

The *Ripple*

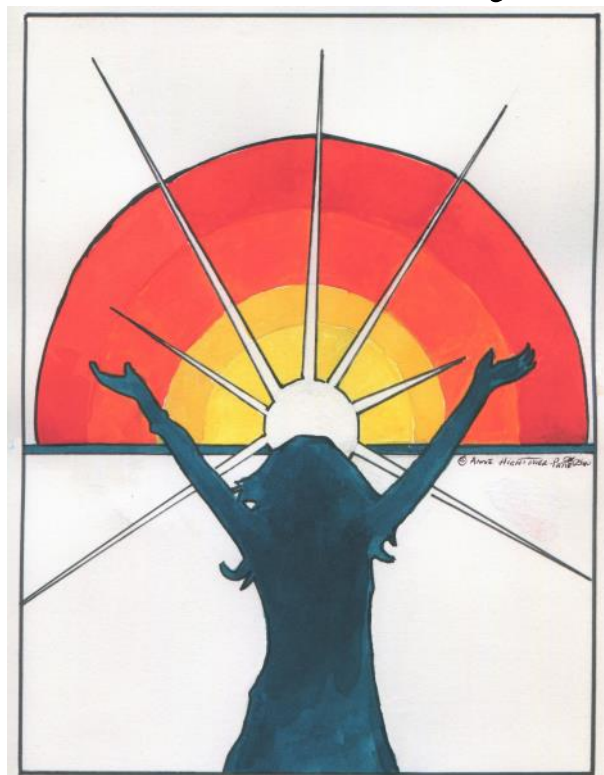
Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA



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

Winter 2018

Christ, Be Our Light



Redeemer Lutheran Church

in Columbia, SC on June 8-9, 2018



Rev. Mary Finklea, our Keynote Speaker, says,
*“‘Love one another,’ it sounds so simple, and
maybe it is, but living a life of love is anything
but easy. Join your sisters at convention this
year for some motivation and inspiration as we
practice together living a life of love. I look
forward to seeing you there.”*

Love
ONE ANOTHER
LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS

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President's Corner "Shine On"



Winter has arrived by way of a bomb cyclone named Grayson. I admit that I am not a fan of this season. Many days I am longing for the darkness of winter to recede. I am longing for the light. The light of the Christ child not only shines for us but calls each of us. When we answer that call, we can set the world ablaze with light, hope and love.

This year's theme, "Christ, Be Our Light" urges us to answer God's call by letting His light shine through us. This issue of the Ripple highlights opportunities to spread God's light at convention. We ask your support of the **Love One Another** program. The Spring issue will highlight our global project for Tanzania. The January 2018 issue of "Living Lutheran" has a wonderful article about this companion synod partnership. Our "Congregation Corner" column shares ideas for serving our neighbor.

At our November Board meeting, we regretfully accepted Jennifer Nuovo's resignation as Vice President. We appreciate the years she spent on the Board and we wish her the best. We are pleased that Margaret Shirer agreed to fill this position until June, and we look forward to working with Linda Roland as the Board member who filled Margaret's spot. We have an amazing convention staff this year. I encourage you to mark your calendar and plan to attend. We have a wide variety of workshops and presentations which we pray will provide opportunities for education, fellowship, and a sense of oneness with the wider church.

We are called to arise and shine, and we can by the grace of God. The light of Christ will guide us as we seek to act with justice. I ask that you pray for the women who have faced sexual assault. May God give all of us the courage to speak out. During this season of Epiphany, just as the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem, I ask myself: Am I following the light of Christ?

Grateful for grace,
Becky



Christ, Be Our Light

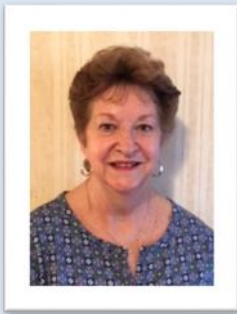
We are honored to have a work of art grace the cover of the 2018 Bulletin of Reports from one of South Carolina's favorite watercolor artists, Anne Hightower-Patterson White. An award-winning artist and popular art instructor, she was raised in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Her lifelong passion for painting began when she was twelve years old. Anne earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Studio Art from the University of South Carolina and a Master's in Education. Following her retirement from the public school system, Anne turned to painting full-time and teaches classes and workshops in the Columbia area and throughout the Southeast. She is a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Prosperity.

SC WELCA Important Dates and Deadlines

→ Don't FORGET!

