

# The *Ripple*

*Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA*

Check out our **website** for up-to-date information and pictures.  
Go to <http://www.scwelca.com>.

*Published by SC Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*



**Spring 2019**



## **South Carolina Women of the ELCA 2019 CONVENTION JUNE 7 & 8, 2019**



## **ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LEXINGTON, SC**

**Our Keynote Speaker, Jen Thompson is the Executive Director at Lighthouse for Life and a two time National Board-Certified Teacher. She brings more than 20 years of experience in Training, Communication, and Education to Lighthouse for Life.**



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Sisters in Christ,

This winter seemed to go on forever. Between the cold temperatures and rainy days I thought Spring would never arrive. The evening's darkness came too quickly. But then the daffodils appeared, announcing that Spring was not far behind. I knew the beautiful azaleas and dogwoods would soon follow, along with warmer weather and more hours of sunlight. God's creation was all anew. Our lives are like this sometimes. At times we face darkness, but then we remember that God is with us, bringing light into our world.

We do not know what lies ahead, but we do know that God is walking alongside us. By his grace, we are made whole again. During this time of Lent, may we be reminded that God loved us so much that he sent his son to die for us that we might have eternal life.

To me, our theme "Grace in Community" defines South Carolina Women of the ELCA. For it is by grace alone that we are saved, and it is in community that we live out our mission and purpose. We have been called this year to support Lighthouse for Life, an organization that assists female minor victims of human trafficking. It is our responsibility to learn about this multi-billion dollar industry and to help these girls with our material and financial gifts.

Five conferences will have Spring meetings, gathering in community to grow in faith through ministry and action. In these meetings women learn about and respond to local needs such as poverty and human trafficking. These meetings are highlighted in this issue. The generosity of individuals, units and conferences is always appreciated.

A mailing will go out one month prior to the first day of the convention to all ladies who have registered for the convention. The packet will include the convention agenda, directions to the church, and what to bring. Voting members will also receive nominees' biographies, proposed budget, and information about offerings and resolutions.

I will soon be calling on the voting members to fill convention committee assignments. I appreciate your willingness to serve on these very important committees. The Committee on Credentials makes the official registration reports. The Committee on Minutes reviews motions, seconds, and totals of votes and election counts. The Committee on Report of the President comments on the president's report and shares any recommendations. The Committee on Reference and Counsel studies and reports on resolutions and recommendations which come before the convention. The Committee on Conduct of Elections collects, tallies, and reports all election results to the convention.

The Board members and staff hope to see you at convention. Though our primary purpose is to do the business of the organization, it is an occasion to gather the women of the synod to share faith stories, learn from, support, and challenge one another.

May your cup overflow with peace, love and pure awesomeness this spring.

Becky

## 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, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."*





## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Convention is fast approaching and as the board is busy preparing I hope you are as well. Of course, you already know our 2019 convention will be held at St. Stephen's in Lexington, SC on June 7-8, 2019. The THEME this year is "Grace in Community" which combines two key elements of our organization. The scripture comes from Hebrews 4:16 *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need"*. The scripture along with a beautiful hymn "Grace Alone" helps to focus on our theme and also brings our focus to this year's project.

Our PROJECT this year will be two-part. The local portion will be focused on helping victims of human trafficking by asking congregations to create Freedom Bags that will be distributed throughout South Carolina as needed by Lighthouse for Life, a non-profit organization that provides education and training related to human trafficking in our state. Also, we will be collecting monetary donations to support their ministry to sexual trafficking victims. I encourage all congregations to bring as many freedom bags as you are able, and remember there is still time to fund-raise by using a Thrivent Action Team. Our global project will be writing "Thinking of You/Thank You for Your Service" cards for our active duty military personnel here in South Carolina during convention. More on these projects can be found in the Action Committee's report.

Please find the convention REGISTRATION form and the workshop descriptions in this *Ripple*. Also, included are forms for running for the Board, Young Women and First-Time Guest registrations. Please consider running for the board, either as a board member or as secretary and think of inviting a young woman or a first time guest to convention. This is how we grow as a community; no matter their ages, all are welcome. If you are unsure if running for board is the right decision, please reach out to a board member or officer with questions. We work hard to serve God and we have fun serving you as your SC WELCA board.

Please make a special note that we will once again have VENDORS at Convention this year so don't forget to bring your checkbooks. We will have woodworking crafts, soaps, candles and greeting cards as well as SERRV, a fair trade non-profit organization.

The CONVENTION COMMITTEE is also busy planning. Our host conference coordinator, Emily Wright, and I are ready to sign up volunteers. If you are part of the Midlands Conference and have not signed up, please contact Mary Soltis or Emily Wright. We have plenty of opportunities to help.

Your Sister in Christ, Mary Soltis

### 2019 Convention Staff

Chair: Mary Soltis

Chaplain: The Rev. Ginger Littman-Koon

Registrar: Sherry Sheppard

Song Leader: Sara Coffman

Parliamentarian: Carolyn Torrence

Host Church Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle

First Time Guest Coord: Dianne Pitts

Photographer: Amanda Cruse

Convention Co-Chair: Kristin Snelgrove

Keynote Speaker: Jen Thompson

Assistant Registrar: Kaye Heins

Musician: Kathleen Cartledge

Technology Coordinator: Pat George

Mission Action Chair: Sarah Cheesman

Young Women Guests Coord: Denise Warren

Midlands Conference Coord: Emily Wright

## TREASURER'S REPORT



Spring is coming and then it will be summer and time for our 2019 SC WELCA Convention, June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Lexington. In February all congregational unit treasurers received a Convention Envelope enclosed with your congregational unit annual statement for our fiscal year February 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019. The Convention Offering will be received on Friday afternoon of the convention. Please give this envelope to your convention voting members. If you will not have a delegate at convention, you may send your offering to me. Use of this envelope makes it so much easier to tabulate the offering for reporting to the convention on Saturday. Congregational units are also encouraged to include your semi-annual Joy Offerings. Monetary donations to the convention project – Lighthouse for Life - may also be noted and included in this envelope or given to the Mission Action Team along with the Freedom Bags when you arrive.

