



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!

Health Assessment Update 90 down, 103 to go!

The January numbers are in. 90 eligible members completed it and we need another 103 to reach our goal. We are currently in second place among the ELCA Synods!

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.

**South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.
www.sdsynod.org
synod@sdsynod.org
605-274-4011

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SYNODHAPPENINGS

March 2013



Community Outreach Webinars Reaching out to your community

Led, by Joy Skjegstad, these four one-hour webinars April 9 through May 9 are for anyone wanting help in learning about the community around your church and why outreach to that community is essential to the future of your congregation.

Dates and Titles:

- **April 9 and 11**
Outreach Isn't Optional
- **April 23 and 25**
Designing Your Community Ministry Program
- **April 30 and May 2**
Meet the Neighbors
- **May 7 and 9**
Out of the Pew, Into the Community

These webinars will help you to:

- Understand how 'outreach' can be one of the engines that drives your church forward.
- Meet your neighbors and learn about the places and events that define them.

- Explore seven creative models for designing a custom community ministry program.
- Get people out of the pew and into engagement with community ministry.

Cost: \$50 for the four-part series per congregation, or \$20 each.

Registration: You may register and pay for the webinars on the website at www.sdsynod.org/webinars.

About Joy Skjegstad: Joy is an independent consultant, community ministry facilitator, and author of two widely-read Alban books. She is an experienced webinar leader with church and community experience and connections that she weaves into her teaching.

Register Now for the 2013 Spring Rostered Leaders Retreat!

The 2013 Spring Rostered Leaders retreat is scheduled for April 2-4, 2013 at Cedar Shore Resort in Chamberlain.

The theme is "Bridges to Understanding" with featured speaker, Dr. Kent Nerburn.



Keynote Speaker Kent Nerburn:

Kent Nerburn is the highly acclaimed author and editor of books on spiritual values and Native American themes. He received his B.A. in American Studies and Ph.D. in Religion/Theology and Art from Graduate Theological Union in conjunction with the University of California at Berkeley. Nerburn is widely sought after as a lecturer and has spoken at universities and tribal colleges across the country. His works are published in English and foreign language editions in over a dozen countries around the world.

He is the author of 12 books on spirituality and Native themes including: "Neither Wolf nor Dog", "The Wolf at Twilight" and "Chief Joseph and the Flight of the Nez Perce". He lives in northern Minnesota.

Registration and Lodging:

Register online at www.sdsynod.org/rosteredleadersretreat.

Registration cost for the event is \$85.00

Rooms for the event at Cedar Shores Resort are \$79.95 (+taxes)

Reservations at Cedar Shores Resort: Call 888.697.6363 or 605.734.6376

Reservations at Campground: Call 605.734.5273

Learn More:

For additional information and registration, visit the synod website at www.sdsynod.org/rosteredleadersretreat.

Prayer and Renewal April 2 Chamberlain
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

Mission Partners and Mission Boosters

Hands on with the mission

Mission Partnerships provide ways for you and your congregation to be "hands on" with the mission and accompany new and renewing congregations of the ELCA as they carry out God's mission in their communities.

Whenever new ELCA ministries are started in South Dakota, you are there through your congregation's regular support of synod and churchwide ministries. Mission Partnerships are about congregations and people coming together to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The South Dakota Synod works in collaboration with ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ by reaching out to diverse groups to invite and gather them into worshipping communities.

The South Dakota Synod currently has six ministries under development:

- First Lutheran African Ministry, Sioux Falls
- Pueblo de Dios, Sioux Falls
- WestSide Lutheran, Sioux Falls
- Woyatan Lutheran, Sioux Falls
- Intentional Christian Community at Rosebud
- New Hope Fellowship, Aberdeen

Become a Mission Partner or Mission Booster!

Mission Partners and Mission Boosters accompany new and renewing congregations of the ELCA as they carry out God's mission in their communities.

Mission Partners are mutually supportive congregations who offer whatever each has (Prayer, Presence, and Presents) for the good of the other. Partners understand themselves as blessed to be a blessing. They support one another with Prayer, Gifts of Money, Material Gifts, and Gifts of Leadership.

Mission Boosters commit to give \$100 at least once and may choose to give up to three additional times per year. Mission Boosters might be called upon if unexpected needs arise or so that the new ministry can take advantage of a promising opportunity to expand their mission and reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

New Portico Website

On February 27, 2013 www.PorticoBenefits.org became the online destination for Portico plan members, employers, and visitors.



A separately incorporated ministry of the ELCA

The new website has been designed to provide a modern user experience, enabling plan members and employers to access information, transact online, and receive timely email updates and reminders specific to their needs. While visitors can view general information, members and employers are required to register and sign in.

PorticoBenefits.org gives each group its own unique online access – [myPortico](#) for members and [EmployerLink](#) for employers.

Prayer and Renewal Free Retreat for Leaders

Rostered Leaders in the South Dakota Synod are invited to a day of Spiritual Renewal Tuesday April 2nd, immediately preceding our annual South Dakota Synod Spring Theological Retreat.

While the majority of the day will be Worship and prayer seeking God's renewal, there will be some practical teaching offered with take-home relevancy for your ministry. The

practical teaching offered will be worship-based prayer and helping congregations to name and explore their defining story.

The cost is covered by synod wellness dollars. There is no cost to you.

To register, simply indicate you will be attending when registering for the retreat at www.sdsynod.org/rosteredleadersretreat.



Revival is the work of the Holy Spirit, invigorating, molding, and shaping us to do the will of God. In Lutheran revival, we seek God's Spirit to rekindle in us joy, hope, peace, and love.

Pictured at left: Drum circle at Woyatan Lutheran in Rapid City.

Pictured at right: Worshipers from African Ministry at First Lutheran