March 26	Deadline - Nominations (Treasurer/Board) to Linda Griffith
April 10	Deadline - Nominations - YWG/FTG to Conference Coordinator*
April 15	Voting Member Registration forms to Registrar
April 15	Deadline - Nominations - YWG/FTG to SWO from Conference Coordinators
April 27-29	Isle of Palms retreat at Coastal Retreat Center
May 1	Deadline - No Refunds for Delegate/Visitor Registrations
May 29	Visitor Registration forms to Registrar
June 8-9	SC WELCA Convention at Redeemer, Columbia

*This form, included in this issue, was revised January 2018



Vice President's Corner

In November I accepted the position of Vice President upon the resignation of Jennifer Nuovo. Part of being your Vice President is to be chairperson for the convention. I am thankful Jennifer had already done a lot toward planning of the convention, and that I have a very supportive board. We have a very confident and willing Convention Staff assigned and will be very busy the next couple of months working to have a very meaningful and spiritual convention.

The 2018 convention will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia, S.C. on June 8 and 9. The THEME for the convention will be **"Christ, Be Our Light"** and the scripture comes from John 8:12: *"And Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life.'"*

We can put our faith into action by supporting our PROJECTS. Amanda and her committee have been busy putting these projects together. Let's show our support! Please refer to the Mission Action Report for details in supporting the Lutheran Services Carolinas and the Tanzania Dormitory Project.

REGISTRATION forms for the convention are included in this edition of *"The Ripple"* and are available on the website. Hotel and workshop information is also included on the registration forms. Please submit your registration forms by April 15th and make hotel reservations by May 8th to get the group rate. We are offering WORKSHOPS on a variety of topics. You will have the opportunity to attend three workshops on Friday, so be sure to mark your choices on the registration form.

The CONVENTION COMMITTEE has been busy. Amelia, Coastal and Epiphany Conferences will be hosting the convention. They will be reaching out to their churches to help serve at our convention.

2018 Convention Staff

Chair: Margaret Shirer

Co-Chair: Mary Soltis

Registrar: Sherry Sheppard

Assistant Registrar: Kaye Heins

Mission Action Chair: Amanda Boatwright

Parliamentarian: Carolyn Torrence

Nominating Committee Chair: Linda Griffith

Chaplin: Rev. Jackie Utley

Musician/Pianist: Melissa Sizemore

Song Leader: Sara Coffman

YWG Coordinator: Kristin Snelgrove

Banquet Entertainment: Cindy McKeowen

Your sister in Christ, Margaret Shirer

First Timer Coordinator: Dianne Pitts

Host Conference Coordinators:

Coastal: Donna Weatherholtz/Carolyn Berry/Kaye Heins

Epiphany: Dana Lee

Amelia: Martha Emily Shirer

Host Church Pastor: Rev. Gary Loadholdt

Technology: Pat George

Photographer: Amanda West Cruse

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Mary Finklea

Churchwide Representative: TBA

Triennial Gathering Promoter: Risse Snelgrove

Ripple Editor: Sherry Fowler

Treasurer's Report



A preliminary review of our February 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018 financial year is as follows:

- Regular Offerings of \$29,068 have been received (81% of the budgeted amount of \$36,000). 65% of our Regular Offerings are sent to churchwide.
- Joy Offerings of \$9,197 have been received (66% of the budgeted amount of \$14,000). 100% of these offerings are sent to support ELCA Good Gifts.
- Designated gifts for Katie's Fund and Thank Offerings of \$1,389 have been received (116% of the budgeted amount of \$1,200) and forwarded to churchwide.
- Special Offerings for Hurricane relief in the US and Caribbean totaled \$2,118.
- Conference donations of \$2,151 have been sent to SC charities.
- 2017 Convention offering and monetary donations to the convention projects totaled \$12,049 (241% of the \$5,000 budgeted amount). In total, expenses are below budget.
- Net income from the Edna Corley Estate and Honorary and Life Memberships for SCLTSS Scholarship is \$1,146.
- Donations toward the 2018 Convention project to raise \$10,000 to replace the furnishings for the girls' dormitories in Tanzania received this year are \$2,923.

Thank you for all of your financial support to our SC WELCA programs and projects during this year.

Blessings to all.

Rachel Quesada



From the Secretary

The SC WELCA met on Saturday, November 18, 2017, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia. The following are the highlights:

Heidi Rixman, Director of Development, Lutheran Services Carolinas gave a presentation about the SC Synod's capital campaign for 2018-2019, "Love One Another." Three areas of the campaign are "Guiding Young People Transitioning Out of Foster Care," "Welcoming the Stranger," and "Encouraging Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities."

SC WELCA has approved in-kind gifts collections in support of the campaign. Lutheran Services Carolinas' website has detailed information about the campaign and SC WELCA website has the list of donations requested.

The SC WELCA Board received and accepted Vice-President Jennifer Nuovo's resignation with regret. Margaret Shirer will assume duties as VP through Convention; Linda Roland will step into the board member position vacated by Margaret.

Reviewed the 2018 SWO Convention staff, projects, proposed workshops, entertainment, and lodging.

From the Treasurer's report: A total of \$2,618 was sent to Lutheran Disaster Response-Hurricanes, U.S. (\$1,000 from Benevolence, \$718 from Conferences and \$900 from Congregational Units).