One half of the Convention Offerings are designated for our convention project – this year to provide support for the safe house and the victims of human trafficking at Lighthouse for Life. One half to the Convention Offering are designated for convention expenses. All of the Joy Offerings are sent to ELCA Good Gifts. All monetary donations to the convention project are given to Lighthouse for Life. Please make all checks payable to SC WELCA.

The final Treasurer's report for the February 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019 will be included in the Bulletin of Reports provided at convention. Also, a budget for the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year will be presented at the convention for adoption.

If you have any questions about your offerings or if you are a new Treasurer of your congregational unit and have questions, please let me know.

Thank you! May we continue to be able to be a blessing to others.

Rachel Quesada



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The SC WELCA Board Meeting was held February 9, 2019 at Camp Kinard, Batesburg-Leesville. Following are highlights from the minutes which will be posted on the SC WELCA website once approved by the Board at the next meeting.

- Becky will bring greetings from SC WELCA to the Lutheran Men in Mission at their annual convention on February 16<sup>th</sup> at Wittenburg, Leesville.
- Lois Bylund, churchwide representative, will address the convention and lead a Bible study during her workshop. Lois was elected to the executive Board of WELCA for a second term and serves on the constitution review committee and as convention coordinator.
- Mary Soltis will be attending the Conference of Presidents in Chicago in Becky's place. The board passed a vote for Becky's recommendation to deliver a \$600 free will offering to the Conference of Presidents, February 22-24. Free will offering will go to ministries as follows: 50% to ongoing churchwide ministries of WELCA; 25% -All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund; 25% -Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry.
- From the Treasurer's Report: As of January 31, 2019, Summary sheet shows current cash assets are \$30,766.59 and at the end of the fiscal year was \$31,045.73. This includes a checking account balance of \$4,576.64, a savings account balance of \$10,805.99 and Mission Investment Fund CD of \$15,663.10. In addition, there is the Edna Corley Estate CD balance of \$35,630.71 from which the interest income for the year of \$883.64 has been transferred to our checking account for the SC LTSS Scholarship Fund. The 2018 budget of \$2,000 for Triennial gathering stipends were not disbursed and have been reserved for the 2020 Triennial. Motion passed.
- Julie Watson, 2019 Nominating Chair, reports the committee has received two nominations for secretary, two nominations for board member and two nominations for Triennial member. Eight nominations each for board and Triennial are needed.
- Convention: Kristin Snelgrove will be co-chair. Planning is under way with 7 workshops scheduled. Jen Thompson, from Lighthouse for Life, is the keynote speaker. The Journey Performing Arts Ministry will provide banquet entertainment. Caterer will be Diimmmler's.
- The SC WELCA Triennial Promoter for the Gathering will be Risse Snelgrove. She will be taking applications for the \$200 stipends. The board passed a motion to award stipends only to non-voting members of the Triennial.
- The board passed a vote to transfer \$1,300 from the 2019 Budget toward the Triennial 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elsa Hope

**A reminder to send your congregation unit leader/officer changes or updates to me. My address and email are listed in the Synodical Board List portion in this *Ripple*.**

## UPCOMING SPRING CONFERENCES

The Coastal Conference will be held on March 23, 2019. The speaker will be Sharon Rickard. Sharon is the Executive Director of Doors to Freedom, a local organization that helps girls rescued from Human trafficking. The theme for the meeting is "Grow where you are planted". All guests will receive a flower pot and seeds to plant when they return home. We will be collecting Target and Walmart gift cards for Doors to Freedom.

Heartland's Spring Fling will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 3 PM at Summer Memorial in Newberry.



# COMMUNITY

The task and work of SC WELCA women is an inspiring and uplifting display of what SC WELCA ladies can do to make difference in their communities. We are collecting pictures of veterans/active duty military of SC WELCA ladies and their family members for a mural display at convention as a *Thank You* for their service and for the freedom given so freely as they grace us as community. We will display their pictures, along with information of time in service and branch of service served. This ties in with the Action Committee team as they are providing the cards which will be signed by the ladies. The spring conferences had speakers who emphasized this year's theme of "Grace in Community" and how God guides us daily to love one another through His Grace and Love.

Your sisters in Christ,  
Amanda Boatwright (Chair), Kristin Snelgrove, Gwen Furcron, Sherry Fowler (*Ripple* Editor),  
Karen Freeman (Facebook editor)

## MURAL PROJECT AT CONVENTION

We will be honoring those who have served or are currently serving in our Armed Forces with a mural display of their photos. We invite you to send us a picture of your loved one and if you are a veteran, we want your photo as well. They can be in uniform or civilian attire. All branches of service are included: Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy.

Please complete the following information for each photo:

Service member name & relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank/Branch of service: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of service: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by/Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of Service Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail/email photo and information to:  
Amanda Boatwright, 423 Martin Drive, Leesville SC 29070  
[Msangelwingschurchchick@yahoo.com](mailto:Msangelwingschurchchick@yahoo.com), (803)687-3637



The Women of the ELCA at Transfiguration in Cayce observed Women's Sunday on February 24, 2019 by inviting Reverend Mary Finklea of Florence to preach and conduct part of their Sunday service. Reverend Finklea gave an inspiring and memorable sermon on grace and forgiveness, as she reminded us of ways to forgive those who commit unforgettable sins against us and others. Examples included praying for the family of Bin Laden or serving families of prisoners and criminals. This was also Bold Women's Sunday as observed by Women of the ELCA. Favors of artificial tulips with lace doilies and messages of "our tu-lips serve our Lord" were distributed to all ladies. Young girls and women served as ushers, lay assistant, readers, crucifer, acolyte and in the all-women choir.



