

The *Ripple*

Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA



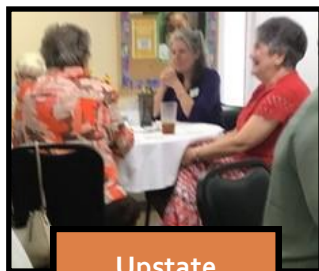
Check out our **website** for up-to-date information and pictures.
Go to **<http://www.scwelca.com>**.

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

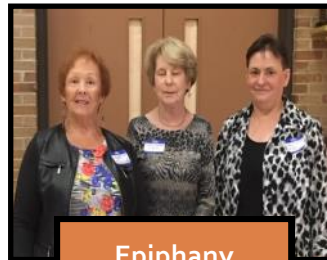
Fall 2018



Foothills



Upstate



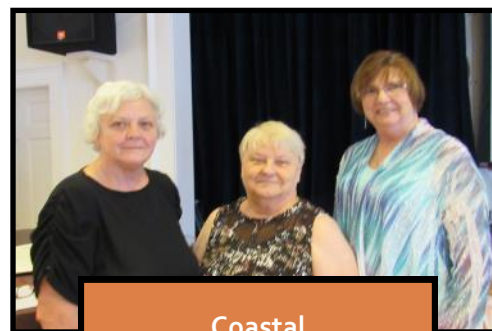
Epiphany



Amelia



Heartland



Coastal



Saxe-Gotha



Midlands



Western

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Happy Fall! This season has been filled with opportunities for SC Women of the ELCA to join together as a Christian community of women. Conference meetings are prime examples of women in community. Through these meetings, we support local organizations across the state. Your generous offerings are testaments to the ways we share God's gifts.

Our theme this year is "Grace in Community." God bestows grace upon grace on his children. Our response to his unmerited love and mercy is assistance, support and prayer for his children everywhere recovering from natural disasters and those who suffer from addiction, hunger, abuse, and homelessness.

This year, SC WELCA will support Lighthouse for Life, a non-profit organization which provides assistance to female minors who are victims of human trafficking in South Carolina. This issue of *The Ripple* provides details about how your congregation can join us in our fight to end modern day slavery.

As a community of women and disciples of Christ, we can act boldly to grow in faith, engage in ministry and action, and support one another. Retreats, congregational unit and convention projects, and community service are opportunities to study God's word and reflect Christ's light. Please prayerfully consider ways you can serve your Lord through your service to SC WELCA. You might use your gifts to serve as a Board member, as secretary, or as a Triennial Convention Voting Member.

On a lighter note, I saw a sign on Facebook that said, "Walmart thinks I want to put up my Christmas tree and eat turkey while wearing my Halloween costume." As we approach the Holiday season, let's remember to count our blessings and remember the reason for the season. As we go about our daily activities, let's show kindness and pray for our neighbors as we rely on God's grace and answer Christ's call to discipleship.

Grateful for grace,

Becky



Spring Conference Meetings



CONFERENCE	DATE AND TIME	HOST CHURCH
#1 Foothills	TBA	St. Michael's, Greenville
#2 Upstate	No Meeting	
#3 Epiphany	No Meeting	
#4 Amelia	No Meeting	
#5 Heartland	Sunday, April 28, 3 PM	Summer Memorial, Newberry
#6 Midlands	No Meeting	
#7 Coastal	Saturday, March 23	St. Luke's, Summerville
#8 Saxe-Gotha	TBA	Mt. Hermon, W Columbia
#9 Western	Sunday, March 17, 3 PM	St. Paul's, Gilbert



VICE PRESIDENT AND CONVENTION CHAIR REPORT

As your vice president, I am also pleased to be your convention chair. As many of you have hopefully heard, 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. Grace is the foundation of our Lutheran heritage, and it is in community that we seek to live out our mission and purpose. 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 new hymn "Grace Alone" helps to focus 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 SC as needed. Also, in support of victims, we will be collecting monetary donations for Lighthouse for Life, a non-profit organization that provides education and training related to human trafficking in SC and also to support their ministry to sexual trafficking victims throughout SC. Our global project will be writing "Thinking of You/Thank You for Your Service" cards for our active duty military personnel overseas during convention.

Please find the convention REGISTRATION form included in this *Ripple*. Full workshop write-ups will follow. Please consider running for the board, either as a board member or as secretary. Also, please think of inviting a young woman or a first time guest to convention. This is how we grow as a community. 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.