There is a balance of \$2,500 in Benevolence. The Board voted to send \$2,000 to the Caribbean Synod for hurricane relief.

Mission Endowment Fund Grant of \$2,000 has been awarded. The grant will be combined with funds raised throughout the year through convention time and used to replace furnishings of the Tanzania Itamba school dormitories destroyed by fire. Our goal is to raise \$10,000.

Report from Nominations Chairperson, Linda Griffith, is there are 4 nominations received for the four Board vacancies (or treasurer).

Goals for 2017-2018 were reviewed and approved by the Board and will be posted on the website.

The next Board meeting will be held at Camp Kinard on February 9, 2018 beginning at noon prior to the retreat's evening session.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsa Hope, SWO Secretary

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*.



Linda Roland

Linda is a lifelong Lutheran who moved to Bluffton two years ago from West Virginia. She and her husband George have lived in five states now. This move is intended to be the last. They have 2 sons, Matthew and Jonathan. Matthew, a National Park Service law enforcement ranger, is married and lives in South Dakota with his wife and two daughters. Jon, a behavioral psychologist working with autistic children, is still single and lives in Toronto, ON, Canada. Linda is a retired RN. She has always been involved in WELCA within her congregations as treasurer and president. She has taught Sunday School and been on several church councils. While in West Virginia she spent 10 years total on the synodical board of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod. She has been the secretary and Vice President as well as a board member. As a member of Lord of Life in Bluffton, she is president of the WELCA unit and has attended two synod assemblies as one of the church delegates. She attended her first SCWELCA convention last year and is looking forward to getting to know and work with the many bold, dedicated women she has met already, as well as meeting more.

The Board voted to invite Linda to fill the vacancy on the Board which became available when Margaret became Vice President in November. She will serve on the Board until the convention in June. We will benefit from her leadership skills and previous experience on other state WELCA boards as we follow the Light of Christ.



COMMUNITY

With the new year comes renewed efforts from the Mission Community. This year we encourage all congregations to participate in WELCA Day / Bold Women's Day (February 25, 2018) and the World Day of Prayer (March 2, 2018). WELCA Day can take on many themes and be celebrated in a number of ways, from hosting a lunch after church to having the ladies of the church wear colorful flowers or pins. The 2018 theme for World Day of Prayer is "All God's Creation is Very Good." Taken from Genesis 1:1-31, this theme asks us to focus on our relationship with God's creation. Written by the women of Suriname, a small country in northern South America, they call on us to answer the question "How good is God's creation?" and to tie it to the larger World Day of Prayer movement motto of "informed prayer and prayerful action." So ask yourself and your congregation; what do you see of God's creation every day? How does your lifestyle impact God's creation? And what can you do to protect this special gift that has been left in our care?

Your Sisters in Christ, Mary Soltis (Chair), Merri Lewis, Karen Freeman (Facebook)

Welcome to the Congregation Corner!

Transfiguration Lutheran WELCA in Cayce: We will be serving dinner to the Lutheran Student Association at USC on Sunday, February 4. This is an annual project that we have done for several years.

Immanuel in Greenwood: The WELCA group collected supplies for Connie Maxwell Children's Home. We also received **Thrivent Action Team** dollars for a congregational drive to collect and purchase supplies for HospiceCare of the Piedmont, a nonprofit community hospice organization.



St. John's and Pomaria Lutheran in Pomaria: Blessing of the Quilts 2017 and together we send out messages of love and hope to other parts of the world. We quilted and shipped 64 quilts in November to LWR! Going on our 4th year of partnering in quilting, we get our fabric from Colony Lutheran's Annual Bazaar in Newberry.

Joy Lutheran Church in Moore: The WELCA group has collected stuffed animals for the Duncan, Lyman and Wellford Police department and also for home shelters after hosting speakers on human trafficking and domestic violence. At Christmas, socks and personal items were collected for Hope House for girls in Spartanburg. A continued project is making prayer shawls for various members of the church during hard times.

St. Luke's in Summerville: St. Luke's WELCA Circles participated in the Operation Christmas Child Project which was started by the Tuesday Evening Circle. OCC is a part of Samaritan's Purse, and sends shoeboxes filled with toys and hygiene products to unfortunate children all over the world. The congregation was very supportive of this project contributing items for the boxes as well as great financial assistance. We were delighted with the turnout at our packing party, and filled 229 shoeboxes which were delivered to the local OCC collection site.



****Do you have a local school or organization that you partner with? Have you used your Thrivent Action Team dollars? What kind of annual projects do you do at your church?**** Remember to send a blurb of your WELCA activities to Mary Soltis at Irmogirl2004@yahoo.com with the subject line "Congregation Corner". And remember to include your church's name and city, and list any address and contact info which applies. Please note that pictures may be included when space is available. Congregation Corner articles for the next Ripple should be submitted to me no later than **March 1, 2018**.