# GROWTH

The Mission Growth Committee is a ministry that deals with our relationship with God to help us grow in faith.

The annual Camp Kinard retreat was held on February 8 & 9. Dr. Mark Allan Powell presented *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible* in thought-provoking videos. He stated that for Lutherans, the Bible is the source and norm for faith because the Word of God reveals Jesus Christ to us. Lutherans are Jesus people. We look at a text as how it relates to other passages in the Bible and then apply those teachings to modern situations. The discussions following the video sessions led by Linda Roland were very meaningful as we shared with each other.

The participants made colors-of-faith keychains with different colored beads as symbols of our faith journey. We enjoyed delicious meals and snacks and wonderful fellowship throughout the retreat.

The Board would like to continue these retreats. If anyone has ideas for meaningful Bible studies and leaders, please let a board member know.

Remember that the Triennial Convention will be in Phoenix, Arizona, on July 14 – 16, 2020, and the Triennial Gathering will be July 16 – 19, 2020.

The Isle of Palms Retreat will be coming up soon. It will be April 26 – 28, 2019. Ada Arthur will be the retreat speaker. A registration form can be found on the website and it was featured in the *Winter Ripple*.

In Christ,

Dianne Lominick, Merri Lewis, Agnes Folk, & Sallie Folk



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING  
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX

“Just Love” is the Gathering 2020 Logo and it reminds us that we are parts of one body. I’m so excited to share with you the news that we have been waiting for since July 2017.

Elizabeth McBride, director for intergenerational programs and editor of *Café*, designed our 2020 Gathering logo. Elizabeth stated that at the triennial gathering in 2017 closing worship service, and the Rev. Angela Khabeb exclaimed: “News flash! Christianity is not comfortable. If you are comfortable in Jesus, you’re doing it wrong.”

Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect, we are often broken, sometimes we don’t fit. Sometimes our edges are rough – we are but one body in Christ.

Elizabeth stated, “The inspiration for the logo came after I walked around the downtown area of Phoenix, the site of the 2020 gathering. I noticed a mural located outside of the convention hotel. Its collection of broken mirrors, tiles, shards of plates and painted rocks ebbed and flowed in a kinetic frenzy color and textures.”

## We are the body of Christ

The mural reminded me of the body of Christ and how we are all misshapen pieces in a glorious and beautiful work of art. The palette of deep purple and bright green in the new gathering logo is reflective of the scenery of the valley in the Phoenix area. Along the streets of the city, dusty earth tones are punctuated with bright purple flowers and vibrant green cacti. The turquoise color connects to the history of native cultures in Arizona and the southwest region. The shade of red in our gathering logo is not one of fire and caution, but rather one of joy. Red signifies love.

As we embrace the theme “JUST LOVE”, we remember the words of the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra at the gathering in Minneapolis 2017: “I believe that if we follow mercy all the way, go deep into mercy, we end up at justice.”

The Gathering 2020 will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, July 16-19, 2020. I don’t know about you but I am so excited for this experience. I hope you will join me. Watch for more information about registration here in your *Ripple* Newsletter and on [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) in late summer.

Risse Snelgrove

Triennial Gathering Promoter for SC WELCA



# ACTION

Greetings to all from your **Mission Action Committee**. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the SC Women of the ELCA is almost here. June 7 – 8 will be here before we know it. We hope you are excited as we are, and getting everything ready to come! Our message of “Grace in Community” will be seen and heard through our convention projects.

## **2019 Convention Global Project**

During convention, we will honor our military personnel by creating “thinking of you” and “thank you for your service” cards to send to our active duty military here in South Carolina.

Here’s what our cards look like and each one has a special Bible verse.



If you have any of these types of cards, please bring to them to convention and we will add them to ours. We plan to have over 1900 cards! Let’s show our love to our military heroes who protect us every day and make it **2000** cards! We will take the cards to our service men and women who are stationed here in SC: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, and Marines.

## **Honorary Life and Memorial Recognition Program**



Don’t forget to show “Grace in Community” by supporting the Honorary Life and Memorial Recognition Program. You may honor women, men, or a young person in your congregation who is always there when needed.

The recipient will receive a certificate and a pin. Memorial recognition may be made in memory of someone who has died and had a positive impact on you or your church during their lifetime. Proceeds go to the South Carolina Women of the ELCA Scholarship Fund at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. An application is on the WELCA website or contact Virginia Herlong, 813 Silver Point Road, Chapin, SC 29036; email: [vherlong@sc.rr.com](mailto:vherlong@sc.rr.com); or phone 803-932-0155 (home) or 803-206-2493 (cell).

Thank you in advance for your support! See you at convention!

Sarah D. Cheesman, Chair

Mary Soltis, Kristin Snelgrove, Amanda Sease-Baker, Rae Davis, Emily Wright, Virginia Herlong



# SC WELCA 2019 Convention Project

**2019 Convention Project:** We are partnering with Lighthouse for Life to provide education to others as well as take action to support the victims of human trafficking. SC WELCA can support Lighthouse for Life by participating in creating “Freedom Bags” that are given to the girls who are victims of sex trafficking throughout our state. Please see the items needed below to create these bags (**attach the form to each bag denoting that all of the content is there**). We can also support Lighthouse for Life financially by gifts that can be used to support the safe house and other items that the girls might need as they learn to recover and become empowered to be free. How wonderful is it that the safe house is called “Karis” which mean “Grace” in Greek! The house serves all of SC and is beautiful but still needs our help!