The CONVENTION COMMITTEE is still planning everything. Our host conference coordinator, Emily Wright, and I have already met and have Midlands churches ready to sign up as volunteers. We still have plenty of opportunities to help so if you are in the Midlands Conference and you have not been notified and would like to take part in our convention, please contact Emily Wright or me so we can get you involved.

2019 Convention Staff

Chair: Mary Soltis
 Assistant Registrar: Kaye Heins
 Parliamentarian: Carolyn Torrence
 Host Church Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle
 First Time Guest Coord: Dianne Pitts
 Photographer: Amanda Cruse

Registrar: Sherry Sheppard
 Song Leader: Sara Coffman
 Technology Coordinator: Pat George
 Mission Action Chair: Sarah Cheesman
 Young Women Coord: Denise Warren
 Midlands Conference Coord: Emily Wright

Your Sister in Christ,
 Mary Soltis



TREASURER'S REPORT

As of September 30, 2018, we have received \$17,488 in Regular Offerings and \$6,667 in Joy Offerings. Sixty-five percent of our Regular Offerings are sent to churchwide to support the WELCA budget and 100% of our Joy Offerings are sent to the ELCA Good Gifts. Our Regular Offerings and Joy Offerings are about 50% of the budgeted amounts for the year. To meet our budget goals for this year Regular Offerings and Joy Offerings in the last 4 months of the year need to be approximately the same amount as we have received in the first 8 months.

Other receipts include \$300 from congregational units for Florence Hurricane relief, \$951 for life memberships, \$438 interest from the CD to support the LTSS Scholarship, \$411 for *The RIPPLE* subscriptions and an amazing \$35,313 from convention offering and projects.

In addition to sending our Regular and Joy Offerings to churchwide, disbursements include convention expenses of \$14,532, donations of \$21,559 to our 2018 convention projects for Lutheran Services Carolinas and Tanzania, *The RIPPLE* publication expenses of \$1,857 and Board and committee expenses of \$1,718.

May God continue to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others.

Rachel Quesada



SECRETARY'S REPORT



The first SC WELCA Board Meeting was held Sunday, August 12, 2018 at Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church, Chapin. Here are highlights from the meeting:

- Thank you cards and letters: Ted Goins, Jr. President, Lutheran Services Carolinas for our contributions in support for the Love One Another capital campaign; Charlene Fink, for contributions for the Tanzania Dormitory Project; Anna Sarver, for the hospitality extended.
- President Koch welcomed new board members: Amanda Sease-Baker, Kristin Snelgrove, and Rae Davis.
- Adopted/approved by the board: 2019 Convention theme - "Grace in Community"; theme scripture - Hebrews 4:16; logo - a graphic with multicolored people in a circle with a cross in the center; theme hymn – *Grace Alone*.
- Nominating Committee 2019: Julie Watson, Paulette Miller, Cecilia Dunlap, and Brenda Byrd. Positions for vote are Vice-President (ecclesiastical), secretary, and 4 board members, and 4 Triennial voting members. Elsa Hope is not eligible for nomination for Secretary.
- Vice President Soltis gave summaries of the 2018 convention evaluations and progress update for the 2019 convention.
- Committee Action Chair Sarah Cheesman briefed the board about Lighthouse for Life, a non-profit agency which focuses on domestic minor sex trafficking and the support they need for their Freedom Bag Ministry; Sarah will research further whether Lighthouse for Life will be the recipient of SC WELCA donations. ** Sarah made a motion for Human Trafficking to be the local project. The motion was seconded; MOTION PASSED.
- Mission Community Chair Amanda Boatwright reported the committee's promotion of various events and communications supported by SC WELCA (National Day of Prayer, Bold Women's Sunday, Facebook, SC WELCA website, and other publications) and passed out the Fall Conference meeting list.
- Mission Growth Chair Dianne Lominick encouraged retreat attendance at Camp Kinard (February 8-9, 2019). Dianne made a motion that former board member Linda Roland facilitate the 7-part video series *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible* by The Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell for the Camp Kinard retreat. The motion was seconded; MOTION PASSED.
- Sherry Fowler, Editor/Circulation Manager gave *The Ripple* and SC WELCA Website reports.
- Board reviewed Calendar of Events for 2018-2019 activities; finalized committees and chairs; finalized the liaisons for conferences; committee assignments were announced.