G R O W T H H I M O R

Mission Growth is a ministry that deals with our relationship with God. The Mission Growth committee for 2017 – 2018 is committed to continue to grow in our faith and in our sisterhood with activities driven by the following goals:

- Encourage women to attend retreats at Camp Kinard, the Isle of Palms and the Wild Women weekend at Lutheridge by providing information and publicizing activities.
- Promote awareness of the 2020 Triennial convention in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Provide information that encourages the building of relationships between generations through mentoring.
- Support and promote ELCA church-wide efforts to address natural disasters, human trafficking, domestic violence and hunger.

The Camp Kinard retreat is scheduled for February 9 – 10, 2018. It will be a time for fellowship, meals, and *Weekend of Awe and Wonder* as we explore the heavens that were made by God for us. Brochures and a flyer have been distributed by the conference liaisons during the Fall conferences. The information is also available on the SCWELCA website. A special thanks to the Board and to Agnes and Sallie Folk for organizing this special event. Registration is available on the SCWELCA website.

The Isle of Palms retreat will be held at the Isle of Palms on April 27 – 29, 2018. There will be meals, another dynamic Bible Study by Ada Arthur, fellowship time, and time for personal reflection. Ada's studies are awesome. You don't want to miss it! A special thank you to Agnes and Sallie Folk for organizing this retreat and facilitating the logistics. Below is the registration form and it is also available on the SCWELCA website.

Your Sisters in Christ,

Shari Donley, Chair

Gwen Furcron, Dianne Lominick, Agnes Folk, and Sallie Folk



Isle of Palms Retreat

April 27-29, 2018

Please send this portion with your deposit. *Register Early. Space is limited. One form per participant.*

*Please make checks payable to **Sallie Folk, 422 West Pine Street, Florence, SC 29501**

Name: _____

Please Print

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Home Church: _____

Roommates: _____

(2 to 4 ladies to a room)

Full Retreat: \$120.00 Day Timers: \$60.00

Amount Enclosed: _____ First time attendee: ____ Yes ____ No



Let us start the New Year by seeking Christ's LIGHT and responding to God's love by putting our faith in action. Mission Action is about being in direct services roles in the church. We act to insure that all people have access to basic human needs, equality, justice and safety. That is why we have chosen to help Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) in its Love One Another Campaign as one of our convention projects. We have also chosen a convention global project supporting the Tanzania Dormitories. We encourage you to post the project list at your church and invite the members of your congregation to bring supplies and give money donations for these projects.

2018 Convention Project- LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS - LOVE ONE ANOTHER CAMPAIGN

Lutheran Services Carolinas formerly known as Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, has a strong history of providing high quality care and loving ministry to thousands of people throughout South and North Carolina. Whether protecting children from abuse and exploitation, welcoming a refugee seeking a new life or helping individuals with disabilities to live as independently as possible, LSC is guided by its mission, "Empowered by Christ, we walk together with all we serve." An inventory page is included in this issue of *The Ripple*. Each church is asked to turn in this completed inventory sheet with the items they bring into the convention. Feel free to donate as much as you like. These are not kits, and you can bring items at will. Carts and wagons will be available to help bring the supplies into the convention area.



2018 Convention Global Project -TANZANIA DORMITORIES

Your monetary donations to our sister synod in Tanzania will be used to buy and replace furnishings for girls' dormitories damaged by fire. We have set a goal to raise \$10,000 to replace furnishings for these dormitories- a lofty goal for sure, but when have you known SC women of the ELCA to think small ?

Another way to show God's Light is to support 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 who 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; or phone 803-932-0155(home) or 803-206-2493 (cell).

Action Committee Members

Amanda Boatwright (Chair)
Margaret Shirer (Convention Chair)
Sarah Cheesman
Linda Roland
Virginia Herlong

Host Conference Coordinators

Dana Lee
Donna Weatherholtz
Martha Emily Shirer



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CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Friday, June 8

8:30 Registration begins
10:00 Pre-Convention workshops
11:30 Lunch
12:30 Formal Opening of Convention
6:30 Banquet

Saturday, June 9

9:00 Reconvene
12:00 Lunch
3:00 Closing Worship



Chaplain: The Reverend Jacqueline Utley

We are blessed to have the Reverend Jacqueline Utley (fondly called Pastor Jackie) as our spiritual leader for this year's convention. Pastor Jackie was ordained as a rostered leader of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in June 2013. Her ordination was a historical event, as she is the first African American to be ordained in the SC Synod of the ELCA. Pastor Jackie began serving in 2013 as the first African American and female pastor of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Eau Claire. She served as our convention keynote speaker in 2015 and served as a voting member for the 2017 Triennial Convention in Minneapolis. Her biographical narrative will appear in the Spring issue of the *Ripple*.