Checks are to be made to SC WELCA. Gift cards can be provided to restock the safe house, help buy groceries and other needed items. For more information about Lighthouse for Life, visit their website, [lighthouseforlife.org](http://lighthouseforlife.org) or call them at (803)669-0110.

✂ =====

## SC WELCA 2019 Convention Project Checklist

**Please submit this form to Action Committee at convention!**

Church \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Complete “Freedom Bags” \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift Cards** (Please designate the amount on each gift card) We will accept Walmart, Target, Mastercard, and/or Visa \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks:** Make payable to SC WELCA: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

✂ =====

## SC WELCA 2019 Freedom Bag Checklist

**Please attach the completed checklist to the front of each Freedom Bag!**

**“Freedom Bag”** (Use new small/medium backpack, no logos, bags with zipper are best). All items must be new and only these items! **Please no other items for safety reasons.** Each bag should have every item listed below. Please check each item so we will know the bag is **complete**. Thanks so much!

Clothing – medium size 1 each	Toiletries 1 each	Other 1 each
<input type="radio"/> Athletic pants	<input type="radio"/> Shampoo	<input type="radio"/> Refillable water bottle
<input type="radio"/> Solid colored T-shirt (no logos)	<input type="radio"/> Toothbrush	<input type="radio"/> Bible
<input type="radio"/> pair Socks	<input type="radio"/> Toothpaste	<input type="radio"/> Pack of Gum
	<input type="radio"/> Body Wash	
	<input type="radio"/> Body Pouf	
	<input type="radio"/> Towel	
	<input type="radio"/> Deodorant (no roll-ons)	
	<input type="radio"/> Hair Brush and/or Comb	





# 2019 SC Women of the ELCA Convention

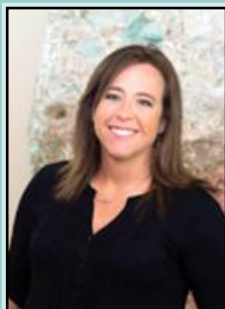
## Convention Schedule

### Friday, June 7

8:30 Registration opens  
 9:30 Pre-Convention Workshop Session A  
 10:15 Standing Committees meet;  
 Orientation for YWG & FTG  
 10:30 Orientation for Voting Members  
 11:00 Formal Opening and Business Session  
 12:00 Lunch  
 1:00 Convention Reconvenes  
 3:30 Workshop Session B  
 4:30 Workshop Session C  
 6:30 Banquet and Entertainment

### Saturday, June 8

8:30 Registration  
 9:00 Convention Reconvenes  
 12:00 Lunch  
 1:00 Convention Reconvenes  
 3:00 Holy Communion Service in Sanctuary  
 Installation of Officers and Board Members  
 Formal Closing of Convention



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jen Thompson our Keynote Speaker, is the Executive Director at Lighthouse for Life. She writes, "I first learned about the reality of human trafficking on an international scale in 2014. At that time I was in my 14<sup>th</sup> year teaching in the public school system in South Carolina. Upon learning about human trafficking I became heart broken and started doing research and realized this heinous crime was happening not only over seas but also in my home county. In February of 2015 I attended an awareness event and heard the testimony of a survivor from Alabama. Her courage changed the course of my future. I began volunteering for Lighthouse for Life in the summer of 2015 and quickly became absorbed into it. I am honored to be a part of a ministry which has grown so quickly and served so many in such a short amount of time. The message is painful but necessary and the community has caught the passion. We must educate people on the realities of human trafficking and restore victims to wholeness. It's not an option it's an imperative. Lighthouse for Life is honored to be supported by individuals, businesses and faith communities all coming together in one movement bringing light to this horrible crime. We will stand for the darkness no longer."

Mr. Bob Healy, L4L's Director of Public Policy, will join Jen Thompson to provide an introduction of Lighthouse for Life. He will take a look at the model of supply and demand and shed light on the true root cause of this heinous crime. He will update us on new legislation possibly up for vote in SC to bring harsher penalties on commercial sex buyers.

Keynote with Jen

Heather Cook is the author of *Beyond the Bars: One Woman's Journey to True Freedom*. She will share her incredibly brave and strong story from bondage to freedom in her own words. She is a woman of remarkable courage.

### Lois Bylund / Executive Board Member / Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Lois Bylund was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017 for a second term. She serves on the constitution review committee and as convention coordinator.

Prior to her election to the churchwide executive board, Lois was president of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization (3D). She also served as an advisory member to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod and as a cluster coordinator.

A resident of Moorhead, Minn., Lois is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in that city. There she is an active member of her circle and served as unit president twice. Lois is currently serving as recording secretary of the Trinity Foundation Board at her church. She has also served on the church council and as a voting member of the synod assembly.

Lois has served on the planning committee and worked in the kitchen and dining room for the community Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Moorhead. She has also delivered meals to families and shut-ins and served as a United Way representative. Lois is an active member of the Blue and Bold Toastmaster's Club in Fargo, N.D.

Lois and her husband, Leon, have three children. She has worked for a hospital services company for many years and now serves as its operations coordinator. Lois enjoys crafts, refinishing and refurbishing furniture. She hopes to learn to quilt when she retires.

**We look forward to having Lois at our convention. She will be leading a workshop with a Bible study titled "Hospitality" and will be bringing greetings from the Executive Board of the Women of the ELCA.**





# Nominating Committee

Well ladies, here we are only 2 months away from our convention and we still have a few spaces to fill. Thus far, we have a great slate of candidates, but, at this time, we are still looking for “a few good women “ to fill out our list of nominees. I realize that by the time you get this, the period for nominations will be over, but many of you will be receiving a letter prior to convention and will be able to view the entire slate of nominees.

The committee wishes to thank all of you for your support through this process. Special thanks go to you who have been led to express your willingness to serve in an elected position. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the WELCA organization in its search for Godly women who are willing to serve.