More details for the above can be found in this *Ripple*; the minutes will be posted once they have been approved by the board. The next board meeting will be held November 10, 2018 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Lexington.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Hope

** Convention projects approved by the Board via email vote August 21, 2018, email subj: Action Team Recommends dtd 081718, 9:08 AM submitted by Action Chair, Sarah Cheesman.

REMINDER: Please send your congregation unit leader/officer updates to either my email or home address which are listed on the Synodical Board Roster found in this issue.

SC WELCA 2019 CONVENTION
JUNE 7 & 8, 2019
ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN
LEXINGTON, SC





The task and work of SC WELCA women is an inspiring and uplifting display of what SC WELCA ladies can do to make a difference in their communities. At the Fall 2018 conference meetings, guest speakers not only spoke about those in need but also educated ladies on the ways they could help in their communities.

A total of 336 ladies attended the meetings and \$3,676.50 was donated to the following groups: Foothills: Dream Center / Upstate: Hope of Lancaster, S.C. / Epiphany: South Carolina Hurricane Relief / Amelia: Hebron Grace Home / Heartland: Newberry Free Medical Clinic / Midlands: Lutheran Hurricane Relief / Coastal: Water Mission / Saxe-Gotha: Patsy Amick (Speaker) and Flood Relief / Western: I Care

Community Committee Goals 2018-2019:

- Promote SC WELCA website and Facebook page.
- Promote use of WELCA provided Bible Studies.
- Promote and Create Awareness of the local and global projects (Lighthouse for Life and military thank you cards).
- Promote and focus on World Day of Prayer.
- Encourage congregations to host WELCA Day/ Bold Women's Sunday.
- Promote and encourage Congregational Corner for *The Ripple* where congregations can share experiences and ideas.
- Promote and encourage young women to be involved in WELCA and attend conventions and conference meetings.
- Start up a "Prayer Corner" for the Facebook page where congregations can ask for prayer for someone in need, natural disasters, congregational needs, or prayers for Synod.
- Start up a "Recipe Corner" for *The Ripple* where the congregations can send in their favorite recipes to share.
- Collect pictures of veterans/active duty military of SC WELCA ladies and their family members to put on a mural for display at convention as a thank you for their service. We will share their pictures, time served, and branch served so we can display our thank you for our freedom that they grace us as a community to give so freely.

Your sisters in Christ,

Amanda Boatwright (Chair)

Kristin Snelgrove

Sherry Fowler (*The Ripple* editor)

Gwen Furcron

Karen Freeman (Facebook editor)

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RECIPE CORNER

Chicken Balls

(submitted by Amanda Boatwright)

2 packages of 8oz cream cheese

1 package of dry ranch dressing

1 can of chicken

1 cup of pecans chopped up

Ritz crackers

Mix cream cheese, dry ranch dressing and chicken together. Shape into a ball. Put in refrigerator and let get cold for 30 mins. Then take out and roll in chopped pecans.

Served with Ritz crackers.

Crunchy Cornbread

(submitted by Sarah Cheesman)

1/2 cup corn oil

1 cup sour cream

3 eggs

1 package corn muffin mix

1 tsp salt

1 small can yellow creamed corn

Whip oil and eggs. Add other ingredients and mix well. Pour into a greased 9-inch pan. Bake at 375 degrees F. until brown on top – about 40 minutes. 6 servings

ACTION



The Mission Action Committee is excited and looking forward to the upcoming 32nd Annual Convention of the SC Women of the ELCA to be held June 7-8, 2019. We hope that you are too and that you will respond to our message of “Grace in Community” through our convention projects.

Mission Action Goals are to enable women to articulate and act upon their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ in all areas of life. Our goals for 2018-2019 are:

- Support and promote the 2018-2019 SWO goals.
- Encourage support of SC WELCA scholarships at LTSS through the Honorary Life and Recognition Program.
- Work with the convention host conference to formulate and assist with 2019 convention project plan.
- Provide information about human trafficking via our website, to the conferences and congregational units and to present information about our projects at conference meetings.
- Support a global project for sending “Thinking of You/Thank You for Your Service” cards to our active duty military personnel during the 2019 convention.
- Suggest a convention workshop and/or keynote speaker related to our local and/or global projects.
- Submit *Ripple* article covering our goals and projects for 2018 - 2019.

