South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.
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SYNODHAPPENINGS

March 2013

Happy Anniversary, ELCA! Celebrating 25 Years in 2013

Let's celebrate!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2013 under the theme, "Always being made new." What God is doing through us here at home and around the world is worth celebrating. As you embark in ministry during this anniversary year, take a look back at the people and events that have shaped us as a church while looking toward the future together anew.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

We are a church that is deeply rooted – and always being made new. Our roots are in Scripture, tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as in the vibrant communities and rich histories of our congregations. These roots are an ongoing source of nourishment, enabling us to be a church that is resilient, always reforming and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Stay tuned for ways the South Dakota Synod will be celebrating our 25 years together!

Go to www.elca.org/25 for cool celebration resources like an ELCA historical timeline, and downloads.

In 25 years, we have:

- Started 435 new congregations
- Ordained nearly 8,000 pastors
- Sent more than 2,000 missionaries to serve around the world
- Contributed more than \$350 million toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty

God's work. Our hands.



“It was a delight to see this community of faith come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the season of Epiphany in such a powerful way.”
Bishop David Zellmer



Three Kings in Puerto Rico El día de los reyes

Bishop Dave was recently in Puerto Rico with the ELCA bishops for the Bishops Academy. While there, they had the opportunity to participate in a Three Kings Day Celebration (or El día de los reyes). Bishop Dave says this is a huge day for the life of the church there and was a great multigenerational celebration.

Their Epiphany is like our Christmas. The Three Kings brought gifts for the children, and there was joyous singing, fellowship, and worship. It was a delight to see this community of faith come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the season of Epiphany in such a powerful way.

First Call Retreat Feb 17-18 Watertown
Spring Rostered Leaders April 2-4 Chamberlain
Taize on Pine Ridge May 24-27 Pine Ridge
Synod Assembly June 7-8 Sioux Falls
Golf with the Bishop July 8 Sioux Falls
Fall Theological September 22-24 Pierre

Important Dates

Taize on Rine Ridge Registration is Open!

On May 24th through 27th, 2013, a new stage in the “pilgrimage of trust on earth” will be held in the “Far West” of the United States. It will take place in Red Shirt, South Dakota, a tiny village at the edge of the Badlands on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The outdoor gathering will include meditative prayer together three times a day, Bible study, workshops, small group sharing, and meals together, provided by the local Lakota people. The event is meant for young people aged 18-35, a voice rarely heard in the church or in society.

For more information and registration, visit the synod website at www.sdsynod.org/taize.



“When we travel to visit other peoples and cultures,” says Brother Alois, “we go above all to listen. In going to Pine Ridge we want to listen carefully to the story of the Lakota people, and listen together to what the Spirit is saying to us all in our attempt to create a world of solidarity and peace. Only by coming together beyond our differences in a climate of prayer and sharing can we find new ways forward.”



Golf with the Bishop for Answer the Call

Support for Answer the Call helps reduce seminary debt for new South Dakota pastors.

Golf with the Bishop July 8, 2013

**Westward Ho Country Club
Sioux Falls**

Registration: 12:00 PM
Shotgun start: 1:00 PM
Banquet: 5:00 PM

Join Bishop David Zellmer for an enjoyable afternoon of golf to support Answer the Call, a campaign to raise financial resources for future leaders of the church.

The admission fee is \$150 per person, \$600 per team, or be a Top Sponsor for \$1,000 and receive recognition throughout the tournament. Fees include 18-hole golf with four-person scramble, cart, and dinner.

Registration will be available soon on the synod website at www.sdsynod.org/golf.



Join the Big Read!

This Lent, the South Dakota Synod will embark together on the quest of “Making Sense of the Cross.”

Join your sisters and brothers in Christ across the South Dakota Synod in reading and discussing, the book *Making Sense of the Cross*, by David Lose. This book, along with the accompanying study materials, speaks directly to the core of our message of the Gospel and empowers people to live and share their faith in the shadow of the cross of Jesus.

Through the Luther Seminary Bookstore, books are \$9.10, DVDs are \$16, and Leader Guides are \$19.99. To order, call the bookstore at 651-641-3440 and use order code “SDMSC” for special pricing.

Additional information and resources are available on the synod website at www.sdsynod.org/bigread2013.