Yours in Christ,

The Nominating Committee

Julie Watson, Chair, 864-357-6748; [jjrwatson@charter.net](mailto:jjrwatson@charter.net)

Cecelia Dunlap, 803-269-2940; [victoriandork1949@hotmail.com](mailto:victoriandork1949@hotmail.com)

Paulette Miller, 540-400-5785; [pauletemiller068@gmail.com](mailto:pauletemiller068@gmail.com)

Brenda Byrd, 803-422-3326; [bbyrd8@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbyrd8@bellsouth.net)

## Young Women Guests

### LEGACY

What is our legacy?

Legacy is defined as something that is handed down. The question is “to whom shall we pass our legacy?” The answer is “young women.”

It is the responsibility of each of us, Women of the ELCA, to encourage, to educate and to give openly of ourselves to the young women in our churches. If WE do not accept this responsibility for the young women in our midst, what good is a legacy?

Each year, the South Carolina Women of the ELCA request nominations from congregational units of young women to attend OUR convention. Have YOU taken the responsibility to reach out to young women in YOUR congregation? It is up to US to extend the offer!

There is still time! The form is brief.

Sisters in Christ, let us share our legacy of faith, love and service.

Denise Warren, Young Women Guest Coordinator

## Hotel Information

If you plan to stay in a hotel for convention, please book early for Group Rates offered. The cut off dates are as follow:

**Comfort Suites - April 15**

**Holiday Inn - May 7**

**Hampton Inn - May 7**

The Quality Inn is also close to St. Stephen's. They would not give us a group rate or reserve a block of rooms, but their rates are very reasonable.

## Consignment Sale

This year, at the SC WELCA Convention, we will be have a room dedicated to a SERRV Consignment Sale. “SERRV International is a nonprofit dedicated to fighting global poverty through fair and ethical trade.” Among the items for sale will be scarves, jewelry, baskets, chocolate and coffee. We will accept cash and/or checks ONLY. No Credit Cards will be accepted. Checks will need to be made payable to SC WELCA.



## CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

**Craft/Service Project:** Sarah Hoffman—Make a no-sew fleece blanket for Lighthouse for Life to use in their safe houses and during therapy sessions. (No Cost)

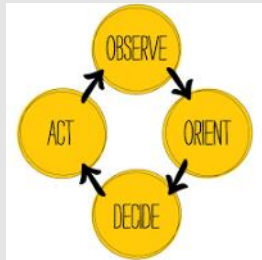


**LIGHTHOUSE  
FOR LIFE**

**Lighthouse for  
Life:**

**Jen Thompson**

**and Bob Healy** - Learn more about human trafficking and how to detect, prevent, and protect our communities.



**Situational Awareness:** Join one of Lexington County's finest in learning how to be aware of your immediate surroundings in case of emergency. Learn the impact

of your or other's actions as it relates to the well-being of yourself and those around you.

**CWO Representative: Lois Bylund** - Please join our Churchwide Representative for a Bible Study on "*Hospitality*". She will bring updates from the Chicago office and will have time for a question and answer session.

**Yoga: Vicky Saye Henderson** — This is an interactive workshop that combines standing yoga as well as chair yoga with the added benefit of readings of the Mystics.



**Grace & Gratitude: Dallas Shealy** - Want to increase your happiness level by 25%? Scientific studies have shown that people who practice gratitude live happier and healthier lives. Learn more about experiencing God's grace by having an "attitude of gratitude" in this interactive workshop.

**Sign Language: Debbie Ammerman** — Learn about the history and development of the American Sign Language as well as learn some basic sign language.



**ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BE OFFERED AT 9:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.**

## FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

We are excited to have The Journey Missionary Performing Arts Ministry as our entertainment for our banquet on Friday night. Pastor Jackie Utley will be one of the four performers who will be portraying women of the Bible.



### SC WELCA Important Dates and Deadlines

- March 31**—Deadline - Nominations (Secretary/Board/Triennial Voting Members) to Julie Watson
- April 10**—Deadline - Nominations - YWG/FTG to Conference Coordinator
- April 24**—Deadline – YWG/FTG Names to Registrar/Convention Chair
- April 26-28** — Isle of Palms retreat at Coastal Retreat Center
- May 1**— Deadline - Voting Member Registration forms to Registrar
- May 15**—Deadline – No Refunds for Delegate/Visitor Registrations
- May 30**—Deadline – Visitor Registrations to Registrar
- June 7-8**—SC WELCA Convention at St. Stephen's, Lexington







## Conference Reports

The Western Conference held their Spring meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Gilbert, SC on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.

Refreshments were provided by St Paul's and enjoyed by all in the Fellowship Hall and then moved to the sanctuary for the meeting. Sarah Cheesman brought greetings from the SC WELCA board and reminded everyone of the upcoming deadlines, convention and projects, and had everyone sign "Thank you for your service" cards as practice for convention! Offering received was \$141.25. The group decided to donate \$200 to Lighthouse for Life and will bring the donation to convention. A total of thirty-seven women were in attendance which included four SC WELCA board members and one special guest, Julie Watson, who encouraged members to run for secretary or board member at convention.



The Saxe Gotha Conference was held on March 17, 2019 at Mt Hermon Lutheran Church in West Columbia. The guest speaker, Pastor Gina Metze from Mt. Hermon, spoke on the theme "God's Grace". Mary Soltis, Vice President of SC WELCA, brought greetings from the Board and updated the conference on the SC WELCA Convention. The conference donated \$100 to Mt Hermon's food pantry and \$100 to Lighthouse for Life.