The theme of our 2019 convention, “Grace in Community” is truly exemplified in our project this year. We can bestow blessings to victims of sex trafficking as we assist them into a safer environment and honor them as they recover!

SC WELCA will 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. The backpack helps the girls as they are rescued with literally nothing but the clothes on their backs! 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. 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 or call them at (803)900-0907.

2019 Convention Global Project

Additionally, during convention, we plan to honor our military personnel by creating “Thinking of You” and “Thank You for Your Service” cards to send to our active duty military. “Grace in Community” can and will be far reaching as we bestow our love to people in need throughout SC and the world.

Honorary Life and Memorial Recognition Program

Another way to show “Grace in Community” is to support the Honorary Life and Memorial Recognition Program. You may honor a woman, man or 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).

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

Action Committee:

Sarah D. Cheesman, Chair

Amanda Sease-Baker

Kristin Snelgrove

Virginia Herlong, Honorary/Life Memberships

Mary Soltis, Convention Chair

Rae Davis

Emily Wright, Host Conference Coordinator





The Mission Growth Committee for 2018-2019 is committed to continue to grow in our faith and in our sisterhood with activities to support 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. (See Page 14 for Registration Forms.)
- Promote awareness of the 2020 Triennial Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Provide information that encourages the building of relationships among generations through mentoring.
- Support and promote ELCA church-wide efforts to address natural disasters, human trafficking, domestic violence, and hunger.

The Camp Kinard retreat will be held on February 8-9, 2019. It is a time of fellowship and learning. The topic, **How Lutherans Interpret the Bible**, is a video presentation by Dr. Mark Allan Powell with follow-up discussion led by Linda Roland from Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Bluffton, SC. The retreat begins with dinner at 6 PM Friday and ends after lunch on Saturday. Brochures were given out at the Fall Conference meetings, and a registration form is included here in *The Ripple*.

The Isle of Palms retreat will be held on April 26-28, 2019. Look for both registration forms in this issue of *The Ripple*. More information on this retreat will be provided later.

Thanks to everyone who helps with these retreats.

Your Sisters in Christ,

Dianne Lominick, Merri Lewis, Agnes Folk and Sallie Folk

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CONGREGATION CORNER

St. Philip Lutheran Church in Myrtle Beach:

Sponsored a celebration of "God's Work, Our Hands" on Sunday, September 9, 2018. Members of St. Philip's Lutheran Church, along with members of Messiah Episcopal Church (who share a worship space) honored local fire departments #2, #5, and #6 by hosting a breakfast to say "thank you" for their service to their communities. The men and women of the fire departments were treated to a home-cooked southern breakfast and some good-old-fashioned fellowship. Active and retired military, EMS personnel, and active and retired fire department personnel were invited. St. Philip's Lutheran and Messiah Episcopal used "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday as a day when they said "Thank You" to those who serve us, showed their appreciation to them and offered their sincere gratitude.

Hurricane Relief

The SC Synod has received requests for help from members in the flooded and devastated areas after Hurricanes Florence and Michael. Some have lost everything. The best way to help directly is by donating money. This allows flexibility in responding to immediate needs. We are putting those funds in motion as quickly as possible.

Monetary donations allow for the most flexibility. Donations through the synod will be used throughout Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia for immediate need. Donations through Lutheran Disaster Response will go toward the long-term recovery stages.

Giving through the South Carolina Synod may be done online on the SC Synod website. Choose South Carolina Disaster Response. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.



SC Women of the ELCA Goals for 2018- 2019

The 2018-2019 goals for SC Women of the ELCA are based on the Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement. An expanded version, which has specific goals for each section, may be found on the SC WELCA website.

"Community of Women" – We are a group of women created in the image of God and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are called to develop and engage an inclusive movement to bring all women into fellowship and ministry for community.

"Disciples of Jesus Christ" – We are followers of Jesus who strive to live in the way of Christ.

"Grow in Faith" – Through faith opportunities and using resources available, we are growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and experience it at work in our lives as we disciple and minister to each other.

"Affirm our Gifts" – Led by the Holy Spirit, engage in a discernment process of our best gifts and use these gifts to serve God and serve others.

"Support one another in our callings" – Provide financial support and offer faith opportunities for women to share God's grace.

"Engage in Ministry and Action" – We respond to discipleship by serving others.

"Promote Healing and Wholeness" – United in love, we are called to act with justice, which is faith in action.

