

South Eastern Diocese HIV/AIDS Coordinator
Mrs. Lungile Nyathikazi



The South Eastern Diocesan Council has appointed Mrs. T.J.L. Nyathikazi the HIV/AIDS Coordinator for the whole Diocese. This ministry of coordinating the parish's responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a joint venture of the South Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and the Companion Synod ministry of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. The Southwestern Minnesota Companion Synod Committee has been raising funds in the conferences of the synod to support the ministry of this coordinator. Mrs. Nyathikazi is an optometrist and midwife, and is a very active person. In her part-time position as Coordinator she travels throughout the diocese and confers with pastors and parish leaders so they work together in providing education, in urging people to get tested for HIV and AIDS, have community gardens to help people with the proper nourishment so the Anti Retro Viral drugs will be effective. She also puts on workshops, urges congregations to provide counseling, to avoid stigmatizing people and families with AIDS, and to provide hospice care. Mrs. Nyathikazi is very active in her ministry and the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Companion Synod Committee urges conferences, congregations and individuals to help in fulfilling the synod's commitment to help raise \$ 10,000 per year for five years in support of this ministry.