The Foothills Conference was held on March 16, 2019 at 3 PM at St. Michael's in Greenville. Devotion was given by Julie Gibson on Psalm 51 and focused on spring cleaning and soul cleaning in the Lenten season and how we can help God clean our souls. Speaker was Alfred Johnson of Greenville Church Without Walls. He spoke of the numerous outreach ministries inside and outside of schools and shared some of the success stories. An offering of \$700 was given to Greenville Church Without Walls. Lunch was provided by the ladies of St. Michael's. Karen Waltz was installed as the conference coordinator. Nine churches were represented by the forty attendees, including one pastor and two board members.

## Tanzania

Last July, I was back in the South Western Diocese of Tanzania. I visited Itamba Secondary School to check on our project to provide the girls with furniture following the fire. I was actually able to see the carpenters building the furniture. They were making the bunk beds. We found that the beds were very durable. My daughter actually tried one. The girls are very excited about their new dormitory and the furniture.



I received a message from Mr. Tukinde on February 27<sup>th</sup> telling me that they have finished building the furniture. He sent pictures of the girls sitting at their tables. God willing I will be traveling to the South Western Diocese the end of June to attend the installation of the new bishop. I look forward to visiting the school again and checking out the finished product myself. Mr. Tukinde asked me to express his thanks and gratitude for your kindness in thinking about the girls and your assistance in building the furniture for the girls' dormitories.

They are very appreciative and very happy.

- Cathy Milejczak







# SC Women of the ELCA Annual Convention

Theme: "Grace in Community"

**June 7-8, 2019**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Lexington, SC

## REGISTRATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS & VISITORS

\_\_\_\_ This is my first SC WELCA Convention \_\_\_\_ I am between the ages of 18-35

Check one:

\_\_\_\_ **Voting Member**

\_\_\_\_ **Visitor**

Two voting members are allowed from each Congregational Unit.

All visitors are welcome!

*Please complete one form per person*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ CONFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Registration will be confirmed by email. If no email, confirmation will be made by phone.*

**WORKSHOPS:** Most workshops will be held three times – once in the morning and twice in the afternoon.

I plan to attend the following workshops (required for planning purposes). *Please check no more than three.*

\_\_\_\_ Lighthouse 4 Life      \_\_\_\_ Grace and Gratitude      \_\_\_\_ Sign Language  
 \_\_\_\_ Churchwide Rep. Bible Study      \_\_\_\_ Yoga/Chair Yoga  
 \_\_\_\_ Craft/Service Project -Blankets      \_\_\_\_ Situational Awareness

### REGISTRATION:

**Voting Member** – \$35.00, after April 15, 2019 - \$40.00; **Visitor** – \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Bulletin of Reports for Voting Member and Visitor included) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MEALS:** Friday Lunch - \$9.00; Friday Banquet - \$22.00; Saturday Lunch - \$9.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please circle meals requested. Dietary Restrictions:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Voting Member** - Please submit registration by April 15, 2019 for convention planning

**Visitor** – Please submit registration by May 30, 2019 for meal counts

**NO refunds after May 15, 2019**

**Make check payable to SC WELCA**

Send this form with check to Convention Registrar:

**Sherry Sheppard**

128 S. Main St., Ste. 1, Summerville, SC 29483

For questions, contact Sherry at (843) 860-7998 or by email at anthradvnr12@gmail.com

\*\*\*\*\*

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Check Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Deposited \_\_\_\_\_



## DEFINITIONS OF AND FEES DUE FOR VOTING MEMBERS AND VISITORS

<b>Voting Member</b>	Two from each Congregational Unit - <b>Late substitution is allowed.</b> Pay for mileage, meals, lodging and registration. <b>Please submit registration by April 15, 2019</b> so that convention committees can be selected and the Bulletin of Reports prepared for print.
<b>Visitor (non-voting)</b>	Those attending the convention either not on the agenda or assigned a specific responsibility Pay for mileage, meals, lodging and registration. <b>Please submit registration by May 29, 2019</b> for meal counts.

The Nomination Form for Young Woman Guest and First Timer Guest will serve as their registration.

Those on the agenda or assigned a specific responsibility will be contacted and registered by the Convention Chair, Mary Soltis. Such a person may also be a Congregational Unit voting member, in which case fees will be adjusted accordingly.

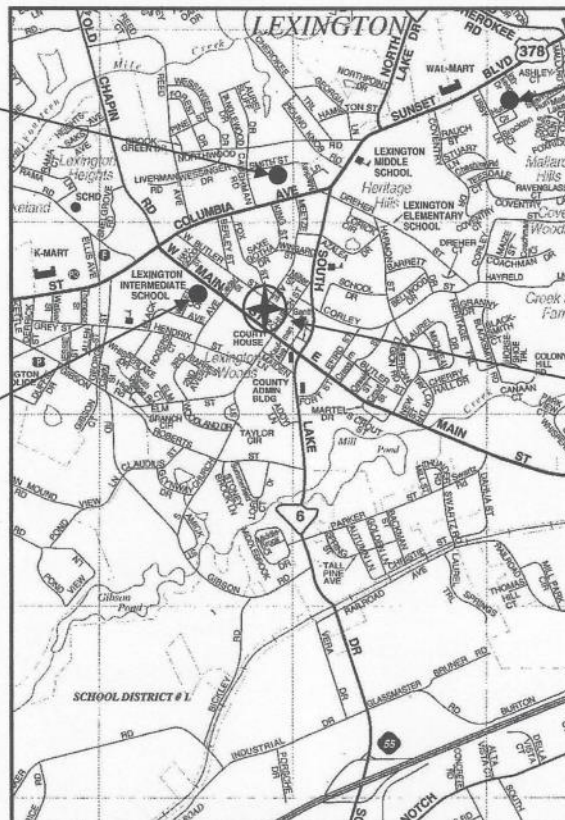
Registrations will officially close 9:00 am Saturday morning of the convention, June 8, 2019. However, please register as early as possible to assist us in convention planning.