Nominating Committee

Now is the chance to let your light shine! The nominating committee is seeking brave women to step forward and allow your names to be put into nomination for positions of secretary or board members. We need a secretary who will use her gifts of organization and accuracy to keep minutes and perform other duties as required of her office. There must be at least 2 nominees for that position. If you are seeking a means to use your gifts and have fun at the same time as well as developing closer relationships with your fellow WELCA sisters, you might prefer to run for state board. We need at least 8 candidates to fill 4 positions. Vice President will be elected by ecclesiastical ballot.

If you do not feel called to serve in either capacity, perhaps you can encourage someone else whom you feel would be well suited for candidacy. Requirements for being a nominee are that you be a participant in a congregational unit, a member of the ELCA, and have a willingness to serve at least one two-year term.

Since we are called to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness, serving in one of these positions is the ideal way to fulfill our purpose. Please give prayerful consideration to serving our state organization by allowing your name to be put into nomination. Should you be elected, there will be plenty of help, encouragement and advice when called for.

Elections for Voting Members for the Triennial Convention

We will be electing four voting members to represent SC WELCA at the Triennial Convention in Phoenix, AZ in 2020. The convention is set for July 14-16, 2020. All travel and lodging will be paid by WELCA for our President and the four voting members. The WELCA constitution provides two criteria that need to be met in the election of voting members for the triennial convention:

1. as nearly as possible, at least 10% of the delegation shall be persons of color or whose primary language is other than English;
2. at least one-fourth of the voting members shall be women attending the convention for the first time.

The deadline for nomination forms for Board, secretary, and Triennial Voting Members is **March 31, 2019**. Please feel free to contact the following ladies with any questions, and may God bless you as you make your decision.

Julie Watson, chair; 864-357-6748; jjrwatson@charter.net

Brenda Byrd; 803-422-3326; bbyrd_8@bellsouth.net

Cecilia Dunlap; 803-260-2940; victoriandork1949@hotmail.com

Paulette Miller; 540-400-5785; paulettemiller068@gmail.com



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**

Rev 10182018



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 _____

Rev 10182018



Fall Conference Meetings



The Foothills Conference held their meeting at Faith Lutheran Chapel on October 6, 2018. A total of 55 women were in attendance. Conference coordinator, Nancy Fulmer conducted the meeting. The speaker was Julie Cheek who spoke about the Dream

Center, a faith based organization that helps people in poverty with a "hand up, not a hand out". They give people tools they need to succeed in life. A donation of \$800 was given to the Dream Center. Kristin Snelgrove gave greetings from the SC WELCA board. Lunch was served after the meeting with door prizes awarded. New officers were elected. The next meeting will be held at St. Michael in Greenville, date and time to be determined.

The Upstate Conference held their meeting at Reformation in Lancaster on October 6, 2018. A total of 23 women from 3 congregational units and 3 board members were present. The program was a puppet show enjoyed by all. A donation of \$97.00 was given to Hope of



Lancaster. Amanda Sease Baker gave greetings from the SC WELCA board. Lunch and games were enjoyed by all after the meeting. New officers were elected. The next meeting will be at St. John's Lutheran in Spartanburg in October of 2019.



The Epiphany Conference held their meeting at St. James Lutheran Church on October 20, 2018. A total of 25 women were in attendance. They had a delightful presentation and high tea. The ladies

conducted a business meeting and shared activities with one another. A donation of \$96.00 went to South Carolina Hurricane Relief. The meeting was led by Sarah Cheesman. New officers were elected. Next meeting will be at St. Luke in Florence, date and time is to be determined.

The Amelia Conference held their meeting at Pine Grove Lutheran on September 29, 2018. A total of 42 women were in attendance. A delicious lunch, provided by the women of Pine Grove, was enjoyed by all. The



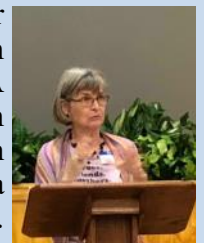
program was presented by Nita Smith, director of Hebron Grace Home, Santee. The facility is for women dealing with drug and/or alcohol abuse. A donation of \$300 was given to Hebron Grace Home. Dianne Lominick gave greetings from the SC WELCA board. New officers were elected. The next meeting will be held at Lord of Life in Bluffton, date and time to be determined.