Keynote Speaker: The Reverend Mary M. Finklea

Rev. Mary M. Finklea lives in Florence with her husband, Wade, and three "kids", goats Lilly, LuLu, and Leroy. She is a graduate of Winthrop University and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. She served twelve years as the pastor of Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Florence, SC and is now enjoying some time away from congregational ministry. Her work in the community includes having served on the boards of Francis Marion University, Lighthouse Ministries, and Lutheran Services Carolinas. She is currently president of Women In Philanthropy of the Pee Dee. As the ecumenical representative of the SC Synod of the ELCA, she enjoys learning about traditions different from her own, and is delighted to be our speaker this year. Pastor Mary is the campaign chair for the Love One Another SC Synod capital campaign for Lutheran Services Carolinas.



Convention Musician/Pianist: Melissa Sizemore

Melissa Daniel Sizemore was raised in Gaffney and moved to Laurens in 1988. She taught public school for 30 years full time and 8 years part time—teaching elementary grades and also music. She also worked as a church musician—directing choirs, playing organ and piano. Melissa holds Level 3 Orff Schulwerk certification, studying with Konnie Saliba, Jos Wuytack and others. For the last 15 years Melissa has used the World Music Drumming curriculum to hold drumming sessions with all ages. This program was developed by Will Schmid (former president of MENC).

Melissa holds the BS degree in Music Education from Winthrop, the MA in Music Education from Appalachian and the ED S degree in Educational Administration from Winthrop. She states, "I am glad to be working with Sara to help drum and sing up some fun at the convention."



2018 SC WELCA Convention Continued



Friday Night Entertainment: Cindy McKeowen

Cindy is a Contemporary Christian Artist from Cameron, S.C. She and her husband, Chuck, have three children, Wesley, Taylor, and Kelly. Kelly died at the age of fifteen in 2007. Cindy is a retired educator from Calhoun Public Schools and Orangeburg Preparatory Schools. She recently became a grandmother and enjoys keeping her grandson, Myles.

The Cindy McKeowen Ministries was established in 1999. She has published three sound recordings: "It's All About You," a project of original compositions; "Christmas Wishes," a project of holiday tunes; and "In My Eyes," her most recent project, released in Dec. 2002. Cindy sings for church services, concerts, church retreats, luncheons,

revivals, youth meetings, weddings, funerals and a variety of civic and community events and is noted for her personal touch and ability to "connect" with her audience. She volunteers as a Stephen Minister at The Regional Medical Center and frequently ministers to elderly and terminally ill patients/friends featuring her unique voice and acoustic guitar.



LSC—LOVE ONE ANOTHER PROGRAMS



Refugee Services—LSC has close to 25 years of experience welcoming refugees in South Carolina. In 2016, 282 refugees from such countries as Eritrea, Democratic of Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar/Burma were served in South Carolina. LSC case managers, along with community partners, work with extensively vetted, newly arrived refugees to arrange housing, provide cultural education and assist with stable employment, which will be key to achieving self-sufficiency. In addition, LSC provides care for unaccompanied children.

Host Homes for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities

LSC operates 10 safe and supportive residential training homes for up to 40 individuals with significant intellectual and/or developmental challenges, such as autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy. These homes offer each resident the opportunity to live in the community in a home-like environment under the supervision of qualified and trained staff. Residents receive individualized support services and training in the development

of basic living skills and are encouraged to become involved in community activities. In addition, LSC currently operates 23 host homes for individuals with less severe disabilities. Host homes each serve one adult who lives with a host family to receive loving support and care.



Transitioning Out of Foster Care—In 2016, LSC protected 137 children in 27 South Carolina counties from abuse and neglect through family foster care and therapeutic foster care. More than 80% were served through therapeutic foster care, which offers specialized services for youth who often have emotional or behavioral challenges as a result of the traumatic experiences they have endured in their short lives. LSC works closely with foster families to help achieve safety, permanency and well-being for all the children it serves.



SC WELCA 2018 Convention Project

Love One Another Campaign through Lutheran Services Carolinas three programs:

Refugee Services, Host Homes-Individuals with Developmental and/or Intellectual Disabilities, and Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Church _____ Address _____