## LODGING AVAILABLE NEAR ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LEXINGTON

All have hot breakfast, free Wi-Fi, microwave, refrigerator, TV, 1 king or 2 queen bed(s). Suites include fold-out sofa.

**Hampton Inn**  
Group Code: ELC  
\$133 plus tax is a non-discounted rate but personal discounts may be applied; inside rooms, ½ mile from church  
601 Columbia Ave.  
Lexington, SC 29072  
(803) 356-8300  
Must book by **May 7, 2019**

**Comfort Suites**  
Group Code: RM31R9  
\$109 plus tax  
Inside suites w/ fold-out sofa  
3 blocks from church  
325 West Main St.  
Lexington, SC 29072  
(803) 996-2000  
*Hotel of choice by Board because can sleep 3/room*  
Must book by **April 15, 2019**



**Holiday Inn Express**  
Group Code: SCW  
\$114 plus tax  
Inside rooms  
1 ½ miles from church  
131 Innkeeper Dr.  
Lexington, SC 29072  
(803) 808-0800  
Must book by **May 7, 2019**

**St. Stephen's  
Lutheran Church**  
119 North Church St.  
Lexington, SC 29072  
803-359-6562

Blocks of rooms set aside  
for SC Women of the  
ELCA. **BOOK EARLY!!**  
Rooms must be booked  
by dates shown to  
receive the quoted rate.





**South Carolina Women of the ELCA**  
**Annual Convention**  
 Theme: "Grace in Community"  
**June 7-8, 2019**  
 St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Lexington, SC

## NOMINATION FOR ELECTION

*Complete both sides of this form; include a "head shot" photo of nominee and return by March 31, 2019 to: Julie Watson, Nomination Chair, 134 McCarter Dr, Wellford, SC 29385, jjrwatson@charter.net, 864-357-6748.*

Check all that apply:

☐ Board Member    ☐ Secretary    ☐ 2020 Triennial Voting Member

*PLEASE PRINT or TYPE*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell or work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Age Category    ☐ 20-29    ☐ 30-39    ☐ 40-49    ☐ 50-59    ☐ 60 and over

Ethnic/Racial Heritage    ☐ Asian    ☐ African American    ☐ Hispanic    ☐ White    ☐ Other

Primary Language \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Qualifications which would help this person in performing the duties  
of the position for which she is being nominated**

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## Experiences that would help this person to serve in this position.

Beginning with most recent, list significant experiences in each area.

**Women of the ELCA Congregational Unit** (may include experience in previous church bodies)

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**SC Women of the ELCA, Conference, SWO, Churchwide** (may include experience in previous church bodies)

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**ELCA Congregation, Conference, Synod, and Churchwide** (may include experience in previous church bodies)

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**Ecumenical** (include local, state, and national/international organizations/affiliations)

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**Other comments** (Why do you think this person would be effective in this position?)

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**Submitter Information** (*Nominations for 2020 Triennial voting member shall be made by the nominee's unit. No more than one person from a unit shall be nominated.*)

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell or work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Unit/City \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***S.C. Women of the ELCA Annual Convention***

***Theme: "Grace in Community"***

***June 7-8, 2019***

***St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Lexington, SC***

### **NOMINATION FORM FOR SPONSORSHIP OF:**

*(Check only one)*    ☐ **YOUNG WOMAN GUEST**    ☐ **FIRST TIMER GUEST**

*To be completed by the Congregational Unit President.*

*Send no more than 2 nominations from your unit to your Conference Coordinator by April 10, 2019.*

#### **Nominee Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
(if Young Woman Guest)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Please give a brief summary of why this person would be a good choice.

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**Submitted by** (Congregation Unit President) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



## GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION OF YOUNG WOMAN GUEST / FIRST TIMER GUEST

### **Sponsored Young Woman Guest:**

Any woman between the ages of 18 and 35 who has never attended a SC Women of the ELCA Convention is eligible for nomination. The Sponsored YWG will have her convention expenses (fee, lodging and meals) paid for by either the Synodical Board or Conference. She will be housed with the other Young Women Guests at the convention. She will be a non-voting member at the convention, will attend the Young Women Guests Orientation, and will be seated with the other Young Women Guests during the convention. It is hoped that the sponsored Young Woman Guest will return as a delegate to following years' conventions.

### **Sponsored First Timer Guest:**

Any woman of any age who has never attended a SC Women of the ELCA Convention is eligible for nomination. The Sponsored First Timer Guest will have her convention expenses (fee, lodging and meals) paid for by either the Synodical Board or Conference. She will be a non-voting member at the convention, will attend the First Timers Orientation, and will be seated with the other First Timer Guests during the convention. It is hoped that the sponsored First Timer Guest will return as a delegate to following years' conventions.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Congregational Unit President:**

Complete no more than two (2) Nomination Forms and mail to your Conference Coordinator **no later than April 10, 2019**. The order in which nominations are received will be a factor in the selection decision. The Synodical Board will sponsor (pay for) one Young Woman Guest and one First Timer Guest from each conference. The Conference may sponsor additional persons as their funds permit.

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### **Conference Coordinator:**

1. Ask for vote at the Fall Conference Meeting how many nominees will be sponsored by your Conference. A sponsorship is approximately \$100.00.
2. After **April 17, 2019**, confer with your Officers and Board Conference Liaison to select the Board-sponsored nominees and, if applicable, the Conference-sponsored nominee(s). Alternate nominees should also be selected in the event the primary nominees are unable to attend the convention. Mark the method of payment on each sponsored nomination form (by Synodical Board or Conference). The Nomination Form will take the place of the Registration Form for the sponsored persons.
3. Notify each of the unit presidents and nominees of decisions made.