The Heartland Conference was held at St. Philip's Lutheran Church on September 9, 2018. A total of 64 women were in attendance. The program was presented by Newberry County Free Medical

Clinic. This program aids people with free medical care and medicine in Newberry County. A donation of \$1,737 was given to the Newberry County Free Medical Clinic. Rae Davis brought greetings from the SC WELCA board. New officers were elected. Refreshments were enjoyed by all from the ladies at St. Philip's Lutheran Church. The next meeting will be a spring fling at Summer Memorial on April 28, 2019 at 3 PM.

The Midlands Conference held their meeting at Redeemer Lutheran Church on September 23, 2018. A total of 34 women were in attendance. Wendy Williams from Redeemer led the ladies in a devotion. The Rev. Kathleen B. Chartier presented a program



"Speaking About Speaking Up". A donation of \$200.50 was given to Lutheran Hurricane Relief. The meeting ended with the WELCA benediction and refreshments provided by the ladies of Redeemer. Mary Soltis brought greetings from the SC WELCA board. New officers were elected. The next meeting will be determined at a later date.



Fall Conference Meetings (cont'd)



The Coastal Conference held their meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church on September 22, 2018. A total of 31 women were present. Everyone enjoyed a brunch meal provided by the ladies of St. John's Lutheran Church. The program was on Water Missions International. A donation of \$146 was given to Water Missions International. Becky Koch brought greetings from the SC WELCA board. New officers were elected. The next meeting will be March 16, 2019 at St. Luke's in Summerville, time to be determined at a later date.

The Saxe-Gotha Conference held their meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on September 30, 2018. A total of 32 women were in attendance. The speaker Patsy Amick, a delightful "Hat Lady", gave a wonderful presentation on why we must watch what we say and do. A donation of \$100 went to



Patsy Amick. Another donation of \$100 went to the flood relief. Gwen Furcron gave greetings from the SC WELCA board. New officers were elected. The next meeting will be at Mount Hermon in West Columbia in March of 2019, date is to be determined.

The Western Conference held their meeting at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church on October 21, 2018. A total of 33 women were in attendance. Ginger Amerson gave a wonderful presentation on I Care. She and her husband co-founded this organization that deals with young teenagers and young women who are being abused by human trafficking. I Care is there for the caring of ladies' needs and advocating for justice. A donation of \$100 went to I Care. Refreshments were enjoyed by all from the ladies at Mount Calvary. Amanda Boatwright brought greetings from the SC WELCA board. New officers were elected. The next meeting will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Gilbert on March 17, 2019 at 3pm.



Conference Elections / Fall 2018

CONFERENCE	Coordinator	Secretary	Treasurer
#1 Foothills	Mary McKeen	Mona Turner	Pat George
#2 Upstate	Andrea Rousey	Tanya Hinzman	Linda Wilkerson
#3 Epiphany	Cheryl Johnson	Susan Chandler	Paulette Miller
#4 Amelia	Diane Wicker	Linda Roland	Dorothy Edgemon
#5 Heartland	Jan Piersol	Brenda Fulmer	Chris Caston
#6 Midlands	Emily Wright	Bobbie Bell	Cindy Bundrick
#7 Coastal	Carol McDougall	Iris Eagan	Betty Beleakis
#8 Saxe-Gotha	Denise Warren	Karen Freeman	Betty Enlow
#9 Western	Sebrena Matthews	Sara Coffman	Faye Horne



Registration Forms for Retreats in 2019



Camp Kinard Retreat

February 8 & 9, 2019

"How Lutherans Interpret The Bible"

Name: _____

Please Print

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Home Church: _____

Roommates: _____

Special Dietary needs: _____

Cost: \$75 per person (Overnight)

\$40 per person (day with meals)

Cost includes meals, breaks, lodging with linens and towels, and materials.)

Please complete this form for one person and mail it by January 4, 2019 with a check for the appropriate amount payable to SCWELCA.

Mail to

Rachel Quesada

520 Timber Lane

Anderson, SC 29621

Isle of Palms Retreat

April 26-28, 2019

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

Bed linens are included in the registration fee. Please bring your own towels. Please document any special needs you have (dietary or otherwise) below. If you have a specific need, please bring items to supplement what we serve. Please bring a favorite snack or dessert to share.

Please send this portion with your deposit. Register Early. Space is limited. Only 10 rooms have 2 double beds. The others have a Queen and a set of bunks.

One form per participant.