Conference _____ Contact/Phone# _____

<u>Linens and Other Supplies (New):</u>	<u>Number of Items</u>	<u>School Supplies and Clothing:</u>	<u>Number of Items</u>
Bath Towels		Pens	
Kitchen Towels		Pencils	
Bed Sheets (any size)		Journals -notebooks	
Pillow Cases		Backpacks	
Blankets		Socks all sizes	
Total		Total	
<u>Toiletries:</u>		<u>New Cleaning Supplies:</u>	
Shampoo		Paper Towels	
Soap		Toilet Paper	
Toothbrushes		Bathroom Cleaner	
Toothpaste		Multipurpose Cleaner	
Pads		Trash Bags (13 gallon)	
Tampons		Laundry Detergent	
Razors		Sponges	
Shaving Cream		Dish Soap	
Hair brushes		Total	
Combs		<u>Other:</u>	
Total		Total	
<u>Baby Items:</u>		Radio	
Disposable Diapers		Total	
Baby Wipes			
Total			
<u>Gift Cards:</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Checks: Made out to SC WELCA</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Refugee Services	\$	Lutheran Services Carolinas	\$
Host Homes	\$	Total	\$
Foster Care	\$		
Where Most Need	\$		
Total	\$		
		<u>Checks: Made out to SC WELCA</u>	
		Tanzania	\$
		Total	\$
		<u>Checks: Made out to SC WELCA</u>	
		Refugee Services	\$
		Host Homes	\$
		Foster Care	\$
		Where Most Need	\$
		Total	\$
Gift cards can be from Walmart, Target, Mastercard, and Visa		Please make all checks out to SC WELCA. (We are accepting monetary gifts for Lutheran Services and their three programs and Tanzania Project.)	



SC Women of the ELCA Annual Convention

Theme: "Christ, Be Our Light"

June 8-9, 2018

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbia, 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.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridging the Gap | <input type="checkbox"/> Bad Girls of the Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Catholic Dialogue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Churchwide Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachata Dancing | <input type="checkbox"/> In the Potter's Hand – Roger Clark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craft/Service Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Thrivent, Generous Living | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Our Light: We are the Church Together | | |

REGISTRATION:

Voting Member – \$35.00, after April 15, 2018 - \$40.00; **Visitor** – \$15.00 \$ _____

BULLETIN OF REPORTS: **Voting Member** (included); **Visitor** - \$5.00 (opt) \$ _____

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, 2018 for convention planning

Visitor – Please submit registration by May 29, 2018 for meal counts

NO refunds after May 1, 2018

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

Voting Member Two from each Congregational Unit - **Late substitution is allowed**
Pay for mileage, meals, lodging and registration
Please submit registration by April 15, 2018 so that convention committees can be selected and the Bulletin of Reports prepared for print.

Visitor (non-voting) Those attending the convention either not on the agenda or assigned a specific responsibility
Pay for mileage, meals, lodging and registration
Please submit registration by May 29, 2018 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, Margaret Shirer. 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 9, 2018. However, please register as early as possible to assist us in convention planning.

LODGING AVAILABLE NEAR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH IN COLUMBIA

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

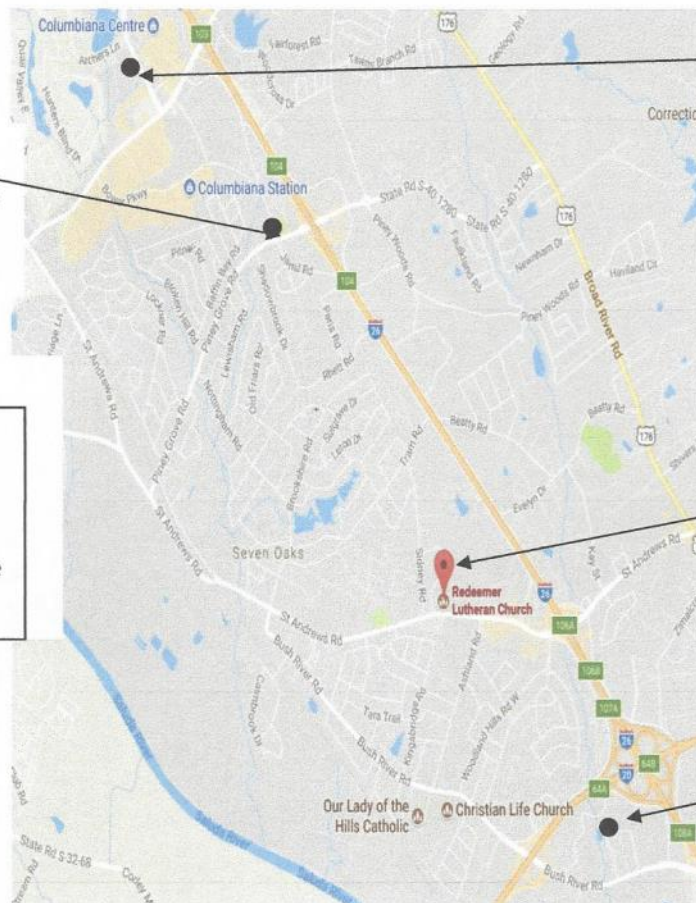
Comfort Suites
\$110.00 plus tax
Inside rooms, 3.8 miles from church
750 Saturn Parkway
Columbia, SC 29212
(803) 407-4444

Holiday Inn Express
\$124 plus tax
inside rooms
3.3 miles from church
211 Lanneau Court
Columbia, SC 29212
(803) 732-2229

Prices quoted are our
WELCA group rates.
Book EARLY !!!
Rooms must be booked
by May 8, 2018 to receive
the group rate.