Nominee will be (check only one): ☐ Primary Nominee ☐ Alternate Nominee ☐ Not sponsored

Nominee will be sponsored by (check only one): ☐ Synodical Board ☐ Conference

### **NO LATER THAN April 24, 2019:**

4. **Mail all of the completed forms to the Convention Registrar:** Sherry Sheppard, 128 S. Main St., Ste. 1, Summerville SC 29483
5. **Convention Chair/Synodical Vice President:** Mary Soltis, [msoltis324@gmail.com](mailto:msoltis324@gmail.com) or 803-727-3228 (c)
6. Notify Synodical Treasurer: Rachel Quesada, [arachelq@gmail.com](mailto:arachelq@gmail.com) or 561-866-3011

**NOTE: It is understood that the alternate nominee will be sponsored if the first nominee is unable to attend the convention.**



# South Carolina Women of the ELCA

## Synodical Board 2018-2020

### President

Becky Koch (exp 2020)  
336 Nautical Way  
Greenwood, SC 29649  
864-344-1786 cell  
[beckykoch01@gmail.com](mailto:beckykoch01@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Mary Soltis (exp 2019)  
10738 Broad River Road  
Irmo, SC 29063  
803-727-3228  
[msoltis324@gmail.com](mailto:msoltis324@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Elsa Hope (exp 2019)  
2952 Broad River Road  
Pomaria, SC 29126  
803-276-1988 hm  
803-944-1744 cell  
[rmehope@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmehope@bellsouth.net)

### Treasurer

Rachel Quesada (exp 2020)  
520 Timber Lane  
Anderson, SC 29621  
864-226-8546 hm  
561-866-3011 cell  
[arachelq@gmail.com](mailto:arachelq@gmail.com)

## Board Members

Amanda Boatwright (exp 2020)  
423 Martin Drive  
Leesville, SC 29070  
803-317-6170  
[msangelwingschurchchick@yahoo.com](mailto:msangelwingschurchchick@yahoo.com)

Sarah Cheesman (exp 2019)  
122 Spinnaker Pointe  
Leesville SC 29070  
803-332-6825 hm  
803-528-0797 cell  
[Sarah.cheesman@yahoo.com](mailto:Sarah.cheesman@yahoo.com)

Rae F. Davis (exp 2020)  
812 Willow Cove Road  
Chapin, SC 29036  
803-360-4968  
[rdvs297@gmail.com](mailto:rdvs297@gmail.com)

Gwendolyn Furcron (exp 2019)  
149 Elkhorn Lane  
Columbia, SC 29229  
216-659-5754 cell  
[gfurcron1946@yahoo.com](mailto:gfurcron1946@yahoo.com)

Merri Lewis (exp 2019)  
2029 Cedarbrook Dr.  
Columbia, SC 29212  
803-732-5429 hm  
803-445-9989 cell  
[lewismmerri@yahoo.com](mailto:lewismmerri@yahoo.com)

Dianne Lominick (exp 2019)  
5407 S Hwy 34  
Pomaria, SC 29126  
803-276-2037 hm  
803-271-8504 cell  
[Dianne.lominick@icloud.com](mailto:Dianne.lominick@icloud.com)

Amanda Marie Sease-Baker  
(exp 2020)  
233 Farmington Ct.  
Lexington, SC 29072  
803-520-4323  
[manda4ever25@gmail.com](mailto:manda4ever25@gmail.com)

Kristin Snelgrove (exp 2020)  
912 Riverwalk Drive  
Irmo, SC 29063  
803-629-2287  
[ksnelgrove2005@yahoo.com](mailto:ksnelgrove2005@yahoo.com)

## Non-Board Positions

### SC WELCA Retreats

Sallie Folk & Agnes Folk  
422 W. Pine Street  
Florence, SC 29501  
843-307-1417 (Sallie)  
843-662-1210 (Agnes)  
[aebfolk@yahoo.com](mailto:aebfolk@yahoo.com)  
[salstitcher823@yahoo.com](mailto:salstitcher823@yahoo.com)

### Honorary Life/Memorial Recognition Coordinator

Virginia Herlong  
813 Silver Point Road  
Chapin, SC 29036  
803-932-0155 hm  
803-206-2493 cell  
[vherlong@sc.rr.com](mailto:vherlong@sc.rr.com)

### Ripple Editor/Circ. Mgr.

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Charleston, SC 29414  
843-442-3593 cell  
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Sherry Fowler

### The Ripple

*The Ripple* is published four times per year. It is normally mailed to the churches for distribution to congregational unit presidents and pastors at no charge, as well as to the church-wide office. It is distributed to other subscribers at an annual subscription rate of \$7 annually or **e-mailed for free to anyone.** *The Ripple* is published under the auspices of the Mission: Community Committee of SC Women of the ELCA.

To submit material for publication, contact *The Ripple* Editor, Sherry Fowler at ([shf.welca@gmail.com](mailto:shf.welca@gmail.com)).

### Subscribe to the Ripple

Complete the information below and send to  
**Sherry Fowler, Ripple Editor/Circulation Manager**

2931 Glenarden Drive, Charleston, SC 29414

**along with a check for \$7.00 annually**

**made payable to SC Women of the ELCA if you'd like to receive a hard copy via US Mail—OR FREE if e-mailed.**

**PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION BELOW.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church & City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



South Carolina Women of the ELCA  
2931 Glenarden Dr.  
Charleston, SC 29414



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Lutheran women have a long history of Bible study, discipleship, and desire to deepen their spiritual life and learn about issues.

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***Café, Bold Connections***

***The Ripple***

**All of these publications may be accessed from our SC WELCA website—  
[www.scwelca.com](http://www.scwelca.com).**

**Join us on our Facebook group - *SC Women of the ELCA***