***Please make checks payable to Sallie Folk,**

422 West Pine Street, Florence, SC 29501



Action Project Overview – “Freedom Bags” for Lighthouse for Life

Human trafficking is a public safety, health and human rights violation negatively impacting communities across America and South Carolina. In recognition of the increasing significance of human trafficking, South Carolina created a Human Trafficking Task Force in 2012. In 2017, the Task Force provided data that details the rising scale of exploitation in our state!

SC WELCA will support victims by providing education to others as well as taking action. We invite you to join us in our efforts by participating in our 2019 convention project to support Lighthouse for Life. This is one of the organizations highlighted in the SC Human Trafficking Task Force 2017 Annual Report as a resource. Lighthouse for Life focuses much of their work on prevention education through speaking engagements and training opportunities. We plan to have them present at our upcoming 2019 convention. They are also launching a safe house for minor victims/survivors of sex trafficking in our state.

SC WELCA will support Lighthouse for Life by participating in creating “Freedom Bags.”

“Freedom Bag” Contents (new small/medium backpack, no logos, with zipper are best)

<u>Clothing (new) medium</u> 1 each	Toiletries 1 each (no samples from hotels/motels)	Other 1 each
Athletic pants	Shampoo	Refillable water bottle
Solid colored T-shirt (no logos)	Toothbrush	Bible
pair Socks	Toothpaste	Pack of Gum
	Body Wash	
	Body Pouf	
	Towel	
	Deodorant (no roll-ons)	
	Hair Brush and/or Comb	

(Please no other items for safety reasons)

Sample Backpack and Supplies





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 April 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

Voting Member	Two from each Congregational Unit - Late substitution is allowed. Pay for mileage, meals, lodging and registration. Please submit registration by April 15, 2019 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, 2019 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.

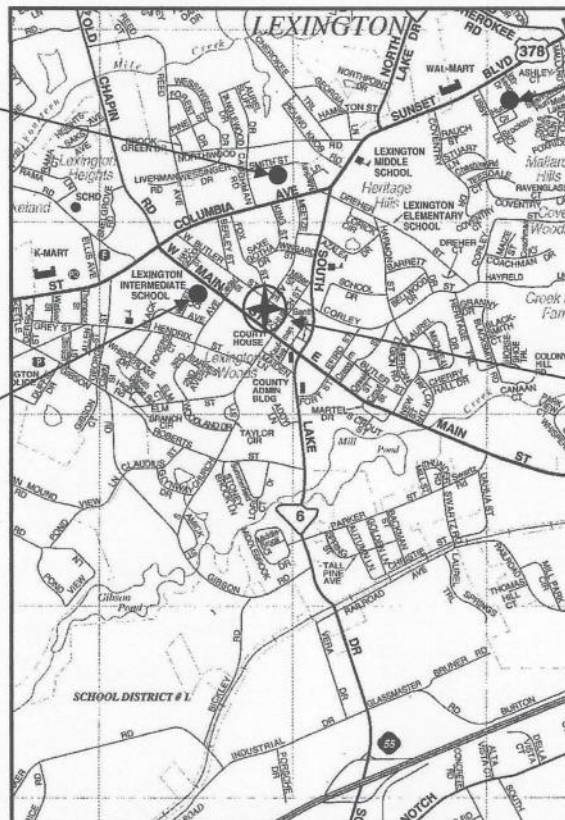
Registrations will officially close 9:00 am Saturday morning of the convention, June 8, 2019. However, please register as early as possible to assist us in convention planning.

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.



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.

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.

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 or 803-727-3228 (c)
6. Notify Synodical Treasurer: Rachel Quesada, 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

Vice President

Mary Soltis (exp 2019)
10738 Broad River Road
Irmo, SC 29063
803-727-3228
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

Treasurer

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

Board Members

Amanda Boatwright (exp 2020)
423 Martin Drive
Leesville, SC 29070
803-317-6170
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

Rae F. Davis (exp 2020)
812 Willow Cove Road
Chapin, SC 29036
803-360-4968
raedavis@sc.rr.com

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

Merri Lewis (exp 2019)
2029 Cedarbrook Dr.
Columbia, SC 29212
803-732-5429 hm
803-445-9989 cell
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

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

Kristin Snelgrove (exp 2020)
912 Riverwalk Drive
Irmo, SC 29063
803-629-2287
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
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

Ripple Editor/Circ. Mgr.

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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 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).

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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Return Service Requested

Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA



Sherry Fowler,

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.”

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*