**Redeemer
Lutheran Church**
525 St Andrews Road
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 772-5419

Baymont Inn & Suites
\$79 plus tax
inside rooms; 2.9 mile from church
347 Zimacrest Drive
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 731-2300





S.C. Women of the ELCA Annual Convention

Theme: "Christ, Be Our Light"

June 8-9, 2018

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbia, 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, 2018.

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.

Submitted by (Congregation Unit President) _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

CONFERENCE COORDINATOR: (due by April 24, 2018)

1. Above nominee will be (check only one): ☐ Primary Nominee ☐ Alternate Nominee ☐ Not sponsored
2. Above nominee will be sponsored by (check only one): ☐ Synodical Board ☐ Conference
3. Mail this form to Convention Registrar: Sherry Sheppard, 128 S. Main St., Ste. 1, Summerville SC 29483
4. Notify Synodical Vice President: Margaret Shirer, margaretshirer@aol.com or 803-308-1044 (c), 803-826-6187 (h)
5. Notify Synodical Treasurer: Rachel Quesada, aracheig@gmail.com or 561-866-3011

Rev. Jan 2018



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, 2018. 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.

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, 2018, 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) and mail all of the completed forms to the Convention Registrar and Convention Chair by April 24, 2018. 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.
4. Notify the Synodical Vice President and Treasurer of all sponsored nominees by Apr 24, 2018.

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



Convention Workshops



Craft/Service Project Workshop: Ella Shumpert



This workshop will involve making a candle holder for you to keep and our service project will be button bracelets that will be suitable for our children in Tanzania. The cost will be by donation only. Without Jesus we all walk in darkness. This workshop will be offered at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm, and 4:30 pm.

Bachata Dancing: Lisette Martinez

Bachata is a style of **dance** that originated in the Dominican Republic. It is danced widely all over the world but not identically. The basics to the **dance** are three-step with a Cuban hip motion, followed by a tap including a hip movement on the 4th beat. This workshop will be offered at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm, and 4:30 pm.



Bridging the Gap: Kristin Snelgrove

This workshop will be for the young and young at heart. For the young, it will be an opportunity to discuss what you are looking for in WELCA and what WELCA can do to help you grow in your faith and become more involved in your faith community. For the young at heart, it will be an opportunity to find out from the source how you can encourage young women to join you in fellowship. It will also be a chance to share the ways WELCA has impacted your life and why being involved with it is not just important, but rewarding as well. This workshop will be offered at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm, and 4:30 pm.

Sharing Our Light: We are the Church Together: Rev. Eric Wolf

This workshop will discuss what it means that we are a synod together, ministries and initiatives going on in South Carolina, and how we are each part of and active in what it means to be Church together. The goal is to develop a deeper understanding of the connectedness of individuals and congregations as the synod together so that we can be advocates for the ministries we share. Using short videos, articles, and conversation in large and small groups, we will work to discern ways that God is calling each of us into ministries that match our time and talents and draw connections between what our congregations, synod, and churchwide expressions of God's Church are doing. This workshop will be offered at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm.

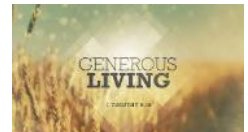


Bad Girls of the Bible – what we can learn from them: Rev. Jane Mitcham

In this workshop we will look at the stories of two women of the Bible, Eve and the unnamed woman at the well, and see how their stories inform the lives of women today. This workshop will be offered at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm.

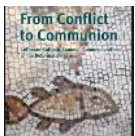
Thrivent: Generous Living with Elements of Living Wisely: Micah Velilla

Join us as we explore deeper generous living through the lenses of maximizing retirement and creating a meaningful legacy. We will touch on the balance between enjoying the fruits of your labor and making an impact through charity, as well as strategies for wealth transfer that empower the next generation to continue building the kingdom. This workshop is offered at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm, and 4:30 pm.



In the Potter's Hand: Roger Clark

This workshop will be presented as a scripture based object lesson incorporating spiritual truths along with practical explanation of my work as a studio potter. My purpose is glorifying Christ, while creating a beautiful vessel on the potter's wheel, and being inspirational and entertaining. This workshop will be offered at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm.



Lutheran Catholic Dialogue: Rev. Mary Finklea

"From Conflict to Communion" states "As the commemoration in 2017 brings joy and gratitude to expression, so must it also allow room for both Lutherans and Catholics to experience the pain over failures and trespasses..." This workshop will provide an overview of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue of the past fifty years through discussion about areas of agreement and areas where there is still work to be done. Join Pastor Finklea as we learn more about division and unity in the body of Christ.

Churchwide Representative: TBA

Please join our Churchwide Representative for a Bible Study and a time of sharing. She will bring updates from the Chicago office and will have time for a question and answer session.

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Convention will be here before you know it! **JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER** – the Nominating Committee needs nominations ASAP! DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION IS MARCH 26, 2018.

We need a nomination or two for Treasurer and 4-5 for Board Members. Please pray that your sisters will step up to the plate and allow us to nominate them! Ask in your congregations and conferences if anyone is willing to serve. The duties were published in the *Fall 2017 Ripple* or you can go on line at www.SCWELCA.com/events, scroll to middle of page, and then click under 2018 Nominations for SC WELCA Board Member.

Please continue to pray for our Board.

Yours in Christ,

2018 Nominating Committee

Linda Griffith, Chair
(Midlands, Saxe Gotha, Western)
803-920-3975 (lindagriffith2@aol.com)

Judy Lybrand
(Foothills, Upstate, Heartland)
864-576-8217 (brentandjudyL@att.net)

Diane Wicker
(Epiphany, Amelia, Coastal)
843-538-5618 (thewickers@lowcountry.com)

Bold Women's Day is February 25—Let's get our bold on!



Young Women Guests

Convention is approaching and I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to those I haven't met. My name is Kristin Snelgrove and I am honored to have been chosen as the Young Women Guest Coordinator. I'm a SC native currently working as a registered nurse. The WELCA has played a big part in my life by helping me grow in my faith and find His light in the dark. Please reach out to a young woman in your congregation to nominate for the Young Woman Guest scholarship so that they may have that same experience. We need each other to grow into the future.

First Time Guests

Celebrate the New Year by nominating a First Time Guest from your congregation. The nomination form can be found in *The Ripple*. This experience will inspire a woman in your congregation to become involved with the South Carolina Women of the ELCA. There is so much information available, a variety of workshops, and the opportunity to form relationships with other Lutheran women in South Carolina. The statewide service challenge is inspirational! Join the SC WELCA in Columbia in June.

Dianne Pitts



CONFERENCE	DATE AND TIME	HOST CHURCH
#1 Foothills	Saturday, March 17, 10:00 AM	University Lutheran, Clemson
#5 Heartland	Sunday, April 22, 3:00 PM	Mt. Tabor, Little Mountain
#7 Coastal	Saturday, March 17, 10:30 AM	St. Luke's, Summerville
#8 Saxe-Gotha	Sunday, March 18, 3:00 PM	Sandy Run Lutheran, Swansea
#9 Western	Sunday, March 18, 3:00 PM	Cedar Grove, Leesville
#2 Upstate, #3 Epiphany, #4 Amelia, #6 Midlands	No Spring Meetings	



SC Women of the ELCA Annual Convention

Theme: "Christ, Be Our Light"

June 8-9, 2018

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbia, SC

Board/Treasurer Nomination for Election

*Complete both sides of this form; include a "head shot" photo of nominee, and return by **March 26, 2018** to: Linda Griffith, Nomination Chair, 3963 Brutus Pass, West Columbia, SC 29170-1309; 803-359-1278 or 803-920-3975 cell ; lindagriffith2@aol.com*

Check all that apply:

☐ Board Member ☐ Treasurer

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**



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)

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

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

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

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

Submitter Information

Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (cell or work) _____

Email _____

Congregational Unit/City _____



South Carolina Women of the ELCA

Synodical Board 2017-2019

President

Becky Koch (exp 2018)
336 Nautical Way
Greenwood, SC 29649
864-344-1786 cell
beckykoch01@gmail.com

Vice President

Margaret Shirer
2652 McCords Ferry Road
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803-308-1044 cell
margaretshirer@aol.com

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Rachel Quesada (exp 2019)
520 Timber Lane
Anderson, SC 29621
864-226-8546 hm
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arachelq@gmail.com

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423 Martin Drive
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803-687-3637
msangelwingschurchchick@yahoo.com

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Shari Donley (exp 2018)
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lindajroland@gmail.com

Mary Soltis (exp 2018)
10738 Broad River Road
Irmo, SC 29063
803-727-3228
irmogirl2004@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

Honorary Life/Memorial Recognition Coordinator

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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 (NEW RATE) or **e-mailed for free to anyone.** *The Ripple* is published under the auspices of the Mission: Community Committee of S.C. Women of the ELCA.

To submit material for publication, contact *The Ripple* Editor, Sherry Fowler at (sherry@fowlersc.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.

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Winter 2018 Ripple

Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA



Sherry Fowler, Editor

The Gather Magazine says

“We want your stories!”

Want to be featured in an upcoming issue of *Gather*? **We are looking for stories about a time God surprised you or about an important lesson you learned in an unexpected way.** Do you have a memory of a time God spoke through something unexpected in your life? **Send 150 (or fewer) words to gather@elca.org by February 1, 2018 to be considered.**

STAY CONNECTED

**There are so many ways that Women of the ELCA can stay connected;
*Daily Grace, Gather magazine, Interchange, Café, Bold Connections
The Ripple***

**All of these publications may be accessed from our SC WELCA website—
www.scwelca.com.**

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